Dartmoor Guided Walking with Sightseeing for Solos



Trip style:	Destination:	Walking Grade	Carbon Footprint:
Walking with sightseeing	Dartmoor	3	107kg CO2

HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

Enjoy the freedom of holidaying as a solo traveller but with the bonus of friendly company throughout. Step into the wild heart of Dartmoor National Park on this guided walking with sightseeing holiday, exclusively for solos. Enjoy short, guided walks (4-5 miles), combined with time spent discovering local highlights. Together we'll explore the dramatic landscapes that inspired Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's The Hound of the Baskervilles, walk to granite tors and ancient clapper bridges, and dive into the region's industrial past at Brimpts Tin Mine. We'll also marvel at the architecture of Castle Drogo, admire the Benedictine Buckfast Abbey, and round off with a nostalgic ride on the South Devon Railway.

WHAT YOU'LL LOVE

- Discovering some of Dartmoor's famous Tors
- Ride on the South Devon Railway
- Visiting Castle Drogo and Buckfast Abbey
- Exploring some of Dartmoor's picturesque towns and villages
- Learning about Dartmoor's tin mine heritage

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Comfortable en-suite rooms in our partner accommodation(s)
- Tickets to Buckfast Abbey, South Devon Railway and Dartmoor Prison Museum
- 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
- Dedicated solos host
- Welcome drinks reception
- Farewell dinner with drinks included

ITINERARY - ITINERARY

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 **Haytor, Hound Tor and Widecombe in the Moor**

Distance: 3 miles (5km)

Ascent: 800 feet (240m)

Today we explore some of Dartmoor's famous Tors. We walk from the hotel up to Haytor and across the moors to Hound Tor, one of the most filmed locations on the moor and inspired Sir Arthur Conan Doyle to write *The Hound of the Baskervilles,* arguably the most famous case of fictional detective, Sherlock Holmes. We then head to the picturesque village of Widecome in the Moor to visit the historic St Pancras Church.

Day 3 **Buckfast and Dartington**

Distance: 4 miles (6km)

Ascent: 300 feet (100m)

We begin our day with a visit to Buckfast Abbey, home to a community of Roman Catholic Benedictine Monks. We have time to explore the Abbey church, gardens and Exhibition centre (admission included). It's then on to the South Devon Railway Museum where we can explore the exhibits before boarding the train to Staverton (tickets included). A walk alongside the River Dart brings us to Dartington where you will have some free time to explore the estate, you could visit the gardens or heritage centre (both payable locally).

Day 4 **Post Bridge, Brimpts Tin Mine and Princetown**

Distance: 4 miles (6.5km)

Ascent: 300 feet (100m)

Our first stop today is Post Bridge. Be sure to have cameras at the ready as we visit a clapper bridge built in the 13th century which is said to be one of Dartmoor's best. We then have time to stop by the visitor centre before we begin our walk. Heading out of the village and up on to the Moors, we'll pass Laughter Tor and descend towards Brimpts Tin Mine. Don't miss the information boards at the mine – they offer a fascinating insight into the area's industrial past. We then get the bus to Princetown where we visit the Prison Museum (admission included), and you have some free time to explore the village.

Day 5 Castle Drogo to Chagford

Distance: 3.5 miles (5.5km)

Ascent: 200 feet (60m)

Our final day sees us visiting Castle Drogo, famously the last castle built in England. The 20th century castle overlooks the Teign Gorge (admission not included as this is a National Trust property). Once we've explored the castle, we'll walk together to the charming village of Chagford, the final stop of our tour.

Day 6 Departure Day

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before making your way home.

DAILY WALK OPTIONS



Gentle walking grade 3

Slightly longer walks, mostly on well-trodden paths, with some gentle gradients plus stiles and steps possible. Typically, 5-6 miles (8-10km) with around 650ft (200m) of ascent.

ACCOMMODATION

The Moorland Hotel

The Moorland Hotel is set in the wild landscapes of Dartmoor National Park, just a stone's throw from the iconic granite tor of Haytor with a wealth of walks in close vicinity. It offers comfortable ensuite rooms, all with TV, coffee and tea making facilities, and free Wi-Fi. The hotel is dog-friendly, too, so you may meet four-legged friends in some of the communal areas.

FOOD & DRINK

Dining at The Moorland Hotel

Your stay is full-board. This includes daily breakfasts, packed lunch options, and evening meals. Vegetarian choices and dietary requirements can be catered for (please give advance notice when booking).

Packed lunches

Our packed lunches will be too much food for some and not enough for others; if you feel you might need more food during the walk, please bring a supply of snacks to supplement this – it won't always be possible to buy these on the route. Your packed lunches will include: a bread sandwich or roll with a choice of filling; some fresh fruit; fruit cake/ flapjack or similar, crisps and/or biscuits. For those of you tackling a level 4 or above holiday, we would highly recommend bringing some trail mix or something similar to ensure you've some fuel in reserve should you need it.

Dietary requirements

Our partner hotels can cater for most dietary requirements, but it is important you advise us of any allergies and dietary restrictions you have at the time of booking.

TRAVEL DETAILS

Address

The Moorland Hotel
Haytor
Newton Abbot
TQ13 9XT

The easiest journey is by car. If you wish to travel by public transport, please see below.

By bus/train

The nearest train station is at Newton Abbot, about 9 miles from Haytor. You would need to get a local taxi from Newton Abbot to the hotel, which we recommend pre-booking. There are a number of firms to choose from. Journey time: approximately 20 minutes. Price: approximately £25.

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

Weather conditions in the UK can vary throughout the day, and conditions in the mountains may be cold and windy even in summer. Use the following list as a guide when preparing for your holiday.

Essentials

- Suitable waterproof walking boots with ankle support and good grip
- Waterproof, wind-resistant jacket with a hood, taped seams and a hydrostatic head rating of at least 10,000 mm
- Waterproof overtrousers
- Spare warm clothing, such as a synthetic insulated jacket
- Comfortable walking clothing (jeans & waterproof capes are not suitable)
- Warm mid-layers, such as fleeces
- Gloves and a warm hat, even in summer
- Rucksack with a waterproof liner
- Water bottle with a capacity of at least 1 litre
- Flask for hot drinks
- Sunscreen
- UV-protective sunglasses
- Spare high-energy food
- Head torch and spare batteries for holidays between October and March
- Passport (if applicable)
- Visa (if applicable)
- Copy of your travel insurance policy

Recommended

- Several base layers, with long or short sleeves
- Cushioned walking socks to avoid blisters
- First-aid kit, including plasters, insect repellent, a midge net and a tick-removal tool
- Sit mat
- Waterproof pouch for valuables
- Rubbish bags
- Wallet or purse

- Camera
- Walking poles
- Sun hat
- Gaiters
- Mobile Phones
- Swimwear (please see accommodation information for hotel facilities)
- Membership cards for English Heritage, the National Trust or similar heritage organisations in Scotland and Wales, if you are a member. These may be useful when visiting attractions during your itinerary or on your free day.

USEFUL INFORMATION

Safety Information

Walking Safety

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

In the event of a problem

If you become separated from your group, please stay where you are. Your leader will retrace their steps to find you.

All our walk leaders carry a mobile phone, group shelter, spare maps and a compass. In the unlikely event your leader is incapacitated, please use any emergency kit in their rucksack and call the emergency services (call 999 in the UK, or 112 overseas).

Please then try to call the hotel where you are staying to let them know there is a problem.

We advise you carry a copy of these trip notes or note down the contact phone number for your accommodation (details in the travel section) should you need them in case of emergency.

If you have any cause for complaints regarding accommodation, you should notify your leader who can then attempt to rectify the problem.

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.

Document produced: 23 November 2026