

7-Night Western Yorkshire Dales Christmas & New Year Walking Holiday

Tour Style: Guided Walking

Destinations: Yorkshire Dales & England

Trip code: SDXFW-7

2, 3 & 4



HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

Walk in this hidden-away corner of the Yorkshire Dales National Park and discover characterful market towns. 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

- Full board en-suite accommodation

- A full programme of guided walks or activities
- The services of experienced HF Holidays' leaders
- Transport to and from the walks
- Activities in the evenings
- A packed programme of evening activities offering something festive for everyone, including some old HF favourites
- A celebration dinner with all the trimmings on Christmas Day and New Years Eve

HOLIDAYS HIGHLIGHTS

- Head out on guided walks to discover the varied beauty of the Yorkshire Dales on foot
- From festive strolls to challenging fells, the Yorkshire Dales await with a warm welcome
- Let an experienced leader bring classic routes and offbeat areas to life
- Visit charming Dales villages
- Explore a winter wonderland of hidden gems - the Howgills, pretty Swaledale villages and impressive waterfalls
- Look out for wildlife, find secret corners and learn about the Dales' history
- Retreat to the cosy wood panelled rooms of charming Thorns Hall
- Evenings in our country house where you can share a drink, celebrate and re-live the day's adventures

TRIP SUITABILITY

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

Typically, easier walks are up to a maximum of 6 miles (10km), medium walks are up to a maximum of 9 miles (14km), while harder walks can be up to a maximum of 10 miles (16km).

ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrival Day

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

Enjoy a complimentary Afternoon Tea on arrival.

Day 2: Mallerstang Myths And Legends

Option 1 - The Upper Eden Valley

Distance: 7 miles (11.5km)

Ascent: 500 feet (140m)

In Summary: Follow the Upper Eden valley to the market town of Kirkby Stephen. We'll pass the ruins of Pendragon Castle, which according to legend was built by Uther Pendragon, King Arthur's father.

Highlight: The Mallerstang Valley is home to a colony of red squirrels. If you're lucky you may get to spot one of these illusive creatures.

Option 2 - Lady Anne's Way

Distance: 10½ miles (16.5km)

Ascent: 750 feet (240m)

In Summary: Descend through the Mallerstang Valley from Aisgill to Kirkby Stephen. We'll follow Lady Anne's Way along the valley side, then alongside the River Eden to Pendragon Castle and Stenkrith Falls.

Highlight: Our walk follows the Settle to Carlisle Railway; England's most scenic line.

Option 3 - Mallerstang Edge

Distance: 10 miles (16.5km)

Ascent: 1,400 feet (420m)

In Summary: A high-level traverse along Mallerstang Edge including the tops of High Seat and High Pike Hill. Our walk takes us from Aisgill to Kirkby Stephen.

Highlight: Expect some wild and track-less terrain, but also great views over the green Eden Valley.

Day 3: River Rawthey, Dentdale & Aye Gill Pike

Option 1 - Shadow Of The Howgills

Distance: 6.5 miles (10.5km)

Ascent: 700 feet (220m)

In summary: The walk starts by crossing a patchwork of fields beneath the Howgills, before more fields south of the River Rawthey. This is followed by a good path on the open fell and a short section of The Dales Way back to Sedbergh.

Highlight: A walk which offers the prospect of great views of the Howgills throughout.

Option 2 - Circuit Of Dentdale

Distance: 8.5 miles (13.5km)

Ascent: 1,000 feet (300m)

In summary: The walk goes over the modest Frostrow Fells before descending to delightful Dentdale, and a section beside the River Dee. Part of The Dales Way is now joined for the return to Sedbergh.

Highlight: The peace and tranquility of Dentdale.

Option 3 - Aye Gill Pike

Distance: 11 miles (17.5km)

Ascent: 1,700 feet (520m)

In summary: A well-graded ascent, albeit with the prospect of some boggy sections, leads to the summit of Aye Gill Pike. The descent is into Garsdale, before walking beside the Rivers Clough & Rawthey back to Thorns Hall.

Highlight: The descent affords fantastic views towards the Howgills and beyond.

Day 4: River Dee, Howgills & Middleton Fell

Option 1 - River Rawthey

Distance: 7 miles (11.5km)

Ascent: 750 feet (220m)

In summary: Walk out to Tom Croft Hill viewpoint and return following the River Rawthey

Highlight: Following the Sedgwick Geological Trail

Option 2 - River Rawthey (North)

Distance: 8 miles (13.5km)

Ascent: 1065 feet (325m)

In summary: The walk heads NE up the Rawthey Valley, before crossing the river and the lower slopes of West Baugh Fell. The return is across Hebblethwaite Hall Gill and Straight Bridge to Thorns Hall.

Highlight: Great views of Baugh Fell and The Howgills.

Option 3 - Middleton Fell

Distance: 10.5 miles (16.5km)

Ascent: 1,850 feet (560m)

In summary: The Dales Way takes us into Dentdale before ascending to Combe Top on the long ridge of Middleton Fell. We return by good paths over the open fell to reach Sedbergh.

Highlight: The climb up to Combe Top should offer dramatic views of Combe Scar.

Day 5: Free Day

[Discover more about Thorns Hall and the local area](#) for ideas on how to fill your free day.

Day 6: The Howgill Fells And Sedbergh

Option 1 - Fell End To Thorns Hall

Distance: 7.3 miles (11.5km)

Ascent: 740 feet (225m)

In Summary: A fine walk taking in views of the Howgill fells and Cautley Spout

Highlight: Views of England's highest waterfall

Option 2 - Above The Lune Valley

Distance: 9½ miles (15.5km)

Ascent: 1,050 feet (320m)

In Summary: Walk above the Lune Valley, visiting Fox's Pulpit and Lily Mere lake. Having descended to the River Lune we'll return along the Dales Way through the fields to Sedbergh.

Highlight: Fox's Pulpit is a rocky outcrop where George Fox, the founder of the Quakers preached. From here there's a beautiful view across the valley to the Howgill Fells.

Option 3 - Cautley Spout And The Calf

Distance: 10.7miles (17km)

Ascent: 2740 feet (835m)

In Summary: A fine walk offering spectacular views of the waterfalls & crags

Highlight: England's highest waterfall and standing on the highest point in the Howgills

Day 7: Close To Sedbergh

Option 1 - Along The Dales Way

Distance: 7 miles (11.5km)

Ascent: 650 feet (200m)

In summary: The walk traverses slightly above Sedbergh and continues to reach the River Lune. Here we join The Dales Way to complete our circuit back to Sedbergh.

Highlight: Howgill views, and section of The Dales Way alongside the River Rawthey.

Option 2 - The Dales Way And River Rawthey

Distance: 9 miles (14.5km)

Ascent: 1,000 feet (300m)

In summary: Walk along the base of Winder, before descending towards the River Lune and The Dales Way, which is followed to Millthrop Bridge. From here it is a short walk back to Thorns Hall.

Highlight: Views of the Lune Valley, followed by beautiful walking beside the River Rawthey.

Option 3 - Over The Howgills

Distance: 9 miles (14.5km)

Ascent: 1,850 feet (580m)

In summary: This circular walk from Sedbergh ascends to the summit of Arant Haw in the Howgill Fells. We then descend over the Nab to join the Dales Way and return to Sedbergh along the River Rawthey.

Highlight: An opportunity to get high onto the Howgill Fells; a beautiful upland area of rolling grassy hills.

Day 8: Departure Day

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before making your way home.

ACCOMMODATION

Thorns Hall

Situated in Sedbergh, in West Yorkshire's portion of the famous Dales, at the foot of the Howgill Fells, Thorns Hall offers cosy, country-pile atmosphere amid beautiful rural surroundings. Dating from 1535, the small manor house is home to 25 bedrooms as well as wood-panelled public rooms, open fireplaces and a cobbled courtyard that ooze historic charm. From every aspect the hills can be seen rising around the house and a short hop takes you from the house to the fells and upland scenery. Marvel at the 24 arch Ribbleshead Viaduct, climb the distinctive summit of Ingleborough, one of the Three Peaks, explore classic limestone scenery and stop in at one of Appleby's historic pubs for a well-earned toast.

Matchless Country House Accommodation

Accommodation Info

Need To Know

Important Covid-19 Steps We Have Taken For Guest Safety: Please Read

Following the relaxation in government guidance on 19 July, we are continuing to take extra steps to keep our guests leaders, and staff safe in our HF country houses. We ask all our guests to respect the measures put in place.

The English, Scottish and Welsh governments are not in sync, so measures in our country houses will vary between the nations. With the relaxation of social distancing in England, from 19 July we will be allowing larger groups to dine and relax in the bar together. However, we will still give guests space e.g. we will seat 6 people at a table where pre-pandemic we may have seated 8. We will ensure our public rooms are well ventilated by opening doors and windows wherever possible. If you have any concerns about distancing, please speak to the House Manager. The government recommendation for England is to wear face coverings in crowded areas. You must wear a face covering by law in public areas in hotels in Scotland. This is mandatory in public spaces; however, face coverings will not be required whilst eating and drinking in the restaurant and bar areas or whilst you are outside our houses. In Wales face coverings will remain a legal requirement indoors, with the exception of hospitality premises.

As a temporary measure, we will not be servicing rooms during a stay. Extra tea, coffee, milk, and toiletries will be made available on request for all guests. It is recommended that guests bring their own toiletries for the duration of their stay. We will though be increasing the frequency of cleaning in our public areas providing particular attention to frequently touched items including door handles and handrails.

Menus for the week will be available in your room on arrival. A self-service breakfast will be served from 7.45am – 9am. Picnic lunches will now be pre-ordered the night before from an order form in the room. Evening meals will be table service. A dinner order form will be available in each room for completion. Dinner is served at either 7.15pm or 7.30pm. Please check at the house for details. The bar will be open. We will be offering a table service but guests can also come to the bar to order (depending on local restrictions).

Join our team after dinner on Wednesday evenings for the HF Big Pub Quiz. There will be one other evening of entertainment at the start of the week, which will vary depending on the country house that you are staying at. Our Walk Leaders will also be on hand in the bar or lounge for individual or small group walks talks briefings, which allow guests to talk through the following day's walk options and ask any questions. All of our swimming pools are open, except for Glen Coe, which will not re-open this year. Swimming Pools will be operated in line with maximum capacities.

For more information and to see all the steps taken, [visit our page on how house stays will be adapted](#).

Rooms

Tea & coffee-making facilities, TV, Hairdryer, Toiletries, Wi-Fi

Stay in one of the Hall's smartly presented rooms in the main house or cottages across the courtyard. With 25 rooms, Thorns Hall has plenty of space and there's a range of Good, Better and Best Rooms to choose from. Our pick is Room 25, a very spacious escape on the ground floor with a great brick fireplace, comfy seats to sit in and big bed as well as gorgeous views of the gardens. Look out too for large and airy Room 4 and the more intimate Room 13 with its exposed wood ceiling and courtyard view.

All 'Good' rooms are ensuite and furnished to a high standard. There are also several 'Better' and 'Best' Rooms that are either larger or have a desirable view, a more luxurious mattress and larger television – upgrade your stay for just an extra £15-25 per person per night. You can choose a specific room for an extra £30 per room, subject to availability. Upgrade supplements still apply.

Facilities

Free Wi-Fi, boot room and drying room, formal garden, large reception hall, two lounges, library and board games to borrow

After a day exploring the Dales, come back to the house and its specially tailored walkers' facilities. At the front of the house there's a pretty, formal garden that makes a pleasant spot to relax in. Take up residence in the lounge below the exposed wood beams or seek refuge in the small, dark wood-panelled bar with its oversized fireplace and log burner for an atmospheric corner to kick back in and catch up with fellow guests over a local ale or two.

Food & Drink

As at all our country houses, holidays are full board, from afternoon tea served as a welcome treat through that evening's meal to a hearty breakfast on the day of departure. Lunch is a chance to stock up on our famous picnic snacks. Food at Thorns Hall is varied and tasty and has a strong emphasis on ingredients from the area and seasonal produce. Once a week the dining room in the converted barn hosts a Local Food Night, when, over a sociable evening, you might try a five-course feast of regional flavours, from twice baked Wensleydale Cheese Souffle to Lancashire black pudding and Cumbrian rump of lamb.

Accessibility

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

TRAVEL DETAILS

Our address is: Thorns Hall, Cautley Road, Sedbergh, Cumbria, LA10 5LE
Tel: [01539 620973](tel:01539620973)

By Train:

The nearest train station is Oxenholme, the Lake District, on the main line between London and Glasgow. For train times and route planning by train visit www.nationalrail.co.uk or phone 03457 48 49 50.

By Taxi:

The 10 mile journey from Oxenholme station to Thorns Hall can be made by taxi. You can pre-book a taxi from

our recommended taxi company, Woofs of Sedbergh. As a guide price, it costs £28 per 4-seat taxi in 2020. 8-seat taxis are also available at a higher rate. Please pre-book your taxi at least 7 days in advance by contacting:

Woofs of Sedbergh*
Tel: +44 (0) 1539 620414
Email: woofs.sedbergh@outlook.com

The return taxi journey can be arranged on your behalf by the Thorns Hall Manager.

*Woofs of Sedbergh is not owned or managed by HF Holidays

By Car:

Leave the M6 at junction 37 and follow the A684 east for 5 miles to Sedbergh. On reaching Sedbergh follow the road round to the right into Finkle Street (avoiding the main street), then almost immediately turn left at a small roundabout into Back Lane. At the next mini-roundabout bear left onto the A683 following signs to Kirkby Stephen. Thorns Hall is a further 100 yards along the road on the left. Look out for our sign. A car park is available in the grounds with free parking.

Travelling From Overseas

For most guests the most convenient option is to book a flight to Manchester Airport. There are direct trains every hour from Manchester Airport to Oxenholme - this is straightforward journey - allow 1½ hours to Oxenholme. See www.nationalrail.co.uk for train times.

From Oxenholme station you can complete the journey to Sedbergh using our transfer or by taxi (see above).

Flying to London Heathrow airport is another option, but has a longer onward train journey - allow at least 4 hours to reach Oxenholme. From Heathrow first take the train to London Paddington station. Next take the Underground train to London Euston. Finally the main line train from London Euston to Oxenholme takes 2½ hours. See www.nationalrail.co.uk for train times.

LOCAL AREA

Sedbergh sits at the foot of the Howgill Fells, a peaceful corner of the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

The centre of Sedbergh is just a few minutes walk from Thorns Hall. The town has a range of facilities including a small supermarket, post office, newsagent, pubs, cafés and a bank. Now famed as England's 'book town', Sedbergh has many second-hand book shops. A wider range of facilities are available in the larger town of Kendal, about 10 miles away.

During your visit to Thorns Hall you may enjoy visiting the following places of interest:

Sizergh Medieval House

Situated near Kendal, about 25 minutes' drive from Sedbergh. [Sizergh](#) is a fine medieval house, surrounded by beautiful gardens.

Levens Hall

This stately home is famous for its magnificent formal garden and topiary displays (the world's oldest!). [Levens Hall](#) is south of Kendal, about 30 minutes' drive from Sedbergh.

Settle To Carlisle Railway

Ride one of [England's most scenic railways](#) through the Yorkshire Dales from Garsdale station, about 10 miles

from Sedbergh. Heading south you could cross the famous Ribbleshead Viaduct and visit Settle, Skipton and Saltaire. Heading north you could head to the small market town of Appleby, or the border city of Carlisle.

Hawes & Wensleydale

A 30-minute drive through the Yorkshire Dales will take you to the small town of Hawes. Visit the famous creamery that produces [Wensleydale Cheese](#). You may want to continue through the valley of Wensleydale, well known as the filming location for the popular 1970s/80s TV series All Creatures Great & Small.

Kendal

The market town of Kendal (home of the famous mint cake) - about 20 minutes' drive from Thorns Hall - has a good range of specialist shops. The excellent [Lakeland Museum](#) is also worth a visit.

Lake District

A 40-minute drive will take you to Lake Windermere, gateway to exploring the beautiful scenery of the Lake District National Park. Here you could take a [steamer trip on the lake](#), or visit the visitors' centre at [Brockhole](#).

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.

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 – 7pm 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: Svenska Handelsbanken AB (publ) Account Name: HF Holidays Ltd Account Number: 35923304 Sort Code: 40-51-62 IBAN: GB92HAND40516235923304 Swift / Bic Code: HANDGB22

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

The balance is due 10 weeks before departure. 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 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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