

7 Night North York Moors Discovery Tour

Trip style:

Destination: 📍 North York Moors

Trip code: WBY07-HCR05

Carbon Footprint: 🌿 153kg CO2



HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

A guided tour to enjoy North Yorkshire's main attractions. The trip includes visits to Castle Howard and Yorkshire Lavender, an optional steam train ride across the North York Moors and time in the UNESCO-listed landscape gardens of Rievaulx Terrace.

WHAT YOU'LL LOVE

- Marvel at the sweeping sea views at Robin Hood's Bay
- Enjoy a day out on the North York Moors Railway
- Discover the bustling market town of Pickering
- Visit Rievaulx Abbey, looming from the depths of the Rye Valley

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- 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
- Guided sightseeing with an experienced HF Holidays Leader
- All transport to and from sites of interest
- Easy-to-follow routes, maps, and information in our Discovery Point if you want to explore independently

Please note - Entrance fees are not included. See more information tab for details.

TRIP SUITABILITY

Trip suitability

Our Discovery holidays give you the opportunity to immerse yourself in the culture of the local area through **active sightseeing**.

On each Discovery day, you will be walking throughout the course of the day as you explore the venues and locations we visit. You'll also be hopping on and off the coach throughout - you should expect to spend the majority of the day on your feet. Most of this walking will be at attractions but some may be across country tracks or footpaths so be sure to **bring sturdy shoes**. There will also be stairs to climb in the majority of the venues you visit, though other more accessible options may be available. At some venues, there may also be uneven surfaces, such as cobbles or rocky paths.

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: Heartbeat Country & Whitby

This morning we explore the charming village of Goathland, which for many years doubled as the fictional 'Aidensfield' in the TV series Heartbeat. After lunch, we'll discover the quaint fishing village of Staithes - the former home of Captain Cook. Our journey through Whitby will provide a panoramic view of the busy harbour and abbey.

Day 3: Castle Howard

The magnificent 18th-century Castle Howard was designed by Sir John Vanbrugh and is widely regarded as one of England's finest historic houses. We will have plenty of time to explore both the house and extensive grounds before travelling to Yorkshire Lavender - a family-run lavender farm. Please note the Lavender farm is closed in October. It boasts award-winning lavender gardens and a tearoom where you can enjoy a range of goodies including lavender scones, lavender cake and lavender ice-cream. Finally, we head to Lastingham to learn about its rich history and links to Northumberland.

Day 4: Free Day

A free day for you to explore the local area or to relax in the Country House. Our Discovery Points help you make the most out of your free day. There's plenty of maps and a selection of the best local walking routes, as well as weather forecasts and public transport options – plus details about other places to visit.

Day 5: North York Moors Railway

This morning we'll experience the beauty of the North York Moors with a ride on the North York Moors Steam Railway, the most popular heritage railway in Britain. We'll hop off at Pickering and have time to discover this vibrant market town before a short trip to Ryedale Folk Museum allows you to step back in time and explore the region's history and stories.

Day 6: Scarborough & Robin Hood's Bay

Today we shall explore Scarborough, a former spa town and one of England's most popular seaside resorts. It's a fascinating town to explore with links to the Civil War, the Pre-Raphaelite art movement, English novelist and poet, Anne Brontë, and renowned violinist, Max Jaffa. We then journey onto the fishing village of Robin Hood's Bay and find out about its history as a smuggler's haven.

Day 7: Market Towns & Abbeys

We'll start our final day by visiting the ruins of Byland Abbey. The abbey inspired the architecture of many of the church buildings throughout the north including York Minster. We then head to Thirsk where there's a chance to visit the World of James Herriott exhibition - the original home and surgery that inspired the famous Yorkshire-set series of books All Creatures Great and Small. It's then on to Rievaulx Abbey, once one of the largest Cistercian abbeys in England. Finally, we visit the picturesque market town of Helmsley where there's time to explore independently. Perhaps look around the ruined medieval castle or enjoy a stroll in the walled gardens.

Day 8: Departure Day

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before making your way home.

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.