



# 18 WEST YORKSHIRE TODMORDEN TO HEBDEN BRIDGE

■ Distance: 6¼ miles/9.9km ■ Time: 2½ hours ■ Grade: Moderate



Stoodley Pike from London Road.

PHOTO: JOHNNY CAMPBELL

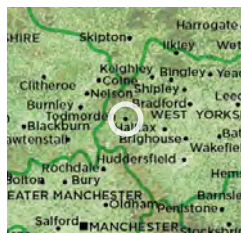


## CHOSEN BY... JOHNNY CAMPBELL

Todmorden is a town which has forever grappled with its identity. Prior to 1888, the Lancashire-Yorkshire county boundary ran through the town hall, and today, though now wholly in Yorkshire, it has a Lancastrian postcode. It's also a noted UFO hotspot and the start point for this station-to-station walk to Hebden Bridge. The walk takes in London Road, a moorland highway constructed by mill workers on half pay, on a retainer by the mill owners, when the Trans-Atlantic cotton famine affected once bustling Lancastrian mills.

The ascent out of Todmorden follows the Calderdale Way, weaving through narrow streets, past an impressive church, before rising above the town, meeting minor moorland roads and the hamlets of Lumbutts and Mankinholes. Stepping onto London Road, the Calderdale vista stretches out to both counties. Distant landmarks, such as the churches in Heptonstall village, come into view, with the Stoodley Pike Monument towering above (well worth a detour from our described route). This 121-foot tower replaced a previous structure which collapsed in 1854 through decades of weathering and, finally, a lightning strike. The original

## PLAN YOUR WALK



## ROUTE

**Start/parking** Todmorden railway station, grid ref SD935241, postcode OL14 7AA. Also parking at end in Hebden Bridge

**Is it for me?** Easy to follow track, and road walking, partly on waymarked trails; steeper detour up Stoodley Pike

**Stiles** None

## PLANNING

**Nearest town** Todmorden

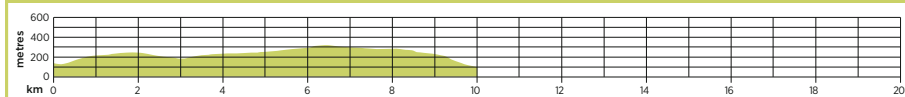
**Refreshments** Choice at start/end. The Fox & Goose, Hebden Bridge (01422 648052); Golden Lion, Todmorden, serving Thai food (01706 816333)

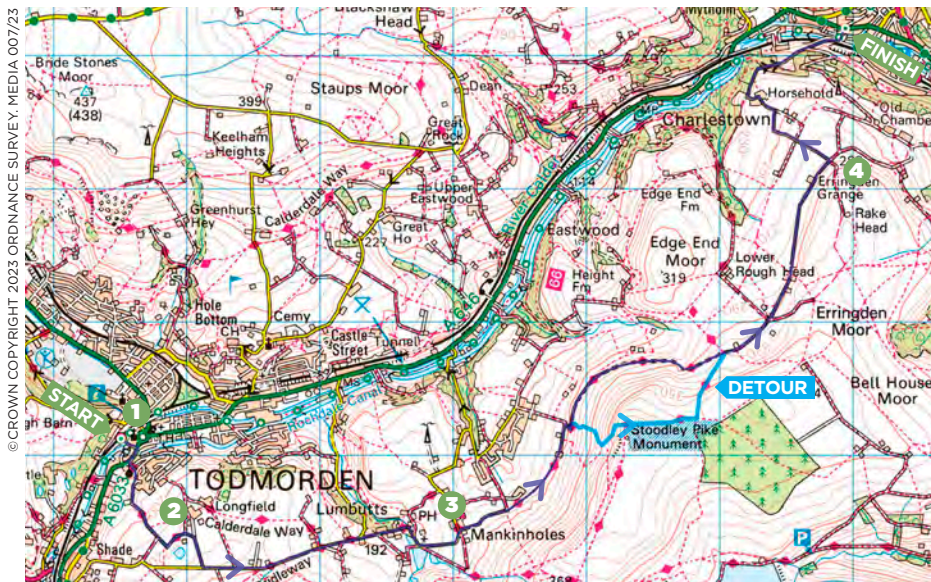
**Public toilets** Todmorden Market

**Public transport** Leeds-Manchester Victoria trains (northernrailway.co.uk). Buses 590, 591, 592 from Halifax, Rochdale, Burnley (firstbus.co.uk)

**Maps** OS Explorer OL21; Landranger 103

## GRADIENT PROFILE



18 WEST YORKSHIRE  
TODMORDEN TO HEBDEN BRIDGE■ OS Explorer map OL21 ■ Buy maps at: [ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop](https://ordnancesurvey.co.uk/shop)

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monument, started in 1814 and completed after the Battle of Waterloo, celebrated the defeat of Napoleon in the War of the Sixth Coalition. The 39 steps inside the monument lead to a balcony which offers incredible views of the area.

**1 Start**  
Leave Todmorden train station down Rise Lane to junction at Rochdale Road, turn R past Golden Lion pub to join Calderdale Way up street named Bankside on L after pub. With Todmorden Unitarian Church on R, Bankside leads to Honey Hole Road, past small gorge on L, following the Calderdale Way.

**2  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile/1.2km**  
At fork, Calderdale Way takes L turn, where we leave the Calderdale Way, taking R onto tarmac road, Long Hey Lane, to junction at Lumbutts Road. Turn L at junction onto Lumbutts Road past Shepherds Rest Inn and hamlet of Lumbutts, climbing to village of Mankinholes on road. Turn R past sculpture of sheep onto London Road, joining Pennine Bridleway.

**3  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles/3.6km**  
Follow London Road bridleway through handful of wooden gates, skirting Stoodley Pike. Steep detour up to Stoodley Pike is possible at SD968242. Continuing on

London Road, the ground ascends to Swillington farm before joining Kilnshaw Lane, passing farm and Erringden Grange, reaching a crossroads.

**4 5 miles/8km**  
Turn L to tarmac passing Household farm following cobbles/tarmac road. Road drops from high moorland to valley bottom, which descends sharply to Hebden Bridge. **CW**

**VIEW THE WALK ON OS MAPS ONLINE:**  
[walk1000miles.co.uk/cwroutes](https://walk1000miles.co.uk/cwroutes)

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



DATE WALKED

TIME TAKEN

YOUR RATING

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