

7 Night Brecon Beacons Self-Guided Walking Holiday

Trip style: Self-guided walking

Destination:  Brecon Beacons

Trip code: BRE07-POA06

Grades: ul 1, 2, 3 & 4

Carbon Footprint:  154kg CO2



HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

Covering 520 square miles, Brecon Beacons (Bannau Brycheiniog) National Park is cherished for its grass-covered uplands, old red sandstone rocks, heather-clad plateaus, deep caves, brooding peaks, old industrial mines, waterfalls, and wildlife. Our self-guided walking holiday rewards with incredible trails, big-name attractions, and the flexibility and freedom to do as much or as little as you please.

WHAT YOU'LL LOVE

- Discovering the diverse landscape of the Brecon Beacons (Bannau Brycheiniog) on foot
- Soaking up views of mountains, moorlands, and glistening waterfalls
- Heading deep underground at the Big Pit Coal Mining Museum
- Walking up the myth-steeped slopes of the Black Mountains
- Making use of our detailed route notes and recommendations
- Relaxing at Nythfa House on the edge of the market town of Brecon

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- 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

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 2-7: Leg Stretcher Walks

These are a selection of longer walks that allow you to discover local highlights and viewpoints. Walks are available that start and end on the doorstep of the property, along with options for guests travelling by car. The walks you'll find in our Discovery Point at Nythfa House range from 3.5 to 4.5 miles and visit popular areas such as Pen-y-Crug, Twyn y Gaer, and the countryside around Brecon.

Day 2-7: Laid Back Walks

Our easiest selection means walking at a relaxed pace, often stopping and spending time at places of interest along the way. Some are circular walks that start and end on the doorstep of our country house; others require the use of a car. The walks you'll find in our Discovery Point at Nythfa House range from 2 to 3.9 miles and visit popular areas such as Hay-on-Wye and Mynydd Illtud.

Day 2-7: Full on Walks

These walks are ideal for those with more stamina who can push themselves to go that extra mile. The routes require the use of a car, although in some cases public transport is also available as an option. The walks you'll find in our Discovery Point at Nythfa House range from 4.5 miles to 10 miles and visit popular peaks such as Corn Du, Pen Y Fan, and Cribyn.

Day 8: Departure Day

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before making your way home.

Nythfa House

Not many places in the UK outshine Brecon Beacons (Bannau Brycheiniog) National Park when it comes to wide open spaces and walks with incredible views. So it's easy to see the appeal of Nythfa House. With its name meaning 'nesting place' in Welsh, once you settle in you'll never want to leave. Built in 1867 as a private residence, this charming property is perfect for those seeking a rural retreat, yet one which is just a 10-minute walk from the Welsh market town of Brecon. It sits on a hill above The Struet, one of Brecon's oldest and most historic streets, famed for its Charles I connections who visited the town during the English Civil War. Nythfa House also puts you within easy reach of some of the area's show-stealing walking spots, including the Black Mountains, the Mellte Valley, and Pen y Fan - the highest point in the national park at 886 metres. Equally visit-worthy is the Big Pit National Coal Museum in Blaenavon, the National Showcaves Centre for Wales in Abercrave, and the bibliophile's paradise that is Hay-on-Wye. Should time allow, Hereford and Cardiff are both just an hour's drive away.

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
