10: Easby to Rosedale Abbey

An exhilarating moorland ride that starts with a deceptively gentle cycle through the margins of the Cleveland Plain, before a mettle-testing climb up the infamous Ingleby Incline on the former Rosedale Mineral Railway. The reward is an easy cruise along the old railway trackbed over high moorland, enjoying magnificent views in all directions. Finish with a descent into the historic village of Rosedale Abbey where you'll be able to reward yourself further with teas and ice cream.

Directions: Easby to Rosedale Abbey

Leave the hamlet of Easby on the road to Ingleby and after 2.3km continue straight through Ingleby Greenhow and up the hill. Turn R and ride to Bank Foot where you turn R onto a stone road, which follows the line of the former Rosedale Railway.

Continue to some cottages and after around 500m fork L to climb the 1.3km-long Ingleby Incline. You will probably be walking by the time you reach the forest gate marking halfway, but once you're at Incline Top, the spectacular views repay all the effort.

On level ground now, follow the former railway – watching out for rough sections and holes – for 1.4km to remote Bloworth Crossing. Go straight over the stone road and continue on the former railway for 9km over the grouse moors. Please follow any gamekeepers' requests, as you may on occasion be asked to wait a while.

With a stone road-bridge in front of you, fork R away from the railway cutting to the tarmac road. Turn L, and at the top of the hill turn L again onto a busier (Hutton le Hole to Castleton) road. Go past the Lion Inn and, at Rosedale Head, turn R, signposted Rosedale Abbey.

Follow the moorland road (with Rosedale below to your R) and ignore a road on the L to Fryup. As you get towards the end of the moor take care, as the descent is fast. Keep L at the road junction and continue down the dale 1.4km to the green in the centre of Rosedale Abbey.

Cycle route info:
Distance: 19 miles (31km)
Time: 3 to 5 hours
Start: Easby
Grid ref: NZ 576 086
Map: Ordnance Survey OL26
Terrain: mostly easy going, on disused railway and quiet lanes, with one long challenging climb near the start

www.northyorkmoors.org.uk/cycling
Directions: Rosedale Abbey to Easby

Leave Rosedale Abbey to the north, signposted Castleton and continue 1.4km to a junction. Keep R and go up the long hill onto the moor. Ignore the R turn to Fryup and continue northwest to Rosedale Head.

Turn L onto the Castleton-to-Hutton le Hole road (take care), go past the Lion Inn and continue for around 800m to a level stretch of road at Little Blakey. Turn R (signposted Farndale) and immediately R again on a stone track, to access the line of the former Rosedale Railway. Watching out for rough sections and holes, cross the grouse moors for 9km. Please follow any gamekeepers’ requests, as you may on occasion be asked to wait a while. At remote Bloworth Crossing, cross over the stone road and continue on the former railway line for 1.4km to the spectacular viewpoint of Incline Top.

You may prefer to walk down the 1.3km-long Ingleby Incline, but if riding, please go slowly and look out for loose stones. A forest gate marks the halfway point. At the bottom, turn R and follow the stone road past some cottages to Bank Foot. Turn L onto the tarmac road, then L at the T-junction to enter Ingleby Greenhow.

Keep straight ahead through the village and continue north for 2.3km to a T-junction in the hamlet of Easby. The Moor to Sea continues here, L to Great Ayton or R to Danby.

Route highlights!

- Ravishing views from the old Rosedale Mineral Railway.
- A rest stop (and a pint!) at the Lion Inn, Blakey.
- Ralph Cross – the iconic landmark on Blakey Rigg.
- Laze on the village green in Rosedale Abbey.

Facilities

There’s a pub in Ingleby Greenhow, while the route also passes the superbly sited Lion Inn at Blakey Rigg. There are cafés, pubs and a village shop in Rosedale Abbey.