Of Weirs and Bridges, Ducks and Pudding Wars

Trail Guide:











Just arrived in Bakewell and want to see the sights? This trail is ideal for families with children who will love the water and the ducks. They and their parents will also like all the cafés in the Town Centre and rival "Original Pudding" shops — all with their own secret recipes! Ladies will want to linger at some of the tempting shops . . . but for now you are going walkies!

This is a nice walk combining town with countryside, water, weirs, bridges and ducks. (Note to self - remember granary bread to feed ducks!)

Distance 1 mile and it takes about 1 hour – without museum and with only a quick look inside the church. NB - not good for push chairs unless you take roads instead of footpaths and with one or two steep sections

The 'Fancy That' Factor

See a 1697 bath house and a 1300's bridge still carrying modern traffic

Find out why the Pudding Wars broke out

Find out when and where Jane Austen slept and what she called the town in Pride and Prejudice

Bakewell was founded on the banks of the Wye, where it was fordable, around the warm water wells in the area, of which only two now remain – Bath Well in Bath Street and Holywell – or Pete Well – in the recreation ground. Indeed the town's name derives from Badquelle which is 'bathing well' or 'source' in old Saxon and German today! It was thought that the

waters had healing powers due to being laden with chalybeate, mineral salts mainly iron and the same as found at Tunbridge Wells and Cheltenham. In **Bath Gardens** the 1697 Bath House still stands, though not open to the public, built by the Earl of Rutland over the famous "warm well".

Trail Key:









Cycling









This trail is one of 44 exciting trails to explore in the Peak District & Derbyshire.

Difficulty Rating for walks:







Moderate

Strenuous



Bakewell Trail No. 34

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Start your walk at the Tourist Information Centre in the **Old Market Hall** built in the early 1600's, behind which you can park. Look up and see the heraldic shields of the Manners and Vernon families of Haddon Hall, filling the dormer gables on the roof. Cross Bridge Street and turn left down Castle **Street** with the town's ancient bridge going over the River Wye on your right. This bridge dates from at least 1300 and was repaired in the 19th century and is still coping with modern traffic. Turn off to walk along **Brookside**, a stream off the River Wye, and before you get to the Fire Station on your right don't miss the mill wheel just off Mill Street by the old Victoria cornmill which has now become flats. This mill wheel is 16 feet in diameter and was used to provide power for the cornmill until the 1940's.

After the Fire Station cross the beautiful 1664 **Holme Bridge**, a Packhorse bridge over the Wye and turn **right** into **Holme Lane**. Here you can see the site of the old ford.

Carry on along Holme Lane past Scot's Garden and the 17th century Holme Hall and bear right along the path, keeping the Wye on your right. There are many weirs to be seen as you walk along this meander of the river Wye. It can be muddy so you can stick to roads rather than footpaths if you wish.

Next, cross over **Bridge Street** to **Station Road** and branch right along **Coombs Road**. Look up to your left and see **Castle Hill**, now wooded and the site of the Norman motte and Bailey castle. Just before **Long Meadow House** turn **right** across the car park and **right again** over a footbridge over the Wye with beautiful views of the town, its river, ducks and weirs.

Keep going up **Granby Road** past the post office on your left, and turn **right** into **Matlock Street** past the **Motorcycle Museum** arriving at **Rutland Square** and the 18th century **Rutland Arms** where the original **Bakewell Pudding** is supposed to have been

made, due to a mistake by the cook who put the jam in the bottom instead of on the top. Everybody seems to have liked it and Bakewell's name is world-renowned for it and over the years many have claimed the original recipe as theirs. The hotel is also famous for the 1811 visit by Jane Austen, who later refers to the town as "Lambton" in Pride and Prejudice and Chatsworth House as "Pemberley".

Take a **left** down **King Street** Leading into **South Church Street**, going past the **Old Town Hall** and the Jacobean **Almshouses**, then crossing onto the path on your right to **All Saints Church**. It is worth a very brief stop to see the fine Renaissance monument to Sir Francis and Lady Manners (Dorothy Vernon) kneeling as well as the Anglo Saxon stones in the church porch and the two even earlier Saxon crosses.

Follow the path around the church into **Church Lane** and left to the 16th century **Old House Museum**, probably the oldest house in the town and once leased to Sir Richard Arkwright to house his workers from a nearby cotton mill. It was saved from demolition and is now a museum to the folk traditions of the Peaks.

From here walk down **Cunnigham Place** and cross over **North Church Street** and on to the very steep **Fly Hill**.

You'll pass the YHA on your way down the hill to the A6 **Buxton Road** where you turn **right**, and then **left** into **Bath Street** and **right again** into **Bath Gardens** which you can enjoy thanks to the geologist and botanist **White Watson** who developed them in the early 19th century. Go through the gardens and then take a **left** back into **Bridge Street**, walk past the Town Hall and you are back where you are started.

Perhaps you'll feel **pride** in having done this walk so perhaps now try a Bakewell treat - and no **prejudice** of course!



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