

4 Night Next Step Watercolour in the Peak District

Destinations: Peak District, United Kingdom & England
Trip code: DVPBN-4



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'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

HOLIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- 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)

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 in 2026. Enjoy a complimentary cream tea at 16:30 and meet other guests.

Day 2 - 4: 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 5: Departure Day

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before making your way home.

ACCOMMODATION

The Peveril Of The Peak

Named after Sir Walter Scott's Peak District-set novel, this characterful country house is less than a mile from the famous Dovedale Stepping Stones and on the doorstep of Thorpe Cloud – a cone-shaped limestone hill that offers impressive views over the rolling green landscape that forms the Staffordshire/Derbyshire border. Both are easily accessible from the rear of the property. There are plenty of big-name walking destinations nearby including the Roaches, the impressive Stanage Edge, and the Twelve Apostles - a group of rock spires best viewed from the limestone promontory known as Lover's Leap.

Country House Accommodation

Rooms

Designed with your comfort in mind, The Peveril of the Peak 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.

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

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.

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.

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.

Accessibility

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

TRAVEL DETAILS

Address

The Peveril of the Peak
Thorpe
Dovedale
Ashbourne
Derbyshire DE6 2AW

Tel: [+44 \(0\)1335 350396](tel:+44(0)1335350396)

By Train

The nearest stations are Derby or Buxton.

Check National Rail for train times and routes.

By Taxi

From Buxton railway station a taxi takes approximately 35 minutes.

From Derby railway station the 18-mile journey takes approximately 40 minutes.

For pricing, please contact Ashbourne Taxis directly.

Ashbourne Taxis

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

Tel: [+44 \(0\)1335 345198](tel:+44(0)1335345198) / [+44 \(0\)7398 783706](tel:+44(0)7398783706)

Email: ashbourne-taxis@hotmail.co.uk

A return journey can be arranged on your behalf by the HF Holidays House Manager at The Peveril of the Peak.

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

By Bus

There is a bus service as far as Ashbourne, about three miles from The Peveril of the Peak. You'll need to take a taxi from Ashbourne, taking around 10 minutes, or use the Derbyshire Connect Service (telephone [+44 \(0\)1335 342951](tel:+44(0)1335342951)).

From Buxton you can use the 442 service or from Derby catch the SWI service.

Check online for up-to-date bus times.

By Car

From the south

Leave the M1 at junction 24 and head to Ashbourne via the A50 and A515. Continue north on the A515 towards Buxton. One mile north of Ashbourne turn left, signposted to Thorpe, Dovedale, and Ilam. After a further two miles the road bends sharply left by the Old Dog pub. The Peveril of the Peak is at the bottom of the hill.

From Buxton

Take the A515 south towards Ashbourne. After 17 miles turn right at the crossroads following signs to Thorpe. After one mile turn right by the Old Dog pub. You'll find The Peveril of the Peak at the bottom of the hill.

From the west

Leave the M6 at junction 15 and head via the A50, Cheadle (A521), and Oakamoor (A5417) to the A52. At the junction of the A52 and the A523 take the minor road signposted to Ilam. After 1.5 miles turn left and descend the hill. Cross the bridge at Ilam, turn right, and follow the road through Dovedale and Thorpe village. The Peveril of the Peak is on the left-hand side at the end of the village.

By Air

The nearest airport is East Midlands Airport.

We recommend pre-booking a taxi direct to The Peveril of the Peak, which is about 30 minutes away.

From London Luton Airport you'll need to take the shuttle bus to Luton Airport Parkway station, then catch the train to Derby with one change at Leicester.

From Manchester International Airport there are trains every hour to Buxton with one change at Manchester Piccadilly. Allow one hour 40 minutes to Buxton.

Flying to London Heathrow Airport is another option but you'll need to allow three hours to reach Derby. From Heathrow first take the Piccadilly line to London St Pancras. From here take a train direct to Derby.

National Rail has up-to-date train information.

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 The Peveril of the Peak.

Dovedale

Less than a mile away, the limestone valley of Dovedale steals the limelight as one of the best-loved – and most visited – beauty spots in the Peak District National Park. Don't miss the famous stepping stones located about half a mile from the car park.

Ashbourne

Approximately three miles away, this market town charms with cobbled streets, interesting Tudor and Georgian buildings, lovely shops and cafés, and the spectacular St. Oswald's Church – one of Derbyshire's loveliest famed for its 212-foot spire.

Chatsworth House

Home of the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire, this magnificent 17th century mansion is set in over 1,000 acres of stunning parkland and formal gardens. Inside, there's over 30 rooms to explore, including the State Rooms, Sculpture Gallery, and Painted Hall.

Crich Tramway Village

Just a 45-minute drive away, this recreated Edwardian-style village and home to the National Tramway Museum is located near the village of Crich. Highlights include the woodland walk, sculpture trail, and collection of over 60 trams built between 1873 and 1982.

Buxton

As England's highest market spa town at 1,000 feet above sea level, there's more to this place than water. Must-see sights include the Devonshire Dome building, the Edwardian Opera House, and Poole's Cavern – a two-million-year-old natural limestone cave.

Castleton

Located at the head of the Hope Valley in the heart of the Peak District National Park, this beautiful village is as famous for its semi-precious stone, Blue John, as for its show cave superstars: Peak Cavern, Blue John Cavern, Speedwell Cavern, and Treak Cliff Cavern.

Bakewell

There's more to this market town on the banks of the River Wye than jam-filled pastry. The best attractions include the honey-coloured stone houses, specialist markets, Lovelock Bridge, and the famous summer carnival reputed as the biggest in Derbyshire.

Alton Towers

Just a 25-minute drive away, this Staffordshire theme park is perfect for those with adventurous and excitable kids in tow. Thrillseekers can enjoy over 40 rides (including 10 rollercoasters) as well as a water park. There's entertainment for younger children, too.

Cromford Mills

Part of the UNESCO-listed Derwent Valley Mills, the world's first water-powered cotton spinning mill developed by Richard Arkwright in 1771 is known as the birthplace of the modern factory system. The mill museum and visitor centre are both visit-worthy.

Haddon Hall

Overlooking the River Wye, this fairytale-like manor house with its fortified exterior dates from the 12th century. Every part of the property is steeped in history, but the banqueting hall, chapel, and kitchens are particularly worth exploring.

USEFUL HOLIDAY INFORMATION

Essential Information

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

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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