

4 Night Shropshire Hills Discovery Tour

Trip style:

Destination:  Shropshire Hills

Trip code: CHS04-HCR05

Carbon Footprint:  103kg CO2



HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

Find out what life was like in Roman Britain with a trip to Wroxeter and cross into Wales to ride the Welshpool and Llanfair Light Railway. On this Shropshire Hills Discovery Tour, you'll also visit medieval Ludlow, explore two incredible castles, and spend time in UNESCO-listed Ironbridge – cradle of the Industrial Revolution.

WHAT YOU'LL LOVE

- Staying in our country house in the heart of the Shropshire Hills National Landscape
- Learning about Roman Britain in Wroxeter
- Exploring historic Shrewsbury
- Riding the Welshpool and Llanfair Light Railway
- Visiting the mighty Powis Castle and 13th century Stokesay
- Spending time in medieval Ludlow

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: Shrewsbury & Wroxeter

A morning to enjoy the sights of Shrewsbury, Shropshire's county town and the 'Original One-off'. Will you choose to take a river cruise, or follow in the footsteps of Percy Thrower, Charles Darwin or Brother Cadfael? Later today, we step back further in time to explore the fascinating remains of Viriconium (Wroxeter), once the fourth largest city in Roman Britain, and the reconstructed town house which gives a sense of domestic Roman life.

Day 3: Herefordshire

Architecture and medieval history are today's themes: Ludlow has an imposing 11th-century castle and many listed buildings, including those in Broad Street, considered one of the finest streets in Britain. There will be plenty of time to explore historic Ludlow before we visit the spectacular medieval manor house of Stokesay Castle this afternoon. The Great Hall has remained unchanged for 700 years and offers great views from its gable windows, and its fortified North Tower looks like something out of a fairy tale.

Day 4: Welsh Borders

'Border country' might bring to mind power struggles but there is much more than historic bloodshed! On the final day our holiday, we spend time in Montgomery, a charming historic border town, take a ride on the Welshpool & Llanfair Light Railway, with one of the steepest gradients of all the Great Little Trains, and spend time discovering Powis Castle, home to the Clive Museum and some spectacular gardens.

Day 5: Departure Day

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before making your way home.

Longmynd Hotel

For rural calm in the Shropshire Hills National Landscape, the location of this characterful country house is hard to top. Set in a wooded hillside just a short stroll from the market town of Church Stretton (nicknamed Little Switzerland for its picturesque landscape), you'll be within walking or driving distance of the Stiperstones, Caer Caradoc, Ironbridge Valley of Invention, and the historic towns of Ludlow and Shrewsbury. And then, of course, there's the Long Mynd itself – an area of registered common land that has been cared for by a group of farmers (the self-named commoners) who have grazed sheep and ponies here for generations.

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.

Safety Information - Discovery Tours/Discover More Tours

The itinerary may be changed for safety reasons. Leaders always consider the safety of the group as a whole and may need to alter or curtail the planned itinerary for the day if circumstances dictate. Your leader may refuse to accept a guest if fitness requirements are in doubt, or if clothing, equipment and behaviour are unsuitable. In the event of a problem all leaders carry a mobile phone and first aid kit. Please note: If you choose to leave the group your leader is no longer responsible for you. If you have a particular health condition or disability please put this on your guest registration form. This information will be confidential to your leaders and the house manager, but leaders do need to take account of any issues when planning. Please carry a copy of these trip notes with you, or note down the contact phone number for your accommodation (details in the travel section) should you need them in case of emergency.

Packing list - Discovery Tours

The UK has a famously unpredictable climate so it's best to be prepared for weather that's sunny one minute and raining the next. To make it easier, here's a list of items you should consider packing. Essentials Suitable, sturdy footwear with a good grip. You'll be on your feet for much of the day Waterproof jacket Waterproof overtrousers Sunhat Rucksack Water bottle (at least 1 litre capacity) Sunscreen Mobile phone UV sunglasses Recommended First aid kit, including plasters Sit mat Waterproof pouch for valuables Rubbish bag (remember to always leave no trace) Wallet/purse Optional extras Walking poles, Flask for hot drinks Durable lunch box Waterproof rucksack liner
