

7 Night Shropshire Hills Christmas Guided Walking Holiday



Trip style:
Festive breaks

Destination:
📍 Shropshire Hills

Walking Grade
1, 4, 6 & 7

Carbon Footprint:
🌳 169kg CO2

Holiday Overview

Spend the festive season in Shropshire and head out on winter walks that explore this much-loved National Landscape. And when you're not busy enjoying the wintry scenery of the Shropshire Hills, cosy up in Longmynd House – our historic hilltop property that sits just a short stroll from the charming market town of Church Stretton. We pull out all the stops at this time of year and our houses 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 Shropshire Hills on foot
- Staying in our charming country house in the Shropshire Hills National Landscape
- 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 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 Ludlow & The Mortimer Forest

Option 1 - Bromfield to Ludlow

Distance: 3½ miles (5.5km)

Total ascent: 300 feet (100m)

In summary: From Bromfield we cross the Earl of Plymouth's estate to join field and woodland paths to reach Ludlow Castle. A riverside walk along the 'bread walk' takes us into town.

Highlight: The Ludlow town trail which takes in some of the best sites of this historic town.

Option 2 - Mortimer Forest

Distance: 6½ miles (10.5km)

Ascent: 900 feet (280m)

In summary: Leaving from Bromfield we pass through Oakly Park to reach the ancient Mortimer Forest. We then head further into the forest before descending along the secluded Mary Knoll Valley to enter Ludlow via the Ludford Bridge.

Highlight: Ludlow is one of England's finest market towns with its array of black and white timbered buildings, overlooked by an impressive castle.

Option 3 - Mortimer Forest, Overton & Ludlow

Distance: 9 miles (14km)

Total ascent: 1,100 feet (340m)

In summary: A longer exploration from Bromfield up and over the wooded slopes of Mortimer Forest and into the village of Overton, where we follow the old coach road to Ludlow.

Highlight: Ludlow is one of England's finest market towns with its array of black and white timbered buildings, overlooked by an impressive castle.

Day 3 The Valleys

Option 1 - New Pool Reservoir and into Church Stretton

Distance: 5 miles (8km)

Ascent: 1050 feet (320m)

In summary: We walk to the New Pool reservoir in the Cardingmill Valley, which is one of the two damming streams flowing off the Long Mynd that provides water for Church Stretton. We then drop back through the valley, taking in views of the valley before looping back through the town and to the house.

Highlight: Great views of Caer Caradoc from the valley. Once at the top reservoir, it is a lovely place to rest and if you like.

Option 2 - Townbrook and Cardingmill Valley

Distance: 6½ miles (10.5km)

Ascent: 1,300 feet (400m)

In summary: Leaving Longmynd House we make our way through Rectory Woods and up the beautiful Townbrook Valley to reach the Long Mynd plateau and its highest point at Pole Bank. We then make our way north along the historic Port Way before descending into the scenic Carding Mill Valley and back to Longmynd House.

Highlight: Relax at the National Trust café in the Carding Mill Valley and enjoy the views of this local beauty spot.

Option 3 - Long Mynd & Marshbrook

Distance: 10 miles (16km)

Ascent: 1,750 feet (540m)

In summary: We walk straight from the house to the beautiful Townbrook Hollow to take a stunning but gentle ascent to The Longmynd plateau, following the ancient drovers road of The Portway to the summit of the Longmynd at Pole Bank. Heading down into the hamlet of Minton via the hill of the same name and onto Marshbrook before we head back home via Little Stretton and the lower slopes of The Longmynd.

Highlight: 360 degree views from Pole Bank.

Day 4 Caer Caradoc

Option 1 - Slopes of Caer Caradoc

Distance: 7 miles (11km)

Ascent: 1,150 feet (360m)

In summary: A lovely route around Church Stretton. Heading across the valley towards the Stretton Hills we wind our way up the Cwms Valley along the scenic path which runs around the slopes of Caer Caradoc Hill.

Highlight: Enjoy the panoramic views of Church Stretton, Long Mynd and Stretton Hills.

Option 2 - Hope Bowdler & Caer Caradoc

Distance: 9 miles (14km)

Ascent: 1,950 feet (600m)

In summary: We cross the valley to ascend the long ridge of Hope Bowdler Hill. Our second summit is the distinctive Caer Caradoc Hill.

Highlight: Look out for the Iron Age hillfort on the summit of Caer Caradoc; said to be the site of King Caractacus's final stand against the Roman invasion.

Option 3 - Caer Caradoc & The Lawley

Distance: 10½ miles (16.5km)

Total ascent: 2,300 feet (700m)

In summary: Climb Caer Caradoc to take in panoramic views of the area and the iron age fort, followed by the top of the Lawley, before circling back round in the valley and to the house.

Highlight: Taking in some local summits and the extensive iron age fort earthworks on Caer Caradoc.

Day 5 Free Day

The day has been left free for you to relax or explore the local area.

Day 6 Ragleth Hill

Option 1 - Little Stretton and Ragdon

Distance: 6½ miles (11km)

Total ascent: 1,050 feet (320m)

In summary: A lovely route around Church Stretton. Head across the valley and along a scenic path which runs around the Hazler and Helmeth hills.

Highlight: Enjoy views over Church Stretton, Long Mynd and The Gaerstone.

Option 2 - Ragleth Hill & Chelmick

Distance: 7½ miles (12km)

Ascent: 1,150 feet (360m)

In summary: Starting with a visit to the pretty village of Little Stretton, we tackle a sharp ascent to the summit of Ragleth Hill, where we are rewarded with stunning 360 degree views. Following the grassy ridge to its northern end, we head down to Chelmick Valley and the village of Hope Bowdler before returning to Longmynd House via the lower slopes of Hope Bowdler Hill and Helmeth Hill.

Highlight: Panoramic 360 degree views from Ragleth Hill (which can be seen clearly from the dining room at Longmynd House) across Shropshire and beyond.

Option 3 - Ragleth Hill, Chelmick and Hope Bowdler Hill

Distance: 10 miles (16km)

Ascent: 2,050 feet (620m)

In summary: Walking through the pretty village of Little Stretton we cross the valley to make a sharp ascent to the summit of Ragleth Hill. We follow its grassy ridge northwards before descending to Chelmick valley and the village of Hope Bowdler. We then ascend steadily across Hope Bowdler Hill to reach Willstone Hill and the famous Battle Stones from where we return to Longmynd House via the Gaer Stone and lower slopes of Helmeth Hill.

Highlight: The much photographed natural rocky outcrops of the Battles Stones and the Gaer Stone.

Day 7 Much Wenlock & Ironbridge

Option 1 - Wyke to Blists Hill

Distance: 4½ miles (7½km)

Total ascent: 500 feet (140m)

In summary: From the hamlet of Wyke we follow the Shropshire Way through to the United Nations World Heritage Site of Ironbridge.

Highlight: The Ironbridge, which is the first single span road bridge in the world constructed of iron.

Option 2 - Much Wenlock to Ironbridge

Distance: 6½ miles (11km)

Total ascent: 550 feet (160m)

In summary: Walk from Much Wenlock onto Benthall Edge and down into the Severn Gorge to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Ironbridge.

Highlight: There's time to explore the quaint riverside town of Ironbridge.

Option 3 - Wenlock Edge to Ironbridge

Distance: 10 miles (16km)

Total ascent: 950 feet (300m)

In summary: Walk along the famous Wenlock Edge into the market town of Much Wenlock. We then follow the Jack Mytton Way to view Benthall Hall and onwards to Ironbridge.

Highlight: The views to the South Shropshire Hills and beyond.

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 6

Longer full day walks with more ascent and varied terrain. Good fitness and agility are needed. Typically, 9-10 miles (15-16km) with around 1,500ft (460m) 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.

Accommodation

Longmynd Hotel

For rural calm in the Shropshire Hills National Landscape, the location of this characterful country house is hard to top. Set in a wooded hillside just a short stroll from the market town of Church Stretton (nicknamed Little Switzerland for its picturesque landscape), you'll be within walking or driving distance of the Stiperstones, Caer Caradoc, Ironbridge Valley of Invention, and the historic towns of Ludlow and Shrewsbury. And then, of course, there's the Long Mynd itself – an area of registered common land that has been cared for by a group of farmers (the self-named commoners) who have grazed sheep and ponies here for generations.

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

• 56 well-appointed guest rooms • Exclusive occupancy: 89 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 • 2 travel cots & 2 high chairs • 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 • [Well-behaved dogs welcome on self-guided holidays](#) • 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

Since 2022, the £3 million invested so far has established a flagship HF property. A full upgrade of all rooms is expected to be complete by April 2027 with 65% of guest rooms upgraded. Designed with your comfort in mind, Longmynd Hotel has 56 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: For more privacy, the lodges have their own terrace.

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

Accessibility

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

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 [Longmynd Hotel](#)

Travel Details

Address

Longmynd Hotel
Cunnery Road
Church Stretton
Shropshire SY6 6AG

Tel: [+44 \(0\)1694 722244](tel:+44(0)1694722244)

By train

The nearest station is Church Stretton. Although Longmynd Hotel is less than a mile from the station, it is at the top of a steep hill and there is no taxi rank at the station. Taxis are in extremely limited supply in the Church Stretton area and drivers usually come from further afield which is reflected in fares.

Shrewsbury has more choice of trains, and you can take a taxi directly to the house from the station (see below).

Check National Rail for train times and routes.

By taxi

From Shrewsbury, it's a 15-mile journey taking 30 to 40 minutes.

Single journeys are approx £45 but please contact Shropshire Cars directly for confirmation.

You can pre-book a taxi from our recommended Shrewsbury based company, Shropshire Cars*. We recommend booking your taxi, including your return journey if needed, at least seven days in advance by contacting via WhatsApp or using their App:

WhatsApp: 07379338526

APP STORE:

<https://apps.apple.com/app/shropshire-cars/id6578451220>

and

Google Play: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.shropshirecars.passengerapp>

By car

There's free car parking at Longmynd Hotel if you decide to drive.

Follow the A49 to Church Stretton. At the traffic lights turn off into town, then at the first junction turn left onto the High Street. Go straight over the mini-roundabout, and then take the next right into Cunnery Road. Follow the road up the steep hill to Longmynd Hotel.

By air

The nearest airport is Manchester International Airport.

Trains take about two hours, with a change in Crewe.

You can also fly into London Heathrow airport, but it'll take at least 4 hours to reach Shrewsbury by train.

National Rail has up-to-date 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 Longmynd Hotel.

Church Stretton

Just a 10-minute walk downhill, this market town lives up to its Little Switzerland moniker for its dramatic hills on both sides of the valley. It has retained much of its Edwardian charm, tempting with independent shops, traditional tea rooms, pubs, and restaurants.

Ludlow

A 20-minute drive away, this attractive market town rewards with a historic town centre, beautiful period buildings, and a castle dating back to the 11th century. Visit-worthy places include St. Laurence's Church, Ludlow Museum, and Ludlow Millennium Green.

Ironbridge Valley of Invention

A 45-minute drive away and within the heart of a UNESCO World Heritage Site, this collection of award-winning museums stretches along the River Severn. All are within six square miles of the Ironbridge Gorge, hailed as the birthplace of the Industrial Revolution.

Severn Valley Railway

Operating steam-hauled passenger trains between Bridgnorth, Bewdley, and Kidderminster, this 16-mile journey takes you along the beautiful Severn Valley. The nearest station at Bridgnorth is a 40-minute drive from Church Stretton.

Shrewsbury

A 30-minute drive away, Shropshire's country town charms with an imposing redbrick castle, higgledy-piggledy streets, and quirky buildings. Highlights include visiting Shrewsbury Museum & Art Gallery, relaxing in Shrewsbury Quarry, and following the Darwin Town Trail.

Much Wenlock

A 30-minute drive away, this small Shropshire town was the birthplace Dr William Penny Brookes – the founder of the modern Olympic Games. Highlights include visiting the remains of Wenlock Priory, the site of an Anglo Saxon monastery founded in about AD 680.

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.

Attingham Park

A 25-minute drive away, this 18th century estate with 200 acres of parkland is managed by the National Trust. The Mansion has an evolving visitor programme and different areas of the house open throughout the year.

Powis Castle

A 45-minute drive away, this 13th century castle, world-famous garden, and historic collection has been cared for by the National Trust since 1952. The paintings, sculptures, furniture, and tapestries on display throughout the house are rather impressive.

Chirk Castle

Occupied as a castle and stately home for over 700 years, this fine medieval hilltop fortress is just under an hour's drive away. Highlights include the military displays, elegant state rooms, and award-winning gardens covering 5.5 acres of manicured lawns.

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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