

# 3-Night Exmoor Gentle Guided Walking Holiday

**Tour Style:** Gentle Walks

**Destinations:** Exmoor & England

**Trip code:** SLBEW-3

1 & 2



## HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

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The sweeping hills, wooded combes and glorious seascapes of the Exmoor National Park reward every footstep with an astonishing range of landscapes and moods to enjoy. Vibrant yellow gorse, purple heather, wild ponies and Red Deer add great variety.

## WHAT'S INCLUDED

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- High quality en-suite accommodation at our country house
- Full board from dinner upon arrival to breakfast on departure day
- Two full days of guided walking
- Choice of up to three guided walks each walking day
- Use of our comprehensive Discovery Point
- The services of HF Holidays Walking Leaders

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## HOLIDAYS HIGHLIGHTS

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- Discover the sweeping hills, wooded combes and glorious seascapes of the Exmoor National Park reward every footstep with an astonishing range of landscapes and moods to enjoy
- Look out for the vibrant yellow gorse, purple heather, wild ponies and Red Deer add great variety
- Let your leader bring classic routes and offbeat areas to life as you explore Exmoor
- On an evening enjoy the character and charm of Holnicote House where you can relax and re-live the days adventures

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## ITINERARY

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### Day 1: Arrival Day

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

Enjoy a complimentary Afternoon Tea on arrival.

### Day 2: Holnicote And Selworthy Beacon

#### Option 1 - Two Villages Walk

Distance: 4 miles (6.5km)

Ascent: 550 feet (180m)

**In Summary** A circular walk taking in the pretty picture postcard villages of Allerford and Bossington before returning to the house.

**Highlight:** The far reaching view from the side of Selworthy Beacon over the top of the aforementioned pretty villages, and along the coast of Porlock Bay is truly breathtaking.

#### Option 2 - Bossington & Selworthy

Distance: 7 miles (11km)

Ascent: 1,000 feet (300m)

**In Summary** A circular walk exploring the countryside and villages around Holnicote House. Our route takes us to the coast via the village of Bossington, returning along the wooded slopes to charming Selworthy village.

**Highlight:** Selworthy village was rebuilt in 1828 by the Acland family to house the elderly workers of the Holnicote estate. The tea room is a delightful spot to relax in towards the end of the walk.

#### Option 3 - Selworthy Beacon

Distance: 7½ miles (12km)

Ascent: 1,350 feet (420m)

**In Summary** Ascend through the woods to the Iron Age hillfort and the glorious viewpoint of Selworthy Beacon. After a hilltop walk we'll descend through the fields to Selworthy village.

**Highlight:** Its a steep climb to the top of Selworthy Beacon, but your efforts will be rewarded with a great view

north over the Bristol Channel and south towards the hills of Exmoor.

## Day 3: Valley And Hills To Dunster Castle

### Option 1 - Carhampton To Dunster

**Distance:** 4 miles (6.5km)

**Ascent:** 150 feet (60m)

**In Summary** A leisurely stroll out to the coast and along to Dunster Beaches Nature Reserve and back in to Dunster via the station of the local steam heritage line.

**Highlight:** The wander along the sands and shingles of Blue Anchor Bay.

### Option 2 - Headon Cross To Dunster

**Distance:** 5½ miles (9km)

**Ascent:** 700 feet (220m)

**In Summary** A steady climb through the woods up onto the ridgeback of Wootton Common before a steady descent all the way down into Dunster.

**Highlight:** The fantastic and easily obtained view from the top of the ridge on Wootton Common.

### Option 3 - Over The Hills To Dunster

**Distance:** 8½ miles (14km)

**Ascent:** 1,550 feet (480m)

**In Summary** Walk from Holnicote House to historic Dunster. Our route takes us through the woods to the viewpoint at Webber's Post, then enjoy the fine views as we follow the ridge over Wootton Common.

**Highlight:** Dunster Castle was the home of the Luttrell family for over 600 years, and is now managed by the National Trust.

## Day 4: Departure Day

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before making your way home.

## ACCOMMODATION

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### Holnicote House

Lying near the attractive village of Selworthy, in the heart of the Exmoor National Park, historic Holnicote House stands within a series of peaceful gardens with spreading lawns. Once the centrepiece of an extensive 12,500 acre estate, the charming and characterful house was gifted to the National Trust in 1944. Since then it has been reimagined as a walkers' retreat, with wonderful access to the countryside. As well as 32 delightful bedrooms, there are two comfortable lounges and a sociable bar. The landscaped gardens are still part of the wider Holnicote Estate and provide a wonderful area to wander. Outside the house, explore wild Exmoor, walk

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in the Quantocks, climb Dunkery Beacon and stroll on the Somerset Coast Path with the opportunity to walk in the footsteps of Samuel Taylor Coleridge, drop in Dunster Castle, ride a Victorian cliff railway and watch for wildlife including the majestic red stags. Unfortunately our pool at Holnicote House will be closed for the duration of 2022 due to extensive maintenance requirements.

## Country House Accommodation

### Accommodation Info

### Need To Know

We appreciate that COVID-19 continues to impact the nations. The English, Scottish and Welsh governments are not always in sync, so measures in our country houses may vary between the nations. We thank all guests for adhering to the measures we have introduced to keep our guests, leaders and team members safe.

You can see our latest FAQs and guarantees at <https://www.hfholidays.co.uk/coronavirus-travel-advice>

### Ventilation, Physical Distancing Measures and Group Sizes around the Houses

We will keep our public areas well ventilated; for your comfort you might want to pack an extra layer to keep you comfortable.

With the relaxation of physical distancing, we will be allowing larger groups to dine and relax in the bar together.

Hand sanitiser stations will be made available in frequently used public areas for guests and staff use. It is advisable to bring additional hand sanitiser for whilst you are out walking.

We always follow the latest regional government advice, but our one recommendation is don't forget your face mask! There is no requirement to wear a face covering in communal areas, but you may of course choose to. Some places throughout the UK may still require you to wear a mask even if the government legislation does not. With this in mind we suggest you bring a personal supply of face coverings for the duration of your stay.

### Servicing Bedrooms:

At this stage we are not reintroducing our daily room servicing. Extra tea, coffee, milk, towels and toiletries will be available on request from our team. Bins can be left outside your door for emptying.

### COVID-19 Symptoms or Cases

If a guest has symptoms of COVID-19 then they should inform the house team and immediately self-isolate to minimise any risk of transmission and make arrangements to request a COVID test. If a guest receives a positive test result, they should return home if they reasonably can. They should where possible use private transport but only drive themselves if they can do so safely. If a guest cannot reasonably return home, they should discuss their circumstances with the House Manager. Additional charges may be levied if a guest needs to self-isolate for longer than their planned holiday.

### What can you do to help keep everyone safe?

- Wear a face mask/covering where required and please bring plenty of face coverings for the duration of your stay
- Carry/use hand sanitiser
- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water when possible
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve when you cough or sneeze
- Avoid passing round objects such as cameras & phones
- If you are displaying symptoms of Coronavirus, please do not travel to an HF Holidays House

## Rooms

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

Stay in one of the main building's bright, beautifully presented rooms or in the thatched cottages in the grounds, called Butlers and Guns respectively. With 32 bedrooms, Holnicote House has plenty of space and there's a range of Classic, Premium and Superior Rooms to choose from: the best rooms are on the first floor and decorated in keeping with the National Trust estate, with plenty of space and great views over the back garden, reaching out across Cawter Hill and Dunkery Hill, Somerset and Exmoor's highest point. Ask for numbers 1 or 4 to feel suitably special.

*All 'Classic' rooms are ensuite and furnished to a high standard. There are also several 'Premium' and 'Superior' 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.*

### Check in:

Check in opens at **4pm** for all guests. Guests will be unable to access any of the Country House facilities, including leaving luggage before 4pm.

We are delighted to invite you to enjoy a complimentary Afternoon Tea on arrival. Relax and meet your fellow guests and leaders.

### Check out:

Check out time: **10am**

Please note, you will need to settle your bill before departure and payment will only be possible by card. Gratuities and donations to the Pathway Fund can also be made by card.

## Facilities

*Free Wi-Fi, boot room and drying room, attractive garden, multi-purpose activity room, lounge, library and board games to borrow*

After a day walking on Exmoor or exploring the heath and moorland, come back to the house and its specially tailored walkers' facilities. Relax by sitting in the pretty gardens or challenge a fellow guest to a game of croquet. For something equally relaxing, snag a comfy chair in one of the cosy lounges, borrow a book, join a game of cards or scour the countryside through the large telescope. Head to the bar before dinner for a drink and a chance to catch up with your companions, best enjoyed by the windows overlooking the estate. Please note, the large heated outdoor pool will be out of service during the 2022 season in order to allow for extensive repairs.

**Unfortunately our pool at Holnicote House will be closed for the duration of 2022 due to extensive maintenance requirements.**

### Welcome Information

A Welcome Information Pack providing details about the Country House and your holiday will be available in each bedroom. This personal pack of information will detail what to expect during your stay in the house, the menu for the duration of your stay, dinner & picnic lunch order forms and the guest registration form for completion.

Our houses are locked at night-time and accessible with a door code which is available in the Welcome Pack. However, we also recommend making a note of the Duty Manager number on arrival, in case of an emergency or getting locked out.

### Evenings

Join our team after dinner on Wednesday evenings to see if you've got the knowledge to triumph in the HF Big Pub Quiz! There will also be another evening of entertainment at the beginning of the week which will vary depending on the house you are visiting.

If there are leaders resident, they will be available to chat to guests about self-guided walks. You can borrow walking route notes and maps from our Discovery Point.

### **Walks Talks – Guided Walking Information Briefings**

Self-Guided guests are always welcome to join our Guided Walking briefings to hear about the local conditions.

Our leaders will deliver a Guided Walking Information Briefing on each arrival day before and after dinner followed by a group Walks Talk to let guests know about the following day's walks. Walks Talks are usually before and after dinner prior to each walking day. The information is repeated so you can join whichever time suits you.

If you are undecided which walk to do, our leaders will be available in the bar or lounge to answer any questions you might have. Our website contains up-to-date information about the walks for each holiday.

Before you leave for your walk your leader will run through a short safety briefing for the day.

Each day, the latest weather forecast will be displayed for all guests to check to ensure appropriate clothing is worn for the walks.

Please note, if you decide to do your own walks, or you are on a self-guided walking holiday, you must complete an Independent Walker Card each day. These can be found near the Discovery Point in the house.

### **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. Food at Holnicote House is varied with a strong emphasis on the use of seasonal British produce. Our experienced chefs create each dish using only the freshest ingredients and, when in season, use home grown herbs and vegetables taken from our own gardens to give a true taste of the local area.

Along with many hospitality business across the UK we are presently experiencing disruption to our food and drink supply chain. COVID continues to limit the ability of suppliers to deliver and the war in Ukraine (along with several other global challenges) is impacting availability of many basic products. We are working hard to ensure that these challenges do not negatively impact your holiday but ask for your understanding should we need to make last minute changes to dishes or menus.

### **Accessibility**

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

### **TRAVEL DETAILS**

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Our address is: Holnicote House, Selworthy, Minehead, Somerset TA24 8TJ  
Tel: [01643 862013](tel:01643862013)

#### **By Train:**

The nearest railway station to Holnicote House is at Taunton. For train times and route planning by train visit [www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk) or phone [03457 48 49 50](tel:03457484950).

## By Taxi:

The 30-mile journey from Taunton railway station takes approximately 55 minutes. You can pre-book a taxi from our recommended taxi company, Bossington Private Hire. As a guide price, it costs £56 per 4-seat taxi (2022 prices). A shared taxi will be arranged wherever possible. Please pre-book your taxi at least 7 days in advance by contacting:

Bossington Private Hire\*

Tel: [+44 \(0\) 7971 044871](tel:+44(0)7971044871)

Email: [inbossington@gmail.com](mailto:inbossington@gmail.com)

The return taxi journey can be arranged on your behalf by the Holnicote House Manager.

\*Bossington Private Hire is not owned or managed by HF Holidays

## By Bus:

The number 28 bus operates between Taunton station and Minehead. The journey takes around 1½ hours. At Minehead change for the number 10 bus that will take you to the Selworthy turn (which is at the end of Holnicote House drive). A 2-minute walk along the drive will bring you to the house. Alternatively, pre-book a taxi from Minehead; the 6-mile journey will cost you approx.. £10 for a 4-seat taxi from our recommended taxi provider (see above). For bus times see [www.traveline.info](http://www.traveline.info)

## By Car:

From Bridgwater take the A39 through the southern outskirts of Minehead towards Porlock. Holnicote House is on the left about 4½ miles out of Minehead, and about ¾ mile after the signpost to Luccombe (do not follow the signs to Selworthy). After the Selworthy Village sign look out for our sign 500 yards further on, on the left. Free car parking is available in the grounds.

## Travelling From Overseas

For most guests, travelling to London Heathrow airport is the most convenient option.

From Heathrow first take the train to London Paddington station. From here there are direct trains to Taunton. Its a relatively straightforward journey - allow 2½ hours. See [www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk) for train times.

Bristol Airport may also be convenient for some guests. Take the bus and train to Taunton.

From Taunton you can travel on to Selworthy by bus or taxi (see above).

## LOCAL AREA

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During your stay at Holnicote House you may enjoy visiting the following places of interest, either in your free time, on your journey to and from Selworthy or if you are on a self-guided holiday:

### Selworthy Village

Less than a mile from Holnicote House is [Selworthy village](#). At first glance the thatched cottages seem typical of many ancient settlements in this area. However, Selworthy is not as old as it looks, having been rebuilt in 1828 by Sir Thomas Acland. Sir Thomas was a philanthropist and designed the 'model' village himself to provide housing for the aged and infirm of the estate. He used traditional designs and materials to create a

deliberately old-fashioned village.

## West Somerset Railway

The [West Somerset Railway](#) is Britain's longest steam railway with a line which goes from Minehead to Bishops Lydyard. Now lovingly restored by volunteers, the line recreates a classic Great Western Railway branch line with steam trains operating daily from April to October. Minehead station is 10 minutes' drive from Selworthy, or can be reached on the number 300 bus.

## Dunster Castle

An historic castle transformed into a comfortable stately home for the Luttrell family. Some highlights include the 'modern' 1950s kitchen and the snooker room. [Dunster Castle](#) sits in extensive gardens, complete with its working watermill. The adjacent town of Dunster is full of character and also well worth a visit.

## Lynton & Lynmouth

The quaint Victorian town of [Lynton](#) sits high on a hill, overlooking the coast and Lynmouth harbour. The two settlements are connected by the historic cliff railway. The short walk from Lynton to the [Valley of Rocks](#) is highly recommended.

## Coleridge Cottage

The poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1772-1834) and his wife Sara lived in the village of Nether Stowey, about 45 minutes' drive from Selworthy, from 1796 to 1799. In 1909 [Coleridge Cottage](#) was acquired by the National Trust, and later restored and opened to the public.

## Hestercombe Gardens

[Hestercombe Gardens](#), around an hour's drive away near Taunton, were constructed in three periods - a landscape garden from the 1750s, a Victorian terrace and shrubbery from the 1870s, and Edwardian gardens of 1904-1908 designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens and Gertrude Jekyll.

## Arlington Court

[Arlington Court](#), about an hour's drive away near Barnstaple, is a fine Regency house set in an extensive estate. The grounds include a formal Victorian garden whilst the stables house the National Trust's carriage collection of over fifty horse-drawn vehicles.

## USEFUL HOLIDAY INFORMATION

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### Essential Information

#### Essential Equipment

- Rucksack with a waterproof liner,
- Thermos flask for hot drink,
- Water bottle (at least 1 litre)
- Spare high-energy food such as a chocolate bar.
- Small torch
- First aid kit – your leader's first aid kit doesn't contain any medication or blister kits (such as Compeed)



## Optional Equipment

- Walking poles are useful, particularly for descents
- Insect repellent,
- Sun hat,
- Sunglasses
- Sun cream
- Camera

## 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.

## HOW TO BOOK

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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 – 5.30pm, 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](http://hfholidays.co.uk/membership) for details.

### BACS PAYMENTS

Please quote your booking reference / Order ID when you make your payment online: Bank Name: National Westminster Bank, Account Name: HF Holidays Limited, Account Number: 48904805, Sort Code: 60-00-01, IBAN: GB90NWBK60000148904805

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

Your final balance payment is due 6 weeks before departure if you are staying in an HF Holidays UK country house, 8 weeks before departure if you are travelling on one of our holidays in Europe and 10 weeks before departure if you are on a Guided Trail staying in one of our partner hotels or are travelling on a Worldwide holiday. 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](tel:01702427236) or visit [hfholidays.co.uk/insurance](http://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](http://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.

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## PRICE GUARANTEE

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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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