

4 Night Introduction to Watercolours in Northumberland

Trip style:

Destination: 📍 Northumberland

Trip code: ALN04-PBA05



HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

With the countryside or coastline as an inspiring backdrop, this holiday caters for all ability levels; from absolute beginners to more experienced artists hoping to shake up their style. Led by expert tutors in groups of no more than 15, you'll learn how to get comfortable using watercolour paints - and try out new ideas. You'll also have ample time to practise in peaceful surroundings.

WHAT YOU'LL LOVE

- Learning how to work with watercolour paints
- Taking advice and guidance from an expert tutor
- Expressing yourself through art
- Gaining confidence by using various techniques
- A more personalised experience thanks to small group sizes (maximum 15 people)

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Expert tuition
- Loan of wooden A3 art boards
- 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

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: Brush Control & Colour Mixing

We'll start with the basics on our first day. Learn about the materials involved in watercolour painting and how to use them. We will talk through the various elements of the watercolour artist's kit and build a solid foundation on which to develop our skills.

Day 3: Wet-on-Wet Blending Techniques

Following on from yesterday's introduction, we'll experiment with traditional watercolour techniques, with a particular focus on wet-on-wet painting. Creating paintings in this way means we can take full advantage of the medium to produce soft yet complex effects in our work.

Day 4: Pen & Wash

Today, we'll build upon our work so far and push into the world of pen and wash. This method combines basic watercolour techniques with ink. By mixing the two mediums, we'll create more detailed and expressive artworks which contrast the sharper ink with softer watercolours.

Day 5: Departure Day

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before making your way home.

Nether Grange

You can tell that you're in for something special at this former 18th century granary in the heart of Alnmouth – the postcard-pretty coastal village treasured for its colourful cottages, superb walking routes, and peaceful beach where the River Aln meets the North Sea (in its heyday, it was a working river-port, exporting grain, wool, coal, and even the odd pipe of Madeira wine). Not only will you be a 40-minute drive from Northumberland National Park, but also within easy travelling distance of several visit-worthy castles, including Alnwick, Lindisfarne, Dunstanburgh, and Warkworth. If the weather's nice, a boat trip to the Farne Islands that lie just offshore midway between the villages of Seahouses and Bamburgh rewards with sightings of England's largest grey seal colonies.

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.