

Best of Hadrian's Wall Guided Trail Holiday

Tour Style: Guided Trails

Destinations: Northumberland & England

Trip code: XHLDW

Trip Walking Grade: 3



HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

Walk the best preserved sections of Hadrian's wall, beginning in the market town of Brampton, and continuing to historic Corbridge Roman Town. Visit world famous forts and museums: Vindolanda, Birdoswald, Housesteads, & Chesters. Admire the architectural splendor of Aydon castle, Thirlwall castle and Lanercost Priory. Spot the famous Robin Hood's Tree at Sycamore Gap. Travel through the centuries walking along Hadrian's Wall, the best-known frontier in the Roman Empire.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Full Board en-suite accommodation
- Experienced HF Holidays Walking Leader
- All transport to and from the walks
- Transfers to and from Haltwhistle station on request from Centre of Britain Hotel

HOLIDAYS HIGHLIGHTS

- Walk the best preserved sections of Hadrian's wall, beginning in the market town of Brampton, and continuing to historic Corbridge Roman Town.
- Visit world famous forts and museums: Vindolanda, Birdoswald, Housesteads, & Chesters.
- Admire the architectural splendor of Aydon castle, Thirlwall castle and Lanercost Priory.
- Spot the famous Robin Hood's Tree at Sycamore Gap.
- Travel through the centuries walking along Hadrian's Wall, the best-known frontier in the Roman Empire.

TRIP SUITABILITY

This Best of Hadrian's Wall Guided Walking /Hiking Trail is graded 3 which involves walks /hikes on good paths with some significant ascents, often quite a distance each day. It is your responsibility to ensure you have the relevant fitness required to join this holiday. A sustained effort is required to complete this walk and provision cannot be made for anyone who opts out. Please be sure you can manage the daily mileage and ascent as listed. The walking day is normally 6-7 hours. It is important for your own enjoyment, and that of your fellow guests that you can maintain the pace. It makes a lot of sense to spend time getting some additional exercise before your holiday. We suggest that you try to fit in a number of longer walks, including some on hilly terrain. Other exercises such as cycling, jogging and swimming are also excellent for developing increased stamina.



ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrival Day

Check in at the hotel is available from 3pm. Your leader will be at reception at 18:00 to meet the group and for a quick introduction to the holiday before dinner.

Day 2: Brampton To Gilsand

Our starting point is the historic market town of Brampton, the headquarters of Bonnie Prince Charlie in 1745. Leaving the town we follow a footpath through open fields, which leads us towards the evocative setting of

Lanercost Priory, built in 1166 with red sandstone taken from Hadrian's Wall. Soon after leaving the priory we have our first meeting with the Wall from where we can look back over our route so far. We follow the course of Hadrian's Wall, passing various Turrets and Signal Towers before we reach the 2,000-year old Birdoswald Roman Fort, once home to over 1,000 soldiers. The visitor centre here provides a good introduction to the history of Hadrian's Wall. Descending to the River Irthing, we have the opportunity to explore the Roman remains at Willowford, one of the most photographed sections of the Wall, before arriving in the historic village of Gilsland.

9 miles (14.5km) with 1,300 feet (400m) of ascent

Please note, entrance to the various attractions on this holiday is payable locally, and not included in the holiday price as many of you will be entitled to free or discounted entrance. Please find further details in the "Trip Information" section of the trip notes, under "Admission Costs".

Day 3: Gilsland To Once Brewed

From Gilsland our route becomes more dramatic, as a craggy landscape rises ahead. We briefly cross the intersection with the Pennine Way before we reach the impressive ruins of Thirlwall Castle. The castle was built in the 14th century by John Thirlwall to protect his family from the violent cross border raids between England and Scotland. On leaving the castle the walking becomes more rugged as we cross a splendid section of wild and invigorating countryside, which includes Cawfield Crag and Milecastle 41. The location of the Milecastle commands superb views over a wide expanse of countryside. As well as a superb stretch of walking, this section of the Wall is particularly impressive - an unbeatable combination. Crossing Windshields Crag we reach the trig point at 345 metres, the highest point on the entire Wall.

10 miles (16km) with 1,300 feet (400m) of ascent

Day 4: Once Brewed Circuit

Today's circular walk gives us the opportunity to visit Housesteads, the most complete Roman fort in Britain, and Vindolanda, a Roman town with its own fort. Leaving Once Brewed we climb along Steel Rigg, a stunning section of the walk with many rises and falls. We have magnificent views over Crag Lough, and as we look behind we can see the Wall snaking into the distance, following the high ground to take advantage of the natural defences of this dramatic landscape. A little further on we can see the famous sycamore tree used in film 'Robin Hood Prince of Thieves', starring Kevin Costner. We have ample opportunity to explore the impressive site of Housesteads Roman Fort, the extent of which spans five acres. At Vindolanda, we can also explore the relaxing gardens.

5 miles (8.1km) with 570 feet (175m) of ascent.

Day 5: Housesteads To Chollerford

Leaving Housesteads we follow an attractive stretch of footpath along the Wall where woods perch on the rocky slopes of Sewingshields Crag. We can admire the great views of the Wall zigzagging ahead of us, before we pass a white cairn and Sewingshields Turret. Here we descend to follow a long line of roadside Wall, passing the site of the fort Brocolitia and the remains of the Temple of Mithras en route. Entering the Northumberland National Park an excellent stretch of walking provides stunning views of open countryside. Towards the end of our day we reach Chester's Fort, which was originally the grounds of a country house, home to John Clayton the man responsible for the initiation and restoration of the wall around 1832. The museum here displays his finds at various sites along the Wall and is a memorial to his efforts.

10 miles (16km) with 500 feet (150m) of ascent

Day 6: Chollerford To Corbridge, Via Aydon Castle

At Chollerford we cross a fine bridge, built in 1775 following the great flood of 1771, which demolished its predecessor. The Roman ditch is unmistakable and very deep on this stretch and we are surrounded by calls of the skylark, lapwing and curlew. Passing through a thick forest we emerge to a different world of arable

farmland and enjoy pleasant walking through fields. The Wall stretches in a straight-line ahead of us, aligned along the Dere Street Roman Road from Corbridge. At the Onnum Roman Fort we bid our final farewells to the Wall and walk south to the peaceful village of Halton and its ruined castle. From here we continue to Aydon Castle, one of the finest surviving examples of a medieval manor house in England and the setting for the film 'Ivanhoe'. We have the opportunity to explore this delightful castle before following a bridleway to the finish of our Hadrian's Way holiday at Corbridge Roman Town.

9½ miles (15km) with 800 feet (240m) of ascent

Day 7: Departure Day

ACCOMMODATION

Centre Of Britain Hotel, Haltwhistle - Best Of Hadrian's Wall

The Centre of Britain Hotel is Haltwhistle's most historic building. The oldest part of the hotel was a Border Reivers' Pele Tower, dating from the 15th century. Later it became a Manor House, excise office and a coaching inn. Rooms include: Tea and coffee making facilities, TV and radio, hairdryer, safe, direct dial telephone. Drying and washing facilities are available. The hotel usually organises a Roman Banquet, where a Roman soldier is invited along to talk to you about life in the Roman army. Check in at the hotel is available from 3pm and you will meet your trail leader prior to your evening meal.

USEFUL HOLIDAY INFORMATION

Holiday Information

We try to create a relaxed atmosphere on the walk but please listen to safety instructions from your leader.

Keep members of the group in view especially when weather or visibility is poor. If you leave the group, then your leader will no longer have responsibility for you. Our leaders consider the safety of the group as a whole and are likely to be more cautious over potential risks such as bad weather.

Hadrian's Wall is the best-known frontier in the entire Roman Empire. Our holiday travels through the centuries and follows the most spectacular sections of the wall combining a unique mix of heritage with wild and dramatic landscapes. Internationally celebrated as a World Heritage Site, Hadrian's Wall is the most important monument built by the Romans in Britain and stands as a reminder of the past glories of one of the world's greatest civilisations. The wall was built by order of the Emperor Hadrian, who came to Britain in AD 122. Over the next six years the army built a wall 80 Roman miles long, starting from Wallsend in the east, to Bowness on Solway in the west, with the intention of separating the Romans from the Barbarians. By the early 400's, the Empire had declined, and Britain was abandoned. Spanning nearly 2,000 years of history, this makes what we see today all the more precious for being the last remains of such an incredible Roman structure.

Food & Transport

Packed lunches

Our packed lunches will be too much food for some and not enough for others, if you feel you might need more food during the walk, please bring a supply of snacks to supplement this – it won't always be possible to buy these on the route. Your packed lunches will include: bread sandwiches or rolls with a choice of filling; some fresh fruit; fruit cake/flapjack or similar, crisps and/or yoghurt, fruit, biscuits.

Dietary Requirements

Our partner hotels can cater for most dietary requirements, but it is important you advise us of any allergies and dietary restrictions you have at the time of booking.

Luggage Transfers

When you change from one Hotel to another we will arrange for your luggage to be transferred for you. This is included in the cost of your holiday. Please remember that other people will need to move your suitcase so please pack thoughtfully with a maximum of 20 kilos. If you can limit your luggage to one bag, rucksack or suitcase that would be very helpful. Please make sure your bags are clearly labelled with your name and "HF Holidays".

Joining Instructions

Car: It is possible to leave your car in the Centre of Britain Hotel car park for the duration of the holiday. The hotel is located in the centre of Haltwhistle, on the main street.

Rail: For train times and route planning by train visit www.nationalrail.co.uk or call 03457 484950. Our hotel is located only ½ a mile from Haltwhistle railway station. **The hotel can collect you on request from the station, but please ensure that you give the hotel a call the day before your arrival to arrange this free service.**

Air: There are a number of low-cost flights from around the UK, to Newcastle and Manchester. If you are flying from overseas there are international flights to Manchester Airport and Newcastle Airport.

Essential Information

Essential Equipment

To enjoy walking/hiking comfortably and safely, footwear, clothing and equipment need to be suitable for the conditions. Safety and comfort are our priorities, 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
- Waterproof 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 a 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

Trip Information

Admission Costs

Hadrian's Wall Path features several fantastic visitor attractions, which are highlights of this holiday. **These are not included in the holiday price** as the admission charges vary for concessions and National Trust and English Heritage members who can benefit from free or discounted entry at certain sites. If you wish to visit all the sites, have no memberships and cannot benefit from any concessions you should allow approximately £55 (standard adult tickets). The visitor attractions are mostly operated by English Heritage (including Housesteads Fort, which is owned by the National Trust). Vindolanda and the Roman Army Museum are independently operated by Vindolanda Charitable Trust.

Useful Information

Ticks

Ticks are tiny creatures that live in vegetation and can attach themselves to passing animals or walkers and may carry a risk of Lyme Disease. Please refer to NHS advice and guidelines for information prior to your holiday.

Our experienced and knowledgeable volunteer leaders undergo a thorough assessment to lead you on your Guided Walking/Hiking Trail and are delighted to share their knowledge and enthusiasm with you.

Please ensure you complete and hand in your registration form on arrival and let the leader know about any medical problems you may have. This may be useful in the event of a problem on the walk and will be treated confidentially by the leader.

In The Event Of A Problem

If you become separated from the party, please stay where you are. Your leader will retrace their steps to find you.

All our leaders carry a mobile phone, group shelter, spare maps and a compass. In the unlikely event your leader is incapacitated, please use any emergency kit in their rucksack. Call the emergency services (call 999 in the UK, or 112 overseas).

Please then try to call the hotel where you are staying to let them know there is a problem.

Suggested Reading and Maps

Your leader will carry all the necessary maps and guides. For your own interest you may consider looking at some of the following:

<http://hadrianswallcountry.co.uk/>

<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/hadrians-wall>

<http://www.visitnorthumberland.com/hadrians-wall>

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Hadrians-Wall>

Hadrian's Wall Path Adventure Atlas by [Geographers A-Z Map Company Ltd.](#)

This official National Trail Map provides complete OS Explorer mapping coverage of the Hadrian's Wall Path.

Hadrian's Wall: Archaeology and History at the Limit of Rome's Empire by [Nick Hodgson](#). This book is a good introduction to the Wall, how it was built and its purpose and about the soldiers and men, women and children who once lived there.

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 – 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 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

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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