

A Shropshire Way Guided Trail Holiday

Tour Style: Guided trails

Destinations: Shropshire Hills, United Kingdom & England

Trip code: CSLSE

Trip Walking Grade: 3



HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

Given that the Shropshire Hills National Landscape covers almost a quarter of the county, the scenery is every bit as outstanding as you'd imagine. And on our Shropshire Way Guided Trail holiday, you'll get to see the best of it. Journey through unspoilt countryside overlooking the Welsh marshes, explore Wenlock Edge Site of Special Scientific Interest, and ascend Abdon Burf – the highest point in Shropshire at 1,770ft. Further highlights include walks along the quartz ridges of the Stiperstones, the Iron Age hillfort of Caynham Camp, and crossing the finish line in medieval Ludlow.

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 walks with an experienced HF Holidays Leader
- All transport to and from walks where necessary

HOLIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Visiting all the highest points of the Shropshire Hills National Landscape
- Soaking up stunning views of the surrounds
- Learning about Shropshire's unique wildlife and geology
- The myths and legends of the Stiperstones
- Spending time in historic Ludlow

TRIP SUITABILITY

This Guided Walking/Hiking Trail is graded 3 which involves walks/hikes on well-defined paths, though often in hilly or upland areas, or along rugged footpaths. These may be rough and steep in sections and will require a good level of fitness. It is your responsibility to ensure you have the relevant fitness and equipment required to join this holiday.

Your fitness

We want you to be confident that you can meet the demands of each walking day and get the most out of your holiday. Please be sure you can manage the mileage and ascent detailed in the daily itineraries. It is important for your own enjoyment, and that of your fellow guests that you can maintain the pace.

It makes a lot of sense to spend time getting some additional exercise before your holiday. We suggest that you try to fit in a number of longer walks, including some on hilly terrain. Other exercises such as cycling, jogging and swimming are also excellent for developing increased stamina.



ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrival Day

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

Day 2: Snailbeach To Bishop's Castle

A cracking start today, as we set off from Snailbeach to explore the Stiperstones ridge. Steeped in myth and legend, the ridge introduces us to local fables and its famous Devil's Chair. We'll be rewarded with stunning views out over the Shropshire Hills and Welsh border, as well as getting a fantastic chance of spotting red kites and red grouse and hearing the sweet song of the skylark. We reach our highest point today at Manstone Rock - at 536m, this is the second highest hill in Shropshire. We're off then, over Nipstone Hill and Linley Hill, before heading down to the market town of Bishops Castle, famous for its two microbreweries (check out Three Tuns - the oldest brewery in the UK).

18km/11miles with 610m/2,000ft of ascent

Day 3: Minton To Longmynd House

Starting at the small hamlet of Minton we head south, traversing along the lower slopes of Long Mynd to reach its southernmost tip. From here we follow the ancient Portway as it ascends northwards to reach the wide ridge of the Long Mynd. With stunning views to the east and west, we pass the Midland Gliding Club's airfield. We continue to Pole Bank, the highest point on Long Mynd (516m). On a clear day, it's possible to see as far as the Brecon Beacons and Cadair Idris, with the jagged Quartzite tors of Stiperstones in the foreground. Our route then takes us across heather clad heathland to the beautiful Townbrook Valley before returning to Longmynd House.

19km/12 miles with 600m/1,960ft of ascent

Day 4: Free Day - Shropshire Hills

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

Day 5: Longmynd House To Eaton

Walking straight from our door, we head north on quiet country lanes to All Stretton, to climb Caer Caradoc (459m/ 1,506ft) and explore the ramparts of its Iron Age hillfort (one of the best preserved in the area). Super views to Wenlock Edge and back across the Long Mynd, before we tackle our second top today, Hope Bowdler Hill (426m/1,398ft). Through villages and hidden valleys now to Eaton-under-Heywood, where we finish our walk today.

18km/11miles with 625m/2,050ft of ascent

Day 6: Eaton To Clee Liberty Common

Up and onto Wenlock Edge. A Site of Special Scientific Interest, the limestone ridge here is what remains of an ancient coral reef and offers some fantastic discoveries for fossil hunters. Walking along the Edge, we reach Wilderhope Manor, and head south through quiet countryside before climbing up to the twin tops of Brown Clee Hill. The first top - Abdon Burf (540m/1,770ft) is the highest point in Shropshire. We take in its second top too, before heading down to finish our walk near Clee St. Margaret.

21km/13miles with 685m/2,250ft of ascent

Day 7: Clee Liberty Common To Ludlow

Clee Liberty Common and the Jack Mytton Way to begin with today, on our final leg of our journey to the medieval black and white town of Ludlow. Our final high point today is Titterstone Clee Hill. Climbing up via the Giant's Chair, we reach the high point at 533m/1,749ft for a super panorama. South now through Knowbury, passing the Iron Age hillfort of Caynham Camp, before we reach the end of our journey, and historical Ludlow - the perfect place to celebrate our journey crossing the highest points of Shropshire Hills AONB.

22km/13½miles with 580m/1,900ft of ascent

Day 8: Departure Day

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before making your way home.

ACCOMMODATION

Longmynd Country House

For rural calm in the Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, 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.

Country House Accommodation

Rooms

Designed with your comfort in mind, Longmynd Country House 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, and comfortable mattresses.

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.

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

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

*Views and layout reflect each properties unique character and location

About Your Stay

A warm welcome

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

Evening entertainment

While evening entertainment varies from house to house, 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 [Longmynd Country House](#)

TRAVEL DETAILS

Address

Longmynd Country House
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 Country House 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.

For pricing, please contact Me2You Cars directly.

Me2You Cars

You can pre-book a taxi from our recommended Shrewsbury based company, Me2You Cars*. We recommend booking your taxi, including your return journey if needed, at least seven days in advance by contacting:

Tel: [+44 \(0\)1743 537644](tel:+44(0)1743537644) or [07791 670110](tel:07791670110)

Email: danielle@me2youcars.com

*Me2You Cars is not owned or managed by HF Holidays.

By Car

There's free car parking at Longmynd Country House 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 Country House.

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 Country House.

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.

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
- Comfortable clothing (jeans & waterproof capes are not suitable)
- Mid-layer(s) to keep you warm. Fleeeces 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

Recommended

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

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.

Useful Information

Ticks

Ticks are tiny creatures that live in vegetation and can attach themselves to passing animals or walkers and may carry a risk of Lyme Disease. Please refer to NHS advice and guidelines for information prior to your holiday.

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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