

# Pilgrim's Way

**Trip style:** Guided Walking Holidays

**Destination:** 📍 Northumberland

**Trip code:** ALN03-CHA01

**Grades:** 1, 2



## HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

The wooden poles that mark the way to Holy Island are one of Northumberland's many remarkable sights. This weekend challenge sees you following in the footsteps of England's early medieval pilgrims on their journey across Lindisfarne Bay to this revered tidal island. Whether you opt to complete it barefoot or booted, you'll navigate the sands and mudflats of the Pilgrim's Way to where centuries of history and one of Northumberland's most treasured nature reserves awaits.

## WHAT YOU'LL LOVE

- The challenge of crossing the sands to Lindisfarne Island barefoot
- Soaking up 360-degree views as you're guided across the bay
- Watching for wildlife in Lindisfarne National Nature Reserve
- Discovering some of the finest coastal walking in Northumberland
- Learning the stories and histories of Holy Island, Lindisfarne
- Socialising in the evenings at our characterful country house

## 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 walking with an experienced HF Holidays Leader
- All transport to and from walks where necessary

## ITINERARY

### **Day 1:** Arrival Day

You're welcome to check in from 4pm onwards. Enjoy a complimentary cream tea on arrival.

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### **Day 2:** A local leg stretcher

Distance: 10.5 miles (17km) Ascent: 700ft (220m) We'll introduce Northumberland to you today with a bracing warm-up walk along one of the UK's finest stretches of coastline. We'll walk from Embleton to the eye-catching ruins of Dunstanburgh Castle, then along golden sands and rolling dunes to Alnmouth.\* \*This walk may run in the opposite direction, depending on tides.

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### **Day 3:** Pilgrim's Way

Distance: 7.5 miles (12.5km) Ascent: 270ft (60m) Prepare for muddy boots or take on the pilgrimage in true style – barefoot. We'll guide you along the ancient path known as the Pilgrim's Way, crossing the sands of Lindisfarne Bay, to the Holy Island of Lindisfarne. Reaching the island, we've time to explore its wilder side and nature reserves. Discover its wildflower meadows and the island's extraordinary history as the seat of early Christianity in Anglo-Saxon Britain. (Please note boots will get very muddy – please bring a spare pair of shoes to change into at the end of the walk, and a plastic bag to pop your muddy boots in. If walking barefoot, please bring a towel and a cloth or wipes to clean your feet).

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

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before making your way home.

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## Nether Grange

You can tell that you're in for something special at this former 18th century granary in the heart of Alnmouth – the postcard-pretty coastal village treasured for its colourful cottages, superb walking routes, and peaceful beach where the River Aln meets the North Sea (in its heyday, it was a working river-port, exporting grain, wool, coal, and even the odd pipe of Madeira wine). Not only will you be a 40-minute drive from Northumberland National Park, but also within easy travelling distance of several visit-worthy castles, including Alnwick, Lindisfarne, Dunstanburgh, and Warkworth. If the weather's nice, a boat trip to the Farne Islands that lie just offshore midway between the villages of Seahouses and Bamburgh rewards with sightings of England's largest grey seal colonies.

### 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.