Isles of Scilly Guided Walking with Sightseeing



Trip style:	Destination:	Walking Grade	Carbon Footprint:
Walking with sightseeing	Isles of Scilly, England & UK Walking Holidays	4	100kg CO2

HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

Little beats the Isles of Scilly for dazzling white sand beaches, translucent turquoise waters, dramatic headlands, and a beautiful interior dotted with prehistoric sites. For those keen to hop from island to island and experience the very best of what each has to offer, this is the perfect introduction to the archipelago. Highlights include Gugh for its Bronze Age monument, St Mary's for an exploration of the island capital, Hugh Town, St Martin's for its lovely stretches of sand, and Tresco for Abbey Garden – a botanical paradise with more than 3,000 species of plants and trees.

WHAT YOU'LL LOVE

- Spending time at Tresco Abbey Garden and the Valhalla Museum
- Exploring the archaeological sites on Gugh
- Discovering the charm of St Mary's and St Martin's
- Birdwatching and walking on the wild and rugged Bryher
- Soaking up stunning views of the sea and the sky
- Visiting St Agnes on the archipelago's south-westerly edge
- A more personalised experience thanks to small group sizes (maximum 16 people)

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- 2027 only – entry to Tresco Abbey Gardens
- Comfortable en-suite rooms in our partner accommodation(s)
- Cooked or continental breakfast every morning
- Three-course evening meals, plus tea & coffee
- Guided walks with an experienced HF Holidays Leader
- All transport to and from walks where necessary

ITINERARY - ITINERARY 2026

Day 1 **Arrival Day**

Your HF Holidays Leader will gather the group in the lounge at 6pm, for a warm welcome and quick introduction to the holiday before dinner.

The daily itinerary has to be very flexible as our itinerary, like life on Scilly, is determined by weather and tide. We have provided you an outline of the selection of walks on each of the islands which could be included in the itinerary. There are lots of things to see on each island, so some of the walks are not as lengthy as others. The holiday runs at a relaxing pace so that you get a real flavour of island life.

Day 2 **Tresco**

This is the second largest of the islands. Tresco and its garden are world-renowned and attract many visitors each year. We will see white sand beaches and a panorama of islands from the coastal path and explore the north of the island with its wild heathland, rocky coastlines and 16th and 17th century castles. There will be the chance to visit Abbey Garden (payable locally) and explore the world renowned collection of sub-tropical plants, and also to see the Valhalla museum – housing figureheads salvaged from shipwrecks from around the islands' shores.

6 miles (9.5km) with 550ft (160m) of ascent.

Day 3 **St Agnes and Gugh**

Surrounded by rocks and reefs, St Agnes is the most south-westerly community in the UK, where the whitewashed lighthouse and traditional stone cottages tumble down to tiny bulb fields, and pocket sized farms. Our circular walk will take us past the old lifeboat station, Troytown Maze, a labyrinth laid out in beach pebbles, and the granite outcrop of the Nag's Head. From the coastal path we will have impressive views of the treacherous Western Rocks and the famous Bishop Rock lighthouse. A visit to Gugh (pronounced like the name Hugh, but with a G) is determined by the tide. This small island is home to a bounty of archaeological sites.

5 miles (8km) with 500ft (150m) of ascent.

Day 4 **St Martin's**

Though the third largest of the islands, St Martin's is a narrow island only 2 miles long. Easily recognisable from its fine shimmering white sandy beaches, the shores of St Martin's have the longest stretches of sand in Scilly. Following the coastal path takes us past kelp pits, through scented gorse heathlands, to stone and rope labyrinths. We follow the sandy shore of Little Bay and Great Bay, before turning inland to the flower fields and glasshouses of Higher Town. We also head over the golden gorse heathland of Chapel Down to St Martin's Head with its chapel, Daymark and ruined Signal Station.

6½ miles (10.5km) with 550ft (170m) of ascent.

Day 5 St Mary's circular

Our walk circumnavigates the Islands' hub of St Mary's, starting out from our base in Hugh Town. We explore the coastline, passing by the archaeological sites of Bant's Carn and Innisidgen, the granite tors of Porth Hellick and Peninnis Head, and the one and only set of traffic lights on the islands, at the airport! Before returning to Hugh Town, the coastal path brings us to Old Town– a favourite haunt and now the resting place of the former Prime Minister Harold Wilson.

8 miles (13km) with 900ft (280m) of ascent.

Day 6 Bryher

Bryher is wild, windswept and unkempt, and has a very individual feel to it. Fewer than 100 people live here. There is only one road, and the locals quote the definition of a traffic jam as being "when two tractors meet"! The island has a magnificent variety of scenery, from the wild and rugged Hell Bay in the north, to the peaceful bays and secluded beaches of the south. Our walk will take us across heather moorland, past prehistoric cairns and boulder walls and along sandy coastal paths to see these different sides of Bryher.

5 miles (8km) with 600ft (180m) of ascent.

Day 7 Departure Day

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before check-out at 9:30am.

DAILY WALK OPTIONS



Gentle walking grade 4

The most active Gentle grade, with longer walks, some ascent, and possible steps, stiles, or off-path uneven ground. Typically, 6-7 miles (10-12km) with around 1,000ft (300m) of ascent.

ACCOMMODATION

Bell Rock Hotel, St Mary's - Isles of Scilly

You will be staying at the Bell Rock Hotel on St Mary's, the largest of the islands stretching to two-and-a-half miles by one-and-three-quarters. Mid-way between the two beaches of Porthcressa and Town Beach, it is situated on a quiet street, minutes from the shops, and a short stroll from the harbour. The location is perfect for accessing walks and transport around the islands.

The hotel has no lift/elevator, and has 4 floors of accommodation, so be prepared to get your steps! The rooms are basic but clean and comfortable, cozy ensuites of approx a 2-3* guest accommodation standard. Rooms have a hairdryer, tea and coffee making facilities and a boot tray.

The hotel also has a small indoor pool, this is heated by solar panels and can be on the cooler side on duller early/ late season days.

The holiday is half board, allowing opportunity, on some days, to eat in local pubs and cafes at lunchtime. If preferred, packed lunch provisions can also be purchased locally.

FOOD & DRINK

Dining at the Bell Rock Hotel

Our holidays on the Isles of Scilly are half-board, with breakfast and evening meal provided.

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.

TRAVEL DETAILS

Bell Rock Hotel
Church Street
St Mary's
TR21 0JT
Tel: 01720 422575

We recommend travelling by ferry as it tends to be less prone to disruptions and cancellation.

By Ferry

The Scillonian Ferry sails from Penzance Harbour to St Mary's Harbour (return) most days. Details of timetables and prices can be found here. The Bell Rock hotel is a half mile walk from the harbour and directions have been provided below. Richard Hand Haulage can transport your luggage to the hotel for a small fee.

From St Mary's Quay: At the end of the quay, turn left in front of the Mermaid Inn. Follow this road (Hugh Street) passing the Post Office on your right and the Co-op on your left. At the end, where the road divides, take the left fork and stay on the right-hand side of the road, passing the Town Hall on your right. Continue on this road (Church Street) until you reach the Bell Rock Hotel on your right.

By Air

The Skybus operates flights from Land's End Airport, Exeter Airport & Newquay Airport, flying directly to St Mary's Airport on the Isles of Scilly. Details of flights, and prices can be found here.

Island Transfers provide a return transfer service, for guests and their luggage, from St Mary's Airport to the Bell Rock Hotel.

SAFETY ON YOUR HOLIDAY

Walking safety

Walks may be changed for safety reasons and are subject to a maximum and minimum number of guests.

Leaders always consider the safety of the group as a whole, and may need to alter or curtail the walk if the conditions dictate. Your leader may refuse to accept a guest where clothing, equipment or behaviour is unsuitable. In the event of a problem all leaders carry a mobile phone, first aid kit, group shelter, spare maps and a compass.

Please note: If you choose to leave the group your leader is no longer responsible for you.

If you have a particular health condition or disability please put this on your guest registration form. This information will be confidential to your leaders and the house manager, but leaders do need to take account of any issues when planning walks. Please carry a copy of these trip notes with you, or note down the contact phone number for your accommodation (details in the travel section) should you need them in case of emergency.

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

Packing list

Weather conditions in the UK can vary throughout the day, and conditions in the mountains may be cold and windy even in summer. Use the following list as a guide when preparing for your holiday.

Essentials

- Suitable waterproof walking boots with ankle support and good grip
- Waterproof, wind-resistant jacket with a hood, taped seams and a hydrostatic head rating of at least 10,000 mm
- Waterproof overtrousers
- Spare warm clothing, such as a synthetic insulated jacket
- Comfortable walking clothing (jeans & waterproof capes are not suitable)
- Warm mid-layers, such as fleeces
- Gloves and a warm hat, even in summer
- Rucksack with a waterproof liner
- Water bottle with a capacity of at least 1 litre
- Flask for hot drinks
- Sunscreen
- UV-protective sunglasses
- Spare high-energy food
- Head torch and spare batteries for holidays between October and March
- Passport (if applicable)
- Visa (if applicable)
- Copy of your travel insurance policy

Recommended

- Several base layers, with long or short sleeves
- Cushioned walking socks to avoid blisters
- First-aid kit, including plasters, insect repellent, a midge net and a tick-removal tool
- Sit mat
- Waterproof pouch for valuables
- Rubbish bags
- Wallet or purse

- Camera
- Walking poles
- Sun hat
- Gaiters
- Mobile Phones
- Swimwear (please see accommodation information for hotel facilities)
- Membership cards for English Heritage, the National Trust or similar heritage organisations in Scotland and Wales, if you are a member. These may be useful when visiting attractions during your itinerary or on your free day.

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.

Travel Insurance for the Isles of Scilly

Travel Insurance

We strongly recommend that you take out travel insurance and any other personal insurance relevant to you and the holiday. It is particularly important with the possibility of flight changes and cancellations due to the challenging weather conditions that can occur on the islands and might impact your onward travel arrangements.

March departure

March Departures

The Isles of Scilly in the off-season (late October to March) offer a quiet, intimate experience focused on nature, windswept walks, and relaxation. **Many tourist facilities close, and café/dining options are limited**, but visitors enjoy secluded beaches and stunning winter light.

Maps and Guides for Isles of Scilly

Suggested Reading and Maps

Your leader will carry all the necessary maps and guides for this holiday. For your own enjoyment you may consider buying the 1:25,000 Map Explorer 101: Isles of Scilly

TRIPNOTE VALIDITY

TRIP NOTE VALIDITY These Trip Notes are valid based on the date printed at the bottom of the page. They will occasionally be updated post booking and pre-departure. We will send you the latest trip notes prior to departure through a link in your pre departure documents or we can send you a copy in the post if preferred. In booking this trip you should be confident in your ability to participate in all activities described in these Trip Notes. If you have any doubt about your suitability you should call HF Holidays and ask to speak to one of the team about this itinerary. The information in these Trip Notes is given in good faith. Where differences exist between the Trip Notes and our current

brochure, the Trip Notes supersede the brochure. All holidays can be subject to unexpected changes; so please be prepared to be flexible where necessary. At times, it may not be possible to follow the itinerary as planned due to weather conditions, political, physical or other factors. In these circumstances we will make the best possible alternative arrangements to maintain the integrity of the original itinerary.

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