

4 Night Improve Your Bridge Holiday in the South Downs

Trip style:

Destination: 📍 South Downs

Trip code: ABW04-BRI05

Carbon Footprint: 🌳 70kg CO2



HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

Stay in the comfort of our characterful country houses and learn all the tips and tricks you need to improve your bridge game. Led by experienced EBU-qualified directors, you'll enjoy morning bridge sessions and put your new skills to the test with a bit of friendly competition. And when you're not busy playing, there's ample opportunity to head out on self-guided walks in the local area.

WHAT YOU'LL LOVE

- Expert tuition from an EBU-qualified Bridge Director
- Learning to improve your bridge game in a relaxed and friendly environment
- Being surrounded by the stunning landscape of the South Downs
- Exploring the local area
- Optional 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 Bridge holiday has been created for anyone who is already familiar with the subjects covered in our previous Bridge holidays.

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 in 2026. Enjoy a complimentary cream tea at 16:30 and meet other guests. There will be an optional evening bridge competition on the first night, starting from 5pm and breaking for dinner.

Day 2-4: Improve your Bridge

Mornings We start each morning with a seminar from your tutor, who will take you through the basics of Bridge. During your holiday you'll get to understand a variety of new terms and concepts to help you learn the game. Each Improve your Bridge holiday will cover different topics. In 2026, the topics are as follows: 09 February at Abingworth Hall (South Downs) Overcalling in a suit Overcalling 1NT Weak Jump Overcalls 06 April at Larpool Hall (North York Moors) Defence to 1NT – Landy Bidding 4-4-4-1 hands 1NT double escape 23 March at Newfield Hall (Southern Yorkshire Dales) The Power Double Doubling for penalties 26 October at Harrington House (The Cotswolds) Defence – leads, signals, and discards Defence – 2nd and 3rd hand play Defence – card placement 30 November at Peveril of the Peak (Peak District) Declarer play techniques in NT Declarer play techniques in a trump suit Listen to the Auction **Afternoon** Our Discovery Points help you make the most out of your afternoon free time. There's plenty of maps and a selection of the best local walking routes, details about other places to visit as well as weather forecasts and public transport options. **Evenings** Each evening at 5pm your Bridge holiday continues with optional evening games, with a break for a fabulous 3-course dinner and coffee.

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.