

Family cycle trail...4½ miles

Malham Tarn, Yorkshire Dales

 THE NATIONAL TRUST

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For a fun family day out, explore the beauty of Malham Tarn by bike. It is surrounded by some of Britain's finest limestone scenery and there's also an opportunity for budding young wildlife detectives to spot the Tarn's varied birdlife from the bird hide.

Start: Watersinks car park – grid ref: SD 893658 – Map: OS Explorer OL2

How to get here & local facilities

By train: regular service to Settle  (Settle-Carlisle line), 7ml

By Bus: National Trust shuttle bus service from Settle (close to ) to Malham Tarn, weekends and Bank Holiday's only, Easter-Oct. Includes space for up to 3 bikes.

By bike: near Sustrans route 68 & Yorkshire Dales Cycle Way (regional Route 10)

By car: close to A65 & Settle; 4ml NW of Malham. Follow signs from Malham. Park at Watersinks car park (NT, GR 893658), Malham Tarn

Nearest facilities are in Malham village (2.1ml/3.5km to the south) and include: WC at Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority car park; tea-rooms; pubs and a National Trust Exhibition at Townhead Barn, Malham.

Things to look out for...

Malham Tarn National Nature Reserve (NNR)

The reserve is made up of three different wetland habitats; the lime-rich open water of the Tarn; a flourishing fenland of sedges and other lime-loving plants and a raised bog with sphagnum moss, heather and bog rosemary. Access to the NNR is by permit only and can be obtained from the estate office at Waterhouses.

Bird hide

The hide is an excellent vantage point to watch great crested grebes, little grebes, tufted ducks, pochard, widgeon, teal and goosander. You may also be lucky enough to spot the occasional hen harrier hunting over Tarn Moss.

Smelt chimney

Lead, copper and zinc carbonate were mined on Pike Daw during the 18th century. The crushed metal ore was processed at the smelt mill on Malham Moor. Here the long pipe led from the smelt mill to the chimney, where the toxic fumes were exhumed.



A little grebe nesting right outside the bird hide. This is the smallest of the grebe family, with a stubby bill and a ridiculous looking 'fluffy bottom!'



In 1857, Walter Morrison, (1836-1921), a successful businessman, philanthropist and MP, inherited Malham Tarn Estate when he was only 21. He became a legend within his own lifetime and entertained many famous visitors, including Charles Darwin, Charles Kingsley and John Ruskin.



Malham Tarn is a beautiful lime-rich upland lake with a wide variety of habitats, home to a range of nationally scarce species, such as round-leaved sundew.

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Stay safe in the Dales

The weather can be very changeable, so it's important to come prepared. Bring along sensible, warm and waterproof clothing and an OS map to assist with route finding.

Cycling distance, terrain and accessibility

4.5 ml (7.2km) return; height gain: 97m (318 ft). Generally gentle grass and gravel paths with some moderate slopes and some narrow-walled lanes. Grass tracks can be muddy after wet weather.

This is a great family-friendly route, with just one small incline that may require younger children to push their bikes!

Contact us

01729 830416 or malhamtarn@nationaltrust.org.uk

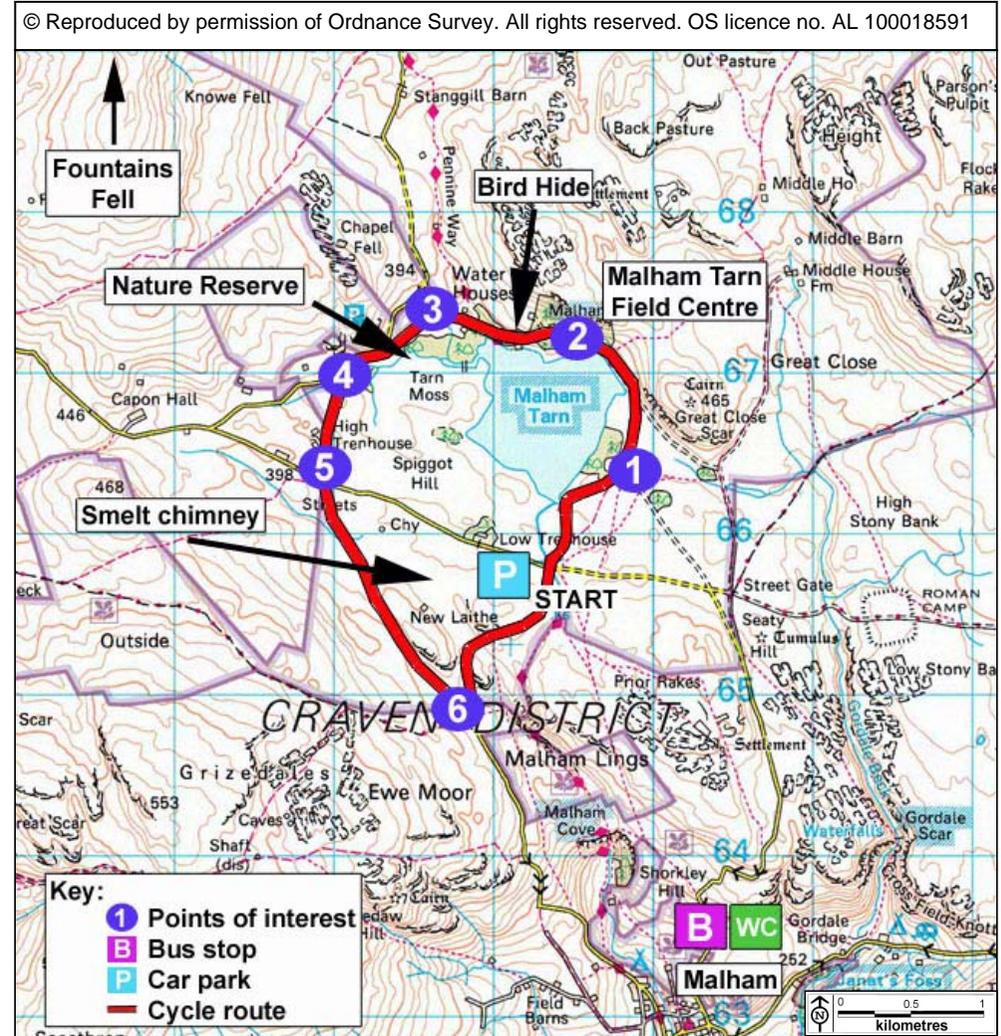
National Trust places to visit nearby

Upper Wharfedale, Fountains Abbey, East Riddlesden Hall

Directions

From Watersinks car park follow the bridleway sign, which points towards 'Waterhouses', across a rolling grassland track. This track follows the Pennine Way.

1. On joining the gravel track go through the gate, following the track alongside Malham Tarn towards the woodland and Tarn House.
2. At Tarn House (Field Study Centre) follow the track to the right, round the back of the house and through the narrow limestone cutting. Continue until you reach the bird hide on your left. This is great spot for a break and to observe the birdlife of Malham Tarn.
3. Turn left at the first left fork on to Pot Hole Lane and follow this lane along the edge of the NNR until you reach the gate. Go through the gate and turn left on to the road.
4. Follow the road for a short distance and take the first left turn, sign posted to Malham. Continue along the road for approximately ½ mile until you reach the cross roads. You will see the smelt chimney, diagonally off to your left, from the cross roads.
5. Go straight on at the cross roads, following the sign to Malham for approximately 1 mile. You will then see a bridleway sign on your left pointing to Watersinks (3/4 mile).
6. Follow the bridleway back towards Watersinks car park, where you can savour the stunning panoramic view of Malham Tarn, with Fountains Fell in the background.



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