

7 Night Cornwall Christmas & New Year Guided Walking Holiday



Trip style:
Festive breaks

Destination:
📍 Cornwall

Walking Grade
all 5, 7 & 8

Carbon Footprint:
🌿 161kg CO2

Holiday Overview

What could be merrier than the stunning Cornish coast in winter? Make this Christmas truly memorable by spending the festive season at Chy Morvah – our characterful country house in St Ives. You'll be just a skip away from the town's cobbled streets and cosy pubs, plus some of the best walking routes in Cornwall. We pull out all the stops at this time of year and welcome you with a sprinkling of festive cheer, seasonal food, and plenty of yuletide treats. So wrap up warm and step into Christmas with HF Holidays.

WHAT YOU'LL LOVE

- Getting into the festive spirit with a guided walking holiday
- A choice of winter walks with our experienced HF Holidays Leaders
- Discovering the stunning landscapes of Cornwall on foot
- Staying in the comfort of our charming country house in St Ives
- Enjoying festive fare and leaving all the organising to us
- A celebration dinner with all the trimmings on Christmas Day and New Year's Eve

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- En-suite accommodation in our 4-star 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 – CHRISTMAS

Day 1 Christmas 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 Along the Coast to Marazion

Option 1 - Higher Kenneggy to Perranuthnoe and Marazion

Distance: 6 miles (9.5km)

Ascent: 800ft (250m)

In summary: Option two begins a little further along the coastline, joining at Kenneggy Sand. We'll pass Prussia Cove and Cudden Point, on our way to Perranuthnoe and Marazion.

Highlights: Great coastal views

Option 2 - Higher Kenneggy to Marazion

Distance: 6 miles (9.5km)

Ascent: 800 feet (260m)

In summary: Starting from Higher Kenneggy, we take an undulating coastal path to Marazion, with views of St Michael's Mount.

Highlight: Walk along the Cornish coast and finish in the village Marazion where there will be views of the spectacular island of St Michael's Mount.

Option 3 - Rinsey Head to Marazion

Distance: 9 miles (14km)

Ascent: 1,300 feet (400m)

In summary: From the mine buildings of Wheal Prosper at Rinsey Head, we join the Coast Path to the mile long beach of Praa Sands, and then on to the historic town of Marazion via Prussia Cove and Perranuthnoe.

Highlight: Enjoy glorious sea views throughout as we walk through the rich flora of the South Cornwall coast.

Day 3 Lelant & Carbis Bay

Option 1 - Knills Monument, Carrack Gladden and on to Carbis Bay

Distance: 5 miles (8km)

Ascent: 950 feet (300m)

In summary: A circular walk taking us from St Ives to Knill's Monument and the promontory of Carrack Gladden, before following the South West Coast Path to Carbis Bay and back into St Ives.

Highlight: There's plenty of time to relax and enjoy the many delights of St Ives. Enjoy wandering through the narrow streets, perhaps visit the Tate Gallery, or take a boat trip to Seal Island.

To note when choosing your walk: There is a steep, slippery concrete path descending to Carbis Bay and also steep, rocky sections on the coast path especially around Carrack Gladden.

Option 2 - Lelant & Carbis Bay

Distance: 7½ miles (12km)

Ascent: 1,200 feet (380m)

In summary: Head up to Knill's Monument, then drop down to join the coast near Lelant church. We follow the coastal path back to St Ives, passing through the dunes beside Porthkidney Sands, Carrack Gladden and Carbis Bay.

Highlight: Enjoy glorious views over St Ives Bay from Knill's Monument. Look out for the Baulking House, once used by Cornish pilchard fishermen.

Option 3 - Trencrom Hill & Lelant

Distance: 10.5 miles (17km)

Ascent: 1,600 feet (485m)

In summary: We head up to Knill's Monument, over fields to Trencrom Hill then onto Lelant church. We follow the coast path beside the Hayle Estuary and through dunes overlooking Porthkidney Sands and Carbis Bay before arriving back at St Ives.

Highlight: Stunning views from the top of the iron-age hill fort of Trencrom Hill, including the south coast and St Michael's Mount.

Day 4 Poldark Country & Land's End

Option 1 - St Just, Whitesand Bay to Land's End

Distance: 5½ miles (8.5km)

Ascent: 650 feet (200m)

In summary: Walk from the mining village of St Just across the fields and lanes of the Cot Valley, before joining the Coast Path to reach the old fishing village of Sennen Cove. The final section leads us over the granite cliffs to Land's End.

Highlight: The cliff-top walk from Sennen Cove to Land's End is particularly impressive, with a real sense of achievement as you reach this iconic spot.

Option 2 - St Just, Carn Ballowall & Land's End

Distance: 7½ miles (12.5km)

Ascent: 1200 feet (440m)

In summary: We start at St Just before heading towards the coast and passing the chambered tomb at Ballowall Barrow. We then join the South West Coast Path and take the undulating coastal route until we reach Land's End.

Highlight: Fantastic views from the cliff edge looking over the Ballowall Chamber Tomb.

Option 3 - Botallack, Cape Cornwall and Land's End

Distance: 9 miles (14km)

Ascent: 1,850 feet (560m)

In summary: Follow the South West Coast Path from the famous Crown Mines at Botallack to Cape Cornwall. Then on past Ballowall Barrow, a Bronze Age burial chamber, to Sennen Cove and Land's End.

Highlight: Discover Cornwall's rich history of tin mining, now recognised as a World Heritage Site. Look out for the abandoned engine houses perched just above the sea at Botallack.

Day 5 Free Day

Day 6 Around the Lizard

Option 1 - Church Cove to Kynance Cove

Distance: 5.5 miles (9km)

Ascent: 925ft (280m)

In summary: A stunning circuit around the southern tip of England. We'll head to Church Cove, then continue around the headlands passing Bass Point, the Lizard Point lighthouse and on to Kynance Cove.

Highlight: Kynance Cove is a real gem with its serpentine rock formations and stunning views from the beach cafe.

Option 2 - Cadgwith, Polpeor & Kynance Cove

Distance: 8.5 miles (13.5km)

Ascent: 1,375ft (420m)

In summary: Starting in Lizard, the walk heads to Cadgwith before picking up the Coastal path round, passed Lizard Point, on to Kynance cove before heading back to Lizard.

Highlight: This is coastal walking at its best; an opportunity to stride out and soak up the sea views.

Option 3 - Mullion to the Lizard

Distance: 8 miles (12.75km)

Ascent: 1730 feet (5300m)

In summary: A breathtaking route from the picturesque harbour at Mullion along high cliffs, past hidden coves and headlands to the stunning Kynance Cove before reaching Lizard village along the top of a Cornish hedge....

Highlight: Look out for the iconic Cornish choughs on the cliffs at Predannick.

Day 7 Penwith Moors

Option 1 - Rosewall Hill

Distance: 5½ miles (9km)

Ascent: 700 feet (220m)

In summary: We head up through the site of an old uranium mine before ascending Rosewall Hill, passing the remnants of an old tin mine on the way to the tor-like summit. We descend via Trevalgan Hill and return through fields and farms.

Highlight: Unmissable views of Hayle Estuary, Carbis Bay and the brooding moors further west.

Option 2 - Rosewall Hill & Towednack

Distance: 7.5 miles (12.5km)

Ascent: 850 feet (260m)

In summary: Our route takes us along quiet lanes and fields to Towednack before ascending Rosewall Hill. We walk along the tor-like rocky summit before descending over Trevalgan Hill and return through fields and farms.

Highlight: A taste of the moors plus the charming 13th century church at Towednack make this a walk to remember

Option 3 - Rosewall Hill & Zennor Hill

Distance: 12 miles (19km)

Ascent: 1,400 feet (440m)

In summary: We take a scenic route around Rosewall Hill then head further west passing Towednack church to reach more remote moorland. We pass Zennor Quoit before gaining the impressive rocky summit of Zennor Hill. We descend to Zennor village before following the field path back to St Ives.

Highlight: Don't miss this chance to immerse yourself in atmospheric moorland with its intriguing Neolithic monuments a mere stone's throw from the coast.

Day 8 Departure Day

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before making your way home.

Daily Walk Options



Moderate walking grade 5

Some walking experience needed. Full day walks which may include some short but steep ascents and descents throughout the day, and varied terrain. Regular stops. Typically, 8-9 miles (13-15km) with around 1,300ft (400m) 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

Chy Morvah, St Ives

This beautiful property is just steps from the centre of St Ives – the seaside town that has inspired generations of artists with its working harbour, proud fishing community, white-sand beaches, and stunning Cornish landscape. Enjoying an elevated position with sweeping views over St Ives Bay, Chy Morvah means 'house by the sea' in Cornish and you'll find four great beaches nearby – Porthmeor, Porthminster, Harbour, and Porthgwidden – plus plenty of walking routes along the Penwith peninsula. It's also a short drive to St Michael's Mount – the tidal island crowned by a medieval church and castle. Expect tough-but-rewarding walks, over undulating coastal terrain. With tricky stone stiles and rocky paths underfoot, fitness and agility will be challenged.

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

- 39 well-appointed guest rooms • Exclusive occupancy: 54 guests minimum • Check in from 4:00pm • For members check in from 2:00pm • Full-board (including cream tea on arrival) • Free Wi-Fi • Free limited on-site parking • Boot room and drying room • 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 • Lounge • Garden • Heated outdoor pool (open May to September*) • Electric vehicle charging point - Please note, you will need to bring your own cables to use this EV charging point • Local launderette available in town



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, Chy Morvah has 39 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: The guest rooms that make the most of the sea views are easily the best.

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

*Please note, pool opening hours are: 07:00am – 09:00am and 16:00pm – 18:30pm

Accessibility

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

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 [Chy Morvah](#)

Travel Details

Address

Chy Morvah
Bishops Road
St. Ives
Cornwall TR26 2DB

Tel: [+44 \(0\)1736 796314](tel:+44(0)1736796314)

By train

The nearest rail station is St Ives. Chy Morvah is a short 10-minute walk uphill from the station. Exit the station, turn left and walk through St Ives Station car park, take the walkway on your left to Terrace Road A3074. Turn left, cross the road and continue uphill on a No Entry road to reach Pendolver Terrace. Turn left on Pendolver Terrace and follow the road around uphill to the right. Chy Morvah is signposted ahead.

An alternative to St Ives rail station is St Erth, which is connected to many mainline services. Please check National Rail for train times and route planning.

By taxi

St. Ives station is only half a mile away, but it's a steep uphill walk.

St. Erth is four miles away and the journey takes just over 10 minutes.

Harbour Cars or A1 Taxis

You can pre-book a taxi from our recommended company, Harbour or A1 Taxis Cars. We recommend booking your taxi at least seven days in advance by contacting:

Harbour Cars: [01736797688](tel:01736797688)

A1 Taxis: [07736797700](tel:07736797700)

A return journey can be arranged on your behalf by the HF Holidays House Manager at Chy Morvah.

By car

Head to Cornwall via the A30 then take the A3074 signposted to St. Ives. At the next two small roundabouts, go straight across the first and take a right at the second towards Lelant. Pass through Lelant and Carbis Bay on the same road.

As you approach St. Ives keep left at the fork, which heads slightly uphill, following signs to visitor parking and the leisure centre. Follow the road and turn left up the steep hill. Almost immediately the road turns left again, but instead of following the road, turn off and head directly up the hill on Porthminster Terrace.

Chy Morvah is at the top of the hill. To reach the car park you'll need to drive left past the front of Chy Morvah and turn immediately right behind the back of the building. The car park is on the right 15 yards along Bishop's Road. Space is limited. If the car park is full, we recommend parking at St Ives Trenwith Car Park, TR26 1DD. This is a charged local long stay car park, approximately 5 minutes walk from Chy Morvah.

By air

The nearest airport is London Heathrow Airport.

First take the train to London Paddington station from where you'll find direct trains to St. Erth, and a short train journey to St. Ives.

A morning arrival into Heathrow would be best as you'll need around 6.5 hours to complete the journey.

The airports at Bristol and Newquay are also nearby, but there aren't as many flight options.

Check National Rail for 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 Chy Morvah.

St. Ives Harbour

While it may no longer be crammed full of fishing boats and traders, the working harbour is still the beating heart of the town. Harbour Beach is right on the doorstep, but the sandy gems of Porthminster, Porthmeor, and Porthgwidden are just an easy walk away.

Barbara Hepworth Gallery & Sculpture Garden

Just a short walk away, this Tate-run museum and garden sets the scene for a fascinating insight into one of Britain's most important 20th century artists. Highlights include impressive sculptures in bronze, stone, and wood, along with paintings, drawings, and archive material.

St Michael's Mount

A 20-minute drive or a 45-minute bus ride away, this tidal island crowned by a medieval church and castle lies off the coast of Marazion. Mostly owned by the National Trust since 1954, it has been the cherished home of the St. Aubyn family since the 17th century. If you wish to visit, please check the website for full information on access, opening times and ticket booking. Please note that National Trust members must book a free ticket.

Minack Theatre

Carved into the granite cliff overlooking the Porthcurno Bay, this famous open-air theatre first premiered Shakespeare's *The Tempest* in 1932. It's a very popular destination, so if you plan on going, whether for a theatre and garden visit, guided tour or show, advanced bookings are essential. Visiting hours vary depending on the performance schedule so always check the website beforehand for full details. Bookings can be made online or by calling the box office, open 10am – 4pm on 01736 810181. The theatre is a 45-minute drive or 2-hour bus ride away on the Land's End Coaster service. The nearest stop is Porthcurno, a ten-minute walk from the theatre.

Geevor Tin Mine

As the last mine to work the UNESCO-listed St. Just Mining District, this award-winning heritage attraction is home to the largest number of undersea tin and copper mines in the world. The museum and visitor centre opens year-round from Sunday to Thursday.

National Maritime Museum Cornwall

Located on Falmouth Harbour, this award-winning museum celebrates Cornwall's maritime heritage through interactive exhibits, talks, lectures, boatbuilding workshops, and more. The National Small Boat Collection is one of the star attractions.

Cornish Seal Sanctuary

Set on the Helford Estuary in the village of Gweek, this incredible charity rescues and grey seal pups from around the Cornish coastline – and then returns them to the wild. You'll get to enjoy the underwater viewing areas and even stay for feeding time.

Eden Project

An epic domed structure just an hour's drive away, this dramatic global garden is home to cutting-edge architecture, outdoor gardens, plant-based exhibits, art installations, and play areas – all housed in tropical biomes set in a crater the size of 30 football pitches.

Lost Gardens of Heligan

Just an hour's drive away, this 200-acre wonderland offers plenty of thrills for plant lovers. Rediscovered by the Eden Project's co-founder Tim Smit, this Victorian country house garden is filled with traditional and rare breeds and plenty of peaceful spaces.

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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