

ENGLAND - COAST TO COAST – EAST SECTION

9-days / 8-nights – **CHALLENGING SELF-GUIDED** walking trail Kirkby Stephen to Robin Hood's Bay



The eastern half of the walking route first described by the great English writer and illustrator Alfred Wainwright in 1973. This is the quintessential English hill walking and dales experience, traversing national parks and an array of scenic and wondrous landscapes, towns, typical English villages and country inns. Beginning at Kirkby Stephen and heading east from the crossing from Cumbria into the Yorkshire Dales and over the mystical Nine Standards Rigg the route follows the beautiful River Swale for a couple of days into the old market town of Richmond. From here the walk links up with the North York Moors National Park and carries on to the North Sea coast ending at Robin Hood's Bay.

Along the way you will be amazed at the neatly kept farm buildings and dry-stone walls, the charming villages and what a temptation (and a challenge) a full 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: **\$2850** per person twin share
High season supplement from **\$300** per person applies in May, June, September
Single room supplement and solo traveller supplement on request

Departs: Daily from 26 March to 30 September, 2026

Included: 8 nights' comfortable twin-share accommodation with private / en-suite facilities where possible; 8 breakfasts; luggage transfers (1 piece per person, 18kg maximum); digital maps, route notes and navigational app; emergency telephone assistance.

Walk grading: Challenging. Average daily distances of 15½ miles (25km), with two long days of 20 to 25 miles (32-40km); 6 to 9 hours per day at a steady pace of 4-5 km per hour. Average daily elevation gain of 700 metres. Terrain is undulating with some steep ascents and descents including days with multiple climbs and descents. Paths can be rough or muddy underfoot and some scrambling and climbing over stiles is required. Expect mixed weather, with strong winds, rain and fog possible. 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 are required with GPS and maps. 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 Kirkby Stephen

Make your own way to Kirkby Stephen, a historic market town on the edge of the Yorkshire Dales, with St. Hedda's Church containing the 8th Century Loki stone of Norse mythology.

Day 2 Kirkby Stephens 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 a sometimes wet and muddy crossing of moors down to Keld in Swaledale. The moors become gentler as you reach Keld with its many waterfalls and old stone barns.

Day 3 Keld to Reeth

walking @ 12½ miles (20km), 5 hours

Walk through wild moorland with long-abandoned lead mines or take the pretty alternative route at a lower level via Swaledale with a nice pub in Gunnerside. Finish the day in Reeth, an attractive Green Village which flourished at the height of the mining age.

Day 4 Reeth to Richmond

walking @ 12½ miles (20km), 5 hours

A morning walk through pretty Swaledale lined with limestone crags on either side, allowing time for shopping (note most shops closed Sunday) and sightseeing in Richmond with its Norman Keep towering above the Swale and ancient cobbled market square. You can also follow the Swale to Town Falls which are quite impressive in flood. This extremely picturesque North Yorkshire town is an ever-popular destination for visitors.

Day 5 Richmond to Osmotherley

walking @ 24 miles (39km), 9 hours

This is the longest day, luckily also the flattest, bridging the gap between the Yorkshire Dales and North York Moors. Walk out from Richmond beside the River Swale to Brompton-on-Swale, an ideal lunch stop. Follow tiny streams and quiet country roads to the one-pub village of Danby Wiske with its village green. A short climb to (what was) East Harlsey Castle, and then, with the North York Moors pressing ever closer, cross the A19 to a woodland footpath up to Osmotherley. Perhaps 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).

Day 6 Osmotherley to Blakey

walking @ 21 miles (34km), 9 hours

A strenuous, roller-coaster day on the sandy heather clad hills and forests of the North York Moors. The route undulates over Scarth Wood Moor, Live Moor, Carlton Bank, Cringle Moor, Broughton Bank and White Hill, losing and then re ascending 100-200m between each. On a clear day there are views to Roseberry Topping, Vale of Mowbray and the Pennines. Follow a moorland ridge up over Round Hill, then maintain your elevation along 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, with hand-pulled real ales on tap, is a great relief!

Day 7 Blakey to Egton Bridge / Grosmont

walking @ 10-11 miles (16-18km), 4-5 hours

After passing a white cross called Fat Betty, there follows an easy undulating descent down to beautiful, wooded Eskdale. Part of the day's walk follows a pretty path through the wood 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 pretty setting; the river is famous for fly fishing and for the stepping stones between the two pubs. You may stay either in Egton Bridge or further along in Grosmont, another picturesque village on the River Esk.

Day 8 Egton Bridge / Grosmont to Robin Hoods Bay

walking @ 16 miles (26km), 7 hours

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 with its Falling Foss waterfall. A high moor brings you to the coast and you walk 5km on coastal cliff path to finally reach Robin Hood's Bay, a harbour village of red roofed houses on the North Sea coast – marking the end of the Coast-to-Coast crossing of England!

Day 9: Departure day.

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

Outdoor Travel offer walking holidays, guided in small groups or self-guided, in the UK and Europe including **Hadrian's Wall** trail and the scenic wild **West Highland Way** in Scotland. Other journeys inspired by artists and literary figures include **Provence in Van Gogh's Footsteps** and **Stevenson's Trail** in the Cevennes in France.

Contact Outdoor Travel for more itinerary details and reservations

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