The Yorkshire Dales is a variant and beautiful area stretching from the M6 to the West to the A19 in the East, covering approximately 1,300 square miles. Within the core of this area is The Yorkshire Dales National Park, which was specifically created in 1954 to help protect the landscape and way-of-life in the Dales for future generations to enjoy.

To the east is Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty with its windswep moorlands and tranquil moorland—offering the visitor to the Dales a choice of nationally important landscapes to explore.

The Yorkshire Dales are a delightful blend of stunning natural beauty, traditional experiences, fascinating sites and unique ways to pass a memorable holiday. If you are looking for a day excursion or a long-distance tour, the Yorkshire Dales offers breathtaking scenery where the heritage lies around every corner. It is a place of festivals, pageant, colourful local markets and a dazzling array of craft shops. Whatever your interests or age, you will find a unique place to explore, discovering secrets and treasures for years of happy memories.

Travelling around the Dales by coach or minibus allows passengers to relax, unwind and enjoy the scenery of a peaceful and unspoilt environment. By travelling in a group, you are helping to reduce the numbers of congestion on the Dales’ roads.

The National Park Authority and other local authorities in the area have made available carefully sited and screened facilities for coach and car park parking to minimise the impact on the landscape. Please use the coach parks shown on the map so that your vehicle does not cause access problems and congestion for local farm traffic and emergency vehicles. By using the coach parks provided, you will also minimise the visual impact of your parked vehicle on the attractive Yorkshire Dales scenery.

How can we help you?

We have a wealth of information available to help you to get the most from your visit to the Yorkshire Dales. Our staff have detailed local knowledge to help you plan your itinerary, including information on local events and accommodation.

Organisers of recreational events

Large-scale events can have a significant impact on the environment and local communities within the Yorkshire Dales.

Sustainable recreational use of the area can be achieved by understanding how the right activities can take place at the right time in the right place. Organisers of recreational events are encouraged to be mindful of the in the planning of any events.

The National Park Authority is also pleased to give further advice and publishes ‘A Good Practice Guide’ for the organisers of large-scale events within the National Park.

Tel: 01943 602037
Email info@lovethelune.org.uk

Planning your visits

For detailed guidelines on planning educational and school visits, please refer to guidance produced by local educational authorities or governing bodies.

• A preparatory visit will assist by checking out background information, accommodation, activities, and study sites.

• Check facilities such as toilets, parking etc for all sites in advance. Try to avoid busy holiday periods and make bookings where necessary.

• Check transport routes to ensure they are suitable for your type of vehicle.

• Remember that most of the land in the Yorkshire Dales is privately owned. Check all rights of way and confer with land owners that both access and your activity are permissible.

• Thoroughly check safety hazards for all activities. Documented risk assessments are standard practice for many authorities.

• Make sure your party will be suitably dressed, appropriately equipped, and physically fit for the things you expect them to do.

• Prepare for the possibility of poor weather conditions and accidents. Make alternative arrangements well in advance.

• Keep your party to a manageable size and ensure that you have adequate supervision.

Accessible Dales

The Yorkshire Dales is a wonderful location for people with additional needs. There are a number of special routes and trails which help to increase access to the countryside and a range of accessible accommodation and activities.

For details of special access sites and access guides to the area, please contact the National Park Information Centre or email info@lovethelune.org.uk

Introducing... The Yorkshire Dales

The Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority

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Group Organisers’ and Coach Drivers’ Guide to the Yorkshire Dales

This guide aims to help group organisers, tour planners and drivers to plan visits and excursions to the Yorkshire Dales so that their clients get the maximum enjoyment from the area, while at the same time preserving the area’s special qualities.

Coach parking has been provided at most of the popular Yorkshire Dales within easy walking distance of the main facilities and points of interest. In most cases, toilets are available (with facilities for people with disabilities) and in many cases, a National Park Centre or Tourist Information Centre is close by. Parking is usually free for vehicles with six or fewer passengers. Group organisers, tour planners and coach drivers can help to conserve the special qualities of the Yorkshire Dales by following the advice given in this leaflet.

Published by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority

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Designed by Landscape & Associates

Photography: Nigel Cattlin and Pat Brown

Edited by Richard Searby

Printed on recycled paper.
**Group Organisers’ and Coach Drivers’ Guide to the Yorkshire Dales**

**Categories of roads in the Yorkshire Dales**

- **Category 1 roads**
  - Suitable for all traffic. Motorways and trunk roads, including the A1, A6, A65, and A67, providing a high-speed route round the National Park and reducing the need for through traffic within the park.

- **Category 2 roads**
  - Suitable for all conventional passenger-carrying vehicles. At a few locations, there may be difficulties for long-distance, heavy, commercial traffic. These roads are unsuitable for coaches at all times due to Category 4 and 5 roads being encountered. Where coach drivers can choose an alternative route, they are advised to do so.

- **Category 3 roads**
  - Suitable for all vehicles. Motorways and trunk roads, including the A1, A6, A65, and A67, providing a high-speed route round the National Park and reducing the need for through traffic within the park.

- **Category 4 and 5 roads**
  - Category 4 and 5 roads are unsuitable for coaches at all times due to steep and tight bends encountered on these roads. Where coach drivers can choose an alternative route, they are advised to do so.

**Tips for drivers of coaches and other large vehicles**

- Please do not rely on satellite navigation systems to plan your route.
- Use the network of roads and advisory one-way systems shown on the map to plan the best routes for your journey. This map has been devised not only to prevent large vehicles meeting but also to ensure that larger vehicles approach narrow bridges from the correct direction to allow them to cross with ease. Notice: some larger vehicles may find it impossible to cross these bridges if they approach from the wrong direction.
- Please park in designated parking areas or surfaced lay-bys only. Do not park in informal or designated parking places, or in locations that would cause problems for large vehicles.
- Avoid driving on road-side verges as these are often sensitive habitats for wildlife and an important feature in the landscape.
- Consider the use of smaller vehicles if your tour includes the smaller roads in the Dales.
- Drive with extreme care on all roads within the Yorkshire Dales; they are frequently used by walkers and cyclists as well as vehicles. Farm animals and slow moving vehicles are also frequently encountered.
- Use lay-bys to allow traffic to pass when necessary.

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