

# 7 Night Northumberland Discovery Tour

**Destinations:** Northumberland, United Kingdom & England  
**Trip code:** ALHCR-7



## HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

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This Northumberland Discovery Tour lines up some of the region's standout highlights. Explore the mighty castles of Bamburgh and Warkworth, find out about Roman Britain at award-winning museums and visitor attractions along Hadrian's Wall, and take a boat trip around the Farne Islands – home to nesting birds and a thriving grey seal colony. You'll also have the chance to follow in the footsteps of England's first Christian pilgrims with a journey to Lindisfarne, also known as Holy Island.

## WHAT'S INCLUDED

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- Boat cruise around the Farne Islands
- 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
- Guided sightseeing with an experienced HF Holidays Leader
- All transport to and from sites of interest

- Easy-to-follow routes, maps, and information in our Discovery Point if you want to explore independently

**Please note** - Entrance fees are not included.

## HOLIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

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- Exploring the mighty Bamburgh Castle
- Journeying to the Holy Island of Lindisfarne like the pilgrims of old
- Learning about Roman Britain at Hadrian's Wall
- Experiencing a wildlife-spotting boat trip around the Farne Islands
- Spending time in the historic market town of Alnwick
- Staying at a former 18th century granary in the heart of Alnmouth

## TRIP SUITABILITY

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### Trip suitability

Our Discovery holidays give you the opportunity to immerse yourself in the culture of the local area through **active sightseeing**.

On each Discovery day, you will be walking throughout the course of the day as you explore the venues and locations we visit. You'll also be hopping on and off the coach throughout - you should expect to spend the majority of the day on your feet. Most of this walking will be at attractions but some may be across country tracks or footpaths so be sure to **bring sturdy shoes**. There will also be stairs to climb in the majority of the venues you visit, though other more accessible options may be available. At some venues, there may also be uneven surfaces, such as cobbles or rocky paths.

## ITINERARY

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### Day 1: Arrival Day

You're welcome to check in from 4pm onwards. Enjoy a complimentary cream tea on arrival.

### Day 2: Cragside & Alnwick

A visit to the Lord Armstrong's magnificent estate, famous for being the first house in the world to be lit by hydraulic electricity. The house is surrounded by gorgeous gardens and woods and has over 30 miles of footpaths and lakeside walks. There are five lakes, a large rock garden and around seven million trees and shrubs including some made into a rhododendron maze.

This afternoon we spend time in Alnwick where the choice is yours of what you wish to explore. There's magnificent Alnwick Castle (also home to the Fusiliers museum), the award winning Alnwick Gardens, the Bailiffgate Museum, or quirky Barter books, as well as Hulne Park, or the town's coffee and craft shops to choose from.

### Day 3: Hadrian's Wall

Transport yourself back 2,000 years with our visit to the World Heritage site of Hadrian's Wall. Our journey takes us along almost half its length, visiting its top visitor attractions to give us an insight to the stories and histories of this UNESCO World Heritage site.

Our first stop is a visit to the Roman Army museum, with the option of heading into Walltown Country Park if you want to stretch your legs and see the Wall up close. We then visit the fascinating archaeological site of Vindolanda. This is an active archaeological site so you'll see ongoing research and conservation first hand, as

well as experiencing world class visitor displays at the museum on site.

## Day 4: Free Day

A free day for you to explore the local area or to relax in the Country House. Our Discovery Points help you make the most out of your free day. There's plenty of maps and a selection of the best local walking routes, as well as weather forecasts and public transport options – plus details about other places to visit.

## Day 5: Warkworth & Wallington

A short drive takes us to the attractive village of Warkworth where we can visit Warkworth Castle, the Hermitage, or take a stroll and explore this characterful village. The castle walls give us great views over the river Coquet and the surrounding coast. Discover the castle's links to the Percy family, Harry Hotspur, and William Shakespeare.

In the afternoon we visit the beautiful Wallington estate. The great house has many stories to tell and the grounds and gardens are the perfect place to spend an afternoon exploring. Keep your eyes peeled for red squirrels, there's a good chance of spotting them from the hide.

## Day 6: Lindisfarne & Bamburgh

Today will be the highlight of the trip for many. At low tide, we cross the narrow causeway to the Holy Island of Lindisfarne. The island was one of the most important centres for early Christianity in Anglo-Saxon England. There are a number of things to do on the island so we've left the itinerary open, so you can spend your time as you wish. Options include visiting the castle, priory, mead centre, nature reserve, cafes and craft shops.

Following our visit, we head to beautiful Bamburgh, with its historic castle, glorious beaches, café and craft shops. Discover the story of the Bamburgh Bones, the heroism of Bamburgh local - Grace Darling, and savour the many local delicacies with a coffee stop or two.

Please note that the order of this day may be reversed due to tide times.

## Day 7: Farne Islands & Dunstanburgh

A morning sailing from Seahouses takes us to the wildlife rich Farne Islands. We spend 1-2 hours sailing around the islands, spotting some of its many nesting birds and its thriving colony of Grey seals (an estimated 3-4 thousand seals make their home on the islands).

We end the day at Craster, where there's the option to stretch your legs with a gentle walk along the shore towards Dunstanburgh Castle, time to visit the castle itself, or to explore the galleries or celebrate in style with a cuppa or something stronger at the welcoming Jolly Fisherman Inn.

## Day 8: Departure Day

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before making your way home.

## ACCOMMODATION

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### Nether Grange

You can tell that you're in for something special at this former 18th century granary in the heart of Alnmouth – the postcard-pretty coastal village treasured for its colourful cottages, superb walking routes, and peaceful beach where the River Aln meets the North Sea (in its heyday, it was a working river-port, exporting grain, wool, coal, and even the odd pipe of Madeira wine). Not only will you be a 40-minute drive from Northumberland National Park, but also within easy travelling distance of several visit-worthy castles, including Alnwick,

Lindisfarne, Dunstanburgh, and Warkworth. If the weather's nice, a boat trip to the Farne Islands that lie just offshore midway between the villages of Seahouses and Bamburgh rewards with sightings of England's largest grey seal colonies.

## Country House Accommodation

### Rooms

Designed with your comfort in mind, Nether Grange has 36 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, and comfortable mattresses.

**We love:** The sea-facing rooms are especially lovely.

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.

### Check in & check out

You are welcome to check in from **4:00pm at the earliest**. 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.

On the day of departure, we kindly ask all guests to check out by **10:00am**. You'll be asked to settle your bill prior to leaving. You may, of course, make a charitable donation to our HF Holidays Pathways Fund if you wish. Please note that we only accept card payments.

### Room supplements

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

## 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, the HF Holidays Big Pub Quiz 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 Leaders host guided walking information briefings before dinner on arrival days. This is followed by a group Walks Talk for information on the following day's walking delights (held before dinner every evening). Self-guided walking guests are, of course, welcome.

### The walking day

Prior to setting off on 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.

### Food & Drink

Led by experienced chefs, we serve a wide range of dishes made with fresh and seasonal ingredients. We always aim to source the best produce available and use home-grown herbs and vegetables from our own gardens whenever possible. Additionally, we have a licensed bar with beers, soft drinks, and a superb selection of spirits. Full-board comes as standard and includes a cream tea on arrival and a hearty breakfast on departure day.

HF Holidays understands the importance of managing allergens effectively to ensure food is safe for guests with food allergies. Whilst we are always able to confidently inform guests which allergens are present in our ingredients and dishes, we are unable to guarantee absolute freedom from the 14 main allergens in our kitchens. Vegetarian and vegan menu choices are available. If you have allergies, food intolerances, or any special dietary requirements, please inform our reservation team at the time of booking.

### Accessibility

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

## TRAVEL DETAILS

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### Address

Nether Grange  
Alnmouth  
Alnwick  
Northumberland NE66 2RZ

Tel: [+44 \(0\)1665 830431](tel:+44(0)1665830431)

### By Train

The nearest station is Alnmouth, on the main east coast line between Newcastle and Edinburgh.

Check National Rail for train times and routes.

### By Taxi

The 1.5-mile journey from Alnmouth railway station to Nether Grange is about five minutes by taxi. Taxis are in limited supply in Alnmouth, so we recommend pre-booking as early as possible.

For pricing, please contact the taxi company directly.

Taxi companies in the area include:

#### Sovereign Taxis\*

Tel: [+44 \(0\)7553 360662](tel:+44(0)7553360662)

#### Wizard Taxis\*

Tel: [+44 \(0\)1665 663709](tel:+44(0)1665663709)

**AA Taxis\***Tel: [+44 \(0\)1665 606060](tel:+44(0)1665606060)

Some taxi companies have school runs so taxis may be in short supply between 9:00am and 10:00am. It is advisable to book your return taxi when you book your arrival taxi.

\*HF Holidays does not own or manage any of the above taxi companies.

**By Car**

Before travelling by car, note that there is no car park at Nether Grange and there's very limited on-street parking.

Exit the A1 onto the A1068 towards Alnwick. At the roundabout turn right (it's not well signposted), following the A1068 towards Alnmouth. Go straight ahead at the first roundabout then left at the second roundabout onto the B1338.

As you approach Alnmouth, turn right at the next roundabout, then left into The Wynd. Follow to Marine Road into Northumberland Street. After 100 yards turn right into Pease's Lane. You'll find Nether Grange on the left.

**By Air**

The nearest airport is Newcastle International Airport. Take the metro to Newcastle Central station, then the train to Alnmouth - a straightforward journey taking just over an hour.

**LOCAL AREA**

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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 Nether Grange.

**Alnmouth**

This pretty coastal village is adored for its colourful cottages, superb walking routes, peaceful bays, and deserted sandy beaches where the River Aln meets the North Sea. There's a small tidal harbour, a handful of small shops, and several pubs and cafés.

**Alnwick Castle**

A 15-minute drive away, the market town of Alnwick is dominated by the second-largest inhabited castle in the country. Home to the Duke of Northumberland's family for over 700 years, it has featured in *Harry Potter* films and *Downton Abbey* specials.

**Alnwick Gardens**

The castle's 12-acre garden is home to a collection of over 4,000 plant varieties. Highlights include the world's largest Tai Haku Cherry Orchard, a cascade comprising of 120 water jets, and the world's largest treehouse restaurant set 18 metres above ground level.

**Bamburgh Castle**

Home of the Armstrong family since 1894 and crowning nine acres of the Great Whin Sill, this so-called king of castles has stood guard above the Northumberland coast for thousands of years. The site is by the seaside village of Bamburgh, a 35-minute drive away.

## Farne Islands

Located off Northumberland's coast in the North Sea, this groups of islands is home to a breeding colony of thousands of seabirds and grey seals. Between March and October, regular boat trips run from Seahouses harbour - a 45-minute drive away.

## Lindisfarne (Holy Island)

An hour's drive away, this sacred place is where you can follow in the footsteps of the ancient monks who built their priory here nearly 1,400 years ago. Don't miss the museum for a chance to learn more about the 8th century manuscript known as the Lindisfarne Gospels.

## Warkworth Castle

Crowning the hilltop above the River Coquet, Northumberland's hilltop fortress and hermitage was used by William Shakespeare as the setting for several scenes of his *Henry IV* plays. Located in the village of Warkworth, it's just a 10-minute drive away.

## Cragside House

A 40-minute drive away, this National Trust-owned house was the first in the world to be lit by hydroelectric power. Highlights include one the largest rock gardens in Europe, a rhododendron-filled garden, and over 40 miles of lovely lakeside and woodland walks.

## Seaton Delaval Hall

Designed by acclaimed Baroque architect, Sir John Vanbrugh, this National Trust-owned mansion is a 40-minute drive away. The grounds are gorgeous, especially the formal rose garden that was created in the 1950s and 1960s by Lady Hastings.

## Hadrian's Wall

A 90-minute drive away, this World Heritage Site built in AD 122 extends for 73 miles. Don't miss the Roman Vindolanda Fort & Museum for fascinating artefacts, reconstructed turrets and temples, and insight of daily life in a Roman garrison town.

## Edinburgh

Scotland's capital is just a one-hour train ride from Alnmouth station and worth the effort for its wealth of attractions. Must-dos include visiting Edinburgh Castle, spending time at the National Museum of Scotland, climbing Arthur's Seat, and strolling through Holyrood Park.

## Newcastle-Upon-Tyne

Simply known as Newcastle, this vibrant city is an hour's drive away. Highlights include admiring the iconic Tyne Bridge, relaxing at Newcastle City Baths, crossing the Gateshead Millennium Bridge, and visiting Gateshead's Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art.

## USEFUL HOLIDAY INFORMATION

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### Essential Information

The UK has a famously unpredictable climate so it's best to be prepared for weather that's sunny one minute

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and raining the next. To make it easier, here's a list of items you should consider packing.

### Essentials

- Suitable, sturdy footwear with a good grip. You'll be on your feet for much of the day
- Waterproof jacket
- Waterproof overtrousers
- Sunhat
- Rucksack
- Water bottle (at least 1 litre capacity)
- Sunscreen
- Mobile phone
- UV sunglasses

### Recommended

- First aid kit, including plasters
- Sit mat
- Waterproof pouch for valuables
- Rubbish bag (remember to always leave no trace)
- Wallet/purse

### Optional extras

- Walking poles,
- Flask for hot drinks
- Durable lunch box
- Waterproof rucksack liner

## Admission Information

### Please note

Admission fees are payable locally and aren't included in your holiday price, apart from what is stated in the what's included section. This gives you greater choice, freedom, and flexibility to only pay the entrance fees for the attractions that interest you most. Should you choose to visit all the highlighted attractions during your holiday please see the table below for the approximate totals. If you have National Trust (NT) or English Heritage (EH) membership, please be sure to bring your membership identification with you.

Approx. cost of entrance fees	3 night holiday	4 night holiday	7 night holiday
<b>NT &amp; EH members</b>	£53	£17	£70
<b>NT members</b>	£53	£39.50	£92.50
<b>EH members</b>	£71	£43.50	£114.50
<b>No memberships</b>	£71	£72.50	£143.50

## 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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