

4 Night Brecon Beacons Walking with Sightseeing Holiday

Trip style: Walking with sightseeing

Destination: 📍 Brecon Beacons

Trip code: BRE04-WOD01

Grades: 1, 2

Carbon Footprint: 🌳 102kg CO2



HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

These holidays offer a perfect mix of short, guided walks (2.5-5.25 miles), combined with time spent sightseeing. Visit a selection of standout highlights in the Brecon Beacons (Bannau Brycheiniog) with hassle-free coach travel and the help of an HF Holidays Leader.

WHAT YOU'LL LOVE

- Discovering the dramatic beauty of the Welsh countryside
- Seeing Talgarth Mill, a fully restored 18th century watermill
- Riding the Brecon Mountain Railway steam train
- Perusing the bookshops of Hay-on-Wye
- Walking a section of the famous Offa's Dyke footpath
- Staying in the comfort of our country house in Brecon
- A more personalised experience thanks to small group sizes (maximum 15 people)

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Entrance to Brecon Mountain Railway and a tour of Talgarth Mill
- 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 walks and sightseeing visits with an experienced HF Holidays Leader
- All transport to and from walks and 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. See more Information tab for details.

TRIP SUITABILITY

This trip is graded Activity Level 2. Walking is on lanes, paths, tracks and across open fields, rough pasture and moorland; with some short muddy sections. Walks are up to 5¼ miles (8½km) with 650 feet (200m) of ascent.

ITINERARY

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.

Day 2: Craig-y-Nos & Dan yr Ogof

Distance: 2.5 miles (4.5km) Ascent: 160 feet (50m) In summary: For a spectacular start to the day, we visit Dan yr Ogof, The National Showcaves Centre for Wales, an amazing and memorable experience. We pass Craig-y-Nos, an impressive 19th century castle once owned by the World-famous Opera singer, Dame Adelina Patti. A wonderful walk around the historic 40-acre Craig-y-Nos Country Park follows, with areas of shady woodland, meadow, and ponds. We then follow paths to Penycae.

Day 3: Mountain Railway & Brecon Beacons

Distance: 5¼ miles (8½km) Ascent: 650 feet (200m) In summary: Taking the restored Brecon Mountain Railway steam train along the Pentwyn reservoir and up into the heart of the Brecon Beacons (Bannau Brycheiniog), we alight at Torpantau station, the end of the line. From here we walk beside the reservoir with sweeping views across the Beacons and explore Cwm Callan, a typical Welsh valley, before heading down beside Pontsticill reservoir to Pontsticill station. We reboard the train and enjoy a short return ride to Pant station.

Day 4: Black Mountains and Hay-on-Wye

Distance: 4½ miles (7km) Ascent: 70 feet (20m) Descent: 1,100 feet (350m) In summary: Amidst the dramatic backdrop of the Black Mountains and with views of the Wye Valley, our walk begins below Hay Bluff. We follow the famous Offa's Dyke footpath, descending through fields and pastures to reach the well-known market town of Hay-on-Wye. There is plenty of time to explore the narrow streets, countless bookshops, and superb independent cafes of this popular and pretty town.

Day 5: Departure Day

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before making your way home.

Nythfa House

Not many places in the UK outshine Brecon Beacons (Bannau Brycheiniog) National Park when it comes to wide open spaces and walks with incredible views. So it's easy to see the appeal of Nythfa House. With its name meaning 'nesting place' in Welsh, once you settle in you'll never want to leave. Built in 1867 as a private residence, this charming property is perfect for those seeking a rural retreat, yet one which is just a 10-minute walk from the Welsh market town of Brecon. It sits on a hill above The Struet, one of Brecon's oldest and most historic streets, famed for its Charles I connections who visited the town during the English Civil War. Nythfa House also puts you within easy reach of some of the area's show-stealing walking spots, including the Black Mountains, the Mellte Valley, and Pen y Fan - the highest point in the national park at 886 metres. Equally visit-worthy is the Big Pit National Coal Museum in Blaenavon, the National Showcaves Centre for Wales in Abercrave, and the bibliophile's paradise that is Hay-on-Wye. Should time allow, Hereford and Cardiff are both just an hour's drive away.

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.

Walking safety - SHARED WITH ALL

Walks may be changed for safety reasons and are subject to a maximum and minimum number of guests. Leaders always consider the safety of the group as a whole, and may need to alter or curtail the walk if the conditions dictate. Your leader may refuse to accept a guest where clothing, equipment or behaviour is unsuitable. In the event of a problem all leaders carry a mobile phone, first aid kit, group shelter, spare maps and a compass. Please note: If you choose to leave the group your leader is no longer responsible for you. If you have a particular health condition or disability please put this on your guest registration form. This information will be confidential to your leaders and the house manager, but leaders do need to take account of any issues when planning walks. Please carry a copy of

these trip notes with you, or note down the contact phone number for your accommodation (details in the travel section) should you need them in case of emergency.

Packing list - UK Guided Walking

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. Fleeeces 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 (hydrostatic 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 insect repellent Sit mat Waterproof pouch for valuables Rubbish bag (remember to always leave no trace) Wallet/purse Camera Walking poles
