

# Cycling in Saddleworth

Visitor guide



## Getting here with your bike

### Public transport

Greenfield Station, on the Huddersfield-Manchester line, makes getting to Saddleworth with your bike easy. Northern Rail provide space for two bikes on their trains and more at the conductor's discretion, on a first come, first serve basis (no booking required).

### Car

The borough of Oldham is well placed for easy access to all the major motorway networks. Saddleworth's hills are less than:

- 10 minutes from the M62 (junction 21),
- 20 minutes from the M60 (junction 22 via Oldham Town Centre or junction 23 via Ashton-Under-Lyne and Mossley).

To find car parks in the area check out the council's website [www.oldham.gov.uk](http://www.oldham.gov.uk)

### Useful contacts

National Trails [www.nationaltrail.co.uk](http://www.nationaltrail.co.uk)  
Manchester Countryside [www.manchesterscountryside.com](http://www.manchesterscountryside.com)  
Cycle Greater Manchester [www.cycle.gm.org](http://www.cycle.gm.org)  
Transport for Greater Manchester [www.tfgm.com](http://www.tfgm.com)  
Travel line [www.traveline-northwest.co.uk](http://www.traveline-northwest.co.uk)  
Visit Oldham [www.visitoldham.com](http://www.visitoldham.com) for cycling offers and a full directory of cycle hire and shops.

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Explore Saddleworth on two wheels with some of our exhilarating cycle routes. From leisurely rides along secluded tracks to intense downhill descents, Saddleworth's distinctive countryside offers something for cyclists of all ages and abilities.

## Mountain bike escapes

On the edge of the Pennines, Saddleworth is the gateway to the Peak District National Park providing the perfect landscape for any keen mountain bike explorer. If you fancy a challenge then why not give one of the below routes a go?



### Diggle Jiggle mountain bike route

This 11 mile circular mountain bike route, offers a gentle ride from Diggle to Greenfield railway station, before embarking on the thrilling hillier terrain around Saddleworth's historic villages.

**Length: 11 miles / 17 km, Rough Time: 2.5 – 4 hours.**

### Saddleworth Cycle and Horse Riding Trail

Looking for a shorter route? Have a go at this trail, which follows a similar route to the intense hilly half of the Diggle Jiggle trail. Following parts of the 'Delph Donkey' trail and Pennine Bridleway, this route gives cyclists a glimpse of Saddleworth's industrial past.

**Length: 7 miles / 11 km, Rough Time: 1.5 – 3 hours**



### Pennine Bridleway

If you're feeling more adventurous, head out along the Pennine Bridleway from Castleshaw across Saddleworth Moor to Denshaw and then onto Crompton Moor where the network of bridleways and purpose built green trail and pump track make it a must-visit spot for mountain bikers.

**Length: 7 miles / 11 km with route rising 170m, Rough Time: 1.5 – 2 hours for the more experienced cyclist.**



## Saddleworth road tours

Saddleworth has a great network of cycle-friendly roads and country lanes. From challenging hills to smooth valley bottom routes, there's something to satisfy everyone.

### Scenic road trip 'over the tops'

Make Saddleworth your starting point for a trip over the Pennines following the main roads from Greenfield (A635) past Dove Stone Reservoir and over to Meltham. Then head across to Marsden (B6107) and uphill to Standedge cutting (A62), before enjoying the descent down into Diggle.

**Length: 20.5 miles / 33 km, Rough Time: 2-3 hours for the more experienced cyclist**



Why not have a go at making your own route. Use the Oldham Cycle Network map and information in the Saddleworth Village trail leaflets on [www.visitoldham.com](http://www.visitoldham.com) and discover the area at your own pace.

## Family friendly cycling

A wide range of flat trails venturing along former railway lines and circular routes around reservoirs make Saddleworth a great place to bring the family for a day out, bikes and all!

### Delph Donkey and Saddleworth linear routes

These routes offer a traffic-free and relatively flat cycle ride between Delph and Greenfield (or Mossley) train stations. The Delph Donkey runs between this quaint village and Saddleworth viaduct on the edge of Uppermill. Don't miss the opportunity to call in at the BMX and skate park at

Churchill Playing Fields for some jumps and tricks on your way past.

**Length: Delph Donkey 1 mile / 1.6 km; Pennine Bridleway approx 2 miles / 3.2km, Rough Time: 1.5 hours (to cycle both routes)**

### Dove Stone Reservoir

This two mile circular multi-user track around the main reservoir is a great place to take younger children cycling, especially with all the birds and animals to watch on the way round and an ice-cream van at the end!

**Length: 2.5 miles, Rough Time: 1 hour**

### Grotton to Leesbrook Nature Park

Your kids will love cycling along this route, especially when they come to the story trail based on the book "We're going on a bear hunt". This traffic free route is perfect for families with bridleways across Leesbrook offering a chance to explore adventure play areas, ponds, woods, wildflower meadows and more.

**Length: 1 miles / 1.6 km, Rough Time: 30 – 45 minutes**



# Attractions on route

Whichever route you decide on, take a look at [www.visitoldham.com](http://www.visitoldham.com) for all the top attractions and activities along the way. Here's a few to wet your cycling taste buds:

- 1 **Saddleworth Pool and Leisure Centre** – great for a post bike-ride swim!
- 2 **Diggle Portal** – the entrance to the famous Standedge Canal Tunnel which carries the Huddersfield Narrow Canal below the Pennines
- 3 **Brownhill Countryside Centre and Nature Garden** – a lovely spot to stop for an ice-cream and chat to the Rangers
- 4 **Newbank Garden Centre, Dobcross** – pick up some plants or pop into the café for a bite to eat
- 5 **Castleshaw Valley** – explore reservoirs and roman forts
- 6 **Castleshaw Centre** - outdoor activities for organised groups, from canoeing to climbing, caving and more! (pre-booking only)
- 7 **Standedge Cutting** - Stunning views over the Castleshaw Valley and Diggle
- 8 **Brun Clough Canal Reservoir** – supplying water to the Standedge tunnel
- 9 **Dowry and Readycon Dean Reservoirs** – a great spot to pause and admire the views across Saddleworth Moor
- 10 **The Pantry** – deli and farm shop at the Rams Head Inn, Denshaw
- 11 **Crompton Moor** - purpose built green trail and pump track
- 12 **Leesbrook Nature Park** – adventure play, bridleway network, links woodlands, wildflowers and more
- 13 **Dove Stone Reservoir** – Royal Society for Protection of Birds (RSPB) site
- 14 **Churchill BMX / Skate Park**
- 15 **Huddersfield Canal** – towpath walks and narrow boat trips
- 16 **Saddleworth Llama Trekking and Animal Farm, Denshaw** – swap your saddle for a walk with Llamas or a tour of the rare breed animals on the farm (pre-booking required).

**Saddleworth Village Trails** – a self-guided tour of historic buildings and interesting features in each village

From museums, boutiques and breweries, not to mention the great places to stop for some local food and drink, Saddleworth really is a great a day out with your bike. To find out more log on to:

[www.visitoldham.com](http://www.visitoldham.com)



**Featured trail routes**

- Diggle Jiggle
- Saddleworth cycle and horse riding trail
- Pennine Bridleway – Castleshaw, Denshaw and Crompton Moor
- Delph Donkey
- Dove Stone reservoir
- Groton to Leesbrook nature trail
- Saddleworth Linear
- Metrolink