

TOR GUIDE

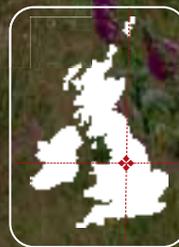
Jo Vaughan takes you on a strenuous hike in the shadow of the imposing 1700ft Mam Tor in Derbyshire's Peak District

SET IN the shadow of the impressive Mam Tor, Losehill is one of my favourite sites. The walk I've chosen takes you up the hill that gives the site its name, before heading along the ridge towards the Tor. Having left the ridge, the route down is not obvious but, with clear views into the valley below, you shouldn't get lost as long as you find a good path. If, however, you end up in the village of Castleton, just take the main road east out of the centre and the site is on your left.

Alternatively, if you're feeling a little adventurous, continue along the ridge to

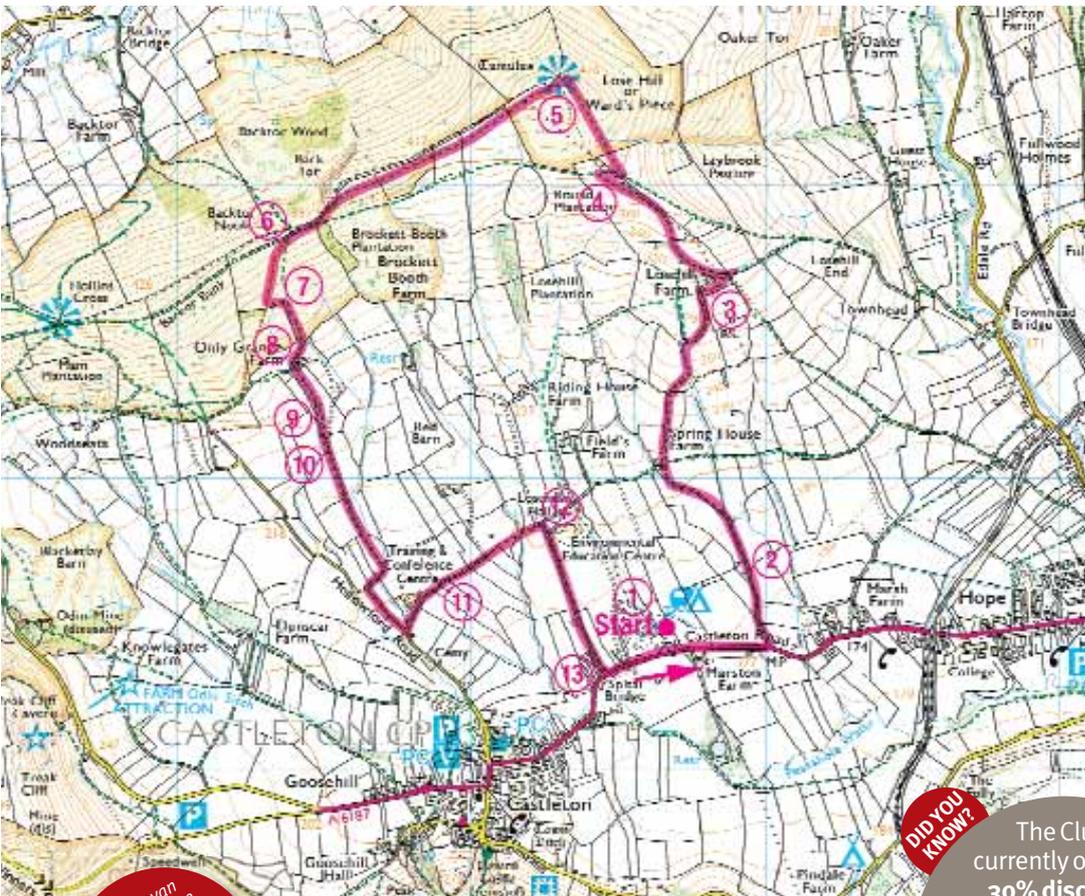
Mam Tor, then walk down its stone staircase to the valley floor, before climbing again and descending Cave Dale, which is part of the Limestone Way. This takes you back into Castleton, and would make a great day out with a picnic stop.

However, if you fancy a slightly less strenuous day, you'll find plenty to do in the village. Why not visit one of the four showcaves (Blue John Cavern, Speedwell Cavern, Peak Cavern and Treak Cliff Cavern), for example? All are open to visitors and are an adventure in themselves.



Ordnance Survey
Landranger Map 110

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DIRECTIONS

- 1** Leave the site via the main entrance and, having crossed the road, turn left along the pavement. Just past Glenholme House on your right, cross the road and then turn left, following the public footpath sign up a tarmac lane.
- 2** Walk past the white bungalow and continue until the track branches three ways, next to Spring House. Take the central track, towards a gate with a yellow arrow. Pass through this gate and continue up the stony track.
- 3** Go past the signs for the farm and continue to the end of the gravel track, which disappears into Losehill Farm. Here, veer right around the stone perimeter wall following a yellow arrow on a small post. Continue between two stone walls towards a metal gate. Go through this and veer left

to another metal gate. Pass through this, then continue towards a wooden signpost.

- 4** Go past the signpost, following the 'Losehill' arrow. Go up the track towards the top of the hill. When you reach a stile on your right, cross it and veer left to diagonally cross the corner of the field. Continue past the 'National Trust' sign to the top of the hill. Soon the path turns to stone paving.
- 5** At the top, you will see a waymarker with information about the hills around you. Veer left and continue along the ridge, which is a paved path that descends, before crossing a stile and continuing up to the top of the next hill.
- 6** Continue until you reach a public footpath sign marked with various directions. Cross the stile and continue straight ahead, leaving the footpath that continues along the ridge, before immediately veering right. Keep going as the path descends towards some trees (you can still see the top of Mam Tor to the right). The path isn't always clear, but just keep heading towards another clump of trees and the valley floor.

- 7** When you reach the tree-line there is a barn in the valley just ahead of you, and beyond that is Castleton. Follow the ruined wall to its left-end, then continue following its line as it curves right to enclose the patch of trees – this track can be very muddy and

slippery, so make sure you use your walking stick to steady you.

- 8** Just before the barn, cross the wooden stile and pass to the right of the buildings. Cross another stile and carry on ahead. At the public footpath sign continue ahead, still descending into the valley. There's a small stream to your right.
- 9** Cross the next two stiles and continue ahead, keeping the stream to your right (although soon it curves around from the line of the fence). Walk between the fenceposts and continue again. Veer slightly right to walk through a metal gate into the next field. You have now reached the valley floor.

- 10** Go through a metal gate at the corner of the field and turn right along the track. At the T-junction, turn left along a tarmac road. At the following junction, next to the playground sign, veer left following the public footpath and 'Hollowford Centre' signs. Almost immediately keep right, following the 'Rotary Centre – Castleton' sign and a yellow arrow.
- 11** At a bend, pass through the small gate next to the cattle grid and immediately turn right to walk along the edge of the field, following a public footpath sign. Cross the stepping stones at the end of the field and pass through another small gate. Continue ahead.
- 12** Keep to the field's left edge and ignore the large wooden gate. At the field's corner, pass through a small gate next to a public footpath sign. Immediately turn right and stay right down a gravel track, keeping the stone wall to your left. Look for the views of the castle to the right, just beyond the village on the hill.
- 13** At the end of the road turn left, crossing the main road to walk on the pavement. The site is soon on your left.

DID YOU KNOW? The Club currently offers a 30% discount on Ordnance Survey Landranger and Explorer Maps – see caravanclub.co.uk/books for details

INFORMATION

Club site: Losehill, Castleton, Hope Valley, Derbyshire S33 8WB. Call 01433 620636. Open all year
Distance: 3.8 miles/6.1km
Terrain: gravel and grassy paths, some unclear. Muddy sections
Number of stiles: 7

Essential equipment: Ordnance Survey Outdoor Leisure 1 – The Peak District, Dark Peak Area (1:25,000). Hiking boots and at least one pole are also necessary

Level of difficulty: hard – but there's one steep climb to the top and then it's downhill all the way!
Refreshments: none
Toilets: none

