

# 7 Night Bridge & Walking in Northumberland

**Destinations:** Northumberland, United Kingdom & England

**Trip code:** ALBRW-7

**Trip Walking Grade:** 2



## HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

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Perfect for regular Bridge club players, these holidays allow you to stay in the comfort of our characterful country houses and exercise both mind and body by combining Bridge and walking. You'll have a choice of two guided walks a day (one short and one longer) followed by a bridge competition each evening. EBU Members can also earn Master Points on this holiday.

## WHAT'S INCLUDED

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- All bridge-related materials
- 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
- Choice of two different-grade daily walks
- Easy-to-follow routes, maps, and information in our Discovery Point if you want to explore independently

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## HOLIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

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- Guided walking with experienced HF Holidays Leaders
- Playing bridge in a relaxed and friendly environment
- Meeting like-minded people
- Being surrounded by the stunning landscape of Northumberland
- Evening bridge competitions
- Staying in the comfort of our country house

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## TRIP SUITABILITY

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This holiday is suitable for regular players of Duplicate Bridge at club level.

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## ITINERARY

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### 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.

There will be an evening bridge competition on the first night, starting from 5pm and breaking for dinner.

### Day 2 - 3: Bridge & Walking

Enjoy a daily choice of two walks each day, with a free day on all 7-night holidays. You can choose either an easier route of around 4-6 miles or a harder route of around 6-8 miles to explore the local area. Your optional walks will take you out to explore the surrounding countryside and sometimes further afield. The walking options are outlined below. We'll return to the house in time to relax before your evening Bridge competition starts at 5pm.

### Day 2

#### Option 1 -Seahouses To Bamburgh

**Distance:** 4 miles (6.5km)

**Ascent:** 195 feet (60m)

**In summary:** We've a superb beach walk in store for you, from Seahouses to Bamburgh. Our entrance to Bamburgh shows the namesake Castle in its full glory and offers a great photo opportunity. When we reach Bamburgh there's time to explore independently – spend time on the beach, explore the shops, pubs and cafes, take time to visit one or two of the following – the castle, the walled gardens, the lifeboat museum, or the crypt and find out more about the Bamburgh Bones!

**Highlight:** Bamburgh Castle appearing ahead of us sat framed by the dunes

#### Option 2 - Beadnell To Bamburgh

**Distance:** 6.5 miles (10.5m)

**Total ascent:** 255 feet (80m)

**In summary:** Enjoy an iconic beach walk from Beadnell to Seahouses with time to look at the harbour then it's on to Bamburgh and its castle.

**Highlight:** Look out for seabirds and seals flying and bobbing about amongst the waves on this excellent coastal walk.

## Day 3

### Option 1 - Warkworth To Alnmouth

**Distance:** 6 miles (9.5 km)

**Ascent:** 380 feet (115m)

**In summary:** We start at ancient Warkworth Castle before walking along the Northumberland Coastal Path with great views before finally returning above the beach to Alnmouth.

**Highlight:** Ancient Warkworth Castle is substantial in size, its northern facades appearing to bear down over the rest of Warkworth Village, which has retained its original medieval layout and burgage plots.

### Option 2 - Amble To Alnmouth

**Distance:** 8.5 miles (14km)

**Ascent:** 505 feet (155m)

**In summary:** We start at Amble crossing the harbour board walk before walking along the Northumberland Coastal Path through Warkworth with great views of the imposing castle, before finally returning to Alnmouth beach.

**Highlight:** The Amble harbour boardwalk gives spectacular views of Coquet Island wildlife sanctuary.

## Day 4: Free Day - Northumberland

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

## Day 5 - 7: Bridge & Walking

Enjoy a daily choice of two walks each day, with a free day on all 7-night holidays. You can choose either an easier route of around 4-6 miles or a harder route of around 6-8 miles to explore the local area. Your optional walks will take you out to explore the surrounding countryside and sometimes further afield. The walking options are outlined below. We'll return to the house in time to relax before your evening Bridge competition starts at 5pm.

## Day 5

### Option 1 - Going Around The Foxton Bends

**Distance:** 5½miles (9km)

**Ascent:** 450 feet (140m)

**In summary:** The 'Bends' are the meanders in the river Aln to the North of the road bridge into the village. Now managed as a nature reserve, on our walk you can explore the local landscape, discover why the most important harbour north of Newcastle completely vanished, and enjoy a walk along the finest sandy beaches in Northumberland.

**Highlight:** The nature reserve around the River Aln Estuary is an important place for birds, both resident and

migrant throughout the year.

## Option 2 - Spy Law, Riverside And Countryside

**Distance:** 7 miles (11.5km)

**Ascent:** 560 feet (180m)

**In summary:** After leaving Alnmouth, meander alongside the River Aln and gently ascend to Spy Law with views on all sides of the countryside. The walk continues moving seawards displaying the Northumberland coast in front of you before returning through colourful cereal fields overlooking the Aln estuary and the once port of Alnmouth towards to sea.

**Highlight:** A chance to appreciate the variety of scenery that Northumberland has to offer.

## Day 6

### Option 1 - Denwick To Alnwick

**Distance:** 4 miles (6½km)

**Total ascent:** 260 feet (80m)

**In summary:** A beautiful riverside walk treats us to one of the best views of historic Alnwick Castle as we approach Alnwick. The afternoon is free to discover some of this charming market town's sights - including "Harry Potter's" Alnwick Castle, the stunning castle gardens with their treehouse café, the tranquillity of Hulne Park, or explore the many independent shops (including the famous Barter Books) or relax in one of the many tea shops in the town.

**Highlight:** A fabulous panorama of Alnwick Castle from the perfect vantage point as we approach the town.

### Option 2 - Ramble To Alnwick

**Distance:** 6 miles (9.5km)

**Ascent:** 540 feet (165m)

**In summary:** Starting from Denwick this walk passes through the Northumberland Estates belonging to the Dukes of Northumberland. There are varying landscapes from the Pastures below the Castle, the Deer Park to moorland west of the town.

**Highlight:** This walk shows the different aspects of Alnwick including views of the Castle from the Pastures, Alnwick Abbey in Hulne Park, Alnwick Moor and the town itself.

## Day 7

### Option 1 - Boulmer To Alnmouth

**Distance:** 4 miles (6km)

**Ascent:** 180 feet (60m)

**In summary:** Head south along this picturesque stretch of coastline from the old smugglers haunt of Boulmer to Alnmouth.\* Walk on the low cliffs and the beach, with fantastic sea views throughout.

**Highlight:** Cross the Boulmer beach at low tide and you'll be able to see the narrow channel of Mar Mouth between the rocks of Boulmer Haven which made it the perfect landing for smugglers in centuries past.

## Option 2 - Howick To Alnmouth

**Distance:** 6 miles (10km)

**Ascent:** 375 feet (110m)

**In summary:** Head south along this picturesque stretch of coastline from Howick to the old smugglers haunt of Boulmer then onwards to Alnmouth. Walk on the low cliffs and the beach, with fantastic sea views throughout.

**Highlight:** Explore the narrow channel of Mar Mouth between the rocks of Boulmer Haven and the smugglers past history which has marked the landscape in this gentle walk back to Alnmouth.

## Day 8: Departure Day

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before making your way home.

## ACCOMMODATION

### Nether Grange

You can tell that you're in for something special at this former 18th century granary in the heart of Alnmouth – the postcard-pretty coastal village treasured for its colourful cottages, superb walking routes, and peaceful beach where the River Aln meets the North Sea (in its heyday, it was a working river-port, exporting grain, wool, coal, and even the odd pipe of Madeira wine). Not only will you be a 40-minute drive from Northumberland National Park, but also within easy travelling distance of several visit-worthy castles, including Alwick, Lindisfarne, Dunstanburgh, and Warkworth. If the weather's nice, a boat trip to the Farne Islands that lie just offshore midway between the villages of Seahouses and Bamburgh rewards with sightings of England's largest grey seal colonies.

## Country House Accommodation

### Rooms

Designed with your comfort in mind, Nether Grange has 36 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:** The sea-facing rooms are especially lovely.

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

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, 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.

## 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 [Nether Grange](#)

## TRAVEL DETAILS

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### Address

Nether Grange  
Alnmouth  
Alnwick  
Northumberland NE66 2RZ

Tel: [+44 \(0\)1665 830431](tel:+44(0)1665830431)

### By Train

The nearest station is Alnmouth, on the main east coast line between Newcastle and Edinburgh.

The station is 1.3miles from Nether Grange. Approximately 30minutes walk, with footpath all the way.

Check National Rail for train times and routes.

### By Taxi

The 1.5-mile journey from Alnmouth railway station to Nether Grange is about five minutes by taxi. Taxis are in limited supply in Alnmouth, so we recommend pre-booking as early as possible.

For pricing, please contact the taxi company directly.

Taxi companies in the area include:

#### **Sovereign Taxis\***

Tel: [+44 \(0\)7553 360662](tel:+44(0)7553360662)

#### **Wizard Taxis\***

Tel: [+44 \(0\)1665 663709](tel:+44(0)1665663709)

#### **AA Taxis\***

Tel: [+44 \(0\)1665 606060](tel:+44(0)1665606060)

Some taxi companies have school runs so taxis may be in short supply between 9:00am and 10:00am. It is advisable to book your return taxi when you book your arrival taxi.

\*HF Holidays does not own or manage any of the above taxi companies.

## By Car

Before travelling by car, note that there is no car park at Nether Grange and there's very limited on-street parking.

Exit the A1 onto the A1068 towards Alnwick. At the roundabout turn right (it's not well signposted), following the A1068 towards Alnmouth. Go straight ahead at the first roundabout then left at the second roundabout onto the B1338.

As you approach Alnmouth, turn right at the next roundabout, then left into The Wynd. Follow to Marine Road, turn right onto Riverside Rd which joins to Northumberland Street. After 100 yards on Northumberland St, turn right into Pease's Lane. You'll find Nether Grange on the left.

## By Air

The nearest airport is Newcastle International Airport. Take the metro to Newcastle Central station, then the train to Alnmouth - a straightforward journey taking just over an hour.

## LOCAL AREA

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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 Nether Grange.

### Alnmouth

This pretty coastal village is adored for its colourful cottages, superb walking routes, peaceful bays, and deserted sandy beaches where the River Aln meets the North Sea. There's a small tidal harbour, a handful of small shops, and several pubs and cafés.

### Alnwick Castle

A 15-minute drive away, the market town of Alnwick is dominated by the second-largest inhabited castle in the country. Home to the Duke of Northumberland's family for over 700 years, it has featured in *Harry Potter* films and *Downton Abbey* specials.

### Alnwick Gardens

The castle's 12-acre garden is home to a collection of over 4,000 plant varieties. Highlights include the world's largest Tai Haku Cherry Orchard, a cascade comprising of 120 water jets, and the world's largest treehouse restaurant set 18 metres above ground level.

### Bamburgh Castle

Home of the Armstrong family since 1894 and crowning nine acres of the Great Whin Sill, this so-called king of castles has stood guard above the Northumberland coast for thousands of years. The site is by the seaside village of Bamburgh, a 35-minute drive away.

### Farne Islands

Located off Northumberland's coast in the North Sea, this groups of islands is home to a breeding colony of thousands of seabirds and grey seals. Between March and October, regular boat trips run from Seahouses harbour - a 45-minute drive away.

## Lindisfarne (Holy Island)

An hour's drive away, this sacred place is where you can follow in the footsteps of the ancient monks who built their priory here nearly 1,400 years ago. Don't miss the museum for a chance to learn more about the 8th century manuscript known as the Lindisfarne Gospels.

## Warkworth Castle

Crowning the hilltop above the River Coquet, Northumberland's hilltop fortress and hermitage was used by William Shakespeare as the setting for several scenes of his *Henry IV* plays. Located in the village of Warkworth, it's just a 10-minute drive away.

## Cragside House

A 40-minute drive away, this National Trust-owned house was the first in the world to be lit by hydroelectric power. Highlights include one the largest rock gardens in Europe, a rhododendron-filled garden, and over 40 miles of lovely lakeside and woodland walks.

## Seaton Delaval Hall

Designed by acclaimed Baroque architect, Sir John Vanbrugh, this National Trust-owned mansion is a 40-minute drive away. The grounds are gorgeous, especially the formal rose garden that was created in the 1950s and 1960s by Lady Hastings.

## Hadrian's Wall

A 90-minute drive away, this World Heritage Site built in AD 122 extends for 73 miles. Don't miss the Roman Vindolanda Fort & Museum for fascinating artefacts, reconstructed turrets and temples, and insight of daily life in a Roman garrison town.

## Edinburgh

Scotland's capital is just a one-hour train ride from Alnmouth station and worth the effort for its wealth of attractions. Must-dos include visiting Edinburgh Castle, spending time at the National Museum of Scotland, climbing Arthur's Seat, and strolling through Holyrood Park.

## Newcastle-Upon-Tyne

Simply known as Newcastle, this vibrant city is an hour's drive away. Highlights include admiring the iconic Tyne Bridge, relaxing at Newcastle City Baths, crossing the Gateshead Millennium Bridge, and visiting Gateshead's Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art.

## USEFUL HOLIDAY INFORMATION

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### Essential Information

#### Bridge

All your Bridge stationery and equipment will be supplied. You may, however, like to bring a notebook and pen to make your own notes. EBU Members - don't forget to bring your EBU membership number to earn Master Points on this holiday.

#### Walking

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To enjoy your walking comfortably and safely, it is essential that your footwear, clothing and equipment are suitable for the conditions likely to be encountered. Britain is famous for its changeable weather, so our advice is to come prepared for all eventualities.

Bring a rucksack, a thermos flask for a hot drink, a water bottle (at least 1 litre) and spare high-energy food such as a chocolate bar, a small torch (in spring, autumn and winter) and first aid kit – your leader's first aid kit doesn't contain any medication or blister kits (such as Compeed). Many guests find walking poles useful, particularly for descents. Insect repellent, sun hat, sunglasses and protection cream and a camera are all optional extras you may choose to bring.

## 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 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.

## 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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