

England's Book Town

Since 2006, Sedbergh has been England's Book Town, joining Hay-on-Wye (Wales) and Wigtown (Scotland) as a member of the International Organisation of Booktowns. The town now has six bookshops ranging from general bookshops to specialists in music, transport, textiles and theatre.



photo: John Rice

Bookshops are generally open from 10am to 5pm, including Sundays. Opening times may vary in the winter, and it is advisable to confirm times when planning a trip. The Dales and Lakes Book Centre (015396 20125) in the TIC can usually help.

Sedbergh also aims to offer visitors the opportunity to see performances, meet authors and study writing for themselves at festivals and workshops throughout the year.



photo: Stuart Manger



How to get here

By train: Oxenholme station (near Kendal) on the West Coast Main Line or Dent, Garsdale or Kirkby Stephen stations on the Settle to Carlisle Line. National Express **coaches** call at Kendal. There is a daily, daytime **bus** service (not Sundays) between Kendal and Sedbergh and occasional ones between Kendal and Dent and between Kirkby Lonsdale and Sedbergh (details at Sedbergh TIC). The nearest **motorway** junction is no. 37 on the M6.

Local information

Contact Sedbergh Tourist Information Centre for details of activities and accommodation in the area and accommodation bookings:

72 Main Street, Sedbergh LA10 5DE
Tel. 015396 20125 Email tic@sedbergh.org.uk

The *Sedbergh & District Lookaround* lists local events and is essential reading for locals and visitors:

www.sedberghlookaround.org.uk

For more information:

www.sedbergh.org.uk

Hidden Howgills accommodation providers:

www.hiddenhowgills.co.uk

Leaflet produced by Sedbergh and District Tourism Initiative

Financial support from South Lakeland District Council



Disclaimer: While every care has been taken in compiling this publication, Sedbergh and District Tourism Initiative cannot accept responsibility for any inaccuracies.

Andi Chapple Design, Sedbergh • www.design.freakout.biz

welcome to

Sedbergh and Dentdale

Centre for the Howgills and Gateway to the Yorkshire Dales



photo: John Rice

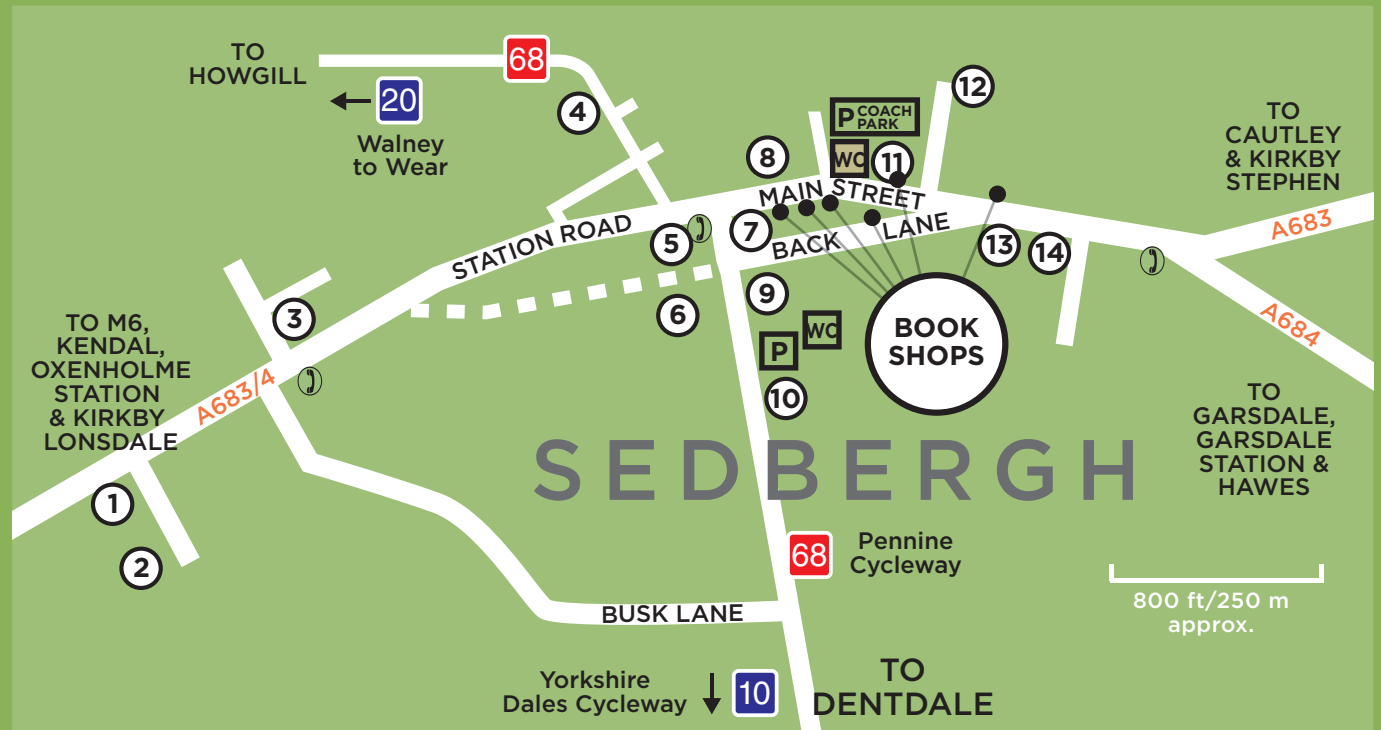
Sedbergh, the largest town in the Yorkshire Dales National Park, lies at the foot of Alfred Wainwright's favourite mountains, the Howgills, which rear up "sleek and smooth ... like velvet curtains in the sunlight" behind the town. Once a centre for agriculture and the woollen industry, today it is England's first Book Town, with six second-hand bookshops and a programme of literary events throughout the year. It is also a popular base for walkers and for heritage fans with family genealogists from across the world visiting its extensive History Archive.



photo: John Rice

It is a working town with many small businesses occupying the old buildings which cluster around the hidden lanes and yards. The prestigious Sedbergh School, whose old boys include geologist Adam Sedgwick, explorer Spencer Chapman and rugby player Will Carling, spreads over the southern side of the town in a landscape of parkland and playing fields.

Sedbergh Folk Festival is held every June, there is a biennial two-week Music Festival and the Literary Festival takes place in September. Details of these and many other events are on the Sedbergh website.



Town map

- 1 Queen's Gardens
- 2 Bowling Green
- 3 Tennis Courts, Guldrey Lane
- 4 People's Hall and People's Hall playground
- 5 St Andrew's Church and Sedbergh Library
- 6 Sedbergh School cricket pitch
- 7 Dentist
- 8 United Reformed Church
- 9 Sedbergh School Library and Heritage Centre
- 10 Sedbergh Health Centre
- 11 Tourist Information Centre and Local History Archive
- 12 Methodist Church
- 13 Vet
- 14 Maryfell playground

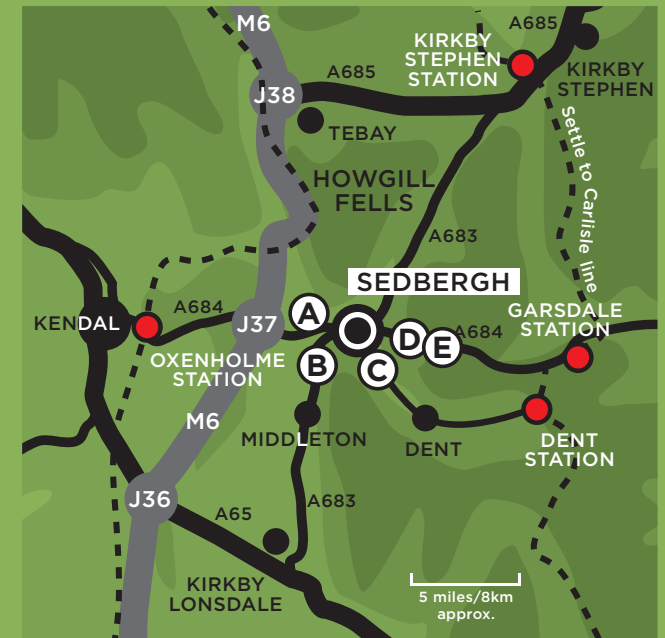
Area map

- A St. Gregory's Vale of Lune Church
- B Brigflatts Meeting House
- C Sedbergh Golf Club
- D Farfield Mill Arts & Heritage Centre
- E Sedgwick Geological Trail

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Railway line and station

68 National Cycle Route

10 Regional Cycle Route



Old Sedbergh

Sedbergh dates from pre-Roman times and still shows clear evidence of the influence of the Saxons, Vikings and Normans. It was granted a market charter in 1251.

St. Andrew's Church is a fine example of a traditional Dales church with Norman origins. It now houses the Sedbergh Embroidery, two canvas panels crafted by the Sedbergh Stitchers, a group formed in 1993 to create an embroidery depicting the history and heritage of Sedbergh. The second panel was completed in 2010.

St. Gregory's Church, 2 miles west of Sedbergh on the A684, was built for railway workers in the 1860s and renovated at the beginning of the twentieth century. It features Arts and Crafts fittings and unusual William Morris stained glass windows.

Brigflatts Meeting House, just off the A683, dates from 1675 and is one of the oldest Quaker Meeting Houses in the north of England. George Fox, founder of the Quakers, preached nearby as well as in the churchyard of St. Andrew's.

Overlooking the town on its eastern edge is Castlehaw, an ancient motte and bailey castle, built in the eleventh century. It is one of a string of castles along the Lune.

Sedbergh shopping

As well as the bookshops, Sedbergh has a fine selection of shops catering for residents and visitors:

- Award-winning butcher

- Old-fashioned sweet shop

- Factory outlet for outdoor clothing

- Cane and rush chair repair workshop which also runs courses for groups and individuals

- Five cafés

- Popular market on Wednesdays



photos: this panel: John Rice

Sedbergh outdoors

Walking

Sedbergh lies at the heart of the Howgills and at the crossroads of several valleys that converge near the town. An excellent network of navigable footpaths and bridleways allows easy access to the Howgills and exploration of Dentdale, Garsdale, Ravenstonedale and the Rawthey and Lune Valleys.

Cycling

Three long-distance routes pass through the area: the Pennine Cycleway (68), the Walney to Wear and Whitby Cycle Route (20) and the Yorkshire Dales Cycleway (10).

Golf

Sedbergh Golf Club: www.sedberghgolfclub.com

Fishing

Holme Open Farm, Killington Reservoir and sections of the rivers Dee, Lune, Rawthey and Clough.

Tennis

Sedbergh Tennis Club, Guldrey Terrace, off Station Road. Two courts open to the public. Honesty box at pavilion.

Sailing

Killington Reservoir: www.k-s-a.info

Holme Open Farm, three miles from Sedbergh, offers visitors a chance to see a traditional Dales farm in action.



photo: John Rice

Farfield Mill

Set in the shadow of the glorious Howgills near Sedbergh and restored from a Victorian woollen mill, Farfield Mill provides an excellent visit for arts and heritage enthusiasts alike. Take your time to discover a programme of top-quality exhibitions; a unique range of fine art and crafts created by resident and visiting artists; fascinating displays telling the history of the Mill; weekday demonstrations of weaving, rag-rugging or lace-making; rugs and throws produced on the mill's own looms ... plus Weavers Café for delicious food, including Farfield-made cakes, scones and daily specials and traditional Sunday Lunch (12 noon – 3pm). For more information, visit www.farfieldmill.org.

Sedbergh School

Sedbergh School was founded in 1525. It is a full-boarding school and is an integral part of the town with several boarding houses on Main Street and the campus on the southern side. The School Library is one of the oldest buildings in the town, built in 1716. There are a number of other buildings of interest, including the Memorial Cloisters and School Chapel.

The cricket ground below St Andrews Church ranks as one of the best school grounds in the country. Cumbria CCC uses it as a regular venue for its county fixtures and the public can watch the matches from the footpath which skirts the ground. The School's famous alumni include Adam Sedgwick (geologist), Robert Swan (polar explorer), Will Greenwood (England and British Lions rugby player), and Lord Bingham of Cornhill (former Lord Chief Justice).

The School Archive and Heritage Centre, next to the Library, is open to the public and holds regular exhibitions. Contact the Archivist on 015396 22275 or ki@sedberghschool.org for further information.

Sedbergh Geology

Adam Sedgwick, one of the founders of modern geology, was born in Dent. East of Sedbergh is the Dent Fault where the old Silurian rocks of South Lakeland and the Howgills thrust up against the younger, mainly limestone, rocks of the Yorkshire Dales. The Sedgwick Geological Trail traverses the fault line in Garsdale and an information leaflet, available at the TIC, explains the rock formations on either side.



Farfield Mill



Dent village (right-hand photo: Stuart Manger)



Sedbergh School Library (photo: Stuart Manger)

Dentdale

6 miles south-east of Sedbergh

Dentdale has much to offer visitors. It is excellent walking country, has a fascinating cultural heritage, and its annual events attract visitors from far and wide. At its heart is the pretty village of Dent, with its winding cobbled streets and whitewashed cottages.

Walking

Walks in Dentdale vary from riverside strolls and a heritage trail to more challenging walks on the surrounding hills, including Wherside, which Wainwright described as 'the best of all routes.' Locally-produced walking maps can be bought in the local shop and cafés.

Heritage

The Settle-Carlisle railway runs through Dentdale, and the impact of its construction on the dale can be explored at the Heritage Centre Museum in Dent, with its fascinating display of the dale's history and its people.

Dentdale today

As well as its pubs, cafés and general store, Dentdale is home to artists and craft workers including a stonemason and a specialist blacksmith. In Dent village you can see paintings by John Cooke at his Hill Studio gallery, designer knitwear at Sophie's Wild Woollens and arts and crafts at Best Cellars.

Events and festivals throughout the year

Dentdale holds a walking festival and an Open Studio trail in May followed by the Music and Beer Festival in June. The Dentdale Show – a traditional Dales agricultural and family event – takes place in August. Further information about all of these, and theatre and music events in Dent, can be found on www.discoverdentdale.co.uk.

With all it has to offer, it's not surprising that those who have discovered Dentdale regard it as a hidden gem.

www.dentdale.com