

3 Night Southern Yorkshire Dales Festive Gentle Guided Walking Holiday

Trip style: Gentle guided walking

Destination:  Yorkshire Dales

Trip code: MDL03-BEX03

Trip Walking Grade: 1, 2 & 3

Carbon Footprint:  51kg CO2



Holiday Overview

The Southern Yorkshire Dales set the bar high for seriously good views – so there's an added magic to walks here during the winter months. Sightseeing greats like Malham Tarn, Janet's Foss, and Gordale Scar all look extra special under a crisp frost or a dusting of snow. And when you're not out exploring the wintry landscapes of the Dales at a gentle pace, cosy up at our characterful country house in Malhamdale. We pull out all the stops at this time of year and our houses welcome you with a sprinkling of festive cheer, seasonal food, and plenty of yuletide treats. So wrap up warm and step into Christmas with HF Holidays.

WHAT YOU'LL LOVE

- Getting into the festive spirit with a gentle guided walking holiday
- A choice of winter walks with our experienced HF Holidays Leaders
- Discovering the stunning landscapes of Southern Yorkshire Dales on foot
- Staying in our country house near the village of Malham
- Enjoying festive fare and leaving all the organising to us
- A celebration dinner with all the trimmings on Christmas Day

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- En-suite accommodation in our 4-star country house
- Mulled wine reception on arrival
- Cooked or continental breakfast every morning
- Daily packed lunches
- Seasonally themed three-course evening meals, plus tea & coffee
- A celebration dinner with all the trimmings on Christmas Day
- Guided walking with experienced HF Holidays Leaders
- Choice of up to three guided walks (on walking days)
- All transport to and from walks where necessary
- Easy-to-follow routes, maps, and information in our Discovery Point if you want to explore independently

WALKING GRADES AND OPTIONS

This trip is graded Activity level 1, 2 and 3.

This easier variation of our best-selling Guided Walking holidays is the perfect way to enjoy a gentle exploration of the Yorkshire Dales. The choice of up to three guided walks including a walk of 3 or 4 miles.

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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 Clapham, Gaping Gill and Ingleborough Cave

Option 1 - Clapham to Austwick

Distance: 5 miles (7.5km)

Ascent: 750 feet (220m)

In summary: From the village of Clapham, we follow an ancient lane before heading to Norber where we can explore a boulder field of glacial erratics. After descending gently to the village of Austwick, we make our way across field paths to return to Clapham.

Highlight: Spend time marvelling at the unique landscape of the Norber erratics.

Option 2 - Ingleborough Cave & Nature Trail

Distance: 3½ miles (5.5km)

Ascent: 600 feet (180m)

In summary: This circular walk starts in the traditional Dales village of Clapham before entering the Ingleborough Estate to follow a nature trail past the lake and by Clapham Beck. There is also an optional tour of Ingleborough Cave (payable locally).

Highlights: See how the surrounding scenery of woods, fields, and moors has been shaped over 200 years by the Farrer family and walk through the famous Ingleborough Cave for some 500m beneath Ingleborough, one of the Three Yorkshire Peaks, to view impressive stalagmites and stalactites.

Option 3 - Gaping Gill

Distance: 6 miles (9.5km)

Total ascent: 1,050 feet (320m)

In summary: Today's circular walk starts in the traditional Dales village of Clapham. Pass through the Ingleborough Estate, to Ingleborough Cave, and ascend the limestone gorge of Trow Gill to reach the huge pot hole of Gaping Gill.

Highlight: Gaping Gill is awe-inspiring in its scale. This huge pot hole drops 100 metres into a cavern large enough to fit York Minster.

Day 3 Malhamdale

Option 1 - Kirkby Malham Circular

Distance: 7 miles (11km)

Ascent: 700 feet (200m)

In summary: This circular walk takes us through the village of Calton before joining the Pennine Way to take us to the medieval church at Kirkby Malham. We then cross open countryside to reach the 17th century village of Airton before returning by lanes and fields.

Highlight: Discover plenty of historical interest including an 18th century watermill, the 'Cathedral of the Dales' at Kirkby Malham and the curious story of a watery grave.

Option 2 - Malham via the Pennine Way

Distance: 9.5 miles (15km)

Ascent: 900 feet (280m)

In summary: Discover the beautiful countryside as we walk north by the River Aire through Malhamdale to reach the village of Malham. We take a circular route to view Malham Cove before returning along the Pennine Way past the villages of Hanlith and Airton.

Highlight: Walk past Aire Head Spring where the river resurges from underground and enjoy close-up views of the dramatic Malham Cove.

Option 3 – Airton and the Pennine Way

Distance: 4 miles (6.5km)

Ascent: 330 feet (100m)

In summary: After following lanes to Calton, we cross fields to the Pennine Way and pick up the old mill leat to Airton. After exploring the village we return to Newfield Hall via Kirk Syke Lane.

Highlight: Visit the 17th century village of Airton and spend time looking for dippers on the River Aire.

Day 4 Departure Day

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before making your way home.

Daily Walk Options



Easier Walks

Walk at a relaxed pace, often spending time at places of interest en-route. Walking experience isn't necessary as distances are quite short and gradients generally easy.



Medium Walks

Walks follow well-defined paths, though often in hilly or upland areas, or along rugged coastal footpaths. These may be rough or steep in sections and will require reasonable fitness.

Accommodation

Newfield Hall, Malham

Looking every inch the baronial mansion, Newfield Hall sits in two acres of grounds near the village of Malham at the southern base of Yorkshire Dales National Park. Given it was this very landscape which inspired Wordsworth to write a sonnet and Charles Kingsley to pen *The Water Babies*, the countryside views are as gorgeous as you'd imagine. You'll also have plenty of sightseeing greats within easy travelling distance, most notably Malham Tarn, Janet's Foss, Gordale Scar, Malham Cove, and The Dry Valley of the Watlows. And then, of course, there's Yorkshire's famous trio of summits: Pen-y-ghent, Wharfedale, and Ingleborough, collectively known as the three peaks. Stay at Newfield Hall and experience the exceptional service of a VisitEngland ROSE award winner. Find out more about the latest accolade awarded to our country house in the Southern Yorkshire Dales by reading our latest blog.

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.

About

- 46 well-appointed guest rooms • Exclusive occupancy: 61 guests minimum • Check in from 4:00pm • For members check in from 2:00pm • Free Wi-Fi • Free on-site parking
- 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 • Two lounges • Garden • HF Holidays Heritage Room
- Electric vehicle charging point - Please note, you will need to bring your own cables to use this EV charging point



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2023

Food & drink

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

Designed with your comfort in mind, Newfield Hall has 46 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 guest rooms spread across the main building and the tastefully converted coach house. Rooms 3 and 6 are both corner rooms offering original features and large bay windows overlooking the gardens and beyond (Room 6 has its own telescope).

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](tel:02039748865) or view the accessibility information online for [Newfield 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 walking routes as well as visit-worthy local attractions.

Walks talks

Our HF Holidays walk leaders host guided walking information briefings before dinner on guided walking holiday arrival days. This is followed by a group Walks Talk for information on the following day's guided walks (held before dinner every evening). Self-guided walking guests are, of course, welcome.

The walking day

Prior to setting off on guided walks, your HF Holidays Leader will run you through a short safety briefing. There's also an up-to-date weather forecast on display at the house to ensure you 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.

Accessibility

For accessibility and assistance information, please contact our expert team on [020 3974 8865](tel:02039748865) or view the accessibility information online for [Newfield Hall](#)

Travel Details

Address

Newfield Hall
Airton
Skipton
North Yorkshire BD23 4AA

Tel: [+44 \(0\)1729 830235](tel:+44(0)1729830235)

By train

The most convenient station is Skipton. Gargrave station is closer, but there's no taxi service from here.

Check National Rail for routes and times.

By shared transfer

If you're travelling to or from Newfield Hall on Mondays or Fridays or over the festive period, you can join our group transfer from Skipton Railway Station.

2026 prices are £30 per person for a return transfer or £15 per person for a single transfer.

Outward journey: Depart Skipton Railway Station at 16:10; arrive at Newfield Hall at 16:35. Return journey: Depart Newfield Hall at 09:15; arrive at Skipton Railway Station at 09:40.

Places are limited so booking is essential. We recommend booking at least 14 days in advance by contacting:

HF Holidays Sales and Support Team

Tel: [+44 \(0\)203 974 8865](tel:+44(0)2039748865)

Email: This email address is being protected from spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it.

By taxi

Skipton to Newfield Hall is 8 miles, which takes around 25 minutes.

For pricing, please contact Station Taxis directly.

Station Taxis

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

Tel: [+44 \(0\)1756 700777](tel:+44(0)1756700777)

Email: This email address is being protected from spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it.

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

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

By car

From the south, follow the A65 from Skipton to Gargrave. Leave the A65 by Eshton Road, signposted to Malham and pass Eshton Hall on the right. Newfield Hall is approx. 2½ miles further on, on the right and before the village of Airton. There is a stone pillar and a wooden sign at each side of our driveway. **(Please note: The next right turn has a post box at the bottom of the lane and leads to a private farm access ONLY.)**

From the north, exit the M6 at junction 36 and take the A65 towards Skipton. In Coniston Cold village take a sharp left into a narrow road between houses, signposted to St Peters Church and Bell Busk and Malham. Pass under a railway viaduct, then after a mile bear right over a small bridge. After a further mile turn right at the junction, cross the narrow bridge, pass a left turn with a post box at the bottom of the lane (which leads to a private farm) and then shortly after, turn left through the gateway onto the drive of Newfield Hall. There is a stone pillar and a wooden sign at each side of our driveway.

There is free parking with the grounds of Newfield Hall.

There is a local road closure that could impact your arrival to Newfield Hall. The A59 is currently closed at Blubber Houses, this is the main road coming from Harrogate to Skipton. There are currently diversions in place which follows the A658 via Harrogate, the A660 via Ilkley and the A65 via Otley which will add an additional hour onto your journey. This affects all guests travelling to Newfield Hall from the North East. The road closure could be in place until the end of March, please check before travelling.

By air

The nearest airport is Leeds Bradford Airport.

From the airport

Take the bus to Leeds train station from where there are direct trains to Skipton taking about one and a half hours. Check Transdev for bus times and National Rail for train times.

From Manchester International Airport there are direct trains every hour to Skipton with one change at Leeds. You'll need to allow 2.5 hours to reach Skipton.

Flying to London Heathrow airport is another option but you'll have a longer onward train journey – about 4.5 hours. From Heathrow, first take the Piccadilly line to London Kings Cross station and from here take a train to Skipton (with one change at Leeds).

Local Area

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 Newfield Hall.

Skipton

A 20-minute drive away, this market town is famous for its ruined priory and cobbled high street. The highlight is Skipton Castle, a 900-year-old fortress that withstood a three-year siege during the Civil War. Don't miss the atmospheric dungeon and watch tower.

Malham Cove

A huge curving amphitheatre shaped cliff formation of limestone rock, this iconic sight is a 15-minute drive away. It's also well worth walking here along the Pennine Way – it takes around 1.5 hours from Newfield Hall in either direction.

Bronte Parsonage Museum

The home of authors Charlotte, Emily, and Anne Brontë this fascinating museum is a 45-minute drive away. The rooms used to write their literary masterpieces are filled with clothes, furniture, and personal possessions. Exhibits change annually.

Keighley and Worth Valley Railway

Running heritage steam and diesel trains from the market town of Keighley to the Brontë Country of Oxenhope, this five-mile branch line railway is a West Yorkshire highlight. Keighley station is a 35-minute drive from Newfield Hall.

Settle to Carlisle Railway

A 20-minute drive from Skipton station, this 73-mile-long railway route crosses regions of the Yorkshire Dales and the North Pennines. British Rail ran the line down in the late 1970s but campaigners finally saved it from closure in 1989.

Fountains Abbey & Studley Royal Water Garden

An hour's drive away, this designated World Heritage Site is home to the country's largest monastic ruins. The adjacent water garden created by John Aislaby in 1718 impresses with ornamental lakes, canals, temples, cascades, and several follies.

White Scar Cave

A 40-minute drive away, Britain's longest show cave was discovered by a Cambridge undergraduate in 1923 and opened to the public two years later. The underground tour reveals spectacular caverns, waterfalls, stalagmites, and stalactites.

Brimham Rocks

Set above the valley of Nidderdale, this astonishing collection of rock formations is an hour's drive away. Managed by the National Trust, many of the rocks have been given apt names such as The Sphinx, The Watchdog, The Camel, The Turtle, and The Dancing Bear.

RHS Garden Harlow Carr

A 50-minute drive away, this 58-acre showcase of horticultural excellence is open year-round. Highlights include the kitchen, streamside, and scented gardens. There's also an excellent shop selling books, gifts, and a large selection of plants and flowers.

Harrogate

Just under an hour's drive away, this charming spa town rewards with fabulous shopping and glorious gardens. Must-dos include spending time at the Royal Pump Room Museum, visiting the Harrogate Turkish Baths, and queuing for tea at Betty's (it's worth the wait),

Lightwater Valley

Ideal for those with kids in tow, this family adventure park is just over an hour's drive away. Thrillseekers can enjoy over 40 rides and attractions tailored for the under 12's, including gentler activities for toddlers and pre-schoolers.

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.

Useful Holiday Information

Essentials

- Rucksack with a waterproof liner,
- Thermos flask for hot drink,
- Water bottle (at least 1 litre)
- Spare high-energy food such as a chocolate bar.
- Small torch
- First aid kit – your leader's first aid kit doesn't contain any medication or blister kits (such as Compeed)

Optional extras

- Walking poles are useful, particularly for descents
- Insect repellent,
- Sun hat,
- Sunglasses
- Sun cream
- Camera

Trip Information

Walks may be changed for safety reasons and are subject to a maximum and minimum number of guests.

Leaders always consider the safety of the group as a whole, and may need to alter or curtail the walk if the conditions dictate. Your leader may refuse to accept a guest where clothing, equipment or behaviour is unsuitable. In the event of a problem all leaders carry a mobile phone, first aid kit, group shelter, spare maps and a compass.

Please note: If you choose to leave the group your leader is no longer responsible for you.

If you have a particular health condition or disability please put this on your guest registration form. This information will be confidential to your leaders and the house manager, but leaders do need to take account of any issues when planning walks. Please carry a copy of these trip notes with you, or note down the contact phone number for your accommodation (details in the travel section) should you need them in case of emergency.

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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