

## WALES: THE MAJESTIC BRECON BEACONS

8-day / 7-night one-hotel GUIDED walking in South Wales with a choice of walks each day



The lofty sandstone summits of the Brecon Beacons assert their massive presence high above scattered hill farms across the border from rural England and the River Wye. Our guided classic walking holidays offer experienced walkers a great deal of rugged walking along thrilling ridges and edges, and across expansive moorland hills in the centre and west of the Brecon Beacons National Park. For the less seasoned walker the Beacons offer the chance to explore natural forests, picturesque fast-flowing rivers and placid canals, or a chance to discover the Waterfall Country of Mellte and Hepste gorges in the south. The spectacular, moody Black Mountains, to the east, are long finger-like hills, enclosing lush green dales.

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

**2024 Departures:** 8, 29 March, 12, 26 April, 17 May, 14, 28 June, 12 July, 2, 16, 30 August, 13, 20, 27 September, 18 October, 8 November

**Includes:** 7 nights in comfortable ensuite twin-share accommodation, full board (breakfast, picnic lunch and dinner), experienced walks leader, 5 guided walks, local transport to/from walks, evening social activities.

**Not included:** Transport to/from the house, drinks, personal expenses, transport/activities on your free day.

**Accommodation:** **Nythfa House** is a charming Country House set in two acres of mature grounds, just 5 minutes' walk from the bustling market town of Brecon in the Brecon Beacons National Park. With spacious public rooms, attractive gardens and an indoor swimming pool it is a popular and relaxing place to stay. A limited number of **Premium rooms** are available for a surcharge – please ask when booking.



**Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations**

**Trip Grading:** Moderate to long distances, mostly on well-defined paths with some routes over rough, rocky terrain with occasional sections of scree. Some walks may be in more remote countryside, will have sections over steeper ground, and may require sustained ascents and descents. Easier walks 10-12km with up to 280m of ascent, medium walks 12-16km with up to 680m of ascent, harder walks 17-21km with up to 880m 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 and taxi transfer options from Abergavenny railway station.

#### **Day 2: Above Crickhowell**

Walk to Tretower, with its renowned medieval court and castle, then follow a contouring path across farmland to the wooded Cwmbeth Brook valley and the attractive market town of Crickhowell; or explore the dramatic limestone escarpment and former quarries on the south side of the Usk valley. Or, for a challenging walk, ascend the Dragon's Back past 12<sup>th</sup> century Castell Dinas to the summit of Waun Fach, the highest peak in the Black Mountains.

#### **Day 3: The Western Fans**

Walk along the green Usk Valley on field paths and laneways to the ancient Roman encampment of Y Gaer. Or walk to the high corrie lakes of Llyn y Fan Fawr and Llyn y Fan Fach, formed by glaciers, then ascend to the summits of Fan Foel and Fan Brycheiniog. This less visited area of Brecon Beacons National Park offers wild country and great views northwards over mid Wales.

#### **Day 4: Free day**

No organised walks, so you can relax at the hotel or explore independently. You may like to spend time in quaint Hay-on-Wye, browsing the many bookstores; perhaps visit the show caves of Dan yr Orgof, with fine stalactites and stalagmites; or further afield, visit the vibrant Welsh capital Cardiff, about an hour's drive from Brecon.

#### **Day 5: Waterfall Country**

The waterfalls of this corner of Wales are truly spectacular, particularly after heavy rain. We may follow the Mellte, Nedd Fechan and Pyrddin rivers with their awe-inspiring waterfalls, then walk along an old industrial tramway to Pontneddfechan village, or explore the Afon Hepste gorge, passing behind the Sgwd yr Eira waterfall and viewing the huge Porth yr Ogof cave, then cross to the Nedd Fechan valley with its many cataracts. The Sgwd yr Eira waterfall is a real highlight; the path behind the cascade is a unique experience.

#### **Day 6: The Central Beacons**

Wander along the Usk Valley through Priory Groves and explore Brecon's magnificent Cathedral, or an ascent of Pen y Fan, the highest point in the National Park, and Corn Du, or a challenging traverse over the four key summits of the central Brecon Beacons: Corn Du, Pen y Fan, Cribyn and Fan y Big. Whichever route you choose, there are sweeping views and a real sense of achievement as you reach the top.

#### **Day 7: Around or Above Hay-on-Wye**

The easier walk is a gentle circular route partly alongside the River Wye to the village of Clyro, with time afterwards to browse the numerous secondhand bookshops in Hay-on-Wye or sip a pint in one of the town's pubs. Other walks head onto the Black Mountains escarpment for great views of the Wye Valley and ascend the summits of Twmpa (Lord Hereford's Knob) and Hay Bluff, with a descent into Hay-on-Wye to finish off the day.

#### **Day 8: Departure day**

Tour ends after breakfast.

**Outdoor Travel** walking holidays, guided in small groups or self-guided with inn-to-inn luggage transfers and meals, are available in many parts of the United Kingdom, Ireland and across Europe including the challenging **Coast-to-Coast** trail, the quintessentially English **Cotswolds**, the rugged coast of **Cornwall**, the **West Highland Way** in Scotland, **Snowdonia** in Wales or in Ireland on the **Ring of Kerry**.

In France see the Dordogne, Alps, Provence or Riviera Coast, walks too in Austria, Spain or Italy. 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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