

7 Night Peak District Walking with Sightseeing Holiday

Trip style: Walking with sightseeing

Destination:  Peak District

Trip code: POP07-WOD01

Grades: 1, 2

Carbon Footprint:  106kg 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 the Peak District with hassle-free coach travel and the help of an HF Holidays Leader.

WHAT YOU'LL LOVE

- Taking in the views from impressive gritstone escarpments
- Visiting the beautiful village of Buxton
- Exploring Chatsworth's magnificent Capability Brown gardens
- Discovering the limestone gorge of Dove Dale
- Spending time in the pseudo-alpine village of Ilam
- Staying in the comfort of our country house

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
- 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 more information tab for details.

TRIP SUITABILITY

This trip is graded Activity Level 2. Walks up to 5½ miles (9km) with up to 700 feet (220m) of ascent. Walking generally on good paths; some days have sections on rough moorland tracks which may be muddy in place.

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: The Edges and Chatsworth

Distance: 3.5 miles (5.5km) Ascent: 130 feet (40m) Descent: 720 feet (220m) In Summary: A classic walk along the famous gritstone escarpment of Curbar Edge, dropping down to Baslow and into the ever-impressive Chatsworth Park. The rest of the day is free to explore historic Chatsworth House and its beautiful Capability Brown designed gardens.

Day 3: Ilam and the delights of Dovedale

Distance: 4½ miles (7km) Ascent: 650 feet (200m) In summary: Discover the delights of the natural beauty spot of Dove Dale. Start the day in Staffordshire, with a walk to the pseudo-alpine village of Ilam. After time to explore the grounds of Ilam Hall and visit the Church of the Holy Cross, head to the tranquil riverside village of Milldale and the River Dove. Wandering downstream, the route continues through Dove Dale with its crags, pinnacles and famous stepping-stones.

Day 4: Free Day - Peak District

Discover more about Peveril of the Peak and the local area for ideas on how to make the most of your free day.

Day 5: The Cat and Fiddle and Victorian Buxton

Distance: 4 miles (6.5km) Ascent: 400 feet (120m) Descent: 820 feet (250m) In Summary: Start high on the moors, with glorious views, before gently descending to Buxton, passing Solomon's Tower and Poole's Cavern show cave (opportunity for a tour). There will be time to look at the spa town of Buxton (and maybe sample the water). Take a town trail around Buxton, or explore independently, there's plenty to see, including the magnificent Pavilion Gardens.

Day 6: Along railway and canal to Arkwright's Mill

Distance: 4½ miles (7km) Ascent: 300 feet (100m) In summary: Today's walk starts at the imposing former engine house at Middleton Top and follows the old trackbed of the Cromford and High Peak Railway to travel back in time at the National Stone Centre. The route continues to descend the old railway line to the Cromford Canal to end with a visit to the fascinating UNESCO World Heritage Site of Arkwright's Mill - a cornerstone of the Industrial Revolution.

Day 7: The Plague Village of Eyam

Distance: 4 miles (6.5km) Ascent: 700 feet (220m) Descent: 700 feet (220m) In Summary: A walk discovering the stories

and histories of the infamous plague village of Eyam (pronounced Eem). The walk starts at Mompesson's Well and descends to the outskirts of Eyam, visiting sites relating to the plague before a steep descent to Stoney Middleton with its 'Roman' Baths and unusual church. We return to Eyam with time to visit the Museum.

Day 8: Departure Day

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before making your way home.

The Peveril of the Peak

Named after Sir Walter Scott's Peak District-set novel, this characterful country house is less than a mile from the famous Dovedale Stepping Stones and on the doorstep of Thorpe Cloud - a cone-shaped limestone hill that offers impressive views over the rolling green landscape that forms the Staffordshire/Derbyshire border. Both are easily accessible from the rear of the property. There are plenty of big-name walking destinations nearby including the Roaches, the impressive Stanage Edge, and the Twelve Apostles - a group of rock spires best viewed from the limestone promontory known as Lover's Leap.

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. 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
