

### WALKER'S BRITAIN: ENGLAND, COAST TO COAST

Tour code: WCC

Revised: October 2010

Rollup, rollup for Wainwright's masterpiece! This is the quintessential English hill walking and long distance trail experience: 191 odd miles traversing three national parks and a lot of interesting landscapes, old towns and of course public houses in between! It is amazing to think that this most famous of routes, totally eclipsing the Pennine Way in terms of popularity and variety, is still not classified as a National Trail!

Starting at the tiny Cumbrian seaside resort of St. Bees on the Irish Sea we head East, with the wind, into the Lake district to pass by some of its most famous lakes and cross some important passes, with options to extend days (with ascents of peaks such as Helvellyn).

Then it is on into the Yorkshire Dales and over the mystical Nine Standards Rig, before following the beautiful River Swale for a couple of days into the old market town of Richmond. There follows a marathon section to link up with the North York Moors National Park from where we roller coaster around to the North Sea Coast to make a triumphant entrance into Robins Hoods Bay where a celebratory pint, bottle of Champagne or ice cream whilst standing in the sea is in order. Along the way you will be amazed at the variety of the dry stone walls, the charming little villages and just how much that you get to eat for a full English cooked breakfast! There are cozy small hotels, guesthouses and pubs to stay at on this tour and these, as well as the rich variety of the people that you meet enroute, reflect something of the great diversity of England.



#### General Information

**Duration of tour:** 15 days (14 nights)

**Season:** 16 April to mid October

**Starting point:** St Bees

**End of tour:** Robin Hood's Bay

**Breakfast:** in the UK will generally consist of sausage, bacon, eggs etc, cereals, toast and fruit will also be available. It is important for you to tell us if you have any dietary requirements when you book your holiday so that we can inform everyone that you are staying with.

**Baths:** it is not normal for your room to have a bath, the main reason being that it takes up a lot of space, some hotels/guesthouses may have a separate room in the house where a bath is available to guests, but in the main it is showers.

**Single Supplements:** are payable on most of our tours. The single supplement guarantees the privacy of your own room, however, rooms can at times be small and in some places may not enjoy the same facilities as double/twin rooms.

**Luggage:** When staying in hotels, sometimes your luggage will have been taken to your room awaiting your arrival. However don't be surprised if your luggage is waiting for you to take it up to your room.

#### Getting to the Start

**Convenient Major city and international airport:** Manchester Airport 4-5 hours by rail via Carlisle.

**Outward journey from London:** Train from London Euston to Carlisle. Then local train from Carlisle to St Bees (1 hour 15 mins). Then short walk from station to hotel.

**Inward journey to London at end of tour:** Bus/taxi from Robin Hood's Bay to Scarborough. Then train from Scarborough to London. National Rail website is <http://www.nationalrail.co.uk> if you want to look at the journey involved.

### Grading

Moderate to Challenging. Some long days and steep climbs and descents. Generally however undulating. Mixed weather can be expected. We would **not** recommend the route for first time walkers. Note that often the trails in the Lake District especially are steep and rocky at times.

### Waymarking

Despite its justifiable popularity, this is not a National Trail. Waymarking is variable or erratic and you will have to use map interpretation for much of the time, especially at times of low visibility, so you should be accustomed to using map and compass.

### Your Accommodation

Note that the sheer popularity of this tour may mean that we cannot get you into the accommodations described below for the dates of your tour. We will endeavor to get you into a similar standard of accommodation nearby, but please appreciate that there is limited accommodation. Also, although we aim to get you into accommodations with ensuite rooms this is not always possible; at a couple of places on your tour you may be sharing bathrooms.

- ❑ **Night 1:** A 17<sup>th</sup> Century sandstone barn situated on the main street in the coastal village of St. Bees! The barn was initially converted in the 1980's into a large guesthouse and self-contained flats, being recently refurbished throughout. All rooms have a colour television and tea & coffee facilities.
- ❑ **Night 2:** Overnight at a friendly, family owned hotel, of three-crown standard. Enjoy a home cooked meal of local produce including fish and game in season. A traditional feel is retained by the hotel, with its open fire, and the fully licensed bar serves a range of beverages including locally produced ale.
- ❑ **Night 3:** Tonight we stay in a small and long established guesthouse. It is set in a beautiful small hamlet town. A popular peaceful retreat for former clients. Ensuite facilities are not available here as it is a listed building that changes cannot be made to.
- ❑ **Night 4:** Our small family-run guesthouse is conveniently placed in the center of this delightful village. Grasmere is one of Lakeland's most celebrated villages, and there is time either this afternoon or tomorrow morning to look around and visit the poet Wordsworth's home at Dove Cottage.
- ❑ **Night 5:** Tonight's accommodation is popular with visitors and local people alike since the early 1800's.

Many a tale could be told of events that have taken place in all its lifetime, including the time when Wordsworth was in our very bar as news arrived that Nelson had died at Trafalgar. This is a listed building so the rooms are small, to change this would spoil the character of this wonderful coaching inn.

- ❑ **Night 6:** The proprietors will welcome you to their guesthouse in the village of Shap. The village offers an interesting insight to the history of the area, and the old Shap Abbey is nearby.
- ❑ **Night 7:** This accommodation has many unusual features, and is of an exceptionally high standard. It is a Grade II listed Georgian town house full of character, with a friendly relaxed atmosphere.
- ❑ **Night 8:** Accommodation in Thwaite is at a medium sized guesthouse, offering a gateway to the Pennines "The Backbone of England". Traditional Yorkshire fayre is served in an attractively decorated dining room, and there are tea and coffee making facilities in all rooms.
- ❑ **Night 9:** Formed from a terrace of traditional Cl6th miners' cottages, a peaceful and comfortable hotel with courtyard and garden, renowned for its cuisine.
- ❑ **Night 10:** The extremely picturesque North Yorkshire town of Richmond, with its cobbled market square and Norman castle, is an ever-popular destination for visitors. Our accommodation is in a small, very comfortable, guest house within easy reach of all the sights in Richmond
- ❑ **Night 11:** Tonight's accommodation is set in an extremely picturesque village on the edge of the North Yorkshire Moors. All rooms are ensuite and have tea and coffee making facilities.
- ❑ **Night 12:** Tonight we stay in a wonderful guesthouse. All the rooms are very spacious. There is a TV and tea & coffee making facilities in all rooms.
- ❑ **Night 13:** Another listed building will be the accommodation for tonight. Situated alongside the River Esk, the inn is actually mentioned in the Norman Domesday Book of the 11th Century, and the oldest part of the building dates back almost as far. Some rooms are en suite, and there is a TV and tea and coffee making facilities in all rooms.
- ❑ **Night 14:** Our final night is spent in an elegantly refurbished Victorian guesthouse with many original features. The rooms are spacious but not ensuite, as this would ruin the character of the house.

### Outline Itinerary

- ❑ **Day 1 St Bees:** Travel to starting point on the edge of the Irish Sea with views across to the Isle of Man.
- ❑ **Day 2 St. Bees to Ennerdale Bridge:** Footpath along red sandstone coastal cliffs of St Bees Head and then inland over hilly ground to the edge of the Lake

District National Park (14 miles 6 hours. The day's total ascent 780 metres / descent 665m).

□ **Day 3 Ennerdale Bridge to Borrowdale:** A quiet and scenic footpath along the shore of Ennerdale Water lake to Black Sail and over the hills to Borrowdale (14 miles 8 hours. The day's total ascent 765m / descent 785m)

□ **Day 4 Borrowdale to Grasmere:** Classic Lakeland scenery over Greenup Edge to Easedale and Grasmere (10 Miles 6 Hours. The day's total ascent 750m / descent 760 via Helm Crag).

□ **Day 5 Grasmere to Patterdale:** Over Grisedale Pass (2000 ft) and around the small mountain lake of Grisedale Tarn to Patterdale (7miles 5½ hours. The day's total ascent: 900m / descent 805m via the recommended route over St. Sunday Crag). Add 2 miles and 2 hours if include detour via Summit of Helvellyn. Add 1 ½ hours for detour of St. Sunday Crag.

□ **Day 6 Patterdale to Shap:** Past Angle Tarn, over Kidsty Pike (2560 feet, the highest point on the whole route) and along Hawes Water (home of England's only nesting eagles, although we believe that the birds have flown) (17miles 9 hours. The day's total ascent 1174m / descent 1009m).

□ **Day 7 Shap to Kirkby Stephen:** Easier going over limestone plateau (18 miles 8 hours. The day's total ascent 808m / descent 950 m) between the Lake District and Yorkshire Dales National Parks.

□ **Day 8 Kirkby Stephens to Keld or on to Thwaite:** Across Nine Standards Rigg (2170 feet) with its array of obelisks and down to Keld in Swaledale with its many waterfalls (16 miles 8 hours. The day's total ascent 780m / descent 575m to Keld).

□ **Day 9 Keld to Reeth:** Wild moorland with long-abandoned lead mines, a magnet for the industrial archaeologist (14 miles 7 hours. The day's total ascent 838m / descent 911m). There is also a pretty lower alternative route via Swaledale if you have bad weather - or even if you don't!

□ **Day 10 Reeth to Richmond:** A morning walk through pretty Swaledale lined with limestone crags on either side, allowing time in Richmond for shopping (note shops closed Sunday) and sightseeing in Richmond whose Norman Keep towers above the Swale on one side and the ancient cobbled market square on the other (10 miles 4 hours. The days total ascent 395m / descent 510m).

□ **Day 11 Richmond to Osmotherley:** This is the longest and flattest day of the tour, bridging the gap between the Yorkshire Dales and the North York Moors National Parks (24 miles 9 hours. The day's total ascent 375m / descent 292m).

□ **Day 12 Osmotherley to Blakey:** A strenuous day with repeated ascents and descents in the Cleveland Hills, then across heather moors to Rosedale (21 miles 10 hours. The day's total ascent 1021m /descent 880).

□ **Day 13 Blakey to Egton Bridge:** An easy descent to wooded Eskdale. The latter part of today's walk follows a beautiful path through the woodlands on the banks of the River Esk (10 miles 4 hours. The day's total ascent 265m / descent 616m).

□ **Day 14 Egton Bridge to Robin Hoods Bay:** Across heather moors and along coastal cliff path to Robin Hood's Bay. A village of red roofed houses clustered around its harbor on the North Sea coast. This is the end of the 190-mile crossing of England. (16 miles 7 hours. The day's total ascent (775m / descent 770m).

□ **Day 15:** End of tour.

PLEASE NOTE: It is generally normal practice when staying in hotels that you check-in on or after 2pm and checkout by 10am the following morning. Guesthouses/bed & breakfast establishments are normally check-in on or after 4pm and checkout by 10am.

#### **Included**

Bed & Breakfast throughout. Ensuite bathroom facilities where they are available. Luggage transfers from Inn to Inn. Full route notes and map package – one per couple – if you require extra notes, there is an extra cost of UKP 25.

#### **Extending or reducing your walk:**

We have alternative options of 18-days / 17-nights and for 8-days / 7-nights. It is also possible to shorten a long walking day by adding in an extra night enroute. If this is something you are interested in doing then please contact us for details or see our website <http://www.outdoortravel.com.au>

#### **Escorted Departures 2011**

EWCC12 Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June

EWCC10 Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> July

EWCC18 Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> September