

Grand Days Out on the Settle - Carlisle Line



A steam train crosses Ribblehead Viaduct with Ingleborough in the distance

Ribblehead

Site of the world famous viaduct, that almost closed the line, Ribblehead sits within the cradle of the Yorkshire Dales National Park's stunning Three Peaks.

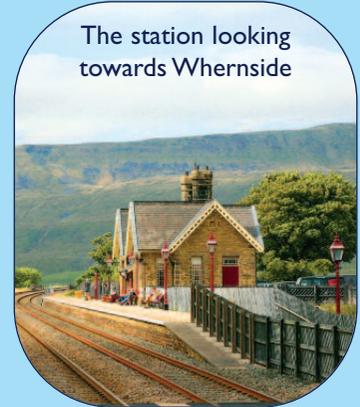
Visitors to the area can examine the 100ft high viaduct up close, at the bottom of its towering arches. Constructed from the middle of the viaduct outwards, early local brickwork was replaced several times in the early years. Beautiful on a calm warm day, the local environment can be one of the harshest of any rail line in Britain so constant vigilance is needed for all the buildings at the site.

The station building itself incorporates a waiting room and also a visitor centre and shop. The exhibitions there show in great detail the how and why Ribblehead was developed at the time of building the line.

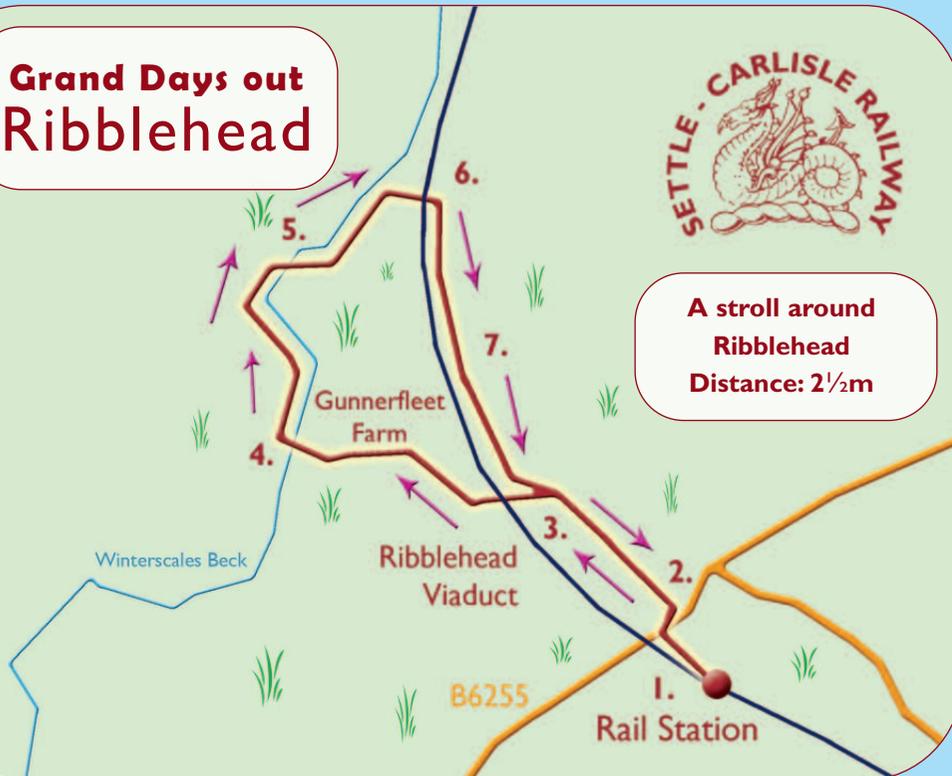
Some who helped construct the line, the viaducts and tunnels, did not live to see the completion. Over 100 are buried at Chapel-le-Dale church two miles from the viaduct.

The natural beauty of the area offers many varied walks. From the a strenuous, 'Three Peaks Challenge', to the gentle strolls round Southercales Nature Reserve or to the feet of the viaduct itself are detailed below.

The station looking towards Whernside



Grand Days out Ribblehead

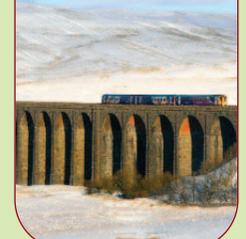


A stroll around Ribblehead
Distance: 2½m

A stroll around Ribblehead Distance: 2½m Allow: 1½hrs
Paths can be muddy, wear suitable footwear and take warm clothing and a waterproof.

1. From the station walk down to the main road and turn right in front of the Station Inn.
2. Just below the cattle grid, cross the road and follow the bridleway towards Ribblehead Viaduct. With its 24 arches and rising to a height of 104 feet above the valley, the magnificent viaduct looms ever larger as you approach.
3. Continue under the viaduct along the track and go through the farm gate. Continue to Gunnerfleet Farm and keeping to the left of the buildings go through 2 more gates and cross the stream at the bridge.
4. Immediately after crossing the stream turn right along the narrow tarmac farm road. After a few minutes go through a further gate and turn right along the track signposted Whernside.
5. After crossing a small packhorse bridge the track gets rougher and rises gently towards the railway line.
6. Go under the railway bridge to emerge at a junction with the main bridleway.
7. To return to the viaduct and station turn right and follow the bridleway alongside the railway. As you approach the viaduct you can see remains of the shanty town that housed the navvies and construction site on your left. Continue with the viaduct on your right and return to the road and the station.

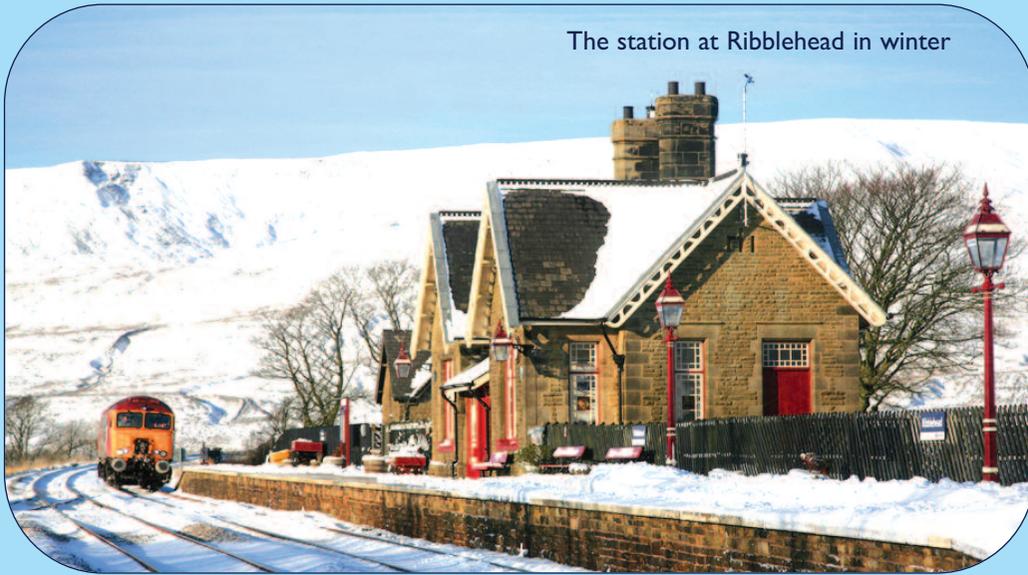
A passenger train crossing the Viaduct



For a more detailed map see: Outdoor Leisure map OL 2 (Yorkshire Dales Southern & Western area)

This walk is one of a series of *Days Out* for the Settle - Carlisle Line. Produced by the Settle - Carlisle Railway Development Company. For more information and rail timetables visit our website at www.settle-carlisle.co.uk

The station at Ribblehead in winter



Ribblehead Station

Low Sleights Road, near Ingleton, North Yorkshire LA8 3AS

Heated waiting shelters on both platforms. Ribblehead Visitor Centre, in the station building is open from 10.30 to 15.30, 7 days a week from April - October. It provides light refreshments and access to a toilet.

A ramp is available for use. There is level access to the Leeds platform and a barrow crossing takes one to the Carlisle platform. Step free access from the car park to the station, but the car park is stony and uneven.

Northern 0800 200 6060

www.journeycheck.com/northernrail/

For more information about the line **www.settle-carlisle.co.uk**
and Facebook **www.facebook.com/setcarrailway**

For more walks see **www.foscl.org.uk/guided-walks**

The Settle & Carlisle Railway Trust has three holiday cottages, two within the main station building at Kirkby Stephen and also the Station Master's House at Ribblehead, for details call Rachel on 01768 800 208 or visit: **www.sandctrust.org.uk/stayatastation**

Supported by the Settle-Carlisle Railway Development Company
and Friends of the Settle - Carlisle Line

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Things to see and do

Ribblehead strolls

Ribblehead Viaduct, originally called Batty Moss viaduct, was started in 1870 and took five years to build. It is well worth walking to the foot of the of the huge arches, there are 24 spanning the 440 meter gap. Walk to the bottom of the station approach road, turn right opposite the Station Inn, cross the road after the cattle grid and pick up the path to the viaduct.

Blea Moor Signal Box; if you continue along the path used to reach the viaduct, (without passing underneath it), you will walk alongside the railway and see Blea Moor Signal Box. Imagine working alone on a winter's night in this isolated brick and wooden structure.

For details about Ribblehead, its history and restoration visit:
www.sandctrust.org.uk/ribblehead.htm

In addition to viaduct walks, there is a remarkable Nature Reserve in a disused quarry close to the station. There are paths around the site for a gentle stroll. To get to the nature reserve from the station, go down the drive, turning left at the main road. After passing under the rail bridge access is immediately to your left. For more information visit **www.yorkshiredales.org.uk** and search for 'Souther scales' to download a leaflet featuring the amazing limestone pavements to be found there.

The Station Inn

The Station Inn can be found at the foot of the station drive. It is open 11.00 to 23.00 and serves good home cooked food. **www.thestationinribblehead.com**

Ribblehead Viaduct

