

Try a Trail...

Cleveland Way
NATIONAL TRAIL



NATURAL
ENGLAND

Great Ayton circuit

7.3 miles (11.7km) – strenuous circular walk

Walking from Great Ayton

- 1 Turn right out of the Tourist Information Centre car park, along Newton Road and right again at the roundabout, down Roseberry Crescent.
- 2 Turn right along the footpath opposite no 55 Roseberry Crescent and follow the path through the fields to the railway line.
- 3 Turn left and follow the wooded path alongside the railway and cross the bridge over it. Continue up the track.
- 4 As the track bears right continue straight on up the path into the trees.
- 5 Where the path forks bear left.
- 6 Where the path forks again bear left.
- 7 Pass the field gate on your left and continue straight on along the path.

- 8 At the end of the woods turn right up the stone pitched path. Continue along the path to the top of Roseberry Topping.
- 9 Drop down along the spine of the Topping and follow the Cleveland Way, continuing across Roseberry Common and up the side of Little Roseberry.
- 10 Go straight through the gate and straight on keeping the wall to your right.
- 11 Go down the steps, turn right along the road, then left and walk up the track to Captain Cook's Monument.
- 12 Turn right at the Monument heading towards the old stone gate posts.
- 13 At the fork bear left and follow the path down into the woods.

- 14 Cross the track, leave the woods and carry straight on.

- 15 Turn right and follow the bridleway.

- 16 At the cross roads head straight across and up Aireyholme Lane.

- 17 Turn left at the public footpath, cross the stile and across the field.

- 18 Head into Cliff Ridge Wood – the path can be muddy here.

- 19 As you reach remnants of old metal gates, turn left to drop down the path that leaves the woods then turns right along the field edge.

- 20 Cross the railway line and follow the clear path back to Great Ayton.

Note – If you are starting this walk from Great Ayton Station, cross the railway bridge and head up the road to pick up the route at point 16

Great Ayton circuit

Start Great Ayton Tourist Information Centre (alternative start from Great Ayton Station)

Distance 7.3 miles (11.7 km)

Height Gain 1280 feet (390m)
Steep in places

Terrain A mixture of grass paths, stone pitched paths and stone tracks. There are several stiles on route

Time 5 hours

Refreshment & public toilets
Shops, pubs and toilets in Great Ayton

How to get there Great Ayton lies on the A172 some 8 miles south east of Middlesbrough. There is a regular train service between Whitby and Middlesbrough that stops here and also regular buses to Middlesbrough and Guisborough

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0 1km (0.6mile)



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An ascent of the 'Yorkshire Matterhorn' and several reminders of Captain Cook mark some of the delights of this walk through woodlands and across heather moorland.



Roseberry Topping – An unusual landmark on the level skyline of the North York Moors. A hard sandstone cap has protected the underlying soft shales and clays, so while the surrounding area was worn away by ice, wind and rain, the Topping survived. Its dramatic summit was in part created by man's activities. Alum, jet and ironstone have all been quarried out of the hill and ironstone mine workings led to the collapse of the western face in 1912.

Newton Wood – On the slopes of Roseberry Topping, is ancient broadleaved woodland. Sessile oaks grow here, as well as rowan, ash, alder and sycamore trees. Its exact age is not known but parts of the wood have existed for at least 400 years. It is superb for bluebells in the Spring.

Cliff Rigg Quarry – Formed from the extraction of igneous Whinstone rock. The Whinstone Ridge runs in a narrow band from the Yorkshire Coast north to the Isle of Mull. This hard stone has been excellent for road building.

Captain James Cook – One of the world's greatest circumnavigators, went to school in Great Ayton and grew up at Airey Hill Farm which you can see below Roseberry Topping. During his early years, Cook must have spent many hours walking in the area, no doubt climbing Roseberry and admiring the distant view of the North Sea. The walk also passes Captain Cook's Monument on Easby Moor, erected in his memory in 1827.



Great Ayton route profile



www.nationaltrail.co.uk/clevelandway