

7 Night Western Yorkshire Dales Walking with Sightseeing Holiday

Trip style: Walking with sightseeing

Destination:  Yorkshire Dales

Trip code: SDB07-WOD01

Grades: 1, 2

Carbon Footprint:  174kg CO2



HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

These holidays offer a perfect mix of short, guided walks (3.5-5.5 miles), combined with time spent sightseeing. Visit a selection of standout highlights in the Western Yorkshire Dales with hassle-free coach travel and the help of an HF Holidays Leader.

WHAT YOU'LL LOVE

- Discovering the history of medieval Sizergh Castle
- Visiting England's highest single drop waterfall
- Taking a ride on the Settle–Carlisle rail line
- Walking a section of the Dales Way
- Exploring the 14th century Bolton Castle
- Walking through Wensleydale to Aysgarth falls
- A more personalised experience thanks to small group sizes (maximum 15 people)

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Train journey from Ribbleshead to Dent
- 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 2. Walking is mainly on good paths with some occasional steep sections and uneven ground. Walks are up to 5½ miles (8.5km) with up to 600 feet (180m) of ascent.

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: Farfield Mill and views of Cautley Spout

Distance: 5 miles (8.5km) Ascent: 500 feet (150m) In summary: From the Cross Keys Temperance House we've the opportunity to view England's highest single drop waterfall - Cautley Spout. For those with extra energy, there's the option to follow the path up alongside the fall, before returning to begin our walk along the fell side to the arts and heritage centre - Farfield Mill. The four floors of this Victorian wool mill are home to local artists and craftsmen, often offering demonstrations. From here we take a short walk along the River Rawthey, to Sedbergh.

Day 3: Swaledale and Hawes

Distance: 5½ miles (8.5km) Ascent: 600 feet (180m) In summary: Our exploration of Swaledale takes us on a scenic walk dotted with waterfalls. The first we pass are Aygill Force and Wain Wath Force, we then follow the River Swale below the summit of Kisdon to Muker, a small village on the site of a settlement which dates back to the Bronze Age and attracted Viking settlers. Our transport then takes us to the pretty market town of Hawes, at the head of Wensleydale, where we can sample the famous Wensleydale cheese at the creamery, visit the National Park Visitor Centre, or while away some time in its tempting tea shops.

Day 4: Free Day

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

Day 5: Settle-Carlisle railway, Dales Way and Dent

Distance: 5 miles (8km) Ascent: 250 feet (80m) In summary: Our first stop is the impressive feat of engineering - the Ribbleshead Viaduct. We've time to explore the area, the station and its museum before hopping aboard the Settle-Carlisle line, taking the train to Dent Head. From here we join the Dales Way and follow waterfall after waterfall along the River Dee to the cobbled streets and whitewashed houses of Dent. Plenty of time to explore the heritage centre and learn of Dent's 'Terrible knitters' or to take a well-earned break in the Sun Inn.

Day 6: Bolton Castle and Aysgarth Falls

Distance: 4 miles (6.5km) Ascent: 150 feet (45m) In summary: We begin at Bolton Castle, a massive fortress built in 1397. This impressive setting has pleasant gardens, falconry and a tearoom. We walk from the castle through the broad valley of Wensleydale to Aysgarth Falls, which we can view by a short walk alongside a deeply wooded section of the River Ure.

Day 7: Scout Scar and Sizergh Castle

Distance: 3 miles (5km) Ascent: 100 feet (30m) In summary: Our walk today provides some spectacular scenery, including far-reaching views south to Arnside and Morecambe Bay. We ascend gently above the beautiful Lyth Valley and walk along the broad escarpment of Scout Scar and on to the medieval stately home of Sizergh Castle, with its gorgeous gardens.

Day 8: Departure Day

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before making your way home.

Thorns Hall

Delivering on all fronts for countryside lovers, this cosy Grade II-listed manor house is just a skip away from Sedbergh – the Cumbrian market town treasured for its cobbled streets, public school, artisan shops, and bookshops (it's known as England's official book town for good reason). You'll also have the Yorkshire Dales National Park on your doorstep as well as the Howgill Fells - the small group of hills adored by legendary fellwalker, illustrator, and guidebook author Alfred Wainwright. The walking opportunities here are outstanding, but if you fancy travelling further afield there's Kendal (home of the mint cake), Hawes, Wensleydale, Appleby-in-Westmorland, and Lake Windemere all within easy driving distance.

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.