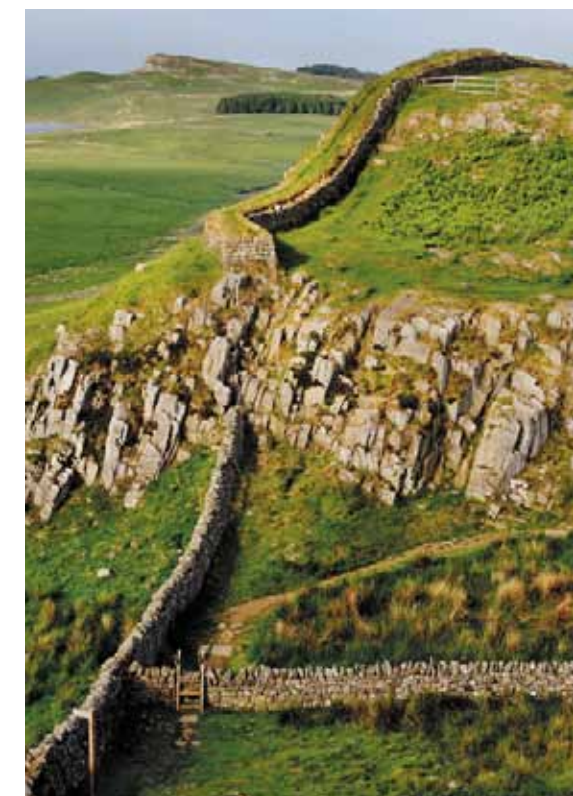


BRITAIN'S GREATEST TRAIL

The Pennine Way turns 50 this spring and there's never been a better time to walk all 268 miles from the Peak District to Scotland. Here's the definitive guide to planning your big adventure, plus 10 top days out to sample the trail's highlights.

WORDS: DAMIAN HALL



◀ BEST OF BRITAIN

The Pennine Way treads past some of the nation's finest views including the glacial trench of High Cup (main pic), the limestone cliffs of Malham Cove (top), the tumbling waters of Low Force and the ancient stones of Hadrian's Wall (bottom).

PHOTOS: TOM BAILEY;
© IWEBBTRAVEL/ALAMY;
© CLEARVIEW/ALAMY

OUR EXPERT



Damian Hall is a freelance outdoor journalist who's hiked many of the world's famous and not-so-famous long-distance trails. He authored the official Pennine Way guide (Aurum Press) and has also completed the Spine Race along the National Trail. Find out more at www.damianhall.info

“**S**TARTED IT AS a school girl,” reads the comment in the visitors’ book at the end of the Pennine Way in Kirk Yetholm’s Border Hotel. “Finished as an OAP.” I had got briefly topographically embarrassed a couple of times en route from the Peak District to the Scottish Borders, but not that badly lost. Jestng aside, as I sipped my victory ale in the pub that marks the traditional end point of England’s oldest and toughest National Trail, I was staggered by the level of dedication and determination it must have taken to stick with the project over so many years. But the Pennine Way can have quite an effect on people.

The National Trail was unknowingly started by two anonymous American women. In 1935, they wrote to the *Daily Herald* newspaper asking for advice on a walking holiday in England. Was there anything here like the Appalachian Trail in the US, they wondered? The short and shameful answer was no.

Tom Stephenson, a journalist, walker and future secretary of the Ramblers’ Association, recognised the ‘lonely entrancing’ Pennines as an excellent place for such a path and put forward the idea in the same paper: “Wanted – a long green trail” was the headline, calling for “A Pennine Way from the Peak to the Cheviots”.

At the time, many upland areas were legally out of bounds to outdoor types, despite being public land. A groundswell of frustration had led to the Mass Trespass on Kinder Scout in April 1932, and Stephenson hoped to use the Pennine Way idea as a crowbar to open up the moorlands of the Peak District and South Pennines.

Both of Stephenson’s wishes would finally happen, but he would fight for another 30 years for the Pennine



PHOTO © JOHN MORRISON / ALAMY

▲ UP THE LADDER
The Pennine Way tots up 37,215 feet of ascent and the climbing begins soon after leaving Edale, ascending Jacob’s Ladder to Kinder Scout.

Way to exist. It was officially opened on 24 April 1965 and two thousand walkers gathered on Malham Moor for the occasion. The UK’s first National Trail was a victory for people power.

It’s normal to feel some nerves before starting a long-distance walk, but tiptoeing out of idyllic little Edale I felt more nervous than usual. You see the Pennine Way had something of a reputation. And it’s mostly Alfred Wainwright’s fault. When the pipe-smoking Lancastrian walked the Way for his 1968 guidebook it rained incessantly. He also had to be rescued from a Black Hill peat bog, while a gale, “so shrivelled some of the body organs necessary for a full and enjoyable life that I feared they would perish forever”. The last lines of his guide are: “You won’t come across me anywhere along the Pennine Way. I’ve had enough of it.”

I’d also read Barry Pilton’s *One Man And His Bog* and Mark Wallington’s *Pennine Walkies* and while both are hilarious, they don’t exactly dispel the myth that the trail is one long hiker-devouring peat bog to be endured in monsoon conditions.

What I didn’t realise as I set out is that the hallowed footpath has been much improved since – more signposting, habitat regeneration, flagstones over the boggiest bits – and as other trails have gained more attention, hikers have wandered off elsewhere. Ironically, as the Pennine Way is in its best shape ever, fewer people are walking it. Which is fantastic news for the rest of us.

The first day of the Way is like a James Bond film – all blockbuster action from the off. It starts with a breathless climb up Jacob’s Ladder to the stirring

“Ironically, as the Pennine Way is in its best shape ever, fewer people are walking it. Which is fantastic news for the rest of us.”



MAP: STEVEN HALL; PHOTO © STEVEN GILLS HDG IMAGING / ALAMY



▲ PATH OF STONE
Flagstones now keep walkers’ boots dry across the infamous peat bogs of Black Hill.

KEY
The Pennine Way
1 Top 10 Highlights (turn to page 47)

▲ START HERE
You might want a drink at the pub to see you on your way – day one is a 16-miler over Kinder and Bleaklow Head to Crowden.

PHOTO © ELMTREE IMAGES / ALAMY

Kinder plateau – where I doffed my cap to the heroic Mass Trespass folk. The wind tried to make off with my hair and Donald Duck laughed at me from the undergrowth (maybe it was a grouse), but I felt giddily liberated to finally be on the legendary Pennine Way.

I passed the dramatic Kinder Downfall, survived the labyrinthine groughs of Devil’s Dike, felt moved by the wrecked WWII US bomber on Bleaklow and enjoyed the long but scenic descent to tiny Crowden. All these names had been just, well, names in books. Now, to me, they were real – personal – things.

It felt only fitting to have Wainwright quoted at me by a fellow Wayfarer over my first Pennine Way breakfast, though the second day was less dramatic. Aside from the exciting Laddow Rocks, it was enjoyably calm, as my legs reluctantly settled into the task. I thought it best to only tell them we were off walking ‘for a few days’. They can get a bit bolshy otherwise.

The dramatic descent into Calderdale past Stoodley Pike is memorable. As is the climb up the other side. It was spring and the fields were full of daffodils and lambs – one followed me bleating for several minutes seeming sure I was its mum. Then it was over the wind-whispering, mellow yellow Heptonstall Moor, to Brontë Country and more evocative moorland, which made me want to read *Wuthering Heights*.

After that, Malham took a long time to arrive, perhaps because I had such big expectations. But it didn’t disappoint. So much so that despite a long hard day, I went out walking again after dinner to explore Gordale Scar and surrounds, looking for the spot where Steve Coogan stood during that TV series he did with Rob Brydon about eating really expensive food.

In the wonderful Yorkshire Dales the Pennine Way really kicks up a notch. There are classic limestone pavements, then the idiosyncratic but conquerable monster of Pen-y-Ghent, the highest point on the Way so far, to clamber breathlessly over. Hawes was a treat – not least the best fish and chips en route and some of that lip-smackingly fine Wensleydale cheese.

Climbing up Great Shunner Fell, more than anywhere else, it really feels like you’re walking along the backbone of England. The Way leads down to cute



► **THE LOST WORLD**
The great green chasm of Gordale Scar is a mile down the lane from the Pennine Way at Malham village – perfect for an evening stroll.

PHOTO: © ASHLEY COOPER PICS / ALAMY



PHOTO: © DAVID SPEIGHT / ALAMY



PHOTO: © MATT ROBERTS

◀ **VALLEY VISTAS**
The monument on Stoodley Pike looks over Calderdale, and you can climb its dark, spiralling staircase to even bigger views.

◀ **CASCADE COUNTRY**
Low Force is the first of a trio of spectacular waterfalls in Teesdale, followed by High Force and Cauldron Snout.



PHOTO: © DAMIAN HALL

“In the Yorkshire Dales the Way kicks up a notch. It really feels like you’re walking the backbone of England.”

◀ **DELICIOUS DALES**
The Pennine Way dips down to the lush pastures of Swaledale, between the wild uplands of Great Shunner Fells and Tan Hill.



PHOTO: © LOOP IMAGES LTD / ALAMY

little Thwaite (which is well worth the, er, Thwaite) and along the dashing cleft of Swaledale and to Keld, via some noisy waterfalls.

At Tan Hill Inn – what a sight after miles of lonely moorland – I assumed I was the only hiker in the bar. I slowly discovered, as ale and conversation flowed, that everyone there was either walking the Way or the Coast to Coast, including two Americans. By this point I was regularly passing three Belgians, who were lovely folk, but always getting lost as they chatted incessantly.

From Middleton-in-Teesdale the Pennine Way deviates from its otherwise dogged south-north trajectory to take a surprising detour south-west. But it soon becomes clear why. Skipping through wild-flowery meadows and following the playful River Tees, Low Force tickled my fancy and High Force and Cauldron Snout tickled me fancier. That's a pretty good day by anyone's standards, but the best bit of the whole walk was still to come: High Cup had my jaw meeting the floor. I was expecting great things and I was smitten by that terrifying, compelling cleft.

I got a soaking and temporarily topographically befuddled on Cross Fell – as is traditional – but by this time I had finally made a friend (it only took me 11 days) and I teamed up with Chris from Bristol to stay in Greg's Hut overnight to dry out.

In truth, not everything about the Pennine Way is wondrous and the section from Alston is a bit annoying: you're kept oddly low down and the route is fiddly. But then you reach Hadrian's Wall. On any other walk a World Heritage-site would be the highlight, but the Way has so much splendour the Roman wall almost gets forgotten. You march along one of the world's most famous historical sites for eight miles, with views to match the heady sense of drama. Leaving it is a stirring moment too, not unlike heading north from the Wall in *Game of Thrones* and into the woods.

The criminally under-rated Cheviots were a spectacular finale – even if, as Wainwright griped,

“The Pennine Way has so much splendour, the World Heritage Roman Wall almost gets forgotten.”

they're not strictly part of the Pennines. But it'd be a crying shame to go all that way and not taste the glorious, giant domes of wind-swept volcanic rock, with hardly a soul about. Talk about saving the best for last.

In the Border Hotel, Chris and I reflected that the Pennine Way's tough reputation was mostly unfair. Sure it's long, can get a bit squelchy underfoot and will make your calves whinge. But no peat bogs tried to swallow me and I only got a soaking twice in 16 days.

I had discovered a stirring adventure to be had, up in wild and surprisingly remote-feeling hills and moorlands, right in the middle of a busy, densely populated island. I felt a changed man by the end, more peaceful and fulfilled somehow, and thrilled with this big new discovery. I wasn't perhaps as different to when I started out as the lady writing in the Hotel's Wayfarers' book, but I was changed, for the better, none-the-less. **CW**

▲ EDGE OF AN EMPIRE

The Pennine Way follows the great wall of the Emperor Hadrian along the edge of the Whin Sill.



PHOTO: © JOE DOYLEM / ALAMY

◀ HAPPY ENDING

Wayfarers can claim a free half-pint at the Border Hotel, after 268 miles on the trail.

Turn for details of a new BBC TV series on the Pennine Way, plus how to plan your Pennine adventure...

THE TRAIL ON TV

THE POLES TO THE PENNINES

A new BBC series on the Pennine Way will air in April, but what did its presenter, Polar explorer **Paul Rose**, make of England's oldest National Trail? **INTERVIEW: DAMIAN HALL**

How was your experience of the Pennine Way?

Absolutely brilliant. I had a lot on last year, but when the idea for the programme came up, and especially as it was the 50th anniversary, I leapt at it. I only live 30 miles away from it and it was realising a dream for me. It was a fantastic summer, I had a huge amount of fun and I learned a lot too.

What did you learn?

You don't have to go to other side of planet to have a first class adventure, to be amongst nature and see beautiful places. I've been very lucky to have worked in the Arctic, Africa and French Polynesia, but the best adventures are often just outside your door. Walking the Pennine Way was meaningful to me on a personal level, thanks to the people I met on the way, and there was the sheer physical pleasure of walking on such a beautiful route.

"You don't have to go to other side of planet to have a first class adventure, to be amongst nature and see beautiful places."

What sort of people did you meet?

Everyone I met was very excited about the Pennine Way – they had big smiles and their heads were up, despite how tough it can be. I met one walker who's in the programme who was attempting it for the 19th time! He was a wonderful guy – not your classic walker to look at, but a big solid character with a huge rucksack. He said he felt the Pennine Way is getting easier, because it's better signed and maintained, the villages are friendlier and the beer is better! Some people had come a long way. I met walkers from the US who had done the Appalachian Trail, which was great as the Pennine Way was born from the idea of that trail.



Paul Rose is a polar explorer, expedition leader, professional diver and TV presenter. He has twice been Vice President of the Royal Geographical Society, been awarded the Queen's Polar Medal and has an Antarctic mountain named after him. www.paulrose.org

How does the Way compare to places you've visited around the world?

I loved it. Everything about it – the sense of scale and the surprising challenge. I've skied and climbed mountains, but it still tested me. They were full, adventurous days, and I had that heightened sense of awareness, the same as I get in Antarctica. It's a genuine adventure.

Did you have a favourite bit?

High Cup. I knew it would be good, but it was still a big surprise. Great Dun Fell was exciting – we had big winds, low cloud and it was getting dark, and it got very challenging. I loved the start and the end, too. Plus kayaking on the River Tees and climbing up Malham Cove. Greg's Hut was a great night. It's so well organised in there, with firewood and coal. We cooked up a great dinner.

How did you feel at the end?

I remember sitting in the Border Hotel in Kirk Yetholm thinking – 'oh no, it's all over'. I liked the challenge of navigation and the joy of walking long-distances.

Do you think the trail lives up to its reputation as tough?

If you do day sections it might not seem so tough, but to do the whole walk is a real challenge – it all stacks up. That said, some of its reputation is unfair. The boggy sections have largely been fixed and the bogs are important ecosystems.

What are you hoping the programme will show people?

I want to encourage people to get a feeling for the beautiful wild places and enhance our attachment to nature. As soon as you get up on to that spine, the Pennines, you've got peace and a sense of wilderness. It's vital we look after places like this. Thanks to all the hard work people do to maintain trails and places like this, we can all benefit. And to get people doing the walk – what better time than in the anniversary year!

Any advice for would-be Pennine Wayfarers?

It is a big physical challenge. You don't have to be supremely fit, but you've got to want to do it. You need to be organised, travel light and be fit enough to enjoy it. That said, I would also say don't over prepare. I've met people who keep buying guidebooks and maps, studying everything online, buying more kit, planning – just put your boots on and go! Oh, and take some earplugs.

► The four-part documentary **THE PENNINE WAY** airs on BBC One Yorkshire in early April, followed by a nationwide broadcast on BBC Two soon after.

◀ **PAUL ROSE ON THE PENNINE WAY**
"It reminded me that I still love putting boots on and walking in the English countryside."

THE PENNINE WAY: PLAN YOUR TRIP

WHEN TO GO

Spring and autumn are usually the most joyous time for long-distance hikes. Summer can be wondrous, too, but popular weekend walking destinations like the Peak District and Yorkshire Dales can get very busy and accommodation scarce.

PLAN YOUR ITINERARY

On average the trail takes about 16-19 days. Most go south-north as it's the way the official guidebook describes the route and it keeps the weather to your back.

GETTING THERE

Trains from Manchester and Sheffield regularly go to Edale (as well as limited bus services), where there are several good accommodation options. Trail end at Kirk Yetholm isn't so well serviced, but there are buses to bigger towns (except on Sundays) and a taxi service.

WHERE TO STAY

The trail conveniently plonks you at villages with accommodation options at regular intervals and there are some surprisingly plush and affordable B&Bs en route. There are hostels, bunkhouses and campsites, too, and wild

camping is another option. For more info see www.nationaltrail.co.uk/pennine-way

WHERE TO EAT

Occasionally the day's walk is helpfully interrupted by an inviting public house, but sometimes there's no luncheon option and you'll need to carry enough nosh and snacks. Evening meals and breakfasts aren't hard to come by though.

MAPS AND GUIDES

Aurum's official Pennine Way guide has full-page OS mapping, detailed route descriptions, practical advice, background information, GPS references, illustrations and plenty of Wainwright quotes. Cicerone and Trailblazer also do guides. The best maps are **Harvey Maps**, which cover the route in three sheets (you would

need nine OS maps) at a scale of 1:40,000 and are waterproof.

BAG CARRIERS

A number of companies offer luggage transfers (and accommodation booking services) including **The Sherpa Van Project** (www.sherpavan.com); **Brigantes Walking Holidays and Baggage Transfer** (www.brigantesenglishwalks.com); and **Contours Walking Holidays** (www.contours.co.uk)

HOW HARD IS IT?

It's generally seen as England's toughest long-distance walk, because of the distance, terrain and remoteness at times. Try a shorter multi-day walk first, and perhaps some day walks on the Pennine Way to acclimatise. It's perfectly manageable for most regular walkers though.

MORE INFO

The official **Pennine Way National Trail** website is excellent: www.nationaltrail.co.uk/pennine-way. **The Pennine Way Association** (www.penninewayassociation.co.uk) site is also useful.

Now turn to discover the top 10 highlights on the Pennine Way...



PHOTO: © CANDYAPPLIED SIGNIMAGE/ALAMY



THE PENNINE WAY TOP 10 HIGHLIGHTS

You don't need to walk the entire trail to enjoy the Pennine Way. Here are 10 incredible sights between Edale and Kirk Yetholm that are perfect for a spring day out...

WORDS: DAMIAN HALL

1 Kinder Scout

It's ironic that for a hill so loaded with symbolism it's difficult to know when you're at the top of it, because this 'peak' is more of a moorland plateau. Kinder is synonymous with 1932's Mass Trespass, when around 400 walkers led by the 20-year-old Benny Rothman scuffled with gamekeepers in protest against limited access to the countryside. Many see it as a turning point in the campaign and 'right to roam' legislation followed. The trail used to go over Kinder a different way but has been rerouted to avoid erosion. It's very fitting that Kinder is reached only a few miles into the Pennine Way, a totemic send off if ever there was one.

► **WALK HERE:** Download your nine-mile walk at Kinder Scout from www.lfto.com/cwroutes

PHOTO: TOM BAILEY

2 Top Withins

This rundown stone shack has long been associated with the Earnshaw home in Emily Brontë's *Wuthering Heights*. However, the often ill-equipped tourists who trudge up here on their Brontë pilgrimages are met with a Brontë Society plaque saying, "The buildings, even when complete, bore no resemblance to the house [Brontë] described, but the situation may have been in her mind when she wrote of the moorland setting of the Heights." Either way, it's a poetic spot, all alone in a large sweep of windswept moor. There's less disputing that 17th-century farmhouse Ponden Hall, which the Way also passes, was the inspiration for Thrushcross Grange.

► **WALK HERE:** Download your nine-mile route to Top Withins from www.lfto.com/cwroutes



3 Malham Cove

"I won't know for sure if Malhamdale is the finest place there is until I have died and seen heaven (assuming they let me at least have a glance)," said former Yorkshire Dales resident and *Notes From A Small Island* author Bill Bryson. "But until that day comes it will certainly do." The village of Malham is scenically blessed. As well as the nearby Gordale Scar, sculpted by a Norse god in a foul mood, Malham Cove is a natural, 80-metre, limestone wall reaching up behind it like a small tsunami. "The greatest natural feature seen on the whole Pennine Way," proclaimed Wainwright. Above both the Cove and the Scar is the best example of glacier-crafted limestone pavement you're ever likely to see. And you may have seen it in Harry Potter flick *The Deathly Hallows Part 1*. Keep an eye out for peregrine falcons here.

► **WALK HERE:** Download your eight-mile walk at Malham Cove from www.lfto.com/cwroutes



PHOTOS: TOM BAILEY

4 Pen-y-ghent

This was Alfred Wainwright's favourite view of the Pennine Way. He aptly likened the dashing Dales peak to a beached whale, grumpily refused to recognise the hyphens in its name and argued "it's an insult to describe it as a hill." It's not big enough to be a mountain really, but it's certainly steep, an ascent involves scrambling and it's the highest and most rugged test so far on the trail from Edale.

Pen-y-ghent is thought to mean 'Hill of the Winds' and the hefty slab is also part of the Yorkshire Three Peaks challenge (with Ingleborough and Wharfedale). In good weather the summit bequeaths far-reaching views well worth the testing climb. In bad weather, if it looks too intimidating, you can just tip-toe around it to reach Horton-in-Ribblesdale (but shush).

► **WALK HERE:** Turn to **Walk 19** for your 13-mile walk at Pen-y-Ghent and Fountains Fell. ►



"This was Alfred Wainwright's favourite view of the Pennine Way... he aptly likened the dashing Dales peak to a beached whale"

5 Hardraw Force

There are at least four other memorable waterfalls on the Pennine Way: the Peak District's Kinder Downfall, Teesdale's Low Force and High Force, and the snarling Cauldron Snout. But Hardraw Force is the best. You could easily walk past England's largest, above-ground single-drop waterfall without knowing it, though. To access it, you need to detour just off-route from the tiny village of Hardraw, near Hawes, and through the atmospheric, 14th-century Green Dragon Inn (who'll charge you £2). At over 98 feet (30 metres), the vertical wall of wet stuff, plunges from the head of a limestone gorge. Famous 19th-century tightrope-walker Charles Blondin crossed the ravine on a wire, apparently stopping halfway to cook an omelette. In *Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves* this was also where Kevin Costner got his moobs out. You can walk behind it, but do be very careful on slippery rocks.

► **WALK HERE:** Download your 10½-mile walk from Hardraw over Great Shunner Fell at www.lfto.com/cwroutes

6 Tan Hill Inn

There's no more welcome sight anywhere on the Pennine Way – perhaps anywhere in the world! – than glimpsing the lonely oasis of the Tan Hill Inn on the horizon after several miles of barren moorland.

The Inn is most famous for being Britain's highest pub, but it's also been in three TV adverts and once laudably stood up to bullying US fast-food giants Kentucky Fried Chicken. In 2007 then-owner Tracy Daly received a letter from KFC instructing her to remove the words "family feast", which are copyrighted by the American chain, from the menu. Understandably Daly thought the letter a late April Fool's joke.

It wasn't. The inn didn't back down and KFC, perhaps seeing the PR suicide they were about to commit, finally gave up the lawsuit.

A night here is a chance to catch up with fellow hikers – some, perhaps from the nearby Coast to Coast – and trade tips and blisters over a beer or two.

► **WALK HERE:** Follow the Pennine Way north from Keld for four miles to reach the Tan Hill Inn. Return the same way, or head south-west on a path across the lonely moors of Robert's Seat to Jenny Whalley Force, then curve south-east into Swaledale and east along the valley back to Keld to complete an 11-mile loop.



7 High Cup

If there's a more spectacular view anywhere in England I'd love to know about it. As you approach High Cup (Nick, as it's sometimes misnamed, is a cleft on the northern bank), the ground suddenly opens up beneath you like an earthquake in slow-motion, to reveal an apocalyptic chasm. The symmetrical U-shaped valley of whinstone cliffs and dolerite crags was gouged out by a glacier – or a giant ice-cream scoop, depending on who you believe – to leave an affecting reminder of the awesome power ice can wield. It's around 700 feet (200 metres) to the valley floor and views go west into the Eden Valley and on to the Lake District – which gets thousands more visitors and leaves High Cup gloriously neglected. It's the greatest point on the Pennine Way and one of those moments where all the toil feels worth it for this special trophy.

► **WALK HERE:** Download your 10-mile walk at High Cup from www.lfto.com/cwroutes

"It's the greatest point on the Pennine Way and one of those moments where all the toil feels worth it for this special trophy."

PHOTOS: © ELPA / ALAMY; © BAGPBE CATHERINE LUCAS / ALAMY; MATT ROBERTS



8 Cross Fell & Greg's Hut

A 1747 edition of *Gentlemen's Magazine* said Cross Fell is "generally 10 months buried in snow and 11 in clouds". It's the most notorious part of the Pennine Way, the highest point in England outside the Lake District and the coldest place in the country, according to the Met Office. Thank goodness then for the sanctuary of Greg's Hut, not far from the summit and a welcome place to rest, luncheon or stay the night. Named after John Gregory, a mountaineer who died in the Alps in 1968, this bothy is a Pennine Way institution. If your luck's in, firewood will have been supplied by the saintly people of Greg's Hut Society. As ever in this sort of place, the visitors' book is full of humour and stories. There's always someone who's had a worse time than you.

► **WALK HERE:** Download your 9½ mile walk to Cross Fell at www.lfto.com/cwroutes. Greg's Hut is a 900m detour east along the Pennine Way from point 5.



PHOTO: © J PAUL HERON

9 Hadrian's Wall

It's a bit greedy of the Pennine Way to include Hadrian's Wall too, but it traverses eight miles of the World Heritage-listed ancient architecture – the very best of it in fact. The Wall is a place of dramatic views, tangible history and sore calves – it bobs up and down like a caterpillar. It was built along the crest of the epic Whin Sill outcrop and

the Wall's a masterpiece of military engineering, Roman Britain's biggest building project and one of the finest Roman remnants in Europe. Stretches are still intact, others have been restored and remains of camps can clearly be seen too.


► **WALK HERE:** Download your 7-mile walk at Hadrian's Wall at www.lfto.com/cwroutes



PHOTO: © J PAUL HERON

10 Windy Gyle

High in the big, lonely, spectacular Cheviots, this was Tom Stephenson's favourite part of the Pennine Way. The summit of the Cheviot's most charismatic summit is a place of drama, wildness and probably wind – there's a clue in the name. The mound of stones is Russell's Cairn and dates from the Bronze Age. Post-Middle Ages the Border region was split into three marches, each ruled by a lord and there were regular meetings between wardens, which sometimes degenerated into bloodbaths. Here Lord Francis Russell was murdered in 1585. But never mind all that nonsense. The North Sea is sometimes visible from here, amongst a whole lot more. And Kirk Yetholm is in your reach...

► **WALK HERE:** Download your 9-mile walk at Windy Gyle at www.lfto.com/cwroutes 

"The summit of the Cheviot's most charismatic summit is a place of drama, wildness and probably wind"

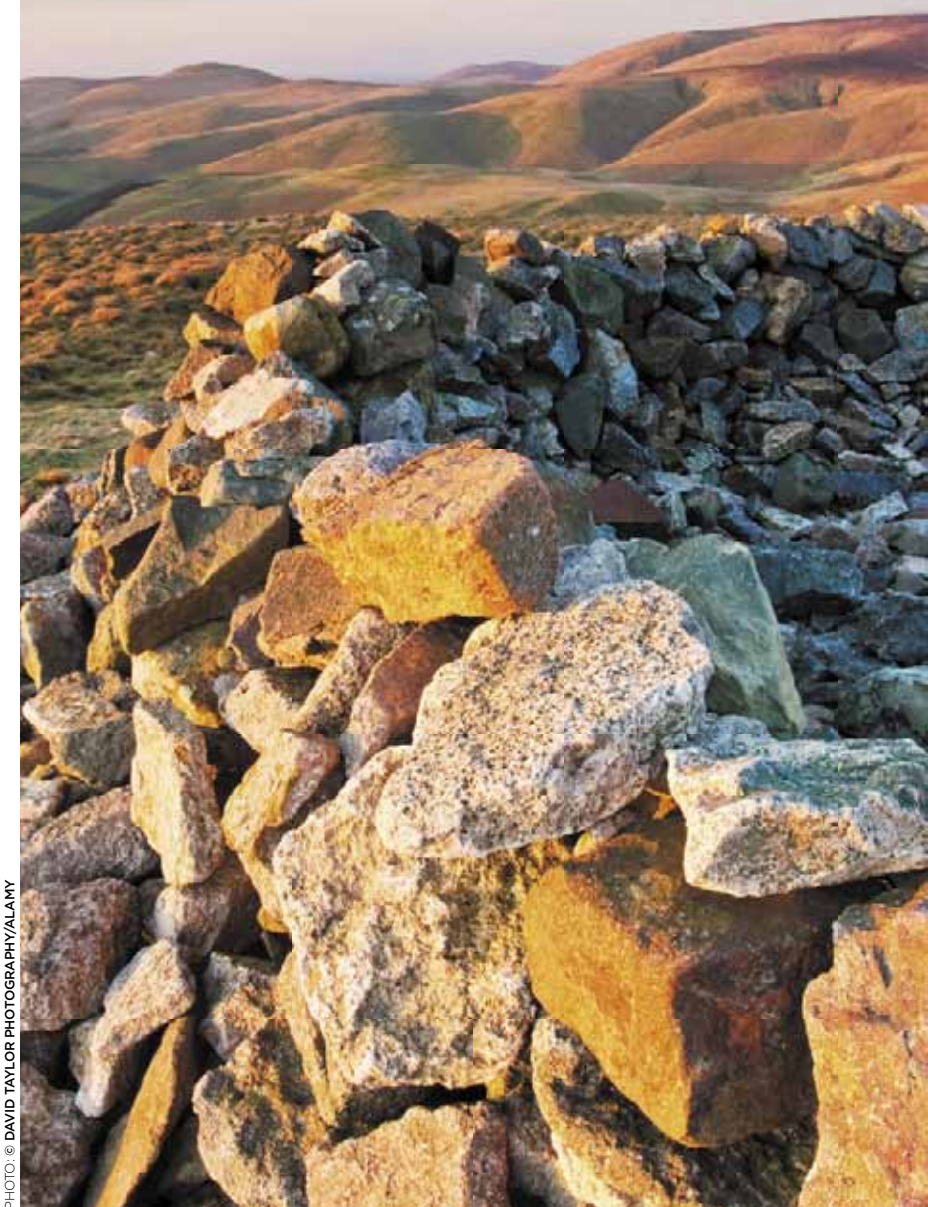


PHOTO: © DAVID TAYLOR PHOTOGRAPHY/ALAMY