

Next step Navigation for Women in the Shropshire Hills

Trip style: Small group holidays

Destination: 📍 Shropshire Hills

Trip code: CHS03-NWN01



Holiday Overview

Looking to build on your navigation skills? Our Next Step Navigation for Women holiday is designed for those with some experience who want to take things further. Following the Silver-level syllabus of the National Navigation Award Scheme (NNAS), you'll learn how to navigate off-path using advanced map skills and compass techniques. This holiday is exclusively for Women and is ideal for those who've completed the Bronze Award or already have a solid navigation foundation.

WHAT YOU'LL LOVE

- Having the chance to complete the NNAS Silver Navigator Award
- Building on your navigation skills through practical indoor and outdoor exercises
- Learning how to accurately use a compass
- Joining a group of like-minded women
- The expertise of a knowledgeable and experienced tutor
- Staying at our country house
- A more personalised experience thanks to small group sizes (maximum 8 people to 1 leader)

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Comfortable en-suite accommodation in our country house
- Cream tea on arrival day
- Cooked or continental breakfast every morning
- Daily packed lunches
- Three-course evening meals, plus tea & coffee
- Registration with the NNAS

WALKING GRADES AND OPTIONS

While these aren't walking holidays as such, it's essential that you have a level of fitness that will allow you to enjoy your experience to the fullest. Please prepare to be on your feet and outdoors for most of the day (usually 6-7hrs). You will cover anything up to 7 to 9 miles over the course of a day.

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Day 1 Arrival Day

Check-in at the hotel is available from 16:00. If you are a member you can arrive at the house from 14:00. Enjoy a complimentary cream tea at 16:30 and meet other guests.

At 17:00 meet your leader and fellow guests in reception where you will have a welcome to the course.

Day 2-3 Navigation Days

Our days will be spent working through a range of practical indoor and outdoor exercises that will help us cover the Silver Navigator Award Syllabus.

- Utilise the skills and techniques of the Bronze Award in the context of Silver Award navigation strategies.
- Relate small hills, small valleys, prominent re-entrants and prominent spurs to their corresponding map contours. Use prominent hills, ridges, spurs and valleys as a means of navigation in good visibility.
- Use landforms and point features to orientate the map and as collecting and catching features.
- Use a compass to: Accurately follow a bearing; aim off; check the direction of handrails and other linear features.

- Deviate briefly from a compass bearing to avoid obstacles or difficult terrain and accurately regain the original line.
- Use back bearings to check route following accuracy.
- Measure distance on the ground in varied, open terrain using timing and pacing and make practical allowances for any discrepancies.
- Simplify legs using coarse navigation, attack points and fine navigation.
- Recognise dangerous or difficult terrain on map and ground.
- Plan and implement navigational strategies based on the above skills.
- Maintain route finding accuracy in poor visibility or darkness.
- Recognise a navigation error within a few minutes and apply appropriate relocation techniques.
- Understand how personal fitness and nature of terrain affect route choice both at the planning stage and on the ground.
- Understand the potential consequences of fatigue and physical discomfort in demanding terrain and/or extreme weather conditions.
- Select appropriate clothing, equipment and first aid items for walking in open country in all weather conditions.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the Countryside Code, current access legislation and the environmental impact of walkers on the countryside.
- Understand the responsibilities of walkers towards other countryside interests such as farming, forestry and conservation.
- Understand how outdoor activities impact on the environment and how that impact can be minimised and sustainable use promoted.

Assessment for the Silver award is optional.

Pre Course reading:

[OS map reading tips](#)

[Countryside Code](#)

[Mountain Rescue stay safe fact file](#)

You will be outside for parts of the course and there will be some standing around outside so please bring warm clothing with you. You can expect to walk between 7 to 9 miles each day.

The course includes map work exercises and walk planning in the evenings. Maps will be provided for use during the course, but you will need to bring a compass we recommend a compass which has a baseplate, 360-degree protractor, map measuring features, plus scales of 1:25k and 1:50k an example compass is the Silva Expedition 4.

Day 4 Departure Day

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before making your way home.

Accommodation

Longmynd Hotel

For rural calm in the Shropshire Hills National Landscape, the location of this characterful country house is hard to top. Set in a wooded hillside just a short stroll from the market town of Church Stretton (nicknamed Little Switzerland for its picturesque landscape), you'll be within walking or driving distance of the Stiperstones, Caer Caradoc, Ironbridge Valley of Invention, and the historic towns of Ludlow and Shrewsbury. And then, of course, there's the Long Mynd itself – an area of registered common land that has been cared for by a group of farmers (the self-named commoners) who have grazed sheep and ponies here for generations.

Check-In & Check-Out

You are welcome to check in from 4pm at the earliest. HF Members can check in earlier, from 2pm. On arrival, you'll enjoy a complimentary cream tea and get to meet your fellow guests, our HF Holidays Leaders, and the rest of the friendly team. Check out 10am.

About

- 56 well-appointed guest rooms • Exclusive occupancy: 89 guests minimum • Check in from 4:00pm • For members check in from 2:00pm • Free Wi-Fi • Free on-site parking • Boot room and drying room • 2 travel cots & 2 high chairs • Discovery Point offering a wide range of local area maps, route guides, and information for self-guided walks • Books and games to borrow • Licensed bar • Lounges • Garden
- [Well-behaved dogs welcome on self-guided holidays](#) • Electric vehicle charging point – Please note, you will need to bring your own cables to use this EV charging point



Food & drink

Seasonal dining, tailored for you

Our team of skilled chefs design our dinner menus to showcase the best of each season, from warming winter comfort food to vibrant summer dishes, including vegetarian, vegan and high-protein options. We also source fruit and vegetables within a 40-mile radius of each house, open every break with a Chef's Special menu inspired by dishes and flavours of the local area, and are able to adapt dishes to suit special dietary requirements.

Welcome Cream Tea

What better way to start your stay than with a cream tea, served fresh on arrival to make you feel instantly at home. A quintessentially English tradition, our scones are baked in-house and served with preserves and clotted cream, providing the perfect opportunity to meet fellow walkers.

A hearty breakfast to start the day

Start the day with a freshly-prepared cooked breakfast and a wide choice from our continental buffet, including hot drinks, juices and fresh fruit. Our team offer a quick and friendly service, leaving you fuelled and ready for your day's adventures.

Our famous picnic lunch

Our personalised picnic lunches are perfect for a day out walking, ready to enjoy when hunger strikes. Choose from a large selection of fresh sandwiches and salads, freshly baked cakes and snacks, including the ever-popular Freddos chocolate bar! Everything is designed to fit neatly into your rucksack, and all of the packaging we provide is recyclable or compostable.

3-course evening meals

Our à la carte evening menus feature a wide choice of starters, mains, and desserts, made with seasonal ingredients and, wherever possible, herbs and vegetables from our own gardens. Shared around sociable tables, dinners are relaxed occasions, with drinks available to order at the table or from the bar, and a traditional Sunday roast to round off the week.

Rooms

Since 2022, the £3 million invested so far has established a flagship HF property. A full upgrade of all rooms is expected to be complete by April 2027 with 65% of guest rooms upgraded. Designed with your comfort in mind, Longmynd Hotel has 56 well-appointed guest rooms available in two categories: Classic and Premium.

Classic Rooms are comfortable en-suite guest rooms, ideal for a peaceful night's sleep. Amenities include free Wi-Fi, tea and coffee-making facilities, toiletries (hand wash, shampoo, and shower gel), and a TV.

Premium Rooms are more spacious en-suite guest rooms*. Amenities include free Wi-Fi, tea and coffee-making facilities, toiletries (hand wash, shampoo, body lotion, shower gel), and a 32-inch TV. Extras include bathrobes, slippers.

We love: For more privacy, the lodges have their own terrace.

The **Choose Your Room** service is available at our UK country houses, allowing you the option of choosing and confirming a specific room for an extra charge of £30 per room. This is subject to availability. Upgrade supplements apply.

Room supplements

Premium single	Premium double/twin	Choose your room
£20 pppn	£20 pppn	£30 per room

*Views and layout reflect each properties unique character and location

Accessibility

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

About your stay

A warm welcome

We want you to feel comfortable from the moment you arrive. You'll find a welcome pack in your room with guest registration forms, menus, order forms for dinners and picnic lunches, the Wi-Fi password, and the front door code. Our houses are locked at night, so we recommend noting the Duty Manager's number on arrival in case of an emergency (or getting locked out).

Evening entertainment

While evening entertainment varies from house to house, HF Holidays Inter-House Quiz night held after dinner on Wednesdays is a weekly staple. Your HF Holidays leader may be around for tips on guided and self-guided walking routes as well as visit-worthy local attractions.

Walks talks

Our HF Holidays walk leaders host guided walking information briefings before dinner on guided walking holiday arrival days. This is followed by a group Walks Talk for information on the following day's guided walks (held before dinner every evening). Self-guided walking guests are, of course, welcome.

The walking day

Prior to setting off on guided walks, your HF Holidays Leader will run you through a short safety briefing. There's also an up-to-date weather forecast on display at the house to ensure you have appropriate clothing and footwear. If you choose to do your own walks or are on a self-guided walking holiday, we ask that you please complete an Independent Walker Card each day. These can be found near the Discovery Point in the house.

Accessibility

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

Travel Details

Address

Longmynd Hotel
Cunnery Road
Church Stretton
Shropshire SY6 6AG

Tel: [+44 \(0\)1694 722244](tel:+441694722244)

By train

The nearest station is Church Stretton. Although Longmynd Hotel is less than a mile from the station, it is at the top of a steep hill and there is no taxi rank at the station. Taxis are in extremely limited supply in the Church Stretton area and drivers usually come from further afield which is reflected in fares.

Shrewsbury has more choice of trains, and you can take a taxi directly to the house from the station (see below).

Check National Rail for train times and routes.

By taxi

From Shrewsbury, it's a 15-mile journey taking 30 to 40 minutes.

Single journeys are approx £45 but please contact Shropshire Cars directly for confirmation.

You can pre-book a taxi from our recommended Shrewsbury based company, Shropshire Cars*. We recommend booking your taxi, including your return journey if needed, at least seven days in advance by contacting via WhatsApp or using their App:

WhatsApp: 07379338526

APP STORE:

<https://apps.apple.com/app/shropshire-cars/id6578451220>

and

Google Play: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.shropshirecars.passengerapp>

By car

There's free car parking at Longmynd Hotel if you decide to drive.

Follow the A49 to Church Stretton. At the traffic lights turn off into town, then at the first junction turn left onto the High Street. Go straight over the mini-roundabout, and then take the next right into Cunnery Road. Follow the road up the steep hill to Longmynd Hotel.

By air

The nearest airport is Manchester International Airport.

Trains take about two hours, with a change in Crewe.

You can also fly into London Heathrow airport, but it'll take at least 4 hours to reach Shrewsbury by train.

National Rail has up-to-date routes and train times.

Local Area

Whether you're enjoying a guided or self-guided walking holiday, there's always the opportunity to linger for longer. Here's our pick of the very best things to see and do within easy travelling distance of Longmynd Hotel.

Church Stretton

Just a 10-minute walk downhill, this market town lives up to its Little Switzerland moniker for its dramatic hills on both sides of the valley. It has retained much of its Edwardian charm, tempting with independent shops, traditional tea rooms, pubs, and restaurants.

Ludlow

A 20-minute drive away, this attractive market town rewards with a historic town centre, beautiful period buildings, and a castle dating back to the 11th century. Visit-worthy places include St. Laurence's Church, Ludlow Museum, and Ludlow Millennium Green.

Ironbridge Valley of Invention

A 45-minute drive away and within the heart of a UNESCO World Heritage Site, this collection of award-winning museums stretches along the River Severn. All are within six square miles of the Ironbridge Gorge, hailed as the birthplace of the Industrial Revolution.

Severn Valley Railway

Operating steam-hauled passenger trains between Bridgnorth, Bewdley, and Kidderminster, this 16-mile journey takes you along the beautiful Severn Valley. The nearest station at Bridgnorth is a 40-minute drive from Church Stretton.

Shrewsbury

A 30-minute drive away, Shropshire's country town charms with an imposing redbrick castle, higgledy-piggledy streets, and quirky buildings. Highlights include visiting Shrewsbury Museum & Art Gallery, relaxing in Shrewsbury Quarry, and following the Darwin Town Trail.

Much Wenlock

A 30-minute drive away, this small Shropshire town was the birthplace Dr William Penny Brookes – the founder of the modern Olympic Games. Highlights include visiting the remains of Wenlock Priory, the site of an Anglo Saxon monastery founded in about AD 680.

Hereford

An hour's drive away, this attractive cathedral city is home to the famous Mappa Mundi, a medieval map of the world dating from the 1300s. Further highlights include the Chained Library, the Black and White House Museum, and the life-sized Hereford Bull Statue.

Attingham Park

A 25-minute drive away, this 18th century estate with 200 acres of parkland is managed by the National Trust. The Mansion has an evolving visitor programme and different areas of the house open throughout the year.

Powis Castle

A 45-minute drive away, this 13th century castle, world-famous garden, and historic collection has been cared for by the National Trust since 1952. The paintings, sculptures, furniture, and tapestries on display throughout the house are rather impressive.

Chirk Castle

Occupied as a castle and stately home for over 700 years, this fine medieval hilltop fortress is just under an hour's drive away. Highlights include the military displays, elegant state rooms, and award-winning gardens covering 5.5 acres of manicured lawns.

Useful Holiday Information

“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)
 - Compass – we recommend a compass which has a baseplate, 360 degree protractor, map measuring features, plus scales of 1:25k and 1:50k. An example compass is the Silva Expedition 4.
 - Sun hat and sunscreen
 - Several layers of clothing, which can be added or removed
- Denim jeans and waterproof capes are not suitable on any walks.*

Recommended

- 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
- Notebook & pen for taking down learning notes

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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