

7 Night Discover More of the Western Yorkshire Dales

Trip style: Small group holidays

Destination:  Yorkshire Dales

Trip code: SDB07-HCH05

Carbon Footprint:  182kg CO2



Holiday Overview

Discover the places and people that have helped shape the Western Yorkshire Dales through memorable sightseeing stops and unique experiences. Uncover the area's history at the Dales Countryside Museum and get a taste of the region with a trip to Wensleydale Creamery to try Yorkshire's most famous cheese. There'll also be a talk from an expert on Sedbergh's status as England's official book town, and a stroll to Cotter Force waterfall – one of this landscape's many natural wonders. You'll even visit the historic Lake District market town of Kendal, plus a family-run farm in Ravenstondale to find out how local goat's cheese is made.

WHAT YOU'LL LOVE

- The Cheesemaking Experience at Wensleydale Creamery
- Exploring Kirkby Stephen East Station with a talk by a local train enthusiast
- Visiting Piper Hole Goat Farm, Cumbria's first "Coronation Meadow"
- Visiting serene Brigflatts, one of the most important Quaker Meeting Houses
- Learning about the past at Sedbergh and Dent Heritage Museum
- Spending time in the manicured gardens of Winton Park
- A more personalised experience thanks to small group sizes (maximum 15 people in 2026 and 16 people in 2027)

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Comfortable en-suite accommodation in our country house
- Tickets for Dales Countryside Museum, Wensleydale Creamery Cheese Experience tour, Winton Park Gardens, cream tea at the Fat Lamb Inn, Piper Hole Goat Farm, Brigflatts Quaker House, Garsdale Pike Farm, Abbot Hall Art Gallery, Dent Heritage Museum, Farfield Mill
- 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

WALKING GRADES AND OPTIONS

This holiday is active and busy with visits throughout the day. You will need to be able to get on and off minibuses with ease, and be able to walk up to 2 miles, across uneven, grassy terrain where the ground can be slippery underfoot. It is important for your own and your fellow guests' enjoyment that you can maintain the pace. We've provided a simple fitness test below, which will help you assess whether this holiday is for you:

You should be able to do the following:

- Walk for one hour at a reasonable pace (2 miles per hour) without needing to take a break to rest
- Climb two flights of stairs at a reasonable pace
- Stand unaided for an hour
- Stand up and sit down ten times in one minute
- Please ensure you are able to fulfil these fitness requirements, to ensure you get the very best from your holiday.

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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. Enjoy a complimentary cream tea at 16:30 and meet other guests.

Day 2 Hawes

Start the day with a visit to the Dales Countryside Museum. It's then on to Wensleydale creamery for the full [cheese experience](#) where guests will be given a cheesemaking demonstration and tour.

In the afternoon, we'll explore the charming Dales market town of Hawes with its narrow streets filled with an array of independent shops and cafes.

Day 3 Kirkby Stephen

Our day begins with a trip to Kirkby Stephen East, a station which served the Kirkby Stephen community for over 100 years. There are historical carriages to view and we'll enjoy a talk from a local train enthusiast who can paint a picture of what life was like when the station was open. Following on from our visit, we'll have time to explore Kirkby Stephen before we head to Winton Park Gardens. Open for only a handful of days each year, Winton Park was created from scratch by Anthony and Janet Kilvington. Spread over five acres the varying aspects of the garden are linked by a series of paths which culminate with a bridge over the stream at the highest part, giving spectacular views of Wild Boar Fell and Mallerstang Edge.

In the evening, we will be joined by one of Sedbergh's book shop owners who will talk to us about its status as England's official book town.

Day 4 Free Day

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

Day 5 Ravenstonedale

We start the day with a trip to Piper Hole Goat Farm – the farm consists of SSSI meadow land, recognised as Cumbria's first "Coronation Meadow". It is also home to a herd of goats. Milked twice per day their milk is made into soap or pasteurised and made into a range of quality goat's cheese.

After a morning with the goats, guests can walk to Smardale Gill Viaduct. Designed by Cumbrian Engineer Sir Thomas Bouch the viaduct was built wide enough for double track, but never carried more than a single line of rails. Your guide will introduce you to the area's unique geology, too.

On our way home, we'll stop by the Fat Lamb Inn for some refreshments. The pub boasts an award-winning restaurant and is as much famous for its food as it is its motoring memorabilia adorning the walls.

Day 6 Kendal

Today begins with a trip to the quaker meeting house at Brigflatts before heading into Kendal for a tour of the town before visiting Abbot Hall art gallery, run by the charity Lakeland Arts and established in 1962 in a Grade I listed Georgian building on the banks of the River Kent. Enjoy free time in Kendal then in the afternoon, we'll visit a farm in Garsdale to learn about regenerative farming and bogs, and have the option to stop by a neighbouring farm which focuses on sustainable livestock farming.

Day 7 Sedbergh and Dent

Our final day starts in Dent with a short walk around the village and out to Flintergill. Return to visit to the heritage museum in Dent, where we'll learn about the terrible knitters and life in the village over the years. From here, we'll visit Farfield Mill, a fantastic art craft & heritage gallery set on the edge of the Yorkshire Dales with resident artists. Today ends in Sedbergh itself, with a visit to the Weavers workshop and gallery, where we'll have a talk by Laura, an independent creator of beautiful blankets woven from fully traceable British wool sourced directly from farms in the Yorkshire Dales and Cumbria.

Day 8 Departure Day

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before making your way home.

Accommodation

Thorns Hall, Sedbergh

Delivering on all fronts for countryside lovers, this cosy Grade II-listed manor house is just a skip away from Sedbergh – the Cumbrian market town treasured for its cobbled streets, public school, artisan shops, and bookshops (it's known as England's official book town for good reason). You'll also have the Yorkshire Dales National Park on your doorstep as well as the Howgill Fells – the small group of hills adored by legendary fellwalker, illustrator, and guidebook author Alfred Wainwright. The walking opportunities here are outstanding, but if you fancy travelling further afield there's Kendal (home of the mint cake), Hawes, Wensleydale, Appleby-in-Westmorland, and Lake Windemere all within easy driving distance.

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

- 25 well-appointed guest rooms • Exclusive occupancy: 32 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 • 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, Thorns Hall has 25 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 spacious Room 25 for its ground floor setting, brick fireplace, comfy seating, large bed, and gorgeous views of the gardens. Room 4 is large and airy while the cosier Room 13 has an exposed wood ceiling and courtyard view.

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 [Thorns Hall](#)

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 [Thorns Hall](#)

Travel Details

Address

Thorns Hall
Cautley Road
Sedbergh
Cumbria LA10 5LE

Tel: [+44 \(0\)1539 620973](tel:+44(0)1539620973)

By train

The nearest station is Oxenholme, Lake District, on the main line between London and Glasgow.

Check National Rail for routes and journey times.

By shared transfer

If you're travelling to or from Thorns Hall on Mondays or Fridays or over the festive period, you can join our group transfer from Oxenholme Railway Station.

2026 prices are £50 per person for a return transfer or £25 per person for a single transfer.

Outward journey: Depart Oxenholme Railway Station at 16:30; arrive at Thorns Hall at 17:10.

Return journey: Depart Thorns Hall at 09:30; arrive at Oxenholme Railway Station at 10:10.

Places are limited so booking is essential. We recommend booking at least 14 days in advance by contacting:

HF Holidays Sales and Support Team

Tel: [+44 \(0\)203 974 8865](tel:+44(0)2039748865)

Email: This email address is being protected from spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it.

By taxi

The journey from Oxenholme station to Thorns Hall is 10 miles and will take about 20 minutes.

For pricing, please contact Woofs of Sedbergh directly.

Woofs of Sedbergh

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

Tel: [+44 \(0\)1539 620414](tel:+44(0)1539620414)

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 Thorns Hall.

*Woofs of Sedbergh is not owned or managed by HF Holidays.

By car

There's a car park available at Thorns Hall if you decide to drive.

Leave the M6 at junction 37 and follow the A684 eastbound for five miles to Sedbergh. At Sedbergh follow the road into Finkle Street (avoiding the main street), then almost immediately turn left at a small roundabout into Back Lane. Turn onto the A683 following signs to Kirkby Stephen. Thorns Hall is 100 yards on the left.

By air

The nearest airport is Manchester International Airport.

There are direct trains every hour to Oxenholme with the journey taking around 90 minutes. From Oxenholme station you can complete the journey to Sedbergh by taxi.

National Rail have up-to-date information on train times and routes.

Flying to London Heathrow airport is another option, but it'll take you at least four hours to reach Oxenholme. Catch the train to London Paddington station, then the London Underground to London Euston where you can connect to the main line train to Oxenholme. The journey from here is 2.5 hours.

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 Thorns Hall.

Sedbergh

A few minutes' walk away, this Cumbrian market town is treasured for its cobbled streets, public school, and bookshops (it became England's Book Town in 2003). Just down the road is the Farfield Mill Arts, a crafts and heritage centre housed in a Victorian woollen mill.

Kendal

Home of Romney's Kendal Mint Cake which was made famous on 29 May 1953 when it was carried on the first successful summit of Mount Everest by Sir Edmund Hillary and Sirdar Tenzing, this market town is a 20-minute drive away.

Sizergh Castle

A 25-minute drive away, this 1,600-acre estate delights with ancient woodland, an award-winning limestone rock garden, and a boating lake. Built by the Strickland family in 1350, the house has turrets, battlements, a collection of family paintings, and oak-panelled interiors.

Levens Hall & Garden

A 30-minute drive away, this privately-owned Elizabethan mansion is most cherished for its award-winning topiary gardens – the oldest in the world. Inside, there's fine oak panelling, ornate plasterwork, leather wall coverings, and the earliest examples of English patchwork.

Settle to Carlisle Railway

This 73-mile-long railway route crosses regions of the Yorkshire Dales and the North Pennines. Head south for the Ribbleshead Viaduct as well as Settle, Skipton and Saltaire – or head north for Appleby. The nearest station is Garsdale, a 20-minute drive away.

Hawes & Wensleydale

A 30-minute drive through the Yorkshire Dales takes you to the Hawes, the market town of Upper Wensleydale. From here you can continue through to Wensleydale, the wide open valley famous for its historic villages, traditional markets and crafts, and plentiful cheeses.

Lake District

A 40-minute drive away, the Lake District in the heart of Cumbria has been adored by poets, painters, and literary giants for centuries. It spoils first-timers and returning visitors with charming villages, tumbling waterfalls, impressive peaks, and shimmering bodies of water.

Lake Windemere

An hour's drive away, this watery wonder measures 10.5 miles long, one mile wide, and 220 feet deep. Whether you start your journey in Bowness, Ambleside, or Lakeside, there are plenty of cruise operators offering old-fashioned steamers or modern sightseeing vessels.

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, sturdy footwear with a good grip. You'll be on your feet for much of the day
- Waterproof jacket
- Waterproof overtrousers
- Sunhat
- Rucksack
- Water bottle (at least 1 litre capacity)
- Sunscreen
- Mobile phone
- UV sunglasses

Recommended

- First aid kit, including plasters
- Sit mat
- Waterproof pouch for valuables
- Rubbish bag (remember to always leave no trace)
- Wallet/purse

Optional extras

- Walking poles,
- Flask for hot drinks
- Durable lunch box
- Waterproof rucksack liner

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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