

8 Stunning Yorkshire Dales Scenic Drives

Your free take-it-with-you guide from getcarhire.com

Note: the route-map infographic will be added as the cover image once generated.

The 8 Drives at a Glance

Scenic drive	Distance	Difficulty	Highlight
1. Buttertubs Pass (B6270)	~6 miles	Moderate	England's most spectacular road
2. B6255 past Ribbleshead Viaduct	~17 miles	Easy-Mod	The 24-arch Victorian viaduct
3. Swaledale (Keld to Richmond)	~23 miles	Easy	Classic dale, drystone walls, Richmond
4. Wensleydale (Hawes to Leyburn)	~16 miles	Easy	Aysgarth Falls, Wensleydale cheese
5. Wharfedale (Bolton Abbey-Kettlewell)	~18 miles	Easy	Gentlest, prettiest dale
6. Malham & limestone country	~12 miles	Moderate	Malham Cove and Gordale Scar
7. Grassington to Pateley Bridge	~12 miles	Easy-Mod	Quiet moorland, Stump Cross Caverns
8. A683 Sedburgh & the Howgills	~15 miles	Easy	Links the Dales to the Lakes

Before You Drive: Safety Essentials

IMPORTANT: Many routes use single-track roads with passing places, and the high passes such as Buttertubs are steep, narrow and exposed. Take the climbs slowly and watch for sheep on the open moorland.

- The UK drives on the left. Pull into the nearest passing place to let oncoming or faster traffic by, and never park in one.
- A smaller car is easier than a wide vehicle on the single-track passes and narrow lanes.
- Mobile signal drops in the deeper valleys, so download your route offline before you set off.
- Fuel is sparse outside the market towns. Fill up in Hawes, Settle, Leyburn or Grassington.
- Best driven April to October. The high passes can be bleak, icy or fogbound in winter.

Getting There: Car Hire at Manchester Airport

The Dales are rural with limited public transport, so a hire car is essential. The nearest major airport is Manchester, around two hours away via the M62 and M6, with Leeds Bradford a little closer to the southern Dales. Manchester Airport has a dedicated Car Rental Village with all the main suppliers and car hire from around £8 a day booked ahead. Compare car hire Manchester Airport deals and read the full guide to all eight drives at getcarhire.com.