

WAINWRIGHT'S COAST TO COAST – ICONIC ENGLISH WALKING

17 days / 16 nights – **CHALLENGING** inn-to-inn **SELF-GUIDED** long distance walking trail
8, 9, 15 or 18-day options also available – ask for details



A wonderful walking route first described by the great English writer and illustrator Alfred Wainwright in 1973, which has since become an iconic and highly popular route. This is the quintessential English hill walking and long-distance trail experience: over 190 miles, traversing three national parks through an array of scenic and wondrous landscapes, towns, typical English villages and country inns.

Beginning at the Cumbrian seaside resort of St. Bees on the Irish Sea, the walk heads eastwards (with the usual wind behind your back) into the Lake District passing some of the most famous lakes, passes and optional peak ascents (such as Helvellyn the highest mountain in England). Crossing into the Yorkshire Dales and over the mystical Nine Standards Rigg the route follows the beautiful River Swale into the old market town of Richmond. From here you link up with the North York Moors National Park and on to the North Sea coast, ending in Robin Hood's Bay.

Along the way be amazed at the neatly-kept farm buildings and dry-stone walls, the charming villages and what a temptation (and a challenge) a full cooked English breakfast can be. We offer cosy 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.

The Coast to Coast walk is in high demand, accommodation is limited in the small villages along the way, and **early booking is essential**, especially if you plan to walk in the peak months of May, June or September.

Cost from: \$5325 per person twin share
High season supplement from \$375 per person applies in May, June, September
Single room supplement and solo traveller supplement on request

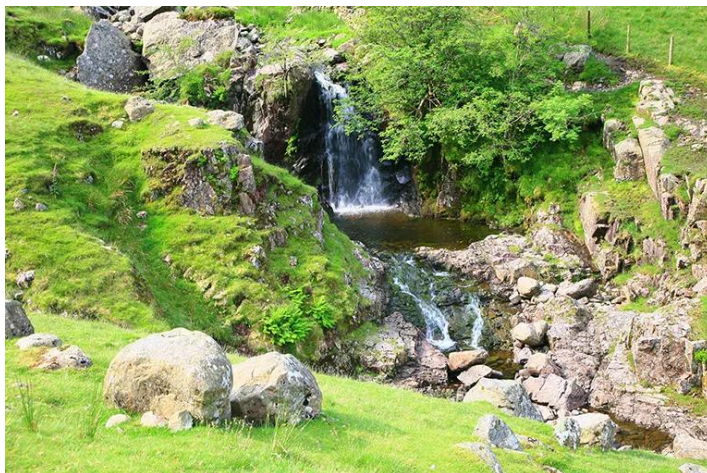
Departs: Daily from 27 March to 28 September, 2026

Included: 16 nights' comfortable twin-share accommodation with private / en-suite facilities where possible; 16 breakfasts; luggage transfers (1 piece per person, 18kg maximum); transfers as per itinerary on Days 14/15; digital route notes, maps and navigational app; emergency telephone assistance.

Walk Grading: Challenging. This mostly undulating walk offers some long days and steep climbs and descents. Average daily distances 15 miles (24km), 5-9 hours' walking, with an average daily elevation gain of 750 metres. The weather can be mixed, with strong winds and rain possible. Trails are a mix of mountain footpaths, woodland trails and footpaths and can be narrow, rocky and rough underfoot. Moorland terrain can be boggy and muddy. If walking early or late in the season be mindful that daylight hours are shorter, and weather may include snow or sleet. Waymarking is limited and navigation skills with GPS and maps are required. Not recommended for first time or inexperienced walkers.

Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details & reservations

Accommodation: B&Bs, guesthouses, small hotels, inns and pubs. Limited accommodation options on this popular route may mean that we cannot book our usual accommodation so we may put you up in a similar standard property nearby and daily walking distances may vary; a supplement may apply which will be advised when booking. We aim to book ensuite rooms but at some accommodation bathroom facilities are shared.



Suggested itinerary:

Day 1: Arrive St Bees

Travel to the starting point on the edge of the Irish Sea with views across to the Isle of Man. St Bees is accessible by train from Manchester, London or Glasgow via Carlisle. We recommend allowing time to visit the Abbey church, which has features on the local history and a display on a mummified knight that was discovered in a lead coffin from the graveyard. If you have an extra night here, you can follow the coastal path or quiet inland roads to the attractive town of Whitehaven, with its marina and great museum.

Day 2: St Bees to Ennerdale Bridge

walking @ 15 miles (24km), 6 hours

Dip your toes in the Irish Sea, then climb from the beach taking a footpath along the red sandstone coastal cliffs of St Bees Head (with England's only breeding colony of Black Guillemots) and then inland over hilly ground to the edge of the Lake District National Park. Dent Hill is the first real fell that you cross and will give you some indication as to whether you are fit enough for the days to come! Then follows a short but possibly the steepest descent of the whole tour down to Nannycatch Gate and Beck, a delightful stroll bringing you to the final descent to leafy Ennerdale Bridge.

Day 3: Ennerdale Bridge to Borrowdale

walking @ 16½ miles (27km), 7-9 hours

Follow a quiet footpath along the scenic shore of Ennerdale Water, then an easy scramble under Angler's Crag at Robin Hood's Seat. Walk on forest tracks then ascend steeply up the Lowther Beck and traverse some of the Lakeland fells, perhaps with views down to Buttermere. Reach the 'drum house' which marks the descent path to the Honister slate mine workings and café and to Borrowdale. Borrowdale is perhaps the most delightful valley in the Lakes with its crags and broadleaved trees. This is a lovely ensemble of hamlets: Seatoller (the wettest place in England), Longthwaite, Rossthwaite and Stonethwaite ('thwaite' is Old Norse for paddock). Delightful riverside paths connect the places and their pubs together if you have sufficient energy left of an evening.

Day 4: Borrowdale to Grasmere

walking @ 9 miles (14km), 4-5 hours

Classic Lakeland scenery over Greenup Edge to Easedale and Grasmere, with the Wordsworth Museum at Dove Cottage, William Wordsworth's grave at the church and the famous Gingerbread shop. 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 as well as the famous gingerbread shop.

Day 5: Grasmere to Glenridding

walking @ 8 miles (13km), 5-6 hours

A beautiful walk over Grisedale Pass (2000 feet / 610m) and around the small mountain lake of Grisedale Tarn to Patterdale. In good weather and if you are feeling fit, take the route up St Sunday Crag for some exceptional views down across Ullswater as you descend to Patterdale (this detour adds 1½ hours to your walk). Another possible detour is via the summit of Helvellyn – for this add 2 miles and 2 hours.

Day 6: Glenridding to Shap

walking @ 17 miles (27km), 7-9 hours

Some would say this is the most difficult stage of the Coast to Coast, especially in inclement weather – total elevation gain on this stage is 1175 metres. The day starts with a steep climb up past pretty Angle Tarn, and then up and onwards to a critical cairn where you turn to go up and over Kidsty Pike (2560 feet / 780m, the highest point on the whole route). You then descend steeply to walk along Haweswater, a huge body of water conceived in 1929 to supply Manchester with drinking water, drowning a couple of villages in the process. Walk over undulating terrain through fields to Shap Abbey, the most easterly point of the Lake District National Park. After this continue into Shap, the old granite mining town with several pubs and shops.



Day 7: Shap to Kirkby Stephen

walking @ 20½ miles (33km), 8 hours

From Shap cross railways and roads to get to the high moors. There follows a hilly section across Limestone Moors strewn with 'glacial erratics' – boulders moved there by glaciers. Drop into the gentler climes around Orton, a quaint picturesque village with attractive architecture, chocolate factory and tea shops. Walking now between Cumbria and the Yorkshire Dales, cross farmland and a section of moors around Sunbiggin Tarn. Descend steeply to Scandal Beck at Smardale Bridge then up over Smardale Fell and down into Kirkby Stephen, a historic market town, with St. Hedda's Church containing the 8th Century Loki stone of Norse mythology.

Day 8: Kirkby Stephen to Keld

walking @ 14½ miles (24km), 6 hours

Climb to the cairns of Nine Standards Rigg (2170 feet / 660m) with its array of obelisks, a feature of mysterious origin that marks the Watershed of England. Then cross the moors down to Keld in Swaledale. The moors become gentler as you walk into Keld with its many waterfalls and old stone barns.

Day 9: Keld to Reeth

walking @ 11-13 miles (18-20km), 5-6 hours

There are two options, either the higher route through wild moorland with long-abandoned lead mines, or the lower and quite pretty alternative route via Swaledale, featuring a nice pub in Gunnerside. Finish the day in Reeth, an attractive Green Village which flourished at the height of the mining age. Tourism is now its mainstay, hence the many pubs and tea shops.

Day 10: Reeth to Richmond

walking @ 12½ miles (20km), 5 hours

The walk through pretty Swaledale, lined with limestone crags on either side, should allow your arrival in Richmond with time for shopping (note most shops closed Sunday) and sightseeing in this picturesque market town. The Norman keep towers above the Swale and the ancient cobbled market square is worth a visit. You can also follow the Swale to Town Falls which are quite impressive in flood. Richmond is an ever-popular destination for visitors and is an excellent spot for an additional night (at extra cost).

Day 11: Richmond to Danby Wiske

walking @ 14 miles (23km) 5 hours

A gentle rural day, walking out from Richmond beside the River Swale and across the fields to Catterick Racecourse, then threading your way to Bolton-on-Swale, an ideal lunch stop. Continue following beside tiny streams and quiet country roads to reach the one-pub village of Danby Wiske with its village green.

Day 12: Danby Wiske to Osmotherley

walking @ 10 miles (16km), 4 hours

Primarily a road walk with some cross-country sections. A short climb to (what was) East Harlsey Castle, and then, with the North York Moors pressing ever closer, cross the busy A19 road to join a woodland footpath up to Osmotherley. You may like to visit the ruins of the 14th Century Mount Grace Priory on the way. Osmotherley is a quaint hill village with three pubs and Britain's oldest functioning Methodist Church (1754).

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Day 13: Osmotherley to Clay Bank Top

walking @ 11 miles (18km), 6 hours

A steep stretch from Osmotherley to the North York Moors, sandy heather clad hills and forests. After coming off Scarth Wood Moor, there is a long ascent up Live Moor and Carlton Bank (408m) before descending to Lord Stones Café. Then follows the succession of Cringle Moor, Broughton Bank and White Hill all at or over 400m. You lose and then re ascend 100-200 metres between each one. Thread through the sandstone boulders called the Wainstones on the way up White Hill. In clear weather there are views to Roseberry Topping, Vale of Mowbray and the Pennines. Descend off the ridge at Clay Bank Top to the car park, where you will be transferred to your overnight accommodation in nearby Great Broughton (transfer included in the cost of your tour).

Day 14: Clay Bank Top to Blakey Ridge

walking @ 9 miles (14km), 4-5 hours

Transfer back to the car park (included). The walk follows a moorland ridge up over Round Hill, then maintains its elevation following the route of the disused Rosedale railway line. There are enticing views at times into the fertile upper valleys of Farn and Esk dales. Arriving at the ancient Lion Inn at Blakey is a great relief especially when it is misty, wet and cold. This pub hotel has been a refuge from the elements for 400 years or so, and very cosy it is too! There are usually several interesting hand-pulled real ales on tap.

Day 15: Blakey to Egton Bridge / Grosmont

walking @ 10 miles (16km), 4-5 hours

After passing a white cross called Fat Betty, there follows an easy undulating descent down to beautiful, wooded Eskdale. You also get some views to the sea. Part of the walk follows a pretty woodland path on the banks of the River Esk to the 'Beggars Bridge', a parabolic stone structure that has a story of love lost and love re-found. Egton Bridge features a church in a picturesque setting; the river is famous for fly fishing and for the stepping stones between the two pubs. Your overnight stay may be either in Egton Bridge or a little further on in Grosmont, another picturesque village on the River Esk.

Day 16: Egton Bridge / Grosmont to Robin Hood's Bay

walking @ 16 miles (26km), 7 hours

From Grosmont ascend steeply across heather moors with views down to Whitby Abbey. Journey's end is still tantalisingly far as the route changes course to visit the May Beck valley and Falling Foss waterfall. Cross a high moor then walk 5km on the coastal cliff path to finally reach Robin Hood's Bay, a village of red roofed houses and a harbour on the North Sea coast – marking the end of the Coast-to-Coast crossing of England! Traditionally this accomplishment is celebrated with a drink at the Bay Hotel and dipping your toes in the North Sea.

Day 17: Departure day.

Tour ends after breakfast. Take public transport to Whitby or Scarborough for connections to London.



Contact Outdoor Travel for more itinerary details and reservations:

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