



# Offa's Dyke

**The Offa's Dyke Trail** is 177 miles long and follows the spectacular Dyke that was constructed in the 8th century by King Offa to divide the kingdoms of Mercia and Wales.

## Travel

**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 around 17:00 for the 15 minute transfer to The Royal George Hotel, Tintern**

Once you have made your travel arrangements, please contact us on 020 8732 1266 or e mail [trails@hfholidays.co.uk](mailto:trails@hfholidays.co.uk) with your travel plans and expected time of arrival. If you will not be using our transfer from Chepstow please let us know, so that the group is aware not to wait for you.

For train times and general rail enquiries visit [www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk) or call 03457 484950. For National Rail enquires from overseas call +44 (0)20 7278 5240

## 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 around 09.30.

## Baggage 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".

## Accommodation

You will staying at different hotels and guesthouses, which may vary in size and standard, depending upon what is available. In the hopefully rare event of any cause for complaints regarding accommodation you should notify your leader who can then attempt to rectify the problem

### The Royal George Hotel (2 nights)

Tintern, Chepstow, Monmouthshire, NP16 6SF  
Tel: 0844 387 6098

Website: [www.bestwestern.co.uk/hotels/best-western-royal-george-hotel-83498](http://www.bestwestern.co.uk/hotels/best-western-royal-george-hotel-83498)

**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 (2 nights)

15 Cross Street, Abergavenny, NP7 5EN  
Tel: 01873 857121

Website: [www.angelabergavenny.com](http://www.angelabergavenny.com)

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 (3 nights)

Mill Street, Kington, Herefordshire, HR5 3BQ  
Tel: 01544 230323

Website: [www.burtonhotel.co.uk](http://www.burtonhotel.co.uk)

A warm welcome awaits you at The Burton Hotel, which has been family owned and run



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for over 30 years. Situated in the heart of Kington, the hotel has a swimming pool, gym, and spa, and makes a marvellous place to relax after a day of walking. All rooms come with tea and coffee making facilities, TV, Blackout Curtains and Wi-Fi.

### **The Royal Oak Hotel (3 nights)**

The Cross, Welshpool, Powys, SY21 7DG

Tel: 01938 552217

Website: [www.royalokwelshpool.co.uk](http://www.royalokwelshpool.co.uk)

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 (2 nights)**

Llwynmawr, Ceiriog Valley, Glyn Ceiriog, LL20 7BB

Tel: 01691 718281

Website: [www.mulberryinn.co.uk](http://www.mulberryinn.co.uk)

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 (2 nights)**

A55 Expressway, Pentre Halkyn, Holywell, Flintshire, CH8 8BA

Tel: 01352 780503

Website: [www.thespringfieldhotel.com](http://www.thespringfieldhotel.com)

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.

### **Trail grading**



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.

### **Fitness**

**The Offas' Dyke Trail** is a strenuous trail through some 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.

All walking days listed below involve minibus or taxi transport between the walking route and your accommodation and this is included in your holiday price.

### **Planned 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



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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 1,460 feet (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 2,300 feet (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 Beacon's 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 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 feet (700m) of ascent and 2,100 feet (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 before crossing River Severn and entering 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 the famous Pontcysyllte Aqueduct. 13 miles (20km) with 2,160 feet (660m) of ascent and 2,400 feet (730m) of descent.



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## Day 12: Llangollen to Clwyd Gate

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 journeys 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.



*The itinerary may be subject to change at the discretion of the leader with regard to the weather and other external factors*

### Trail Leader

Our experienced and knowledgeable volunteer leaders undergo a thorough assessment to lead you on your Guided Walking /Hiking Trail and will also be 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.*

### What to wear

To enjoy walking/hiking comfortably and safely, footwear, clothing and equipment needs to be suitable for the conditions. Safety is our priority and Britain is famous for its changeable weather, 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. Walking/hiking boots providing ankle support



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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 are essential and a warm hat and gloves. Gaiters are an optional but useful extra. Denim jeans and capes are not suitable on any walks.

## What to bring

Rucksack with a waterproof liner, thermos flask for hot drink, water bottle (at least 1 litre) and spare high-energy food such as a chocolate bar. Small torch (particularly in spring, autumn and winter) and first aid kit – your leader's first aid kit doesn't contain any medication or blister kits (such as Compeed). Walking poles are useful, particularly for descents. Insect repellent, sun hat, sunglasses and protection cream and camera are all optional extras you may choose to bring.

## 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.

## On the walk

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.

## 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.

## Maps and Guides

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

<https://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

## Travel Insurance

Travel and any other personal insurance relevant to your holiday is recommended to all our guests.

***While every effort has been made to ensure accuracy, the information in this guide may change after it has been printed. For the most up-to-date information please see our website or use the contacts below.***

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