

Yorkshire Dales

Boasting a dramatic landscape and plethora of eye-catching elements, the Yorkshire Dales keep **Dorcas Eatch** inspired



I first came across the Yorkshire Dales National Park 30 years ago when my main aim was to walk all of the Dales.

A number of elements epitomise the Yorkshire Dales for me; the stone walls, old barns, the ever-shifting light and the dramatic changes of the seasons, the big views, sheep and lambs in spring, limestone pavements, waterfalls, and the summer glow of buttercups in the traditional hay meadows, which echo with curlew and oystercatcher calls.

The most densely packed area of barns can be found on the road from Keld to Gunnerside. I always take a walk in summer to the seven traditional hay meadows behind Muker for macro flower photography; there is also a good

view of the meadows and village if you walk up the track just before Muker car park.

I love limestone pavements for their clean compositional lines, and the way they lend themselves to dramatic conversions into black & white. They are also great in all weather, especially frost and snow, plus most are high enough to catch sunrises and sunsets. Of course, most have the obligatory tree. There are Coniston, Twistleton Scar, Grassington and Malham limestone pavements, to name but a few.

The landscape boasts plenty of waterfalls, too. The most popular being Ingleton, Aysgarth, Hardaw Force, Gordale Scar, Janet's Fosse and West Burton Falls. But my favourites are Wain Wath and East Gill Waterfall, both near Keld.

East Gill has black rocks, so perfect for the long exposure veiled look, and Wain Wath can appear a myriad of golden hues due to the peat present in the water.

Seasonal highlights

Spring The spring lambs and barns at Hawes and Gunnerside

Summer The traditional hay meadows, mainly in and around Muker

Autumn Bolton Abbey flanked with autumnal colours is superb

Winter Anywhere in the Dales is great with snow

Angram Barn Canon 20D with 17-85mm lens at 68mm, ISO 100, 1/6sec at f/22, tripod

MY FAVOURITE IMAGE



My favourite spots

Wain Wath - just beyond Keld - because there are lots of opportunities for both water and rock abstracts, and there is no mobile phone reception!

Hawes in winter because when the light is right there is a truly wonderful view down the wide river valley.

Arncliffe is snuggled at the end of Littondale and going up any of the nearby hills gives a classic overview of a Dale.

Favourite pub/café

» **Muker Teashop** offers scrumptious homemade fare using local produce. 01748 886409, www.mukervillage.co.uk

» **Buck Inn** Malham also has gorgeous meals on offer, made from local produce. 01729 830317, www.buckinnmalham.co.uk



Note from the warden

There is a location on Ingleborough, in the Three Peaks area of the Dales, known as the Swinetail (grid reference SD743746). From the top of the Swinetail, just before the last short climb to the summit, there are great views to the north, northeast and east, showing a vast sweep of wild land in the heart of the Dales. Man's impact on the land is evident everywhere; the monumental Ribbleshead Viaduct, Cam and Greenfield Forests, conifer plantations resembling an inkstain or a cloud shadow on the distant moors; and everywhere the tiny dots of farms and hamlets, with a surrounding patchwork of bright green fields.

Steve Hastie



Malham at moonlight Canon 40D with 17-55mm lens at 17mm, ISO 100, 1/10sec at f/11, tripod



Littondale Canon 40D 17-85mm at 84mm, ISO 100, 0.3sec at f/13, tripod

The traditional hay meadows echo with the calls of curlew and oystercatcher

Most photogenic...

Towns and villages

- » Grassington
- » Malham
- » Arncliffe

Photogenic buildings

- » Old Gang Smelting Mill,
- » Surrender Bridge above Feetham
- » Bolton Abbey

Further info link
www.yorkshiredales.org.uk

The word dale comes from a Nordic/Germanic word for valley