

Peak District National Park

- The Peak District National Park covers 555 square miles or 1,438 square kilometres – about the size of Greater London, or 144,000 football pitches.
- Millions of years ago the Peak District was a tropical lagoon. The fossils of tiny sea creatures can still be seen today in the limestone rocks and dry stone walls.
- The Peak District National Park has 1,600 miles of public rights of way and 58 miles of dedicated off-road cycle trails.
- Peak District peat bogs are among the most important wildlife habitats in the world – home to many birds, thousands of rare insect species and a wealth of unusual plants. More than 94% of the UK's peat bogs have been damaged or destroyed – and the remaining ones are at greater risk than tropical rainforest.
- There are around 8,756 kilometres, or 5,440 miles, of dry stone walls in the National Park.
- Titan Cave near Castleton has the deepest natural shaft in the UK. At 141.5 metres, or 464 feet, it is deeper than the height of the London Eye. It was rediscovered in 2000, after years of historical research by local cavers.
- For six weeks during the Second World War, Derwent Dam was one of the sites used by the Royal Air Force to practise for the famous 'Dambusters' raid. After the war, the dam featured in the film of the same name, starring Michael Redgrave and Richard Todd.
- The National Park has England's only population of mountain hares. The distinctive animals – which have white coats during winter and can reach speeds of 60 kilometres an hour – were originally released for hunting in Victorian times.
- In the late 18th century, the National Park's rivers helped give birth to the Industrial Revolution by providing water power for the world's first factories – including cotton mills at Calver, Cressbrook, Litton and Lumford, and further downstream, Cromford, now a World Heritage Site.
- The millstone is one of the classic images of the Peak District. At Millstone Edge near Hathersage, you can see the remains of old millstones – once used by the Sheffield cutlery industry – abandoned after cheaper imports became available.