

7-Night Exmoor Guided Walking Holiday

Tour Style: Guided Walking

Destinations: Exmoor, United Kingdom & England

Trip code: SLBOB-7

2 & 3



HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

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 meet a backdrop of huge blue skies and seas, adding a colourful variety to our Guided Walks.

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 guided walks to discover the varied beauty of Exmoor on foot
- Admire panoramic moorland views and expansive seascapes
- Let an experienced leader bring classic routes and offbeat areas to life
- Visit some of Somerset's most beautiful picture postcard villages
- Look out for wildlife, find secret corners and learn about the history of the moors and coastline
- Discover the clarity of the night sky in this International Dark Sky Reserve
- A relaxed pace of discovery in a sociable group keen to get some fresh air in one of England's most beautiful walking areas
- Evenings in our country house where you share a drink and re-live the day's adventures

ITINERARY

Version 1 (Runs 2019/20)

Discover Exmoor on Foot Discover the contrasting landscapes of Exmoor. We'll take you to rugged headlands of the coast, and also the beautiful wooded valleys and inland moors where the sweetly scented heather creates a carpet of colour. Join our friendly and knowledgeable guides who will bring this beautiful landscape to life. Our experienced guides offer the choice of up to three different walks each day Choose the option which best suits your interests and fitness We provide flexible holidays. Join our guided walks, explore independently, or relax at Holnicote House

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: Holnicote And Selworthy Beacon

Option 1 - Bossington & Selworthy

Distance: 6½ 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 2 - 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.

Option 3 - Somerset Coast Path

Distance: 10 miles (16km)

Ascent: 2,050 feet (620m)

In Summary: Head through the woods to Hurlstone Point, then along the rugged coastal path that meanders along the northern slopes of Selworthy Beacon. We'll then ascend onto the summit and return via Selworthy village.

Highlight: This section of the coast path has a real 'away from it all' feel as it traverses around three deep combs above the sea.

Day 3: Along The Coast To Lynmouth

Option 1 - Countisbury Hill

Distance: 5 miles (8km)

Ascent: 600 feet (180m)

In Summary: Starting high on Countisbury Common, this predominantly downhill walk takes us over Butter Hill to Countisbury Church, then zig-zags down through the woods to the harbour at Lynmouth.

Highlight: There's plenty to explore in charming Lynmouth - relax in one of the tea rooms or pubs, or take the cliff railway to the Victorian town of Lynton.

Option 2 - Foreland Point

Distance: 8½ miles (13.5km)

Ascent: 2,500 feet (780m)

In Summary: Follow the South West Coast Path from Yenworthy Common to Lynmouth. Our route meanders around the wooded valleys towards the lighthouse at Foreland Point, then descends Countisbury Hill to Lynmouth.

Highlight: Enjoy fabulous sea views throughout the walk, including the classic view of Lynton and Lynmouth from the top of Countisbury Hill.

Option 3 - Along The Coast Path

Distance: 11 miles (17.5km)

Ascent: 2,850 feet (880m)

In Summary: Follow the coastal path from the Culborne Inn to Lynmouth. Our route undulates over some of Britain's highest sea cliffs, before the final grand descent to Lynmouth.

Highlight: Walk in the footsteps of poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge, who gained inspiration from this stunning

landscape for his most famous poems.

Day 4: Free Day

Day 5: Valley And Hills To Dunster Castle

Option 1 - Headon Cross To Dunster

Distance: 5 miles (8km)

Ascent: 700 feet (220m)

In Summary: From Headon Cross we then head up through a mixed broadleaf wood onto the ridge line of Wootton Common before descending Grabbist Hill to the medieval village of Dunster.

Highlight: Look out for red deer on your journey across this broad ridge line, although illusive, you may hear the loud barking call of the stags especially during rutting season.

Option 2 - Over The Hills To Dunster

Distance: 9 miles (15km)

Ascent: 1,600 feet (500m)

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.

Option 3 - Dunkery Beacon

Distance: 12½ miles (20km)

Ascent: 2,500 feet (760m)

In Summary: Walk from Holnicote House up onto Dunkery Beacon, the highest point on Exmoor. After descending across the moor to Wootton Courtenay, we'll continue over the hills to Dunster.

Highlight: Our walk concludes by descending Grabbist Hill - a spot said to have inspired the hymn *All things bright and beautiful*.

Day 6: The Doone Valley To Watersmeet

Option 1 - Doone Valley

Distance: 7½ miles (12.5km)

Ascent: 1,250 feet (380m)

In Summary: Starting high on Exmoor we'll visit the valleys of Oare Water and Badgworthy Water, then take the charming riverside path beside the East Lyn river to Watersmeet.

Highlight: Our walks end at the National Trust's tearoom at Watersmeet. This is the confluence of the East Lyn and Farley Water; a delightful spot in a beautiful wooded valley.

Option 2 - Badgworthy Water

Distance: 9½ miles (15km)

Ascent: 1,550 feet (480m)

In Summary: We'll head to Oare church then follow Badgworthy Water into a remote corner of Exmoor. Our walk concludes beside the cascading waters of the East Lyn river to Watersmeet.

Highlight: Walk in the footsteps of Lorna Doone, the heroine of RD Blackmore's novel. We'll stop at Oare church, the scene of the wedding between Lorna and John Ridd.

Option 3 - Wild Exmoor West

Distance: 11 miles (18km)

Total ascent: 1,500 feet (460m)

In Summary: Walk in Lorna Doone country and along Badgworthy Water before crossing wild moorland to join the Two Moors Way on Cheriton Ridge. We descend along Hoarook Water to arrive at Watersmeet via some impressive waterfalls.

Highlight: An opportunity to step off the beaten track and discover the wild corners of Exmoor. Enjoy great views as you cross the high moors.

Day 7: Porlock Hill To Holnicote House

Option 1 - Above Porlock

Distance: 7 miles (11km)

Ascent: 500 feet (160m)

In Summary: Take the coach to the top of Porlock Hill for this predominately downhill walk over the rolling hills to the West of Holnicote House. We finish through Horner Woods, then across the fields to the house.

Highlight: Look out for red deer - the descent into Halse Combe is often a good place to spot them.

Option 2 - Hills & Wooded Valleys

Distance: 9½ miles (15km)

Ascent: 1,700 feet (520m)

In Summary: Follow a meandering route from Porlock Hill to Holnicote House. We'll take in the beautiful wooded valleys of Shillett Combe and Horner Water, as well the heather-clad moorland above.

Highlight: Walking across a bright carpet of purple heather on the moors.

Option 3 - Wild Exmoor East

Distance: 12½ miles (20.5km)

Ascent: 1,500 feet (460m)

In Summary: Ascend from the Culbone Inn onto the wild open moorland of Exmoor. We reach our highest point at Lucott Cross, then past Hawke Combe and Halse Combe to Holnicote House.

Highlight: Discover the legend of the haunted junction at Lucott Cross - very fitting for such a wild location.

Day 8: Departure Day

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before making your way home.

Version 2 (Runs 2019/20)

Discover Exmoor on Foot Discover the contrasting landscapes of Exmoor. We'll take you to rugged headlands of the coast, and also the beautiful wooded valleys and inland moors where the sweetly scented heather creates a carpet of colour. Join our friendly and knowledgeable guides who will bring this beautiful landscape to life. Our experienced guides offer the choice of up to three different walks each day Choose the option which best suits your interests and fitness We provide flexible holidays. Join our guided walks, explore independently, or relax at Holnicote House

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: Selworthy And Selworthy Beacon

Option 1 - Selworthy

Distance: 6 miles (9.5km)

Ascent: 1550 feet (460m)

In Summary: Walk to the charming villages of Allerford and Bossington, before continuing to the coast at Hurlstone Point. Our return route traverses the wooded slopes to Selworthy village, with time to explore.

Highlight: Wander through the once extensive Holnicote Estate to the 'model village' of Selworthy, with its collection of 'chocolate box' thatched cottages.

Option 2 - Selworthy Beacon

Distance: 9 miles (14.5km)

Ascent: 1,750 feet (540m)

In Summary: Our circuit from Holnicote House ascends through the woods to the top of Selworthy Beacon. Having followed the hill-top path we'll return through the fields to Selworthy village.

Highlight: Discover St Agnes Fountain, a small spring dating from 1820, hidden in the beautiful wooded slopes of Selworthy Beacon.

Option 3 - Selworthy Circuit

Distance: 11 miles (17.5km)

Total ascent: 1,900 feet (580m)

In Summary: A longer circuit through the Holnicote Estate takes us to the coast at Hurlstone Point, then along the ridge over Selworthy Beacon. Eventually we descend from North Hill and return via Selworthy village.

Highlight: Enjoy the great views from the top of Selworthy Beacon - on a clear day you can see across the Bristol Channel to the Brecon Beacons.

Day 3: Lynton And The Valley Of Rocks

Option 1 - Valley Of Rocks

Distance: 7 miles (11.5km)

Ascent: 1,550 feet (480m)

In Summary: A walk with two distinct sections. We'll first descend from Countisbury into the wooded valley at Watersmeet, then along the East Lyn River to Lynmouth. We'll then take the cliff railway to explore Lynton and the Valley of Rocks.

Highlight: Soak up the views as you ride the Victorian cliff railway from Lynmouth to Lynton. This uses water power to lift you 500ft to the town above.

Option 2 - Around Lynton

Distance: 8 miles (13.5km)

Ascent: 1,800 feet (560m)

In Summary: Take the zig-zag path down from Countisbury Hill to Watersmeet. We'll continue along the hillside to the Victorian town of Lynton, climbing to a panoramic viewpoint above the Valley of Rocks.

Highlight: The Valley of Rocks is a local beauty spot with its own herd of wild goats who roam the precipitous hillsides.

Option 3 - Lynmouth Coastline

Distance: 11 miles (17.5km)

Ascent: 3,200 feet (980m)

In Summary: Follow the glorious coastal path down Countisbury Hill to Lynmouth, then on to the Valley of Rocks and Lee Bay. We return along an elevated path to Lynton and Watersmeet.

Highlight: Soak up the classic view of Lynton and Lynmouth as you walk down Countisbury Hill. This walk has steep ascents and descents, but passes through spectacular scenery.

Day 4: Free Day

Day 5: The Quantocks

Option 1 - Quantocks & Nether Stowey

Distance: 7 miles (11.5km)

Ascent: 750 feet (240m)

In Summary: Walk along the crest of the Quantocks, taking in Will's Neck, the highest point. We then descend through the woods to the delightful village of Nether Stowey.

Highlight: There's time to visit Coleridge Cottage (National Trust). This was the home of the poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge and his wife Sara, where many of his works were written.

Option 2 - Quantock Ridge & Combe

Distance: 8½ miles (14km)

Ascent: 1,050 feet (320m)

In Summary: Ascend from the village of West Quantoxhead onto the ridgeline walking south along the ridgeline before descending through Quantock Combe towards Nether Stowey.

Highlight: Don't forget to turn around as you climb to take in the expansive views out into St Audries Bay and beyond onto South Wales when the air is clear.

Option 3 - Along The Quantock Ridge

Distance: 12 miles (20km)

Ascent: 1,650 feet (500m)

In Summary: A fabulous traverse along the full length of the Quantock Hills with the Bristol Channel stretched out ahead. We then descend to East Quantoxhead and Kilve beach.

Highlight: Look out for red deer as you walk along the Quantock Hills; as Britain's largest wild mammals they are always an impressive sight.

Day 6: Along The Rivers To Exford

Option 1 - Exford And The Exe Valley

Distance: 6 miles (9.5km)

Ascent: 900 feet (280m)

In Summary: A circular route from Exford village green, we climb Room Hill then descend into the River Exe valley and follow it back upstream to the village.

Highlight: You may well see buzzards and Exmoor ponies as you make your way across the hillside above the River Exe.

Option 2 - Simonsbath To Exford

Distance: 9 miles (14.5km)

Ascent: 1,150 feet (360m)

In Summary: From Simonsbath we head into the ancient Royal Forest of Exmoor and follow the River Barle valley to Withypool then cross Room Hill before descending into Exford.

Highlight: Look out for a 19th century iron and copper mine and an iron age hill fort on this walk full of historical interest.

Option 3 - Exe Head To Exford

Distance: 13 miles (21km)

Ascent: 1,450 feet (440m)

In Summary: After visiting the source of the River Exe at Exe Head, we descend to follow the River Barle, then pass through Withypool and on to Exford.

Highlight: Head into the heart of Exmoor for this walk through beautiful tranquil countryside.

Day 7: Dunkery Beacon And Horner Water

Option 1 - Dunkery Beacon

Distance: 7½ miles (12.5km)

Ascent: 600 feet (180m)

In Summary: Our coach takes us to Exford Common, high on Exmoor. From here we'll head to the top of Dunkery Beacon, then descend through the wooded Horner valley back to Holnicote House.

Highlight: Dunkery Beacon, is the highest point on Exmoor. From the summit you can enjoy panoramic views over the moors and wooded valleys of the national park.

Option 2 - Over The Beacon

Distance: 9 miles (14.5km)

Ascent: 1,450 feet (440m)

In Summary: Ascend from Wheddon Cross through the Raleigh Manor Estate onto Dunkery Beacon. Our descent takes us over the moors, then through Horner Wood Nature Reserve.

Highlight: This walk is another good opportunity to spot red deer. Take your binoculars for the best chance of seeing these beautiful creatures.

Option 3 - Roof Of Exmoor

Distance: 12 miles (19km)

Ascent: 2,000 feet (600m)

In Summary: Walk over the moors from Exford to the summit of Dunkery Beacon. Continuing across the moor we descend to Stoke Pero church, then head through Horner Woods back to Holnicote House.

Highlight: Choose a clear day and your efforts will be rewarded with a panoramic view that stretches to Dartmoor, and across the Bristol Channel to South Wales.

Day 8: Departure Day

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before making your way home.

Version 3 (Runs 2020)

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: Porlock Hill To Holnicote House

Option 1 - Exploring Porlock Valley

Distance: 6 miles (10km)

Ascent: 850 feet (260m)

In Summary: A short walk out to the pretty village of Bossington, on to Porlock and back to the house along field paths.

Highlight: The pretty 'chocolate box' thatched cottages of Bossington village.

Option 2 - Hawkcombe & Porlock

Distance: 8 miles (13km)

Ascent: 1,100 feet (340m)

Descent: 2,300 feet (700m)

In Summary: From high up on Pittcombe hill we descend to Porlock before returning to the house.

Highlight: The descent through Hawkcombe with the rushing of the stream always present as you wander through the trees and glades.

Option 3 - Hills & Wooded Valleys

Distance: 10 miles (16km)

Ascent: 1,200 feet (360m)

Decent: 2,550 feet (740m)

In Summary: From Pittcombe Head we descend through steep combs and the woodland paths of Horner Wood before returning to the house.

Highlight: The beautiful views out into Porlock Bay framed by the boughs of the mature trees of Worthy wood.

Day 3: Along The Rivers To Exford

Option 1 - Exford And The Exe Valley

Distance: 6 miles (9.5km)

Ascent: 900 feet (280m)

In Summary: A circular route from Exford village green, we climb Room Hill then descend into the River Exe valley and follow it back upstream to the village.

Highlight: You may well see buzzards and Exmoor ponies as you make your way across the hillside above the River Exe.

Option 2 - High Moors To Exford

Distance: 8 miles (12.5km)

Ascent: 1,100 feet (340m)

In Summary: From Wheddon Cross we head uphill through wooded combs to Dunkery Bridge, before descending to Exford skirting the top of Great Rowbarrow.

Highlight: Far reaching views from the high point of this walk just below the summit of Dunkery Beacon.

Option 3 - Simonsbath To Exford

Distance: 9 miles (14.5km)

Ascent: 1,150 feet (360m)

In Summary: From Simonsbath we head into the ancient Royal Forest of Exmoor and follow the River Barle valley to Withypool then cross Room Hill before descending into Exford.

Highlight: Look out for a 19th century iron and copper mine and an iron age hill fort on this walk full of historical interest.

Day 4: Free Day

Day 5: Valley And Hills To Dunster Castle

Option 1 - Bilbrook, Coast & Dunster

Distance: 6 miles (10km)

Ascent: 500 feet (140m)

In Summary: From Bilbrook we head out to the coast via Old Cleeve, and along to Blue Anchor Bay before heading back inland to Dunster.

Highlight: Look out for knots, curlews and oystercatchers chasing the tide along Blue Anchor bay, in search of worms and small crustaceans.

Option 2 - Tivington Hill To Dunster

Distance: 6½ miles (11km)

Ascent: 1,150 feet (360m)

In Summary: From the house we pass through the beautiful village of Selworthy, before climbing Tivington Hill. From the top of this long wooded ridge we descend to Dunster and it's spectacular castle.

Highlight: The views from the top of the ridgeline looking down over Dunster and Blue Anchor bay beyond.

Option 3 - Over The Hills To Dunster

Distance: 9 miles (15km)

Ascent: 1,350 feet (420m)

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 6: Watersmeet & Lynmouth

Option 1 - County Gate & Watersmeet

Distance: 5 miles (7.5km)

Ascent: 700 feet (220m)

Descent: 1,250 feet (380m)

In Summary: We start our walk on Cosgate Hill, descending steadily into the combe and to the banks of the East Lyn River. We then continue our route along the Coleridge Way to Watersmeet.

Highlight: The stunning gorge carved out by the East Lyn river makes for a great riverside walk.

Option 2 - Rockford & Lynmouth

Distance: 7½ miles (12km)

Ascent: 1,250 feet (380m)

Descent: 2,250 feet (680m)

In Summary: Following a similar route to the option one walk, we descend into the combe and pick up the Coleridge Way to Rockford. After a stop we will continue through Watersmeet and on to Lynmouth.

Highlight: You may be lucky enough to spot an Otter or two gambolling in the fast flowing river.

Option 3 - Lillycombe & Lynmouth

Distance: 9½ miles (15.5km)

Ascent: 1,750 feet (540m)

Descent: 3,000 feet (900m)

In Summary: From our drop off point we descend into the valley and to the hamlet of Malmsmead where Lorna Doone Farm is situated. From here we follow the other side of the river to the option one and two walks. We eventually cross the river and follow riverside paths through Rockford and eventually Watersmeet. We finish with a pleasant riverside amble to Lynmouth.

Highlight: Lorna Doone fans can immerse themselves in the locations referred to in the book along the length of this walk, including crossing the bridge and ford over Badgeworthy Water, and visiting Lorna Doone Farm.

Day 7: The Quantocks

Option 1 - Quantocks & Nether Stowey

Distance: 7 miles (11.5km)

Ascent: 750 feet (240m)

In Summary: Walk along the crest of the Quantocks, taking in Will's Neck, the highest point. We then descend through the woods to the delightful village of Nether Stowey.

Highlight: There's time to visit Coleridge Cottage (National Trust). This was the home of the poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge and his wife Sara, where many of his works were written.

Option 2 - Quantock Ridge & Combe

Distance: 8½ miles (14km)

Ascent: 1,050 feet (320m)

In Summary: Ascend from the village of West Quantoxhead onto the ridgeline walking south along the ridgeline before descending through Quantock Combe towards Nether Stowey.

Highlight: Don't forget to turn around as you climb to take in the expansive views out into St Audries Bay and beyond onto South Wales when the air is clear.

Option 3 - Along The Quantock Ridge

Distance: 12 miles (20km)

Ascent: 1,650 feet (500m)

In Summary: A fabulous traverse along the full length of the Quantock Hills with the Bristol Channel stretched out ahead. We then descend to East Quantoxhead and Kilve beach.

Highlight: Look out for red deer as you walk along the Quantock Hills; as Britain's largest wild mammals they are always an impressive sight.

Day 8: Departure Day

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before making your way home.

ACCOMMODATION

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 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.

Matchless Country House Accommodation

Accommodation Info

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 Good, Better and Best Rooms to choose from: 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 Crowthill and Dunkery Hill, Somerset and Exmoor's highest point. Ask for numbers 1, 4 or 9 to feel suitably special.

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, attractive garden, outdoor swimming pool, 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. Take a dip in the large heated outdoor pool. For something less strenuous, 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.

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 Holnicote House is hearty and has a strong emphasis on ingredients from the area and seasonal produce. Once a week the wood panelled dining room with its giant fireplace hosts a Local Food Night, when, over a sociable evening, you might try classic Porlock oysters or Priddy Oggies, a local pasty of chicken, bacon and cheese. Mains might include Exmoor venison or Bellbrook valley trout, while you could cap it all with a Somerset apple cake, dressed with cream.

Accessibility

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

Travel Details

Our address is: Holnicote House, Selworthy, Minehead, Somerset TA24 8TJ

By Train:

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

By Taxi:

The 29 mile journey from Taunton railway station takes approximately 50 minutes. Pre-booked taxis cost approx £56 per taxi. Details of our current recommended taxi company and rates will be sent to you with your booking. The taxi company will arrange shared taxis wherever possible. The return taxi journey can be arranged on your behalf by the Holnicote House Manager.

By Bus:

The number 28 bus operates between Taunton station and Minehead. 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 4½ mile journey will cost you approx £10 from our recommended taxi provider. For bus times see www.traveline.info

By Car:

From Bridgewater take the A39 though 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 for train times.

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

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

Local Area

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

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

Travel on Britain's longest steam railway 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. www.west-somerset-railway.co.uk

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.

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/dunster-castle

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 it was acquired by the National Trust, and later restored and opened to the public. www.nationaltrust.org.uk/coleridge-cottage

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. www.hestercombe.com

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. www.nationaltrust.org.uk/arlington-court

About

Hill/Moorland Country House • 32 Bedrooms • Open March to November & Festive Period • Standard check-in from 2.30pm • Free Parking on site • Free Wi-Fi throughout • Walkers' Facilities including Boot Room & Drying Room • Discovery Point with route guides and maps • Dogs Welcome

USEFUL HOLIDAY INFORMATION

What To Bring

Essential Equipment

To enjoy walking/hiking comfortably and safely, footwear, clothing and equipment needs to be suitable for the conditions. Safety is our priority and Britain is famous for its changeable weather, so our advice is to come prepared for all eventualities.

- Footwear with a good grip on the sole (e.g. Vibram sole) is the key to avoiding accidents
- Walking/hiking boots providing ankle support and good grip are recommended (ideally worn in), and specialist walking socks to avoid blisters
- Several layers of clothing, which can be added or removed, are better than a single layer (include spares)
- Fabrics (lightweight and fast drying) designed for the outdoors are recommended
- Waterproof jacket and waterproof over trousers
- Warm hat and gloves. Gaiters are an optional but useful extra

- Denim jeans and capes are not suitable on any walks
- 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

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.

ASSOCIATE'S FEE

Non-members can join our holidays by paying an Associate's fee of £10 per person per holiday. Alternatively, full life 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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