

3-Night Brecon Beacons Festive Guided Walking Holiday

Tour Style: Guided Walking

Destinations: Brecon Beacons & Wales

Trip code: BRXFW-3

2, 3 & 4



HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

Crisp mornings and clear skies, walking in the Brecon Beacons in winter is the perfect way to spend the festive season. There's something magical about walking in winter. Whether it's the frosty footsteps, the clear crisp air, or the breathtaking views, it's a wonderful time to go walking. Join our festive breaks and choose from a guided walking holiday in the company of one of our knowledgeable leaders. We pull out all the stops on our festive holidays, with fabulous food, lots of seasonal entertainment and great walks and activities. The walks are tailored to the time of year and will remain flexible to suit the weather conditions. Each day three grades of walk will be offered. So wrap up warm, lace up your boots and go for an invigorating walk.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Wonderful meals – full selection at breakfast, your choice of picnic lunch, an excellent evening meal and plenty of festive treats
- A programme of organised walks and activities
- The services of experienced HF Holidays' guides

- A packed programme of evening activities offering something festive for everyone, including some old HF favourites
- Any transport to and from the walks

HOLIDAYS HIGHLIGHTS

- Head out on full day walks to discover the varied beauty of the Brecon Beacons on foot
- Plenty of exercise to walk off the festive excesses
- Admire panoramic views of rolling countryside and valleys, wide open hillsides and wildly beautiful forests in this spectacular corner of Wales
- A choice of guided walks in spectacular winter scenery
- Let a local leader bring classic routes and offbeat areas to life
- Look out for wildlife, find secret corners and learn about Welsh history
- A relaxed pace of discovery in a sociable group keen to get some fresh air in one of Britain's most beautiful walking areas
- Just relax, soak up the party atmosphere, enjoy wonderful festive fare and leave all the organising to us
- Discover what makes the Brecon Beacons so special from the waterfalls and caves to its lakes.
- Evenings in our country house where you share a drink, celebrate and re-live the day's adventures

TRIP SUITABILITY

The walks are tailored to the time of year and will remain flexible to suit the weather conditions. Each day three grades of walk will be offered. Typically, easier walks are up to a maximum of 6½ miles (10km), medium walks are up to a maximum of 10½ miles (17km), while harder walks can be up to a maximum of 11 miles (18km).

ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrival Day

You're welcome to check in from 4pm onwards.

Enjoy a complimentary Afternoon Tea on arrival.

Day 2: ABOVE CRICKHOWELL

Option 1 - Tretower & Crickhowell

Distance: 6 miles (10km)

Total ascent: 920 feet (280m)

In Summary: We walk from north of Cwmdru to Tretower, with its renowned medieval court and castle. Then we follow a contouring path across farmland leading to the wooded Cwmbeth Brook valley and Crickhowell

Highlight: Soak up the history of Tretower Court - a fine 14th Century manor house, and its attractive garden.

Option 2 - Table Mountain & The Grwyne Valley

Distance: 8.8 miles (14km)

Total ascent: 1,670 feet (505m)

In Summary: A circular route from Crickhowell, we will ascend the Beacons Way to Table Mountain and enter the remote Grwyne Fechan valley before we head back to Crickhowell along the River Usk.

Highlight: We will visit Table Mountain, previously known as Crug Hywel, a site of an Iron Age hillfort that was the stronghold of Hywel the Good, the Welsh King (approx. 890-950AD). We will also walk along the Grwyne Fawr Riverside which is probably one of the prettiest stretches of river in the National Park.

Option 3 - The Lonely Shepherd, Craig Y Cilau And Llangattock

Distance: 9½ miles (15.5km)

Total ascent: 1,600 feet (480m)

In Summary: A circular walk from the town of Crickhowell exploring the dramatic limestone escarpment and former quarries on the south side of the Usk valley. We visit an isolated rock pinnacle with its local legend before taking a contouring path below the towering cliffs and old quarries. We return to Crickhowell through quiet farmland and Llangattock village.

Highlight: The eerie landscape created by the spoil heaps of the disused quarries underneath the cliffs of Craig y Cilau, now painted green with grasses and wildflowers, reclaimed by nature.

Day 3: HIGH ABOVE HAY-ON-WYE

Option 1 - Wye Valley & Hay-on-Wye

Distance: 6½ miles (11km)

Total ascent: 800 feet (260m)

In Summary: A circular walk along the River Wye to the village of Clyro and back into the book lovers' paradise of Hay-on-Wye.

Highlight: After a relaxing riverside walk, explore the array of second-hand bookshops in Hay-on-Wye, or enjoy a pint in one of the town's pubs.

Option 2 - Below The Black Mountains North Escarpment & Hay-on-Wye

Distance: 7.8 miles (12.5km)

Total ascent: 1,120 feet (340m)

In Summary: A traverse along the northern escarpment of the Black Mountains in between the Three Rivers Ride and the Gospel Pass before following along the Offa's Dyke path to Hay-on-Wye.

Highlight: Lovely traverse along the mountains with a good view towards the West. Also, look out for the buried stone circle that is clearly marked on the map! Can you find it?

Option 3 - Twmpa & Hay Bluff

Distance: 9½ miles (15½km)

Total ascent: 2,250 feet (680m)

In Summary: Head onto the Black Mountains escarpment to the top of Twmpa (otherwise known as Lord Hereford's Knob). We cross the road at the Gospel Pass to Hay Bluff before following the Offa's Dyke path into Hay-on-Wye.

Highlight: The walk along the Black Mountains escarpment is a real delight, with great views of the Wye Valley below.

Day 4: Departure Day

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before making your way home.

ACCOMMODATION

Nythfa House

Not many places in the UK outshine Brecon Beacons National Park when it comes to wide open spaces and soul-stirring views. So it's easy to see the appeal of this Grade II-listed property that plays a harmonious host to those seeking rural respite just a 10-minute walk from the Welsh market town of Brecon. You'll also be within easy distance of some of the area's show-stealing spots, including the Black Mountains, the Mellte Valley, and Pen y Fan - the highest point in the national park at 886 metres. Equally visit-worthy is the Big Pit National Coal Museum in Blaenavon, the National Showcaves Centre for Wales in Abercrave, and the bibliophile's paradise that is Hay-on-Wye. Should time allow, Hereford and Cardiff are both an hour's drive away. Meaning 'nesting place' in Welsh, Nythfa House was built in 1867 as a private residence for wealthy solicitor and antiquarian Joseph Richard Cobb at a cost of £1,426. Known as Lord of the Manor of Brecon and Caldicot, he lived in the house with his wife, six children, cook, nurse, stable hand, and five servants. Cobb was a prominent member of the Cambrian Archaeological Association and played key roles in the restoration of the priory church (now Brecon Cathedral) and Manorbier Castle. He was also involved in the construction of the Brecon and Merthyr Railways during the 1860s. Cobb bought Caldicot Castle in Monmouthshire in 1885 (hence his dual title) and made that his home thereafter. In the 20th century, Nythfa House was occupied by the Mayberry family (relatives of the Cobbs) and later purchased by the Fowler family. It has been part of our HF Holidays line-up since 1990. Sitting pretty on a hill above The Struet (one of Brecon's oldest and most historic streets for its Charles I connections), you'll find a selection of comfortable public spaces, a handy boot and drying room for walkers, plus books and games to borrow during your stay. There's also a Discovery Point offering a wide range of local area maps, route guides, and easy-to-follow information for self-guided walks. The house has 31 well-appointed guest rooms in three categories (Classic, Premium, and Superior), with many blending classic and contemporary furnishings. A licenced bar for gins and whiskeys, a light-filled dining room for a wide range of dishes made with fresh and seasonal ingredients, an indoor pool (open year-round), and an attractive garden with a putting green and croquet lawn tops things off nicely.

Country House Accommodation

Accommodation Info

Need To Know

The safety of our guests, team, and leaders is always top of our list. We will closely align ourselves with the latest government advice and guidance on COVID-19 and implement the best possible hygiene practices across our country houses. We ask that you take sensible precautions to protect other people's health and would appreciate you informing the house team immediately if you feel unwell. For the latest COVID-19 FAQs, please visit our [Coronavirus Travel Advice Page](#)

Rooms

Designed with your comfort in mind, Nythfa House has 31 well-appointed guest rooms available in three categories: Classic, Premium, and Superior.

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 23-inch TV.

Premium Rooms are more spacious en-suite guest rooms offering upgraded views of the surrounds. Amenities include free Wi-Fi, tea and coffee-making facilities, toiletries (hand wash, shampoo, body lotion, shower gel, shower cap), and a 32-inch TV. Extras include bathrobes, slippers, and comfortable mattresses. Please note that an extra charge of £15 per person per night applies for this room type.

Superior Rooms are even more spacious en-suite guest rooms offering upgraded views of the surrounds. Amenities include free Wi-Fi, tea and coffee-making facilities, toiletries (hand wash, shampoo, body lotion, shower gel, shower cap), and a 32-inch TV. Extras include bathrobes, slippers, and comfortable mattresses. Please note that an extra charge of £25 per person per night applies for this room type.

We love: Rooms 6 and 7 in the main house both have gorgeous views across the garden and the Brecon Beacons. Room 21 is up in the eaves and has a separate seating area (please be mindful of the low ceilings). The garden guest rooms are very pretty and have their own small deck.

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.

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 and after dinner on arrival days. This is followed by a group Walks Talk for information on the following day's walking delights (usually held before and after dinner, so you can join whenever suits). 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 (we recommend anything waterproof enough to keep you dry in a sudden downpour). 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 licenced 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. Most dietary requirements can be catered for, so please inform us of any food intolerances or allergies at the time of booking. Currently, global challenges such as COVID-19 and the war in Ukraine are directly impacting our food and drink supply chain. We thank you for appreciating that menu descriptions are kept flexible to allow for last-minute changes if needed.

Accessibility

For accessibility and assistance information, please contact our expert team on [020 3974 8865](tel:02039748865) or view the accessibility information online for [Nythfa House](#)

TRAVEL DETAILS

Our address is: Nythfa House, Brecon, Powys, LD3 7NN
Tel: [01874 624287](tel:01874624287)

By Train:

The most convenient railway station for Nythfa House is at Abergavenny. For train times and route planning by train visit www.nationalrail.co.uk or phone [03457 48 49 50](tel:03457484950).

By Taxi:

The 21-mile journey from Abergavenny railway station takes approximately 40 minutes to one hour. You can pre-book a taxi from our recommended taxi company, A&A Cabs. As a guide price, it cost £36 per 4-seat taxi in 2022. 8-seat taxis are also available at a higher rate. A&A Cabs will arrange shared taxis wherever possible. Please pre-book your taxi at least 7 days in advance by contacting:

A&A Cabs*
Tel: [+44 \(0\) 1874 622288](tel:+4401874622288)
Email: aandabrecon@yahoo.ie

The return taxi journey can be arranged on your behalf by the Nythfa House Manager.

*A&A Cabs is not owned or managed by HF Holidays

By Bus:

The X43 bus operates from Abergavenny station to Brecon and takes approximately one hour. Alight at the bus interchange in Brecon. Facing the road, head left along Heol Gouesnou to the traffic lights. Turn right heading uphill along Cerrigcochion Road for around 70 yards, and then turn left into Belle Vue Gardens. Head along the road and turn right at the T-junction (still Belle Vue Gardens). Head up the road to another T-junction and turn left into Cerrigcochion Lane. Walk for about 15 yards and you will see the Nythfa House sign on your right. For bus times see www.traveline.info

By Car:

Most guests approach Brecon via the A40 from Abergavenny or the A470 from the northwest. These two roads converge at a roundabout on the Brecon bypass. At the roundabout follow the B4601 for a mile into Brecon. Turn right at the second mini roundabout, then go straight on at the crossroads with traffic lights. After 500yds turn sharp right into Mount Street, then second left into Belle View Road. Stop at the top of the road at the T Junction then go straight ahead up the drive to Nythfa House.

Travelling From Overseas

For most guests, travelling to London Heathrow airport is the most convenient option.

From Heathrow first take the train to London Paddington station. From here there are trains to Abergavenny (1 change at Newport) - allow 3 to 3½ hours. See www.nationalrail.co.uk for train times.

From Abergavenny you can travel on to Brecon by bus or taxi (see above).

LOCAL AREA

During your stay at Nythfa House you may enjoy visiting the following places of interest, either in your free time, on your journey to and from Brecon or if you are travelling on a self-guided holiday:

Brecon is a quaint market town at the foot of the Brecon Beacons; an area of sweeping high moorland, and beautiful green valleys. The town has a good range of facilities including shops, supermarkets, post office, chemists, banks, pubs and cafés. During your stay you may enjoy visiting [Brecon Cathedral](#) or take a scenic cruise from Brecon along the [Monmouthshire and Brecon canal](#).

Big Pit National Coal Museum

Travel underground at the excellent [Big Pit National Coal Museum](#) in Blaenavon and discover the life of a South Wales coal miner. Blaenavon is around 45 minutes' drive from Brecon.

Hay-on-Wye

The quaint small town of [Hay-on-Wye](#) is about 30 minutes' drive from Brecon, and can also be reached by bus every 2 hours. The town is now famed for its annual literary festival, and extensive selection of second-hand book shops.

Hereford

Hereford is an attractive city, around an hour's drive from Brecon. [Hereford Cathedral](#) houses the famous Mappa Mundi, a 12th century map of the world.

National Showcaves Centre For Wales

The [National Showcaves Centre for Wales](#) is home to a series of impressive show-caves, some of the largest in Europe, which house some fine stalactites and stalagmites. The caves are around 30 minutes' drive from Brecon.

Tretower Court

Located near the village of Crickhowell, about 20 minutes' drive from Brecon, [Tretower Court](#) is a fine Medieval fortified manor house.

Cardiff

The vibrant Welsh capital of [Cardiff](#) is around 40 miles or 1 hour's drive from Brecon. A visit could include the St Fagan's National History Museum, Castell Coch, or the National Museum.

Brecon Mountain Railway

The [Brecon Mountain Railway](#) is a narrow-gauge heritage railway which follows part of the route of the original

Brecon & Merthyr Railway which closed in 1964. The 90-minute journey heads north from near Merthyr Tydfil into the Brecon Beacons National Park, passing a large reservoir as it climbs up to Torpantau station. On the return journey from Torpantau to Pant, the train stops at Pontsticill station where there is a lakeside café which is a nice spot from which to admire the view. At Pant station there is a workshop where the steam locomotives and carriages are maintained.

USEFUL HOLIDAY INFORMATION

Essential Information

"There's no such thing as bad weather, just the wrong type of clothing!" goes the adage. Come prepared for all eventualities and you'll walk in comfort as well as safety. Britain's famous for its changeable weather, so here's our advice on what to wear and bring.

Essentials

- Walking boots providing ankle support and good grip.
- A waterproof jacket and over-trousers
- Gloves and a warm hat (it can be chilly at any time of the year)
- Rucksack
- Water bottle (at least 1 litre capacity)
- A small torch (everywhere in winter, year round in mountains)

Recommended

- Several layers of clothing, which can be added or removed
- Specialist walking socks to avoid blisters.
- A first aid kit inc plasters– your leader's first aid kit doesn't contain any medication
- Sit mat (insulated pad to sit on when you stop for a break)

You Might Also Want

- Walking poles, particularly useful for descents.
- Insect repellent
- Flask for hot drinks
- Rigid lunch box
- Gaiters
- Blister kit (eg Compeed) just in case
- Waterproof rucksack liner
- Sun hat and sunscreen (we may just get lucky and have some festive sunshine!)

Denim jeans and waterproof capes are not suitable on any walks.

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.

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 – 5.30pm, 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: National Westminster Bank, Account Name: HF Holidays Limited, Account Number: 48904805, Sort Code: 60-00-01, IBAN: GB90NWBK60000148904805

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

Your final balance payment is due 6 weeks before departure if you are staying in an HF Holidays UK country house, 8 weeks before departure if you are travelling on one of our holidays in Europe and 10 weeks before departure if you are on a Guided Trail staying in one of our partner hotels or are travelling on a Worldwide holiday. 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](tel:01702427236) 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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