

## ENGLAND – NORTHUMBERLAND

8-day / 7-night one-hotel GUIDED walking, based at Alnmouth – with a choice of walks each day



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:**            **\$2695** per person twin share    Single supplement on request.

**2024 Departures:**    1, 29 March,    5, 19 April,    24 May,    7, 14, 28 June,    19, 26 July,  
9, 16, 23 August,    6, 13, 20, 27 September,    1 November

**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 the free day.

**Accommodation:**    The 4-star **Nether Grange** offers historic character and modern facilities in a wonderful seaside location in the historic village of Alnmouth. There are 36 bedrooms, several enjoy sea views across the golf links. The large lounge and dining room also offer views of 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**

**Trip Grading:** Moderate to long distances, mostly on good paths. There may be sections over rough or steeper terrain. Easier walks 10-13km with up to 340m of ascent, medium walks 11-16km with up to 440m of ascent, harder walks 15-20km with up to 580m of ascent in a day.

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

**Day 1: Arrival day**

Plan to arrive at your country house accommodation mid-afternoon. Ask about local transport or taxi transfer options from Alnmouth railway station.

**Day 2: 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.

**Day 3: The Ingram Valley**

Discover Iron Age hillforts in the Breamish Valley, Wether Hill and Brough Law. We may spot lapwings and curlews on the hillside and Cheviot sheep grazing in the pastures. Or, on the harder walk, we have more distant views of the River Breamish and pre-historic forts as we ascend to Old Fawdon Hill trig point, which offers 360° views, including the eastern boundary of Northumberland National Park.

**Day 4: Free day**

No walks are organised on this day. You can relax at the hotel or explore independently. 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 grey seals, puffins and other seabirds. Or Edinburgh is just an hour away by train.

**Day 5: Rothbury and the Simonside Hills**

Fine views of the Cheviot and Simonside Hills from either the slopes above Lord Armstrong's Cragside Estate or from Garleigh Moor and the summit of Dove Crag. The ancient cup-and-ring stones on Garleigh Moor are an example of late Neolithic / early Bronze Age rock art, some 3000 to 5000 years old. We walk via the estate's carriage drive to the peaceful town of Rothbury on the River Coquet.

**Day 6: Amble and Warkworth**

We walk along the Northumberland Coastal Path from various starting points. Some walks take in Amble, where the harbour's boardwalk has views across to Coquet Island, and all walkers pass by Warkworth Castle. This ruined hilltop fortress was built sometime in the 12<sup>th</sup> century and has a fascinating history; it was once home to 'Harry Hotspur' and served as a setting for a number of scenes in Shakespeare's *Henry IV Part I* and *Part II*. Return via coastal footpath and beach to Alnmouth.

**Day 7: Northumberland's early history**

We explore the Bamburgh coast. On the coastal path we pass by the busy port of Seahouses with views of the Farne Islands – with luck we spot a variety of seabirds and perhaps grey seals bobbing in the waves. The final stretch is along the beach with Bamburgh Castle in our sights. This medieval castle atop a craggy cliff was the seat of the early Northumbrian kings. The site is believed to have been occupied for over 10,000 years, beginning as a Celtic-Brittonic wooden palisade fort, then passing into possession of the Anglo-Saxons. It was sacked by Vikings in 993 and subsequently Norman lords built a keep on the site in the 11<sup>th</sup> century, which forms the central part of the present-day castle.

**Day 8: Departure day**

Tour ends after breakfast.

**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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