

7 Night Brecon Beacons Guided Walking Holiday



Trip style:
Guided Walking Holidays

Destination:
📍 Brecon Beacons

Walking Grade
all 4, 7 & 8

Carbon Footprint:
🌿 184kg CO2

Holiday Overview

Cherished for its mix of grass-covered uplands, old red sandstone rocks, heather-clad plateaus, deep caves, brooding peaks, old industrial mines, waterfalls, and wildlife, Brecon Beacons (Bannau Brycheiniog) National Park covers 520 square miles. Our guided walking holiday showcases all that's great and good about one of the most beguiling landscapes imaginable.

WHAT YOU'LL LOVE

- Discovering the diverse landscape of the Brecon Beacons on foot
- Soaking up views of mountains, moorland, and glistening waterfalls
- Staying within easy distance of some of the area's show-stealing spots
- Spending time with like-minded people in the great outdoors
- Finding new routes and places to explore with your HF Holidays Leader
- Relaxing at Nythfa House on the edge of the market town of Brecon

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 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 VERSION 1

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 Above Crickhowell

Option 1 - Tretower & Crickhowell

Distance: 6 miles (10km)

Total ascent: 900 feet (280m)

In summary: We walk from north of Cwmdru to Tretower, with its renowned medieval court and castle. Then we follow a contouring path across farmland leading to the wooded Cwmbeth Brook valley and Crickhowell

Highlight: Soak up the history of the area and explore the attractive market town of Crickhowell.

Option 2 - The Lonely Shepherd, Craig y Cilau and Llangattock

Distance: 10 miles (16km)

Total ascent: 1,800 feet (560m)

In summary: A circular walk from the town of Crickhowell exploring the dramatic limestone escarpment and former quarries on the south side of the Usk valley. We visit an isolated rock pinnacle with its local legend before taking a contouring path below the towering cliffs and old quarries. We return to Crickhowell through quiet farmland and Llangattock village.

Highlight: The eerie landscape created by the spoil heaps of the disused quarries underneath the cliffs of Craig y Cilau, now painted green with grasses and wildflowers, reclaimed by nature.

Option 3 - Waun Fach and Black Mountains Ridge

Distance: 13 miles (21km)

Total ascent: 2,600 feet (800m)

In summary: We ascend the Dragon's Back ridge past the 12th Century Castell Dinas to the summit of Waun Fach, the highest peak in the Black Mountains, before descending to a saddle with views down to the remote Grwyne Fechan valley. We eventually reach Crickhowell via a long, grassy ridge and Table Mountain.

Highlight: The long grassy ridges of the Black Mountains offer a sense of peace and tranquillity.

Day 3 The Western Fans

Option 1 - Canal, Aqueduct & River Usk

Distance: 6.5 miles (10km)

Ascent: 100 feet (30m)

In summary: Follow the Canal tow path east out of Brecon, then across country to join the River Usk back into the town.

Highlight: Bags of canal history including a sturdy stone aqueduct over the River Usk.

Option 2 - Llyn y Fan Fawr & Fan Brycheiniog

Distance: 9 miles (14km)

Total ascent: 1,650 feet (500m)

In Summary: We'll walk to Llyn y Fan Fawr, then ascend to the summits of Fan Foel and Fan Brycheiniog. We follow along the top of the Fan Hir escarpment and descend along the ridge and into the valley.

Highlight: This less visited part of the national park has views towards mid Wales, and is considered to be one of the wildest regions of Wales.

Option 3 - Western Fans Traverse

Distance: 11.5 miles (18.5km)

Total ascent: 2,150ft (660m)

In summary: We head up to Llyn y Fan Fawr corrie lake and climb to the summits of Fan Foel and Picws Du, following the spectacular Bannau Sir Gaer ridge. We gradually descend southwards to pick up the old drovers trail to where the Giedd river disappears underground, before finally crossing wild moorland with numerous sink holes to end at Craig-y-nos.

Highlight: That 'on top of the world' feeling, walking along the Bannau Sir Gaer ridgeline high above and beyond the corrie lake.

Day 4 Free Day

Discover more about [Nythfa House and the local area](#) for ideas on how to fill your free day.

Day 5 The Waterfalls Country

Option 1 - Waterfalls Country

Distance: 6 miles (10km)

Ascent: 640 feet (200m)

In summary: We follow the Mellte, Nedd Fechan and Pyrddin rivers with their awe-inspiring waterfalls, finishing along an old industrial tramway to reach Pontneddfechan village.

Highlight: The waterfalls of this corner of Wales are truly spectacular – particularly after a period of heavy rain.

Option 2 - Sgwd yr Eira

Distance: 9 miles (15km)

Total ascent: 1,300 feet (400m)

In summary: Explore the Afon Hepste gorge, passing behind the Sgwd yr Eira waterfall and viewing the huge Porth yr Ogof cave. We then cross to the Nedd Fechan valley with its equally impressive waterfalls.

Highlight: The Sgwd yr Eira waterfall is a real highlight; the path behind the cascade is a unique experience.

Option 3 - Dinas Rock & Waterfalls

Distance: 10.5 miles (17.5km)

Total ascent: 2,150 feet (660m)

In summary: The walk starts at Dinas Rock and goes cross-country, downstream to Sgwd Gwladus – ending in Pontneddfechan.

Highlight: The walk includes most of the main waterfalls in this part of the Beacons as well as a chance to visit the cave entrance of Porth yr Ogof.

Day 6 The Central Beacons

Option 1 - Along the Usk Valley

Distance: 6 miles (10km)

Total ascent: 500 feet (160m)

In summary: We start our walk four miles west of Brecon at the small village of Aberbran. We cross a pretty stone bridge and walk across fields and along a quiet road to Y Gaer, the site of a Roman cavalry outpost. We follow a bridleway, sometimes muddy, to the western edge of Brecon and River Usk. We visit Brecon Cathedral and continue our walk through wooded Priory Groves and across playing fields to the House.

Highlight: Wander through Priory Groves and explore Brecon's magnificent Cathedral.

Option 2 - Pen-y-Fan

Distance: 9½ miles (15km)

Total ascent: 1,750 feet (540m)

In summary: Walk to the top of Pen-y-Fan and Corn Du, two of the summits at the heart of the Brecon Beacons (Bannau Brycheiniog).

Highlight: There's a great sense of achievement when you reach the summit of Pen-y-Fan, the highest point in the national park, and enjoy the sweeping views over South and Mid Wales.

Option 3 - Over the Four Tops

Distance: 10.5 miles (16.5km)

Total ascent: 2,850 feet (880m)

In summary: A traverse over the four main tops of Corn Du, Pen-y-Fan, Cribyn and Fan y Big, then back along country paths and roads to Nythfa House.

Highlight: This classic route takes in all the key summits in the central Brecon Beacons (Bannau Brycheiniog); a fantastic high-level crossing of the main peaks.

Day 7 High above Hay-on-Wye

Option 1 - Wye Valley & Hay-on-Wye

Distance: 6½ miles (11km)

Total ascent: 800 feet (260m)

In summary: A circular walk along the River Wye to the village of Clyro and back into the book lovers' paradise of Hay-on-Wye.

Highlight: After a relaxing riverside walk, explore the array of second-hand bookshops in Hay-on-Wye, or enjoy a pint in one of the town's pubs.

Option 2 - Twmpa & Hay Bluff

Distance: 9½ miles (15½km)

Total ascent: 2,250 feet (680m)

In summary: Head onto the Black Mountains escarpment to the top of Twmpa (otherwise known as Lord Hereford's Knob). We cross the road at the Gospel Pass to Hay Bluff before following the Offa's Dyke path into Hay-on-Wye.

Highlight: The walk along the Black Mountains escarpment is a real delight, with great views of the Wye Valley below.

Option 3 - Black Mountains North Ridge

Distance: 11½ miles (18½km)

Total ascent: 2,600 feet (800m)

In summary: A traverse along the northern escarpment of the Black Mountains. We ascend from Felindre alongside Cwm Cwnstab, then enjoy a great walk to the summits of Rhos Dirion, Twmpa and Hay Bluff.

Highlight: On a clear day the views stretch north to the Long Mynd and Cleve Hills in Shropshire. We'll also discover a hidden stone circle on the descent to Hay.

Day 8 Departure Day

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before making your way home.

Daily Walk Options



Gentle walking grade 4

The most active Gentle grade, with longer walks, some ascent, and possible steps, stiles, or off-path uneven ground. Typically, 6-7 miles (10-12km) with around 1,000ft (300m) 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

Nythfa House

Not many places in the UK outshine Brecon Beacons (Bannau Brycheiniog) National Park when it comes to wide open spaces and walks with incredible views. So it's easy to see the appeal of Nythfa House. With its name meaning 'nesting place' in Welsh, once you settle in you'll never want to leave. Built in 1867 as a private residence, this charming property is perfect for those seeking a rural retreat, yet one which is just a 10-minute walk from the Welsh market town of Brecon. It sits on a hill above The Struet, one of Brecon's oldest and most historic streets, famed for its Charles I connections who visited the town during the English Civil War. Nythfa House also puts you within easy reach of some of the area's show-stealing walking spots, including the Black Mountains, the Mellte Valley, and Pen y Fan - the highest point in the national park at 886 metres. Equally visit-worthy is the Big Pit National Coal Museum in Blaenavon, the National Showcaves Centre for Wales in Abercraze, and the bibliophile's paradise that is Hay-on-

Wye. Should time allow, Hereford and Cardiff are both just an hour's drive away.

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

• 31 well-appointed guest rooms • Exclusive occupancy: 43 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 & 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 • Lounges • Garden with putting green and croquet lawn • Electric vehicle charging point - Please note, you will need to bring your own cables to use this EV charging point



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, Nythfa House has 31 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: Rooms 6 and 7 in the main house both have gorgeous views across the garden and the Brecon Beacons. Room 21 is up in the eaves and has a separate seating area (please be mindful of the low ceilings). The garden guest rooms are very pretty and have their own small deck.

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 [Nythfa House](#)

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 [Nythfa House](#)

Travel Details

Address

Nythfa House
Brecon
Powys LD3 7NN

Tel: [+44 \(0\)1874 624287](tel:+44(0)1874624287)

By train

The nearest station is Abergavenny, from here you can take a bus or taxi to Brecon (see details below).

Check National Rail for train times and routes.

By taxi

The 21-mile journey from Abergavenny railway station takes 40 minutes to one hour.

For pricing, please contact A&A Cabs directly.

A&A Cabs

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

Tel: [+44 \(0\)1874 622288](tel:+44(0)1874622288)

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 Nythfa House.

*A&A Cabs is not owned or managed by HF Holidays.

By bus

The X43 bus operates from Abergavenny station to Brecon and takes about an hour. The most convenient bus stop for Nythfa House is the bus interchange in Brecon.

For bus times check Traveline.

By car

The A40 from Abergavenny and the A470 from the northwest converge at a roundabout on the Brecon bypass.

At the roundabout, follow the B4601 into Brecon. Turn right at the second mini roundabout on to Heol Gouesnou road. Drive straight over another mini roundabout and go straight on at the traffic lights. Turn right into Mount Street, then take the second left into Belle View Road. At the top of the road, go straight ahead up the drive to Nythfa House.

By air

The nearest airport is Cardiff.

Catch the 905 bus service to Rhoose Railway Station bus stop. Take the train from Rhoose Cardiff International Airport to Cathays Station and walk 10 mins to Merthyr Tydfil Bus Station. From here take the T14 bus to Brecon. You'll need to allow up to 3.5 hours.

An alternate option is to fly to Heathrow airport. Take a train to London Paddington Station, where there are trains to Abergavenny (with one change at Newport). Here you can take a bus or taxi to Brecon.

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 Nythfa House.

Brecon

Located at the top edge of Brecon Beacons (Bannau Brycheiniog) National Park, this market town is most famous for its military connections, magnificent cathedral, and jazz festival. If time allows, take a scenic cruise from Brecon along the Monmouthshire and Brecon canal.

Langorse Lake

Just east of Brecon between the Central Beacons and the Black Mountains, this is the largest natural lake in Wales. It's also a popular wildlife-watching spot so keep your eyes peeled for otters, water voles, warblers, swifts, and large flocks of Canada geese.

Big Pit National Coal Museum

Set in the Blaenafon Industrial Landscape and designated UNESCO World Heritage Site, this former working coal mine once employed up to 1,300 workers. Nowadays it has award-winning interactive exhibits as well as an underground tour. It's only a 45-minute drive away.

Hay-on-Wye

A 30-minute drive away, this literary-loving Welsh town on the banks of the River Wye charms with second-hand bookshops, medieval ruins, and stunning surrounding scenery. The annual Hay Festival takes place for 10 days from the end of May to the start of June.

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.

National Showcaves Centre for Wales

Home to a series of impressive show-caves, this top-rated attraction is a 30-minute drive away. Highlights include exploring the Dan-yr-Ogof cave, walking behind the 40-foot waterfall in the Cathedral Cave, and discovering how the Bone Cave got its name.

Tretower Court & Castle

This two-in-one architectural wonder located near the village of Crickhowell is a 20-minute drive away. Highlights include strolling around the recreated 15th century garden complete with white roses that symbolised creator Sir Roger Vaughan's Yorkist sympathies.

Cardiff

An hour's drive away, the Welsh capital of Cardiff warrants a visit for its cultural and historical thrills. Highlights include St. Fagan's National Museum of History, Castell Coch, Cardiff Castle, and Cardiff Bay.

Brecon Mountain Railway

This heritage line follows part of the route of the original Brecon & Merthyr Railway which closed in 1964. The 90-minute journey heads north from near Merthyr Tydfil into Brecon Beacons (Bannau Brycheiniog) National Park, passing a large reservoir as it climbs up to Torpantau station.

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

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. Fleeces 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

For holidays operating October through to the end of March, please also bring the following on your walks:

- spare warm clothing
- spare high energy food
- head torch and spare batteries
- please note for the October to March season your waterproof jacket needs to offer a high level of waterproofing and wind resistance, and a hood. Look for a waterproof jacket with sealed/taped seams and a minimum HH (hyrostatic head - this is the rating given on waterproof jackets) of 10,000mm+

Recommended

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

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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