

Castleton

Gem of the Peaks



Castleton is one of the most beautiful villages in the Peak District. It is hard to imagine anywhere with such an array of natural and historical features both above and below ground. However you approach it, you will be struck by the magnificence of its location.



High above the village stand the imposing ruins of Peveril Castle, from which the village gets its name. Built in 1086 for the Peveril family, it provides an ideal location to view the dramatic scenery around Castleton and the Hope Valley.



Underground is an equally impressive landscape. Visitors can take trips down four very different show caves – Treak Cliff, Blue John, Speedwell and Peak. St Edmund's Church, situated in

the heart of the village, dates back to 11th Century and is a focal point for the ancient ceremony that takes place on Castleton Garland Day.

The village is well equipped to cater for its visitors with numerous pubs, guesthouses, holiday cottages, cafés and shops. Don't just stick to the main street; explore the other parts of the village. Stroll around the old market place and along the river; see the old stone cottages and the impressive entrance to Peak Cavern sat snugly under the ruins of Peveril Castle.

Castleton is surrounded by beautiful walking country and the view from Mam Tor is second to none. It is known locally as "The Shivering Mountain" as its layers of gritstone and shale have crumbled away causing landslips but also some incredible scenery.



Castleton Shopping Trail

Castleton has very narrow busy streets, some with no footpaths. Please take care and be aware of traffic.

From the main Car Park:

1) Turn right past the Visitor Centre. Opposite is the Island Gift shop (so called because it is surrounded by water, with the river on one side and mill leat on the other).

2) Carry on along the road past the Methodist Chapel and cross over to walk across Peak Cavern Car Park (hard to believe this used to be the village tennis courts!).



Further along the main road on the left is the garage and on the right you will find an outdoor clothing shop.

At the far end there is a choice of three routes: straight ahead, with the river on your left, will take you to Peak Cavern, famous for rope making, with its impressive gorge and cave mouth, which is also the source of the village river. If you turn right uphill on exiting the car park it will bring

you to a path along the base of the hillside to Speedwell Cavern, the boat ride (3/4 mile walk) and Treak Cliff Cavern, home of Blue John Stone (1 mile walk).

3) If you turn left, over Goosehill Bridge, you will find

on your left, walk down Castle Street to the graveyard of St Edmunds Church, passing through the squeeze stile to the right of the gate (originally the gates were locked to keep out animals).

5) The Church is well worth a visit with its 17th Century box pews and Norman Arch. Then follow the path which goes round the church tower and through a narrow gennel onto the main street.

6) On your right is Castleton Gift Shop, one of the shops selling local Blue John Stone.

7) Turn right on the main street and

a small collection of cottages and shops which are some of the oldest buildings in the village. Many of these were home to lead miners and some date back nearly 400 years.

4) Continue on from Goosehill Bridge, up the steep hill called The Stones towards the Market Place.

This will lead you, on the right, to the entrance of Peveril Castle, which has its own Visitor Centre and gift shop. You will pass Adventurequip, the Old Barn Gift and Outdoor shop and the YHA. Across the Market Place are the WW1 memorials and Queen Victoria's Jubilee tree, providing a nice place to sit. With the YHA

follow it round past the Victorian school (if you look closely you will see the remains of the words BOYS and GIRLS over each door).

8) Beyond the school is Causeway Craft and Coffee Shop, and around the corner, across the road, you will find Valley Gifts and other small shops.

9) Return past the Post Office, turn right down the lower part of Back Street. Crossing the small mill leat,

10) Turn left along the footpath with the main river on your right to the car park.