

7 Night Southern Yorkshire Dales Guided Walking Holiday

Tour Style: Guided walking

Destinations: Yorkshire Dales, United Kingdom & England

Trip code: MDBOB-7

2, 3 & 4



HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

A fabulous introduction to the Southern Yorkshire Dales, this guided walking holiday is perfect for those keen to enjoy limestone scenery, geological wonders, rich wildlife, and the choice of up to three different-grade daily guided walks. Highlights include Malham Tarn, Janet's Foss, Gordale Scar, Malham Cove, and The Dry Valley of the Watlowes.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Comfortable en-suite accommodation in our country house
- Cream tea on arrival day
- Cooked or continental breakfast every morning
- Daily packed lunches
- Three-course evening meals, plus tea & coffee
- Guided walking with experienced HF Holidays Leaders
- Choice of up to three different-grade daily walks

- 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

HOLIDAYS HIGHLIGHTS

- Marvelling at some of the most impressive peaks in England
- Discovering the varied landscape of the Southern Yorkshire Dales on foot
- Admiring green valleys and waterfalls on riverside strolls
- Spending time with like-minded people in the great outdoors
- Finding new routes and places to explore with your HF Holidays Leader
- Staying at Newfield Hall, our country house near the village of Malham

TRIP SUITABILITY

This trip is graded Activity level 2, level 3 and level 4. Explore the beautiful Yorkshire Dales on our guided walks. We offer a great range of walks to suit everyone - including gentle walks along the green valleys as well as opportunities to climb impressive local peaks. Join our friendly and knowledgeable guides who will bring this stunning national park to life.

Our experienced guides offer the choice of up to three different walks each day, choose the option which best suits your interests and fitness.

We provide flexible holidays. Join our guided walks, explore independently, or relax at Newfield Hall.

ITINERARY VERSION 1

Day 1: Arrival Day

You're welcome to check in from 4pm onwards. Enjoy a complimentary cream tea on arrival.

Day 2: Airton, The River Aire And Malham

Option 1 - Kirkby Malham And River Aire

Distance: 6.5 miles (10.5km)

Ascent: 650 feet (200m)

In summary: Our circular walk from Newfield Hall takes us to historic Airton village, before continuing along the valley to Kirkby Malham. In the afternoon we'll return along the Pennine Way beside the River Aire.

Highlight: Discover plenty of historical interest including an 18th century watermill, the Cathedral of the Dales' at Kirkby Malham and the curious story of a watery grave.

Option 2 - Malham And River Aire

Distance: 9 miles (15km)

Ascent: 1,050 feet (320m)

In summary: Discover the beautiful countryside of Malhamdale as we explore the valley visiting the villages of Airton, Malham and Kirkby Malham, before returning by the Pennine Way beside the River Aire.

Highlight: Enjoy views of Malham Cove and walk past Aire Head where the river resurges from underground.

Option 3 - Exploring Malhamdale

Distance: 13 miles (21km)

Ascent: 1,750 feet (540m)

In summary: From Newfield Hall pass through the village of Calton before ascending the open moorland of Calton Moor to reach the superb viewpoint of Weets Top. We descend to Malham before exploring the western flanks of Malhamdale, including Kirkby Malham village, and returning by the River Aire.

Highlight: Discover more about the fascinating geology of Malhamdale as you gaze down from Weets Top over Gordale Scar and the classic limestone landscapes above Malham.

Day 3: Upper Wharfedale And Kettlewell

Option 1 - Upper Wharfedale

Distance: 7½ miles (12.5km)

Ascent: 700 feet (220m)

In summary: Follow the River Wharfe upstream to Hubberholme and its ancient church. We then follow the Dales Way along the valley to Kettlewell, walking beside the River Wharfe for much of our journey.

Highlight: Go mouse hunting at Hubberholme church! There's at least 20 wooden carvings to find on the 16th Century furniture.

Option 2 - Views Along Wharfedale

Distance: 8½ miles (14km)

Ascent: 1,400 feet (440m)

In summary: Walk around the head of Wharfedale passing Buckden Rake, Cray Gill and Hubberholme church. We then head south along the valley to Kettlewell, following an elevated path with extensive views down the dale.

Highlight: Discover delightful Upper Wharfedale - a landscape of unspoilt pastures and timeless villages.

Option 3 - Buckden Pike

Distance: 11 miles (17.5km)

Total ascent: 1,900 feet (580m)

In summary: Walk around the head of Wharfedale, then ascend onto the moors above to the summit of Buckden Pike. Having descended we'll follow the Dales Way alongside the River Wharfe for the last couple of miles to Kettlewell.

Highlight: The views from the top are breathtaking the panorama stretches from Ingleborough and Pen-y-ghent to the west to the Cleveland hills in the east.

Day 4: Free Day - Southern Yorkshire Dales

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

Day 5: Wharfedale, Simon's Seat And Bolton Abbey

Option 1 - Beside The Wharfe

Distance: 7 miles (11km)

Ascent: 550 feet (180m)

In summary: Walk along Wharfedale from Appletreewick to Bolton Abbey. Our route never strays far from the river and passes Barden Tower, the ruins of a 15th century fortified hunting lodge, and The Strid.

Highlight: Our walk ends beneath the iconic ruins of Bolton Abbey, a 12th-century Augustinian monastery.

Option 2 - Trollers Gill & River Wharfe

Distance: 10 miles (16½km)

Total ascent: 1,150 feet (360m)

In summary: Walk to the limestone gorge of Trollers Gill then descend to the River Wharfe and follow the river past The Strid to Bolton Abbey.

Highlight: The Strid is a dramatic stretch of the river where the channel is forced into a narrow chasm. The name supposedly derives from being able to 'stride' across. Please don't try this - it's wider than it looks!

Option 3 - Simon's Seat

Distance: 12½ miles (20½km)

Total ascent: 2,100 feet (640m)

In summary: Walk past Trollers Gill before going on high moor to the superb viewpoint of Simon's Seat. We cross Barden Fell and through the Valley of Desolation to follow the river to Bolton Abbey.

Highlight: The panoramic view from the top of Simon's Seat stretches along Wharfedale - perhaps even as far as the North York Moors on a clear day.

Day 6: Ribblesdale And Pen-y-ghent

Option 1 - Feizor & Ribble Way

Distance: 6.5 miles (10½km)

Ascent: 750 feet (240m)

In summary: Our route which starts southwest of Pen-y-ghent, goes over rolling hills to the hamlet of Feizor before taking a moorland path under Smearsett Scar to Little Stainforth. Picking up Ribble Way, our riverside path passes the waterfalls of Stainforth Force and the weir opposite Langcliffe before reaching the market town of Settle.

Highlight: Exploring the tranquil green landscapes of Ribblesdale, with views of Pen-y-ghent and the famous Settle to Carlisle railway.

Option 2 - Views Of The Three Peaks

Distance: 8½ miles (13.5km)

Ascent: 950 feet (300m)

In summary: A lovely circular walk from Horton-in-Ribblesdale following the Pennine Way and Ribble Way. The day offers magnificent views of the Ribblehead Viaduct, the Three Peaks, and the unique limestone pavements of Moughton Scars.

Highlight: The scenic Settle to Carlisle Railway carves its way through the Yorkshire Dales - the 24 arch Ribblehead Viaduct is one of its best known features.

Option 3 - Pen-y-ghent

Distance: 10 miles (16km)

Total ascent: 1,850 feet (580m)

In summary: Ascend to the summit of Pen-y-ghent, via Churn Milk Hole. We then follow the ridge to Plover Hill, then continue along the Pennine Way to Horton-in-Ribblesdale.

Highlight: The famous three peaks of Pen-y-ghent, Ingleborough and Whernside dominate the landscape. There's a great views and a real sense of achievement when you reach the top.

Day 7: Malham Cove

Option 1 - Around Malham

Distance: 7 miles (11.5km)

Ascent: 1,000 feet (300m)

In summary: We ascend gradually along a green lane and over open moorland up to Malham Tarn and return to Malham past Malham Cove and beautiful Janet's Foss waterfall.

Highlight: Looking over the limestone pavement of Malham Cove is always an impressive sight.

Option 2 - Gordale And Malham Cove

Distance: 9 miles (14.5km)

Ascent: 1,600 feet (480m)

In summary: A classic walk from Malham that leads to the beautiful sights of Janet's Foss and magnificent Gordale Scar before heading north over moorland, past the top of Malham Cove, to reach Malham Tarn. The return route provides stunning views of limestone countryside before descending by a green lane to reach the bottom of Malham Cove.

Highlight: The pretty woodland waterfall of Janet's Foss, the collapsed cave system of Gordale Scar from the last Ice Age, and the serene Malham Tarn, that is surrounded by pervious limestone.

Option 3 - Malham Tarn And Pennine Way

Distance: 12 miles (20.km)

Ascent: 1,700 feet (500m)

In summary: After passing Janet's Foss waterfall, we visit Gordale Scar before heading up on to Malham Moor with views of limestone pavements. We continue past Great Close Scar and join the Pennine Way north of Malham Tarn, returning to Malham via the Cove.

Highlight: A truly memorable day as we step onto the limestone pavement atop Malham Cove and soak up the panoramic view ahead over Malhamdale.

Day 8: Departure Day

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before making your way home.

ACCOMMODATION

Newfield Hall

Looking every inch the baronial mansion, Newfield Hall sits in two acres of grounds near the village of Malham at the southern base of Yorkshire Dales National Park. Given it was this very landscape which inspired Wordsworth to write a sonnet and Charles Kingsley to pen *The Water Babies*, the countryside views are as gorgeous as you'd imagine. You'll also have plenty of sightseeing greats within easy travelling distance, most notably Malham Tarn, Janet's Foss, Gordale Scar, Malham Cove, and The Dry Valley of the Watlows. And then, of course, there's Yorkshire's famous trio of summits: Pen-y-ghent, Whernside, and Ingleborough, collectively known as the three peaks. Stay at Newfield Hall and experience the exceptional service of a VisitEngland ROSE award winner. Find out more about the latest accolade awarded to our country house in the Southern Yorkshire Dales by reading our latest blog.

Country House Accommodation

Accommodation Info

Rooms

Designed with your comfort in mind, Newfield Hall has 46 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, and comfortable mattresses.

Superior Rooms are even more spacious en-suite guest rooms offering upgraded views of the surrounds. 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, and comfortable mattresses.

We love: The guest rooms spread across the main building and the tastefully converted coach house. Rooms 3 and 6 are both corner rooms offering original features and large bay windows overlooking the gardens and beyond (Room 6 has its own telescope).

The **Choose Your Room** service is available at our UK country houses, allowing you the option of choosing and confirming a specific room for an extra charge of £30 per room. This is subject to availability. Upgrade supplements apply.

Check in & check out

You are welcome to check in from **4:00pm at the earliest**. On arrival, you'll enjoy a complimentary cream tea and get to meet your fellow guests, our HF Holidays Leaders, and the rest of the friendly team.

On the day of departure, we kindly ask all guests to check out by **10:00am**. You'll be asked to settle your bill prior to leaving. You may, of course, make a charitable donation to our HF Holidays Pathways Fund if you wish. Please note that we only accept card payments.

Room supplements

Superior	Premium single	Premium double/twin	Choose your room
£25 pppn	£20 pppn	£20 pppn	£30 per room

About Your Stay

A warm welcome

We want you to feel comfortable from the moment you arrive. You'll find a welcome pack in your room with guest registration forms, menus, order forms for dinners and picnic lunches, the Wi-Fi password, and the front door code. Our houses are locked at night, so we recommend noting the Duty Manager's number on arrival in case of an emergency (or getting locked out).

Evening entertainment

While evening entertainment varies from house to house, the HF Holidays Big Pub Quiz held after dinner on Wednesdays is a weekly staple. Your HF Holidays Leader may be around for tips on guided and self-guided walking routes as well as visit-worthy local attractions.

Walks talks

Our HF Holidays Leaders host guided walking information briefings before dinner on arrival days. This is followed by a group Walks Talk for information on the following day's walking delights (held before dinner every evening). Self-guided walking guests are, of course, welcome.

The walking day

Prior to setting off on walks, your HF Holidays Leader will run you through a short safety briefing. There's also an up-to-date weather forecast on display at the house to ensure you have appropriate clothing and footwear. If you choose to do your own walks or are on a self-guided walking holiday, we ask that you please complete an Independent Walker Card each day. These can be found near the Discovery Point in the house.

Food & Drink

Led by experienced chefs, we serve a wide range of dishes made with fresh and seasonal ingredients. We always aim to source the best produce available and use home-grown herbs and vegetables from our own gardens whenever possible. Additionally, we have a licensed bar with beers, soft drinks, and a superb selection of spirits. Full-board comes as standard and includes a cream tea on arrival and a hearty breakfast on departure day.

HF Holidays understands the importance of managing allergens effectively to ensure food is safe for guests with food allergies. Whilst we are always able to confidently inform guests which allergens are present in our ingredients and dishes, we are unable to guarantee absolute freedom from the 14 main allergens in our kitchens. Vegetarian and vegan menu choices are available. If you have allergies, food intolerances, or any special dietary requirements, please inform our reservation team at the time of booking.

Accessibility

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

TRAVEL DETAILS

Address

Newfield Hall
Airton
Skipton
North Yorkshire BD23 4AA

What3words reference: went.befitting.fevered

Tel: [+44 \(0\)1729 830235](tel:+44(0)1729830235)

By Train

The most convenient station is Skipton. Gargrave station is closer, but there's no taxi service from here.

Check National Rail for routes and times.

By Shared Transfer

If you're travelling to or from Newfield Hall on Mondays or Fridays from 22 January to 16 December 2024, or on Mondays and Fridays over the festive period, you can join our group transfer from Skipton Railway Station.

2024 prices are £22 per person for a return transfer or £11 per person for a single transfer.

Outward journey: Depart Skipton Railway Station at 16:10; arrive at Newfield Hall at 16:35. Return journey: Depart Newfield Hall at 09:15; arrive at Skipton Railway Station at 09:40.

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: reservations@hfholidays.co.uk

By Taxi

Skipton to Newfield Hall is 8 miles, which takes around 25 minutes.

For pricing, please contact Station Taxis directly.

Station Taxis

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

Tel: [+44 \(0\)1756 700777](tel:+44(0)1756700777)

Email: stationtaxis@hotmail.co.uk

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

*Station Taxis is not owned or managed by HF Holidays.

By Car

From the south, follow the A65 from Skipton to Gargrave. Leave the A65 by Eshton Road, signposted to Malham and pass Eshton Hall on the right. Newfield Hall is approx. 2½ miles further on, on the right and before

the village of Airton. There is a stone pillar and a wooden sign at each side of our driveway. **(Please note: The next right turn has a post box at the bottom of the lane and leads to a private farm access ONLY.)**

From the north, exit the M6 at junction 36 and take the A65 towards Skipton. In Coniston Cold village take a sharp left into a narrow road between houses, signposted to St Peters Church and Bell Busk and Malham. Pass under a railway viaduct, then after a mile bear right over a small bridge. After a further mile turn right at the junction, cross the narrow bridge, pass a left turn with a post box at the bottom of the lane (which leads to a private farm) and then shortly after, turn left through the gateway onto the drive of Newfield Hall. There is a stone pillar and a wooden sign at each side of our driveway.

There is free parking with the grounds of Newfield Hall.

By Air

The nearest airport is Leeds Bradford Airport.

From the airport

Take the bus to Leeds train station from where there are direct trains to Skipton taking about one and a half hours. Check Transdev for bus times and National Rail for train times.

From Manchester International Airport there are direct trains every hour to Skipton with one change at Leeds. You'll need to allow 2.5 hours to reach Skipton.

Flying to London Heathrow airport is another option but you'll have a longer onward train journey – about 4.5 hours. From Heathrow, first take the Piccadilly line to London Kings Cross station and from here take a train to Skipton (with one change at Leeds).

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 Newfield Hall.

Skipton

A 20-minute drive away, this market town is famous for its ruined priory and cobbled high street. The highlight is Skipton Castle, a 900-year-old fortress that withstood a three-year siege during the Civil War. Don't miss the atmospheric dungeon and watch tower.

Malham Cove

A huge curving amphitheatre shaped cliff formation of limestone rock, this iconic sight is a 15-minute drive away. It's also well worth walking here along the Pennine Way – it takes around 1.5 hours from Newfield Hall in either direction.

Bronte Parsonage Museum

The home of authors Charlotte, Emily, and Anne Brontë this fascinating museum is a 45-minute drive away. The rooms used to write their literary masterpieces are filled with clothes, furniture, and personal possessions. Exhibits change annually.

Keighley And Worth Valley Railway

Running heritage steam and diesel trains from the market town of Keighley to the Brontë Country of Oxenhope, this five-mile branch line railway is a West Yorkshire highlight. Keighley station is a 35-minute drive from Newfield Hall.

Settle To Carlisle Railway

A 20-minute drive from Skipton station, this 73-mile-long railway route crosses regions of the Yorkshire Dales and the North Pennines. British Rail ran the line down in the late 1970s but campaigners finally saved it from closure in 1989.

Fountains Abbey & Studley Royal Water Garden

An hour's drive away, this designated World Heritage Site is home to the country's largest monastic ruins. The adjacent water garden created by John Aislabie in 1718 impresses with ornamental lakes, canals, temples, cascades, and several follies.

White Scar Cave

A 40-minute drive away, Britain's longest show cave was discovered by a Cambridge undergraduate in 1923 and opened to the public two years later. The underground tour reveals spectacular caverns, waterfalls, stalagmites, and stalactites.

Brimham Rocks

Set above the valley of Nidderdale, this astonishing collection of rock formations is an hour's drive away. Manged by the National Trust, many of the rocks have been given apt names such as The Sphinx, The Watchdog, The Camel, The Turtle, and The Dancing Bear.

RHS Garden Harlow Carr

A 50-minute drive away, this 58-acre showcase of horticultural excellence is open year-round. Highlights include the kitchen, streamside, and scented gardens. There's also an excellent shop selling books, gifts, and a large selection of plants and flowers.

Harrogate

Just under an hour's drive away, this charming spa town rewards with fabulous shopping and glorious gardens. Must-dos include spending time at the Royal Pump Room Museum, visiting the Harrogate Turkish Baths, and queuing for tea at Betty's (it's worth the wait),

Lightwater Valley

Ideal for those with kids in tow, this family adventure park is just over an hour's drive away. Thrillseekers can enjoy over 40 rides and attractions tailored for the under 12's, including gentler activities for toddlers and pre-schoolers.

York

A 90-minute drive away, this historic walled city is most famous for its York Minster, National Railway Museum, Jorvik Viking Centre, and York Dungeon. Don't miss the Yorkshire Museum & Gardens for some of Europe's finest archaeological and geological finds.

USEFUL HOLIDAY INFORMATION

Essential Information

The UK has a famously unpredictable climate so it's best to be prepared for weather that's sunny one minute

and raining the next. To make it easier, here's a list of items you should consider packing.

Essentials

- Suitable footwear such as waterproof walking boots that provide ankle support and good grip
- Waterproof and windproof jacket, preferably insulated
- Comfortable clothing (jeans & waterproof capes are not suitable)
- Waterproof overtrousers
- Gloves and a warm hat (or sunhat)
- Rucksack
- Water bottle (at least 1 litre capacity)
- A small torch
- Sunscreen
- Mobile phone and portable charger
- Watch
- UV sunglasses

Recommended

- Several base layers (long-sleeve or short-sleeve)
- Cushioned walking socks to avoid blisters
- First aid kit, including plasters and insect repellent
- Midge net
- Sit mat
- Spare pair of socks
- Energy snacks
- Waterproof pouch for valuables
- Rubbish bag (remember to always leave no trace)
- Wallet/purse

Optional extras

- Walking poles, useful for descents
- Flask for hot drinks
- Durable lunch box
- Gaiters
- Blister kit
- Waterproof rucksack liner
- Head torch
- GPS device
- Swimsuit

Safety On Your Holiday

Walks may be changed for safety reasons and are subject to a maximum and minimum number of guests.

Leaders always consider the safety of the group as a whole, and may need to alter or curtail the walk if the conditions dictate. Your leader may refuse to accept a guest while clothing, equipment or behaviour is unsuitable. In the event of a problem all leaders carry a mobile phone, first aid kit, group shelter, spare maps and a compass.

Please note: If you choose to leave the group your leader is no longer responsible for you.

If you have a particular health condition or disability please put this on your guest registration form. This information will be confidential to your leaders and the house manager, but leaders do need to take account of any issues when planning walks. Please carry a copy of these trip notes with you, or note down the contact phone number for your accommodation (details in the travel section) should you need them in case of emergency.

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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