

A GUIDE TO PUBLIC TRANSPORT IN LOWER WHARFEDALE – SUMMER 2024



If you are lucky enough to live in Lower Wharfedale, not only do you live on the edge of some of the most beautiful country in Yorkshire, but you also have a very good local train and bus network to access the Yorkshire Dales and beyond, as well as into the main city centres of Leeds and Bradford.

Despite some recent reductions in services, it is perfectly possible to live a full and rewarding life in this part of Wharfedale, with access to most facilities and services, without needing access to a car. Or if you, perhaps, need a car for some journeys - with just one car in your household.

Using public transport instead of driving not only saves the environment - less carbon emissions, less air pollution, less traffic congestion - it also encourages you to walk more and enjoy the resulting major physical health and wellbeing benefits.

So, leave the car in the garage, or spend the money you would have spent on a first or second car, on new clothes, nice food and holidays. Here are a few ideas of how to do it:

RAIL SERVICES

We are fortunate in Lower Wharfedale in having the benefit of a modern electrified railway, serving the North Leeds triangle of Leeds, Bradford, Shipley, Ilkley and Skipton, with fast and frequent rail services linking Wharfedale with Ilkley, Leeds and Shipley and Bradford.

The good news is the direct Ilkley-Bradford line via Baildon is now fully restored and all services are running as normal.



Trains run half-hourly between Ilkley and Leeds and every hour between Ilkley, Shipley and Bradford, with additional trains at peak times, and an hourly service on both routes in the late evening and on Sundays.

Late evening trains home allow you to visit theatres, concerts, sporting events, shows or have a meal and a few drinks. Last trains back to Wharfedale from Leeds are 22:33 and 23:36 and from Bradford 22:16 and 23:16; on Sundays 23:19 and 22:38 respectively.

Shipley is also the key interchange point for services along the Airedale Line to Keighley and Skipton as well as the famous scenic Leeds-Settle-Carlisle Line to Settle, Appleby and Carlisle, and the beautiful Bentham Line to Clapham, Lancaster and Morecambe.

For timetables for the Wharfedale Line and all the connecting services, see: www.northernrailway.co.uk/travel/timetables For current up to the moment local train departure times and also ongoing connections with live times, see also www.realtimetrains.co.uk.

As well as a range of excellent value off-peak day return rail tickets within West Yorkshire (valid between 09:00 and 16:00 [providing you start your journey before 16:00], and after 18:30 on Monday to Friday and all day on Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays), outstanding value are West Yorkshire Day Saver Rail and Bus tickets. This includes the West Yorkshire Rail only Day Saver costing just £9.50 (or £4.80 for holders of West Yorkshire Senior Passes). This ticket is valid to all stations within West Yorkshire. Day Savers are on sale at staffed ticket offices or from the automated ticket machines at Burley and Menston stations.

BUS SERVICES

A £2 maximum single fare applies on all bus services in West and North Yorkshire – in many cases going by bus is cheaper than parking!

You can download timetables of all bus routes in West Yorkshire at www.wymetro.com/buses.

Real time electronic information is displayed at Otley and Ilkley bus stations, and also at some other bus stops. For real time information online, including on smart phones, visit www.bustimes.org

CORE ROUTES

First Leeds X84

This is the spine service for anyone living in Otley, Burley, Ben Rhydding and Ilkley – linking Ilkley and Leeds, giving access to Ilkley Moor and riverside, Middleton Woods, Otley riverside, Otley Chevin, Otley Market (market days Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays), Golden Acre Park and Headingley.

X84 buses run around every half hour throughout the day, seven days a week, but only hourly from mid evening onwards, and more sparsely late evening. Departure times vary slightly during the day and at weekends, so check times carefully.

Buses are generally reliable except at peak times when traffic congestion – yes from all those cars – delays buses in Headingley. Timekeeping is however currently sometimes affected by the problems of the road works/traffic lights at the large Burley Centurion Meadows development.

First Leeds 33/34

This is the spine bus service for anyone living in Menston and Otley, providing a service to Leeds via Guiseley, Yeadon, Rawdon, Horsforth, Kirkstall Abbey and Kirkstall. Services run around half hourly from morning until late evening – 33 from Guiseley White Cross only, 34 through from Menston and Otley but in evenings service 33 also serves Otley.

Connexions 962

This is a useful but meandering local service that links upper parts of Otley, Menston (passing Menston and Burley rail stations) and Burley with Ilkley: mainly hourly Monday to Saturday daytimes. Some journeys continue from Otley to Harrogate as service X52. No Sunday service.

Useful onward connections from Otley

Connexions X52 - runs to Harrogate mainly hourly on Monday to Saturday daytimes. No Sunday service.

Connexions 923 - three buses Mondays to Fridays only to Harewood (for Harewood House) and Wetherby.

Connexions 965 - a half hourly service Mondays to Saturdays from early morning until early evening to Newall and Weston that also serves Wharfedale Hospital. Flyer A3 provides an hourly evening/Sunday service.



Useful onward connections from Ilkley

Keighley Bus Company 62 - runs to Keighley via Addingham, Silsden, Steeton (for Airedale Hospital - 10-15 minutes' walk), Keighley (for Cliffe Castle Museum; Worth Valley Railway and onward buses to Haworth and Hebden Bridge). Half hourly Monday to Saturday daytimes and hourly on evenings and Sundays.

Keighley Bus Company 64/864/873

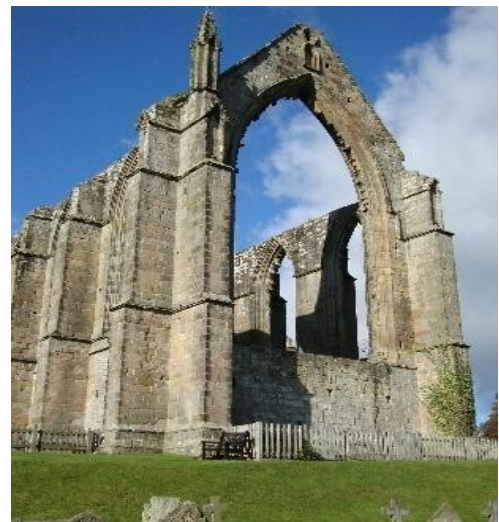
Mondays to Saturdays bus 64: mainly hourly service from Ilkley to Addingham and Skipton (Skipton Castle and Woods open daily, Skipton Market: Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays).

Sundays: Cravenlink 864/873 runs approx. two hourly 09:20-16:30 between Ilkley, Addingham and Skipton: the 864 direct via Draughton; the 873 via Bolton Abbey and Emsay.

North Yorkshire Council Minibus 74A

Operates Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays only, twice a day from Ilkley to Bolton Abbey, Burnsall and Grassington. Outward at 10:35 and 14:15 ; return 13:15 and 16:50.

For Saturday and Sunday services see DalesBus overleaf.



DalesBus

DalesBus provides one of the best integrated networks of bus services in any protected landscape in England to the Yorkshire Dales National Park and Nidderdale National Landscape, providing a great way of enjoying linear – point-to-point – walks, for example along the Dales Way, the Pennine Way and the Nidderdale Way.



Visit www.dalesbus.org for full details of all buses into and around the Yorkshire Dales.

The Friends of DalesBus provide free guided walks from the bus services: www.dalesbusramblers.org.uk

Saturdays all year

DalesBus 74 to Grassington departs from Otley 09:52, Burley 10:00, Ilkley 10:20 to Bolton Abbey, Barden, Burnsall and Grassington. Return from Grassington 11:20 & 15:00 (to Ilkley only) and at 17:00 to Ilkley, Burley and Otley.

Sundays and Bank Holidays all year

Dalesbus 874 to Buckden departs Otley 09:52, Burley 10:00, Ilkley 10:20 for Bolton Abbey, Burnsall, Grassington, Kettlewell and Buckden. Return from Buckden 12:35 (to Ilkley only); 16:25 (to Ilkley, Burley and Otley); from Grassington 13:10 or 17:00.

Summer Sundays and Bank Holidays until October 20th 2024

DalesBus 820 to Fewston & Swinsty Reservoir departs Guiseley White Cross (bus stop on Bradford Road) 10:50, Menston Station Road 10:53; Otley 11:17, 12:17, 14:17 and 15:17 for Farnley, Fewston (for Washburn Heritage Centre), Swinsty Reservoir and The Roebuck. Buses return from Fewston at 11:36, 12:36 and 14:36 to Otley, and at 15:36 to Otley, Menston and Guiseley.

DalesBus 821 to Pateley Bridge and Upper Nidderdale departs Guiseley White Cross (bus stop on Bradford Road) 09:50, Menston Station Road 09:53, Otley 10:17 and 13:17 for Farnley, Fewston, Swinsty Reservoir, Blubberhouses, Greenhow, Coldstones Cut, Pateley Bridge (connection for Stump Cross Cavern and Grassington), Lofthouse and Scar House; Return from Scar House 12:40 (to Otley only) and 15:50 (to Otley, Menston and Guiseley).

Double-decker DalesBus 875 and 876 to Hawes depart Guiseley Morrisons at 09:50 and 10:50, Menston Station Road at 09:55 and 10:55, Burley (all stops) at 10:00 and 11:00 for Ilkley, Cracoe, Grassington, Kettlewell, Buckden, Aysgarth, Bainbridge and Hawes. Return from Hawes at 14:20 and 16:30; Buckden 15:15 and 17:25; Grassington 16:00 and 18:00.

DalesBus 864 to Malham departs Guiseley White Cross (bus stop on Bradford Road) 09:50, Menston Station Road 09:53, Burley 09:58, Ilkley 10:20 (connections for the 874 & 875), Skipton, Gargrave and Malham. Return from Malham at 14:40, 15:40 or 17:30 (Skipton only) and 16:40 for Ilkley, Burley, Menston and Guiseley.

Prepared by Friends of DalesBus – The Yorkshire Dales Public Transport Users Group
www.friendsofdalesbus.org

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