

ENGLAND – DERBYSHIRE DALES IN THE PEAK DISTRICT

8-day / 7-night one-hotel GUIDED walking tour based at Dovedale in the heart of England



Wonderful and varied walking country is to be found in the very central Derbyshire Dales, in the Peak District National Park. Discover limestone caves, lush valleys and pastures and stone-built villages. The region is very rewarding for walkers, whether through Dove Dale, with its eye-opening rock formations, or along the ancient and modern trails, looking down across the Cheshire Plain and into Wales. Charming villages, pubs and tea shops and former industrial relics add to the landscape, including textile mills, canals and tin or slate mines.

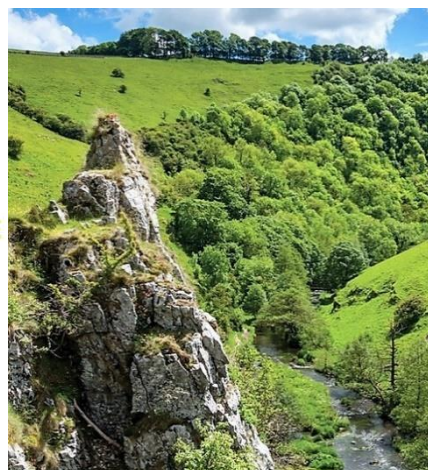
Cost from: \$2655 per person twin share Single supplement on request.

2024 Departures: 8, 15, 29 March, 12, 26 April, 10, 31 May, 7, 21 June, 5, 19 July, 9, 16, 30 August, 6 September, 4, 18 October, 29 November

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

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

Accommodation: The Peveril of the Peak is a fine country house in the white peak village of Thorpe, less than a mile from the famous stepping stones at the entrance to Dove Dale gorge. Enjoy the wide-ranging views of the surrounding countryside from the attractive patio and garden. The house boasts a lounge, bar and large dining room, boot room and drying room, and free WiFi. Premium rooms may be available at extra cost – ask for details.



Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations

Trip Grading: Walk moderate to longer distances mostly on well-defined paths. Some walks may have sections over rough or steeper terrain, particularly in hilly or mountainous areas. Will require reasonable fitness. Choice of easier walks 9-13km with ascent up to 400m, medium walks 14-17km with ascent up to 480m, harder walks 14-21km with ascent up to 660m in a day.

Suggested itinerary (routes are determined each day by walk leaders – subject to change):

Day 1: Arrival day

Arrive mid-afternoon and settle into your charming country house accommodation.

Day 2: Chatsworth, the Edges and Bakewell

All three walks traverse the gritstone escarpments known as the Edges. The more challenging routes follow Froggatt and Curbar Edges, one of the most popular walks in the Peak District, offering expansive views over the Derwent Valley. From Baslow Edge descend to Chatsworth Park, where we can admire Capability Brown's landscape and Chatsworth House, home to the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire. There should be time to explore the estate village of Edensor before finishing at Bakewell, home of Bakewell tarts.

Day 3: The Derwent Valley

From Crich village an undulating walk through the Derbyshire countryside to Crich Stand, a memorial tower dedicated to the Sherwood Foresters Regiment of the British Army, which lost over 11,000 men in World War I. The tower stands here in Derbyshire within sight of Nottinghamshire, the two counties represented by the regiment. If time permits, we may climb to the top of the tower. Then an easier walk along the Cromford Canal towpath to Arkwright's Mill, the world's first water-powered cotton mill, which helped lay the foundations of the Industrial Revolution and is now a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Day 4: Free day

Free day without organised walks. Explore the area independently or relax at the hotel. Visit the show caves in nearby Castleton, tour stately Chatsworth House, or hire a bicycle to ride the Tissington Trail.

Day 5: Manifold Valley and Ilam Park

Starting at the village of Wetton we walk above the Manifold Valley to Ilam Park and village. The medium and harder walks both ascend to Blore with its Norman church, taking in the views of the limestone plateau and Dove Dale, before descending to Ilam village, which has a grand hall and a number of alpine-style cottages. We walk through fields and along the valley back to the Peveril of the Peak.

Day 6: Upper Dove Valley & the Dragon's Back

The easier walk traverses below the jagged edges of the Dragon's Back, while the medium and harder walks gain substantially more elevation by climbing Dowel Dale and Hitter Hill. A highlight today is the remains of Pilsbury Castle, an 11th century motte and bailey fortress, which on a clear day allows for views back to the rocky spine of Chrome Hill. We finish our walk in the market town of Hartington, where we can sample local Stilton and Dovedale cheeses in the cheese shop.

Day 7: Dovedale

Descend Lin Dale to the famous Stepping Stones, then follow the River Dove upstream past the limestone pinnacles and formations of Dovedale Gorge. From here we may climb a path with many switchbacks to pastureland high above the gorge, then follow field tracks back to the country house. Or, from Milldale, we ascend to the village of Alstonefield and visit the Green Well, once the main water supply for the village. The harder walk takes a high-level loop north to Narrowdale Hill for panoramic views from the top, before crossing the river and returning to the Peveril of the Peak. On occasion some routes will also visit the estate village of Tissington, known for its well-dressings on Ascension Day (40 days after Easter).

Day 8: Departure day

Tour ends after breakfast.

Outdoor Travel walking holidays, guided or self-guided, are available in many parts of the UK, Ireland and Europe including Wainwright's challenging **Coast-to-Coast** trail, the Cotswolds, the rugged coast of Cornwall, Yorkshire Dales, the **West Highland Way** in Scotland. In France see the Dordogne, Alps or Provence. Walk the **Way of St James** from Le Puy in France to Santiago in Spain or the **Via Francigena** – the pilgrims' Road to Rome.

Contact Outdoor Travel for more details and reservations:

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