

HF Book Club in the South Downs: Bloomsbury Group

Trip style:

Destination: 📍 South Downs

Trip code: ABW03-ABC05

Carbon Footprint: 🌳 60kg CO2



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 in the stunning surrounds of our characterful country house in the South Downs, this break focuses on the Bloomsbury Group - the society of writers, intellectuals, and artists that included some of the brightest minds of the early 20th century. You'll explore texts, discuss story ideas, formulate opinions with fellow guests and enjoy guided sightseeing visits to both the Charleston Farmhouse and Berwick Church. 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
- Visiting the Bloomsbury Group sites of Charleston & Berwick Church
- 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.

Day 2: Charleston & Berwick

Today's excursion will take us to two prime Bloomsbury locations – Charleston and St Michael & All Angels Church in Berwick. The former home of Vanessa Bell and Duncan Grant and a venue for many Bloomsbury Group meetings, Charleston is a must-visit for any fan of literature. Later, we'll venture to St Michael & All Angels Church in Berwick to enjoy a guided visit with a focus on the church's Bloomsbury connections. The magnificent church interior features paintings by Duncan Grant, Vanessa Bell & Quentin Bell, commissioned during World War Two by the Bishop of Chichester.

Day 3: Your HF Book Club

This weekend break will focus on delving into works of historical fiction. Your group leader will facilitate discussions about the themes and topics featured in their chosen titles and there'll be an open forum to discuss opinions.

Reading List *Growing* by Leonard Woolf Overshadowed by his famous wife Virginia, Leonard began his career in the civil service in Ceylon (Sri Lanka). This is the second book in his autobiographical series and covers his career abroad. A fascinating insight into both his character and life in a British-ruled colony in the early years of the 20th century. *To the Lighthouse* by Virginia Woolf Written in 1927, *To the Lighthouse* is Virginia Woolf's fifth novel. Set during a family holiday on the Isle of Skye, it draws on Virginia Woolf's own memories of childhood holidays which were spent in St Ives in Cornwall. Like a stream of consciousness, the novel focuses more on the inner monologues of the characters rather than their actions. It is regarded as one of the major works of modernist literature.

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.