St Cuthbert's Way Guided Trail



Trip style:	Destination:	Walking Grade	Carbon Footprint:
Guided trails	Northumberland	7	122kg CO2

HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

One of Scotland's Great Trails and a profound pilgrimage, St Cuthbert's Way traces the 7th-century saint's journey from historic Melrose Abbey to the holy island of Lindisfarne. This remarkable long-distance trail takes in river valleys, high moorland, and an ancient Roman road as it crosses the border into Northumberland, finishing in spectacular style at Lindisfarne Priory – the site of his original shrine.

WHAT YOU'LL LOVE

- Walking one of the most beautiful, varied, and enjoyable long-distance walking routes in Britain
- Views of the Eildon and Cheviot hills
- Discovering the history of one of Britain's most revered saints
- Wandering along the banks of the River Tweed
- Visiting St Cuthbert's Cave, where monks once sheltered with his coffin
- A unique and unforgettable finish on the tidal island of Lindisfarne

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Comfortable en-suite rooms

- Cooked or continental breakfast every morning
- Daily packed lunches
- Three-course evening meals, plus tea & coffee
- Guided walks led by an experienced HF Holidays Leader
- All transport to and from walks and luggage transfers where necessary
- Group transfer from Berwick upon Tweed railway station on arrival day

ITINERARY - ITINERARY

Day 1 Arrival Day

A group transfer is available from Berwick upon Tweed railway station at 17:00. Alternatively, please see the travel details section of your trip notes for details of how to reach the hotel independently. Hotel check-in is available from 15:00. Your leader will meet the group at reception at 18:30 for a brief introduction to the holiday before dinner.

Day 2 Melrose Abbey to Maxton

Distance: 9.5 miles (15km)

Ascent: 1,145 feet (350m)

Our journey begins at Melrose Abbey, founded in 1136 and renowned for its stunning medieval architecture. We head up onto the Eildon Hills, to enjoy views over Melrose, the Lammermuir, and the Cheviot Hills. After reaching Bowden, we'll walk through the countryside of Newton St. Boswells before following the River Tweed past St. Boswells. The trail continues to Maxton.

Day 3 Maxton to Morebattle

Distance: 16.5 miles (27km)

Ascent: 1,565 feet (475m)

Have a big breakfast today! This is a tough, but beautiful day on the trail. From Maxton we join Dere Street, an historic Roman road, leading us to the Harestanes Visitor Centre. Be sure to look back for excellent panoramas of the Eildon Hills. From Harestanes, we follow the River Tweed past its junction with Jed Water to reach Jedfoot Bridge. Our route undulates, passing Cessford Moor, the village of Cessford, and the ruins of Cessford Castle, to reach Morebattle, where the Cheviot Hills come into view.

Day 4 Morebattle to Hethpool

Distance: 12 miles (19km)

Ascent: 2105 feet (640m)

After leaving our bags for their transfer to Nether Grange House, we set off across the Cheviot Hills.

Leaving Morebattle, we head uphill, taking in Grubbit Law and Wideopen Hill, continuing along the ridge accompanied by great views before descending into Kirk Yetholm.

From Kirk Yetholm, we briefly follow the Pennine Way, ascending to the Scotland–England border. Crossing into Northumberland, we traverse open moorland to Elsdonburn Farm, then continue to Hethpool in the picturesque College Valley.

Day 5 Hethpool to Wooler

Distance: 8 miles (13km)

Ascent: 1,095 feet (335 m)

Fabulous walking in the College Valley. After some steep ascents passing the hill forts of Yeavering Bell, the route continues across moorland, with Humbleton Hill – the site of a 1402 battle between the Scots and English – on our left, before descending into the market town of Wooler.

Day 6 Wooler to Fenwick

Distance: 12 miles (19km)

Ascent: 1310 feet (400m)

Leaving Wooler, we cross Wooler Water and gently ascend to Weetwood Moor, meandering through charming countryside and passing the hamlets of East and West Horton. A short road section leads us to Cockenheugh Woods, where we visit St Cuthbert's Cave. Soon after, we are rewarded with a spectacular first glimpse of our final destination – Holy Island, as well as the North Sea and Bamburgh Castle. We then join St Oswald's Way and the Northumberland Coast Path and continue on to reach Fenwick.

Day 7 Fenwick to Lindisfarne (Holy Island)

Distance: 6 miles (9.5km)

Ascent: 200 feet (60m)

A shorter and more leisurely walk today allows us time to soak up the beauty of Holy Island. Departing Fenwick, we head towards the Lindisfarne Causeway, which is only accessible at low tide. Once on the island, we walk through the village to our final destination at Lindisfarne Priory, where we'll celebrate having completed St Cuthbert's Way!

***Please note** – Depending on the tide times, we may cross to Lindisfarne using either the causeway itself, or the traditional pilgrims route – across the sands. If the route across the sands is possible you'll need to pack a plastic bag for shoes/boots, a spare pair of shoes, and a small towel and a bottle of water to wash your feet after the crossing*

Day 8 Departure Day

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before making your way home.

DAILY WALK OPTIONS



Moderate walking grade 7

The most active moderate grade. Longer distances and short but steep ascents and descents possible throughout the day. Hill walking experience desirable. Typically, 11-12 miles (18-19km) with around 1,800ft (560m) of ascent.

ACCOMMODATION

Ednam House, Kelso – 3 nights

Sitting on the banks of the River Tweed and surrounded by three acres of gardens, Ednam House offers us a comfortable base from which to begin our St Cuthbert's Way holiday. Its history dates back to 1761 and this AA 3-star country house hotel is brimming with character. The hotel offers a warm welcome, and comfortable ensuite rooms complete with TVs, direct-dial telephones, Wi-Fi, and complimentary tea and coffee making facilities.

TRAVEL DETAILS

Travel details

Address:
Ednam House
Bridge Street
Kelso
Roxburghshire
TD5 7HT

Travelling by public transport is recommended

By bus/train:

Travel to Berwick upon Tweed by train and join our group transfer at 1700hrs from Berwick upon Tweed railway station, on the arrival day. The transfer takes approx. 40-45mins and will take you and your luggage to our accommodation.

If you arrive in Berwick upon Tweed earlier and/or would prefer to travel independently to the hotel, the bus 67 picks up at Berwick upon Tweed railway station and takes approx. 55mins to arrive in Kelso. Alight at the Horsemarket bus stop, Kelso and you're a minutes walk from the hotel. Timetable for bus 67 can be found: www.bordersbuses.co.uk/services/BORD/67

If train travel isn't possible, or you prefer to travel by car, there are a few options re parking:

- Contact Ednam House Hotel, your first accommodation on this holiday - if they don't have any events on for the days after your stay, you may be OK to park your car there for the duration of the holiday
- Alternatively, sites like JustPark and others, offer multiday parking in either Berwick or Alnmouth. If you park in Alnmouth, you can then take a short train journey to Berwick at the start of your holiday, and your car will be ready for you in Alnmouth at the end of your holiday. Alternatively, park at Berwick and take the train back from Alnmouth to Berwick, for your car, at the end of the holiday.
- Please research options for parking earlier, as spaces are limited

ACCOMMODATION

Nether Grange, Alnmouth – 4 nights

Our second accommodation of the holiday is HF Holidays own Country House - Nether Grange, Alnmouth. The Country House has 36 well-appointed guest rooms, a large comfortable lounge, a dining room for a wide range of dishes made with fresh and seasonal ingredients, a licensed bar, and a conservatory. You'll be just a stone's throw from Alnmouth Beach.

TRAVEL DETAILS

Address

Nether Grange
Alnmouth
Alnwick
Northumberland NE66 2RZ

Tel: +44 (0)1665 830431

By train

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

The station is 1.3miles from Nether Grange. Approximately 30minutes walk, with footpath all the way.

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

Wizard Taxis*
Tel: +44 (0)1665 663709

AA Taxis*
Tel: +44 (0)1665 606060

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.

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

Packing list

The UK has a famously unpredictable climate so it's best to be prepared for weather that's sunny one minute and raining the next. To make it easier, here's a list of items you should consider packing.

Essentials

- Suitable footwear such as waterproof walking boots that provide ankle support and good grip
- Waterproof and windproof jacket
- Comfortable clothing (jeans & waterproof capes are not suitable)
- Mid-layer(s) to keep you warm. Fleeces make a good choice
- Waterproof overtrousers
- Gloves and a warm hat
- Rucksack with waterproof liner
- Flask for hot drinks
- Water bottle (at least 1 litre capacity)
- Sunscreen
- UV sunglasses

For holidays operating October through to the end of March, please also bring the following on your walks:

- spare warm clothing
- spare high energy food
- head torch and spare batteries
- please note for the October to March season your waterproof jacket needs to offer a high level of waterproofing and wind resistance, and a hood. Look for a waterproof jacket with sealed/taped seams and a minimum HH (hyrodstatic head - this is the rating given on waterproof jackets) of 10,000mm+

Recommended

- Several base layers (long-sleeve or short-sleeve)
- Cushioned walking socks to avoid blisters
- First aid kit, including plasters and midge repellent/net and tick remover tool
- Sit mat
- Waterproof pouch for valuables
- Rubbish bag (remember to always leave no trace)
- Wallet/purse
- Camera
- Walking poles
- Midge net

USEFUL INFORMATION

Useful information

Our experienced and knowledgeable volunteer leaders undergo a thorough assessment to lead you on your holiday 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 your group, 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 and 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.

If you have any cause for complaints regarding accommodation, you should notify your leader who can then attempt to rectify the problem.

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.

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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