

Guided Walking & Wine in the South Downs

Trip style: Walking with sightseeing

Destination: 📍 South Downs

Trip code: ABW03-WWN01

Grades: 1, 2

Carbon Footprint: 🌱 74kg CO2



HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

Though England is not the first place you might think of when it comes to wine, ask any enthusiast and they'll let you into a secret - Sussex wines have been quietly winning awards and converting many over the last few years with both taste and quality. These vineyards provide not only pretty scenery for walking, but some fantastic opportunities for sampling and speaking to the local producers themselves. Join us for stunning walks, enjoy sampling some of the wines, and share our passion for Sussex wines.

WHAT YOU'LL LOVE

- Relaxed walks exploring beautiful South Downs countryside
- Being guided by our experienced walks leader
- Sampling some of the local wines en route
- Learning about local wine production from the experts
- Staying a skip away from Thakeham at the foot of the South Downs

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 walking with an experienced HF Holidays Leader
- Tours and tastings at the vineyards visited
- All transport to and from walks where necessary
- Easy-to-follow routes, maps, and information 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.

Day 2: Nutbourne Vineyards

To kick the weekend off in style we will begin extremely local – walking straight from our accommodation at Abingworth Hall, across country and through picturesque local villages to Nutbourne Vineyard for a tasting and tour – the main event of the day. Nutbourne is a family run, award winning boutique vineyard and winery with every part of the winemaking taking place on site. We begin by the historic windmill with stunning views of the South Downs. We will then be taken on a beautiful, informative walk through the vines, wild flowers and down to the lakeside to meet the alpacas, with plenty of stops along the way for chat and photographs. We return to the winery for a refreshing glass of something delicious, where each step of the wine making process will be explained. Finally we move to the wine lodge amongst the vines for a tutored tasting and discussion on a range of Nutbourne's award-winning sparkling and still wines. We will then be collected by our coach and return to Abingworth Hall. Distance: 4 miles (6.5km) Ascent: 300 feet (100m) Descent: 350 feet (120m)

Day 3: Ridgeview Estate

We are taken to the top of the South Downs and start our walk from the highest point in Sussex, with views of the sea and coast. We walk to Ditchling where we'll explore briefly before continuing North on the Sussex Border Path to the Ridgeview Winery. Established in 1995 Ridgeview was an early producer of sparkling wines from Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Pinot Meunier grape varieties. We'll learn more about the craft of winemaking, take a tour of the estate, and try a selection of their award-winning wines. We'll then be collected by our coach and return to Abingworth Hall. Distance: 6.5 miles (10.5km) Ascent: 300 feet (100m) Descent: 850 feet (260m)

Day 4: Departure Day

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before making your way home.

Abingworth Hall

Country living just got cosier at this former farmhouse. Abingworth Hall is just a skip away from the village of Thakeham at the foot of the South Downs – a landscape of ancient woodland, hidden valleys, chalky cliffs, and high-backed hills so deserving of its national park status finally bestowed in 2010. While the views from the doorstep are as wow-worthy as you'd expect, the walking opportunities around the sightseeing greats such as Devil's Dyke, Seven Sisters Country Park, Kingley Vale, Parham House, and the Clayton Windmills (known locally as Jack and Jill) are equally standout. You'll also be within easy driving distance of several historic towns and cities, most fabulously Arundel, Chichester, and Brighton.

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.