The city of Ripon

Approx duration 30 mins
Distance 0.9 miles
Elevation 52 ft
Accessibility rating 8/10
Terrain Paved city streets
Parking St Marygate & Cathedral Carpark

City Centre Discovery Trail

Route info

This easy city stroll begins outside Ripon's Georgian Town Hall, before taking you on a journey of discovery around the ancient City of Ripon. In such a small area, there is an abundance of independent cafes & retailers.

1 Starting in the Market Square, outside Ripon Town Hall, face the Obelisk & turn left before crossing the road to continue along Market Place West.

2 Continuing straight ahead, follow the pavement down onto Fishergate, observing 'Lavender Alley' on your right.

3 Upon entering North Street, continue to follow the path until you arrive at the Curzon Cinema.

4 Cross the road & retrace your steps back up North Street until you encounter a large covered passageway on your left.

5 Go through the passageway & enter Temple Gardens via the gateway directly ahead.

6 Once in the gardens, turn right & take an immediate left upon entering Allhallowgate to proceed down the hill.

7 Passing the Workhouse Museum on your left, continue down the hill & cross the road at the bottom to enter St Marygate.

8 Keeping to the right side of the road, follow St Marygate past the Prison & Police Museum and round a tight right bend.

9 Passing between the Old Deanery & Ripon Cathedral, you can choose to cross the road and explore the Cathedral or continue the route.

10 If you choose to continue, turn right & follow Kirkgate & Market Place South up the hill

OPTIONAL detour

Accessibility rating 5/10

1 Starting outside & facing the main west doors of Ripon Cathedral follow the tarmac path through the Cathedral grounds, exiting through the iron gates.

2 Go through the gates & turn left onto High St Agnesgate before taking the first right onto Low St Agnesgate.

3 Continue to follow Low St Agnesgate until you encounter a concrete & wooden footbridge opposite the Water Rat Pub.

4 Cross the footbridge & turn right to follow the riverside path.

5 Ascend the set of steps on your left that lead up to the stone bridge.

6 Turn right and cross the bridge over the river Skell, crossing the end of High St Agnesgate. Keep to your right walking up Bedern Bank to return to the Cathedral.

City Centre & River Skell Discovery Trail

Route info

This easy City centre stroll begins outside Ripon's Georgian Town Hall, taking you on a journey past a rich tapestry of historic buildings, the Spa Gardens & a wildlife corridor along part of the River Skell.

1 Starting in the Market Square, outside Ripon Town Hall, face the Obelisk, turn left & follow the pavement to the traffic lights.

2 Cross the road at the traffic lights and continue along Westgate.

3 At the end of the road, take the left fork along Park Street, keeping the Edwardian Spa Baths on your left before entering Spa Gardens.

4 Follow the path through Spa Gardens to the opposite corner & descend the stairs onto Skellbank.

5 Turn left & continue to the traffic lights.

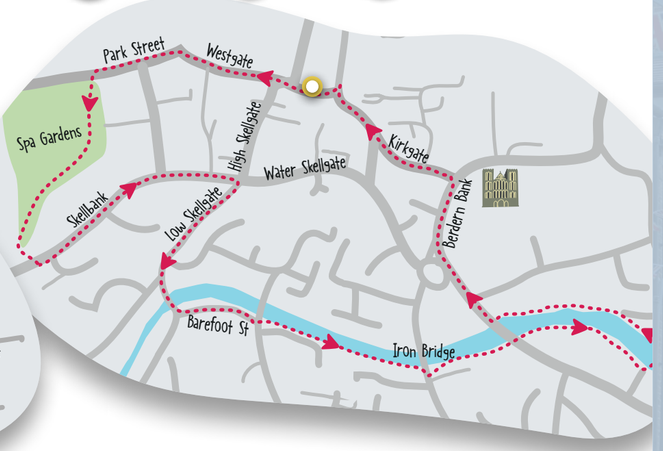
6 Cross the road at the traffic lights & continue down Low Skellgate. **For your safety, it is better to walk down the left side of Low Skellgate.**

7 Cross the stone bridge, turn left onto Barefoot Street & follow the River Skell until you reach The Water Rat pub.

8 Continue along the path until you reach a ford & wooden footbridge.

9 Cross the footbridge & turn left, following the Skell until you arrive opposite the Water Rat.

Approx duration 45 mins
Elevation 56 ft
Terrain Paved city streets & off-road paths
Distance 1.5 miles
Accessibility rating 5/10
Parking St Marygate & Cathedral Carpark



10 Turn right onto Low St Agnesgate before taking a left onto High St Agnesgate.

11 Continue along High St Agnesgate, keeping the Cathedral on your right.

12 Passing the ruins of St Anne's Hospital Chapel on your left, continue to the end of the road & turn right to follow the pavement up Bedern Bank to the Cathedral.

13 At this point, you can end the route & explore the Cathedral.

14 Alternatively, cross the road & walk along Kirkgate to return.

DISCOVER RIPON

For many years Ripon Civic Society and other local bodies have been placing plaques – to commemorate people and places – on buildings and at other sites in Ripon. The plaques celebrate Ripon's rich architectural and cultural history, special places of interest and famous individuals who have shaped the City over the centuries.

Ripon's plaques are themselves now part of the fabric of the City. They provide interesting reading: so, even if you think you know about Ripon, why not explore them for yourself?

Scan to find out about commemorative and green plaques

Ripon Civic Society

Accessibility rating Accessibility ratings are worked out for a standard electric wheelchair user where 1/10 is not accessible and 10/10 is fully accessible

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For a full guide to Ripon with details of offers and promotions, events and news, walks and attractions and a full searchable business directory see:

DISCOVER RIPON

Explore our city in 5 fantastic walks

Studley Royal Circular

Route info

This circular walk takes you along the River Skell to Studley Royal Deer Park before returning to Ripon through picturesque fields.

Approx duration 2 hours

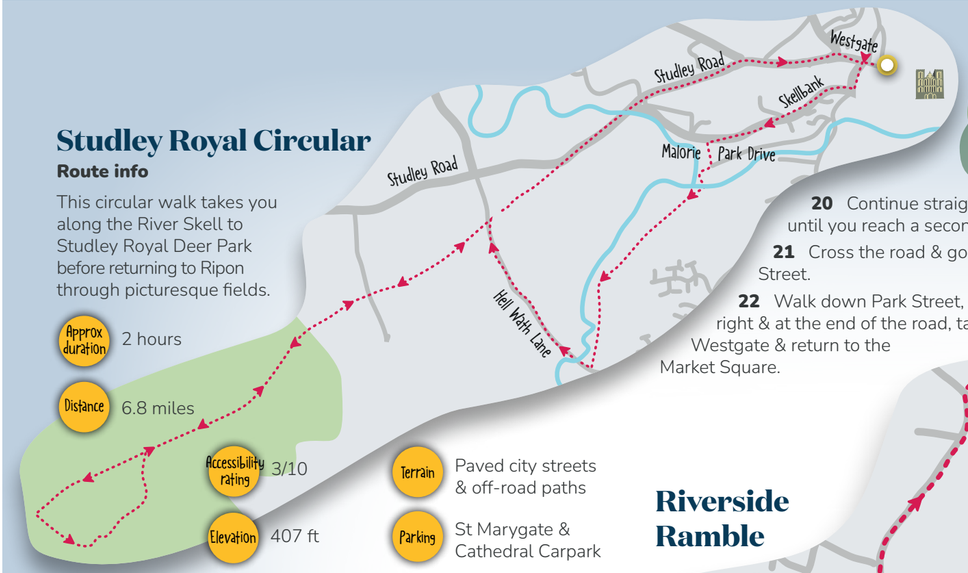
Distance 6.8 miles

Accessibility rating 3/10

Elevation 407 ft

Terrain Paved city streets & off-road paths

Parking St Marygate & Cathedral Carpark



1 Starting outside Ripon Town Hall, face the obelisk, turn left & take the first left onto High Skellgate.

2 At the bottom of the hill, turn right onto Skellbank & follow the pavement onto Mallorie Park Drive.

3 Cross the road to the left-hand side & continue until you reach a side road name High Cleugh on your left.

4 Turn left & follow High Cleugh to the end before bearing right to follow the path that leads towards the river & wooden bridge.

5 Cross the rustic bridge over the river & turn right to enter Hell Wath.

6 Ascend the concrete stairs on your left & follow the path through the woodland.

7 Descend the carved steps & continue until you reach the edge of the woodland.

8 Upon reaching an open field, take the path directly in front of you & follow it round to the left until you reach some more carved steps.

9 At the top of these steps, turn right & follow the path until you encounter a cottage with a gate to your right.

10 Go through the gate & continue across the iron footbridge.

11 At the intersection, take the lefthand path to Studley Roger.

12 Upon reaching the village, cross the road & follow the path to enter the National Trust Studley Royal Estate. Please ensure your dog is on a lead from this point onwards.

13 Enter the main drive & follow it up to St Mary's Church, keeping into the side to avoid vehicles that use the drive to enter & leave the estate.

14 Continue to follow the drive up to the church & take the grass path on your left that is opposite the pedestrian entrance.

15 Descend the hill, being careful to mind your footing & cross the car park towards the lake.

16 At this stage, you can either explore Studley Royal Deer Park or follow the main path to return to the drive.

17 From the drive, retrace your steps back through the village & along the same footpath you entered until you reach the intersection.

18 At the intersection continue straight ahead, exiting the fields through a wooden gate.

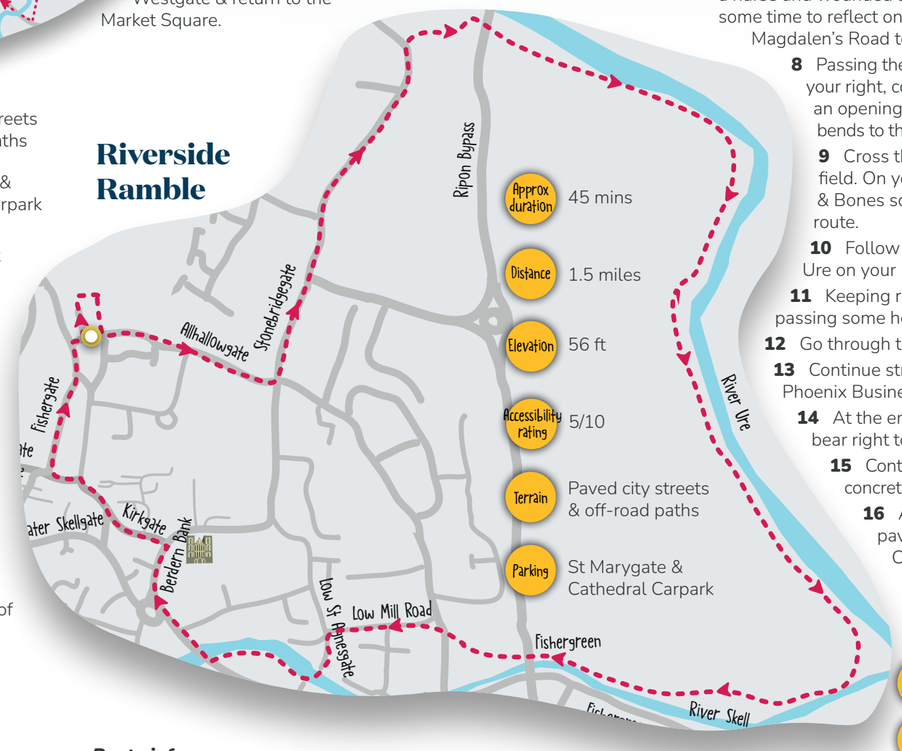
19 Cross the road & follow the path across the stone bridge to the mini roundabout.

20 Continue straight ahead onto Studley Road until you reach a second mini roundabout.

21 Cross the road & go straight ahead onto Park Street.

22 Walk down Park Street, passing Spa Gardens on your right & at the end of the road, take the right fork to walk up Westgate & return to the Market Square.

Riverside Ramble



Approx duration 45 mins

Distance 1.5 miles

Elevation 56 ft

Accessibility rating 5/10

Terrain Paved city streets & off-road paths

Parking St Marygate & Cathedral Carpark

Route info

Starting outside Ripon Town Hall, this route takes you on a journey through historic streets, past a 12th Century Chapel & along sections of the River Skell & Ure.

1 Starting outside Ripon Town Hall, face the obelisk & turn left before crossing the road to continue down Market Place West.

2 Follow the pavement along, Market Place West & continue until you reach the Curzon cinema.

3 Cross the road, outside the cinema & turn right to continue back along North Street until you encounter a wide covered passageway on your left.

4 Go through the passageway & continue until you reach a gateway into Temple Gardens.

5 Bearing right, continue through Temple Gardens until you reach Allhallowgate.

6 Upon entering Allhallowgate, turn left & proceed down the hill, passing the Workhouse Museum on your left.

7 At the bottom of the hill, turn left onto Stonebridgegate and follow the pavement down past Aldi onto Magdalen's Road.

OPTIONAL Detour

Designed by local artist, Dan Metcalfe in 2018 to mark 100 years since the end of WW1, there are a number of sculptures dotted around the city, depicting soldiers & other figures from the conflict.

To find the first, cross the road using the crossing at the start of Magdalen's Road. Immediately ahead you will see a sculpture of a nurse and wounded soldier, entitled Nelly & Blind John. Take some time to reflect on the sculpture and retrace your steps back to Magdalen's Road to continue the route.

8 Passing the 12th century Mary Magdalene Leper Chapel on your right, continue to follow the path until you encounter an opening on the opposite side of the road just after the road bends to the left.

9 Cross the road & go through the kissing gate into the field. On your left as you go through the gate is the Fred & Bones sculpture, the second silhouette soldier on this route.

10 Follow the path under the bridge, keeping the River Ure on your left until you reach a large open field.

11 Keeping right, walk along the path & immediately after passing some houses you will come to a second kissing gate.

12 Go through the gate & turn left, onto Low Mill.

13 Continue straight ahead & walk along Low Mill, passing Phoenix Business park on your right.

14 At the end of the road, turn left, cross the footbridge & bear right to follow the riverside path.

15 Continue to follow the path until you reach a set of concrete steps.

16 Ascend the steps, turn right & follow the pavement up Bedern Bank until you reach the Cathedral.

17 At this point, you can explore Ripon Cathedral or alternatively cross the Road to walk up Kirkgate to return to the Market Square.

Canal Walk
Short Stroll

Approx duration 30 minutes

Distance 1 mile

Elevation 120 ft

Accessibility rating 4/10

Terrain Paved city streets & off-road paths

Parking St Marygate & Cathedral Carpark

Route info

Starting outside Ripon Town Hall, this walk snakes its way along Ripon Canal & seamlessly blends the glorious Yorkshire countryside with Ripon's unique urban environment.

1 Starting outside Ripon Town Hall, turn right & continue down Market Square South.

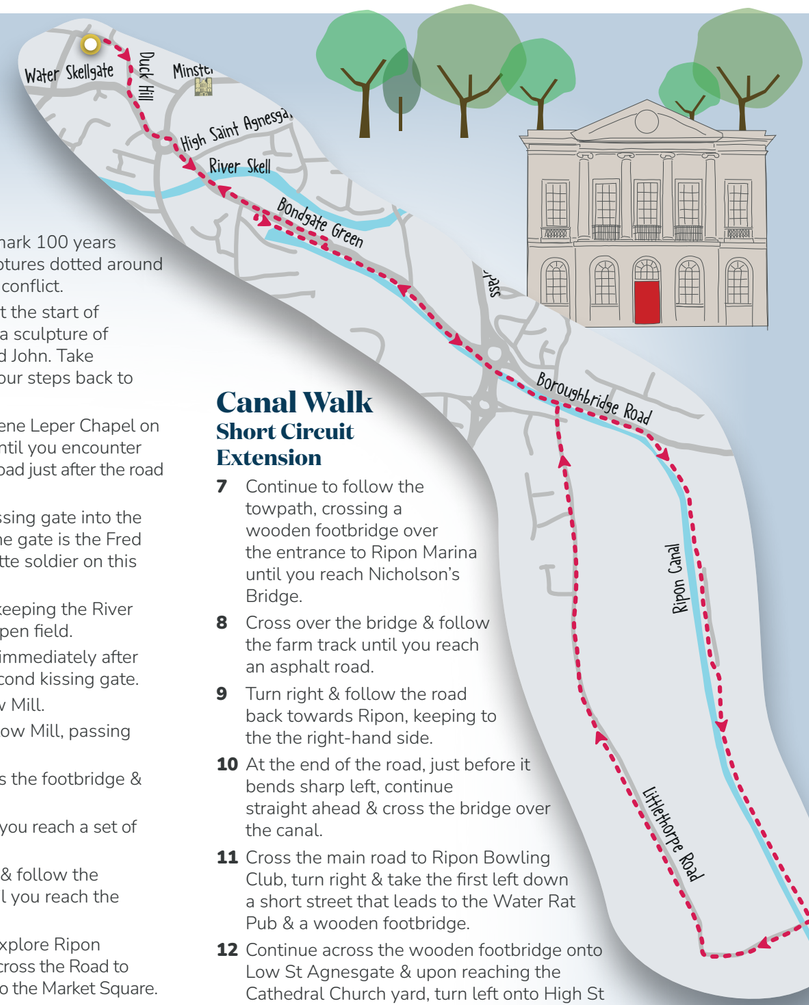
2 Take the right fork onto Duck hill.

3 At the bottom of the hill, turn left onto Skellgarths & continue until you reach the roundabout.

4 Upon reaching the roundabout, cross the road, continue straight ahead & cross the stone bridge over the River Skell.

5 Once outside Ripon Bowling Club, cross the road & enter the canal basin through the gateway.

6 Follow the towpath on your left under Ripon Bypass until you reach the first set of locks. For those who want a shorter walk, you may wish to retrace your steps.



Canal Walk
Short Circuit Extension

7 Continue to follow the towpath, crossing a wooden footbridge over the entrance to Ripon Marina until you reach Nicholson's Bridge.

8 Cross over the bridge & follow the farm track until you reach an asphalt road.

9 Turn right & follow the road back towards Ripon, keeping to the the right-hand side.

10 At the end of the road, just before it bends sharp left, continue straight ahead & cross the bridge over the canal.

11 Cross the main road to Ripon Bowling Club, turn right & take the first left down a short street that leads to the Water Rat Pub & a wooden footbridge.

12 Continue across the wooden footbridge onto Low St Agnesgate & upon reaching the Cathedral Church yard, turn left onto High St Agnesgate.

13 Go through the gates into the churchyard & walk up the hill to reach the main doors of the Cathedral.

14 Cross the road & walk up Kirkgate.

Canal Walk
Long Circuit Extension

For the more adventurous walker, follow the route up to point 7 but continue to follow the towpath.

8 Continue to follow the towpath, passing the entrance to Ripon Wetlands on your left until you reach Renton's Bridge.

9 Cross over the bridge & bear right to follow the country lane.

10 At the end of the lane, turn right & follow the road until you encounter a junction with Littlethorpe Church on your right.

11 Turn right at the junction & follow the road, keeping to the right-hand side.

12 At the end of the road, cross the white bridge over the canal & turn left to retrace your steps back to the canal basin.

13 Retrace your steps using points 1-6.

View these maps and more:
https://visitripon.co.uk/visitor-info/walking-routes/