

3-Night Stay & Play Bridge Holiday in Northumberland

Destinations: Northumberland & England
Trip code: ALBR5-3



HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

If you just love playing Bridge, you'll love this break. Relax at one of our beautiful country houses to take part in Duplicate Bridge competitions led by friendly Bridge Directors with small prizes to be won. You'll play each morning and evening and enjoy exploring the local area in the afternoons. When playing, there will be time for tea breaks and to socialise with your fellow players. This holiday is designed for regular club players; there are no seminars, you just play! You can earn EBU Master Points on this break.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Morning playing sessions with an experienced Bridge Director
- Free afternoons give time to relax or explore the local area
- Comfortable Bridge rooms, quiet and as light as possible
- EBU Master Points can be earned on this holiday

HOLIDAYS HIGHLIGHTS

- Daily morning and evening Bridge competition
- Small prizes offered, for fun
- EBU members earn Master Points
- Afternoons free to explore the South Downs

ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrival Day

You're welcome to check in from 4pm onwards.

Enjoy a complimentary Afternoon Tea on arrival.

Day 2 - 3: Stay & Play

Mornings

Your Bridge Director will start the play and you'll play until lunchtime.

Afternoon

Our Discovery Points help you make the most out of your afternoon free time. There's plenty of maps and a selection of the best local walking routes, details about other places to visit as well as weather forecasts and public transport options.

Evenings

Each evening at 5pm your Bridge game continues with a break for a fabulous 3-course dinner and coffee.

Day 4: Departure Day

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before making your way home.

ACCOMMODATION

Nether Grange

Sitting pretty in the centre of the quiet harbour village of Alnmouth, Nether Grange stands in an area rich in natural beauty and historic gravitas. There are moving views of the dramatic North Sea coastline from the house too. This one-time 18th century granary was first converted into a large family home for the High Sheriff of Northumberland in the 19th century and then reimagined as a characterful hikers' hotel. Many of the 36 bedrooms look out across the sea, while a large lounge, conservatory and adjoining bar are there to entertain you. Easily accessible from the house are the coast path while inland lies the Northumberland National Park. North are the Farne Islands and their spectacular seabird colonies and close by is Lindisfarne and its romantic castle accessible at low-tide via an ancient pilgrim's path. Nearby too is the medieval market town of Alnwick and its eponymous castle, as well as the atmospheric ruins of Dunstanburgh Castle, perched on a grassy peninsula to the south of Embelton Bay. Best of all though is Bamburgh Castle, built to resemble a magnificent medieval fortress but actually an impressive Victorian folly.

Country House Accommodation

Accommodation Info

Rooms

Tea & coffee-making facilities, TV, Hairdryer, Toiletries, Wi-Fi

Stay in one of the house's smartly presented rooms up an impressive sweeping staircase. Full of warm tones or coastal colours and comfy touches they're a great base for exploring the area. With 36 bedrooms, Nether Grange has plenty of space and there's a range of Classic and Premium Rooms to choose from.

All 'Classic' rooms are ensuite and furnished to a high standard. There are also several 'Premium' Rooms that are either larger or have a desirable view, a more luxurious mattress and larger television – upgrade your stay for just an extra £15-25 per person per night. You can choose a specific room for an extra £30 per room, subject to availability. Upgrade supplements still apply.

Facilities

Free Wi-Fi, boot room and drying room, extensive garden, multi-purpose activity room, lounges, library and board games to borrow

After a day walking on the coast, come back to the house and its specially tailored walkers' facilities. Relax by sitting in the elevated terrace gardens with a cooling drink and a cracking sea view or challenge a fellow guest to a game of croquet or giant chess, backed by views of the beach and sea beyond. The spick and span sky-blue painted bar with its mismatched blue and stripy seats boasts all the requisite cosiness and British bonhomie, plus a selection of local beers and your favourite tippie. Settle in.

Food & Drink

As at all our country houses, holidays are full board, from afternoon tea served as a welcome treat through that evening's meal to a hearty breakfast on the day of departure. Food at Nether Grange is varied with a strong emphasis on the use of seasonal British produce. Our experienced chefs create each dish using only the freshest ingredients and, when in season, use home grown herbs and vegetables taken from our own gardens to give a true taste of the local area.

Accessibility

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

TRAVEL DETAILS

Our address is: Nether Grange, Alnmouth, Alnwick, Northumberland NE66 2RZ
Tel: [01665 830431](tel:01665830431)

Nether Grange sits on a headland and only has access to limited roadside parking. We advise our guests to use rail travel where possible. Nether Grange is a 5-minute taxi ride from Alnmouth train station

By Train:

The nearest railway station is Alnmouth, on the main line between Newcastle and Edinburgh. For train times and route planning by train visit www.nationalrail.co.uk or phone 03457 48 49 50

By Taxi:

The 1½-mile journey from Alnmouth railway station takes approximately 5 minutes. You can pre-book a taxi from our recommended taxi company, Knight's Taxis. As a guide price, it cost £6 per 4-seat taxi in 2019. 8-seat taxis are also available at a higher rate. Please pre-book your taxi at least 7 days in advance by contacting:

Knight's Taxis*

Tel: +44 (0) 7760 751667

Email: info@knightstaxi.com

The return taxi journey can be arranged on your behalf by the Nether Grange Manager.

*Knight's Taxis is not owned or managed by HF Holidays

By Car:

Take the A1 to Alnwick. Exit on the A1068 heading towards Alnwick. At the roundabout turn right (not well signed) and follow the A1068 towards Alnmouth. After 2¾ miles go straight ahead at the first roundabout then left at the second roundabout onto the B1338. Cross a bridge as you approach Alnmouth, turning right at the next roundabout, then almost immediately left into The Wynd. Follow the one way system into Marine Road, passing the golf clubhouse on the left, and round into Northumberland Street. After 100yds turn right into the narrow Pease's Lane. Nether Grange is on the left. Please note that Nether Grange does not have a car park, there is very limited on-street parking available on a first come basis. You can park in available slots on Marine Road, Pease's Lane and elsewhere in town. There is a pay and display car park at the end of Marine Road.

Travelling From Overseas

The nearest airport is at Newcastle which is served by European flights, and UK regional flights from London. From here take the metro to Newcastle Central station, then on by train to Alnmouth - a straightforward journey taking just over 1 hour.

Manchester Airport has a much wider range of long-haul flights. There are trains every hour from the airport to Alnmouth with one change at Newcastle. Allow 3½ hours to Alnmouth - see www.nationalrail.co.uk for train times.

Flying to London Heathrow airport is another option, but has a longer onward train journey - allow 5 hours to reach Alnmouth. From Heathrow first take the Piccadilly line Underground train to London Kings Cross station. From here take a train to Alnmouth - see www.nationalrail.co.uk for train times.

Edinburgh Airport is also a possibility.

LOCAL AREA

Nether Grange sits right at the heart of the historic coastal village of Alnmouth. Located right on the North Sea coast there is a sweeping sandy beach and a small tidal harbour. Facilities include a handful of small shops, pubs and cafés.

A wider range of facilities, including shops, supermarkets, banks and chemists can be found in Alnwick, the nearest town. Alnwick is about four miles inland and is connected to Alnmouth by regular buses.

During your visit to the Nether Grange you may enjoy visiting the following places of interest:

Alnwick Castle

The huge Norman [Alnwick Castle](#) is a big attraction and has gained increased interest since being used as 'Hogwarts Castle' in the Harry Potter films and as Brancaster Castle in two Downton Abbey Christmas specials. It was also used as a location in the first series of Blackadder. The castle has been home to the Percy family for over 700 years and today is home to Ralph Percy, the 12th Duke of Northumberland. Alnwick is just 10 to 15 minutes' drive from Alnmouth, and can also be reached using the hourly X18 bus.

The Alnwick Garden

The [Alnwick Garden](#) has been created by the current Duchess of Northumberland. The gardens have the largest collection of European plants in the UK and the largest Japanese Cherry Orchard in the World. There are water features, sculptures and a small Poison Garden filled exclusively with toxic, intoxicating and narcotic plants (open for guided tours only!). There is also a bamboo labyrinth, large rose garden and a treehouse where you can eat refreshments 18 metres above the ground!

Bamburgh Castle

Owned by the Armstrong family since the 1750s, [Bamburgh Castle](#) occupies a splendid position above the sweeping sands of the North Sea coast. Bamburgh is 35 minutes' drive from Alnmouth, and can also be reached using the 501 local bus which runs every other hour.

Farne Islands

Take a boat trip (weather permitting) from Seahouses to the [Farne Islands](#); one of the best places in Britain to view seals and puffins. Seahouses is around 45 minutes' drive from Alnmouth, and can also be reached using the 501 bus.

Lindisfarne

English Christianity was born in 7th century Northumberland and [Lindisfarne Priory](#) is its oldest major site, dating from 635AD. It is located on the [Holy Island of Lindisfarne](#), cut off by the tides twice a day (make sure that you check the tide times before you visit). The Heritage Centre tells the stories of St Aidan, St Cuthbert and St Bede and displays the 8th century Lindisfarne Gospels in electronic form. Holy Island is set in the heart of the [Lindisfarne National Nature Reserve](#) - an internationally important area for migratory waterfowl; visit in autumn or winter to see them in large numbers. Lindisfarne is just under an hour's drive from Alnmouth.

Warkworth Castle

[Warkworth Castle](#), a few miles to the south of Alnmouth, towers over a bend in the River Coquet and the picturesque town of Warkworth. Warkworth is just 10 minutes' drive from Alnmouth, and can also be reached using the 518 bus.

Cragside House

Built by Victorian industrial magnate William Armstrong, [Cragside House](#) was hugely innovative and was the first house in Britain to be lit by electric light. Now managed by the National Trust, the house and gardens are a fascinating visit. Cragside is around 40 minutes' drive from Alnmouth.

Seaton Delaval Hall

[Seaton Delaval Hall](#) is a fine stately home, designed by John Vambrugh and completed in 1728. Following an extensive fundraising appeal it was purchased by the National Trust. The hall is around 40 minutes' drive from Alnmouth.

Hadrian's Wall

Around 1½ hours drive from Nether Grange, [Hadrian's Wall](#) remains a powerful symbol of the Roman Empire. The most dramatic section is from Once Brewed to Housesteads Roman Fort and a walk here enables you to see some of the best-preserved sections at close quarters. Two museums of note are the Roman Army Museum near Walltown where you can gain an insight into the daily lives of Roman soldiers, and [Vindolanda Roman Fort](#) with its collection of rare Roman artefacts.

Edinburgh

Edinburgh is very accessible for a day trip. Catch the train from nearby Alnmouth station for the scenic 1-hour journey to the Scottish capital. You'll arrive in the heart of the city centre with numerous museums, shops and galleries, plus the [famous castle](#) all within easy walking distance.

Barter Books

[Barter Books](#) has been dubbed the British Library of secondhand bookshops and is located in a handsome old Victorian railway station in Alnwick.

Newcastle-upon-Tyne

The vibrant city of Newcastle-upon-Tyne is always bustling with activity and is famed for its shopping and lively nightlife. The new Baltic Arts Centre and the Sage Gallery in nearby Gateshead are well worth a visit. Newcastle is just under an hour's drive from Alnmouth, and can also be reached by hourly local bus.

USEFUL HOLIDAY INFORMATION

Essential Information

All your Bridge stationery and equipment will be supplied. You may, however, like to bring a notebook and pen to make your own notes.

HOW TO BOOK

When you're ready to book, you can choose to **book online** or book **over the phone**. Our website offers secure online booking for our holidays, is available 24/7, and offers more in-depth information about all our holidays. If you prefer to call us, our experienced and knowledgeable team are available to answer any specific questions you have and can offer guidance as to which holiday is best suited to your needs.

Our office is open: Monday to Friday: 9am – 5.30pm, Saturday: 9am – 1pm, Sunday & Bank Holiday Monday: closed

PAYING YOUR DEPOSIT

To secure the holiday of your choice, you will need to pay a deposit: UK & European Holidays: £150 per person and Worldwide Holidays: £250 per person. You can pay your deposit by debit or credit card with no additional card fees charged or make an online BACS payment directly into HF's bank account, please see details under BACS payments. You can also pay your deposit by cheque within seven days of booking. Cheques should be made payable to 'HF Holidays Ltd' with your booking reference / Order ID on the back.

NON-MEMBER FEE

Non-members can join our holidays by paying a Non-Member's fee of £30 per person per holiday. Alternatively, full membership is available from £100 – visit hfholidays.co.uk/membership for details.

BACS PAYMENTS

Please quote your booking reference / Order ID when you make your payment online: Bank Name: National Westminster Bank, Account Name: HF Holidays Limited, Account Number: 48904805, Sort Code: 60-00-01, IBAN: GB90NWBK60000148904805

Once we have received your booking and deposit, we will send a confirmation invoice to the lead name. Please check this carefully. For bookings 'with flights' it is essential that the names on your booking confirmation invoice match those on your passport for bookings overseas. Please advise us immediately of any errors. Any name changes after the balance of your holiday has been paid will be subject to a fee levied by the airline.

MANAGE MY BOOKINGS

Payments can also be made through the [Manage My Booking](#) function on our website. Click on the link at the top of our homepage. This is available to all customers who provide an email address at the time of booking.

YOUR FINAL BALANCE

Your final balance payment is due 6 weeks before departure if you are staying in an HF Holidays UK country house, 8 weeks before departure if you are travelling on one of our holidays in Europe and 10 weeks before departure if you are on a Guided Trail staying in one of our partner hotels or are travelling on a Worldwide holiday. As with paying your deposit, you can pay your final balance by debit or credit card, make an online BACS payment directly into HF's bank account or pay by cheque.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Travel insurance is an important part of any booking and essential for one of our holidays. HF Holidays works with specialist. Insurance Brokers Campbell Irvine Direct. For more information or to obtain a quote call them on [01702 427 236](tel:01702427236) or visit hfholidays.co.uk/insurance

PEACE OF MIND**ATOL:**

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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.

PRICE GUARANTEE

We promise that our earliest published prices will always be the best and if we reduce our holiday price after your booking has been confirmed, we will pass this reduction on to you. Our price promise applies if any subsequent offer price is for an identical holiday, duration, location and date and does not cover any optional extras, flights or additional services.

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