

# 4 Night Shropshire Hills Christmas & New Year Self-Guided Walking Holiday

**Trip style:** Self-guided walking

**Destination:** 📍 Shropshire Hills

**Trip code:** CHS04-PXA03

**Grades:** ul 1, 2, 3 & 4

**Carbon Footprint:** 🌱 88kg CO2



## HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

Spend the festive season in Shropshire and head out on winter walks that explore this much-loved National Landscape. And when you're not busy enjoying the wintry scenery of the Shropshire Hills, cosy up in Longmynd House – our historic hilltop property that sits just a short stroll from the charming market town of Church Stretton. 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 charming country house in the Shropshire Hills National Landscape
- 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 Shropshire Hills 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 Levels 1,2,3 and 4, Make the most of our Discovery Point at the Longmynd - the starting point for your outdoor adventure. You'll find:

- Our recommended walking and cycling routes - detailed route notes for you to borrow
- Comprehensive library of local maps and guidebooks
- Ideas and contacts for more active options such as mountain biking and pony trekking
- A daily weather forecast

When you're not walking, there's plenty to do locally. Why not visit the excellent UNESCO World Heritage museums at Ironbridge Gorge, take the train to historic Ludlow, or visit a nearby museum. See the 'Local Area' tab for further ideas.

Detailed walking notes: all our walking notes contain detailed directions, route maps, and information about the places of interest on the route.

Sample route - Slopes of Caer Caradoc Sample route - Long Mynd & Carding Mill

## 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 2-4:** Laid Back Walks

Our easiest routes, allowing plenty of time to savour the magnificent Shropshire landscapes. All our walk notes suggest the best places to stop, great pubs, and tea rooms. Pole Bank - 1½ miles Exploring the Carding Mill Valley - 4½ miles The Stiperstones - 3 miles The Gaerstones - 4 miles Welshpool & Powis Castle - 4 miles

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### **Day 2-4:** Leg Stretcher Walks

Some longer walks which start to venture onto the Shropshire Hills. Experience the beauty of this rural county as you walk through stunning scenery. Around Ragleth - 5 miles Stiperstones Circuit - 5½ miles Slopes of Caer Caradoc - 6 miles Long Mynd & Carding Mill Valley - 6½ miles

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### **Day 2-4:** Full on Walks

For those who enjoy striding out. These walks include some of the hills within easy reach of Church Stretton. Ragleth & Hope Bowdler Hill - 9 miles Long Mynd & Minton Hill - 9 miles Caer Caradoc - 9 miles Bishop's Moat - 9 miles Caer Caradoc & the Lawley - 11 miles Grand Long Mynd Circuit - 17 miles

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### **Day 5:** 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.