

England: Yorkshire Dales. Center Based Walking and Cycling

Tour code: WRI

Revised: Nov 07

Fancy a short activity break to get away from it all in the golden Yorkshire Dales? Then look no further than a 2 night/3 day stay at Sherpa's very own guesthouse in the attractive town of Richmond, North Yorkshire. Here you can relax at our base, spend time visiting the town walking the historic town trail, visiting the Norman castle, going for a riverside walk to the nearby Easby Abbey. We then offer a whole range of walks and cycle rides taking you into the countryside around Richmond, so that you can spend time discovering the dales in more detail. Some of the walks are of a circular nature from Richmond; others may require you to take a bus to Reeth or else where. If you have driven up there are also further afield options for you to enjoy. Cyclists can either bring their own bikes or hire them locally on a daily basis. You may want to have a day cycling and a couple of days walking, or just relaxing! Richmond also has a fair range of 'eateries' and pubs for you to enjoy.

Grade

Easy - Moderate. Some long steep hills. Really what you do on this break is up to you, so you can have an easy or a more strenuous break! Most of our options are easy to moderate, but nothing is too challenging!

Season

Available throughout the year.

Travel Information

Starting point: Richmond

End of tour: Richmond

Most convenient major city with international airport: Teeside, also Tyne and Wear.

Outward journey from London to starting point: For main line trains London Kings Cross - York - Northallerton - Darlington. For trains phone 08457 48 49 50. (24 hour service, local rate call) for current train times and Operators. London to Darlington by train takes 2.5 hours, then onwards to Richmond by local bus service from Darlington Station No:29 every 2 hours during day, none on Sundays or evenings. Otherwise take a taxi. Approx £20.

By road Richmond is on the A6108 from the Dales and from "The South" it is off the A1 from Catterick and then Catterick Garrison. Public car parks at Richmond Green (signposted 'Coaches') just a few metres from The Old Brewery.

Inward journey to London at end of tour: Bus / taxi to Darlington to U.K. mainline rail services.

Bikes

Please let us know if you will be requiring bikes. These will normally be 'Hybrid style,' we will need to know your approximate inner leg measurement or height. They will be rented on a daily basis. You are welcome to bring your own bike if you want to. There is a hire charge for the bikes on a daily basis.

Accommodation

In Richmond. Our guesthouse is a charming Grade II listed Georgian building nestling in a quiet secluded corner of historic Richmond by the ancient Green. General Facilities: include residents lounge, beautiful patio garden, drying facilities, town centre 5 minutes walk, packed lunches available and a riverside walk starts only 30 metres away. Car parking is only 10 meters away. ETB 3 Diamonds Rooms. A four poster room maybe available (book early for this!). Fully centrally heated, tea & coffee making facilities, colour TV in all rooms and private bath or shower for all rooms. For breakfast one can choose from cereals and fresh fruit followed by a traditional English breakfast or smoked salmon and scrambled eggs. Freshly baked bread and croissants are also available.

Itinerary Guide

DAY 1: Arrive Richmond: This attractive Georgian town was formally established by the Normans in 1071, as they rapidly progressed up the country after the 1066 invasion. They quickly constructing timbered fortresses and later remodelled them with full stone work defences. The name Richmond is derived from 'riche-mont' or 'strong-hill' and whose massive keep dominates all other buildings that have grown up around it in the town.

During the medieval period the town became an important market place, royal charters were granted giving it rights to hold markets and fairs. Hence the substantial cobbled open market place, surrounded by shops and pubs. The market square today is, apart from some modern shop fronts, unchanged for decades and has a brooding quality on a grey blustery day. You will notice around the square and as you stroll through the town, some very fine stone buildings, many from The Georgian era when mercantile dealings and the wool trade brought much wealth into the town.

You can follow following the Town Trail and the Plaque Walk which take you through the fine Georgian streets and little alleys. Explore Castle Hill and Castle Walk, also Millgate

where you can choose to walk down to the river and falls. The Keep is looked after by English Heritage and can be climbed up (£3 entry) for an even more sumptuous view of the town and countryside. From the Market Place, Friar's Wynd takes you through one of the two remaining medieval gateways, past the Georgian Theatre to the Friary Gardens where the fine 12th century Franciscan Friary bell tower, amidst well kept gardens, still stands. Richmond has a number of good restaurants and pubs of varying quality.

Walking & Cycling options examples:

- 1) A round walking Tour to Easby Abbey (Drummer Boy's trail) Distance: 4 miles (6.4 km) A largely flat route following the River Wharfe, past the Town Falls and then downstream to the secluded leafy delights of Easby Abbey. This was dissolved by Henry VIII in the reformation, but there is enough left of the structure for it to be interesting. You should perhaps take a picnic to have in the pastures near the monument or by the river. The abbey can also be reached by bicycle on a gravel track on the other side of the river.
- 2) Circular Walk from Richmond through Low Bank and Billy Banks Woods. Distance 3.5 miles. This is an attractive little walk down by the River swale and then along and into the riverside woods for a picnic.
- 3) Circular Walk Richmond-Swale-Applegarth-Richmond 7 miles. This takes you along part of the famous coast to Coast route out of Richmond.
- 4) Reeth to Richmond. A delightful walk through lower Swaledale along the route of the Coast to Coast path,

this time into Richmond. It is an attractive ramble past Marrick Priory, and up to a high scarp by Willance's Leap before reaching Whitcliffe Wood and then walking down into Richmond, with good views of the keep from a few miles away. Approx: 10.5 miles from Reeth.

- 5) Reeth, Arkengarthdale and Grinton. Approx. 5.5 miles or a shorter walk of 3.5 miles. A lovely ramble through fields and by rivers in Arkengarth dale.
- 6) Possible walks into and around Wensleydale.

DAY 2: Hawes to Grinton (20 miles), return to Richmond (+ 12 miles approx). From Hawes your route lies down Wensleydale, perhaps the easiest of the Yorkshire Dales. From Askrigg, a delightful village featured in television's All Creatures Great and Small, a steep climb takes you high onto the moors of Askrigg Common. The descent into Swaledale and the trip down dale to Grinton will make it clear why this dale is held by many to be the most beautiful of all. From Grinton you cycle back to Richmond on quiet roads, via the village of Marske.

DAY 3: Richmond. Depart after breakfast.

Included in price of tour

Bed and breakfast with ensuite facilities. Route notes and map package.

Extend your stay

Additional nights are at a cost of @ \$100 per person or @ \$110 for a single room.