

4 Night Shropshire Hills Festive Discovery Tour

Trip style: Festive breaks

Destination: 📍 Shropshire Hills

Trip code: CHS04-HCX03



HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

Explore the borderlands between England and Wales with a 4-night Shropshire Hills Discovery Tour. Enjoy a superb tour of the area, visiting many of its picturesque towns including Clun and Bishop's Castle, as well as the medieval town of Ludlow. Snap shots of spectacular Stokesey Castle, and visit charming Wightwick Manor; a delightful Victorian Manor with an impressive collection of Pre-Raphaelite art.

WHAT YOU'LL LOVE

- Wandering around charming Wightwick Manor, decked in its festive finery
- Visiting the mighty Powis Castle and 13th century Stokesay
- Spending time in medieval Ludlow
- Welcoming in the New Year with a special evening meal, live entertainment, and toasting to future adventures with new friends

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Comfortable en-suite rooms in our partner accommodation
- Cooked or continental breakfast every morning
- Daily packed lunches
- Three-course evening meals, plus tea & coffee
- Guided walks with experienced HF Holidays Leaders
- All transport to and from walks where necessary

TRIP SUITABILITY

Trip suitability

Our Discovery holidays give you the opportunity to immerse yourself in the culture of the local area through **active sightseeing**.

On each Discovery day, you will be walking throughout the course of the day as you explore the venues and locations we visit. You'll also be hopping on and off the coach throughout - you should expect to spend the majority of the day on your feet. Most of this walking will be at attractions but some may be across country tracks or footpaths so be sure to **bring sturdy shoes**. There will also be stairs to climb in the majority of the venues you visit, though other more accessible options may be available. At some venues, there may also be uneven surfaces, such as cobbles or rocky paths.

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: Shropshire Hills

Today, we'll learn about the Shropshire Hills (formerly AONB) and the way in which its unique geology has created a wide variety of landscapes. We'll visit the Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre, explore the picturesque towns of Clun and Bishop's Castle, and finish our day soaking up the views of the surrounding countryside at the mystical Stiperstones. Back at the house, there'll be some time to relax before an evening of new year celebrations begin. There'll be an extra-special meal, live entertainment, and a midnight toast!

Day 3: Herefordshire

We'll begin the new year with a day full of architecture and medieval history. Ludlow has an imposing 11th-century castle and many listed buildings, including those in Broad Street, considered one of the finest streets in Britain. There will be plenty of time to explore historic Ludlow before we visit the spectacular medieval manor house of Stokesay Castle this afternoon. The Great Hall has remained unchanged for 700 years and offers excellent views from its gable windows, and its fortified North Tower looks like something out of a fairy tale.

Day 4: Wightwick

Visit the lovely Wightwick Manor and Gardens; a Victoria manor housing an impressive Pre-Raphaelite art collection, lovingly compiled by Sir Geoffrey and Rosalie, Lady Mander. The artwork is set out very much to compliment a family home, as was Sir Geoffrey's wishes. You will also find the Manor filled with much-loved William Morris interiors. Spend time in the De Morgan Gallery, with its 'Beneath the Lustre' exhibition, looking at how Pre-Raphaelite painters Evelyn and William De Morgan were inspired to create such stunning art. Wightwick's gardens also offer plenty of seasonal interest to enjoy. At this time of year, Wightwick Manor will still be dressed in all its festive finery, which will make quite a welcoming sight!

Day 5: Departure Day

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before making your way home.

Longmynd Hotel

For rural calm in the Shropshire Hills National Landscape, the location of this characterful country house is hard to top. Set in a wooded hillside just a short stroll from the market town of Church Stretton (nicknamed Little Switzerland for its picturesque landscape), you'll be within walking or driving distance of the Stiperstones, Caer Caradoc, Ironbridge Valley of Invention, and the historic towns of Ludlow and Shrewsbury. And then, of course, there's the Long Mynd itself – an area of registered common land that has been cared for by a group of farmers (the self-named commoners) who have grazed sheep and ponies here for generations.

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.