



# Jedburgh

## Jedburgh Abbey

Coming into the town from the south on the A68, the visitor is greeted with the majestic ruin of Jedburgh Abbey. Founded in 1138 by David I, it occupies a commanding position overlooking the Jed Water. The 12th century abbey church is one of Scotland's most outstanding medieval buildings. This house of Augustinian canons from Beauvais in France was deliberately located close to the site of an earlier Anglo-Saxon monastery and stones from a nearby Roman fort can be seen in its fabric. King Alexander III was married to Yolande de Dreux here in 1285 and King Edward I of England stayed here during the wars of independence (his soldiers took the roofing lead for siege engines). The abbey (and the town) bore the brunt of attacks by the English and their allies seven times between 1409 and 1545 and was fortified in 1548 by French allies of the Scots. The story of the abbey is told in an interpretation centre and the cloister and domestic ranges have been excavated and laid out to view.

Now cared for by Historic Scotland, it is open to visitors all year round. Admission charge.



Situated in the valley of the Jed Water, Jedburgh is a true border town, being only 10 miles/ 16km from the border at Carter Bar. It has been a Royal Burgh for over 800 years. Up on a hill overlooking the town is Jedburgh Castle Gaol, built on the site of the old castle and now open to the public as a museum.

The town is surrounded by very attractive, well-wooded countryside. The St Cuthbert's Way long-distance path from Melrose to Lindisfarne, opened in 1996, passes along the Roman Road, Dere Street, less than 2 miles/ 3km from the town.

# Along the way Jedburgh to Hawick

## Lowland and Upland farmland

In the low lying fields near Jedburgh and between Denholm and Hawick mixed farming is found. Fields may be used to grow crops of wheat or barley in a rotation with grass. The grass may be grown as a crop and cut for hay or silage. You may see black bags holding the cut grass which is preserved for winter feed. Sheep and cattle may graze the grass at other times.

In the upland areas cattle or sheep graze the pasture. Areas of heather, tormentil and other upland plants may be seen. Look out for signs of badger, especially near the shelterbelts of forest in this section.

## Bedrule

There has been a place of worship at Bedrule Kirk, in its peaceful setting, for many centuries. The present building dates from 1804, and has superb modern stained glass windows. A mound nearby marks the site of Bedrule Castle, the 16th century seat of the Turnbulls. The route crosses the 18th century Bedrule Bridge over the Rule Water - a name said to mean 'roaring', which is appropriate when the water is in spate.

## Denholm

The attractive village of Denholm is centred on its large Green and the monument to John Leyden, poet and oriental scholar. Born in 1775, Leyden exhibited an amazing facility for languages, and eventually mastered or had some knowledge of several dozen. He spent part of his life in the Far East, and died in far distant Batavia in 1811.

At the south-west corner of the Green is the Text House, with its enigmatic four-part inscription 'Tak Tent in Time, Ere Time be Tint, All was Others, All will be Others'. Denholm was the birthplace of Sir James Murray (1837-1915), who became editor of the New English Dictionary in 1879 and devoted most of the rest of his life to this massive work.

1. Walkers on Black Law 2. Ewe with lamb 3. Badger 4. Bedrule Church 5. Leyden Monument



- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.



# Jedburgh to Hawick

Upland and lowland farmland, views, riverside woodland

**Path surfaces** - tracks, upland grassland, fields, road and riverside path

**Distance** - 23km/ 14 1/2 miles approx

**Total ascent** - 350 metres/ 1150 feet approx

## Jedburgh to Hawick

This is a varied route, with a fairly steady climb from Jedburgh town centre and later a steep section up the side of Merlin Wood onto the side of Black Law. There follows a gradual descent through mainly agricultural land to the village of Denholm and into Teviotdale where the route follows the north bank of the River Teviot into Hawick.

This may be done in two shorter sections between Jedburgh and Denholm, and Denholm and Hawick. Use the bus to your start point or at the end.

## Maps

The section described here is covered by OS Landranger maps 79 and 80 and OS Explorer maps OL16 and 331.

## Buses

Service 20 between Jedburgh and Hawick. The journey time between Jedburgh and Hawick is about 25 minutes.

For timetable details, contact:  
**Traveline on 0870 608 2608**  
**www.travelinescotland.com**, ask at the bus stance in Jedburgh or Hawick, or any Tourist Information Centre.

## Car Parking

There are car parks at Murray's Green, Jedburgh, next to the Tourist Information Centre and bus station, and at Teviotdale Leisure Centre, Hawick. There is also a large car park at the Common Haugh on Victoria Road, Hawick. Roadside parking is usually possible in Denholm but please use consideration and do not block access.



1. Common buzzard 2. Skylark 3. Yellowhammer 4. Grey heron  
 5. Grey wagtail 6. Oystercatcher 7&8. Goosander

1.	2.	3.	4.
5.	6.	7.	8.

## Visitor Information

There are Information Centres at Murray's Green in Jedburgh and Tower Knowe, Hawick. For opening times and other information see **www.visitscotland.com**

## Toilets

There are public toilets at Murray's Green, Jedburgh, at Dean Road in Denholm, at the Common Haugh car park, Victoria Road, Hawick Teviotdale Leisure Centre, Hawick also has toilets.

## Refreshments

There is a selection of shops including bakeries, and general stores in Jedburgh, and Hawick. There is a wide selection of tearooms, restaurants, hotels and bars in both towns. There are some stores, and hotels with public bars in Denholm.



## Paths to Health

Short easy walks on this section include

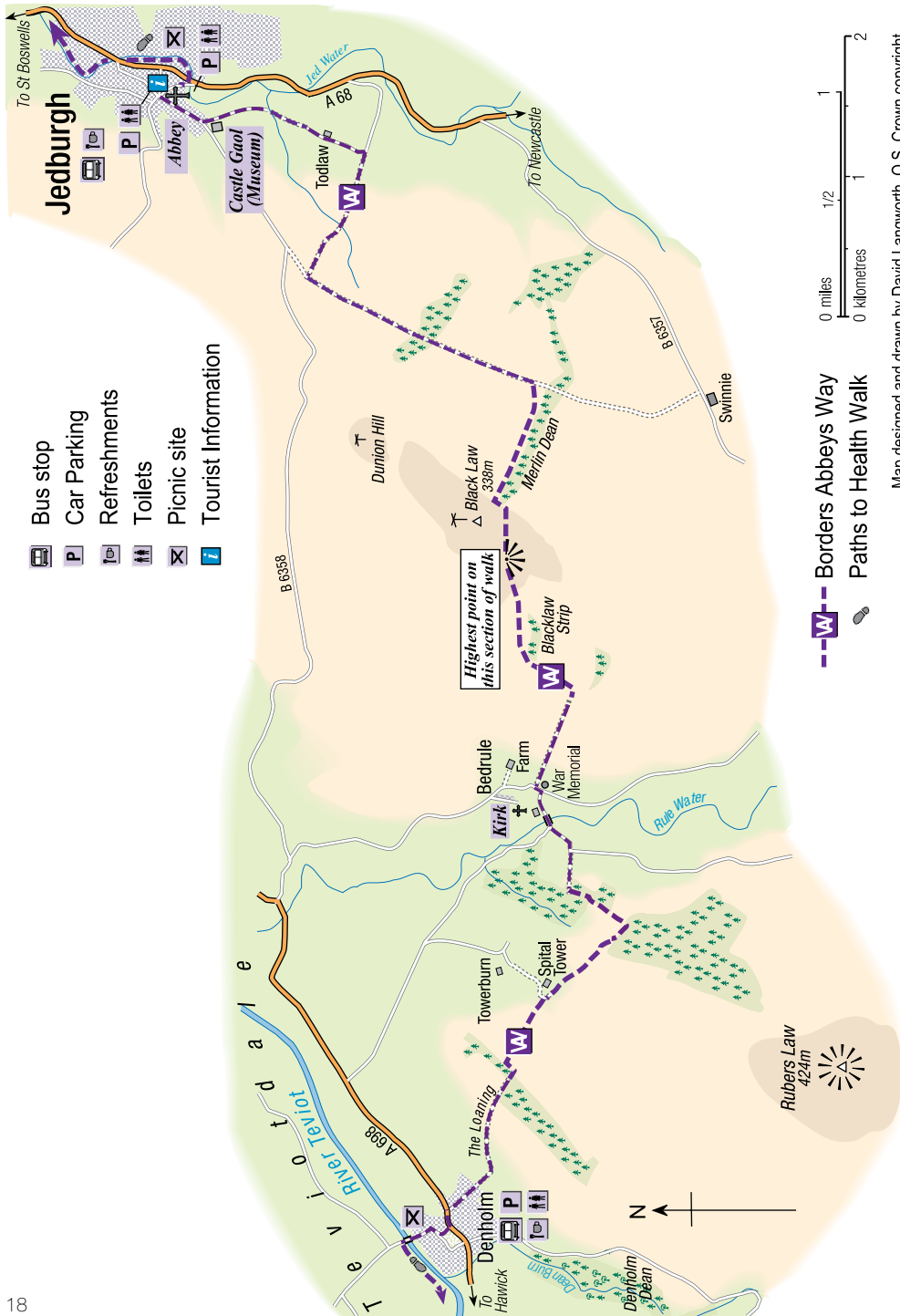
### Teviotdale Leisure Centre

Follow the old railway line from the Leisure Centre and retrace your steps or return via the pavement by the River Teviot on the Borders Abbeys Way. Level tarmac path.

### Denholm Riverside

Follow the Borders Abbeys Way along the riverside and retrace your steps to return. Fairly level grass path and road.





# The Borders Abbeys Way Jedburgh to Hawick

## Part 1 Jedburgh Abbey to Denholm

From **Jedburgh Abbey**, pass along Abbey Place to the Square. Turn left into Castlegate and go uphill to the **Castle Gaol**. At the Gaol (now a museum), bear left into Gala Hill and go downhill until the road ends. Keep left over the small bridge and join the track on the other side. Pass **Todlaw House** on the left and follow the narrow tarmac road to a junction. Turn right, and head uphill on a rough track.

Eventually, after a number of bends, the track meets the old road (now a track) from Jedburgh to Swinnie at a T-junction. Turn left onto this track, and continue to follow it to the second coniferous plantation at **Merlin Dean**.

At the plantation, turn right as signed. After crossing the bridge, climb up the hill, keeping close to the plantation. At the end of the plantation, turn left through the small gate and continue along the top of the wood and through a second small gate. Turn immediately right here through yet another small gate and onto the open hillside with the radio masts and the summit of **Black Law** on the right.

Bearing slightly left and away from the fence on the right, follow the waymark posts on the hillside. After crossing the brow, the distinctive shape of Rubers Law appears ahead and to the left. Continue downhill towards the right side of the small wood known as **Blacklaw Strip**, and after crossing the stile, go down the side of the wood. On

leaving the wood bear left, cross the burn and pass over a stile onto a track. Turn right at the second gate and go down the farm track to the minor road. To reach the Bedrule Kirk, a short diversion from the route may be taken here, otherwise turn left. After passing the **War Memorial**, turn right downhill and over the bridge spanning the Rule Water at **Bedrule**. The road swings sharply to the right. Almost immediately turn left and follow the minor road uphill (signposted for Bonchester Bridge). Follow this road for approximately 400 metres to where it turns sharp left.

Go straight on here and follow the track to a plantation. In a further 100 metres, follow the track left and after crossing the stile into the field, turn right and follow the fence to the first gate. Cross the stile, adjacent to the gate, and go straight on along the edge of the field. Turn left at the edge of the field and follow the wall to a gate. After passing through the gate, go across the field. After crossing a ladder stile and then a small burn, join the track leading towards the buildings at Spital Tower. When the track swings right, cross the stile and follow the fence and over another stile. Turn left over the small bridge and proceed up the left side of the fields. At the top of the hill, turn left and continue along the side of the wood to the first gate on the right. Go through the gate and cross a stile onto the track known locally as **The Loaning**. In about a kilometre you reach the A698 Hawick/Kelso road in **Denholm**.

