

# 7 Night Northumberland Walking with Sightseeing Holiday

**Trip style:** Walking with sightseeing

**Destination:** 📍 Northumberland

**Trip code:** ALN07-WOD01

**Grades:** 1

**Carbon Footprint:** 🌱 184kg CO2



## HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

These holidays offer a perfect mix of short, guided walks (4-5 miles), combined with time spent sightseeing. Visit a selection of standout highlights in Northumberland with hassle-free coach travel and the help of an HF Holidays Leader.

## WHAT YOU'LL LOVE

- Admiring Northumberland's National Landscape coastline
- Taking a boat trip to the wildlife-rich Farne Islands
- Exploring Cragside Hall, the world's first smart home
- Spending time in the historic market town of Alnwick
- Visiting Alnwick Castle, home of the 12th Duke of Northumberland
- Staying at a former 18th century granary in the heart of Alnmouth
- A more personalised experience thanks to small group sizes (maximum 15 people)

## WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Tickets for the Farne Islands Cruise
- 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
- Guided walks and sightseeing visits with an experienced HF Holidays Leader
- All transport to and from walks and sites of interest
- Easy-to-follow routes, maps, and information in our Discovery Point if you want to explore independently

**Please note** - Entrance fees are not included. See Essential Info tab for details.

## TRIP SUITABILITY

This trip is graded Activity Level 1. Walks are up to 4½ miles (7.5km) with up to 800 feet of ascent, on good tracks.

## 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.

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### Day 2: Explore Alnwick

Distance: 4 miles (6.5km) Total ascent: 260ft (80m) A beautiful riverside walk treats us to one of the best views of historic Alnwick Castle as we approach Alnwick. The afternoon is free to explore this charming market town. Some of your options include visiting Alnwick Castle which starred as Hogwarts in several Harry Potter films (don't miss the castle gardens' treehouse café), Alnwick Gardens, Hulne Park, or some of the many independent shops (including the famous Barter Books), and tea shops around the town.

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### Day 3: Hadrian's Wall

Distance: 3.5 miles (5.5km) Total ascent: 510ft (155m) We'll walk the classic section of Hadrian's Wall, starting at Sycamore Gap, before climbing Steel Rigg for glorious views towards Scotland. From here we'll walk along Hotbank crags, which takes us past milecastles (small Roman forts) and along one of the best-preserved sections of the wall, before boarding a bus to Vindolanda (entrance fee payable locally). The first section of this route is quite strenuous with some steep ups and downs, but it's well worth the effort as we walk in the footsteps of the Roman legions.

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### Day 4: Free Day - Northumberland

Discover more about Nether Grange and the local area for ideas on how to fill your free day.

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### Day 5: Cragside & Rothbury

Distance: 4 miles (6.5km) Total ascent: 800ft (250m) Following centuries-old carriage tracks, we'll walk through woodland and across the edge of the moor to the entrance of the impressive National Trust Cragside Estate. After lunch, there's plenty of time to visit the property and its gardens to learn about the feats of engineering by Victorian inventor and industrialist, Lord Armstrong. Entrance to Cragside isn't included in the price of your holiday but is free for National Trust members.

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### Day 6: Lindisfarne (Holy Island) & Dunstanburgh

Distance: 4.5 miles (7.5km) Total ascent: minimal The running order of today's itinerary will depend on the tide times, but we'll spend half a day on Holy Island (Lindisfarne), with time to visit some of its famous sights including the walled garden, the historic Priory (payable locally, English Heritage members free), and the Heritage Centre. We'll spend the other half of our day walking from Craster to the dramatic ruins of Dunstanburgh Castle (payable locally, English Heritage members free)- perched on a remote headland, the route was recently voted the most impressive in the UK.

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**Day 7:** Farne Islands & Bamburgh

Distance: 4 miles (6.5km) Total ascent: Minimal We'll start the morning by sailing from Seahouses around the Farne Islands.\* This is a fantastic trip for wildlife watching - from March/April until mid-August up to 37,000 puffins nest on these islands. Returning to the mainland, we've a superb beach walk from Seahouses to Bamburgh, the entrance to which shows Bamburgh Castle in its full glory, including its most photographed view. If there's time, there are plenty of pubs and tea shops to relax in. \*Weather permitting

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**Day 8:** Departure Day

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before making your way home.

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## 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.

### Walking safety - SHARED WITH ALL

Walks may be changed for safety reasons and are subject to a maximum and minimum number of guests. Leaders always consider the safety of the group as a whole, and may need to alter or curtail the walk if the conditions dictate. Your leader may refuse to accept a guest where clothing, equipment or behaviour is unsuitable. In the event of a problem all leaders carry a mobile phone, first aid kit, group shelter, spare maps and a compass. Please note: If you choose to leave the group your leader is no longer responsible for you. If you have a particular health condition or disability please put this on your guest registration form. This information will be confidential to your leaders and the house manager, but leaders do need to take account of any issues when planning walks. Please carry a copy of these trip notes with you, or note down the contact phone number for your accommodation (details in the travel section) should you need them in case of emergency.

## 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. Fleeces 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 (hydrostatic 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

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