Things you might see during your visit

Top o’ Slate contains a fascinating mix of history, geology, wildlife and the recent addition of Halo, an impressive sculpture designed to glow in the dark. Take a walk around the site in daylight and discover lost quarries, ancient trackways and resident wildlife. Venture up at twilight and experience the ethereal beauty of Halo and watch as the towns in the Rossendale valley below come to life.

Birds

If you’re a keen birdspotters you might see a number of birds on Top o’ Slate and nearby. Look out for reed buntings, skylarks, grey partridges, snipes, kestrels, stonechats, lapwings, meadow pipits, curlews, pheasants and skylarks. Cribden Moor, which is just to the north of Top o’ Slate is a significant site for the Skylark, a ‘Red List Species’ of high conservation concern. The Skylark is a small brown songbird. You might hear them singing with a liquid warbling call as they fly above the site.

Animals

Along with birds other wildlife on the site includes hedgehogs, field mice, squirrels, shrews and voles. If you’re really lucky you might see a fox and if you visit at dusk look out for bats.

About Panopticons

Pennine Lancashire’s Panopticons are a unique series of twenty-first century landmarks, designed to attract visitors into the countryside to enjoy the stunning landscapes and the wealth of attractions that this delightful area has to offer. Each Panopticon is situated on a high-point site commanding spectacular views.

From Colourfields, in Blackburn’s Corporation Park, the visitor can enjoy a panorama of the park below, with views over the town and distant views out towards Lytham, Southport and Fleetwood.

From Singing Ringing Tree, on Crown Point above Burnley, take a look over the superb view of Pendle Hill for a glimpse of the Cliviger wind turbines on the Yorkshire border. In between there is a panoramic overview of the Cliviger with the famous Turf Moor football stadium at its centre. On a clear day you can see the Bowland Fells, Pendle Ingleborough, Pennyghent and Great Whernside.

From Atom, nestled on the hillside above Wycoller village, there are breathtaking views of the Pendle landscape all around, including the historic settlement of Wycoller, now a conservation area.

From Halo, the centrepiece of the former land fill site on Top o’ Slate, newly landscaped and returned to public use, visitors can enjoy wonderful views of the Rossendale valley, Greater Manchester and Pennine Lancashire.

Visit a Panopticon soon – and discover Pennine Lancashire

www.panopticons.uk.net
Walk 2.
From Winfields car park, Rising Bridge (2.0km / 1 hour)
A longer route along the King’s Highway. This route is flatter and comes onto Top o’Slate from the back through areas of farmland, woodland and grassland. The walk is mostly over rough terrain.

From the northern end of Winfields car park follow the path up the hill for 70m until you reach the King’s Highway. Turn left here and continue along the road down the dip and take the next track (not signposted) on the left just past Top o’Slate Farm. Follow this track up the hill and at the road turn right. Follow this road and just past the houses on the left hand side is a gate and stile. (The path from here offers a route around Duckworth Clough and an alternative longer route up to Top o’Slate). Cross over the road that leads into the household recycling centre and straight on along the path. Follow the path up the hill, cross over the stream and at the next fork stay on the left hand path. Continue to the top of the hill and then drop down to the main entrance of Top o’Slate on the right.

Walk 3.
From East Lancashire Railway Station, Rawtenstall (2.8km / 1 hour)
A longer walk mostly along roads and pavements (although not suitable for wheelchairs or pushchairs), with a steep incline as you pass through Ski Rossendale.

From the railway station car park turn left and at the roundabout cross the dual carriageway and Haslingden Road. Turn left past St Mary’s Chambers and continue for 400 metres on the pavement until you reach the entrance of Whitaker Park. Turn right into the park and follow the right hand path past the tennis courts. Continue up the hill following this path past the BMX track football pitch and play area until you reach the main road opposite Ski Rossendale. Turn left and after approximately 100m cross the road and follow the public footpath up the hill next to the ski slope. The path is rocky in places and towards the top there are steps. Turn left at the top and continue along this road (which turns into a track) for just over 1km until you reach the main entrance to Top o’Slate.

Walk 1.
From Haslingden (1.0km / 20 minutes)
This is a short walk from Haslingden town centre. The route is quite steep in places and the final part of it is along a rough grassed track.

From the Big Lamp in Deardenagate head north up Church Street staying on the right hand pavement. Follow the road around the bend and just after the second bend cross the road at the balliards. There is a row of cottages on the left hand side, take the path past the cottages and up the hill (Rock Fall Road). Continue along the path until it rejoins the main road. Turn left immediately after the building on the left and go through the gate following the public footpath sign up the grassy track. At the next kissing gate turn left up Criliden Bypass, cross over the road and the main Top o’Slate entrance is on the left.

Whether you’re a seasoned rambler or just fancy a stroll up to the Halo site, there is a walk designed especially for you.

Top o’Slate itself only has car parking for a small number of disabled badge holders. To access these spaces you will need a RADAR key. Once at Top o’Slate there are numerous paths to explore so why not take a picnic and make a day of it? Whichever route you choose you should ensure that you are wearing suitable footwear and don’t forget warm clothing as it can be very windy on Top o’Slate. Some of the routes involve crossing main roads.