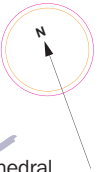


A circular Walk

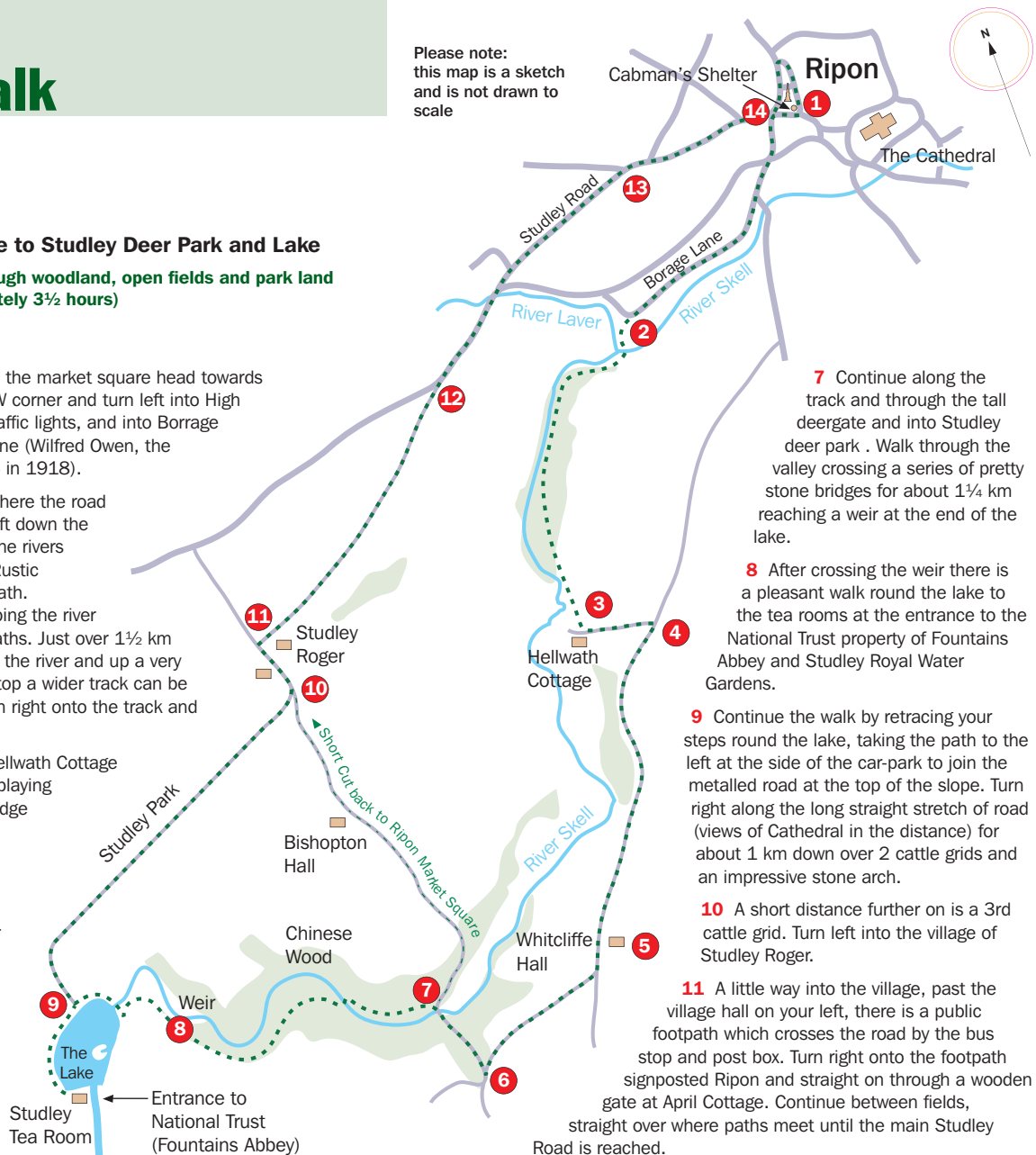
Please note:
this map is a sketch
and is not drawn to
scale



From Ripon Market Square to Studley Deer Park and Lake

An easy to moderate walk through woodland, open fields and park land – 8½ km or 7½ km (approximately 3½ hours)

- 1** From the cabman's shelter on the market square head towards the Wakeman's House on the SW corner and turn left into High Skellgate. Go straight over the traffic lights, and into Borrage Lane. Continue along Borrage Lane (Wilfred Owen, the war poet, briefly lodged at No 24 in 1918).
- 2** At the end of Borrage Lane, where the road turns sharply to the right, bear left down the path towards the confluence of the rivers Laver and Skell. Cross over the Rustic Bridge and turn right along the path. Continue up the Fairy Steps keeping the river to your right, ignoring all other paths. Just over 1½ km the path veers slightly away from the river and up a very short steep path. Reaching the top a wider track can be seen crossing at the bottom. Turn right onto the track and continue until the metalled road.
- 3** Turn left onto the road past Hellwath Cottage on your right. Continue past the playing fields on your left keeping the hedge and field on your right.
- 4** After 250 metres turn right onto a public bridleway and continue up the lane, past Whitcliffe Grange on your left, for just over 1 km to Whitcliffe Hall.
- 5** After Whitcliffe Hall, take the 2nd metal gate on your right sign-posted 'Ripon Rowel' and continue straight across between 2 fields bordered by wire fencing.
- 6** At the top of the field where the path branches to the left around the woods, continue straight on through the wooden gate and into the woods. At the point where the paths cross, turn sharp right and continue down to the river. Cross over the narrow footbridge on your left and turn left onto the broad track through the Chinese Wood. (At this point, for a shorter walk, turn right and follow the track back towards Studley Roger and join the longer walk at the cattle grid entrance to Studley Park – no 10.)
- 7** Continue along the track and through the tall deergate and into Studley deer park. Walk through the valley crossing a series of pretty stone bridges for about 1¼ km reaching a weir at the end of the lake.
- 8** After crossing the weir there is a pleasant walk round the lake to the tea rooms at the entrance to the National Trust property of Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal Water Gardens.
- 9** Continue the walk by retracing your steps round the lake, taking the path to the left at the side of the car-park to join the metalled road at the top of the slope. Turn right along the long straight stretch of road (views of Cathedral in the distance) for about 1 km down over 2 cattle grids and an impressive stone arch.
- 10** A short distance further on is a 3rd cattle grid. Turn left into the village of Studley Roger.
- 11** A little way into the village, past the village hall on your left, there is a public footpath which crosses the road by the bus stop and post box. Turn right onto the footpath signposted Ripon and straight on through a wooden gate at April Cottage. Continue between fields, straight over where paths meet until the main Studley Road is reached.
- 12** Turn right towards Ripon, past the Laver Holiday Park and after a few metres cross over the bridge. Continue straight along the Studley Road past the cricket/rugby ground for approximately ½ km.
- 13** When you reach the junction of Church Lane and Park Street continue past The Spa Hotel on your right, cross over Firby Lane, and bear right into Westgate.
- 14** Westgate will lead you back to the Market Square.



Where to Stay

Ripon is the gateway to the Yorkshire Dales, and an ideal place to stay for a short break or a longer family holiday. There is a range of accommodation within the City, and the surrounding countryside, to suit every taste and budget

For further information on the many choices of accommodation on offer call Ripon Tourist Information on 01765 604625 or use our guide on page 25 to book direct



The Old Deanery, set in private grounds overlooking the cathedral, offers contemporary style and comfort within one of the City's most historical buildings. Listed in the Good Food Guide 2006 The Old Deanery has 11 stylish bedrooms including 2 four poster beds.

The traditional, family-owned Ripon Spa Hotel is set in extensive grounds close to the beautiful Spa Gardens and the centre of the City.

If you prefer to stay at a country house hotel, close to Fountains Abbey and a short distance from Ripon, the Hob Green Hotel is a lovely example of an English country house hotel, with award-winning gardens and long distance views across the rolling countryside. Originally the home of the owners, each of its twelve bedrooms is individually furnished providing comfort within a relaxed atmosphere.

Ripon's historic past as a coaching stop is continued today with the opportunity to

stay in several of the City's inns. A warm welcome is offered, along with the chance to sample many of the famous local ales and fine food, at the Unicorn Hotel in the Market Place, The Royal Oak on historic Kirkgate, The Golden Lion on Allhallowgate and The Ship Inn on Bondgate.

Guesthouses and bed & breakfast opportunities abound within the City. Try Box Tree Cottages, a pretty, listed building, or Ravencroft both of which are within a short walk of the centre. Alternatively, Park Street B&B is set in a lovely, 18th-century townhouse and is opposite the Spa Gardens.

Great for a family-orientated holiday, Ripon boasts several country holiday parks within a short distance from the City. River Laver Holiday Park is just a short walk from Ripon on the Studley Road. Also close by, is the Riverside Meadows Country Park catering for tents, and caravans on the banks of the River Ure. It is ideally placed for exploring the Yorkshire Dales and surrounding towns and country houses.

If you want a peaceful rural setting, then why not choose Woodhouse Farm Park at Winkley. Set in 56 acres of woodland and meadows the facilities include private fishing lakes, restaurant and bar, licensed shop and children's play areas. Ripon, Fountains Abbey and Brimham Rocks are all just a short drive away.

Opposite page, top to bottom: The Unicorn Hotel; The Old Deanery; Hob Green Hotel; Box Tree Cottages.

This page: Riverside Meadows Country Park; North Bridge; Ripon Spa Hotel.

