

7 Night North York Moors Christmas & New Year Guided Walking Holiday

Tour Style: Guided walking

Destinations: North York Moors, United Kingdom & England

Trip code: WYXFW-7

1, 2 & 3



HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

Whitby might be better known as a summer destination, but the Yorkshire coast never loses its capacity to enchant. Spend the festive season surrounded by the wintry landscapes of the North York Moors with a stay at Larpool Hall – our characterful country house overlooking the Esk Valley and in easy reach of sightseeing greats like Whitby Abbey. We pull out all the stops at this time of year and 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

- 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 different-grade daily walks
- 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

- 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 North York Moors on foot
- Staying in our charming country house near Whitby
- 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

ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrival Day

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

Day 2: Heartbeat Country Around Goathland

Option 1 - Goathland & Grosmont Circuit

Distance: 7 miles (11km)

Ascent: 950 feet (280m)

In summary: From Goathland station we cross moorland & farmland to reach Grosmont. Our return route follows the old railway trail between the two villages.

Highlight: Today's walks centre on the village of Goathland - made famous as the setting for the TV series Heartbeat. You may also recognise Goathland station from its role in the Harry Potter films.

Option 2 - Goathland Circuit

Distance: 8½ miles (13.5km)

Ascent: 950 feet (280m)

In summary: From Goathland, a gentle descent along the old railway track takes us to Beck Hole. Woodland and field paths will take us to Wheeldale Beck from where we make our way across a lovely moorland path via a secluded tarn to Goathland church. From there, feld paths & more of the old railway track bring us back to Goathland.

Highlight: A stretch of walking along a moorland edge give views of the magnificent scenery in the heart of the National Park.

Option 3 - Moorland Above Goathland

Distance: 10½ miles (17km)

Ascent: 1,160 feet (350m)

In summary: We make our way to the quiet hamlet of Beck Hole before climbing through woodland. A first

stretch of moorland walking leads us to Wheeldale Road, an old Roman Road. A delightful walk along the Wheeldale Beck takes us to Hunt House from where we climb to Simon Howe on part of the Lyke Wake Walk. We then follow a high moorland path across Howl Moor back down to Goathland.

Highlight: Walk in the footsteps of Romans & Bronze Age residents of the moors with superb views in all directions.

Day 3: Villages South Of The Esk

Option 1 - Sneaton And Stainsacre

Distance: 7½ miles (11.5km)

Ascent: 750 feet (240m)

In summary: We make our way to Ruswarp then ascend, with great views as far as Whitby Abbey, to the village of Sneaton. Our return takes us via the village of Stainsacre.

Highlight: Check out the award winning ice cream maker in the village of Sneaton.

Option 2 - Iburndale & Ugglebarnby

Distance: 9 miles (15km)

Ascent: 1,050 feet (320m)

In summary: We follow the Esk valley to Sleights before ascending through Iburndale to the delightfully named Ugglebarnby then on to Sneaton and Stainsacre.

Highlight: Walk through pretty villages and enjoy lovely riverside vistas.

Option 3 - Ugglebarnby, Rigg Mill & Stainsacre

Distance: 11½ miles (18km)

Ascent: 1,200 feet (360m)

In summary: On this lovely route, we walk along the Esk valley to Sleights then beside lovely Iburndale Beck before ascending to Ugglebarnby. Our return journey takes us via the site of a disused water mill once belonging to Whitby Abbey.

Highlight: A lovely leg stretcher through beautiful countryside taking in quaint villages along the way.

Day 4: Robin Hoods Bay To Whitby

Option 1 - Hawsker To Whitby

Distance: 7 miles (11km)

Ascent: 1,100 feet (360m)

In summary: After time exploring Robin Hood's Bay, our coach takes us to the village of Hawsker. A track from here joins the coastal path which we follow to Whitby. We'll pass the iconic ruins of the Abbey, before descending the steps to the harbour.

Highlight: The ruins of Whitby Abbey stand prominently on the headland above the harbour. Discover how this dramatic setting inspired Bram Stoker's gothic novel Dracula.

Option 2 - Robin Hood's Bay To Whitby

Distance: 8½ miles (14km)

Ascent: 1,800 feet (560m)

In summary: Follow the glorious coast path from Robin Hood's Bay back to Whitby. We'll round the first headland then head towards the landmark of Whitby Abbey.

Highlight: The beach below Whitby's East Cliff is a good spot to look for fossils, and jet. In the nearby shops you can see how craftsmen have carved this into jewellery and ornaments.

Option 3 - Ravenscar To Whitby

Distance: 11½ miles (18.5km)

Ascent: 2,000 feet (620m)

In summary: A glorious coastal walk starting high on the headland at Ravenscar. We'll initially head to Boggle Hole and the quaint fishing village of Robin Hood's Bay, before rounding the headland and continuing along the coast to Whitby.

Highlight: We'll descend the famous 199 steps from Whitby Abbey and enjoy the classic view over the bustling harbour.

Day 5: Free Day - North York Moors

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

Day 6: Along The Smuggler's Coast

Option 1 - Runswick Bay To Sandsend

Distance: 6 miles (9.5km)

Total ascent: 1,000 feet (300m)

In summary: Enjoy a glorious section of the Yorkshire coast between Runswick Bay and Sandsend. We start along the beach, then ascend onto the cliff-top path which takes us around the headland at Kettleness and on to Sandsend.

Highlight: There's time to explore Staithes before rejoining the coach to start our walk at Runswick Bay. Staithes is a timeless fishing village with cobbled streets and historic buildings.

Option 2 - Staithes To Sandsend

Distance: 9½ miles (15.5km)

Ascent: 1,750 feet (540m)

In summary: Starting from Staithes we follow the impressive cliff top section of the coast to Runswick Bay. Our walk continues along the Cleveland Way to Kettleness and Sandsend.

Highlight: Look out for the once-thriving harbour at Port Mulgrave, built in the 1850s to transport iron ore. You can see the remains of the 1 mile tunnel that connected the mine to the harbour.

Option 3 - Boulby To Sandsend

Distance: 12 miles (19.5km)

Ascent: 1,900 feet (580m)

In summary: From Boulby we follow the coastal path all the way to Sandsend, taking in the quaint fishing village of Staithes, the sweeping arc of Runswick Bay, and the remote headland of Kettleness.

Highlight: As you approach Sandsend there's a glorious view along the 2½ mile long beach towards Whitby, with the ruins of Whitby Abbey prominent in the distance.

Day 7: Along The Esk Valley

Option 1 - Grosmont To Whitby

Distance: 7 miles (11.5km)

Ascent: 950 feet (300m)

In summary: The River Esk flows through the North York Moors to the sea at Whitby, carving a tranquil green valley through the high moorland. We'll follow the valley from Grosmont to Larpool Hall.

Highlight: Our walk ends by crossing the Larpool viaduct; a 13 arch brick structure built in 1884 to carry the now closed Whitby to Scarborough railway over the River Esk.

Option 2 - Egton Bridge To Whitby

Distance: 8 miles (13km)

Ascent: 1,000 feet (300m)

In summary: We start at Egton Bridge and follow an old toll road along the valley towards Grosmont. We'll pass the village of Sleights before ending the walk across the towering Larpool Viaduct.

Highlight: The River Esk has healthy stocks of Atlantic salmon and sea trout. If you're lucky you may spot kingfishers, dippers, otters and water voles, all of which live in the river.

Option 3 - Glaisdale To Whitby

Distance: 10 miles (16.5km)

Total ascent: 1,200 feet (360m)

In summary: Follow the River Esk from the heart of the national park towards the sea. We'll walk through the ancient woodlands at Arncliffe to the stepping stones of Egton Bridge, then continue downstream past Grosmont to Larpool Hall.

Highlight: See the Beggar's Bridge and discover the legend of the 17th Century romance between Tom Ferris, a local farmer and Agnes Richardson, the squire's daughter.

Day 8: Departure Day

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before making your way home.

ACCOMMODATION

Larpool Hall

Given that the Yorkshire coast never loses its capacity to enchant, it's easy to see the appeal of this Grade II-listed house overlooking the Esk Valley and the North Sea. The setting is perfect; in the former fishing town of Whitby that's best known for its fish and chips, quaint harbour, and Dracula connections (Irish author Bram Stoker drew his inspiration for his Gothic novel when holidaying here in 1890). You'll have all the sightseeing greats within walking or driving distance, including the 13th century Whitby Abbey, the wonderful Whitby Sands, and the 199 Steps leading up to the old St. Mary's Church (it's customary to count them as you climb). Not only are the North York Moors right on your doorstep, but the walk along Cleveland Way to Robin Hood's Bay is rather special, too.

Country House Accommodation

Rooms

Designed with your comfort in mind, Larpool Hall has 29 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 surrounds. 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 spacious Room 15 on the ground floor for its lovely décor, comfy sofa, large fireplace, and views across the Esk Valley. Room 2 on the first floor offers fabulous views while Room 30 on the second floor has eaves and exposed beams.

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 |

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 [Larpool Hall](#)

TRAVEL DETAILS

Address

Larpool Hall
Larpool Drive
Whitby
North Yorkshire YO22 4ND

Tel: [+44 \(0\)1947 602737](tel:+44(0)1947602737)

By Train

The nearest station is Whitby.

However, travelling to Scarborough station may be more convenient. Check National Rail for routes and journey times.

By Taxi

The two-mile journey from Whitby station takes approximately 10 minutes.

From Scarborough train station, it's a 21-mile journey, taking 40 minutes.

For pricing, please contact Whitby Taxis directly.

Whitby Taxis

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

Tel: [+44 \(0\)1947 601212](tel:+44(0)1947601212)

Email: abbeytaxiswhitby@gmail.com

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

*Whitby Taxis is not owned or managed by HF Holidays.

By Bus

The 93 and 94 buses run regularly between Scarborough station and Whitby taking around an hour. As you approach Whitby, alight by the Larpool Lane Industrial Estate. From here it's an 800m walk up Larpool Lane to Larpool Hall. Please note that Larpool Hall's driveway is not lit.

Check Traveline for up-to-date bus information.

By Car

There's a free car park at Larpool Hall if you decide to drive.

The A171 from Teesside and the A169 from Pickering converge at a roundabout about two miles outside Whitby.

After this roundabout and as you approach Whitby, cross another roundabout then turn right at the traffic lights signposted Scarborough. Cross over the River Esk, then immediately turn right into Larpool Lane. Towards the top of the hill, turn into Larpool Drive – you'll see Larpool Hall at the end of this road.

By Air

The nearest airport is Leeds Bradford Airport.

Catch the airport bus to Leeds where there are connecting trains to Scarborough taking about 90 minutes.

There's also Manchester Airport, which is served by a range of long-haul flights. From here, there are trains every hour to Scarborough with one change at Manchester Piccadilly or York. Allow around three hours to reach Scarborough.

Flying to London Heathrow airport is another option but it'll take you around 4.5 hours to reach Scarborough. From Heathrow first take the Piccadilly line to London Kings Cross station, then connect to Scarborough (with one change at York).

Check National Rail for train information.

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 Larpool Hall.

Whitby

Just a 1.5 mile downhill walk away, the former fishing town of Whitby is best known for its fish and chips, quaint harbour, and Dracula connections (Irish author Bram Stoker drew his inspiration for his Gothic novel when holidaying here in 1890).

Whitby Abbey

As one of the most atmospheric attractions along the Yorkshire coastline, this looming clifftop landmark was founded by the Saxon King of Northumbria in AD657. It can be reached by climbing the famous 199 steps and it's well worth the effort for the views.

Whitby Harbour West Lighthouse

Of the two lighthouses at the mouth of the River Esk, this taller of the towers was built in 1831. Open to the public during the summer and warmer months only, there's 81 steps leading all the way up to the lantern room. A small entrance fee applies.

Whitby Whalebone Arch

As a nod to Whitby's whaling industry heritage in the 18th and 19th centuries, a huge whale bone arch was erected on West Cliff in 1853. Nowadays, it's an irresistible photo opportunity although this version is not the original and dates from 1963.

Staites

Only a 20-minute drive away, this pretty fishing village was the home of Royal Navy captain and explorer, Captain James Cook. Must-dos include exploring the cobbled streets, spending time at Staites Gallery, and taking a stroll down to the scenic harbour.

North Yorkshire Moors Railway

Running for 24 miles from Pickering to Whitby, this scenic route takes just under two hours. The historic stations are well worth a visit, especially Goathland which was transformed into Hogsmeade Station in Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone.

Scarborough & Stephen Joseph Theatre

As Britain's very first theatre in the round, this iconic performance space was established by stage director Stephen Joseph in 1955 and moved to its current home in 1976. The building has two auditoria: the 404-seater Round and the 165-seater McCarthy.

Rydale Folk Museum

This open-air museum is set in over six acres in Hutton le Hole – a pretty village just under an hour's drive away. There's approximately 40,000 objects on display in over 20 rescued and restored buildings, all of which relate to historic North Yorkshire life.

Castle Howard

Probably best known as the location for the TV series *Brideshead Revisited*, building on this grand stately home started in 1699 and took 100 years to complete. Highlights include the year-round exhibitions and the sumptuous gardens with ponds and fountains.

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

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
- Spotting scope and/or binoculars
- 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

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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