

Walks within the Harrogate Area

Studley Roger and Valley of the Seven Bridges

Distance Four miles

Time Allowed Two hours

A circular walk of about 4 miles from Studley Roger via Studley Royal Park, Fountains Abbey and the Valley of the Seven Bridges.

Leave the Ripon to Pateley Bridge road and drive to and park in the small, pretty village of Studley Roger.

Follow the signpost in the centre of this village which points the way to the Studley Royal Country Park and Fountains Abbey. Follow the path into the deer park and then on to the metalled road leading to the car park.

Studley Park covers around 300 acres and contains herds of fallow, sika and red deer. The park was originally constructed by Sir John Aislabie (once a Chancellor of the Exchequer) and begun in about 1720.

Walk straight ahead to *St Mary's Church* which was built between 1871 and 1878 for the Marquis and Marchioness of Ripon, whose effigies are inside the building. No expense has been spared with lots of beautiful marble inside and 3 altar steps symbolising the Innocence, the Fall and Redemption of man.



Leave the church by the broad, faint path across the grass, go down the hill to the car park and reach the largest of the Studley Park lakes. The building to your right is a café selling food and refreshments.



If you wish, enter the Fountains Abbey grounds (admission charge for non-NT members), go through the gates and explore the lovely walk along to the Abbey via the ornamental lakes. See this website for more information about [Fountains Abbey](#).

Retrace your steps back to the entrance by the café, walk round to the far end of the large lake, which will be full of birdlife, and cross the outlet by the low footbridge.



The path winds through the valley of the Skell, set in an impressive gorge crossing 7 quaint stone bridges. At the end of the valley, continue along the broad path through the woods. You will reach elevated open countryside with extensive views towards Ripon. Soon the lane brings you back into Studley Roger where you began this walk.

