

7 Night Brecon Beacons Walking with Sightseeing Holiday

Tour Style: Walking with sightseeing

Destinations: Brecon Beacons, United Kingdom & Wales

Trip code: BRWOD-7

Trip Walking Grade: 2



HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

These holidays offer a perfect mix of short, guided walks (2.5-5.25 miles), combined with time spent sightseeing. Visit a selection of standout highlights in the Brecon Beacons (Bannau Brycheiniog) with hassle-free coach travel and the help of an HF Holidays Leader.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Entrance to Brecon Mountain Railway
- 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 walks and sightseeing visits with an experienced HF Holidays Leader
- All transport to and from walks and sites of interest

- Easy-to-follow routes, maps, and information in our Discovery Point if you want to explore independently

Please note - Entrance fees are not included. See more Information tab for details.

HOLIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Enjoying beautiful walks in Waterfall Country
- Seeing Talgarth Mill, a fully restored 18th century watermill
- Taking a trip on the Brecon Mountain Railway steam train
- Visiting Tretower Castle and Court
- Exploring the towns of Hay-on-Wye and Crickhowell
- Staying in the comfort of our country house in Brecon
- A more personalised experience thanks to small group sizes (maximum 15 people)

TRIP SUITABILITY

This trip is graded Activity Level 2. Walking is on lanes, paths, tracks and across open fields, rough pasture and moorland; with some short muddy sections. Walks are up to 5¼ miles (8½km) with 650 feet (200m) of ascent.

ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrival Day

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

Day 2: Tretower And Crickhowell

Distance: 4 miles (6km)

Ascent: 100 feet (30m)

In summary: We start with a morning visit to Tretower Court and castle, a ruined Norman stronghold and partially restored medieval manor house. Afterwards we walk through open fields and woodland to the Glanusk Estate, where we follow the River Usk downstream to Crickhowell. There is plenty of time to explore this attractive small town, voted one of the best towns in Wales with its own ruined castle, 14th century parish church and friendly shops and cafés.

Day 3: Waterfall Country

Distance: 5 miles (8km)

Ascent: 650 feet (180m)

In summary: We visit Sgwd Clun-gwyn waterfall before walking over to the Nedd valley where we walk downstream passing a series of picturesque waterfalls. We pass old silica mine entrances along an old industrial tramway to reach Pontneddfechan village with welcoming pubs and a café.

Day 4: Free Day - Brecon Beacons

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

Day 5: Talgarth Mill And Llangorse Lake

Distance: 5 miles (8km)

Ascent: 800 feet (250m)

In Summary: This morning we'll see Talgarth Mill in action, an intricate 18th century watermill producing award-winning stoneground flour. Lovingly restored by the community, it's now a thriving hub of this ancient market town. In the afternoon, our walk begins with a steady climb to the top of Allt yr Esgair ridge, an old Iron Age Hillfort. Here, we'll be rewarded with stunning panoramic views for our efforts. We descend and walk beside Llangorse Lake, the largest natural lake in South Wales noted for its rich flora and fauna. There'll be time to visit the fascinating Welsh Crannog Centre at the end.

Day 6: Mountain Railway & Brecon Beacons

Distance: 5¼ miles (8½km)

Ascent: 650 feet (200m)

In summary: Taking the restored Brecon Mountain Railway steam train along the Pentwyn reservoir and up into the heart of the Brecon Beacons (Bannau Brycheiniog), we alight at Torpantau station, the end of the line. From here we walk beside the reservoir with sweeping views across the Beacons and explore Cwm Callan, a typical Welsh valley, before heading down beside Pontsticill reservoir to Pontsticill station. We reboard the train and enjoy a short return ride to Pant station.

Day 7: Black Mountains And Hay-on-Wye

Distance: 4½ miles (7km)

Ascent: 70 feet (20m)

Descent: 1,100 feet (350m)

In summary: Amidst the dramatic backdrop of the Black Mountains and with views of the Wye Valley, our walk begins below Hay Bluff. We follow the famous Offa's Dyke footpath, descending through fields and pastures to reach the well-known market town of Hay-on-Wye. There is plenty of time to explore the narrow streets, countless bookshops, and superb independent cafes of this popular and pretty town.

Day 8: Departure Day

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before making your way home.

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 Abercrave, and the bibliophile's paradise that is Hay-on-Wye. Should time allow, Hereford and Cardiff are

both just an hour's drive away.

Country House Accommodation

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.

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

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, 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 [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: aandabrecon@yahoo.ie

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.

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
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- 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.

Admission Information

Admission fees are payable locally and aren't included in your holiday price, apart from what is stated in the what's included section. This gives you greater choice, freedom, and flexibility to only pay the entrance fees for the attractions that interest you most. Should you choose to visit all the highlighted attractions during your holiday in 2024 please see the table below for the approximate totals. If you have Cadw (C) membership, please be sure to bring your membership identification with you. We recommend bringing some cash with you for any entrance fees to sites you wish to visit.

2025 prices

Approx. cost of entrance fees	3 night holiday	4 night holiday	7 night holiday
C members	£0	£4	£4
No memberships	£10	£4	£14

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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