

7 Night Brecon Beacons Christmas & New Year Guided Walking Holiday



Trip style:
Festive breaks

Destination:
📍 Brecon Beacons

Walking Grade
⚙️ 4, 6 & 8

Carbon Footprint:
🌳 396kg CO2

Holiday Overview

Whether it's the frosty footsteps, crisp air, or glorious views, there's something magical about winter walks in Wales. Make this Christmas truly memorable and spend the festive season at Nythfa House – our characterful country property just a 10-minute walk from the market town of Brecon and the winter landscapes of Brecon Beacons (Bannau Brycheiniog) National Park. We pull out all the stops at this time of year and our houses welcome you with a sprinkling of festive cheer, seasonal food, and plenty of yuletide treats. So wrap up warm and step into Christmas with HF Holidays.

WHAT YOU'LL LOVE

- Getting into the festive spirit with a guided walking holiday
- A choice of winter walks with our experienced HF Holidays Leaders
- Discovering the stunning landscapes of Brecon Beacons (Bannau Brycheiniog) on foot
- Staying in the comfort of our charming country house in Brecon
- Enjoying festive fare and leaving all the organising to us
- A celebration dinner with all the trimmings on Christmas Day and New Year's Eve

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Comfortable en-suite accommodation in our country house
- Cream tea on arrival day
- Cooked or continental breakfast every morning
- Daily packed lunches
- Three-course evening meals, plus tea & coffee
- Guided walking with experienced HF Holidays Leaders
- Choice of three guided walks (each walking day) from March to October, and two from November to February
- All transport to and from walks where necessary
- Easy-to-follow routes, maps, and information in our Discovery Point if you want to explore independently

ITINERARY – CHRISTMAS

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 Talybont & the Usk Valley

Option 1 – Pencelli to Talybont-on-Usk

Distance: 4½ miles (7.5km)

Ascent: 200 feet (60m)

In summary: Starting in the village of Pencelli, we'll follow the Taff Trail beside the canal to Talybont-on-Usk. We briefly walk alongside the river Caerfanell to meet the Usk Valley Walk before rejoining the Taff Trail to take us back to Talybont-on-Usk.

Highlight: Scenic walking alongside the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal.

Option 2 – Around Tor y Foel

Distance: 9 miles (15km)

Ascent: 1,080 feet (330m)

In summary: We circumnavigate the hill of Tor y Foel, taking in stunning views of the Talybont reservoir and the Black Mountains.

Highlight: On a clear day enjoy terrific views of Sugar Loaf and Table Mountain.

Option 3 – Waterfalls and Ridges to Talybont-on-Usk

Distance: 9 miles (15km)

Ascent: 1,950 feet (580m)

In summary: We enjoy waterfalls and a stunning ridge walk on this linear walk to Talybont-on-Usk. After reaching our highest point on the summit of Carn Pica, we descend to the reservoir and follow the Taff trail into the village.

Highlight: Superb views in all directions as you make your way to the summit of Carn Pica

Day 3 CENTRAL BEACONS

Option 1 - Canal, Aqueduct & River Usk

Distance: 6.5 miles (10km)

Ascent: 100 feet (30m)

In summary: Follow the Canal tow path east out of Brecon, then across country to join the River Usk back into the town.

Highlight: Bags of canal history including a sturdy stone aqueduct over the River Usk.

Option 2 - Llechfaen, Groesfford & the Brecon Canal

Distance: 7.5 miles (12km)

Ascent: 725 feet (220m)

In summary: We start our walk by crossing fields and meadows to the east of Brecon, before sweeping south to pass through the villages of Llechfaen and Groesfford. Following the tow path alongside the River Usk we return to the town centre, passing the Brecon Theatre on our way.

Highlight: Enjoy panoramic views of the Beacons from rolling pastures

Option 3 - Y Gaer, Cradoc & Pen-y-Crug

Distance: 9.5 miles (15.5km)

Ascent: 1,300 feet (400m)

In summary: We walk along lanes and paths to the site of Y Gaer, a Roman marching fort, then continue to the pretty hamlet of Cradoc before ascending Pen y Crug to take in the panoramic views. We end our walk with a stroll through the grounds of Brecon Cathedral on route to the house.

Highlight: Explore the remains of a Roman cavalry camp and a huge iron age hillfort with distant views of the Beacons

Day 4 THE BEACONS

Option 1 - Pen y Crug & Cathedral

Distance: 5 miles (8km)

Ascent: 750ft (220m)

In summary: This walk takes you around the outskirts of Brecon and into some beautiful countryside before the short climb to the summit of Pen-y-Crug and the hill fort. You will then descend back into Brecon via Maen Du Well and on to the cathedral before returning to Nytfha house.

Highlight: Ascend this iron age hillfort with distant views of the Beacons and visit Brecon's historic cathedral

Option 2 - North Across the Beacons

Distance: 9.5 miles (15km)

Ascent: 920 feet (280m)

In summary: Starting on a forestry track above Talybont Reservoir we walk along an ancient drovers' track known as The Roman Road and walk to Brecon across fields and along quiet roads.

Highlight: Experience the heart of the Central Brecon Beacons (Bannau Brycheiniog) without much exertion.

Option 3 - Taf Fechan & Pen-y-Fan

Distance: 12.25 miles (19.8km)

Total ascent: 1,900 feet (565m)

In summary: This walk brings you through the Taf Fechan Forest before climbing the "Roman Road" through Bwlch ar y Fan before reaching the twin peaks of Corn Du and Pen-y-Fan with stunning panoramic views.

Highlight: Scale Pen y Fan the iconic peak and the highest mountain in South Wales

Day 5 Free Day - Brecon Beacons

Discover more about [Nythfa House and the local area](#) for ideas on how to make the most of your free day.

Day 6 ABOVE CRICKHOWELL

Option 1 - Tretower & Crickhowell

Distance: 6 miles (10km)

Total ascent: 900 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 the area and explore the attractive market town of Crickhowell.

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: 10 miles (16km)

Total ascent: 1,800 feet (560m)

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 7 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 8 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.



Challenging walking grade 8

Challenging walks for fit, experienced walkers. Expect rugged or mountainous terrain, or some longer distances than typical for this grade. Typically, 12–13 miles (19–21km) with around 2,300ft (700m) of ascent.

Accommodation

Nythfa House

Not many places in the UK outshine Brecon Beacons (Bannau Brycheiniog) National Park when it comes to wide open spaces and walks with incredible views. So it's easy to see the appeal of Nythfa House. With its name meaning 'nesting place' in Welsh, once you settle in you'll never want to leave. Built in 1867 as a private residence, this charming property is perfect for those seeking a rural retreat, yet one which is just a 10-minute walk from the Welsh market town of Brecon. It sits on a hill above The Struet, one of Brecon's oldest and most historic streets, famed for its Charles I connections who visited the town during the English Civil War. Nythfa House also puts you within easy reach of some of the area's show-stealing walking 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 just an hour's drive away.

Check-In & Check-Out

You are welcome to check in from 4pm at the earliest. HF Members can check in earlier, from 2pm. 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. Check out 10am.

About

• 31 well-appointed guest rooms • Exclusive occupancy: 43 guests minimum • Check in from 4:00pm • For members check in from 2:00pm • Free Wi-Fi • Free on-site parking • Boot room and drying room • Travel cot & high chair • Discovery Point offering a wide range of local area maps, route guides, and information for self-guided walks • Books and games to borrow • Licensed bar • Lounges • Garden with putting green and croquet lawn • Electric vehicle charging point - Please note, you will need to bring your own cables to use this EV charging point



Food & drink

Seasonal dining, tailored for you

Our team of skilled chefs design our dinner menus to showcase the best of each season, from warming winter comfort food to vibrant summer dishes, including vegetarian, vegan and high-protein options. We also source fruit and vegetables within a 40-mile radius of each house, open every break with a Chef's Special menu inspired by dishes and flavours of the local area, and are able to adapt dishes to suit special dietary requirements.

Welcome Cream Tea

What better way to start your stay than with a cream tea, served fresh on arrival to make you feel instantly at home. A quintessentially English tradition, our scones are baked in-house and served with preserves and clotted cream, providing the perfect opportunity to meet fellow walkers.

A hearty breakfast to start the day

Start the day with a freshly-prepared cooked breakfast and a wide choice from our continental buffet, including hot drinks, juices and fresh fruit. Our team offer a quick and friendly service, leaving you fuelled and ready for your day's adventures.

Our famous picnic lunch

Our personalised picnic lunches are perfect for a day out walking, ready to enjoy when hunger strikes. Choose from a large selection of fresh sandwiches and salads, freshly baked cakes and snacks, including the ever-popular Freddos chocolate bar! Everything is designed to fit neatly into your rucksack, and all of the packaging we provide is recyclable or compostable.

3-course evening meals

Our à la carte evening menus feature a wide choice of starters, mains, and desserts, made with seasonal ingredients and, wherever possible, herbs and vegetables from our own gardens. Shared around sociable tables, dinners are relaxed occasions, with drinks available to order at the table or from the bar, and a traditional Sunday roast to round off the week.

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 TV.

Premium rooms are more spacious en-suite guest rooms*. Amenities include free Wi-Fi, tea and coffee-making facilities, toiletries (hand wash, shampoo, body lotion, shower gel), and a 32-inch TV. Extras include bathrobes, slippers.

Superior rooms are even more spacious en-suite guest rooms offering upgraded views of the surroundings*. Amenities include free Wi-Fi, tea and coffee-making facilities, toiletries (hand wash, shampoo, body lotion, shower gel), and a 32-inch TV. Extras include bathrobes, slippers.

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.

Room supplements

Superior	Premium single	Premium double/twin	Choose your room
£25 pppn	£20 pppn	£20 pppn	£30 per room

*Views and layout reflect each properties unique character and location

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](#)

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, HF Holidays Inter-House Quiz night 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 walk leaders host guided walking information briefings before dinner on guided walking holiday arrival days. This is followed by a group Walks Talk for information on the following day's guided walks (held before dinner every evening). Self-guided walking guests are, of course, welcome.

The walking day

Prior to setting off on guided 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. 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.

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

Address

Nythfa House
Brecon
Powys LD3 7NN

Tel: [+44 \(0\)1874 624287](tel:+44(0)1874624287)

By train

The nearest station is Abergavenny, from here you can take a bus or taxi to Brecon (see details below).

Check National Rail for train times and routes.

By taxi

The 21-mile journey from Abergavenny railway station takes 40 minutes to one hour.

For pricing, please contact A&A Cabs directly.

A&A Cabs

You can pre-book a taxi from our recommended company, A&A Cabs*. We recommend booking your taxi at least seven days in advance by contacting:

Tel: [+44 \(0\)1874 622288](tel:+44(0)1874622288)

Email: This email address is being protected from spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it.

A return journey can be arranged on your behalf by the HF Holidays House Manager at Nythfa House.

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

By bus

The X43 bus operates from Abergavenny station to Brecon and takes about an hour. The most convenient bus stop for Nythfa House is the bus interchange in Brecon.

For bus times check Traveline.

By car

The A40 from Abergavenny and the A470 from the northwest converge at a roundabout on the Brecon bypass.

At the roundabout, follow the B4601 into Brecon. Turn right at the second mini roundabout on to Heol Gouesnou road. Drive straight over another mini roundabout and go straight on at the traffic lights. Turn right into Mount Street, then take the second left into Belle View Road. At the top of the road, go straight ahead up the drive to Nythfa House.

By air

The nearest airport is Cardiff.

Catch the 905 bus service to Rhoose Railway Station bus stop. Take the train from Rhoose Cardiff International Airport to Cathays Station and walk 10 mins to Merthyr Tydfil Bus Station. From here take the T14 bus to Brecon. You'll need to allow up to 3.5 hours.

An alternate option is to fly to Heathrow airport. Take a train to London Paddington Station, where there are trains to Abergavenny (with one change at Newport). Here you can take a bus or taxi to Brecon.

Local Area

Whether you're enjoying a guided or self-guided walking holiday, there's always the opportunity to linger for longer. Here's our pick of the very best things to see and do within easy travelling distance of Nythfa House.

Brecon

Located at the top edge of Brecon Beacons (Bannau Brycheiniog) National Park, this market town is most famous for its military connections, magnificent cathedral, and jazz festival. If time allows, take a scenic cruise from Brecon along the Monmouthshire and Brecon canal.

Langorse Lake

Just east of Brecon between the Central Beacons and the Black Mountains, this is the largest natural lake in Wales. It's also a popular wildlife-watching spot so keep your eyes peeled for otters, water voles, warblers, swifts, and large flocks of Canada geese.

Big Pit National Coal Museum

Set in the Blaenafon Industrial Landscape and designated UNESCO World Heritage Site, this former working coal mine once employed up to 1,300 workers. Nowadays it has award-winning interactive exhibits as well as an underground tour. It's only a 45-minute drive away.

Hay-on-Wye

A 30-minute drive away, this literary-loving Welsh town on the banks of the River Wye charms with second-hand bookshops, medieval ruins, and stunning surrounding scenery. The annual Hay Festival takes place for 10 days from the end of May to the start of June.

Hereford

An hour's drive away, this attractive cathedral city is home to the famous Mappa Mundi, a medieval map of the world dating from the 1300s. Further highlights include the Chained Library, the Black and White House Museum, and the life-sized Hereford Bull Statue.

National Showcaves Centre for Wales

Home to a series of impressive show-caves, this top-rated attraction is a 30-minute drive away. Highlights include exploring the Dan-yr-Ogof cave, walking behind the 40-foot waterfall in the Cathedral Cave, and discovering how the Bone Cave got its name.

Tretower Court & Castle

This two-in-one architectural wonder located near the village of Crickhowell is a 20-minute drive away. Highlights include strolling around the recreated 15th century garden complete with white roses that symbolised creator Sir Roger Vaughan's Yorkist sympathies.

Cardiff

An hour's drive away, the Welsh capital of Cardiff warrants a visit for its cultural and historical thrills. Highlights include St. Fagan's National Museum of History, Castell Coch, Cardiff Castle, and Cardiff Bay.

Brecon Mountain Railway

This heritage line 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 Brecon Beacons (Bannau Brycheiniog) National Park, passing a large reservoir as it climbs up to Torpantau station.

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

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. Fleece makes 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

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: 12 October 2026

