

**Fifty seven. HEBDEN BRIDGE – CALLIS VALE &
HEPTONSTALL.**

Not a long walk but it has just about everything you could ask for on a good ramble. Via the wooded Vale of Callis you visit the lovely gritstone town of Heptonstall with its romantic church ruins, and come back down a steep bank into lively Hebden Bridge.

Take the train from Eccles to Manchester Victoria. Change here onto a Leeds or Bradford train via Rochdale. Alight at Hebden Bridge.

Walk down the station approach road and go left just before the bridge over the canal.

Walk through this park keeping to the right hand side near the canal and out of the gates at the other end.

Cross over bridge 17 at the locks and walk left along the towpath. *Hebble End works is on the right.*

After Stubbings Upper Lock No 11 turn right along the path away from the canal.

Descend the steps by Stubbings Square and cross the river bridge. Continue with the stream on your right.

Cross the main road and go up Church Lane opposite. *St James church is on your right.*

Just past the church take the middle road upward (there is a stone arched gate on the left of it). Follow this road up until it turns sharp left.

At this point continue straight ahead onto Colden Road towards Jack Bridge. *Parts of this road still have the parallel stones for carts. It's a lovely stretch through the woods.*

Take the right hand level route where the road forks. This then drops slightly towards a bridge over the stream. *On the right is the chimney and ruins of Lower Lumb Mill.*

Do not cross the bridge but keep straight ahead towards the waterfalls with the stream on your right. *You come to the now wooded ruins of Upper Lumb Mill.*

Pass the chimney on your right and curve to your right between a stone arch of a tunnel, and a circular water hole on left.

Ascend the short flight of stone steps on your left and climb ahead to where the path joins another.

At the path junction U turn to your right. *(You could go ahead a short distance to look at the other ruins and waterfalls).*

Gradually ascend through the woods to a complex junction of tracks. Here you go left and immediately right behind the big tree. (*It divides into three stout boughs*).

Continue climbing the valley side on this rough road. *There is a small quarry on the left with a stone wall and arch atop it.*

Where this route does a left hand U-bend, keep straight ahead to go up the stone steps. *I forgot to count these but there are plenty!*

At the top of the steps is another complex junction of paths - *with a seat!*

Go right a few paces and then take the left fork through the wall onto a path across the fields.

Keep straight ahead – *it is well way marked through the farm and hamlet* – till you come to the tarmac road with a single cottage facing you. *This is Windy Harbour.*

Turn right down the road a short way and then left onto a path with a finger post pointing to Heptonstall. *This takes you along the top edge of Callis Vale.*

A short way along (*in the tangle of trees, rocks and trails*) there is a post with a fading blue arrow in front of a tree. Follow the direction left and slightly up at this point. Then keep going ahead. *This next stretch is not good for those with vertigo but has marvellous views of Stoodley Pike and the Calder Valley – you can see below where you entered Callis Vale.*

Eventually the stone wall on your left does a right-angled bend left into Heptonstall. *The adjacent wall in front comes out even further.*

Take this path to the left between the houses keeping straight ahead till you come to the church.

Go to the right of the church along Church Lane West, *a lovely little alley.* Take the steps on the left into the churchyard. *This romantic ruin is the 13th C. Church of St Thomas a Beckett, with the Old Grammar School at the side of the churchyard.*

A path runs across the churchyard half way between the tower of the new church and the tower of the old church. Go right along this and leave the churchyard by that gate.

Turn right along the street to Top o'th Town. Then turn right on Town Gate to go down through the town.

Heptonstall is so made of stone that it seems odd to me that the doors and glazing are not made of stone also! On your left is The White Lion (real ales and food) and nearly opposite is the Cloth Hall (1545).

Then on the left is The Cross Inn (Full range of 5 Timothy Taylor's real draught beers), the Post Office (yes!) is opposite, and just round the bend is the Town Gate tearoom.

Keep going along this road down out of town.

After a few hundred yards go through a gap in the little stone wall on the left. This takes you down a steep flight of steps.

At the next road go right and then turn left at the end of the houses. You descend a steep setted bank (*which gets ever steeper*) into Hebden Bridge.

Pass the Hole in the Wall pub to your left and cross over the pack horse bridge to facing the White Swan. *This is a delightful bit of the town.*

Turn right and go to the main road. (*Otherwise explore Hebden Bridge!*)

Cross the road and go through the memorial garden slightly left of you. Cross over the canal, then left through the park.

On leaving the park go right up to the railway station.

Go down the steps through the underpass to the Manchester platform for the train back.

CATEGORY: MEDIUM LENGTH. DIFFICULT. (There are some steep roads, steep steps, and a rocky edge).

COUNTRYSIDE, FINE VIEWS, PUBS,
WOODLAND, OLD INDUSTRY, CANAL,
WATERFALLS, RUINS, CAFES etc...

RAIL FARE: category three.

MAP OS 1:50 000 sheet 103 Philip's Street Atlas West Yorkshire.