3 Night Next Step Watercolour in Exmoor



Trip style:

Destination:
Exmoor

Carbon Footprint:
57kg CO2

HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

With the countryside or coastline as an inspiring backdrop, this holiday caters for more experienced artists hoping to improve their style and technique. Led by expert tutors in groups of no more than 15, you'll learn a range of new skills using watercolour paints - and try out new ideas. You'll also have ample time to practice in peaceful surroundings.

WHAT YOU'LL LOVE

- Developing your own personal artistic style
- Exploring new drawing techniques
- Having an expert tutor on hand for advice and guidance
- Building your expertise and trying new skills
- A more personalised experience thanks to small group sizes (maximum 15 people in 2026 and 16 people in 2027)

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Expert tuition
- Loan of wooden A3 art boards
- Comfortable en-suite accommodation in our country house

- Cream tea on arrival day
- Cooked or continental breakfast every morning
- Daily packed lunches
- Three-course evening meals, plus tea & coffee
- Easy-to-follow routes, maps, and information available in our Discovery Point if you want to explore independently

ITINERARY - ITINERARY

Day 1 Arrival Day

Check-in at the hotel is available from 16:00. If you are a member you can arrive at the house from 14:00. Enjoy a complimentary cream tea at 16:30 and meet other guests.

Day 2–3 Your Art Sessions

There will be full days practising your painting and learning new techniques, with breaks throughout the day for a cup of tea (or two!) and lunch as well. Most tuition and practice will take place inside the house, but if the sun is out, we may head into the grounds to take advantage of some fresh air.

With the guidance of your art tutor, you'll build on the fundamentals of watercolour painting, learning new skills and capturing different subjects, using colour theory to enhance your work, and improving your composition skills, alongside other intermediate watercolour techniques.

In the evenings, you can relax in the lounge and bar areas, socialise, or take part in a wide range of house activities.

Day 4 Departure Day

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before making your way home.

ACCOMMODATION

Larpool Hall

Given that the Yorkshire coast never loses its capacity to enchant, it's easy to see the appeal of this Grade II-listed house overlooking the Esk Valley and the North Sea. The setting is perfect; in the former fishing town of Whitby that's best known for its fish and chips, quaint harbour, and Dracula connections (Irish author Bram Stoker drew his inspiration for his Gothic novel when holidaying here in 1890). You'll have all the sightseeing greats within walking or driving distance, including the 13th century Whitby Abbey, the wonderful Whitby Sands, and the 199 Steps leading up to the old St. Mary's Church (it's customary to count them as you climb). Not only are the North York Moors right on your doorstep, but the walk along Cleveland Way to Robin Hood's Bay is rather special, too.

About

· 29 well-appointed guest rooms · Exclusive occupancy: 42 guests minimum · Check in from 4:00pm · For members check in from 2:00pm · Free Wi-Fi · Free on-site parking · Local launderette available in town · Boot room and drying room · Travel cot & 2 high chairs · Discovery Point offering a wide range of local area maps, route guides, and information for self-guided walks · Books and games to borrow · Licensed bar · Lounge · Garden · Electric vehicle charging point - Please note, you will need to bring your own cables to use this EV charging point

Then & now

Built in 1780s on a site dating back to Norman times, the three-storey Larpool Hall was first owned by Sir Jonathan Lacey – a Whitby ropemaker turned shipbuilder who operated a shipyard on the estate. It was later purchased by King George III's physician, Dr John Turton, whose role in delivering babies had made him a quite a favourite of Queen Charlotte. The house remained in the family thereafter. His descendent, Sir Edmund Russborough Turton, 1st Baronet and Conservative Party politician, sold the house to the National Children's Home in in 1919 and it provided residential care to boys up to the age of 16 until 1968. It was converted into a hotel in 1986 and has been part of our HF Holidays line-up since 1998.

Nowadays, there's no shortage of period grandeur to marvel at, mostly the grand mahogany staircase, open-arched porch, original doorway, and Ionic column Venetian staircase window. You'll find 14 acres of lovely grounds, a comfortable lounge, a licensed bar, books and games to borrow during your stay, plus a handy boot and drying room. There's also a Discovery Point offering a wide range of local area maps, route guides, and easy-to-follow information for self-guided walks. And in the dining room you'll find a wide range of dishes made with fresh and seasonal ingredients. Accommodation comes by way of 29 well-appointed guest rooms in three categories (Classic, Premium, and Superior), some of which blend contemporary design flourishes with original features such as fireplaces and exposed ceiling beams.

Check-In & Check-Out

You are welcome to check in from 4pm at the earliest. HF Members can check in earlier, from 2pm. On arrival, you'll enjoy a complimentary cream tea and get to meet your fellow guests, our HF Holidays Leaders, and the rest of the friendly team. Check out 10am.

FOOD & DRINK

Dining

Seasonal dining, tailored for you

Our team of skilled chefs design our dinner menus to showcase the best of each season, from warming winter comfort food to vibrant summer dishes, including vegetarian, vegan and high-protein options. We also source fruit and vegetables within a 40-mile radius of each house, open every break with a Chef's Special menu inspired by dishes and flavours of the local area, and are able to adapt dishes to suit special dietary requirements.

Welcome Cream Tea

What better way to start your stay than with a cream tea, served fresh on arrival to make you feel instantly at home. A quintessentially English tradition, our scones are baked in-house and served with preserves and clotted cream, providing the perfect opportunity to meet fellow walkers.

A hearty breakfast to start the day

Start the day with a freshly-prepared cooked breakfast and a wide choice from our continental buffet, including hot drinks, juices and fresh fruit. Our team offer a quick and friendly service, leaving you fuelled and ready for your day's adventures.

Our famous picnic lunch

Our personalised picnic lunches are perfect for a day out walking, ready to enjoy when hunger strikes. Choose from a large selection of fresh sandwiches and salads, freshly baked cakes and snacks, including the ever-popular Freddos chocolate bar! Everything is designed to fit neatly into your rucksack, and all of the packaging we provide is recyclable or compostable.

3-course evening meals

Our à la carte evening menus feature a wide choice of starters, mains, and desserts, made with seasonal ingredients and, wherever possible, herbs and vegetables from our own gardens. Shared around sociable tables, dinners are relaxed occasions, with drinks available to order at the table or from the bar, and a traditional Sunday roast to round off the week.

ROOMS

Your room at Larpool Hall

Designed with your comfort in mind, Larpool Hall has 29 well-appointed guest rooms available in three categories: Classic, Premium, and Superior.

Classic Rooms are comfortable en-suite guest rooms, ideal for a peaceful night's sleep. Amenities include free Wi-Fi, tea and coffee-making facilities, toiletries (hand wash, shampoo, and shower gel), and a TV.

Premium Rooms are more spacious en-suite guest rooms*. Amenities include free Wi-Fi, tea and coffee-making facilities, toiletries (hand wash, shampoo, body lotion, shower gel), and a 32-inch TV. Extras include bathrobes, slippers.

Superior Rooms are even more spacious en-suite guest rooms offering upgraded views of the surroundings*. Amenities include free Wi-Fi, tea and coffee-making facilities, toiletries (hand wash, shampoo, body lotion, shower gel), and a 32-inch TV. Extras include bathrobes, slippers.

We love: The spacious Room 15 on the ground floor for its lovely décor, comfy sofa, large fireplace, and views across the Esk Valley. Room 2 on the first floor offers fabulous views while Room 30 on the second floor has eaves and exposed beams.

The **Choose Your Room** service is available at our UK country houses, allowing you the option of choosing and confirming a specific room for an extra charge of £30 per room. This is subject to availability. Upgrade supplements apply.

Room supplements

Superior	Premium single	Premium double/twin	Choose your room
£25 pppn	£20 pppn	£20 pppn	£30 per room

*Views and layout reflect each properties unique character and location

ACCESSIBILITY

For accessibility and assistance information, please contact our expert team on 020 3974 8865 or view the accessibility information online for Larpool Hall

ABOUT YOUR STAY

A warm welcome
We want you to feel comfortable from the moment you arrive. You'll find a welcome pack in your room with guest registration forms, menus, order forms for dinners and picnic lunches, the Wi-Fi password, and the front door code. Our houses are locked at night, so we recommend noting the Duty Manager's number on arrival in case of an emergency (or getting locked out).

Evening entertainment

While evening entertainment varies from house to house, HF Holidays Inter-House Quiz night held after dinner on Wednesdays is a weekly staple. Your HF Holidays leader may be around for tips on guided and self-guided waking routes as well as visit-worthy local attractions.

Helping you enjoy the Great Outdoors - A natural focus on walks

Walks talks and Discovery Points
Our founder, country pastor turned social innovator, Thomas Arthur Leonard, was passionate about encouraging people to explore the countryside. His legacy continues in HF's continued focus on walking. Many guests choose to travel with us on guided or self-guided walking holidays, and as such, evenings at our houses are often busy with walk leaders hosting various briefings and talks. On guided walking holiday arrival days, there are walking information briefings before dinner, and for the duration of any guided walking holiday there will be a Walks Talk before (or on occasion after dinner), to go through the following day's walk options. Self-guided walking guests, and those on special interest holidays (where there is free time to explore independently), are of course welcome to also join in these Walks Talks - please talk to the team locally if you have any queries. Our Discovery Points are filled with handy maps and route notes, designed to ensure everyone, not just those booked on a guided walking holiday, can enjoy the beautiful countryside settings that our HF houses enjoy.

The walking day
Prior to setting off on guided walks, our HF Holidays Leaders run through a short safety briefing. There's also an up-to-date weather forecast on display at the house to ensure walkers have appropriate clothing and footwear. If you choose to do your own walks or are on a self-guided walking holiday, we ask that you please complete an Independent Walker Card each day. These can be found near the Discovery Point in the house.

TRAVEL DETAILS

Address

Larpool Hall
Larpool Drive
Whitby
North Yorkshire YO22 4ND

Tel: +44 (0)1947 602737

By train

The nearest station is Whitby.

However, travelling to Scarborough station may be more convenient. Check National Rail for routes and journey times.

By taxi

The two-mile journey from Whitby station takes approximately 10 minutes.

From Scarborough train station, it's a 21-mile journey, taking 40 minutes.

For pricing, please contact Whitby Taxis directly.

Whitby Taxis
You can pre-book a taxi from our recommended company, Abbey Taxis*. We recommend booking your taxi at least seven days in advance by contacting:

Tel: +44 (0)1947 601212
Email: abbeytaxiswhitby@gmail.com

A return journey can be arranged on your behalf by the HF Holidays House Manager at Larpool Hall.

*Whitby Taxis is not owned or managed by HF Holidays.

By bus

The 93 and 94 buses run regularly between Scarborough station and Whitby taking around an hour. As you approach Whitby, alight by the Larpool Lane Industrial Estate. From here it's an 800m walk up Larpool Lane to Larpool Hall. Please note that Larpool Hall's driveway is not lit.

Check Traveline for up-to-date bus information.

By car

There's a free car park at Larpool Hall if you decide to drive.

The A171 from Teesside and the A169 from Pickering converge at a roundabout about two miles outside Whitby.

After this roundabout and as you approach Whitby, cross another roundabout then turn right at the traffic lights signposted Scarborough. Cross over the River Esk, then immediately turn right into Larpool Lane. Towards the top of the hill, turn into Larpool Drive – you'll see Larpool Hall at the end of this road.

By air

The nearest airport is Leeds Bradford Airport.

Catch the airport bus to Leeds where there are connecting trains to Scarborough taking about 90 minutes.

There's also Manchester Airport, which is served by a range of long-haul flights. From here, there are trains every hour to Scarborough with one change at Manchester Piccadilly or York. Allow around three hours to reach Scarborough.

Flying to London Heathrow airport is another option but it'll take you around 4.5 hours to reach Scarborough. From Heathrow first take the Piccadilly line to London Kings Cross station, then connect to Scarborough (with one change at York).

Check National Rail for train information.

LOCAL AREA

Places to visit in the North York Moors

Whether you're enjoying a guided or self-guided walking holiday, there's always the opportunity to linger for longer. Here's our pick of the very best things to see and do within easy travelling distance of Larpool Hall.

Whitby

Just a 1.5 mile downhill walk away, the former fishing town of Whitby is best known for its fish and chips, quaint harbour, and Dracula connections (Irish author Bram Stoker drew his inspiration for his Gothic novel when holidaying here in 1890).

Whitby Abbey

As one of the most atmospheric attractions along the Yorkshire coastline, this looming clifftop landmark was founded by the Saxon King of Northumbria in AD657. It can be reached by climbing the famous 199 steps and it's well worth the effort for the views.

Whitby Harbour West Lighthouse

Of the two lighthouses at the mouth of the River Esk, this taller of the towers was built in 1831. Open to the public during the summer and warmer months only, there's 81 steps leading all the way up to the lantern room. A small entrance fee applies.

Whitby Whalebone Arch

As a nod to Whitby's whaling industry heritage in the 18th and 19th centuries, a huge whale bone arch was erected on West Cliff in 1853. Nowadays, it's an irresistible photo opportunity although this version is not the original and dates from 1963.

Staithes

Only a 20-minute drive away, this pretty fishing village was the home of Royal Navy captain and explorer, Captain James Cook. Must-dos include exploring the cobbled streets, spending time at Staithes Gallery, and taking a stroll down to the scenic harbour.

North Yorkshire Moors Railway

Running for 24 miles from Pickering to Whitby, this scenic route takes just under two hours. The historic stations are well worth a visit, especially Goathland which was transformed into Hogsmeade Station in Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone.

Scarborough & Stephen Joseph Theatre

As Britain's very first theatre in the round, this iconic performance space was established by stage director Stephen Joseph in 1955 and moved to its current home in 1976. The building has two auditoria: the 404-seater Round and the 165-seater McCarthy.

Rydale Folk Museum

This open-air museum is set in over six acres in Hutton le Hole – a pretty village just under an hour's drive away. There's approximately 40,000 objects on display in over 20 rescued and restored buildings, all of which relate to historic North Yorkshire life.

Castle Howard

Probably best known as the location for the TV series Brideshead Revisited, building on this grand stately home started in 1699 and took 100 years to complete. Highlights include the year-round exhibitions and the sumptuous gardens with ponds and fountains.

York

A 90-minute drive away, this historic walled city is most famous for its York Minster, National Railway Museum, Jorvik Viking Centre, and York Dungeon. Don't miss the Yorkshire Museum & Gardens for some of Europe's finest archaeological and geological finds.

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

Packing list

For our Next Step art holidays, all guests will require the following materials and tools, to be purchased before the start of your holiday. The listed items should be available from all good art supply shops, and we recommend that you try to purchase the best quality that you can afford. Well-known brands, such as Daler Rowney or Winsor & Newton have 'student' quality ranges which are ideal for our exercises.

Paints & Pencils

Watercolour paints in tubes or dry pan sets, in the following colours:

- Ultramarine Blue, Cobalt Blue & Cerulean Blue
- Cadmium Red & Alizarin Crimson
- Lemon Yellow, Yellow Ochre & Cadmium Yellow
- Sap Green
- Burnt Umber & Burnt Sienna
- Payne's Grey

Plus:

- Art Masking Fluid
- Designers Permanent White Gouache in a tube
- 2B & 4B pencils
- Black/Sepia-coloured fibre-tipped drawing pens (waterproof ink, in fine and medium thickness)

Surfaces

- 10" x 14" 300gm watercolour book or pre-glued pad (cold pressed/not, surfaced), 10-12 sheets
- A4 Cartridge Sketch Pad

Tools

- Watercolour brushes: No. 10, No. 6 & No. 3
- Small Rigger brush
- Pencil eraser
- Mixing palette (can be a white dinner plate!)
- Small craft knife or pencil sharpener
- Water pot
- Kitchen roll x 1
- Bulldog clips x 6

TRIPNOTE VALIDITY

TRIP NOTE VALIDITY These Trip Notes are valid based on the date printed at the bottom of the page. They will occasionally be updated post booking and pre-departure. We will send you the latest trip notes prior to departure through a link in your pre departure documents or we can send you a copy in the post if preferred. In booking this trip you should be confident in your ability to participate in all activities described in these Trip Notes. If you have any doubt about your suitability you should call HF Holidays and ask to speak to one of the team about this itinerary. The information in these Trip Notes is given in good faith. Where differences exist between the Trip Notes and our current brochure, the Trip Notes supersede the brochure. All holidays can be subject to unexpected changes; so please be prepared to be flexible where necessary. At times, it may not be possible to follow the itinerary as planned due to weather conditions, political, physical or other factors. In these circumstances we will make the best possible alternative arrangements to maintain the integrity of the original itinerary.

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