

# 7 Night Rambles with a Sketchbook Holiday in the Shropshire Hills

**Trip style:**

**Destination:** 📍 Shropshire Hills

**Trip code:** CHS07-PDW05



## HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

Take inspiration from the lovely landscapes surrounding our country house in the Shropshire Hills and learn how to capture them on paper. Carrying your equipment, you'll set out on guided walks of up to two miles in search of the perfect spot to practise your sketching. Once set up, our expert art tutors will teach beginners the basics and provide the more experienced with tips and tricks to improve their skills. This holiday offers the ideal balance between walking and spending time with like-minded art enthusiasts.

## WHAT YOU'LL LOVE

- Enjoy developing your skills with a group of fellow artists
- Gentle rambles of up to two miles with plenty of sketching stops
- Practise in small group sizes of 15 people or fewer
- Build your confidence in using a variety of techniques

## WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Expert tuition
- Loan of wooden A3 art boards
- 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

## 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 2-7:** During the Day

On your Rambles with a Sketchbook holiday, you will spend most of the time away from the house, carrying your equipment with you. During the day, you'll venture out on foot or by coach to places of artistic interest that have been carefully selected by your leader. You won't be walking far, or taking up any great ascents or descents, but you will need to take some of your equipment out with you. Your leader will advise you on which materials you'll need each day so you can pack lightly when leaving the house.

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### **Day 8:** Departure Day

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before making your way home.

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## 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

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 - Rambles with a Sketchbook**

Sketching Sketchbook – we recommend at least 150gsm, any size Pencils – including, but not limited to, 2H, HB & 2B  
Pencil sharpener or craft blade Putty eraser Please note: A3 art boards are available to loan at the country house  
Optional extras Camera (could be your mobile phone!) Bulldog clips/masking tape for fixing paper to boards  
Water-soluble colour pencils and water brush Foam pad or lightweight stool Walking Good, comfortable walking  
shoes/boots with solid grip Appropriate outdoor clothing for the time of year Waterproof jacket/trousers Water  
bottle – there are refill points at the country house Rucksack for your equipment, refreshments & packed lunch

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