

# St Oswald's Way Coastal Section Guided Trail Holiday

**Trip style:** Guided trails

**Destination:**  Northumberland

**Trip code:** ALN07-LOC01

**Grades:** 1, 2

**Carbon Footprint:**  190kg CO2



## HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

St Oswald's Way explores some of the finest landscapes and fascinating history Northumberland has to offer. Follow in the footsteps of the early 7th century King of Northumbria – later venerated as a saint – who made it his mission to bring Christianity to the kingdom. Highlights include the gorgeous fishing village of Craster famous for its kippers, the impressive sea-facing remains of Bamburgh Castle, and the chance to walk across the narrow isthmus

of sand that links the tidal island of Lindisfarne (also known as Holy Island) to the mainland.

## WHAT YOU'LL LOVE

- Walking Northumberland's coastline from Holy Island to Warkworth
- Discovering the story of St Oswald
- Soaking up views of the mighty coastal castle at Bamburgh
- Crossing the causeway from Holy Island to the mainland
- Spending time in fishing villages including Craster and Seahouses
- Staying at a former 18th century granary in Alnmouth
- A more personalised experience thanks to small group sizes (maximum 15 people)

## WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Comfortable en-suite rooms 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 walks with an experienced HF Holidays Leader
- All transport to and from walks where necessary

## TRIP SUITABILITY

This Guided Walking Hiking Trail is graded 2 which involves walks/hikes on good paths, though often quite a distance each day. It is your responsibility to ensure you have the relevant fitness required to join this holiday.

### Your fitness

We want you to be confident that you can meet the demands of each walking day and get the most out of your holiday. Please be sure you can manage the mileage and ascent detailed in the daily itineraries. It is important for your own enjoyment, and that of your fellow guests that you can maintain the pace.

It makes a lot of sense to spend time getting some additional exercise before your holiday. We suggest that you try to fit in a number of longer walks, including some on hilly terrain. Other exercises such as cycling, jogging and swimming are also excellent for developing increased stamina.

## 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 8:** 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.