

# HF Book Club in the North York Moors: Gothic Fiction

**Trip style:**

**Destination:** 📍 North York Moors

**Trip code:** WBY03-ABC05



## HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

Whether you're continually diving into a page-turner or simply want to rediscover your passion for reading, our book club breaks are a great way to meet like-minded people. Staying at our characterful country house in Whitby, you'll be invited to explore texts, discuss story ideas, and discover North York Moor's literary connections. and perhaps even find inspiration to pen your own novel. To complement the texts, you'll enjoy guided sightseeing visits to places relevant to that genre. These holidays are perfect for solo travellers looking for friendship-forming experiences as well as book clubs seeking an enriching group getaway.

## WHAT YOU'LL LOVE

- Meeting like-minded book lovers
- Discussing a range of literary works
- Enjoying guided sightseeing visits
- Exploring the surrounding landscape on foot
- Guidance from our expert leaders

## WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Free-flowing literary discussions throughout your holiday
- Transport to and from venues on your excursion day
- 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:** HF Book Club: Gothic Fiction

Famous for its hauntingly beautiful abbey and Dracula connections, Whitby is the ideal place to delve into the dark world of Gothic fiction. Get together with like-minded book lovers and spend the weekend discussing three of the genre's most intriguing titles. **SHADOWPLAY** by Joseph O'Conner Set against the backdrop of a late 19th century London still haunted by Jack the Ripper, Shadowplay explores the complexities of love and creativity. Loosely based on the life of Bram Stoker, the novel reimagines the experiences that inspired Stoker to pen the iconic Gothic tale, Dracula. **THE DEATHLESS GIRLS** by Kiran Millwood Hargrave An intoxicatingly dark tale of love and companionship, this 2019 novel from bestselling author, Kiran Millwood Hargrave, takes characters from Bram Stoker's Dracula and provides them with an imaginative origin story. **DRACULA** by Bram Stoker The most famous Gothic novel of them all is a story of vampires and dark desires in Victorian Britain. Irish author Bram Stoker used Whitby as the inspiration and setting for this horror masterpiece when holidaying here in 1890.

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### **Day 3:** Excursion Day

Spend Sunday in Whitby exploring the hauntingly beautiful ruins of Whitby Abbey and the much-storied St. Mary's Church. There'll be free time to find lunch and to visit locations featured in our reading lists.

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### **Day 4:** Departure Day

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before making your way home.

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## Larpool Hall

Given that the Yorkshire coast never loses its capacity to enchant, it's easy to see the appeal of this Grade II-listed house overlooking the Esk Valley and the North Sea. The setting is perfect; in the former fishing town of Whitby that's best known for its fish and chips, quaint harbour, and Dracula connections (Irish author Bram Stoker drew his inspiration for his Gothic novel when holidaying here in 1890). You'll have all the sightseeing greats within walking or driving distance, including the 13th century Whitby Abbey, the wonderful Whitby Sands, and the 199 Steps leading up to the old St. Mary's Church (it's customary to count them as you climb). Not only are the North York Moors right on your doorstep, but the walk along Cleveland Way to Robin Hood's Bay is rather special, too.

### **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.