



Dalby Forest Site Guide - Accessible Tours

Deep within the North York Moors National Park, lies huge tracts of forested land. Surrounded by Pickering, Levisham, Fylingdales and Scarborough, they offer exceptional opportunities for recreation and natural history.

Travel 5.5 miles north of Pickering and you'll reach Cropton Forest. Totalling just over 9,000 acres, it contains many walking trails and is perfect for peace and quiet. From the eastern edge, you can catch glimpses of historic steam trains plying back and forth below. Or head outside its southern boundary and visit historic Cropton village and an ancient Roman site.

Towards the southern section of the National Park, you'll find the most popular place - Dalby Forest. Set over 8000 acres, it provides a perfect place to enjoy outdoor activities. There are many waymarked walking and cycling trails – some of which are accessible - while close by Bridestones Moor offers a fascinating moonscape-looking landscape worth exploring. Maps are available at the information and visitor centre close to the Thornton-le-Dale entrance.



Dalby Forest at dawn – Richard Baines

What Can You See?

Spring

New green growth abounds in the spring, giving the woodlands a fresh, new look. Emerging from the cold winter and basking in warmer temperatures, **Adders**, **Common Lizard** and butterflies such as the **Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary** start appear. **Tree Pipits** fly in from their wintering grounds. Male **Woodcocks** and acrobatic **Northern Goshawks** perform their display flight over their woodland territories.

Summer

From late April, the increasingly-scarce visitor - the **European Turtle Dove** – and **Restart** start to arrive. Summer also brings the weird churring noise of the **Nightjar** at dusk. Rare **Honey Buzzards** migrate from their wintering grounds while **Sparrowhawks** and **Common Buzzards** are active.



Eurasian Sparrowhawk – Richard Baines

Autumn

The woodlands turn into a blaze of colour and vegetation dies down making it easier to see **Roe Deer** and other species. **Lesser Redpolls** are more evident as they come down to drink at temporary pools, while **Peacock**, **Tortoise Shell** and **Red Admiral Butterflies** are found more readily in open spaces. Late autumn heading into winter, **Common Crossbills** arrive in parties up to a hundred or more to feed on pine, spruce and larch cones, while **Siskins** gather in great numbers too.

Winter

Although quieter, there is still much to be seen in the forest. Birds of prey such as **Northern Goshawk**, **Sparrowhawk** and **Common Buzzard** are still very active. Along the rivers and streams, **Grey Wagtails** and the rare **Dipper** fish for food. In the deciduous woodlands, rare **Marsh Tit** can be found or **Willow Tit** in the damper areas. This is also the time of the year when gregarious **Bramblings** flock here in their hundreds.



Grey Wagtail – Richard Baines

Accessibility Information

Dalby Forest has designed an accessibility guide which is worth taking a look at: [CLICK HERE](#)

They provide customer support so if you can't find all the information you need, feel free to contact them directly on: 01751 460295 and ask for Ed Woollard.

You will also find a summary of how to access the site and what you will find at Dalby Forest below:

How to get there

The address of Dalby Forest visitor centre is:

Dalby Forest Drive

Low Dalby

Pickering

YO18 7LT

If you find it easier to look at a location on Google Maps, you'll find the location on this link: [CLICK HERE](#)

Access by car

Take the A169 from Pickering to Whitby and look out for the brown tourist signs. See 'Car Parking' below for more information once you get here.

Access by public transport

Dalby Forest welcome car-free visitors and offer free admission to those arriving by public transport or bike. Good Journey offers a range of travel planning options and can help with accessibility information.

Take a look at this page for more information: [CLICK HERE](#)

Bus

The nearest bus stop is located on Whitby Gate for the regular Coastliner bus service. The bus stop is 2.5 miles / 4.0 km from Dalby Forest. The Moorbus operates between July to September and is wheelchair accessible. It will stop within the forest at the Visitor Centre. You'll find more details here:

www.moorsbus.org/

Train

The nearest train station is Malton. It has step-free access, accessible ticket machines, ramped access on to trains, hearing loops and wheelchairs to hire. More information can be found here: [CLICK HERE](#)

Taxi

Connecting wheelchair-accessible taxis can be pre-booked with the following taxi companies:

- Malton Station Taxis - 01653 696969
- Crystal Cars (Pickering) - 07891 097608

- Abbey Taxis (Whitby) - 01947 606666

Car parking

There are three accessible parking bays (without hatching) and the main entrance of the visitor centre is accessed via a level access route down a slight decline. The parking is less than 50 metres from the main entrance. Parking is not free.

There is a drop-off point at the main entrance. The drop-off point has a dropped kerb.

Dalby Forest has a transport service, to take visitors from the car park to the main entrance. Their transport service is wheelchair accessible.

Access to visitor centre reception, toilets, retail area, indoor seating and café

Dalby Forest have provided very detailed information in their accessibility guide here: [CLICK HERE](#)
You'll find an overview below.

The path to the entrance is level and 2 metres wide or more. The door to the visitor centre is over 1.7 metres wide and opens automatically from the side. There are contrast markings on the doors to make them easier to see.

Inside the centre they have used lots of contrasting colours to help those with visual impairment.

From the main entrance to the ticket desk, access is level and the doorway to get there is over 2 metres wide. The route to the desk 875mm wide, or more, and the height of the desk is 890mm with no clearance underneath. Staff are friendly and helpful and will come out to assist visitors.

The ticket desk is located in the retail area too. There is good visual contrast through the shop and its displays, while there is a wide pathway around the area.

The café is on the same level and is wheelchair accessible. Food is bought at the take away counter. Please note the counter is not lowered but staff can help you.

An accessible indoor toilet is upstairs accessed via a wheelchair-accessible lift. There is another toilet just outside the front door which is also accessible.

Hearing Loops

They have a hearing loop at the visitor centre reception.

Assistance dogs

All dogs include Accessibility dogs are permitted.

Toilets

As mentioned above in the 'Access to visitor centre reception, toilets, retail area, indoor seating and café' section, an accessible indoor toilet is upstairs accessed via a wheelchair-accessible lift. There is another toilet just outside the front door which is also accessible.

Cafe

As mentioned above in the 'Access to visitor centre reception, toilets, retail area, indoor seating and café' section, the café seating area is wheelchair friendly. The counter is not lowered so please ask for support.

Outdoor seating and picnic areas

There is level access from the car park to the picnic area. Some tables have extra space to allow for wheelchair users.

You can bring your own food and eat this in the picnic area.

Mobility support

Dalby Forest has wheelchairs, two mobility scooters and a tramper to hire for free, although you can leave an optional donation to go towards maintenance if you wish. You don't have to pre-book these, but it is advisable to do so. Please ring 01751 460295 to book.

They are also part of the Outdoor Mobility scheme, so if you are a member, you can book a tramper online. Refer to this page for more information and bookings: www.outdoormobility.org/dalby

Subject to availability we can design tours to coincide with when these are free.

Viewing points and accessible trails

The reception team will provide you with a map detailing accessible routes and can answer any questions you might have.

According to the accessibility guide there are two accessible trails: the Ellerburn Red Trail and the Cross Cliff View Trail/ Bickley Gate Yellow Route. Please double-check with the reception team regarding these trails and any others not included in the guide.

Ellerburn Red Trail

This trail is 2,800 metres long and 2 metres wide. It has a gentle incline in places, but the surface is hard although watch out for some potholes as this is a working forest road. There are seats along the route.

Cross Cliff View Trail/ Bickley Gate Yellow Route

A shorter route at 800 metres, this trail has a hard surface and slight gradient. There are more opportunities to see birds of prey along this route. There are standard, wooden benches to sit on along the way.

Dalby Forest website and contact details

Website: www.forestryengland.uk/dalby-forest

Email: dalbyvisitorcentre@forestryengland.uk

Phone: 01751 460295 and ask for Ed Woollard

Yorkshire Coast Nature – here to help

Yorkshire Coast Nature is a small independent nature tourism company. Every member of our team lives locally and is passionate about wildlife. We believe strongly in delivering eco-tourism with a direct benefit for wildlife and provide annual grants to nature conservation organisations. When you use one of our services you can be assured that you are helping wildlife.

Our tour leaders are highly experienced in the field of natural history and enjoy sharing their knowledge with others. They are friendly, adaptable and sensitive to the needs of individual clients. We are confident that you will enjoy their company as well as their expertise.

Some of our scheduled tours are suitable for people with accessibility challenges, the best way to find what is suitable for you is to contact us directly (see below).

We also offer tailor-made, guided tours at Dalby Forest and other sites. For more info [CLICK HERE](#)

All of our wildlife guides are highly experienced, while Richard Baines and Margaret Boyd are Accessibility Champions.

YORKSHIRE COAST NATURE CONTACT INFORMATION

Please do not hesitate to contact Richard Baines (Wildlife and Birdwatching trips) on 07747753260 or Steve Race (Wildlife Photography workshops) 07767761260

Or email us at info@yorkshirecoastnature.co.uk if you have any questions.