

Route 2 Gisburn Forest

9km  1½ hours

The largest forest in Lancashire, climbing above the Ribble Valley to the North Yorkshire border with fantastic views across the Forest of Bowland. It has a good and deserved reputation as a centre for outdoor activities. There are many tracks and paths throughout, three of which have been specifically waymarked as cycle routes.

Arriving by Train/Bus: The nearest station, in Clitheroe, is too far away by road to make it practical to reach with children by bike. However there is a 'hail and ride' bus service – the Bowland Transit – which runs from the station to Slaidburn and Settle, passing close to the Forest. It has a limited capacity to carry bikes for no extra charge (tel: 01200 429832 for more details). www.bowlandtransit.co.uk

Arriving by Car: Gisburn Forest lies just to the north of the Slaidburn - Tosside - Wigglesworth road. It can also be approached via Bolton by Bowland. It is signposted from all these locations.

Toilets & Refreshments: Unfortunately there are no toilet or refreshment facilities in Gisburn Forest. The nearest are located in Slaidburn, approx 6km away.

Start & Finish Point: Cocklet Hill car park, Gisburn Forest.



The Route

(Forest tracks, some moderate climbs, mtb rec'd)

Take the shortest of the three waymarked trails, being the one with the least climbing as well. On the two main descents, take care, especially if the surface is loose or there are walkers around. Following this trail is easy as it is all waymarked.

You must follow the purple waymarks. It is best done in an anti-clockwise direction. This means that 500m from the car-park (after two 90° turns) you should ignore the waymark turning left but instead follow the waymark straight ahead to start the loop. (Younger children may find it a bit of a struggle, but you can always turn back or stick to the tracks near to the car-park).

Places of Interest (Nearby)

- Stocks Reservoir & Fishery – approached from Slaidburn village.
- Rathmell Horse Farm.

What Else Can The Children Do

The Forest is excellent as a natural playground with an abundance of wildlife and flora – take your plant and bird-spotting books.

