



**May the FORCE be with you.**

**16<sup>th</sup> October 2016**



**Starting from Washington Services south bound. 10am to leave  
10.30 am.**

**100 miles approx finishing at Swalwell.**

**Steves mobile phone 07976523602**

- 0.0 Zero clock
- 0.0 Exit left
- 0.0 Stay left
- 0.5 third exit SP Birtley
- 1.8 first exit.
- 1.8 right turn Drum Road
- 2.8 first exit
- 2.9 second exit A693

- 3.5 straight on A693
- 4.6 second exit A693
- 5.8 second exit A693
- 7.3 first exit A693
- 7.7 second exit A693
- 9.6 second exit
- 12.1 T Junction turn left A692
- 12.5 second exit A692
- 13.2 second exit A692
- 14.1 first exit A692
- 14.7 second exit A692
- 15.1 second exit A692
- 15.2 first exit A692
- 17.3 T Junction turn left A68
- 23.7 through Tow Low A68
- 27.2 second exit A68
- 33.0 T Junction turn right A68
- 34.6 second exit
- 35.0 second exit A688
- 45.1 second exit A67
- 45.3 sharp turn right B6278
- Through Middleton on Tees Exit out on the B6277
- 59.4 High Force car park
- Toilets/tea/coffee
- Optional walk to waterfall. Extra cost per person. Check tarriff at entry to carpark.



- Exit right from car park
- 62.8 turn right SP St Johns Chapel
- 67.7 turn right A689
- 74.7 turn left B6278
- 77.3 turn right ( pot holes ) Parkhead Station for lunch



- Exit right B6278
- 77.9 turn left SP Blanchland
- 83.8 turn right B6306
- 88.4 turn left B6278
- 90.7 turn right then immediately turn left B6278
- 99.9 exit Shotley Bridge keeping left A694
- 104 first left at roundabout
- 100 yards turn right into Blaydon Leisure Centre carpark
- Toilets and MORE coffee/tea/cake
- Safe journey home.

## Some mildly interesting facts

**High Force** is a [waterfall](#) on the [River Tees](#), near [Middleton-in-Teesdale](#), [Teesdale](#), [County Durham](#), England.<sup>[1]</sup> The waterfall is within the [North Pennines](#) Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty ([AONB](#)) and [European Geopark](#).

Despite popular belief that it is the highest waterfall in England,<sup>[2]</sup> at 71 feet (22 m), others have a longer fall: [Cautley Spout](#), in [Cumbria](#)'s [Howgill Fells](#), is almost 590 feet (180 m) high, and [Hardraw Force](#), in [North Yorkshire](#), has an unbroken drop of 98 feet (30 m); whilst underground, on the flanks of Ingleborough, Fell Beck falls an unbroken 315 feet (96 m) down the [Jib Tunnel](#) of [Gaping Gill](#) Hole. However, High Force does have the largest volume of water falling over an unbroken drop when in full spate, thereby earning its Nordic name 'High Fosse'.

The whole of the [River Tees](#) plunges over a precipice (cliff edge which is almost vertical) in two stages. In former times flooding created two separate falls, but after the completion of [Cow Green Reservoir](#) in the upper Teesdale this seldom happens now except after a very heavy, continuous rainfall. In harsh winters the falls would freeze, creating cathedral-like ice formations.<sup>[3]</sup>

Access to the northern bank is via a private footpath for which a fee is charged. The southern bank can be reached free-of-charge via a public footpath. High Force was formed where the River Tees crosses the [Whin Sill](#) – a hard layer of [igneous rock](#) (also seen at [Hadrian's Wall](#) and other locations). The [waterfall](#) itself consists of three different types of rock. The upper band is made up of [whinstone](#), or [dolerite](#), a hard igneous rock which the waterfall takes a lot of time to erode. The lower section is made up of [Carboniferous Limestone](#), a softer rock which is more easily worn away by the waterfall. Between these two layers is a thinner layer of Carboniferous sandstone, which was baked hard when the Whin Sill was molten 295 million years ago. The wearing away of rock means that the waterfall is slowly moving upstream, leaving a narrow, deep [gorge](#) in front of it. The length of the gorge is currently about 700 metres. The [bedload](#) (rocks that the river is carrying) is mainly composed of large boulders, which are rolled along the river bed. Upstream of the waterfall, the river is narrow; downstream, it widens and meanders.

## In popular culture

Stock footage of the waterfalls was featured in the movie *[Mackenna's Gold](#)*. Although the story of the film is supposed to occur in the American Southwest, the scene depicting the Apaches chasing the gold hunters through the forest and the river was filmed in Oregon, USA. The subsequent scene of the waterfalls was a stock footage of High Force.<sup>[4]</sup>

## Notable visitor

[J. M. W. Turner](#), the celebrated painter, arrived at High Force at 10:00 a.m. on 3 August 1816 to sketch the scene. He then travelled upstream to [Cauldron Snout](#) and eventually made his way to [Dufton](#), across the fells, in inclement weather.<sup>[5]</sup>