

The Offa's Dyke Guided Trail Holiday

Tour Style: Guided Trails

Destination: Wales

Trip code: ZDLDW

Trip Walking Grade: 5



HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

This 177 mile long trail follows the spectacular Dyke that was constructed in the 8th century by King Offa to divide the kingdoms of Mercia and Wales.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Group transfer from Chepstow Station on arrival day and to Chester on departure day
- Full board en-suite accommodation
- Experienced HF Holidays' trails leader
- All transport to and from the walks
- Luggage transfer between accommodation
- Group transfer from Chepstow Station on arrival day and to Chester on departure day

HOLIDAYS HIGHLIGHTS

- Follow the spectacular Dyke built in the 8th century by King Offa
- A remote trail along the undulating borderlands of England and Wales

- Walk through the Black Mountains, the Shropshire Hills and the Clwydian Hills

TRIP SUITABILITY

This Guided Walking/Hiking Trail is graded 5. This holiday is recommended for fit and experienced walkers only. It is your responsibility to ensure you have the relevant fitness and equipment required to join this holiday. This strenuous trail covers rough and challenging terrain along the Wales/England border. There are some long days and terrain is at times rough underfoot with many steep and lengthy ascents. A sustained effort is required to complete this trail and provision cannot be made for anyone who opts out. Please be sure you can manage the daily mileage and ascents in the daily itineraries. The walking day is normally 6 to 8 hours, it is important for your own and your fellow guests' enjoyment that you can maintain the pace. It makes sense to spend time getting fit before your holiday. We suggest that you do a number of longer walks, including some on hilly terrain. Cycling, jogging and swimming are also excellent for increasing stamina.

ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrival Day

Transfer from Chepstow to your first hotel. Your leader will give an introductory talk about the holiday in the evening.

Day 2: Sedbury Hills To Tintern

We start our journey at Sedbury Cliff overlooking the Severn estuary. We pass Chepstow with its castle and head north following the tree lined escarpment with interesting sights along the way. Our first day ends at Tintern with its famous Abbey.

8 miles (12km) with 1,460ft (450m) of ascent and descent

Day 3: Tintern To Monmouth

We follow the River Wye to Redbrook and ascend Kymin Hill with its battlemented Roundhouse and Naval Temple. We end our walk in the attractive border town of Monmouth, birthplace of Henry V.

11 miles (18km) with 2,300ft (700m) of ascent and descent

Day 4: Monmouth To Pandy

Today we cross undulating farmland and an area rich in medieval history of ruined castles and abbeys. We pass pretty small villages and have great views of the Black Mountains ahead of us.

16 miles (26km) with 1,900 feet (580m) of ascent and 1,600 feet (490m) of descent

Day 5: Pandy To Hay On Wye

This section commands magnificent views and the highest point of the route at 2,300 feet as we walk within the Brecon Beacons National Park with a lovely ridge walk to Hay Bluff along the Black mountains. Our walk today finishes in Hay on Wye, famous for its bookshops and castles.

17 miles (27km) with 2,330 feet (700m) of ascent and 2,200 feet (670m) of descent

Day 6: Hay On Wye To Kington

We cross the River Wye and head into the Radnorshire Hills passing through 'Kilvert Country'. After the pretty

village of Gladestry we walk up and over Hergest Ridge before descending to the attractive border town of Kington.

15 miles (24km) with 2,300 ft (700m) of ascent and 2,100 ft (640m) of descent

Day 7: Kington To Knighton

We walk along remote hills with long stretches of well preserved Dyke with wide expanding views. Arriving in Knighton we are almost half way and here is the home of the Offa's Dyke centre.

13 miles (21km) with 2,600 feet (790m) of ascent and 2,500 feet (760m) of descent

Day 8: Knighton To Kerry Ridgeway

This section is quite tough as it rises and falls through the Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural beauty. There is also some of the best preserved sections of the Dyke and you reach the true midway marker near Clun.

13 miles (20km) with 3,375 feet (1,030m) of ascent and 2,750 feet (840m) of descent

Day 9: Kerry Ridgeway To Welshpool

With plenty of opportunity to view the Dyke we pass close to Montgomery often with one foot in England and one foot in Wales. We climb the earthworks of Beacon hill fort and finish our day at Buttington near Welshpool.

16 miles (25 km) with 1,840 feet (560m) of ascent and 2,800 feet (855m) of descent

Day 10: Welshpool To Trefonen

The Trail follows stretches of the Montgomeryshire canal and the River Severn to Llanymynech where the main street is the Wales – English border. We pass old mines and quarries and finish today in the village of Trefonen.

17 miles (28 km) with 1,630 feet (500m) of ascent and 1,260 feet (385m) of descent

Day 11: Trefonen To Llangollen

The remains of The Dyke are with us for much of today's walk. We pass through rolling hills and the grounds of Chirk Castle before descending to the Llangollen valley and end near the famous Pontcysyllte Aqueduct.

13 miles (20km) with 2,160 feet (660m) of ascent and 2,400 feet (730m) of descent

Day 12: Llangollen To Clwyd Gate

After crossing the aqueduct, the trail leaves the route of the Dyke today as we take a dramatic contouring path along the edge of the Eglwyseg hills. A high moorland section of bogs and bilberries leads to the pretty village of Llandegla. To reach the end of our walk at Clwyd Gate we have a series of steep hills to negotiate. A tough but exhilarating day!

16 miles (26km) with 3,380 feet (1,030m) of ascent and 2,850 feet (870m) of descent

Day 13: Clwyd Gate To Bodfari

We spend most of today in the beautiful Clwydian hills, carpeted with heather and bilberry. Fine weather rewards us with views from Snowdon to Cheshire. We eventually descend to the small village of Bodfari with a welcoming pub.

12 miles (19km) with 2,400 feet (730m) of ascent and 3,180 feet (970m) of descent

Day 14: Bodfari To Prestatyn

Our final day in the Clwydian Hills still affords great views of Snowdonia and North Wales Coast as we get our first glimpse of the sea and our journey's end walking on the Prestatyn Hills into Prestatyn. We follow the trail to the monument on the beach where we can celebrate our achievement.

12 miles (20 km) with 2,200 feet (670m) of ascent and 2,350 feet (715m) of descent

Day 15: Departure Day

We arrange a group transfer to Chester railway station which is included in the price of your holiday.

ACCOMMODATION

The Royal George Hotel, Tintern - Offa's Dyke

The Royal George sits quietly in an Area of Natural Beauty - the Wye Valley at Tintern Abbey. The hotel offers comfort and traditional hospitality, as well as fresh produce from Wales in its restaurant. Rooms include TV, tea and coffee making facilities, WiFi and a hairdryer.

The Angel Hotel, Abergavenny - Offa's Dyke

Located in the centre of Abergavenny, The Angel Hotel is a former coaching inn with a smart Georgian facade. Rooms include Flat screen TV, tea and coffee making facilities, hairdryer and WiFi.

The Burton Hotel, Kington - Offa's Dyke

A warm welcome awaits you at The Burton Hotel, which has been family owned and run for over 30 years. Situated in the heart of Kington, the hotel has a swimming pool, gym, and spa. All rooms come with tea and coffee making facilities, TV, Blackout Curtains and Wi-Fi.

The Royal Oak Hotel, Welshpool - Offa's Dyke

Formerly the manor house of the Earl of Powis, The Royal Oak Hotel is a Grade II listed building which began its life in the 18th century. All rooms include TV, Tea and Coffee making facilities, WiFi Access, and an Iron and Ironing board.

The Mulberry Inn, Llwynmawr - Offa's Dyke

Situated in the quiet setting of Llwynmawr village, The Mulberry Inn is a delightfully warm and friendly place to stay. Each room includes fast WiFi, Flat-screen TV, Tea and Coffee making facilities, Hair dryer, and a Robe.

The Springfield Hotel And Health Club, Pentre Haykyn - Offa's Dyke

With views over the Dee Estuary, The Springfield Hotel provides complimentary use of their Swimming Pool, Health Club and Sauna. Rooms offer en suite bathrooms, free Wi-Fi, TVs, and tea and coffee making facilities

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.

Food & Transport

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".

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.

Joining Instructions

Holiday Start: As this holiday starts and finishes at two different points, travelling by train may be the most convenient method of travel. The nearest rail station to Tintern is Chepstow

The group transfer from Chepstow to your first hotel is included in the price of your holiday. You will be met at Chepstow station (outside the main entrance) at 17:00 for the 15-minute transfer to The Royal George Hotel, Tintern

If you run into travel problems and may be late, please let us know so we can ask the transfer to wait where possible.

If you will not be using our transfer please let us know by contacting us on 0208 732 1250 or e-mail trails@hfholidays.co.uk, so that the group is aware not to wait for you. If you're not at the station, we'll assume you're travelling independently to our first nights accommodation and we'll see you there for a welcome meeting before dinner.

For train times and route planning visit www.nationalrail.co.uk or call 03457 484950.

Holiday Finish: Your holiday finishes at Springfield Hotel, Pentre Halkyn. A group transfer to Chester Railway Station is included in the price of your holiday. The approx 30 minute transfer will leave after breakfast at 09.30.

What To Bring

Essential Equipment

To enjoy walking/hiking comfortably and safely, footwear, clothing and equipment needs 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 hot drink
- Water bottle (at least 1 litres)
- 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 and a midge hood is highly recommended for Scotland
- Sun hat
- Sunglasses
- Sun cream
- Camera

Useful Information

Suggested Reading and Maps

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

www.nationaltrail.co.uk/offas-dyke-path

Harveys Maps: Offa's Dyke Path South and Offa's Dyke Path North

OS National Trail Guide: Offa's Dyke Path by Ernie and Kathy Kay and Mark Richards

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.

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: 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 £20 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: 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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