

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

Trip style: Festive breaks

Destination: 📍 North York Moors

Trip code: WBY07-XFW03

Trip Walking Grade: ⚙️ 1, 2 & 3

Carbon Footprint: 🌳 167kg CO2



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 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 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

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- En-suite accommodation in our 4-star 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 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 (12km)

Ascent: 750 feet (230m)

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 – 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.

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 – 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.

Day 5 Free Day

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

Day 6 Along the Smuggler's Coast

Option 1 - Old Saltburn to Staithes

Distance: 9 miles (14km)

Ascent: 1,400 feet (440m)

In summary: Starting from Old Saltburn we follow two impressive cliff top sections, part of the England Coast Path, past sculptures called the Charm Bracelet & the Repus, before making our way to Staithes.

Highlight: The views both ways along the coast from the cliff tops are tremendous.

Option 2 - Skinningrove to Staithes

Distance: 6 miles (10km)

Ascent: 950 feet (300m)

In summary: A walk along a section of the coast with glorious views. After exploring the old ironstone-mining village of Skinningrove, we ascend steadily to the highest point on England's east coast before descending to the historic village of Staithes.

Highlight: Staithes is a timeless fishing village with cobbled streets and historic buildings.

Option 3 - Skelton to Staithes

Distance: 11.5 miles (18km)

Ascent: 1550 feet (475m)

In summary: This walk follows part of the Cleveland Way, one of our National Trails. A delightful woodland section leads us down from the former mining village of Skelton to Old Saltburn before we join the cliff top path to Skinningrove and then Staithes.

Highlight: Look out for the impressive railway viaduct in Skelton Woods. Look up in wonder as you walk beneath it.

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.

Daily Walk Options



Easier Walks

Walk at a relaxed pace, often spending time at places of interest en-route. Walking experience isn't necessary as distances are quite short and gradients generally easy.



Medium Walks

Walks follow well-defined paths, though often in hilly or upland areas, or along rugged coastal footpaths. These may be rough or steep in sections and will require reasonable fitness.

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.

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

• 29 well-appointed guest rooms • Exclusive occupancy: 42 guests minimum • Check in from 4:00pm • For members check in from 2:00pm • Free Wi-Fi • Free on-site parking • Local launderette available in town • Boot room and drying room • Travel cot & 2 high chairs • 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 • Lounge • Garden • 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, 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.

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: 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.

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 [Larpool Hall](#)

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 [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: 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 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.

Staithe

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 Staithe 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

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. Fleeces 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

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

Trip Information

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.

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.

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