

# 4 Night Southern Yorkshire Dales Christmas Guided Walking Holiday

**Tour Style:** Guided walking

**Destinations:** Yorkshire Dales, United Kingdom & England

**Trip code:** MDXFW-4

2, 3 & 4



## HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

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The Southern Yorkshire Dales set the bar high for seriously good views – so there's an added magic to walks here during the winter months. Sightseeing greats like Malham Tarn, Janet's Foss, and Gordale Scar all look extra special under a crisp frost or a dusting of snow. And when you're not out exploring the wintry landscapes of the Dales, cosy up at our characterful country house in Malhamdale. 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'S INCLUDED

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- 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 up to three guided walks (on walking days)
- 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

## HOLIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

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- 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 Southern Yorkshire Dales on foot
- Staying in our country house near the village of Malham
- 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

## TRIP SUITABILITY

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This trip is graded Activity Level 2, 3 and 4.

Typically, easier walks are up to a maximum of 7 miles (11km), up to a maximum of 9 miles (14½km), while harder walks can be up to a maximum of 12 miles (19km).

## ITINERARY

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### Day 1: Arrival Day

You're welcome to check in from 4pm onwards. Enjoy a complimentary cream tea on arrival.

### Day 2: Through Ribblesdale To Settle

#### Option 1 - Ribblesdale

**Distance:** 7 miles (11.5km)

**Ascent:** 800 feet (240m)

**In summary:** Explore the attractive village of Langcliffe before heading north to Catrigg Force and the village of Stainforth. We shall visit the Hoffman lime kiln and follow the River Ribble past Stainforth Force to Settle.

**Highlight:** Settle is a picturesque market town, first chartered in 1249 and famous for the Settle-Carlisle railway.

#### Option 2 - Above Settle

**Distance:** 9 miles (14km)

**Total ascent:** 1,200 feet (380m)

**In summary:** A circular walk from Settle, we take the Ribble Way to Stainforth Force Waterfalls before visiting the Hoffmann lime kiln from Stainforth. A steady ascent up a stoney old lane takes us to Catrigg Force. Our route down the eastern side of the valley leads past Winskill Stones to Jubilee Cave before descending along

the Pennine Bridleway to Settle.

**Highlight:** Catterigg Force waterfall is a real hidden gem, situated in a deep wooded ravine.

### Option 3 - Escarpments Of Settle

**Distance:** 10.5miles (17km)

**Ascent:** 1,900 feet (580m)

**Summary:** Walking from the village of Langcliffe, we follow the hillside on the eastern side of Ribblesdale to the wonderful limestone scenery below Attermire Scar to reach Catterigg Force. We then descend a stony green lane to Stainforth and visit the Hoffmann Lime Kiln before crossing the River Ribble to the western side. After walking below Smearsett Scar and above Giggleswick Scar we head into Settle.

**Highlights:** Being on the Mid & the South Craven fault, the whole day is immersed in the wonders the limestone scenery, with extensive limestone scars, caves, glacial erratics.

## Day 3: Otterburn

### Option 1 - Otterburn Beck

**Distance:** 7.5 miles (11.5km)

**Ascent:** 600 feet (180m)

**In summary:** Our walk takes us across fields to Kirk Syke and along lanes to the small village of Otterburn before returning via Bell Busk to Newfield Hall.

**Highlight:** Discover the hidden history of Otterburn, which was mentioned in the Domesday Book. The village took its name from the beck, "the stream of the otter", which runs through the middle of the village.

### Option 2 - Otterburn And Wenningber

**Distance:** 10 miles (16km)

**Ascent:** 900 feet (240m)

**In summary:** From Kirk Syke, we follow lanes and field paths before descending by Otterburn Beck to reach the village. Field paths loop round Wenningber Hill and a green lane leads back to Otterburn. From here we head over Kendal Hill, towards Bell Busk and Kirk Syke Lane.

**Highlight:** The history of Otterburn and the 'perfect green drumlin' of Wenningber Hill.

### Option 3 - Orms Gill And Hellifield Moor

**Distance:** 11.5 miles (18km)

**Ascent:** 1000 feet (300m)

**In summary:** Venture over undulating fields and lanes to the deserted farmhouse and lime kiln at Orms Gill before continuing across open fields to reach Hellifield Moor. After an opportunity to detour round Wenninger Hill, pass through Otterburn and Bell Busk to complete the circuit.

**Highlight:** Enjoy the tranquillity of rarely walked paths and the HF Pathways Plantation at Orms Gill Quarry.

## Day 4: Malham Cove

### Option 1 - Around Malham

**Distance:** 7 miles (11.5km)

**Ascent:** 1,000 feet (300m)

**In summary:** We ascend gradually along a green lane and over open moorland up to Malham Tarn and return to Malham past Malham Cove and beautiful Janet's Foss waterfall.

**Highlight:** Looking over the limestone pavement of Malham Cove is always an impressive sight.

### Option 2 - Gordale And Malham Cove

**Distance:** 9 miles (14.5km)

**Ascent:** 1,600 feet (480m)

**In summary:** A classic walk from Malham that leads to the beautiful sights of Janet's Foss and magnificent Gordale Scar before heading north over moorland, past the top of Malham Cove, to reach Malham Tarn. The return route provides stunning views of limestone countryside before descending by a green lane to reach the bottom of Malham Cove.

**Highlight:** The pretty woodland waterfall of Janet's Foss, the collapsed cave system of Gordale Scar from the last Ice Age, and the serene Malham Tarn, that is surrounded by pervious limestone.

### Option 3 - Malham Tarn And Pennine Way

**Distance:** 12 miles (20.km)

**Ascent:** 1,700 feet (500m)

**In summary:** After passing Janet's Foss waterfall, we visit Gordale Scar before heading up on to Malham Moor with views of limestone pavements. We continue past Great Close Scar and join the Pennine Way north of Malham Tarn, returning to Malham via the Cove.

**Highlight:** A truly memorable day as we step onto the limestone pavement atop Malham Cove and soak up the panoramic view ahead over Malhamdale.

## Day 5: Departure Day

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before making your way home.

## ACCOMMODATION

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### Newfield Hall

Looking every inch the baronial mansion, Newfield Hall sits in two acres of grounds near the village of Malham at the southern base of Yorkshire Dales National Park. Given it was this very landscape which inspired Wordsworth to write a sonnet and Charles Kingsley to pen *The Water Babies*, the countryside views are as gorgeous as you'd imagine. You'll also have plenty of sightseeing greats within easy travelling distance, most notably Malham Tarn, Janet's Foss, Gordale Scar, Malham Cove, and The Dry Valley of the Watlowes. And then, of course, there's Yorkshire's famous trio of summits: Pen-y-ghent, Whernside, and Ingleborough, collectively known as the three peaks. Stay at Newfield Hall and experience the exceptional service of a VisitEngland ROSE award winner. Find out more about the latest accolade awarded to our country house in

the Southern Yorkshire Dales by reading our latest blog.

## Country House Accommodation

### Rooms

Designed with your comfort in mind, Newfield Hall has 46 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, and comfortable mattresses.

**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, and comfortable mattresses.

**We love:** The guest rooms spread across the main building and the tastefully converted coach house. Rooms 3 and 6 are both corner rooms offering original features and large bay windows overlooking the gardens and beyond (Room 6 has its own telescope).

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.

#### 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

## 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 dinner on arrival days. This is followed by a group Walks Talk for information on the following day's walking delights (held before dinner every evening). 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. 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 licensed 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.

HF Holidays understands the importance of managing allergens effectively to ensure food is safe for guests with food allergies. Whilst we are always able to confidently inform guests which allergens are present in our ingredients and dishes, we are unable to guarantee absolute freedom from the 14 main allergens in our kitchens. Vegetarian and vegan menu choices are available. If you have allergies, food intolerances, or any special dietary requirements, please inform our reservation team at the time of booking.

## Accessibility

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

## TRAVEL DETAILS

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### Address

Newfield Hall  
Airton  
Skipton  
North Yorkshire BD23 4AA

Tel: [+44 \(0\)1729 830235](tel:+44(0)1729830235)

### By Train

The most convenient station is Skipton. Gargrave station is closer, but there's no taxi service from here.

Check National Rail for routes and times.

### By Shared Transfer

If you're travelling to or from Newfield Hall on Mondays or Fridays or over the festive period, you can join our group transfer from Skipton Railway Station.

2024 prices are £22 per person for a return transfer or £11 per person for a single transfer. 2025 prices are £30

per person for a return transfer or £15 per person for a single transfer.

Outward journey: Depart Skipton Railway Station at 16:10; arrive at Newfield Hall at 16:35. Return journey: Depart Newfield Hall at 09:15; arrive at Skipton Railway Station at 09:40.

Places are limited so booking is essential. We recommend booking at least 14 days in advance by contacting:

### **HF Holidays Sales and Support Team**

Tel: [+44 \(0\)203 974 8865](tel:+44(0)2039748865)

Email: [reservations@hfholidays.co.uk](mailto:reservations@hfholidays.co.uk)

## **By Taxi**

Skipton to Newfield Hall is 8 miles, which takes around 25 minutes.

For pricing, please contact Station Taxis directly.

### **Station Taxis**

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

Tel: [+44 \(0\)1756 700777](tel:+44(0)1756700777)

Email: [stationtaxis@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:stationtaxis@hotmail.co.uk)

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

\*Station Taxis is not owned or managed by HF Holidays.

## **By Car**

From the south, follow the A65 from Skipton to Gargrave. Leave the A65 by Eshton Road, signposted to Malham and pass Eshton Hall on the right. Newfield Hall is approx. 2½ miles further on, on the right and before the village of Airton. There is a stone pillar and a wooden sign at each side of our driveway. **(Please note: The next right turn has a post box at the bottom of the lane and leads to a private farm access ONLY.)**

From the north, exit the M6 at junction 36 and take the A65 towards Skipton. In Coniston Cold village take a sharp left into a narrow road between houses, signposted to St Peters Church and Bell Busk and Malham. Pass under a railway viaduct, then after a mile bear right over a small bridge. After a further mile turn right at the junction, cross the narrow bridge, pass a left turn with a post box at the bottom of the lane (which leads to a private farm) and then shortly after, turn left through the gateway onto the drive of Newfield Hall. There is a stone pillar and a wooden sign at each side of our driveway.

There is free parking with the grounds of Newfield Hall.

## **By Air**

The nearest airport is Leeds Bradford Airport.

### **From the airport**

Take the bus to Leeds train station from where there are direct trains to Skipton taking about one and a half hours. Check Transdev for bus times and National Rail for train times.

From Manchester International Airport there are direct trains every hour to Skipton with one change at Leeds. You'll need to allow 2.5 hours to reach Skipton.

Flying to London Heathrow airport is another option but you'll have a longer onward train journey – about 4.5 hours. From Heathrow, first take the Piccadilly line to London Kings Cross station and from here take a train to Skipton (with one change at Leeds).

## LOCAL AREA

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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 Newfield Hall.

### Skipton

A 20-minute drive away, this market town is famous for its ruined priory and cobbled high street. The highlight is Skipton Castle, a 900-year-old fortress that withstood a three-year siege during the Civil War. Don't miss the atmospheric dungeon and watch tower.

### Malham Cove

A huge curving amphitheatre shaped cliff formation of limestone rock, this iconic sight is a 15-minute drive away. It's also well worth walking here along the Pennine Way – it takes around 1.5 hours from Newfield Hall in either direction.

### Bronte Parsonage Museum

The home of authors Charlotte, Emily, and Anne Brontë this fascinating museum is a 45-minute drive away. The rooms used to write their literary masterpieces are filled with clothes, furniture, and personal possessions. Exhibits change annually.

### Keighley And Worth Valley Railway

Running heritage steam and diesel trains from the market town of Keighley to the Brontë Country of Oxenhope, this five-mile branch line railway is a West Yorkshire highlight. Keighley station is a 35-minute drive from Newfield Hall.

### Settle To Carlisle Railway

A 20-minute drive from Skipton station, this 73-mile-long railway route crosses regions of the Yorkshire Dales and the North Pennines. British Rail ran the line down in the late 1970s but campaigners finally saved it from closure in 1989.

### Fountains Abbey & Studley Royal Water Garden

An hour's drive away, this designated World Heritage Site is home to the country's largest monastic ruins. The adjacent water garden created by John Aislaby in 1718 impresses with ornamental lakes, canals, temples, cascades, and several follies.

### White Scar Cave

A 40-minute drive away, Britain's longest show cave was discovered by a Cambridge undergraduate in 1923 and opened to the public two years later. The underground tour reveals spectacular caverns, waterfalls, stalagmites, and stalactites.

### Brimham Rocks

Set above the valley of Nidderdale, this astonishing collection of rock formations is an hour's drive away. Manged by the National Trust, many of the rocks have been given apt names such as The Sphinx, The Watchdog, The Camel, The Turtle, and The Dancing Bear.



## RHS Garden Harlow Carr

A 50-minute drive away, this 58-acre showcase of horticultural excellence is open year-round. Highlights include the kitchen, streamside, and scented gardens. There's also an excellent shop selling books, gifts, and a large selection of plants and flowers.

## Harrogate

Just under an hour's drive away, this charming spa town rewards with fabulous shopping and glorious gardens. Must-dos include spending time at the Royal Pump Room Museum, visiting the Harrogate Turkish Baths, and queuing for tea at Betty's (it's worth the wait),

## Lightwater Valley

Ideal for those with kids in tow, this family adventure park is just over an hour's drive away. Thrillseekers can enjoy over 40 rides and attractions tailored for the under 12's, including gentler activities for toddlers and pre-schoolers.

## York

A 90-minute drive away, this historic walled city is most famous for its York Minster, National Railway Museum, Jorvik Viking Centre, and York Dungeon. Don't miss the Yorkshire Museum & Gardens for some of Europe's finest archaeological and geological finds.

## USEFUL HOLIDAY INFORMATION

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### Essential 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. Fleeeces 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

#### Recommended

- Several base layers (long-sleeve or short-sleeve)
- Cushioned walking socks to avoid blisters
- First aid kit, including plasters and insect repellent
- Sit mat
- Waterproof pouch for valuables
- Rubbish bag (remember to always leave no trace)
- Wallet/purse
- Camera
- First-aid kit

## 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.

## TRIP NOTE VALIDITY

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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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