

# HF Book Club in the Western Yorkshire Dales: Historical Fiction

**Trip style:**

**Destination:** 📍 Yorkshire Dales

**Trip code:** SDB03-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 Sedbergh, you'll be invited to explore texts, discuss story ideas, and discover Western Yorkshire Dale'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:** Sizergh Castle & Blackwell

We begin our holiday with visits to nearby historic houses, Sizergh Castle and Blackwell, each special in their own way. The Elizabethan grandeur of Sizergh brings the 16th-century setting of Hamnet to life. Then there's Blackwell, a fabulous example of Arts & Crafts architecture which has long inspired creatives and has links to WWII. Please note: Sizergh Castle is a National Trust property so, if you are a member, please remember to bring your membership card to gain free entry.

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### **Day 3:** Your Book Club

Today we'll focus on delving into the works of historical fiction on our reading list. 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. The reading list for this holiday is shown below: Hamnet by Maggie O'Farrell Maggie O'Farrell's Hamnet reimagines the life and death of Shakespeare's only son who tragically died in 1596 at only eleven years old. Set in 16th-century England, O'Farrell confronts themes of grief, love, and loss. The book has won several awards and was listed for the Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Fiction. Alias Grace by Margaret Atwood Inspired by the true story of convicted murderer Grace Marks, Margaret Atwood (author of The Handmaid's Tale) explores the blurred lines between guilt and innocence, as well as ideas on identity, femininity and societal expectations across Canada and the USA in the 19th century. Since publication, Alias Grace has been adapted by Netflix into a six-episode miniseries. The Nightingale by Kristin Hannah This New York Times bestselling novel charts the experiences of two fictional sisters, Vianne and Isabelle during the German occupation of France in WWII. The story follows both sisters in their struggles to survive, and Kristin Hannah deftly portrays the brutality of war and the remarkable resilience of human spirit in an incredibly moving tale.

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

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before making your way home.

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## Thorns Hall

Delivering on all fronts for countryside lovers, this cosy Grade II-listed manor house is just a skip away from Sedbergh – the Cumbrian market town treasured for its cobbled streets, public school, artisan shops, and bookshops (it's known as England's official book town for good reason). You'll also have the Yorkshire Dales National Park on your doorstep as well as the Howgill Fells - the small group of hills adored by legendary fellwalker, illustrator, and guidebook author Alfred Wainwright. The walking opportunities here are outstanding, but if you fancy travelling further afield there's Kendal (home of the mint cake), Hawes, Wensleydale, Appleby-in-Westmorland, and Lake Windemere all within easy driving distance.

### **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.