



THE PAINSWICK

Cider with Rosie... Juniper Hill & Slad Village

Cross to the Slad Valley and Laurie Lee's pub

5 miles (8km) - 2 to 3 hours

(Depending on how long you spend in the pub!)

Moderate walk with a couple of strenuous climbs.



Leave via the front of the hotel, turn R onto the lane. Proceed down the hill staying on the road. At the end turn L and then R onto **Ticklestone Lane**. The mill pond is on the left past **Painswick Mill** where you may spot some ducks. Cross the **Painswick Stream** and follow the path around to the R. Follow the lane uphill to meet a track.

Turn R and follow the path, taking a sharp L turn. Soon afterwards take the footpath on the R (South). After about 75 m turn R through a gate. Walk straight across the field (West). At the top of the slope you will see the **farm buildings**. Walk to the left of the buildings and onto the **farm track**. The field may be muddy over this section. Turn L onto the farm track and follow this track around the next field edge to the road (**Stepping Stones Lane**).

Turn R onto the road and then after 25m L onto the footpath by the stream. Follow the path between the hedges and then the pollarded trees. Cross into a field and continue to follow the stream to the far (west) end of the field. Go over the **stile** and cross the bridge over the weir – please take care. The building on the opposite side of the drive is **Kings Mill**.

Turn L and follow the track, cross the stream and then continue along the track up the hill. Bear R where the track meets a tarmac drive and walk towards the buildings (known as **Sheephouse**). Look back up at the valley to Painswick and the church. At Sheephouse turn L and follow the path that starts behind the **old street light** and a tree. The path follows the wall up the hill. This continues in the same direction (East), through a field with a hedge on the L. Cross a **stile** and stay in the same direction following the hedge/fence on the R. At the top you meet **Stepping Stones Lane**.

Turn L then R and then R again through a gate to follow the track up **Juniper Hill**, the original **carriage way** between **Painswick** and **Slad**. On the left are old limestone quarry workings.

Painswick Mill First recorded in 1634. In 1752 an advertisement described the mill as a 'very good place for spinning'. In the following century it changed from cloth to produce hook and eyes and later was a pin mill before it closed in 1920.

The **Painswick Stream** was the local source of power. In 1086 four mills were recorded and by 1820 the stream was powering 25 mills.

Sheephouse is a former C17 farmhouse and outbuildings. Now a grade II listed building.

From the days before cars this **carriage way** was the route taken by horse drawn vehicles between the two valleys. There is a water trough towards the top to refresh weary horses.

Continue up the track; bear R where the track divides. Take in the view down the valley to **Stroud**. The path levels out at the horse trough. Cross the cattle grid and stay on the track. You are crossing the top of **Juniper Hill**, now it is all downhill to **Slad**.

As the main track starts to descend take the track on the R, this passes a black shed on the L. After about 600m the track becomes a tarmac lane, shortly after turn L onto a narrow **Public Footpath**. Follow this down the hill, with the boundary of **Quarry Wood** on the L. Cross a **stile** and continue in the same direction. Follow the field down to a gate, cross and continue down the track. Where the track bears L go straight on down a steep path with a wall on the R. Cross the **Stroud Road** at the end (take care).

Turn L (north) and follow the footway into the village of **Slad**. Once in the village you will pass the **Woolpack Inn** on your R. Cross the road by the Inn into the entrance of **Holy Trinity church** where **Laurie Lee**'s grave can be found on the R of the church. Continue in the same direction and leave the church yard by the north gate. Rejoin the main **Stroud Road** and turn L. Continue up through the village following the footway on the R. There is a short section with no footway – take great care and walk on the R in single file. Continue onto the **War Memorial** on the R at the edge of the village.

Take the lane to the L and walk up the steep hill. Where the lane goes to the L turn R onto the bridle way (sign posted **Laurie Lee Wild Life Walk**). The track meets a larger track, bear R and continue to follow the main Laurie Lee Walk which gradually goes up hill (North East). At the top of the hill there is a wide path and **Ann's Bench**. Turn R along the wide track. Take the **second path** on the L (after 5 trees). Follow this track down through the woods. Where the track bears L ignore the path to the R and shortly after there is a further junction. The main track bears L, another track goes R and there is a narrow path straight on (North East). Follow this path straight on down the hill **between the trees**.

At the bottom cross the track and go straight on through a gate (North West). Follow the path to another gate, cross the lane, and continue down a track staying in the same direction. Where the track turns L go straight on over a **stile**. This wide path runs down the hill **between two fences**. At a farm gate the path narrows to run between a hedge and a fence. Join a track which bears R. You are now on the route you set out on. At the next junction (close to a treehouse) take the L track down to **Painswick Mill**. Follow the track around to the L, at the end of the lane turn L and then R back up **Kemps Lane** to return to the hotel.

Slad is famous for being the home and final resting place of **Laurie Lee**.

The Woolpack Inn is an unspoiled local pub and was Lee's favourite Inn.

Laurie Lee (1914 – 1997) was a poet and novelist who captured the essence of rural England between the First and Second World Wars. His seminal work, '**Cider with Rosie**', a lyrical portrait of his Cotswold boyhood, has become a classic. Other works include his experiences in the Spanish Civil War.

The Laurie Lee Wild Life Walk was created in 2014 to mark the centenary of his birth. You may come across some of the 14 'poetry posts' which mark the walk.