

# Gisburn Forest and Stocks Reservoir Adventure

Equip yourself with O.S Explorer Map 41 (Forest of Bowland & Ribblesdale) to navigate your way around the area

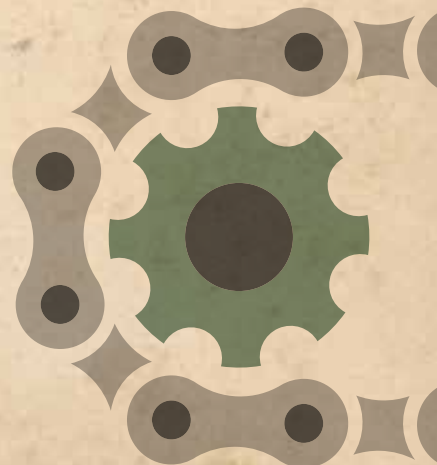
The 833 Bowland Explorer summer bus service links railway stations at the northern and southern gateways to the Forest of Bowland, providing easy access to the heart of the AONB. Visit the AONB website for further info  
[www.forestofbowland.com/Bowland-Explorer](http://www.forestofbowland.com/Bowland-Explorer)

To keep the whole family entertained, why not download some seasonal quizzes, colouring and i-spy sheets to engage your youngsters? Visit  
[www.forestofbowland.com/Family-Fun](http://www.forestofbowland.com/Family-Fun)

In the hills above the picturesque village of Slaidburn there's a paradise for outdoor enthusiasts just waiting to be explored.

This pristine upland landscape in Lancashire's undiscovered rural hinterland is a hidden gem with more in common with the lochs and glens of the Scottish Highlands than the post-industrial mill towns in the south of the county.

Walking, trail-running, mountain-biking, fly-fishing and birding are all on the agenda for visitors with a taste for adventure. There's even an easily accessible trail for outdoor enthusiasts with restricted mobility.





# Stay

This remote corner of the Forest of Bowland has an inviting selection of cosy B&Bs, camping barns, pods and self-catering cottages meaning visitors can avoid long drives and can get stuck into their chosen activity.

Day 1:

## The Big Adventure

Lace up your boots for the eight-mile **Stocks Reservoir Circular** route which climbs above the reservoir, providing expansive views of the wider Bowland landscape before descending to complete a circuit of the reservoir.

Allow at least three hours to complete the entire circuit – more if you plan to picnic or detour to the café at **Gisburn Forest Hub ①** for welcome refreshments. Drinks and snacks also available at **Stock Reservoir Fishery cafe ②** most weekends in the season. Start from the pay and display car park on the eastern shore of the reservoir (Stocks Reservoir Car Park).

Families with younger children, or those who are less mobile, might want to try the less demanding Birch Hills Trail starting from the same car park, or the Forestry Commission's **Highway Rat Activity Trail** which starts from the Hub.

## Route Options

- Stocks Reservoir Circular
- Gisburn Forest Birch Hills Trail
- Bell Sykes Hay Meadow Walk
- The Highway Rat Trail starts from Gisburn Forest Hub Café, download the app at:  
[www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/bee-hajcl4q](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/bee-hajcl4q)

**NOTE:** Birch Hills Trail is suitable for Trampers (all-terrain accessibility scooter). The Bowland Trampler can be booked in advance from Gisburn Forest Hub. Call 01200 446387 to make a reservation.



To download the above routes go to [www.forestofbowland/walking](http://www.forestofbowland/walking)

Have a look at the Festival Bowland programme with events that run throughout the year. There are numerous guided walks and even a night time forest tales family event at Gisburn Forest in September, and a National Hay Meadow Day, Slaidburn in July.  
[www.forestofbowland.com/Festival-Bowland-Events](http://www.forestofbowland.com/Festival-Bowland-Events)

Reward yourself at the end of the day at **Crowtrees Inn ③** Bowland Fell Park which offers traditional pub fare with a fresh twist, with a range of excellent ales as accompaniment.

Be prepared for all weathers! We celebrate the seasons here in Bowland, it's what brings the vibrancy in colours and wonderful variety of animal, bird and plant life - so don't let a bit of rain stop you, just bring along the right gear (waterproofs, wellies/boots a must!)



Stocks Reservoir - Mark Sutcliffe



Bowland Knotts - Mark Sutcliffe





Day 2 AM:

## The Roses Border Bike Ride

For road cyclists, this is a majestic, yet demanding circuit on quiet lanes either side of the Lancashire and North Yorkshire border. It's a challenging 35 mile circuit on quiet lanes that are reputed to have been cycled by Sir Bradley Wiggins in preparation for winning the 2012 Tour De France! Another slightly shorter, but more demanding option is a spectacular circular which takes in two of the toughest passes in Bowland – Bowland Knotts and Cross O'Greet. Download these routes from: [www.forestofbowland.com/cycling](http://www.forestofbowland.com/cycling)

For a two-wheeled adventure off-road, the purpose-built cycle trails through Gisburn Forest offer rides of varying length. Refreshments and bike hire are available at the **Gisburn Forest Hub Café 1**.

Day 2 PM:

## Replace Those Calories!

After such a strenuous ride, there's ample excuse to gorge yourself on a high-calorie carbfest at one of the area's noted cafés or hostleries. Try taking afternoon tea at **Old Vicarage Team Rooms in Tosside 4** or the delightful **Nectar Café at Coars Farm near Wigglesworth 5**.

Day 2 Evening:

## Sample the Local Nightlife

Admire the Milky Way brighter than you've ever seen it and see how many constellations you can find in the dark skies above the Bowland Fells. Simply step outside after nightfall and look upwards to see thousands more stars than you can see in town or book into one of the dedicated star-gazing events held at Gisburn Forest Hub Dark Sky Discovery Site. [www.forestofbowland.com/Star-Gazing](http://www.forestofbowland.com/Star-Gazing)

Day 3 AM:

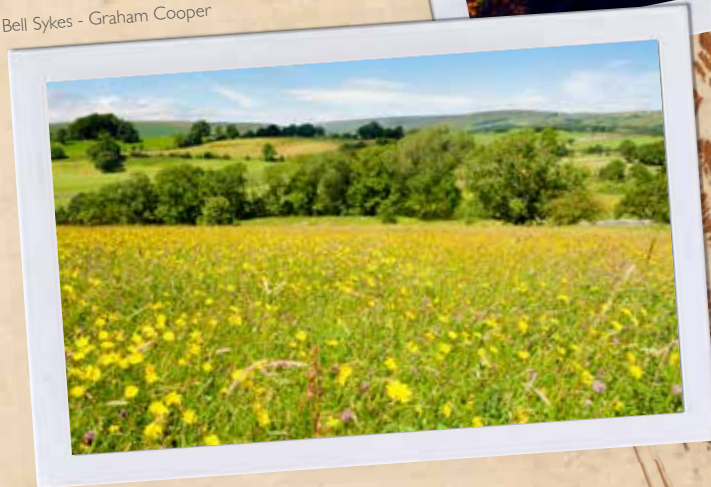
## Get Closer to Nature

Get up with the lark and fish for plump and tasty trout in the clear waters of **Stocks Reservoir**. Visit the Stocks Reservoir website [www.stocksreservoir.com](http://www.stocksreservoir.com) to check whether the trout are biting or call **01200 446602**. If the fish aren't rising, pack your flask and head to the wildlife watching hides on the eastern shoreline to watch the amazing birdlife that lives on and around the reservoir.

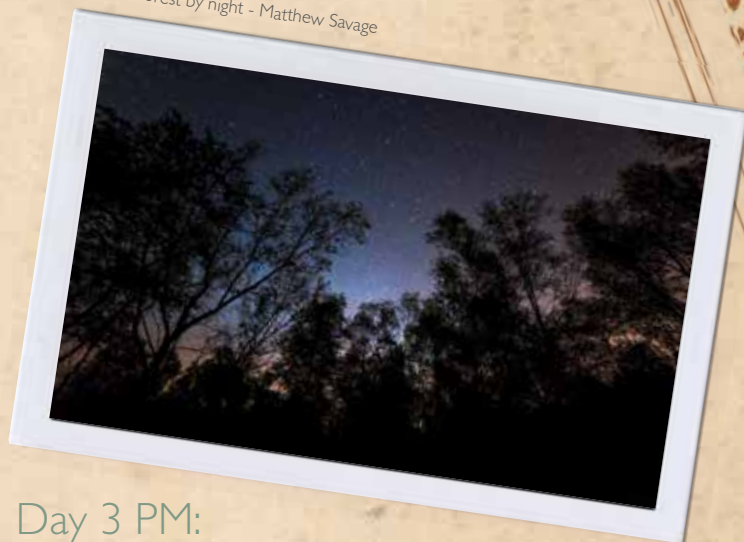


Cross of Great stream

Bell Sykes - Graham Cooper



Gisburn Forest by night - Matthew Savage



Day 3 PM:

## Slaidburn Hay Meadows

Explore the restored traditional wildflower meadows around Slaidburn on this leisurely wander to **Bell Sykes Hay Meadow** (best seen late June/early July) beside the River Hodder then treat yourself to tea and cakes at the idyllic **Riverbank Tearooms 6**.



# Bowland Experience Offers!

To get the discount code for all the listed offers visit:  
[www.forestofbowland.com/Bowland-Experience-Offers](http://www.forestofbowland.com/Bowland-Experience-Offers)



## Tasty Bites

Buy one get one free on Cream Teas or a free glass of cava with each *Afternoon Tea* at **The Traddock**.

Surrounded by the breathtaking scenery in the northern part of Bowland, The Traddock Hotel offers peace and quiet, and the perfect surroundings for traditional cream or afternoon tea. To be enjoyed in a pretty walled garden in summer, or in one of their lounges with large comfy sofas and roaring fires in winter.

## Rural Retreats

Save 15% for two or more nights in the Oak Room at **Merrybent Hill Luxury B&B** - a stunning, luxury B&B situated in a rural location in the Forest of Bowland, with outstanding views towards Pendle Hill and the Yorkshire Dales.

Relax after a day's walking, cycling or sightseeing listening to the running stream in the tranquil gardens of **Eldroth House Barn**. With 4 nights for the price of 3, you can relax and unwind in the beautifully-appointed self-catering Barn nestled in the village of Eldroth, amidst stunning countryside that their first guests described as 'a little piece of heaven!'

Enjoy 10% discount on stays at **Wigglesworth House & Cottages** - beautiful 5 star, gold self-catering cottages, with a recently awarded Green Tourism Gold and Dark Sky Friendly awards. Stunning views of Pendle Hill, the Three Peaks and 10 minutes from Gisburn Forest. Dog & baby/child friendly.

Receive 15% off a two nights stay with a three course evening meal (on one night) for 2 people at **Dale House Barn B&B** - the perfect spot - situated on the edge of Gisburn Forest, adjacent to Stocks reservoir and the heather moorlands of Bowland Knots. Serving delicious home cooked evening meals, utilising local produce.

For business contact details and for full terms and conditions, visit the website address above.



Eldroth House Barn



Merrybent Hill Luxury B&B



The Traddock



Wigglesworth House & Cottages



Dale House B&B

