

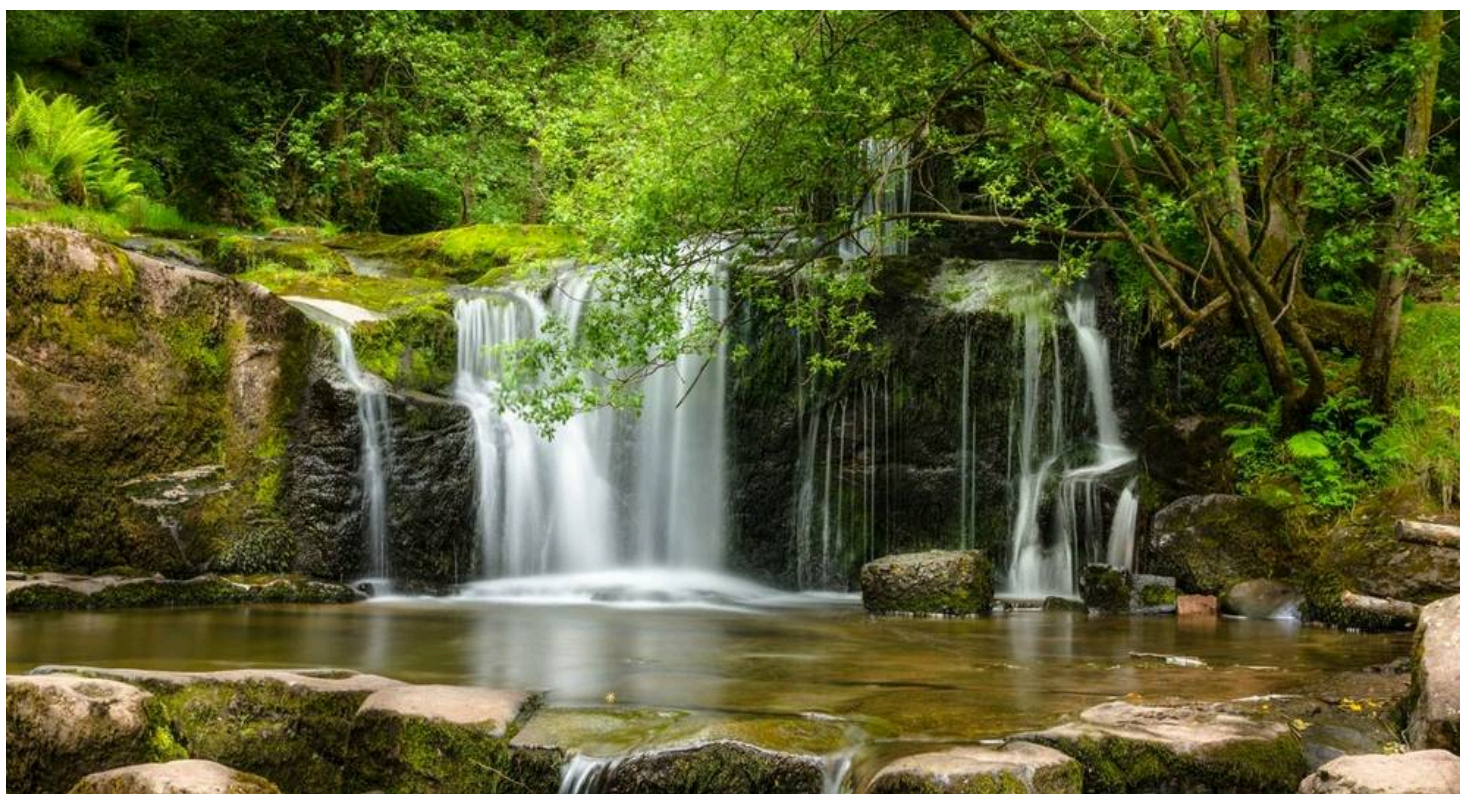
7-Night Brecon Beacons Guided Walking Holiday

Tour Style: Guided Walking

Destinations: Brecon Beacons & Wales

Trip code: BRBOB-7

2, 3 & 4



HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

Admire the finest scenery in south Wales on our Guided Walking holidays. Discover a world of waterfalls, beautiful green valleys and superb mountain walks. The Brecon Beacons National Park offers contrasting landscapes, from the peaceful grassy ridges of the Black Mountains, to the distinctive summit of Pen-y-Fan, and mighty cascades of the Mellte Valley.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- High quality en-suite accommodation in our country house
- Full board from dinner upon arrival to breakfast on departure day
- 5 days guided walking; 1 free day
- Use of our comprehensive Discovery Point
- Choice of up to three guided walks each walking day
- The services of HF Holidays Walking Leaders

HOLIDAYS HIGHLIGHTS

- Head out on full day walks to discover the varied beauty of the Brecon Beacons on foot
- Admire panoramic views of rolling countryside and valleys, wide open hillsides and wildly beautiful forests in this spectacular corner of Wales
- Let a local leader bring classic routes and offbeat areas to life
- Look out for wildlife, find secret corners and learn about Welsh history
- A relaxed pace of discovery in a sociable group keen to get some fresh air in one of Britain's most beautiful walking areas
- Discover what makes the Brecon Beacons so special from the waterfalls and caves to its lakes.
- Evenings in our country house where you share a drink and re-live the day's adventures

ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrival Day

You're welcome to check-in to your room from 2:30 p.m. onwards (upgraded rooms from 1 p.m.) Please join us for afternoon tea.

Day 2: Above Crickhowell

Option 1 - Tretower & Crickhowell

Distance: 6 miles (10km)

Total ascent: 900 feet (280m)

In Summary: Walk through the fields to Tretower, with its renowned medieval court and castle. Then we follow a contouring path across farmland to the wooded Cwmbeth Brook Valley and Crickhowell.

Highlight: Soak up the history of Tretower Court - a fine 14th Century manor house, and its attractive garden.

Option 2 - Sugar Loaf

Distance: 8½ miles (14km)

Total ascent: 2,050 feet (620m)

In Summary: Ascend onto the summit of Sugar Loaf. We continue along the ridge and down into the beautiful Grwyne Fawr valley, and then into Crickhowell.

Highlight: The shapely summit of Sugar Loaf offers great walking, and beautiful views over the Usk Valley.

Option 3 - Black Mountains Ridge

Distance: 10 miles (16km)

Total ascent: 1,950 feet (600m)

In Summary: From Pengenfford we pass below Castell Dinas before ascending to a saddle with views down to the remote Grwyne Fechan valley. We eventually reach Crickhowell via a long, grassy ridge and Table

Mountain.

Highlight: The long grassy ridges of the Black Mountains offer a real sense of peace and tranquility.

Day 3: Waterfall Country

Option 1 - Waterfalls Country

Distance: 6½ miles (11km)

Total ascent: 800 feet (260m)

In Summary: Starting near Ystradfellte we follow the Mellte, Nedd Fechan and Pyrddin rivers with their awe-inspiring waterfalls, finishing along an old industrial tramway to reach Pontneddfechan village.

Highlight: The waterfalls of this corner of Wales are truly spectacular - particularly after a period of heavy rain.

Option 2 - Sgwd Yr Eira

Distance: 9 miles (15km)

Total ascent: 1,300 feet (400m)

In Summary: Explore the Afon Hepste gorge, passing behind the Sgwd yr Eira waterfall and viewing the huge Porth yr Ogof cave. We then cross to the Nedd Fechan valley with its equally impressive waterfalls.

Highlight: The Sgwd yr Eira waterfall is a real highlight; the path behind the cascade is a unique experience.

Option 3 - Fan Frynych & Waterfalls

Distance: 14 miles (22½km)

Total ascent: 1,900 feet (580m)

In Summary: A walk with two distinct sections. First over the hills of Fan Frynych and along the Beacons Way to the stunning ridge of Fan Dringarth. We then descend into waterfall country and the spectacular cascades of the Nedd Fechan valley.

Highlight: A day of great contrasts - panoramic hilltop views, and dramatic waterfalls.

Day 4: Free Day

Day 5: The Western Fans

Option 1 - Along The Usk Valley

Distance: 6 miles (10km)

Total ascent: 520 feet (160m)

In Summary: Walk along the green Usk Valley from Aberbran to Brecon. Our route takes us across fields and lanes to the ancient Roman encampment of Y Gaer and then on to Brecon Cathedral, through Priory Groves and back to Nythfa House.

Highlight: Wander through Priory Groves and explore Brecon's magnificent Cathedral.

Option 2 - Fan Brycheiniog

Distance: 7½ miles (12km)

Total ascent: 1,500 feet (460m)

In Summary: Ascend wild country to Llyn y Fan Fawr, a beautiful corrie lake 2,000 feet above sea level. We ascend to the summits of Fan Foel and Fan Brycheiniog as we follow the escarpment of the Western Fans, then a long ridge descent to the Gwyn Arms.

Highlight: This less visited part of the national park contains sweeping ridges with great views north over Mid Wales.

Option 3 - Western Fans Traverse

Distance: 11 miles (18km)

Total ascent: 2,700 feet (820m)

In Summary: Walk beneath the Western Fans to Llyn y Fan Fawr and Llyn y Fan Fach, a pair of high mountain lakes. We then traverse the spectacular Banau Sir Gaer ridge, visiting the summit of Fan Brycheiniog and descending the Fan Hir ridge.

Highlight: A big day out in wild country, with great views from the escarpment.

Day 6: The Central Beacons

Option 1 - Storey Arms To The Mountain Centre

Distance: 7½ miles (12km)

Total ascent: 1,100 feet (340m)

In Summary: Ascend to the Craig Cerrig-Gleisiad Nature Reserve and summit of Fan Frynych. We walk down the ridge with panoramic views onto Mynydd Illtud Common to the National Park Visitor Centre.

Highlight: Fan Frynych is rugged in parts, but allows walkers to reach a memorable summit without too much ascent.

Option 2 - Pen Y Fan

Distance: 9½ miles (15.5km)

Total ascent: 1,750 feet (540m)

In Summary: Walk to the top of Pen y Fan and Corn Du, two of the summits at the heart of the Brecon Beacons.

Highlight: There's a great sense of achievement when you reach the summit of Pen y Fan, the highest point in the National Park, and enjoy the sweeping views over South and Mid Wales.

Option 3 - Over The 4 Tops

Distance: 11 miles (17.5km)

Total ascent: 3,100 feet (960m)

In Summary: A traverse over the four main tops of Corn Du, Pen y Fan, Cribyn and Fan y Big, then on to the Wellington Memorial and Carn Pica and down the ridge to Talybont.

Highlight: This classic route takes in all the key summits in the central Brecon Beacons; a fantastic high-level crossing of the main peaks.

Day 7: High Above Hay-on-Wye

Option 1 - Wye Valley & Hay-on-Wye

Distance: 6½ miles (11km)

Total ascent: 800 feet (240m)

In Summary: A circular walk along the River Wye to the village of Clyro and back into the book lovers' paradise of Hay-on-Wye.

Highlight: After a relaxing riverside walk, explore the array of second-hand bookshops in Hay-on-Wye, or enjoy a pint in one of the town's pubs.

Option 2 - Twmpa & Hay Bluff

Distance: 9½ miles (15½km)

Total ascent: 2,250 feet (680m)

In Summary: Head onto the Black Mountains escarpment to the top of Twmpa (otherwise known as Lord Hereford's Knob). We cross the road at the Gospel Pass to Hay Bluff before following the Offa's Dyke path into Hay-on-Wye.

Highlight: The walk along the Black Mountains escarpment is a real delight, with great views of the Wye Valley below.

Option 3 - Black Mountains North Ridge

Distance: 11½ miles (18½km)

Total ascent: 2,150 feet (660m)

In Summary: A traverse along the northern escarpment of the Black Mountains. We ascend the Dragon's Back

ridge past the 12th Century Castell Dinas, then enjoy a great walk to the summits of Twmpa and Hay Bluff.

Highlight: On a clear day the views stretch north to the Long Mynd and Clee Hills in Shropshire. We'll also discover a hidden stone circle on the descent to Hay.

Day 8: Departure Day

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before making your way home.

ACCOMMODATION

Nythfa House

Pretty country pile Nythfa House stands above the traditional mid-Wales market town of Brecon and sits within easy reach of the Brecon Beacons National Park. Having spent its early life as a large private house, the building has been converted into a comfortable country hotel. The interiors look like they've evolved naturally over time, staying rooted in the local area and house architecture while being filled with contemporary furniture and colours. As well as 28 rooms and a range of public spaces and an inviting indoor pool to tempt you, there are pretty grounds and a short walk to the streets of Brecon itself. The contrasting countryside close by provides challenges including sweeping ridges, an ascent of the Black Mountains and scaling Pen-y-Fan as well as more subtle strolls through the river-carved landscapes of the Melte Valley, along the trail of a series of awesome waterfalls, or time dawdling through the second bookshops in Hay-on-Wye.

Matchless Country House Accommodation

Accommodation Info

Rooms

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

Stay in the smartly presented rooms in the main house or in one of the handful of garden rooms across the grounds. With 28 rooms, Nythfa House has plenty of space and there's a range of Good, Better and Best Rooms to choose from. Opt for Rooms 6 or 7 in the main house for delightfully decorated, spacious places to stay, each with sumptuous views over the garden and Brecon Beacons. Room 21 is a quirky 'Better' room up in the eaves, with a separate sitting space and cosy bedroom, just mind your head on the low ceiling. Look out for the fresh floral designs in the pretty garden rooms too, which have their own small deck.

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, larger television, enhanced toiletries and a fluffy bathrobe & slippers – upgrade your stay for just an extra £15-20 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, extensive garden, indoor swimming pool, lounge, library and board games to borrow

After a day exploring cascade country or the Beacons, come back to the house and its specially tailored walkers' facilities. At the front of the house there's a pretty garden to pause in, with a putting green and croquet lawn attached. Duck into the conservatory to enjoy views out over the gardens from under the

twisting branches of an old vine. Across the way in a separate building is a good-sized indoor swimming pool with floor-to-ceiling windows at one end. Whether you relax in the lounge, or get together with other guests for a board game or great conversation, make sure to make time for the cosy bar, and try a dram of award-winning whisky from the local Penderyn distillery, which uses water from the Brecon Beacons National Park. There's also a Welsh gin that's wonderfully well regarded.

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 Nythfa House 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. Make a beeline for the big bay window table to try Cawl Cennin, a leek broth, served with a Welsh Rarebit finger, followed by Tatws Pum Munud, a speciality Welsh potato dish, or double roasted Welsh lamb. The kitchen offers up an Asian influence as well courtesy of the towns Gurkha community, and you might enjoy Nepalese momos (dumplings) or fillet of sea bream marinated with Nepalese spices for an alternative take on local tastes. Whatever, round your evening off with South Wales marmalade sponge with lashings of Penderyn whisky custard.

Accessibility

For accessibility and assistance information, please contact our expert team on 020 3974 8865

TRAVEL DETAILS

Our address is: Nythfa House, Brecon, Powys, LD3 7NN
Tel: [01874 624287](tel:01874624287)

By Train:

The most convenient railway station is at Abergavenny. For train times and route planning by train visit www.nationalrail.co.uk or phone 03457 48 49 50.

By Taxi:

The 20-mile journey from Abergavenny railway station takes approximately 45 minutes. You can pre-book a taxi from our recommended taxi company, A&A Cabs. As a guide price, it cost £35 per 4-seat taxi in 2019. 8-seat taxis are also available at a higher rate. Please pre-book your taxi at least 7 days in advance by contacting:

A&A Cabs*
Tel: +44 (0) 1874 622288
Email: aandabrecon@yahoo.ie

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

*A&A Cabs is not owned or managed by HF Holidays

By Bus:

The X43 bus operates from Abergavenny station to Brecon. Alight at the bus interchange in Brecon. Facing the road, head left along Heol Gouesnou to the traffic lights. Turn right heading uphill along Cerrigcochion Road for around 70 yards, and then turn left into Belle Vue Gardens. Head along the road and turn right at the T-junction (still Belle Vue Gardens). Head up the road to another T-junction and turn left into Cerrigcochion Lane.

Walk for about 15 yards and you will see the Nythfa House sign on your right. For bus times see www.traveline.info

By Car:

Most guests approach Brecon via the A40 from Abergavenny or the A470 from the northwest. These two roads converge at a roundabout on the Brecon bypass. At the roundabout follow the B4601 for a mile into Brecon. Turn right at the second mini roundabout, then go straight on at the cross roads with traffic lights. After 500yds turn sharp right into Mount Street, then second left into Belle View Road. Stop at the top of the road at the T Junction then go straight ahead up the drive to Nythfa House.

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 trains to Abergavenny (1 change at Newport) - allow 3 to 3½ hours. See www.nationalrail.co.uk for train times.

From Abergavenny you can travel on to Brecon by bus or taxi (see above).

LOCAL AREA

During your stay at Nythfa House you may enjoy visiting the following places of interest, either in your free time, or on your journey to and from Brecon:

Brecon is a quaint market town at the foot of the Brecon Beacons; an area of sweeping high moorland, and beautiful green valleys. The town has a good range of facilities including shops, supermarkets, post office, chemists, banks, pubs and cafés. During your stay you may enjoy visiting Brecon Cathedral or take a scenic cruise from Brecon along the Monmouthshire and Brecon canal. www.breconcathedral.org.uk or www.dragonfly-cruises.co.uk

Big Pit Mining Museum

Travel underground at the excellent Big Pit museum in Blaenavon and discover the life of a South Wales coal miner. Blaenavon is around 45 minutes' drive from Brecon. www.museumwales.ac.uk/en/bigpit

Hay-on-Wye

The quaint small town of Hay-on-Wye is about 30 minutes' drive from Brecon, and can also be reached by bus every 2 hours. The town is now famed for its annual literary festival, and extensive selection of second-hand book shops.

Hereford

Hereford is an attractive city, around an hour's drive from Brecon, whose cathedral houses the famous Mappa Mundi, a 12th century map of the world. www.herefordcathedral.org

Dan Yr Orgof Caves

An impressive show-cave, one of the largest in Europe, with fine stalactites and stalagmites. The caves are around 30 minutes' drive from Brecon. www.showcaves.co.uk

Tretower Court

Located near the village of Crickhowell, about 20 minutes' drive from Brecon, Tretower Court is a fine Medieval

fortified manor house. www.cadw.wales.gov.uk

Cardiff

The vibrant Welsh capital of Cardiff is also around 40 miles or 1 hour's drive from Brecon. A visit could include the St Fagan's National History Museum, Castell Coch, or the National Museum. www.visitcardiff.com

Tretower Court image © Crown copyright (2016) Welsh Government, Big Pit image ©Big Pit National Coal Museum

USEFUL HOLIDAY INFORMATION

What To Bring

"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

- Waterproof 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)
 - Sun hat and sunscreen
- Denim jeans and waterproof capes are not suitable on any walks.*

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

Safety On Your Holiday

On the first evening of your holiday your leaders give a short talk about safety on walks which we would like you to attend. 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 & Sunday: 9am – 1pm Bank Holiday Monday: 9am – 1pm

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 £10 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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