

ICA Walkers Conquer the Cleveland Way

Our latest ICA walking rally began at our first campsite in Osmotherley — an ideal base for exploring the North Yorkshire Moors section of The Cleveland Way. Once everyone had arrived and settled in, we gathered for the first of many cheerful 'Happy Hours' and officially welcomed Clare and Phil to their very first ICA rally. Later that evening, we strolled the short distance into the village to enjoy a welcome meal together.

On Monday morning, we were introduced to John, our friendly and ever-reliable minibus driver, who stayed with us throughout the week. With his upbeat personality and sense of humour, he quickly became one of the team. Our first walk took us from the charming village of Helmsley, offering a relatively flat and gentle introduction to The Cleveland Way.



Tuesday brought more of a challenge as we crossed open moorland, finishing with a sting in the tail — a final mile packed with steep climbs and descents before we returned to Osmotherley, where a well-earned drink awaited. After a rest day and a fun Yorkshire-themed quiz hosted by Judith, we set off again. This section was the toughest of the Moors leg, involving a mix of forest paths, sweeping moorland, and a series of demanding gradients. By the time we reached Saltburn-by-the-Sea on our final day in the Moors, we all felt a real sense of achievement.

The weather treated us kindly for the most part, with warm days and only the occasional shower. The landscapes were truly stunning — from colourful meadows and woodlands to vast, open moorland.

After a welcome rest, we moved on to our second base in Whitby and began the coastal stretch of the walk, now relying on local buses for transport. Picking up the trail again at Saltburn-by-the-Sea, we wound our way along dramatic clifftops, with constant ups and downs and visits to picturesque coastal villages like Staithes, Runswick Bay, and Robin Hood's Bay.

We were delighted to be joined by Valerie and Nigel — friends of Clare, Phil, Judith, and Neil — who joined us for two days of coastal walking. Although they couldn't stay for the full rally, they were warmly welcomed as part of the group. The weather continued to warm up, as did the effort needed for those coastal climbs, but our spirits remained high throughout. Part Two of the Yorkshire quiz kept us entertained in the evenings and added to the sense of fun and camaraderie.



Finally, on our last day, we marched the final stretch of the Cleveland Way, arriving triumphantly at Filey Brigg. In total, we had covered 110 miles over ten days — a challenging but immensely rewarding journey shared with great company, beautiful scenery, and lots of laughter.

We rounded things off with a celebratory meal, sharing memories and stories, and bidding fond farewells after a fantastic rally.

Jinx & Steve

