

ENGLAND: WAINWRIGHT'S COAST TO COAST WALK

17 days / 16 nights **CHALLENGING** long-distance **GUIDED** inn-to-inn walk



This is the quintessential English hill walking and long-distance trail experience: 190 or so miles traversing three national parks and many fascinating landscapes, old towns and villages, pubs and churches in between. It is amazing to think that this iconic route was only declared a National Trail in 2022, nearly fifty years after Alfred Wainwright first envisioned it.

Starting at the Cumbrian seaside resort of St Bees on the Irish Sea we head east, with the wind, to the Lake District exploring its dramatic landscapes with majestic lakes and rugged mountains. On into the Yorkshire Dales with its classic rural countryside of rolling hills and pretty villages, and over the mystical Nine Standards Rigg, then following the beautiful River Swale into the old market town of Richmond. We link up with the North York Moors National Park from where we roller coaster around to the North Sea coast and make a triumphant entrance into Robin Hood's Bay. Along the way you will be amazed at the variety of the dry-stone walls, the charming little villages, cosy small hotels, guesthouses and pubs and just how much that you get to eat for a full English cooked breakfast! Experience the satisfaction of completing one of Britain's best long-distance hikes from the Irish Sea to the North Sea coast, walking in the convivial company of your guide and group.

Departures: 3 May, 6 June, 11 July, 12 September 2026

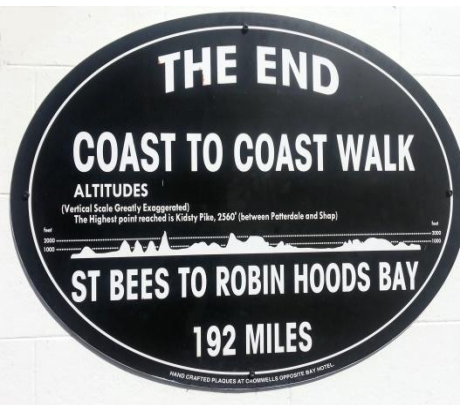
EARLY BOOKING ESSENTIAL

Cost from: \$6975 per person twin share

Single supplement on request (limited availability)

Includes: 16 nights' accommodation in hotel/guesthouses/B&Bs (ensuite where available) with breakfast daily, transfer of one piece of luggage (18kg maximum) per person, experienced walking guide.

Not included: Other meals, drinks, entry fees, travel insurance, personal expenses, unscheduled transfers.



Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details & reservations

Grade: Challenging - recommended for experienced walkers with a high level of fitness. We cover an average of 20km per day – 6 to 9 hours of walking per day – over undulating terrain with some steep ascents and descents. There are several longer days. The average daily ascent/descent is approximately 750m with days of over 1000m gained or lost. The group must walk **4 to 5km per hour** to arrive in a timely fashion and walkers are expected to keep up this pace. Trails, especially in the Lake District, can be rough or rocky underfoot, and you should also be comfortable climbing over stiles and walking on coastal terrain. Expect mixed and changeable weather, including rain, strong winds, low cloud and fog, and varying temperatures.

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. Take the train to St Bees from London, Manchester or Glasgow via Carlisle. Allow time to visit the Abbey church, which has features on the local history and has a display on a mummified knight discovered in a lead coffin in the graveyard. Spend an extra night here (at additional cost) to follow the coastal path to the attractive town of Whitehaven, with its marina and great museum. It is famous in the annals of the US Navy as the site of an elaborate raid on the British mainland by one John Paul Jones during the American War of Independence.

Day 2 To Ennerdale Bridge

walking @ 15 miles / 24km, 6 hours

We climb from the beach taking a footpath along red sandstone coastal cliffs of St Bees Head with England's only breeding colony of Black Guillemots, then head inland over hilly ground to the edge of the Lake District National Park. Dent Hill is the first real fell that we cross and will give you some indication as to whether you are fit enough for the days ahead! Although short, there follows possibly the steepest descent of the whole tour down to Nannycatch Gate and Beck, a delightful stroll along which brings us to the final descent to leafy Ennerdale Bridge at the edge of the Lake District National Park.

Day 3 Scenic walk to Borrowdale

walking @ 17 miles / 27km, 7 hours

We follow a quiet and scenic footpath along the shore of Ennerdale Water, with an easy scramble under Angler's Crag at Robin Hood's Seat. A long walk on a forest track then continues to Black Sail Hut, which is the smallest youth hostel in England, originally a shepherd's hut. A steep climb up the Lowther Beck before traversing some of the Lakeland fells, perhaps with views down to Buttermere. Finally, we reach the 'drum house' which marks the descent path to the Honister slate mine workings and café to Borrowdale; perhaps the most delightful valley in the Lakes with its crags and broadleaved trees. This is a delightful ensemble of hamlets: Seatoller (the wettest place in England), Longthwaite, Rossthwaite and Stonethwaite. Delightful riverside paths connect the places and their pubs together if you have sufficient energy in the evening.

Day 4 Classic Lakeland scenery enroute to Grasmere

walking @ 9 miles / 14km, 6 hours

Classic Lakeland scenery over Greenup Edge to Easedale and Grasmere. Grasmere is one of the Lake District's most celebrated villages and, if time permits, we visit the Wordsworth Museum at Dove Cottage, William Wordsworth's grave at the church and the famous Gingerbread shop!

Day 5 Another great walking day via Grisedale Pass

walking @ 8 miles / 12km, 5½ hours

Over Grisedale Pass (610m) and around the small mountain lake of Grisedale Tarn to Patterdale. In good weather if we are feeling strong, we can take the route up St Sunday Crag for some exceptional views down across Ullswater, possibly the most breathtaking of the trip. This adds around 1½ hours to our walking day.

Day 6 Walk to Shap over Kidsty Pike

walking @ 16 miles / 26km, 7 to 9 hours

Some would say this is the most difficult stage of the Coast to Coast walk, especially in bad weather, with a total elevation gain of 1175 metres and descent of 1010 metres. We start with a steep climb up past pretty Angle Tarn, and then up and onwards to a cairn marking the turn off to Kidsty Pike (780m / 2560 feet, the highest point on the whole route). We then descend to walk along Haweswater, a huge body of water conceived in 1929 to supply Manchester with drinking water, drowning villages in the process. We pass through undulating fields to Shap Abbey, the most easterly point of the Lake District National Park. This was the last Abbey to be founded in England in 1199AD, and the last to be destroyed in 1540AD. It nevertheless is a pretty place to pause. After this continue into Shap, a former granite mining town with several pubs and shops.

Day 7 Entering the Yorkshire Dales: Shap to Kirkby Stephen

walking @ 21 miles / 33km, 8 hours

Fuel up this morning for a long day, starting with a hilly section across Limestone Moors strewn with 'erratic' boulders moved there by glaciers. We drop into the gentler climes around the quaint village of Orton. We are now between Cumbria and the Yorkshire Dales walking mostly over farmland with a section of moors around Sunbiggin Tarn, an important site for birds. We descend steeply to the Scandal Beck at Smardale Bridge, then climb over Smardale Fell and back down into Kirkby Stephen, an attractive market town, with St. Hedda's Church containing the 8th Century Loki Stone depicting Loki, the mischief-maker and god of chaos from Norse mythology.



Day 8 Kirkby Stephen to Keld

walking @ 15 miles / 24km, 6 hours

Climb out of town to the cairns of Nine Standards Rigg (661m / 2170 feet) with its array of obelisks. It has a somewhat mysterious origin, and marks the Watershed of England. Next, we cross squelchy moors down to Keld in Swaledale. If it is a wet and cold day, we might relish a scone and tea made on the farm at Ravenseat, where they breed prime rams. The moors then become increasingly gentler as you walk into Keld with its many waterfalls and old stone barns.

Day 9 Cross wild moorland or via Swaledale to Reeth

walking @ 12½ miles / 20km, 5 hours

There are two options to Reeth. The slightly longer and higher route is over wild moorland with long-abandoned lead mines, a magnet for the industrial archaeologist. If we have unfavourable weather or the group prefers a lower level walk, the pretty alternative route via Swaledale is a lovely option. There is a really nice pub in Gunnerside on this route. We end in Reeth, an attractive Green Village which flourished at the height of the mining age and today does well out of tourism, hence its collection of pubs and tea shops.

Day 10 A walk through pretty Swaledale to Richmond

walking @ 12½ miles / 20km, 5 hours

Walk through pretty Swaledale lined with limestone crags on either side to Richmond, whose Norman Keep towers above the Swale on one side and the ancient cobbled market square on the other. We may also follow the Swale to Town Falls, which are quite impressive when the river is high.

Day 11 A gentle walk 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 our way to Brompton on Swale, where the churchyard is an ideal lunch stop. Then continue rambling beside tiny streams and along quiet country roads reaching the village of Danby Wiske, a sleepy village with one pub that was put on the map by Wainwright.

Day 12 Danby Wiske to Osmotherley

walking @ 10 miles / 16km, 3.5 hours

Primarily a road walk with some cross-country sections. The two hills are towards the end, a short climb to (what was) East Harlsey Castle, and then, with the North York Moors pressing ever closer, we carefully cross the A19 to take a lovely woodland footpath up to Osmotherley. On the way if time permits, we may visit Mount Grace Priory (built 1398). Osmotherley is a quaint hill village with three pubs to choose from, and Britain's oldest functioning Methodist Church (1754). John Wesley came to preach here.

Day 13 Osmotherley to Clay Bank Top

walking @ 11 miles / 17km, 6 hours

This is a roller coaster walk. A steep stretch from Osmotherley brings us to the North York Moors, sandy heather clad hills with areas of forest. After coming off Scarth Wood Moor, there is a long ascent up Live Moor and Carlton Bank (408m) before descending to Lord Stones Café for a coffee stop. There then follows the succession of Cringle Moor, Broughton Bank and White Hill all at or over 400 metres. We lose and then re-ascend 100-200m between each one, and we thread through an area of sandstone boulders called The Wainstones on the way up White Hill. In clear weather we have views of Roseberry Topping, Vale of Mowbray and back to the Pennines. We come off the ridge at Clay Bank Top and meet our transfer (included in the cost of the tour) to our accommodation at nearby Great Broughton at Clay Bank Top car park.

Day 14 Ridge walking to Blakey

walking @ 9 miles / 14km, 4.5 hours

The group is transferred this morning back to Clay Bank Top car park (included) to set off on the day's walk. We follow a moorland ridge up over Round Hill (454m) and maintain our elevation as the path follows the line of the disused Rosedale railway line. The moor can be bleak in inclement weather and is punctuated with standing stones, some marked with inscriptions. There are enticing views at times into the fertile upper valleys of Farn and Esk dales, but especially if it is wet and cold, the arrival at the ancient Lion Inn at Blakey is welcome. This pub hotel has been a refuge from the elements for some 400 years. It offers real ales on tap and great dining.

Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details & reservations

Day 15 Blakey to Egton Bridge

walking @ 10 miles / 16km, 4 hours

After a bit of a road perambulation past a white cross called Fat Betty, there follows an easy undulating descent down to beautiful, wooded Eskdale. We also get some views to the sea. The latter part of our walk follows a pretty path through the woodlands on the banks of the River Esk, where we come across the 'Beggars Bridge' – a parabolic stone structure that has a story of love lost and love re-found. Egton Bridge features a church with relics of the Catholic 'martyr of the moors', Nicholas Postgate. A pretty setting, the river is famous for fly fishing and interesting stepping stones, which provide a shortcut between the town's two pubs.

Day 16 Egton Bridge to Robin Hood's Bay

walking @ 16 miles / 26km, 7 hours

Following a delightful private road to Grosmont, we might arrive in time to see a steam engine pull out for Pickering. Then follows a very steep pull up and across heather moors with views down to Whitby and its Abbey. The sea and journey's end are still tantalisingly far as the route abruptly changes course to visit the May Beck and Falling Foss waterfall. A last area of high moor brings us to the coast, where we walk three miles on the coastal cliff path. Robin Hood's Bay appears almost by surprise as we near it. This is a village of red roofed houses clustered around its harbour on the North Sea coast marking the end of this 190-odd-mile crossing of England. Normally we dip our toes in the sea then celebrate with a drink at the Bay Hotel (both optional activities).

Day 17 Departure day.

Tour ends after breakfast in Robin Hood's Bay. Take the local bus or a taxi to nearby Whitby or Scarborough railway station for onward travel.



Seeking a greater challenge? We offer a **15-day** (14-night) version of the **Coast to Coast Classic** guided walk of the full route. Ask for a day-by-day itinerary and availability:

Departs: 15 August 2026

Cost from: \$6350 per person twin share

Or, if you are short on time and want to sample of the most captivating sections of this iconic route, we offer a 10-day (9-night) guided **Best of the Coast to Coast in Comfort**, staying in carefully selected hotels, comfortable inns and one night in a 5-star castle hotel. Ask for itinerary, inclusions and availability:

Departs: 15 May, 11 June, 7 August, 18 September 2026

Cost from: \$7995 per person twin share

We also offer the Coast to Coast as a **self-guided** inn-to-inn walk over 15, 17, or 18 days, departing daily on demand from late March to the end of September. Ask for details.



Contact Outdoor Travel for more itinerary details and reservations

- Call toll free on 1800 331 582 or (03) 5750 1441
- Email: info@outdoortravel.com.au
- Web: <http://www.outdoortravel.com.au>
- Mail: Outdoor Travel Pty Ltd, PO Box 286, Bright, VIC 3741, Australia