

5 Night Shropshire Hills Gentle Guided Walking Holiday

Tour Style: Gentle guided walking

Destinations: Shropshire Hills, United Kingdom & England

Trip code: CSBEW-5

1, 2 & 3



HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

Every footstep on this gentle guided walking holiday rewards with gorgeous views of the Shropshire Hills, the so-called 'Little Switzerland' covering almost a quarter of the county. Enjoy walks that are easier to complete without compromising on sights and scenery. Discover ruined castles folded into hillsides, rare wildlife roaming the upland heaths, and postcard-worthy market towns and villages perched on the River Severn.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- 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
- Guided walking with experienced HF Holidays Leaders
- Choice of up to three different-grade daily walks

- 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

HOLIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Discovering a designated National Landscape on foot
- Soaking up views of grass-topped hills and untouched woodland
- Visiting picturesque market towns and villages
- Spending time with like-minded people in the great outdoors
- Staying at Longmynd House in Church Stretton

TRIP SUITABILITY

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 Shropshire Hills. The choice of three guided walks includes a very gentle walk of 3 or 4 miles.

ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrival Day

Check-in at the hotel is available from 4pm. Enjoy a complimentary cream tea on arrival.

Day 2: Shrewsbury

Option 1 - Shrewsbury Town Trail

Distance: 3 miles (4.5km)

In summary: Explore the medieval and Georgian town of Shrewsbury captured in this trail of the town.

Highlight: There is plenty to discover and explore in Shrewsbury.

Option 2 - Haughmond Abbey To Shrewsbury

Distance: 4½ miles (7.5km)

Total ascent: 150 feet (50m)

In summary: This walk starts at Haughmond Abbey, where we walk through the countryside before picking up a path alongside the River Severn and into the centre of Shrewsbury. From here we then explore the medieval and Georgian town of Shrewsbury.

Highlight: Enjoy walking alongside the River Severn, part of Shropshire Way route and explore the fascinating town.

Option 3 - Haughmond Hill & Shrewsbury

Distance: 7 miles (11km)

Total ascent: 450 feet (140m)

In summary: This walk starts at Haughmond Abbey, from where we then walk through the woods in Haughmond Hill. Our walk then drops down to the valley and we walk through the countryside before picking

up a path alongside the River Severn and into the centre of Shrewsbury. From here we then explore the medieval and Georgian town of Shrewsbury.

Highlight: Enjoy lovely views of Shrewsbury and the River Severn.

Day 3: Craven Arms And Stokesay

Option 1 - Onibury To Craven Arms

Distance: 3½ miles (5.5km)

Total ascent: 350 feet (100m)

In summary: This walk leaves from Onibury and heads to the town of Craven Arms. The walk passes through pleasant field paths and woodland tracks before reaching the historic Stokesay Castle. From there it carries on to Craven Arms and to the Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre.

Highlight: Stokesay Castle, the best preserved medieval manor house in England.

Option 2 - Three Woods And Stokesay Castle

Distance: 5 miles (8.5km)

Total ascent: 600 feet (180m)

In summary: This walk leaves from the village of Craven arms, taking in the surrounding Shropshire countryside and the river Onny. There is also chance to see Stokesay Castle before returning to allow time to explore the Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre.

Highlight: Discover Stokesay Castle and the Shropshire Hills Discovery centre

Option 3 - Aston On Clun & Stokesay

Distance: 7½ miles (12km)

Total ascent: 900 feet (280m)

In summary: Walk from the village of Aston on Clun to Craven Arms. On the way we'll discover the historic 13th Century church at Hopesay, soak up the views from Hopesay Hill, and visit Stokesay Castle.

Highlight: Stokesay Castle is a real gem; a 13th Century fortified manor house that was besieged during the English Civil War.

Day 4: Ironbridge

Option 1 - Little Wenlock To Ironbridge

Distance: 3½ miles (5.5km)

Total ascent: 100 feet (40m)

In summary: We meander through the Shropshire countryside before arriving in the Severn Gorge to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Ironbridge.

Highlight: There's time to explore the quaint riverside town of Ironbridge.

Option 2 - Little Wenlock To Ironbridge Via Coalbrookedale

Distance: 5 miles (8km)

Total ascent: 350 feet (100m)

In summary: Walking from Little Wenlock, we take in Coalbrookedale before dropping into the village of Ironbridge.

Highlight: There's time to explore the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Ironbridge.

Option 3 - Around The Wrekin To Ironbridge

Distance: 7 miles (11km)

Ascent: 800 feet (240m)

In summary: Our walk takes us around the lower slopes of the iconic Wrekin, along tracks through the ancient Royal Hunting Forest, and through beautiful countryside, to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of The Ironbridge Gorge.

Highlight: The quirky shops, pubs and cafes, not forgetting the antique centre in a world-famous Teddy Bear Factory, in the beautiful riverside town of Ironbridge.

Day 5: Around Church Stretton And The Carding Mill Valley

Option 1 - Cwmdale Spring & Carding Mill Valley

Distance: 4 miles (6.5km)

Total ascent: 600 feet (180m)

In summary: From Longmynd House we walk through Rectory fields, we pass Montgomery Waters spring, before then exploring the start of the famous Carding Mill Valley. We then walk through the town of Church Stretton, before making our walk back to Longmynd House.

Highlight: A tea stop in the National Trust cafe in Carding Mill Valley.

Option 2 - Cwmdale And Carding Mill Valley Reservoir Circuit

Distance: 5 miles (8km)

Total ascent: 1000 feet (300m)

In summary: This route takes in Cwmdale, heading to the edge of Nover's Hill, before traversing around to the Carding Mill Valley and up to New Pool Reservoir.

Highlight: The original site of Carding Mill which has a history that dates back to the 13th century.

Option 3 - Below The Stretton Hills And The Carding Mill Valley

Distance: 8 miles (12.5km)

Total ascent: 1,400 feet (420m)

In summary: This walks contours round the Stretton hills of Hazler Hill and Hemleth Hill. Before then taking in the famous Carding Mill Valley and walking around the New Pool Reservoir.

Highlight: Stop for a tea break in the National Trust Carding Mill Valley.

Day 6: Departure Day

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before making your way home.

ACCOMMODATION

Longmynd Hotel

For rural calm in the Shropshire Hills National Landscape, the location of this characterful country house is hard to top. Set in a wooded hillside just a short stroll from the market town of Church Stretton (nicknamed Little Switzerland for its picturesque landscape), you'll be within walking or driving distance of the Stiperstones, Caer Caradoc, Ironbridge Valley of Invention, and the historic towns of Ludlow and Shrewsbury. And then, of course, there's the Long Mynd itself – an area of registered common land that has been cared for by a group of farmers (the self-named commoners) who have grazed sheep and ponies here for generations.

Country House Accommodation

Rooms

Designed with your comfort in mind, Longmynd Hotel has 56 well-appointed guest rooms available in two categories: Classic and Premium.

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.

We love: For more privacy, the lodges have their own terrace.

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.

Check in & check out

You are welcome to check in from **4:00pm at the earliest**. 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.

On the day of departure, we kindly ask all guests to check out by **10:00am**. You'll be asked to settle your bill prior to leaving. You may, of course, make a charitable donation to our HF Holidays Pathways Fund if you wish. Please note that we only accept card payments.

Room supplements

Premium single	Premium double/twin	Choose your room
£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, the HF Holidays Big Pub Quiz 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 Leaders host guided walking information briefings before dinner on arrival days. This is followed by a group Walks Talk for information on the following day's walking delights (held before dinner every evening). Self-guided walking guests are, of course, welcome.

The walking day

Prior to setting off on 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

Led by experienced chefs, we serve a wide range of dishes made with fresh and seasonal ingredients. We always aim to source the best produce available and use home-grown herbs and vegetables from our own gardens whenever possible. Additionally, we have a licensed bar with beers, soft drinks, and a superb selection of spirits. Full-board comes as standard and includes a cream tea on arrival and a hearty breakfast on departure day.

HF Holidays understands the importance of managing allergens effectively to ensure food is safe for guests with food allergies. Whilst we are always able to confidently inform guests which allergens are present in our ingredients and dishes, we are unable to guarantee absolute freedom from the 14 main allergens in our kitchens. Vegetarian and vegan menu choices are available. If you have allergies, food intolerances, or any special dietary requirements, please inform our reservation team at the time of booking.

Accessibility

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

TRAVEL DETAILS

Address

Longmynd Hotel
Cunnery Road
Church Stretton
Shropshire SY6 6AG

Tel: [+44 \(0\)1694 722244](tel:+44(0)1694722244)

By Train

The nearest station is Church Stretton. Although Longmynd Hotel is less than a mile from the station, it is at the top of a steep hill and there is no taxi rank at the station. Taxis are in extremely limited supply in the Church Stretton area and drivers usually come from further afield which is reflected in fares.

Shrewsbury has more choice of trains, and you can take a taxi directly to the house from the station (see below).

Check National Rail for train times and routes.

By Taxi

From Shrewsbury, it's a 15-mile journey taking 30 to 40 minutes.

Single journeys are approx £45 but please contact Shropshire Cars directly for confirmation.

You can pre-book a taxi from our recommended Shrewsbury based company, Shropshire Cars*. We recommend booking your taxi, including your return journey if needed, at least seven days in advance by contacting via WhatsApp or using their App:

WhatsApp: 07379338526

APP STORE:

<https://apps.apple.com/app/shropshire-cars/id6578451220>

and

Google Play: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.shropshirecars.passengerapp>

By Car

There's free car parking at Longmynd Hotel if you decide to drive.

Follow the A49 to Church Stretton. At the traffic lights turn off into town, then at the first junction turn left onto the High Street. Go straight over the mini-roundabout, and then take the next right into Cunnery Road. Follow the road up the steep hill to Longmynd Hotel.

By Air

The nearest airport is Manchester International Airport.

Trains take about two hours, with a change in Crewe.

You can also fly into London Heathrow airport, but it'll take at least 4 hours to reach Shrewsbury by train.

National Rail has up-to-date routes and train times.

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 Longmynd Hotel.

Church Stretton

Just a 10-minute walk downhill, this market town lives up to its Little Switzerland moniker for its dramatic hills on both sides of the valley. It has retained much of its Edwardian charm, tempting with independent shops, traditional tea rooms, pubs, and restaurants.

Ludlow

A 20-minute drive away, this attractive market town rewards with a historic town centre, beautiful period buildings, and a castle dating back to the 11th century. Visit-worthy places include St. Laurence's Church, Ludlow Museum, and Ludlow Millennium Green.

Ironbridge Valley Of Invention

A 45-minute drive away and within the heart of a UNESCO World Heritage Site, this collection of award-winning museums stretches along the River Severn. All are within six square miles of the Ironbridge Gorge, hailed as the birthplace of the Industrial Revolution.

Severn Valley Railway

Operating steam-hauled passenger trains between Bridgnorth, Bewdley, and Kidderminster, this 16-mile journey takes you along the beautiful Severn Valley. The nearest station at Bridgnorth is a 40-minute drive from Church Stretton.

Shrewsbury

A 30-minute drive away, Shropshire's country town charms with an imposing redbrick castle, higgledy-piggledy streets, and quirky buildings. Highlights include visiting Shrewsbury Museum & Art Gallery, relaxing in Shrewsbury Quarry, and following the Darwin Town Trail.

Much Wenlock

A 30-minute drive away, this small Shropshire town was the birthplace Dr William Penny Brookes – the founder of the modern Olympic Games. Highlights include visiting the remains of Wenlock Priory, the site of an Anglo Saxon monastery founded in about AD 680.

Hereford

An hour's drive away, this attractive cathedral city is home to the famous Mappa Mundi, a medieval map of the world dating from the 1300s. Further highlights include the Chained Library, the Black and White House Museum, and the life-sized Hereford Bull Statue.

Attingham Park

A 25-minute drive away, this 18th century estate with 200 acres of parkland is managed by the National Trust. The Mansion has an evolving visitor programme and different areas of the house open throughout the year.

Powis Castle

A 45-minute drive away, this 13th century castle, world-famous garden, and historic collection has been cared for by the National Trust since 1952. The paintings, sculptures, furniture, and tapestries on display throughout the house are rather impressive.

Chirk Castle

Occupied as a castle and stately home for over 700 years, this fine medieval hilltop fortress is just under an hour's drive away. Highlights include the military displays, elegant state rooms, and award-winning gardens covering 5.5 acres of manicured lawns.

USEFUL HOLIDAY INFORMATION

Essential Information

The UK has a famously unpredictable climate so it's best to be prepared for weather that's sunny one minute and raining the next. To make it easier, here's a list of items you should consider packing.

Essentials

- Suitable footwear such as waterproof walking boots that provide ankle support and good grip
- Waterproof and windproof jacket
- Comfortable clothing (jeans & waterproof capes are not suitable)
- Mid-layer(s) to keep you warm. Fleeeces make a good choice
- Waterproof overtrousers
- Gloves and a warm hat
- Rucksack with waterproof liner
- Flask for hot drinks
- Water bottle (at least 1 litre capacity)
- Sunscreen
- UV sunglasses

Recommended

- Several base layers (long-sleeve or short-sleeve)
- Cushioned walking socks to avoid blisters
- First aid kit, including plasters and insect repellent
- Sit mat
- Waterproof pouch for valuables
- Rubbish bag (remember to always leave no trace)
- Wallet/purse
- Camera

Safety On Your Holiday

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 while 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.

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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