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ExploreMillstones our logoHistory / cultural heritageTraditions / folkloreWildlife / natureConservation and climateWhat is the Peak District famous for? Film and LiteratureRivers and ReservoirsBack to 70 Years of the Peak District famous for? Film and LiteratureRivers and ReservoirsBack to 70 Years of the Peak District famous for? Film and LiteratureRivers and ReservoirsBack to 70 Years of the Peak District famous for? Film and LiteratureRivers and ReservoirsBack to 70 Years of the Peak District famous for? Film and LiteratureRivers and ReservoirsBack to 70 Years of the Peak District famous for? Film and LiteratureRivers and ReservoirsBack to 70 Years of the Peak District famous for? Film and LiteratureRivers and ReservoirsBack to 70 Years of the Peak District famous for? Film and LiteratureRivers and ReservoirsBack to 70 Years of the Peak District famous for? Film and LiteratureRivers and ReservoirsBack to 70 Years of the Peak District famous for? Film and LiteratureRivers and ReservoirsBack to 70 Years of the Peak District famous for? Film and LiteratureRivers and ReservoirsBack to 70 Years of the Peak District famous for? Film and LiteratureRivers and ReservoirsBack to 70 Years of the Peak District famous for? Film and LiteratureRivers and ReservoirsBack to 70 Years of the Peak District famous for the Peak District famous famous famous for the Peak District famous famo guides. More Things to Do The Peak District National Park is the UKs original national park. It is a treasured landscape of exceptional natural beauty shaped by the interaction of people and natural beauty shaped by the interaction drive. The Peak District National Park is distinct from the surrounding lowlands and its three main landscapes, the Dark Peak, White Peak and South West Peak, white Peak and South West Peak, white Peak and South West Peak, and animals. People have lived here for over 10,000 years shaping the landscape and leaving a wealth of cultural history. It remains a lived-in landscape where industrial features make up one of the many layers of the landscape and rich cultural history. It remains a lived-in landscape and rich cultural history. to leisurely rambles. Here, millions of people can get active, escape the pressures of everyday life, explore creative activities and learn about landscapes, cultural heritage and wildlife. The landscape also provides wider-reaching benefits like fresh water, flood prevention, food and carbon storage. Our special qualities as outlined in the National Park Management Plan are...Beautiful views created by contrasting landscapes and dramatic geologyInternationally important and locally distinctive wildlife and habitatsUndeveloped places of tranquillity and dark night skies within reach of millionsLandscapes that tell a story of thousands of years of people, farming and industryCharacteristic settlements with strong communities and traditionsAn inspiring space for escape, adventure, discovery and quiet reflectionVital benefits for millions of people that flow beyond the landscape boundary The history of the Peak District National Park is closely tied to the history of all Britain's national parks. 1880s: First freedom to roam bill failsJames Bryce MP starts a campaign for public access to the countryside. In 1884, he introduced the first freedom to roam bill to parliament. The bill failed, but the campaign had begun.1900s: Public demands access to the countryside. In 1884, he introduced the first freedom to roam bill to parliament. The bill failed, but the campaign had begun.1900s: Public demands access to the countryside. seek escape from towns and cities. This led to a growing conflict with landowners. 1930s: Mass trespass on Kinder Scout in the Peak District. Walkers exercised what they saw as their right to walk unhindered on open moorland. They faced opposition from gamekeepers who were employed by local landowners. Scuffles broke out and five trespassers were imprisoned. In 1936, a voluntary Standing Committee on National Parks (SCNP) was formed to argue the case for national parks and to lobby the government. The committee was made up of leisure activity enthusiasts and nature conservationists, including: The Rambler's Association (YHA) The Council for the Preservation for Rural England (CPRE) The Council for the Preservation of Rural Wales (CPRW) 1940s: The national park principle is established The Landmark Act of Parliament establishes National Parks, produced as part of the Labour Party's planned post-war reconstruction. The government set up a committee under Sir Arthur Hobhouse, to prepare for National Park legislation, whilst the SCNP and Ramblers' Association maintained public pressure for national parks to be created. At the end of the Second World War, the Labour government set up committees to examine long-term land use and nature preservation became part of the post-war reconstruction effort. Thanks to the pre-war campaigns there was an emphasis on making countryside available for recreation for all, not just nature conservation. In 1945, John Dower secretary of the Standing Committee on National Parks produced a report on how national parks could work in England and Wales. The 1945 Dower Report led directly to Sir Arthur Hobhouse's 1947 report which prepared the legislation for the creation of national parks in England and Wales. The report presented a first list of 12 areas which are all designated National Park as follows: it should have great natural beauty, a high value for open-air recreation and substantial continuous extent. Further, the distribution of selected areas should as far as practicable be such that at least one of them is quickly accessible from each of the main centres of population in England and Wales. Lastly there is merit in variety and with the wide diversity of landscape which is available in England and Wales, it would be wrong to confine the selection of National Parks to the more rugged areas of mountain and moorland, and to exclude other districts which, though of less outstanding grandeur and wildness, have their own distinctive beauty and a high recreational value. 1949 is a landmark year as the government passes an Act of Parliament to establish National Parks to preserve and enhance their natural beauty and provide recreational opportunities for the public. Lewis Silkin, Minister for Town and Country Planning, describes it as ... the most exciting Act of the post-war Parliament. In 1949, the Peak District was the first area to be designated as a national park. By the end of the decade the Lake District, Snowdonia, Dartmoor, Pembrokeshire Coast, North York Moors, Yorkshire Dales, Exmoor, Northumberland and Brecon Beacons had all been designated as national parks. 1977: Creation of Campaign for National Parks The SCNP became the Council for National Parks (CNP), now called the Campaign for National Parks. National Parks, a charity which continues to campaign for the protection and enhancement of National Parks. Today There are now 15 members of the national parks family all working to ensure that our beautiful areas of mountains, meadows, moorlands, woods and wetlands are protected and can be enjoyed by all. 1951: Peak District | Lake District | Snowdonia | Dartmoor1952: Pembrokeshire Coast | North York Moors1954: Yorkshire Dales | Exmoor1956: New Forest2010: South Downs Skip to main content Menu Skip to main content Menu Skip to main content Menu Browse our ranger guided walks...Perhaps best known as walking country, the Peak District National Park offers a spectacular variety of scenery and routes to be explored from steep sided limestone dales to the dramatic high moorlands. There is something for everyone individuals, families and groups whether you want a challenging hike or a short stroll. You can follow national or local trails or simply take advantage of 524sq km (202sq miles) of open access land or 3,005km (1,867) miles of rights of way. For experienced walkers, the long distance 431km (268 miles) Pennine Way National Trail follows the Pennine Chain along the rugged backbone of England from Edale crossing Kinder Scout, the highest point in the Peak District at 636 metres (2,087ft). The Trans Pennine Trail is part of the E8 European Walking Route, connecting the National Park to the Turkish border a walk of 4,023km (2,500 miles). The beautiful Limestone Way is 88km (55 miles) long and weaves through some of the area's richest natural landscape and industrial heritage, given recognition as a World Heritage Site. Leaflets for these trails and for other promoted routes are available from local visitor centres, as is the Ordnance Survey OL 24 White Peak and OL 1 Dark Peak maps, which show all rights of way and will help you plan a route for yourself. The Peak District Boundary Walk circumnavigates the entire Peak District Boundary as day-long walks. The Peak Way Walk is a 155 mile long distance route forming a loop through the National Park, starting and finishing in Stockport which has good public transport links to help visitors reduce their environmental impact. The route is designed to be completed in sections and takes in villages, historic features, limestone dales, gritstone edges, moorland and ties in with places to eat and stay. Many routes are suitable for wheelchairs or buggies including the paths on the disused railway routes of the Monsal Trail, High Peak area. These routes provide easy linear walks. Other suitable walks for all are in the recreational areas of the Upper Derwent, Macclesfield Forest and Goyt Valley. Theeasy access guide Miles Without Stiles will help disabled people, older people and families with small children to choose the best walks and enjoy the special landscape. Access for All provides you with information and ideas on how to get maximum enjoyment from your visit. Take the next step If you don't want to head off on your own why not join a Ranger led guided walk and discover the countryside. Events run throughout the year and incorporate natural history, archaeology, folklore, family strolls and children's activities. There are also numerous walking groups who meet regularly and organise walks in the Peak District. The Peak District. enjoys an extensive public transport network, enabling you to have a full day out exploring the area without using the car. Also, check out these ambassador centres who offer outdoor opportunities. Useful links Health Walks - for people of all ages and abilities who are not able to access other walks or do not have the confidence to go for a walk without support. Miles without Stiles - routes suitable for people of all fitness levels and those with limited mobility, including wheelchair users, families with pushchairs and scooters, and the visually impaired. Some of the routes may also be ideal for young children to cycle on. Visit Peak District - the official tourist information board for the Peak District and Derbyshire.Traffic free trails - more information on our four distinct recreational trails, all of which were former railway lines.www.ramblers.co.uk - national group which organises walks for disabled people. Downloadable walking guides - 10 family walks for you to discover. We are the Peak District National Park, which is 555 square miles (1,438 square kilometres) in size, and covers parts of the counties of Derbyshire, Yorkshire, Staffordshire, and Cheshire. As a National Park Authority, we are working towards sustainable development of the Peak District. This means a commitment to improving the quality of people's lives without using up natural resources that cannot be replaced. The countryside is one such resources as it cannot be replaced if destroyed. 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