

Astronomy in the Southern Yorkshire Dales

Destinations: Yorkshire Dales & England
Trip code: MDWAB



HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

Join our professor to learn about stars and how they evolve into objects like pulsars – the ‘lighthouses’ of the universe - and black holes, with their incredible gravitational pull. You’ll learn amazing facts about the eight planets in our solar system plus the myriad now being found further away. We will discuss the various on-going studies seeking to discover whether or not life exists elsewhere in the universe. Enjoy free afternoons to explore the local area; our Discovery Points are full of ideas. Each evening (weather permitting), you’ll observe the night sky with an eight-inch telescope from the grounds of the house. The scope is powerful enough to see our nearest planets, including Saturn.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- High-quality Full Board en-suite accommodation and excellent food in our country house
- Guidance from a knowledgeable HF Holidays Leader, to ensure you get the most from your holiday
- If applicable, all essential transport on a comfortable, good-quality mini-coach or another mode of transport, e.g. boat
- If applicable, all entrance fees to venues included as part of your holiday's itinerary

HOLIDAYS HIGHLIGHTS

- Morning talks and discussions from your expert leader
- Free afternoons to explore the local area independently
- Discover and view objects in the night sky each evening, weather permitting

ACCOMMODATION

Newfield Hall

Situated close to Malham in South Yorkshire's portion of the famous Dales, Newfield Hall offers country-pile atmosphere amid beautiful rural surroundings. A grand country house, this stately, storied property retains many of its original nineteenth century features, from the grand entrance to the sweeping staircase inside. The Hall has 48 bedrooms, as well as two cosy lounges and an elegant bar, providing guests with a laid-back and unstuffy retreat with a generous sprinkling of style. The Dales and countryside on the doorstep are a rambler's paradise, with easy access to Malham Cove and its deeply indented limestone pavement, Gordale Scar and Pen y Ghent as well as the pretty villages of Grassington and Kettlewell.

Matchless Country House Accommodation

Accommodation Info

Need To Know

Important Covid-19 Steps We Have Taken For Guest Safety: Please Read

Following the relaxation in government guidance on 19 July, we are continuing to take extra steps to keep our guests leaders, and staff safe in our HF country houses. We ask all our guests to respect the measures put in place.

The English, Scottish and Welsh governments are not in sync, so measures in our country houses will vary between the nations. With the relaxation of social distancing in England, from 19 July we will be allowing larger groups to dine and relax in the bar together. However, we will still give guests space e.g. we will seat 6 people at a table where pre-pandemic we may have seated 8. We will ensure our public rooms are well ventilated by opening doors and windows wherever possible. If you have any concerns about distancing, please speak to the House Manager. The government recommendation for England is to wear face coverings in crowded areas. You must wear a face covering by law in public areas in hotels in Scotland. This is mandatory in public spaces; however, face coverings will not be required whilst eating and drinking in the restaurant and bar areas or whilst you are outside our houses. In Wales face coverings will remain a legal requirement indoors, with the exception of hospitality premises.

As a temporary measure, we will not be servicing rooms during a stay. Extra tea, coffee, milk, and toiletries will be made available on request for all guests. It is recommended that guests bring their own toiletries for the duration of their stay. We will though be increasing the frequency of cleaning in our public areas providing particular attention to frequently touched items including door handles and handrails.

Menus for the week will be available in your room on arrival. A self-service breakfast will be served from 7.45am – 9am. Picnic lunches will now be pre-ordered the night before from an order form in the room. Evening meals will be table service. A dinner order form will be available in each room for completion. Dinner is served at either 7.15pm or 7.30pm. Please check at the house for details. The bar will be open. We will be offering a table service but guests can also come to the bar to order (depending on local restrictions).

Join our team after dinner on Wednesday evenings for the HF Big Pub Quiz. There will be one other evening of entertainment at the start of the week, which will vary depending on the country house that you are staying at. Our Walk Leaders will also be on hand in the bar or lounge for individual or small group walks talks briefings, which allow guests to talk through the following day's walk options and ask any questions. All of our swimming pools are open, except for Glen Coe, which will not re-open this year. Swimming Pools will be operated in line with maximum capacities.

For more information and to see all the steps taken, [visit our page on how house stays will be adapted](#).

Rooms

Tea & coffee-making facilities, TV, Hairdryer, Toiletries, Wi-Fi

Stay in one of the main building's beautifully presented rooms or in the tastefully converted Courtyard rooms, which have been reimagined as pretty bedrooms, where pops of mustard contrast with the blue and teal furnishings. With 48 bright and well-appointed rooms, Newfield Hall is one of our largest properties and there's a range of Good, Better and Best rooms to choose from: we love rooms 3 and 6, both of which are large corner rooms containing original features, with large bay windows overlooking the gardens and beyond the pristine farmland, hills, and yes, dales, of this picturesque pocket of Yorkshire: make use of the telescope trained through the window of Room 6 to scour the countryside for trails to explore.

All 'Good' rooms are ensuite and furnished to a high standard. There are also several 'Better' and 'Best' Rooms that are either larger or have a desirable view, a more luxurious mattress and larger television – upgrade your stay for just an extra £15-25 per person per night. You can choose a specific room for an extra £30 per room, subject to availability. Upgrade supplements still apply.

Facilities

Free Wi-Fi, boot room and drying room, walled garden, putting green, heated indoor swimming pool, multi-purpose activity room, ballroom, library and board games to borrow

After a day exploring, return to the house and its specially tailored walkers' facilities. Once settled, stroll the large gardens and gaze out over the Yorkshire Dales, or try your hand on the putting green. Slip in to the heated indoor swimming pool to soak while still being able to look out over the gardens. Make use of the activity room or simply retreat to one of the lounges: grab a book and curl up in the stylish Ingleborough Lounge or pull up a chair and challenge someone to cards and board games in the smart Pen-y-Ghent Lounge. Stop in the Heritage Room for inspiration at our helpful Discovery Point and look out for our founder T A Leonard's boots, long since retired and sat on the mantelpiece. Pop in to the stylish bar before dinner for a pint of excellent local ale or a favourite gin, pausing to admire the maps set into the bar itself, and retire there later to strike up conversation with other guests and swap stories of your adventures in the Dales.

Food & Drink

As at all our country houses, holidays are full board, from afternoon tea served as a welcome treat through that evening's meal to a hearty breakfast on the day of departure. Lunch is a chance to stock up on our famous picnic snacks. Food at Newfield Hall is varied and eclectic but has a strong emphasis on ingredients from the area and seasonal produce. Once a week the dining room hosts a Local Food Night, when, over a sociable evening, you might tuck in to locally sourced river trout, served with wild garlic oil and sautéed samphire, enjoy Yorkshire lamb three ways or try the Yorkshire tea and smoked Wensleydale souffle with wild mushrooms. Cap it all with a trio of Yorkshire parkin, Yorkshire pudding and Yorvdale dairy ice cream for a feast of regional flavours.

Accessibility

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

TRAVEL DETAILS

Our address is: Newfield Hall, Airton, Skipton, North Yorkshire BD23 4AA
Tel: [01729 830235](tel:01729830235)

By Train:

The most convenient train station is at Skipton. Gargrave station is closer, but there is no taxi service from this station. For train times and route planning by train visit www.nationalrail.co.uk or phone 03457 48 49 50.

By Taxi:

The 8½ mile journey from Skipton to Newfield Hall can be made by taxi. You can pre-book a taxi from our recommended taxi company, Station Taxis. As a guide price, it cost £14 per 4-seat taxi in 2019. 8-seat taxis are also available at a higher rate. Please pre-book your taxi at least 7 days in advance by contacting:

Station Taxis*

Tel: +44 (0) 1756 700777

Email: stationtaxis@hotmail.co.uk

The return taxi journey can be arranged on your behalf by the Newfield Hall Manager.

*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. Look out for our sign.

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 then shortly after turn left through the gateway onto the drive of Newfield Hall. Look out for our sign.

There is free parking with the grounds of Newfield Hall.

Travelling From Overseas

There is a local airport at Leeds/Bradford which is served by European flights. From here take the airport bus to Leeds station, then on by train to Skipton.

Manchester Airport has a much wider range of long-haul flights. There are direct trains every hour from the airport to Skipton with one change at Leeds. Allow 2 hours to Skipton - see www.nationalrail.co.uk for train times.

Flying to London Heathrow airport is another option, but has a longer onward train journey - allow 4½ hours to reach Skipton. From Heathrow first take the Piccadilly line Underground train to London Kings Cross station. From here take a train to Skipton (1 change at Leeds) - see www.nationalrail.co.uk for train times.

LOCAL AREA

The Yorkshire Dales contains the quintessential landscape of Northern England. Enjoy the surrounding scenery of green patchwork fields, drystone walls and wild moorland hills.

Newfield Hall sits in rolling open countryside. The nearest village with facilities is Gargrave where there is a pub and shop. The market town of Skipton is about seven miles away. Here you'll find a full range of facilities including supermarkets, shops, banks, chemists, pubs and cafes.

During your visit to Newfield Hall you may enjoy visiting the following places of interest:

Malham Cove

Just 10 to 15 minutes' drive from Newfield Hall is the dramatic natural amphitheatre-like rock face of [Malham Cove](#), just one of the iconic limestone sights of the Yorkshire Dales. If you are not already visiting the cove as part of your holiday, it's well worth walking there along the Pennine Way from Newfield Hall (the walk takes around 1.5 hours in either direction).

Skipton

The market town of Skipton - about 20 minutes' drive from Newfield Hall - is a vibrant place to visit. Dominating the town is its well-preserved medieval [Skipton Castle](#).

Brontë Parsonage

Visit the [parsonage in Haworth](#), the home of authors Charlotte, Emily and Anne Brontë. Many of their most famous works were written here, including Jane Eyre, Wuthering Heights and the Tenant of Wildfell Hall. Haworth is around 45 minutes' drive from Newfield Hall.

Keighley And Worth Valley Railway

This [heritage steam railway](#) runs from the centre of Keighley to Oxenhope via the 'Brontë' village of Haworth. The line is still well-known as the setting for the 1970 film 'the Railway Children' and boasts an impressive selection of steam locomotives. Keighley station is around 35 minutes' drive from Newfield Hall.

Settle To Carlisle Railway

Ride [England's most scenic railway](#) through the Yorkshire Dales from Hellifield or Settle station. Heading north over the iconic Ribbleshead Viaduct you could head to the small market town of Appleby, or the border city of Carlisle.

Fountains Abbey

This impressive World Heritage Site contains the dramatic ruins of [Fountains Abbey](#), the largest monastic ruins in the country. There is an exhibition of life in the medieval Abbey. Adjacent to the abbey is Studley Royal water garden – England's most spectacular Georgian water garden. Both sites are managed by the National Trust.

White Scar Cave

Located near the village of Ingleton, about 40 minutes' drive from Newfield Hall, [White Scar](#) is Britain's longest show cave. The underground tour reveals spectacular caverns, waterfalls and stalactites.

Brimham Rocks

See the curious formations of [Brimham Rocks](#) above the valley of Nidderdale, around an hour's drive from Newfield Hall.

RHS Harlow Carr Garden

Situated near Harrogate, about 50 minutes' from Newfield Hall, are the Royal Horticultural Society's gardens at

[Harlow Carr](#). The gardens have been planted to suit the challenging growing conditions of the north. Wander and enjoy the tranquil surroundings.

Harrogate

The spa town of Harrogate has fabulous shopping, fine cuisine and glorious gardens. Visit the [Turkish Baths & Health Spa](#), [Royal Pump Room Museum](#), the English Heritage Grade II listed [Valley Gardens](#) and [Betty's Tearooms](#).

Lightwater Valley

Set in 175 acres of parkland near Ripon, just over an hour's drive away, [Lightwater Valley](#) has big thrill rides including the 'Ultimate', the longest rollercoaster in Europe at 1.5 miles long. The park has over 40 rides and is fantastic fun for all the family.

York

One of Britain's most attractive historic cities, York is about a 1½ hours' drive from Newfield Hall. Attractions include the [York City Walls Trail](#), [York Minster](#), [National Railway Museum](#), and [Yorvik Viking Centre](#).

USEFUL HOLIDAY INFORMATION

Essential Information

- Warm clothing for night-time observation, including a hat and gloves
- A telescope (if you have one) and binoculars
- Small torch

HOW TO BOOK

When you're ready to book, you can choose to **book online** or book **over the phone**. Our website offers secure online booking for our holidays, is available 24/7, and offers more in-depth information about all our holidays. If you prefer to call us, our experienced and knowledgeable team are available to answer any specific questions you have and can offer guidance as to which holiday is best suited to your needs.

Our office is open: Monday to Friday: 9am – 7pm Saturday: 9am – 1pm Sunday & Bank Holiday Monday: closed

PAYING YOUR DEPOSIT

To secure the holiday of your choice, you will need to pay a deposit: UK & European Holidays: £150 per person and Worldwide Holidays: £250 per person. You can pay your deposit by debit or credit card with no additional card fees charged or make an online BACS payment directly into HF's bank account, please see details under BACS payments. You can also pay your deposit by cheque within seven days of booking. Cheques should be made payable to 'HF Holidays Ltd' with your booking reference / Order ID on the back.

NON-MEMBER FEE

Non-members can join our holidays by paying a Non-Member's fee of £30 per person per holiday. Alternatively, full membership is available from £100 – visit hfholidays.co.uk/membership for details.

BACS PAYMENTS

Please quote your booking reference / Order ID when you make your payment online: Bank Name: Svenska Handelsbanken AB (publ) Account Name: HF Holidays Ltd Account Number: 35923304 Sort Code: 40-51-62

IBAN: GB92HAND40516235923304 Swift / Bic Code: HANDGB22

Once we have received your booking and deposit, we will send a confirmation invoice to the lead name. Please check this carefully. For bookings 'with flights' it is essential that the names on your booking confirmation invoice match those on your passport for bookings overseas. Please advise us immediately of any errors. Any name changes after the balance of your holiday has been paid will be subject to a fee levied by the airline.

MANAGE MY BOOKINGS

Payments can also be made through the Manage My Booking function on our website. Click on the link at the top of our homepage. This is available to all customers who provide an email address at the time of booking.

YOUR FINAL BALANCE

The balance is due 10 weeks before departure. As with paying your deposit, you can pay your final balance by debit or credit card, make an online BACS payment directly into HF's bank account or pay by cheque.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Travel insurance is an important part of any booking and essential for one of our holidays. HF Holidays works with specialist. Insurance Brokers Campbell Irvine Direct. For more information or to obtain a quote call them on 01702 427 236 or visit hfholidays.co.uk/insurance

PEACE OF MIND

ATOL:

The air holidays and flights in this brochure are ATOL-protected, since we hold an Air Travel Organiser's Licence granted by the Civil Aviation Authority. Our ATOL number is ATOL 710. In the unlikely event of our insolvency, the CAA will ensure that you are not stranded abroad and will arrange to refund any money you have paid us for advance bookings. For further information visit the ATOL website atol.org.uk

MEMBER OF ABTOT:

HF Holidays is a member of ABTOT (The Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited) which provides financial protection under the Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations 1992 for HF Holidays Ltd and in the event of their insolvency, protection is provided for the following: 1. non-flight packages commencing in and returning to the UK; 2. non-flight packages commencing and returning to a country other than the UK; 3. flight inclusive packages that commence outside of the UK and Republic of Ireland, which are sold to customers outside of the UK and Republic of Ireland. 1, 2 and 3 provides for a refund in the event you have not yet travelled. 1 and 3 provides for repatriation. Please note that bookings made outside the UK and Republic of Ireland are only protected by ABTOT when purchased directly with HF Holidays Ltd.

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.

PRICE GUARANTEE

We promise that our earliest published prices will always be the best and if we reduce our holiday price after your booking has been confirmed, we will pass this reduction on to you. Our price promise applies if any subsequent offer price is for an identical holiday, duration, location and date and does not cover any optional extras, flights or additional services.

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