

# 7 Night Northumberland Christmas & New Year Self-Guided Walking Holiday

**Trip style:** Self-guided walking

**Destination:**  Northumberland

**Trip code:** ALN07-PXA03

**Grades:** ul 1, 2 & 3

**Carbon Footprint:**  166kg CO2



## HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

All windswept coastline, castles, and cosy pubs decked out in Christmas colours, there's nothing like a Northumberland walking holiday to get you in a merry mood. Make this Christmas truly memorable and spend the festive season at our 4-star country house in the heart of Alnmouth – the pretty coastal village treasured for its colourful cottages and superb walking routes. We pull out all the stops at this time of year and our houses welcome

you with a sprinkling of festive cheer, seasonal food, and plenty of yuletide treats. So wrap up warm and step into Christmas with HF Holidays.

## WHAT YOU'LL LOVE

- Getting into the festive spirit with a self-guided walking holiday
- Staying in our country house in the coastal village of Alnmouth
- Heading out on your choice of winter walks
- The easy-to-follow routes and maps available in our Discovery Point
- Discovering the stunning landscapes of Northumberland on foot
- A celebration dinner with all the trimmings on Christmas Day and New Year's Eve

## 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
- Easy-to-follow routes, maps, and information available in our Discovery Point if you want to explore independently

## TRIP SUITABILITY

This trip is graded Activity Level 1,2 and 3, To make the most of your break use the Discovery Point at Nether Grange - the starting point for your outdoor adventure.

You'll find our recommended walking and cycling routes - detailed route notes for you to borrow contain route maps, and information about the places of interest on the walk. There's also a comprehensive library of local maps and guidebooks.

When you're not walking, there's plenty to do locally. Why not visit nearby Alnwick Castle, explore the coast by bike, or see the amazing wildlife on the Farne Islands. See the 'Local Area' tab for further ideas.

## 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:** Full on Walks

These walks are ideal for those with more stamina who can push themselves to go that extra mile. Some routes will start from the house, but some may require the use of a car. Public transport may not be possible for every route in this category due to remote locations. The walks you'll find in our Discovery Point at Alnmouth range from 7 to 12 miles and visit popular areas such as Craster, Rothbury, and Dunstanburgh Castle.

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### **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 make use of local transport whilst remaining close to the property. The walks you'll find in our Discovery Point at Alnmouth range from 2 to 4 miles and visit popular areas such as Warkworth, St Abbs Head, and Holy Island.

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### **Day 2-7:** Leg Stretcher Walks

These are a selection of longer walks on well-graded paths that allow you to discover local highlights and viewpoints. These routes are often further from the house but still offer walks that start and end on the doorstep of the property, plus options for guests travelling by public transport or car. The walks you'll find in our Discovery Point at Alnmouth range from 4 to 6 miles and visit popular areas such as Eyemouth, Alnwick, and Bamburgh.

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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.