

### Walker's Britain: The Yorkshire Dales

Tour code: WDW

Revised: Nov 07

Welcome to the beautiful Yorkshire Dales, the purest form of English highland landscape, with traditions and views, which have remained virtually untouched for centuries. Soft rolling hills, limestone edges, green valleys, waterfalls and an abbey all feature here as well as the villages proud of their heritage. This tour includes the whole length of this much loved long distance path, which runs right across the Yorkshire Dales National Park. Gradients and terrain are easy, but the going may be muddy underfoot in wet weather. There are also a large number of "stiles" and "kissing gates" to negotiate. The itinerary follows Wharfedale (where there is time to admire the ruins of Bolton Abbey) and then Hubberholme, gradually gaining height upstream to reach the Pennine watershed at Cam Fell (1700 feet). The way then runs down Dentedale to the market town of Sedbergh and across sheep pastures to Bowness on Windermere.

#### General Information

**Duration of tour:** 8 days (7 nights)

**Season:** 30 March to mid October.

**Starting point:** Ilkley, Yorkshire.

**End of tour:** Windermere, Cumbria.

**Most convenient major city and international airport:** Manchester Airport. 2 hours to Ilkley via Leeds.

**Breakfast:** in UK will generally consist of sausage, bacon, eggs etc, cereals and fruit will also be available. It is important for you to tell us if you have any dietary requirements when you book your holiday so that we can inform everyone that you are staying with.

**Baths:** it is not normal for your room to have a bath, the main reason being that it takes up a lot of space, some hotels/guesthouses may have a separate room in the house where a bath is available to guests, but in the main it is showers.

**Single Supplements:** are payable on most of our tours. The single supplement guarantees the privacy of your own room, however, rooms can at times be small and in some places may not enjoy the same facilities as double/twin rooms.

**Luggage:** When staying in hotels, sometimes your luggage will have been taken to your room awaiting your arrival. However don't be surprised if your luggage is waiting for you to take it up to your room.

#### Getting to the Start

**Outward journey from London to starting point:** Train from London King's Cross to Leeds, then change trains for Ilkley (3 - 3 1/2 hours). The first night's hotel is a short taxi ride/walk from the station.

**Inward journey to London at end of tour:** Taxi/walk to Windermere rail station. Then train to London Euston (change trains at Oxenholme).

National Rail website is [www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk) if you want to look at the journey involved.

#### Your Accommodation

□ **Night 1:** We stay overnight at a Victorian riverside hotel. All facilities are en suite, and rooms come equipped with

satellite TV. The picturesque setting, with river views and rowing in the summer months, make this an ideal place to start our tour.

□ **Night 2:** A small family run guesthouse, which has been converted from the village smith's workshop. Extremely comfortable accommodation is provided, with ensuite facilities, television and tea & coffee making facilities available in all rooms.

□ **Night 3:** Formerly a Drovers Hostelry and dating back to the early 17th Century, our Inn at Cray near to Hubberholme is a traditional Yorkshire pub, open all year round to provide warm inviting and friendly accommodation throughout the ever-changing seasons. In fine, warm weather, food & drink can be enjoyed in the beer garden or beside the cascading Cray Gill, which fronts the Inn. This place has been likened by Wainwright as a "tiny oasis". Enjoy fine home cooked food, traditional hand pulled real ales and a variety of wines surrounded by original oak beams, a cosy log fire and stone flagged floors. Stunning surroundings combine to create a true gem, in the very heart of the Yorkshire Dales National Park.

□ **Night 4:** A 17th Century listed building, offering authentic rustic charm, is our accommodation for the night. All front rooms have river views, and the building has retained much of its original charm, with open fires, oak beams, and a friendly welcome. There is a washbasin, tea/coffee making facilities in all rooms.

□ **Night 5:** Overnight accommodation is provided at a very comfortable Inn. The Inn has a traditional English country feel to it, offering local beers, and home cooked meals in the attractively decorated bar and dining area. All rooms have tea and coffee making facilities, a TV and some are ensuite.

□ **Night 6:** This small, quiet guesthouse is situated in Bowston.

□ **Night 7:** Our final accommodation is of a 3 crown standard, at a 18th Century country house hotel. All facilities are en suite, and rooms are very comfortable with a TV and tea and coffee making facilities. The picturesque village of

Bowness is only 200 yards away, the lake (Windermere) only 400 yards. It's a perfect place to relax, having completed the tour of the Dales Way.

**PLEASE NOTE:** It is generally normal practice when staying in hotels that you check-in on or after 2pm and checkout by 10am the following morning. Guesthouses/bed & breakfast establishments are normally check-in on or after 4pm and checkout by 10am.

## Outline Itinerary

- ❑ **Day 1 Ilkley:** Travel to starting point. Optional walk to Cow and Calf rocks and Ilkley Moor.
- ❑ **Day 2 Burnsall:** Lower Wharfedale and Bolton Abbey (13 miles, 6 hours)
- ❑ **Day 3 Hubberholme:** Past Kilnsey Crag (famous overhanging rock) and pretty villages of Grassington, Kettlewell, and Buckden. (15 Miles 7 Hours)
- ❑ **Day 4 Dentdale:** Over Cam Fell, across the Pennine Way Footpath and down into Dentdale. (13 miles 6 hrs)

- ❑ **Day 5 Sedbergh:** Through Dentdale to Sedbergh. At the foot of the steep Howgill Fells. (11 miles 5 hours).
- ❑ **Day 6 Bowston:** Across an undulating landscape of sheep pastureland. Into the Lake District National Park (17 miles 7 hours).
- ❑ **Day 7 Bowness:** A morning's walk to Bowness on Lake Windermere, England's largest natural lake.
- ❑ **Day 8: End of Tour**

## Included

Bed and breakfast with ensuite facilities where available. Luggage transfers from Inn to Inn. Full route notes and map package.

## Extend your stay

**Extra nights:**

Ilkley from @AU\$80 per person per night

Windermere from @ AU\$90 per person per night

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