Dartmoor Guided Walking



Trip style:	Destination:	Walking Grade	Carbon Footprint:
Guided Walking Holidays	Dartmoor	4 & 6	107kg CO2

HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

With its windswept moorland, striking granite tors, and ever-present herds of wild ponies, it's easy to see why walkers find Dartmoor's myth-steeped landscapes so appealing. Discover this much-loved national park's most wow-worthy points and fascinating prehistoric sites with the help of our experienced HF Holidays Leaders.

WHAT YOU'LL LOVE

- Discovering the best of Dartmoor's wild beauty
- Uncovering the area's myths and legends at prehistoric sites
- Spotting wild ponies on the open moorland
- Walking through wildlife havens like Haytor Quarry
- Admiring Lustleigh Cleave, a temperate rain forest
- Having the choice of two walks a day – one easier and one more challenging

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Comfortable en-suite rooms in our partner accommodation(s)
- Cooked or continental breakfast every morning
- Daily packed lunches

- Three-course evening meals, plus tea & coffee
- Guided walks with experienced HF Holidays Leaders
- All transport to and from walks where necessary

ITINERARY - ITINERARY

Day 1 **Arrival Day**

You're welcome to check in at the hotel from 3pm. Your HF Holidays Leaders will be in reception at 6:30pm to meet the group and give a quick introduction before dinner.

Day 2 **Haytor**

Option 1 - Haytor Circular

Distance: 6.5 miles (10.5 km)

Ascent: 800ft (240m)

We walk straight from our door and out onto the moors, descending through Haytor Vale to pick up the route and remains of a granite tramway once used to transport rock towards the coast. Crossing the moor, we'll pass by ancient cairns, a Bronze Age settlement, tors, and quarries, including Haytor Quarry, once a noisy industrial site, now a peaceful haven for wildlife.

Option 2 - Tramway, Bowerman's Nose, and Haytor Rocks

Distance: 9.5 miles (15.5 km)

Ascent: 1,500ft (460m)

From our hotel, we head out across Dartmoor following the granite tramway past a Bronze Age settlement. We then head for Bowerman's Nose, a distinctive tor said to resemble a local huntsman. We'll visit an abandoned medieval village before crossing Becka Brook, as well as Holwell and Saddle Tors. Then it's back to the hotel via Haytor Rocks and the serene ponds in Haytor Quarry.

Day 3 **Lustleigh Cleave**

Option 1 - Lustleigh and Dartmoor Way

Distance: 7 miles (11.5km)

Ascent: 950ft (280m)

Descent: 1,700ft (520m)

We'll set off on a walk that's often voted one of the best in Devon today. From the hamlet of Water, we'll wind our way through the woods of East Dartmoor National Nature Reserve to the River Bovey and the impressive Lustleigh Cleave, a globally rare example of a temperate rain forest. Explore one of Dartmoor's prettiest villages, Lustleigh, before following the Dartmoor Way to Bovey Tracey.

Option 2 - Manaton, Lustleigh Cleave, and Bovey Tracey

Distance: 11 miles (17.5km)

Ascent: 1,200ft (360m)

Descent: 2,000ft (600m)

We'll begin in the picturesque village of Manaton before climbing Manaton Rocks to venture into the woodland in Lustleigh Cleave and the hamlet of Water. We'll walk through the woods above Becky Falls towards Lustleigh. From there we'll head back to the river, which we'll follow into Bovey Tracey.

Day 4 **Into the heart of Dartmoor**

Option 1 - Tin Mine, Grimspound, and Widecombe

Distance: 5.5 miles (9km)

Ascent: 800ft (250m)

From the Bennett's Cross, we'll head through the site of a once busy tin mine and make our way to the best-known prehistoric settlement on Dartmoor – Grimspound. Explore the remains of the 3,500-year-old village before we take the Two Moors Way up onto Hamel Down, passing historic boundary stones. Then we'll descend into Widecombe-in-the-Moor, whose church is known as the Cathedral of the Moor.

Option 2 - Ancient Stones and the Two Moors Way to Widecombe

Distance: 10 miles (16 km)

Ascent: 1,300ft (400 m)

From Leapra Cross the Two Moors Way guides us along ancient trackways and through pretty hamlets. Along the way, we'll spot the remains of ancient hut circles, cairns, standing stones, and a stone row, before reaching Bennetts Cross. From here, we'll follow the route of the option one walk, joining the group at Widecombe for a café/pub stop before heading back to our hotel.

Day 5 **Castle Drogo and Chagford**

Option 1 - Teign Gorge: Fingle Bridge, Castle Drogo, and Chagford

Distance: 7.5 miles (12km)

Ascent: 800ft (250m)

Fields and riverside paths along Teign Gorge lead us to Fingle Bridge. We'll gradually climb above the gorge to reach Castle Drogo, a 20th century castle. Gentle riverside trails then take us to Chagford, known for its local produce, especially cider and cheese. You'll have time to explore or relax at one of the cafés here.

Option 2 - Contrasting Castles across the Gorge

Distance: 10 miles (16.5km)

Ascent: 1,550ft (480m)

From Moretonhampstead we'll cross fields to reach the ancient hillfort of Cranbrook Castle. A steep at times descent then leads us to the River Teign at Fingle Bridge where we follow the route of the option one walk and head for Castle Drogo. This walk also continues to Chagford, but by a different, slightly longer river trail.

Day 6 Departure Day

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before making your way home.

DAILY WALK OPTIONS



Gentle walking grade 4

The most active Gentle grade, with longer walks, some ascent, and possible steps, stiles, or off-path uneven ground. Typically, 6-7 miles (10-12km) with around 1,000ft (300m) of ascent.



Moderate walking grade 6

Longer full day walks with more ascent and varied terrain. Good fitness and agility are needed. Typically, 9-10 miles (15-16km) with around 1,500ft (460m) 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.

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: 24 November 2026