

Dartmoor Guided Walking with Sightseeing

Trip style: Walking with sightseeing

Destination: ☉ Dartmoor

Trip code: DBC05-WOD11

Trip Walking Grade: ⚡ 2



Holiday Overview

Step into the wild heart of Dartmoor National Park on this guided walking with sightseeing holiday. 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 Tine 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

WALKING GRADES AND OPTIONS

This trip is graded level 2.

Your fitness

Having a solid base of fitness before your holiday will ensure you've the best chance of completing the holiday and enjoying it to boot. Here's a few simple tips to help you get fit and ready for your challenge:

- Get out walking - whether the weather, get out there, and start building your fitness months before your holiday
- Build your distance gradually and get a number of 3-4hr days in
- Ideally, try and do two consecutive days training if possible
- Take the stairs every time
- Train on different terrain
- Train with your day pack and your walking boots too, to ensure they're well worn in before your holiday
- Other sports help improve your walking fitness too. The best ones are jogging, cycling, swimming, which will build your stamina, and yoga which will help strengthen your core and improve balance
- Time training will help ensure you enjoy your holiday to the max.

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Day 1 Arrival Day

Check in at the hotel is available from 3pm. Your leaders will be at reception at 18:30 to meet the group and to give you a quick introduction to the holiday before dinner.

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 Tine 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



Easier Walks

Good paths but walks are a bit longer. Some walks, particularly in mountain areas, may have sections over rough or steeper terrain.

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

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.

Useful Holiday 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. 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 (hydrostatic 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

Trip Information

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.

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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