



ENGLAND, STEP BY STEP

A Little Background

We will be hiking the Coast to Coast Walk in northern England...from the Irish Sea to the North Sea. It is a route that was created by Alfred Wainwright, a famous walker and writer of guidebooks. His book with very detailed maps is [A Coast to Coast Walk](#), but an English walk is more what Americans consider a hike. Our guidebook says the trail is a "tough trek" with many steep sections, but is completely "walkable," meaning no mountaineering or climbing skills are necessary. Also, there is no one set trail such as the Pacific Crest Trail. It has many alternative routes you can take and in many places, no signposts. Depending on which way you go the trail is 190-200 miles long. Some people try to complete it in 12-14 days, but we will be on the trail 18 days, with two rest days. We will be traveling with four ladies: Chris, Jane, Nancy, and our guide, Tyler.

We Are Here

Three of us, (Chris, David, and I) arrived in Manchester early Wednesday morning and took the train into the city center where we were staying. We spent Wednesday and Thursday exploring downtown and window shopping. David and I celebrated our 44th anniversary by having dinner at Jamie Oliver's Italian Restaurant. (Food Network fans will know who he is.) Tyler and Jane joined us to travel to St. Bees by van. Nancy joined us just a few minutes after we arrived at Ellerbeck Manor. With our group all together finally, we headed down a back road to St. Bees for a look around and then dinner.



St. Bees School, founded in 1583. Sadly, it is closing.

The Priory at St. Bees was founded in 1120. This archway is one of the surviving parts of the original church. It was built in about 1150.



Ellerbeck Manor, where we are staying.



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St. Bees to Ennerdale Bridge



June 20, Day 1: St. Bees to Ennerdale Bridge, 17 miles

We dipped our boots in the Irish Sea, chose a pebble to carry across England, and headed up to the headland. The weather was cool and misty...quite pleasant for hiking.





Our path takes us through farmers' pastures and barnyards. No one was out at the barn above, but at another farm we passed through, the farmers told us their farm has been there for four hundred years. Hawthorn trees lined much of our way today. I did not know they are such a fragrant tree!



David and Carla's Coast to Coast Adventure

We went around instead of over Dent Hill. A good deal of the afternoon was along a bike path and then a country lane. We met many friendly people and one lady we had passed and talked to a couple of times called us back and kept us from making a wrong turn.

Dent Hill



Having covered 17 miles on our first day, we were all glad to get into Ennerdale Bridge. Because accommodations are so scarce in this little village, we had reservations for a second night back in St. Bees, so after a lovely pub dinner, our host from Ellenbeck Manor came to pick us up. It was the same transportation we used to get to the trailhead this morning...his horse van! (He had cleaned it out.) His car isn't big enough for all of us to fit in. The four of us that rode in the back loved it!



David and Carla's Coast to Coast Adventure

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Ennerdale Bridge to Rosthwaite

June 21, Day 2: Ennerdale Bridge to Rosthwaite

15.1 miles, 2300 feet elevation gain



Another beautiful day for hiking! After arriving at the trailhead by horse trailer, we headed off along Ennerdale Lake. It was a lovely morning with the sounds of the waves hitting the shore, the wind in the trees, and birds singing. Best of all, we all heard a cuckoo for the first time!



David and Carla's Coast to Coast Adventure

After we left the lake, we started climbing. We followed a rocky road up to Black Sail Youth Hostel and had a welcome break. We left there and went through some boggy patches where we had to look for the trail and climb up a steep embankment for the trail.

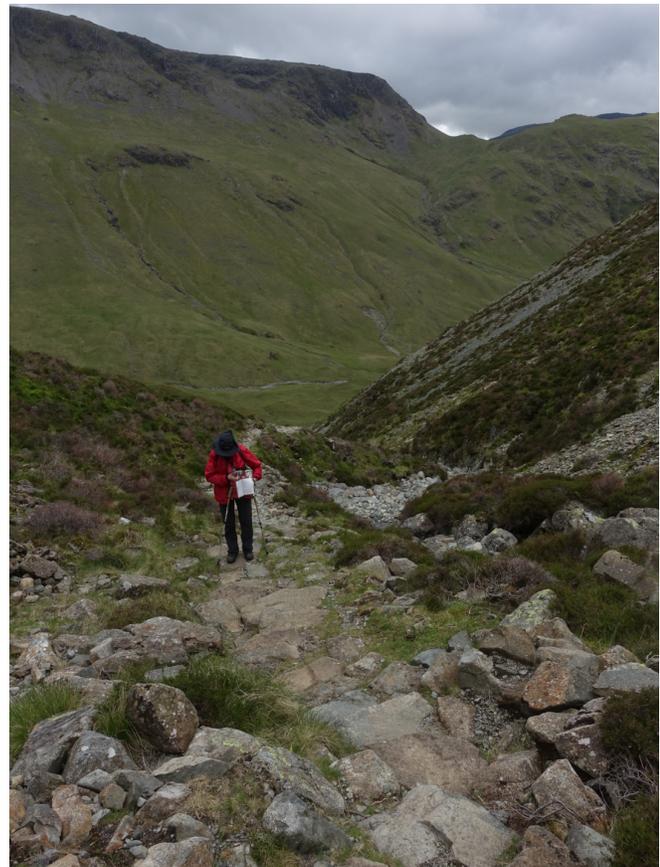


Tyler leading the way to the hostel



Nancy and Chris climbing to trail

We followed a stream (Loft Beck) up, up, and up! Steep going, and then just as steep going down the other side. It was also very rocky going down. We ended up at a slate mine.



David and Carla's Coast to Coast Adventure

Tyler is such a good guide. She told David to go ahead and start on up, so he was able to go his pace and was up there well before the rest of us. We all followed at a slower pace. Tyler stayed in the back and reminded me at the start not to get my heart rate up and would remind me to take a break. That really helped me get up there!



Views from the top



Heading towards Rosthwaite



David and Carla's Coast to Coast Adventure
Fifteen miles later, soooo glad to get here!



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Rosthwaite to Grasmere

June 22, Day 3: Rosthwaite to Grasmere

10 miles, 2300 ft. Elevation Gain - David, 2400-ft. --Carla

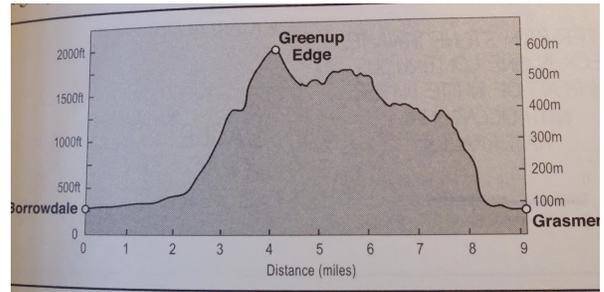
According to Nancy's B&B hostess, today was supposed to be an easier day. "You'll be in Grasmere by two." Well, not quite! Our day started out easy enough-along stone fences, by fields of sheep, beside a gill (stream) with beautiful little waterfalls. We heard another cuckoo calling. The lane and trail were easy and just a gentle incline. Then we started to climb.



The trail was steep, rocky most of the way, and with steps in some parts. There was a fairly long, steep scramble over small boulders along the way.

David and Carla's Coast to Coast Adventure

At one point, I reached a level spot and thinking I was finally at the top, I immediately started taking pictures back out over the valley we had come up. Then I turned around and realized I was at Lining Crag, not Greenup Edge!



From Lining Crag

Most of the day, Chris, Jane, and David walked way ahead of Nancy, Tyler, and me. At lunch, Tyler told them where to turn to take the high-level route and then they were gone. Our group of three trudged up and down clear to Helm Crag at the end. The path down that last crag was extremely steep! I wish I had taken more pictures of the trail, but at that point, I was tired and concentrating on keeping moving too much to take pictures.

On top of Helm Crag



We got to Grasmere at 5:00, tired, but extremely proud of ourselves. The others had arrived an hour earlier, but they did not go over Helm Crag. They were told about a trail down just before Helm Crag and took it down and walked around the base of it on the road. That made Nancy's and my accomplishment even sweeter!

Helm Crag
from the side
we came down



June 23, Day 4: Grasmere

Rest Day



We spent the day taking three buses over to Hilltop Farm (The home of Beatrix Potter-author of Peter Rabbit) and Dove Cottage. (The home of the poet, William Wordsworth) We window shopped around town and just had a leisurely day. It was a welcome rest after yesterday, even though everyone woke up feeling fit!

Rhododendrons
from the daffodil
garden where the
Wordsworths are
buried

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Grasmere to Glenridding

June 24, Day 5: Grasmere to Glenridding

8.5 miles, 1900 ft.

Today's hike was pretty straightforward ... up to Grisedale Tarn and then down the valley to Glenridding. At the top, it was windy and chilly so we didn't linger. There were a lot of people on the trail today. If the weather had been better, Tyler would have taken the stronger hikers up over a higher peak (St. Sunday) while Nancy and I took the valley route. No use in that, though, since they would not have been able to see anything. We all stuck together and arrived in Glenridding about 2:30. It seemed like such an easy day, we couldn't believe it, and I was amazed at how strong I felt on the climbing part today!



David and Carla's Coast to Coast Adventure



When we were down to the valley, we went through a sheep farm and then followed the road to Glenridding. This is a busy little town on Ullswater...the lake that is said to be the inspiration for Wordsworth's daffodil poem.



David and Carla's Coast to Coast Adventure



This is where we stayed. I have especially appreciated the comfortable beds at every place we have stayed. But as Jane said, I'd "probably be able to sleep on a bed of nails!"



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Glenridding to Haweswater

June 25, Day 6

11.4 miles, 3200 ft.



The playlist for today:

Stairway to Heaven

Like a Hurricane

Highway to Hell

A Long and Winding Road

David and Carla's Coast to Coast Adventure



Our day started out pleasant enough with a walk back through the little village of Patterdale. Again, the weather was cool, cloudy, light mist. Outside of Patterdale, we started climbing.



Nancy and Chris heading up the trail



Before long we were getting wet from the mist. Clouds were closing in around us.



This is Angle Tarn. We saw campers on the other side.

As we climbed higher, the wind started picking up. Since we couldn't see very far, Nancy yelled out "Where the hell are you taking us, Tyler?" Tyler told us it was the stairway to heaven. Soon the wind was blowing like crazy...gusts were strong enough to knock us off stride. We found a stone fence to sit out of the wind while we ate lunch. Then we headed on up to Kidsty Pike. When we got up there, ice pellets were blowing sideways. At one point things calmed down and we could see Haweswater and the hotel where we are staying. Tyler warned us not to get too excited because it was farther away than it looked. It definitely was!

When we finally headed down, it was the highway to hell. This is the steepest descent of the whole Coast to Coast. The rocks were first and the worst; the grass was still steep. After that, it was a long trek around the lake to the hotel. The last 2 1/2 miles was on the road.

As David said, we had everything but sunshine today. I thought it was very exhilarating! A thrilling, fun experience. Worth every bit of it because we are staying at this fine hotel. I had my cup of tea and biscuits while enjoying the jacuzzi tub in our room! Not very many pictures, but great memories of the day!

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Haweswater Hotel to Orton

June 26, Day 7

15 miles, 1800 ft.



When we left the lovely comfort of the Haweswater Hotel, it was cloudy and damp, but before long, we were enjoying the most beautiful morning of our trip so far. It seemed like a fairly long hike after yesterday's exciting hike. The disappointment of the day was arriving at Orton exactly as the workers at the chocolate factory were locking the doors for the day! We all had been looking forward to stopping there for chocolate. Tyler called our hosts from The Old School and they came to pick us up since they are off the trail quite a ways. A long day, but memorable sights along the way.

David and Carla's Coast to Coast Adventure



Thomas had a box filled with cold drinks, snacks, and candy for sale. This box was placed by a stile at the beginning of the most idyllic walk. We all bought something. There was another by Shap Abby, but it was not nearly as appealing or charming.





Ruins of Shap Abbey - founded about 1200, King Henry VIII shut it down about 1540. Locals eventually took stones from the monastery and used them in buildings that you can see around here today.

David and Carla's Coast to Coast Adventure

After lunch, the weather and landscape changed again.



Almost to Orton

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Orton to Kirkby Stephen

June 27, Day 8

13.1 miles, 1400 ft.

If anyone is paying close attention to the dates and days on these newsletters, you may have noticed my confusion! Most of the time, none of us can remember what day it is or what town we were in yesterday without a great deal of conferring! Also, we are taking our mileage from David's GPS and our cumulative elevation gain from Nancy's Fitbit, rather than the guidebook.

We started our day in Orton by visiting the chocolate factory that closed as we arrived yesterday. We wanted that chocolate!! Then we headed off to see All Saints Church, a church with parts of its structure dating back to the 13th century. On our way out of town, we passed by Petty Hall, an Elizabethan farmhouse, built in 1604. They sure knew how to build things to last over here!



David and Carla's Coast to Coast Adventure

It was another picture-perfect morning.



We passed through a lot of cow pastures today. Still hundreds of sheep, though.



David and Carla's Coast to Coast Adventure

We passed by another ring of stones set in a circle about 6000 years ago. No one knows why they were arranged this way. Yesterday, when it was getting rainy, windy, and chilly, Nancy, David, and Tyler walked off the main trail to see these. They look more impressive than those we saw today.



We passed through another area that is unexcavated, but is said to be one of the most important prehistoric sites in Britain. I have to admit, though, if Tyler hadn't pointed them out to us, none of us would have noticed them.

As we were going over the moors (which I would love to see in bloom), we saw a herd of fell ponies off in the distance. As we neared Kirkby Stephen, there were two in a farmer's pasture - looking much more sleek and cared for.



Before we headed down into Kirkby Stephen, Tyler pointed out the Nine Standards that we could see on the top of a hill way out there. It's a good thing tomorrow is a rest day!

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Kirkby Stephen

June 28, Day 9

Rest Day, Hooray!



Our mileage shows we've gone 90.2 miles. After tomorrow's hike, we will be halfway! Everyone was glad for a rest day today, especially since it has been rainy most of the day. We will do the final nine days in one stretch. (Robin Hood's Bay is to the east.)

Today was laundry day...and I'm not sure, but at home it doesn't cost over eight dollars to wash a load of laundry at the laundromat, does it? That doesn't include drying, either. Anyway, we can look forward to fresh, clean clothes. I did wash a bunch by hand one night and nothing was dry by morning!

David and Carla's Coast to Coast Adventure

The food has been excellent everywhere, and it's not just because we've worked up an appetite. I had always heard how bad English food is. I think the English cooks have upped their game! Here's a photo of my dinner the other night; it's dressed crab.



Nancy, Tyler, David, and I went for dinner at an Indian restaurant; when we stepped out we were surprised by four pony carts being

David and Carla's Coast to Coast Adventure

pulled by fell ponies trotting up the street. They came and went so quickly I just got off one quick snapshot. It looked like such fun! Before we returned to the Black Bull, we went for a walk to the sweet little village of Hartley. It was a perfect ending to a very peaceful and relaxing day.



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Kirkby Stephen to Keld

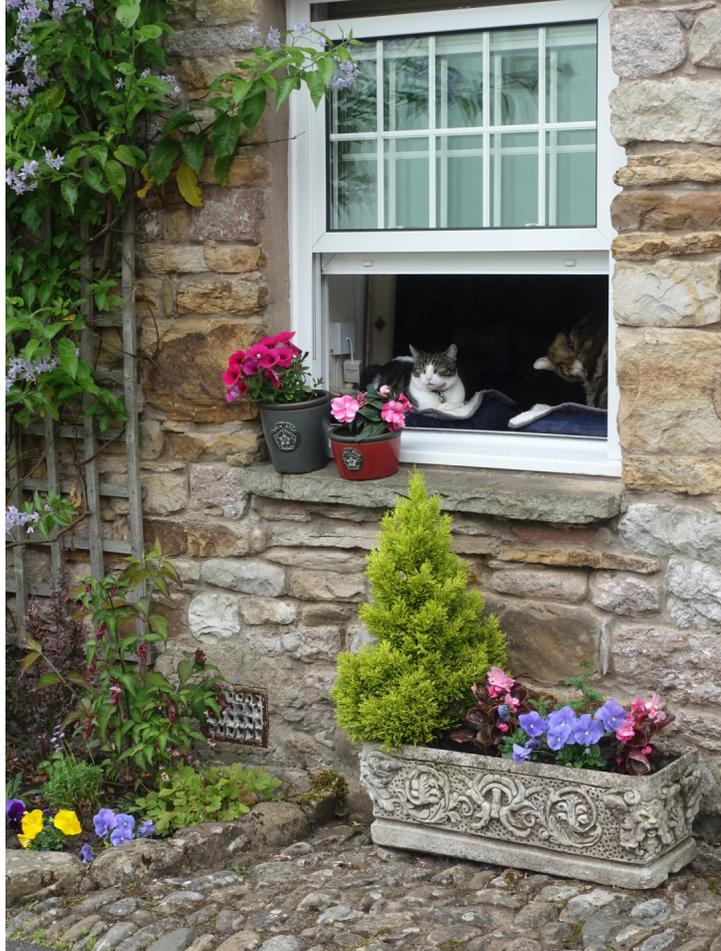
June 29, Day 10

12 miles 2100 ft.

102.1 total miles

We left Kirkby Stephen without seeing the parrots that are let loose during the day, although, we heard them squawking several times during our stay. Nancy was the only one that caught a couple glimpses of them as they flew by. Our route today took us through the little village of Hartley, the one we walked to last night. As we were talking to the owner of these cats in the window, a couple from Australia came by. The man is 78 and the woman is 81; they are walking the C2C, too.

Tyler had pointed out the Nine Standards to us as we approached Kirkby Stephen the other day, and they looked so far away. Today we were up there before noon. It was windy and cool so we grabbed a quick snack and pictures and headed down. It was clear enough to see them all at the same time. No one knows who built them, why, or when.





On the way up, we encountered just a couple boggy, muddy parts. On the way down, there were a few more boggy parts, but overall, it wasn't bad at all. Mostly, we had very springy walking over the moors today!

A highlight for the day was stopping for scones at Ravenseat Farm. It is right on the trail and has picnic tables set up for walkers. David and I had scones baked this morning with real whipped cream and raspberry jam. Yum! The wife had just given birth to their eighth child three weeks ago and is also working on writing her second book, but she was right out there talking to people about her farm and animals, selling and serving scones and drinks, and making people feel welcome.



David and Carla's Coast to Coast Adventure

From Ravenseat, it was more ups and downs past many stone hay barns and down the beck to Keld. The lodge where we are staying is a former hunting lodge and is very comfortable.



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Keld to Reeth

June 30, Day 11

13.6 miles, 115.7 total miles

View from our window this morning



We had another beautiful morning for hiking, but it wasn't long before we started feeling the heat. Nothing like what's going on in Oregon right now, but hot enough to be somewhat uncomfortable while hiking.



David and Carla's Coast to Coast Adventure



We are in The Yorkshire Dales now (James Herriot country.) We followed the River Swale on the low route down through the valley. This area is not nearly as remote as what we have come through. We saw lots of people out working today and passed through more small villages.



David and Carla's Coast to Coast Adventure

We took a side trip through a sweet little village called Mukar. Along the way we passed through several meadows abloom with flowers.

We have also seen so many rabbits the last few days. I'm beginning to feel sorry for Mr. McGregor!



Chris crossing a very unique bridge



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Reeth to Richmond

July 1, Day 12

10.8 miles, 1400 feet, 126.5 total miles

We left Reeth about 9:15. The weather report forecast temperatures up to 90 and afternoon thunderstorms. We wanted to get to Richmond before the thunderstorms and in time to go visit Richmond Castle. The sights and terrain were pretty much the same as yesterday, although more downhill, and it seemed to be an easier day. If there had not been a good breeze blowing, though, we would have been miserable in the heat because there were several very open stretches. We reached Richmond by 2:30, and as it turned out, only Nancy and Chris went to the castle. David and I were just too hot and I was tired.

Leaving Reeth



Church in Reeth



It's fun to imagine what the story is on this boot left hanging on the fence!



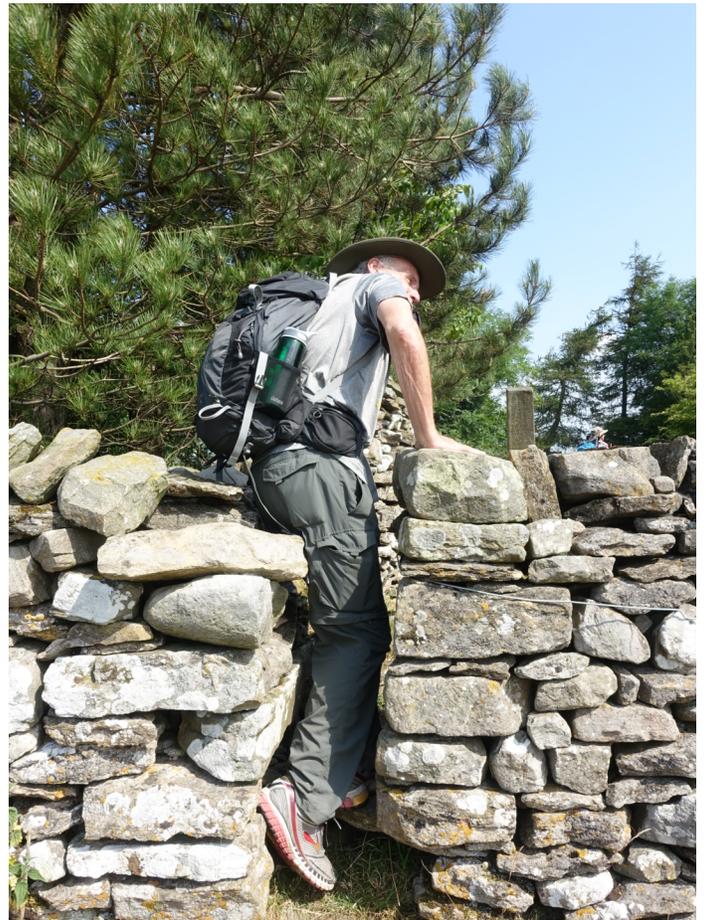
The Nuns' Steps, a shaded climb up the hill. These were used by the nuns until 1540 when Henry VIII broke away from the Catholic Church and dissolved the monasteries and abbeys.



St. Andrews Church...it's for sale. It looks like someone has been living in it.

We have had to pass through numerous stiles like this the last two days. Today, many farmers were out cutting or tedding their hay. It smelled so good when we were walking through the fields of fresh-cut and drying hay.

At one point, we walked through an open area in a fence as Tyler was looking for the path along the fence. Unfortunately, a herd of cows, calves, one bull, and several sheep were bunched up on the path in the way she wanted to go. Being raised on a Wyoming cattle ranch, she fearlessly started walking through the middle of them. The rest of us more or less fearlessly started to follow her. One cow suddenly took exception to our presence and kind of did a hoppity step towards her. She started to shoo it back, but then the rest of the animals all started nervously moving and Tyler decided it would be more prudent to go the other way. The less fearless of us at the back of the line were already backing up. I started backing up as soon as I saw the bull slowly start to rise, looking annoyed and as if he was saying, "All right, I'll take care of this!"



We were very excited to read on the side of this sign that we are only 76 miles from Robin Hood's Bay!

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Richmond to Danby Wiske

July 2, Day 13

14.9 miles, (flat) 141.4 total miles

Today was a fairly easy day for as long as it was. We did have to backtrack a short way when we got to the end of a field and there was no way to cross the fence, nor even a trail on the other side. We also had a detour because of some construction. The weather was cooler today, but it was still hot in the afternoon. Yesterday's predicted thunderstorm didn't hit until about 10:30 last night, and today's predicted showers didn't start until after we got into Danby Wiske.



Richmond Castle as we left Richmond

We walked through an amazing field of barley this morning. The colors of green were so beautiful and the wind was rustling through it. Just magical!





Chris coming through the barley



Below: "Try to look like you're having a great time." (We really are.)



We spent several quiet minutes just gazing at this mother and her foal.



Tomorrow is supposed to be a shorter day, and we were teasing Tyler at dinner about how all of the days have been longer than they were supposed to be. David made some wisecrack and she quickly replied, "I can make tomorrow longer for you, too, if you don't knock it off!" We all had a good laugh over that one.

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Danby Wiske to Osmotherly

July 3, Day 14

12.6 miles, 800 ft. elevation gain 154 total miles

The Old School seems to be everyone's favorite stop so far. We all hated to leave the comfort of this B&B today. Frank and Doreen are such a lovely couple, so gracious and welcoming. They were very concerned that we had everything we needed and wanted. Frank was quite funny and especially looked out for David, with him being the only guy. In the morning, David



ordered a big breakfast instead of just the cereal he has been eating because he knew it would be easier than convincing Frank he really didn't want anything else! Even so, Frank offered him a Coke since he wasn't having coffee or tea. They are just genuinely nice people.



We walked through and around several barley fields again today, but today some of them are turning gold. Some were waist-high. It was very enjoyable to walk through them - they actually felt soft to touch, a cool wind was blowing, and the barley waved in the breeze, making a soft rustling sound. It was very peaceful.

David and Carla's Coast to Coast Adventure

Hedgerows have replaced the stone fences. The pastures still hold plenty of sheep and cattle. I have begun to use walking through pastures as a gauge of my tiredness level. When I am feeling fresh and ready to go, I gingerly step around and over all the piles of sheep droppings. By the end of the day when I am tired and ready to stop walking, I tromp right through, not caring what I am stepping on. Luckily, I haven't yet been tired enough to walk right through the cowpies!



On the way to Osmotherly, we visited Mt. Grace Priory. It was built in 1398 and the monks there lived in isolated cells with no contact with the outer world. Unfortunately, David and I were both too hot, too tired, or both, to really appreciate this fascinating place. We did enjoy the ice cream bars we bought there, though!





Jane waving from her room in the Queen Catherine Hotel



Out the back door of the hotel!

While we were eating our dinner, a crowd was in the adjacent pub watching Serena Williams play a British player at Wimbledon. It was the last set in the third round. The crowd was cheering and having a good time. Suddenly there was dead silence in there. A man came from the pub and sat down at the table next to us, giving the others at his table a thumbs down sign and just said "7 to 5." We couldn't hear anything from the pub. It was actually quite funny, it was just so noticeably quiet!

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Osmotherly to Clay Bank Top

July 4, Day 15

12 miles

2700 ft. elevation gain

166 total miles

I have definitely been having foot issues. I managed to get a blister on the bottom of my heel the very first afternoon! Since then, I have had more blisters develop on both heels (I have a theory about why...I won't go into it now) and one morning, I slipped on the carpeted stairs and fell, smashing a toe on my right foot in the process! No harm from the fall except for my toe. The swelling is finally down today, though, so it feels much better.

This photo is from yesterday when the Compeed on one blister came loose and was rubbing. Jane, a nurse, taped it up for me, with help from Chris, and Nancy massaged my leg while holding it up. (I was very tempted to say I needed the other foot fixed up, too.) David took pictures. Tyler, whom we had been trying to play a trick on by not following when she went around a bend, came back to see what was going on, only to find me on my back in the grass with everyone huddled around.



The good news is my blisters are almost all healed, my toe feels almost normal, and this morning Jane taped up both of my heels so that I should be in good shape for the next three days. Today's walk felt so much better on my feet!



Another Honesty Box, this one with honey and eggs

David and Carla's Coast to Coast Adventure
Steep stone path



Most of the paths over the moors today were flat stones



We went up and down over the moors for 2700 feet elevation gain, but it didn't seem like it at all! Today seemed so much easier to us.



At the top of the first moor we crossed

The day started off cloudy and misty, but cleared up as we ate lunch. The locals we passed kept mentioning the miserable weather, but we loved it! It was so much better than the heat!

David and Carla's Coast to Coast Adventure

The heather is just starting to bloom in a few spots.



Tyler and David reaching the Wain Stones



Jane, Chris, and Nancy on the last part up the Wain Stones



We had beautiful views today after the clouds cleared. We finished before four at Clay Bank Top, but had to wait an hour for our ride from the inn we are staying at in Chop Gate. Tyler had called them forty minutes before we got to the pick up point, but for some reason, they were not there and she had to call them two more times. That was the only sour note on this Fourth of July. It is so hard to believe that we only have three more days of hiking and we will arrive at the North Sea!



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Clay Bank Top to Blakey Ridge

July 5, Day 16

8.8 miles 800 ft. elevation gain 174.8 total miles

Today was a short, easy day. We climbed back up to the top of a moor and followed an easy path along the ridgeline to Blakey Ridge. We arrived here at noon before our luggage. We are staying at The White Lion - a 500 year-old inn. It is rather remote, but obviously popular. It is also the highest point in the North York Moors National Park. Inside the inn, it is like a rabbit warren with all the little public and private rooms. In the pub and dining areas, it still has the original low-beamed ceilings. Today is Sunday and they are having their "carvery." Huge plates of roast and vegetables! There was a big crowd here and people just keep coming in, so it must be good. I can't wait for six o'clock (our reservation time), it smells so good. When we left The Buck this morning, the chef was preparing four roasts for their carvery. (beef, lamb, pork, and venison)



Trail where we came down yesterday. Started at the bottom today.



David and Carla's Coast to Coast Adventure

We saw several grouse on the moors today.



Boundary marker with a face carved on it



Very comfortable inside





Modern, clean bathrooms!

As Tyler said, the only thing wrong with our room is that we have to leave tomorrow!

Tomorrow is another easy day. It will be short and mostly downhill. Then we will have seventeen miles and be done! It is so hard to believe we are this close!

For Tyler



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Blakey Ridge to Egton Bridge

July 6, Day 17

12.1 miles 530 ft. elevation gain 186.9 total miles

This morning, we left The White Lion and started out over the moors again. After about an hour and a half, we started seeing green valleys and farmland. What a welcome sight! David and I both agreed it was good to be able to see more than just the tops of the moors. In the far distance, we could see the North Sea! We sat beside the trail to eat our lunch and gazed out at the land before us. As we neared the little village of Glaisdale, we met a Scotsman that stopped to talk. He told us that the Williams sisters would be playing against each other at Wimbledon at 1:00 and suggested that we stop at the pub and tell his son, Sam, to turn on the telly for us. A cold drink sounded good to everyone, so we stopped and stayed to watch the match since we were only 45 minutes from Egton Bridge, and we would be getting in before our luggage anyway.



Fat Betty on the moors...the tradition is to leave one and take one.

We talked Chris into leaving her protein bar that she has been carrying for days "for emergency purposes only" (she could give it up because she has a ton of them in her suitcase), David left 20 pence, and I left an apple that I have carried for four days.

Chris took my apple and David took Chris' protein bar,

promising to give it to her if there was an emergency. (This is one of the bars she offered to sell for \$100 at the beginning of our trip.)

David and Carla's Coast to Coast Adventure
Green valleys again



More heather in bloom today; David on road, Nancy in the distance



David and Carla's Coast to Coast Adventure
Flowers on a house in Glaisdale



Our room is right under the Horseshoe sign.



Stepping stones across the beck



It's hard to believe this incredible experience is almost over! Tomorrow is our last day on the trail. We are looking forward to it with mixed emotions.

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Egton Bridge to Robin Hood's Bay

July 7, Day 18

17 miles 1400 ft. elevation gain 203.9 total miles

I had some trouble with the app I am using and the WiFi network the last two nights, so I am writing this one as we head home on the airplane. I'll be glad to get back to the land of fast WiFi!

Our last day of hiking was fantastic. It was long, but we had a little bit of everything as far as terrain and we had some good rest stops along the way. We left Egton Bridge about nine and arrived in Robin Hood's Bay at 6:30, tired, but exhilarated at achieving our goal.

Our first stop of the day was in the village of Grosmont. We shopped for some lunch items and then stepped over to the train station to wait to see the train with the steam engine come in and depart.



David and Carla's Coast to Coast Adventure

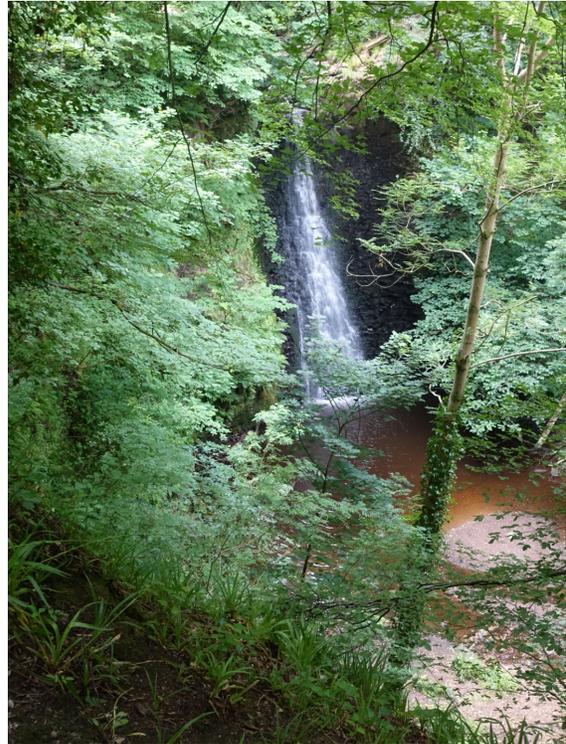
After seeing the train off, we headed up through Grosmont and our last big climb of the trip.



I was very pleased by how much I enjoyed this hill and how easy it was! Once we were at the top, we were on another moor.

David and Carla's Coast to Coast Adventure

Besides our lunch stop, we stopped at a tea house near Falling Foss (the waterfall) for an afternoon snack. As we left, it started to rain the first real hard rain of our trip. As we went up through the trees, it started to thunder, so just before heading up to the moors, we stopped and waited for the thunderstorm to pass. We all thought this was a good idea since just a few days ago, four walkers here in England were hit by lightning and two of them died.



We finally left the shelter of the woodlands and headed up on the moors again. This seemed like the longest portion of the day to me.

David and Carla's Coast to Coast Adventure



Chris is crossing the last stile of the trip.



There it is, the North Sea!

The weather cleared up and was just glorious for the final trek into Robin Hood's Bay. We went straight down to the water, had a glass of champagne provided by Jane to celebrate, got our boots wet, and threw our Irish Sea pebbles into the North Sea! We walked more than two hundred miles to get here! It felt fantastic!

David and Carla's Coast to Coast Adventure

