4 Night Cornwall Christmas & New Year Guided Walking Holiday



Trip style:	Destination:	Walking Grade	Carbon Footprint:
Festive breaks	Cornwall	5, 7 & 8	94kg CO2

HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

What could be merrier than the stunning Cornish coast in winter? Make this Christmas truly memorable by spending the festive season at Chy Morvah – our characterful country house in St Ives. You'll be just a skip away from the town's cobbled streets and cosy pubs, plus some of the best walking routes in Cornwall. We pull out all the stops at this time of year and 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 guided walking holiday
- A choice of winter walks with our experienced HF Holidays Leaders
- Discovering the stunning landscapes of Cornwall on foot
- Staying in the comfort of our charming country house in St Ives
- Enjoying festive fare and leaving all the organising to us
- A celebration dinner with all the trimmings on Christmas Day and New Year's Eve

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- En-suite accommodation in our 4-star country house
- Cream tea on arrival day
- Cooked or continental breakfast every morning
- Daily packed lunches
- Three-course evening meals, plus tea & coffee
- Guided walking with experienced HF Holidays Leaders
- Choice of three guided walks (each walking day) from March to October, and two from November to February.
- 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

ITINERARY - CHRISTMAS

Day 1 **Christmas 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 **Along the Coast to Marazion**

Option 1 - Higher Kenneggy to Perranuthnoe and Marazion

Distance: 6 miles (9.5km)

Ascent: 800ft (250m)

In summary: Option two begins a little further along the coastline, joining at Kenneggy Sand. We'll pass Prussia Cove and Cudden Point, on our way to Perranuthnoe and Marazion.

Highlights: Great coastal views

Option 2 - Higher Kenneggy to Marazion

Distance: 6 miles (9.5km)

Ascent: 800 feet (260m)

In summary: Starting from Higher Kenneggy, we take an undulating coastal path to Marazion, with views of St Michael's Mount.

Highlight: Walk along the Cornish coast and finish in the village Marazion where there will be views of the spectacular island of St Michael's Mount.

Option 3 - Rinsey Head to Marazion

Distance: 9 miles (14km)

Ascent: 1,300 feet (400m)

In summary: From the mine buildings of Wheal Prosper at Rinsey Head, we join the Coast Path to the mile long beach of Praa Sands, and then on to the historic town of Marazion via Prussia Cove and Perranuthnoe.

Highlight: Enjoy glorious sea views throughout as we walk through the rich flora of the South Cornwall coast.

Day 3 **Lelant & Carbis Bay**

Option 1 - Knills Monument, Carrack Gladden and on to Carbis Bay

Distance: 5 miles (8km)

Ascent: 950 feet (300m)

In summary: A circular walk taking us from St Ives to Knill's Monument and the promontory of Carrack Gladden, before following the South West Coast Path to Carbis Bay and back into St Ives.

Highlight: There's plenty of time to relax and enjoy the many delights of St Ives. Enjoy wandering through the narrow streets, perhaps visit the Tate Gallery, or take a boat trip to Seal Island.

To note when choosing your walk: There is a steep, slippery concrete path descending to Carbis Bay and also steep, rocky sections on the coast path especially around Carrack Gladden.

Option 2 - Lelant & Carbis Bay

Distance: 7½ miles (12km)

Ascent: 1,200 feet (380m)

In summary: Head up to Knill's Monument, then drop down to join the coast near Lelant church. We follow the coastal path back to St Ives, passing through the dunes beside Porthkidney Sands, Carrack Gladden and Carbis Bay.

Highlight: Enjoy glorious views over St Ives Bay from Knill's Monument. Look out for the Baulking House, once used by Cornish pilchard fishermen.

Option 3 - Trencrom Hill & Lelant

Distance: 10.5 miles (17km)

Ascent: 1,600 feet (485m)

In summary: We head up to Knill's Monument, over fields to Trencrom Hill then onto Lelant church. We follow the coast path beside the Hayle Estuary and through dunes overlooking Porthkidney Sands and Carbis Bay before arriving back at St Ives.

Highlight: Stunning views from the top of the iron-age hill fort of Trencrom Hill, including the south coast and St Michael's Mount.

Day 4 **Poldark Country & Land's End**

Option 1 - St Just, Whitesand Bay to Land's End

Distance: 5½ miles (8.5km)

Ascent: 650 feet (200m)

In summary: Walk from the mining village of St Just across the fields and lanes of the Cot Valley, before joining the Coast Path to reach the old fishing village of Sennen Cove. The final section leads us over the granite cliffs to Land's End.

Highlight: The cliff-top walk from Sennen Cove to Land's End is particularly impressive, with a real sense of achievement as you reach this iconic spot.

Option 2 - St Just, Carn Ballowall & Land's End

Distance: 7½ miles (12.5km)

Ascent: 1200 feet (440m)

In summary: We start at St Just before heading towards the coast and passing the chambered tomb at Ballowall Barrow. We then join the South West Coast Path and take the undulating coastal route until we reach Land's End.

Highlight: Fantastic views from the cliff edge looking over the Ballowall Chamber Tomb.

Option 3 - Botallack, Cape Cornwall and Land's End

Distance: 9 miles (14km)

Ascent: 1,850 feet (560m)

In summary: Follow the South West Coast Path from the famous Crown Mines at Botallack to Cape Cornwall. Then on past Ballowall Barrow, a Bronze Age burial chamber, to Sennen Cove and Land's End.

Highlight: Discover Cornwall's rich history of tin mining, now recognised as a World Heritage Site. Look out for the abandoned engine houses perched just above the sea at Botallack.

Day 5 **Departure Day**

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before making your way home.

DAILY WALK OPTIONS



Moderate walking grade 5

Some walking experience needed. Full day walks which may include some short but steep ascents and descents throughout the day, and varied terrain. Regular stops. Typically, 8-9 miles (13-15km) with around 1,300ft (400m) of ascent.



Moderate walking grade 7

The most active moderate grade. Longer distances and short but steep ascents and descents possible throughout the day. Hill walking experience desirable. Typically, 11-12 miles (18-19km) with around 1,800ft (560m) of ascent.



Challenging walking grade 8

Challenging walks for fit, experienced walkers. Expect rugged or mountainous terrain, or some longer distances than typical for this grade. Typically, 12-13 miles (19-21km) with around 2,300ft (700m) of ascent.

ACCOMMODATION

Chy Morvah, St Ives

This beautiful property is just steps from the centre of St Ives – the seaside town that has inspired generations of artists with its working harbour, proud fishing community, white-sand beaches, and stunning Cornish landscape. Enjoying an elevated position with sweeping views over St Ives Bay, Chy Morvah means 'house by the sea' in Cornish and you'll find four great beaches nearby - Porthmeor, Porthminster, Harbour, and Porthgwidden - plus plenty of walking routes along the Penwith peninsula. It's also a short drive to St Michael's Mount – the tidal island crowned by a medieval church and castle. Expect tough-but-rewarding walks, over undulating coastal terrain. With tricky stone stiles and rocky paths underfoot, fitness and agility will be challenged.

About

· 39 well-appointed guest rooms · Exclusive occupancy: 54 guests minimum · Check in from 4:00pm · For members check in from 2:00pm · Full-board (including cream tea on arrival) · Free Wi-Fi · Free limited on-site parking · Boot room and drying room · High chair · 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 · Heated outdoor pool (open May to September*) · Electric vehicle charging point - Please note, you will need to bring your own cables to use this EV charging point · Local launderette available in town



Video

Take a tour of Chy Morvah and discover our country house and surrounding countryside, full of wild coastlines, breathtakingly beautiful beaches and exceptional sites.

Time to let a little Kernow into your soul.

Then & now

Meaning 'house by the sea,' records show that Chy Morvah had already opened as a private hotel by 1949. The St Ives Town Guide of that year describes it as 'delightfully situated in its own grounds overlooking St Ives Bay' and having 'hot and cold running water to all bedrooms'. The adjoining building, Lanyons, was once the home and studio of Peter Lanyon – the acclaimed St Ives-born painter renowned for landscapes that leaned heavily towards the abstract (part of the St Ives School, he was one of the most important artists to emerge in post-war Britain). This building later became a school known as St Christopher's and there are still signs of the classrooms in the car park (you may notice the distinct ridge in the tarmac). It has been part of our HF Holidays line-up since 1986.

Nowadays, there's 39 well-appointed guest rooms in three categories (Classic, Premium, and Superior) spread across the Chy Morvah building and Lanyons House – many with bay windows and sea views. It also has a main lounge overlooking St Ives Bay, a ballroom for evening activities, a licensed bar, and a sea-facing dining room for a wide range of dishes made with fresh and seasonal ingredients. Elsewhere, there's a handy boot and drying room, a small terrace, manicured gardens, books and games to borrow during your stay, and a Discovery Point offering a wide range of local area maps, route guides, and easy-to-follow information for self-guided walks. The heated outdoor pool (open May to September*) is perfect for cooling off after days spent exploring what is arguably one of the UK's most stunning coastlines.

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 Chy Morvah

Designed with your comfort in mind, Chy Morvah has 39 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 that make the most of the sea views are easily the best.

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

*Please note, pool opening hours are: 07:00am – 09:00am and 16:00pm – 18:30pm

ACCESSIBILITY

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

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

Chy Morvah
Bishops Road
St. Ives
Cornwall TR26 2DB

Tel: +44 (0)1736 796314

By train

The nearest rail station is St Ives. Chy Morvah is a short 10-minute walk uphill from the station. Exit the station, turn left and walk through St Ives Station car park, take the walkway on your left to Terrace Road A3074. Turn left, cross the road and continue uphill on a No Entry road to reach Pendolver Terrace. Turn left on Pendolver Terrace and follow the road around uphill to the right. Chy Morvah is signposted ahead.

An alternative to St Ives rail station is St Erth, which is connected to many mainline services. Please check National Rail for train times and route planning.

By taxi

St. Ives station is only half a mile away, but it's a steep uphill walk.

St. Erth is four miles away and the journey takes just over 10 minutes.

Harbour Cars or A1 Taxis
You can pre-book a taxi from our recommended company, Harbour or A1 Taxis Cars. We recommend booking your taxi at least seven days in advance by contacting:

Harbour Cars: 01736797688

A1 Taxis: 07736797700

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

By car

Head to Cornwall via the A30 then take the A3074 signposted to St. Ives. At the next two small roundabouts, go straight across the first and take a right at the second towards Lelant. Pass through Lelant and Carbis Bay on the same road.

As you approach St. Ives keep left at the fork, which heads slightly uphill, following signs to visitor parking and the leisure centre. Follow the road and turn left up the steep hill. Almost immediately the road turns left again, but instead of following the road, turn off and head directly up the hill on Porthminster Terrace.

Chy Morvah is at the top of the hill. To reach the car park you'll need to drive left past the front of Chy Morvah and turn immediately right behind the back of the building. The car park is on the right 15 yards along Bishop's Road. Space is limited. If the car park is full, we recommend parking at St Ives Trenwith Car Park, TR26 1DD. This is a charged local long stay car park, approximately 5 minutes walk from Chy Morvah.

By air

The nearest airport is London Heathrow Airport.

First take the train to London Paddington station from where you'll find direct trains to St. Erth, and a short train journey to St. Ives.

A morning arrival into Heathrow would be best as you'll need around 6.5 hours to complete the journey.

The airports at Bristol and Newquay are also nearby, but there aren't as many flight options.

Check National Rail for routes and train times.

LOCAL AREA

Places to visit in Cornwall

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 Chy Morvah.

St. Ives Harbour

While it may no longer crammed full of fishing boats and traders, the working harbour is still the beating heart of the town. Harbour Beach is right on the doorstep, but the sandy gems of Porthminster, Porthmeor, and Porthgwidden are just an easy walk away.

Barbara Hepworth Gallery & Sculpture Garden

Just a short walk away, this Tate-run museum and garden sets the scene for a fascinating insight into one of Britain's most important 20th century artists. Highlights include impressive sculptures in bronze, stone, and wood, along with paintings, drawings, and archive material.

St Michael's Mount

A 20-minute drive or a 45-minute bus ride away, this tidal island crowned by a medieval church and castle lies off the coast of Marazion. Mostly owned by the National Trust since 1954, it has been the cherished home of the St. Aubyn family since the 17th century. If you wish to visit, please check the website for full information on access, opening times and ticket booking. Please note that National Trust members must book a free ticket.

Minack Theatre

Carved into the granite cliff overlooking the Porthcurno Bay, this famous open-air theatre first premiered Shakespeare's The Tempest in 1932. It's a very popular destination, so if you plan on going, whether for a theatre and garden visit, guided tour or show, advanced bookings are essential. Visiting hours vary depending on the performance schedule so always check the website beforehand for full details. Bookings can be made online or by calling the box office, open 10am – 4pm on 01736 810181. The theatre is a 45-minute drive or 2-hour bus ride away on the Land's End Coaster service. The nearest stop is Porthcurno, a ten-minute walk from the theatre.

Geevor Tin Mine

As the last mine to work the UNESCO-listed St. Just Mining District, this award-winning heritage attraction is home to the largest number of undersea tin and copper mines in the world. The museum and visitor centre opens year-round from Sunday to Thursday.

National Maritime Museum Cornwall

Located on Falmouth Harbour, this award-winning museum celebrates Cornwall's maritime heritage through interactive exhibits, talks, lectures, boatbuilding workshops, and more. The National Small Boat Collection is one of the star attractions.

Cornish Seal Sanctuary

Set on the Helford Estuary in the village of Gweek, this incredible charity rescues and grey seal pups from around the Cornish coastline – and then returns them to the wild. You'll get to enjoy the underwater viewing areas and even stay for feeding time.

Eden Project

An epic domed structure just an hour's drive away, this dramatic global garden is home to cutting-edge architecture, outdoor gardens, plant-based exhibits, art installations, and play areas – all housed in tropical biomes set in a crater the size of 30 football pitches.

Lost Gardens of Heligan

Just an hour's drive away, this 200-acre wonderland offers plenty of thrills for plant lovers. Rediscovered by the Eden Project's co-founder Tim Smit, this Victorian country house garden is filled with traditional and rare breeds and plenty of peaceful spaces.

SAFETY ON YOUR HOLIDAY

Walking safety

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.

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

Packing list

Weather conditions in the UK can vary throughout the day, and conditions in the mountains may be cold and windy even in summer. Use the following list as a guide when preparing for your holiday.

Essentials

- Suitable waterproof walking boots with ankle support and good grip
- Waterproof, wind-resistant jacket with a hood, taped seams and a hydrostatic head rating of at least 10,000 mm
- Waterproof overtrousers
- Spare warm clothing, such as a synthetic insulated jacket
- Comfortable walking clothing (jeans & waterproof capes are not suitable)
- Warm mid-layers, such as fleeces
- Gloves and a warm hat, even in summer
- Rucksack with a waterproof liner
- Water bottle with a capacity of at least 1 litre
- Flask for hot drinks
- Sunscreen
- UV-protective sunglasses
- Spare high-energy food
- Head torch and spare batteries for holidays between October and March
- Passport (if applicable)
- Visa (if applicable)
- Copy of your travel insurance policy

Recommended

- Several base layers, with long or short sleeves
- Cushioned walking socks to avoid blisters
- First-aid kit, including plasters, insect repellent, a midge net and a tick-removal tool
- Sit mat
- Waterproof pouch for valuables
- Rubbish bags
- Wallet or purse

- Camera
- Walking poles
- Sun hat
- Gaiters
- Mobile Phones
- Swimwear (please see accommodation information for hotel facilities)
- Membership cards for English Heritage, the National Trust or similar heritage organisations in Scotland and Wales, if you are a member. These may be useful when visiting attractions during your itinerary or on your free day.

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.

Document produced: 23 November 2026