

4 Night Bridge & Walking Holiday in the South Downs

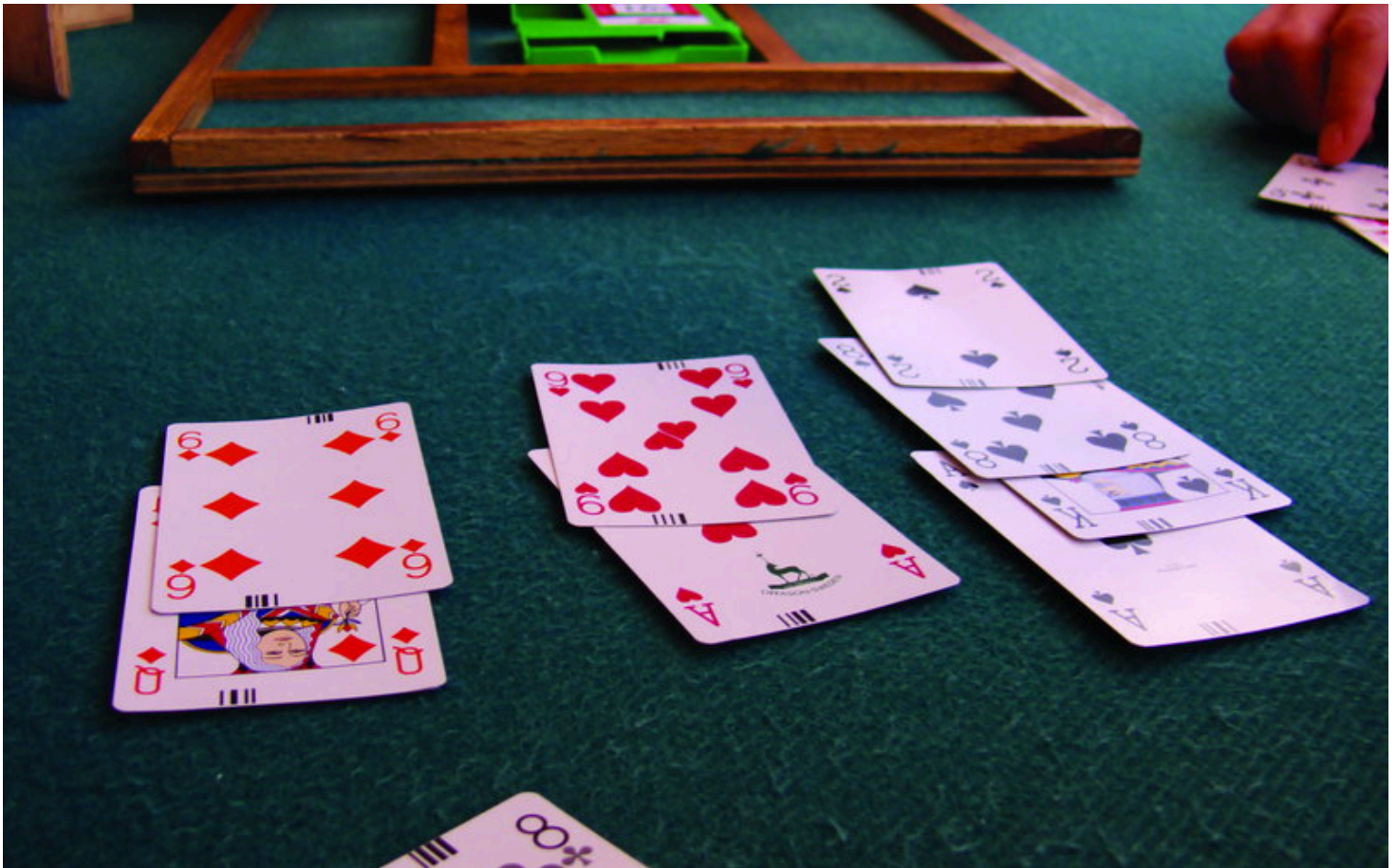
Trip style:

Destination: 📍 South Downs

Trip code: ABW04-BRW05

Grades: 1, 2

Carbon Footprint: 🌳 85kg CO2



HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

Stay in the comfort of our characterful country houses and exercise both mind and body with this classic combination. You'll have a choice of two guided walks a day (one short and one longer) followed by a bridge competition each evening.

WHAT YOU'LL LOVE

- Guided walking with experienced HF Holidays Leaders
- Playing bridge in a relaxed and friendly environment
- Meeting like-minded people
- Being surrounded by the stunning landscape of South Downs
- Evening bridge competitions
- Staying in the comfort of our country house

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- All bridge-related materials
- 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
- Easy-to-follow routes, maps, and information available in our Discovery Point if you want to explore independently

TRIP SUITABILITY

This holiday is suitable for regular players of Duplicate Bridge at club level.

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 2-4: Bridge and Walking

Enjoy a daily choice of two walks each day, with a free day on all 7-night holidays. You can choose either an easier route of around 4-6 miles or a harder route of around 6-8 miles to explore the local area. Your optional walks will take you out to explore the countryside surrounding your HF country house, and sometimes further afield. The walking options are outlined below. We'll return to the house in time to relax before your evening Bridge competition starts at 5pm. WALKS INFO: Day 2 - Option 1: Thakeham and Warminghurst Distance: 5 miles (8km) Total ascent: 350 feet (120m) In summary: From the house we ascend to the ridge and then make our way to Thakeham. We continue through open fields join a woodland track which takes us to Warminghurst. We return to the house via the outskirts of Thakeham. Highlight: The peace and quiet of the woodland tracks. Day 2 - Option 2: Thakeham, Warminghurst & Ashington Distance: 6½ miles (10.5km) Total Ascent: 400 feet (120m) In Summary: We walk to the nearby village of Thakeham and then, via Warminghurst church, across fields to Ashington. We return via woodland to the House. Highlight: The gentle stroll through the woodland at the end of the walk. Day 3 - Option 1: Perrett's Copse and Wantley Distance: 4 miles (6.5km) Ascent: 200 feet (60m) In summary: We walk along the ridge to the west of the House and then turn south for a short distance before turning eastwards to Wantley, just north of Storrington. From here we walk northwards to complete our circuit, re-joining the outward route for our return to the House. Highlight: Views from the ridge are stunning. Day 3 - Option 2: Cootham and Storrington Distance: 6½ miles (11km) Ascent: 400 feet (120m) In summary: We walk along the ridge to the west of the house and then south to Storrington. There will be time to explore Storrington and possibly visit a tearoom before we return through fields to the house. Highlight: Explore picturesque Storrington, gateway to the South Downs. Day 4 - Option 1: West Chiltington and Thakeham Distance: 6 miles (9.5km) Ascent: 450 feet (140m) In summary: Starting out west along the ridge, we soon turn north to West Chiltington. We return, via Thakeham – and possibly via the White Lion public house, to the Abingworth Hall. Highlight: West Chiltington church was built between 1100 & 1150 and has a fine collection of frescoes. Day 4 - Option 2: Hurston Place, West Chiltington and Thakeham Distance: 8 miles (13km) Ascent: 500 feet (140m) In summary: We walk along the ridge to the west of the house to Hurston Place and then across West Sussex golf course to West Chiltington Common. We continue, eastwards, via the picturesque Sussex villages of West Chiltington and Thakeham to return to the house. Highlight: Beautiful views of the South Downs abound on this delightful walk.

Day 5: Departure Day

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before making your way home.

Abingworth Hall

Country living just got cosier at this former farmhouse. Abingworth Hall is just a skip away from the village of Thakeham at the foot of the South Downs – a landscape of ancient woodland, hidden valleys, chalky cliffs, and high-backed hills so deserving of its national park status finally bestowed in 2010. While the views from the doorstep are as wow-worthy as you'd expect, the walking opportunities around the sightseeing greats such as Devil's Dyke, Seven Sisters Country Park, Kingley Vale, Parham House, and the Clayton Windmills (known locally as Jack and Jill) are equally standout. You'll also be within easy driving distance of several historic towns and cities, most fabulously Arundel, Chichester, and Brighton.

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 - Bridge & Walking

Bridge All your Bridge stationery and equipment will be supplied. You may, however, like to bring a notebook and pen to make your own notes. EBU Members - don't forget to bring your EBU membership number to earn Master Points on this holiday. **Walking** To enjoy your walking comfortably and safely, it is essential that your footwear, clothing and equipment are suitable for the conditions likely to be encountered. Britain is famous for its changeable weather, so our advice is to come prepared for all eventualities. Bring a rucksack, a thermos flask for a hot drink, a water bottle (at least 1 litre) and spare high-energy food such as a chocolate bar, a small torch (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). Many guests find walking poles useful, particularly for descents. Insect repellent, sun hat, sunglasses and protection cream and a camera are all optional extras you may choose to bring.
