



Northumberland Walking Holiday - Shorter Walks

Depart : Sunday 1st May 2022

Return : Friday 6th May 2022

The committee of Manx Footpaths Conservation Group are delighted to offer members a walking holiday to Northumberland in May 2022, these small group holidays are packaged together by Isle of Man Event Services Limited, based in Village Walk in Onchan. IOM Events are a fully bonded travel agent.



Numbers will be limited to 12 persons and places will be allocated on a first come serve basis by contacting the team at IOM Event Services on either:

info@iomevents.com or calling 01624 664460

Please indicate which departure you wish to book a place, your name, and your accommodation preference.

A £100 pp deposit will be required at booking and the full balance paid no later than 4 weeks prior to departure.

The detailed trip notes/itinerary are below but Highlights of the Trip include:

- 5 Nights Bed and Breakfast sharing a twin or double room
- Private Minibus Transport including Door to Door Transfers
- Return Sea Travel
- Daily Transport to and from all walks
- Tour Manager/Guide for the duration of the trip
- 4 bespoke guided shorter walks varying between 4-6 miles taken at a leisurely pace
- Famous barefoot walk across the bay and guided tour of Holy Island/Lindisfarne with award winning local guide
- Time to explore areas of interest
- Evening Pub/Restaurant reservations pre-booked including transport
- All walking insured with fully accredited guide

Total holiday price £615 pp based on a twin/double room sharing

Total holiday price for Sole Occupancy Room £885 pp

The county of castles, breath-taking views, and big skies, Northumberland is ideal to be explored on foot. This 5-night walking holiday will explore 4 completely different areas of England most northerly county

including walking along the stunning coastline, exploring the National Park for amazing 360° views, walking in the Cheviot Hills and lastly a guided tour of Holy Island including the ancient pilgrimage trail, barefoot across the bay.

The group size will be 12, keeping the group managing especially with the unlikely possibility of some Covid-19 regulations being in place.

Every evening a group reservation will be booked at a different pub/restaurant within a 10-mile radius of Alnwick, our base for the week. Transport every evening will be available for those wishing to go out on the group reservation, eating out with the group is purely optional and many other options will be available and is not included in the package price.

Walking

All walks on this departure will be of a leisurely pace and range between 4-6 miles per day.

Walking is optional, and you are most welcome to do your own thing on any day of the itinerary; it's your holiday.

All routes will be on designated and established pathways, with occasional uphill sections and rougher sections underfoot. Walking boots or Shoes will be fine for all walks.

The walk across the bay to Holy Island will involve a 2.5 mile walk across firm sand and the route is best achieved barefooted before putting on walking shoes/boots/trainers for the walk around Holy Island.

Accommodation

The Hog's Head Inn is situated on the outskirts of Alnwick and is perfectly situated transport routes for our mini-bus transfers. The rooms are large, clean, with friendly staff and the hotel is 5 years old.

[The Hog's Head Inn, Alnwick | The Inn Collection Group](#)



Breakfast daily is a buffet style with cereals, porridge, fruit etc and a full hot food buffet, so perfect for a good breakfast before a day's walking.

Itinerary

Day 1

Pick up from your Home (or meet at Sea Terminal) by 16-Seater mini-bus.

Depart IOM Sea Terminal at 08:00 - Arrive Heysham at 12.00

Transfer to Hamshaugh a pretty village which is about 2 hrs from the ferry, with a table booked for lunch. [The Crown Inn, Humshaugh](#). The village and surrounding area are right in the heart of Hadrian's Wall ruins and after lunch a little walk for about an hr or so to view a few remaining parts of the wall.

Transfer approx. 1hr to Alnwick and check into our accommodation.

Transfer from hotel to evening restaurant booked at 6.30.

Day 2

Breakfast served from 0730 hrs

Leave hotel at 0915 hrs stopping off in Alnwick to get a packed lunch. Alnwick has a variety of supermarkets including Sainsburys and an M&S Foodhall. We will stop off on route every day to get some things for a packed lunch.

Today's walk is our longest and a circular route, starting from Craster via Low Newton by the Sea. Our walk is along the well-trodden Northumberland Coastal footpath, with good terrain and easy walking. Walking trainers or boots will be suitable for today, following the edge of the North Sea via Dunstanburgh Castle and, alongside some beautiful beaches, and over some spectacular dunes, it's an area of outstanding natural beauty. The halfway point of this walk is the small fishing hamlet of Low Newton by the Sea, now National Trust site has the delightful Ship Inn, we will stop here for refreshment and close by for our lunch. Our walk turns us back towards Craster via the slightly higher path above the disused quarries for super views of Dunstanburgh Castle and along this beautiful coastline. where you could wait for a couple of hrs before being picked up by the minibus or get the local bus up the coast to Sea House or Bamburgh to meet the rest of the group.



Walking Distance total – 7.7 miles / Ascent total 39m – Easy and enjoyable walking on flat terrain.

Those wishing to only walk to the halfway point can then wait for a couple of hrs before being picked up by the minibus or get the local bus up the coast to Sea House or Bamburgh to meet the rest of the group.

On completion of the walk, we will take the minibus north towards the pretty seaside town of Bamburgh for a few hrs free time to explore this interesting and historic seaside town, then transfer back to the hotel in Alnwick.

Transfer from the hotel to evening meal reservation at the Tankerville Arms pub at Eglington – About a 15-minute drive from the Hotel. [The Tankerville Arms](#)

Day 3

Breakfast served from 0730 hrs

Leave hotel at 0930 stopping off on-route for packed lunch.

Pretty 30-minute drive to south of Rothbury and into the Northumberland National Park for a fantastic circular route out into open moorland and along the Simonside ridge. From leaving the minibus we can leave our bags on the minibus and have a short climb to Lordenshaw Iron Age Fort remains with some good examples of ancient Cup and Ring carvings on route. Our onward route takes us back passed the minibus and along the popular Simonside ridge walk past the summits of the



Beacon, Dove Crag to the Summit of Simonside with brilliant 360-degree views of Northumberland including the Cheviots and the Northeast coastline. We shall find a sheltered spot for our lunch with a stunning view! Descending sharply for a short distance down some steps (cut onto the hillside) we head off back underneath the ridge, and alongside the edge of the forest and re-joins the pathway back to the Minibus .

No facilities on route and walking boots would be ideal for today's walk and walking poles if you use them.

Distance - 5 miles in total and 267m of ascent.

A quite manageable walk with a couple of steeper uphill sections but with good quality pathways throughout. Those not wishing to walk down the steepish steps can follow the track back to meet the rest of the group back on the decent to the minibus.

On completion of the walk, we will stop off at the pretty town of Rothbury for some free time before transferring back to the hotel in Alnwick.

Evening meal reservation in Alnwick town centre.

Day 4

Breakfast served from 0730hrs

Optional Sightseeing Day

Why not visit the local attractions of Alnwick at your leisure including the world-famous Alnwick Castle [Click here for details of Alnwick Castle](#)

Or the stunning Alnwick Castle Gardens [Click here for details of Alnwick Castle Gardens](#)

Or wandered around this beautiful medieval town with its museums, galleries, and delightful tea shops.

Walk Option

Leaving the Hotel at 1000 hrs stopping off on-route for a packed lunch.

We head North towards the edge of the National Park and the Cheviot Hills, the beautiful, rounded hills that mark the border between England and Scotland and the market town of Wooler to start our circular route.

Leaving the pretty market town of Wooler and its many tiny shops and cafes, we walk out towards the open countryside of the Cheviot Hills, on a mixture of quiet farm tracks and through grassy fields our route brings us to the base of Humbleton Hill. We slowly climb towards the summit, circumnavigating the hill for some fantastic views before steadily reaching the top and magnificent views of the Cheviot hills, geological landscape and visit the site of the Hambleton Iron age fort. Our route slowly descends towards Wooler Common and woodland before our path takes us back into the town centre.

Walking Distance – 4.6 miles / Ascent total 300m – A short walk but with a steep steady climb but we will take our time and the view at the summit is spectacular.

For those not wanting to walk the full distance, shorter/easier route is



available. The terrain is all good well-established pathways, across the open moorland the paths are firm well-trod grassland tracks.

Transfer back to the Hotel

Evening meal reservation within 15 mins drive from the hotel

Day 5

Pilgrim's Way to the Holy Island of Lindisfarne

Breakfast served from 0730hrs

Leave the hotel at 0915 stopping off on-route for a packed lunch – The drive is approx. 30 mins, and we need to be ready for a 10am start.

Today's walk is the highlight of the trip walking the Pilgrim's Way to the Holy Island of Lindisfarne and a historical tour of the island.

The walk today has the services of an award-winning local guide for this day out to really make the experience memorable for everyone.



The walk today starts with the ancient route to Holy Island walking barefoot across the bay on the unique traditional route following the marker poles across the sandy bay (A must for everyone visiting). We pass a colony of singing seals and in the footsteps of Irish-Celtic monks, Anglo-Saxon Kings and Vikings before us. The walk across the bay is about 3 miles. Once on the Island with our boots on, we will have a short walk to stop for coffee and cake in one of the artisan coffee shops. Our guide will take us around this stunning and unique isle. There is a medieval priory, the Tudor castle, lime kilns, wildlife areas and rich religious history

Distance 5/6 miles in total and 24m of ascent

Walking trainers or boots will be fine for today's walk. The tide safe crossing times that day are 0945 – 1830, So we will be catching the bus back to cross the causeway in the afternoon (about £2.50), giving us more time to explore the island. After reaching our minibus we transfer back to the hotel.

Table will be booked for the whole group at the Hogs Head Hotel to raise a glass to a great week's walking.

Day 6

Breakfast served from 0730 hrs

Leave the hotel 0930hrs to transfer to Heysham Port to catch the 1415 hrs sailing arriving in Douglas at 1800 hrs.

Island wide drops offs (unless other arrangements wish to be made).



