

ENGLAND – NORTHUMBERLAND

8-day / 7-night centre-based at Alnmouth – one-hotel guided walking tour



A guided walking holiday based at the heart of the historic village of Alnmouth on the North Sea coast with a sweeping sandy beach and a small tidal harbour. The area is fascinating to explore, with its combination of historic castles, the coast, hills, valleys, country lanes and even Hadrian's Wall within an hour's drive.

Highlights include the remote wild beauty of the Cheviot Hills, walks along the unspoilt coast to Craster and dramatic Bamburgh Castle, nearby Alnwick Castle (Harry Potter's Hogwarts) and its famous gardens, and two great sightseeing locations and wildlife havens: Holy Island and the Farne Islands.

Cost from: \$1885 per person twin share Single supplement on request

Departs: 13th, 20th, 27th March; 3rd, 10th April; 1st, 15th, 22nd May; 5th, 12th, 26th June; 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st July; 7th, 14th, 21st August; 4th, 18th, 25th September; 2nd, 23rd, 30th October, 2020

Includes: 7 nights in comfortable room with ensuite bathrooms, full board (breakfast, picnic lunch and dinner), experienced walks leader, 5 guided walks, transport associated with the walks, evening social activities.

Not Included: Transport to / from the house, drinks, personal expenses, transport/activities on your free day.

Accommodation: The 4-star **Nether Grange** offers a wonderful seaside location in the historic village of Alnmouth. With historic character and modern facilities, it is an ideal base for walking holidays. There are 35 bedrooms, several enjoy views across the golf links to the sea. The large lounge and dining room also offer views to the sea and there is a conservatory with a café open during the day. Nether Grange has an elevated terrace and croquet lawn. Tailored for walkers and outdoor enthusiasts there is a boot room and drying room. Premium rooms with extra space or sea views are also available for a supplement (please ask for details).



Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations

A typical 'Classic Walking Week' suggested itinerary:

Day 1: Arrival day. Plan to arrive at your country house accommodation mid-afternoon. Meals begin with dinner on the first night.

Days 2 to 4: Each day there is a choice of up to three guided walks of varying length and ascent. You choose the walk that best suits your ability and fitness. Walks leaders make the final decision on which routes are offered; each evening they will brief you about the walks for the next day and answer questions you may have. After dinner perhaps join in an organised activity such as a quiz or a talk about the area, or relax in the bar.

Day 5: Free day. No walks are organised today. You can relax at the hotel, walk independently, or explore the local area. Alnwick Castle and garden are well worth a visit, or perhaps take a boat trip to the Farne Islands, one of the best places in Britain to view seals and puffins.

Days 5 to 6: Again choose from Easier, Medium or Harder walks each day; evening social activities.

Day 8: Departure day. Tour ends after breakfast.

The routes each day are determined by the walk leaders, some possible walking routes may include:

The Northumberland Coast

Enjoy a pleasant walk along the beach and atop low cliffs from the atmospheric fishing village of Craster, with its famous kipper smokehouse, to Alnmouth. Or, walk via Embleton to the iconic clifftop ruins of Dunstanburgh Castle, then along the coast to Alnmouth. With luck we may see seals and a wide array of seabirds.

St Cuthbert's Way and the Cheviots

Follow parts of St Cuthbert's Way, onto the northern edge of the Cheviot Hills to the little market town of Wooler. We gain fine views into Scotland from the tranquil lower slopes of the Cheviots. Some routes take in the peaceful valley of Carey Burn and the historic battle site of Humbleton Hill or a fairly steep ascent onto Yeavinger Bell.

The Meadows, Hulne Park and Alnwick

We follow the River Aln, past Alnwick Castle and onto Hulne Park, part of the Duke of Northumberland's estate. Visit the remains of Hulne Priory, with its curious statues, before returning to historic Alnwick. Or, on the harder walk, see some Iron Age hillforts ensconced in wonderful scenery.

Exploring Northumberland's early history

The tide determines this day's walks. We discover the Holy Island of Lindisfarne, where the Priory, dating from 635 AD is English Christianity's oldest site. The island is cut off by the tides twice daily. After (or before, depending on the tides), we explore the Bamburgh Coast, seat of the early Northumbrian kings.

Rothbury and the Simonside Hills

Fine views of the Cheviot and Simonside Hills from either Lord Armstrong's Cragside Estate or from Garleigh Moor. Descend back to the peaceful town of Rothbury on the River Coquet.

Footpath information:



Easier walks: Up to 7½ miles (12km) on good paths with gentle gradients with up to 1100 feet (330m) of ascent in a day.



Medium walks: Up to 10½ miles (17km) on good, occasionally rough and steep paths with up to 1450 feet (440m) ascent in a day.



Harder walks: Up to 12½ miles (20km) with some steeper sections with up to 2200 feet (660m) ascent in a day.

Outdoor Travel offer a range of walking holidays, with inn-to-inn luggage transfers, in many areas of the UK and Ireland including Wainwright's challenging **Coast to Coast** route, **Lake District**, **Snowdonia** in Wales, Scotland's wild and scenic **West Highland Way** or the **Ring of Kerry** in Ireland. In France see the Dordogne, Provence or Riviera Coast. Walking holidays in Italy include the Cinque Terre, Amalfi Coast, Umbria and Tuscany. Ask about long-distance pilgrimage trails such as the **Way of St James**, the **Camino de Santiago** from Le Puy in France to Santiago de Compostela in Spain, or the **Via Francigena**, the pilgrims' road to Rome.

Contact Outdoor Travel for more details and reservations:

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