

5 Night Shropshire Hills Self-Guided Walking Holiday

Trip style: Self-guided walking

Destination: 📍 Shropshire Hills

Trip code: CHS05-POA06

Grades: ul 1, 2, 3 & 4



HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

So deserving of its National Landscape, the Shropshire Hills is a walker's paradise. A rich landscape of open countryside, ancient woodlands, peaceful valleys, and meadows, there's plenty to impress walkers. This self-guided holiday rewards with incredible trails, big-name attractions, picturesque villages, historic towns, comfortable accommodation, and the flexibility and freedom to do as much or as little as you please.

WHAT YOU'LL LOVE

- Discovering the immense beauty of the Shropshire Hills on foot
- Soaking up views of grass-topped hills and untouched woodland
- Visiting picturesque market towns and villages
- Learning more about this National Landscape
- Making use of our detailed route notes and recommendations
- Staying at Longmynd House in Church Stretton

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- En-suite accommodation in our 4-star 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

Explore at your own pace and choose the best walk for your pace and ability.

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 2-5: Leg Stretcher Walks

Some longer walks which start to venture onto the Shropshire Hills. Experience the beauty of this rural county as you walk through stunning scenery. Around Ragleth - 5 miles Stiperstones Circuit - 5½ miles Slopes of Caer Caradoc - 6 miles Long Mynd & Carding Mill Valley - 6½ miles

Day 2-5: Laid Back Walks

Our easiest routes, allowing plenty of time to savour the magnificent Shropshire landscapes. All our walk notes suggest the best places to stop, great pubs, and tea rooms. Pole Bank - 1½ miles Exploring the Carding Mill Valley - 4½ miles The Stiperstones - 3 miles The Gaerstones - 4 miles Welshpool & Powis Castle - 4 miles

Day 2-5: Full on Walks

For those who enjoy striding out. These walks include some of the hills within easy reach of Church Stretton. Ragleth & Hope Bowdler Hill - 9 miles Long Mynd & Minton Hill - 9 miles Caer Caradoc - 9 miles Bishop's Moat - 9 miles Caer Caradoc & the Lawley - 11 miles Grand Long Mynd Circuit - 17 miles

Day 6: 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.

Walking safety - SHARED WITH ALL (Self-guided)

Please complete and hand in your registration card to the House Manager on the first evening of your holiday. Please complete our Independent Walker Card each day before heading out on your self-guided walks. Please note the phone number of the accommodation where you are staying (see Travel details section of your trip notes). Check the weather forecast – this is updated regularly and displayed on the Discovery Point. Be prepared for the weather to change during the day and wear appropriate footwear such as walking boots. We would recommend that you wear or carry a waterproof jacket and trousers, a spare warm jumper or fleece, hat and gloves. In addition, we recommend a water bottle, spare food, map, compass, torch, whistle, small first aid kit and survival bag. Take a copy of a map and a route card. Be aware of ticks – more information can be found at the Discovery Point.

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 (hyrodstatic 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
