

## WAINWRIGHT'S COAST TO COAST – C2C ICON OF ENGLISH WALKING

18 days / 17-nights – **CHALLENGING** inn-to-inn **SELF-GUIDED** long distance walking trail  
8, 9 or 15-day walking options also available – ask for details

A wonderful walking route first described by the great English writer and illustrator Alfred Wainwright in 1973. This is the quintessential English hill walking and long distance trail experience of over 190 miles, traversing three national parks and an array of scenic and wondrous landscapes, towns, typical English villages and country inns.

Beginning at the Cumbrian seaside resort of St. Bees looking out across the Irish Sea the walk heads eastwards (with the usual wind behind your back) into the Lake District passing some of the most famous lakes, passes and optional peak ascents (such as Helvellyn the highest mountain in England).

Crossing into the Yorkshire Dales and over the mystical Nine Standards Rigg the route follows the beautiful River Swale for a couple of days into the old market town of Richmond. From here a long walk links with the North York Moors National Park and on to the North Sea Coast and Robin Hood's Bay.

Along the way you will be amazed at the neat farm buildings and dry stone walls, the charming villages and what a temptation (and a challenge) a full cooked English breakfast can be. We offer cosy small hotels, guesthouses and pubs to stay at on this tour and these, as well as the rich variety of the people that you meet enroute, reflect something of the great diversity of England.



**Cost from:** \$3030 per person twin share      Single room supplement on request – ask for details

**Departs:** Daily from 14<sup>th</sup> March to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020

**From:** St Bees to Robin Hood's Bay

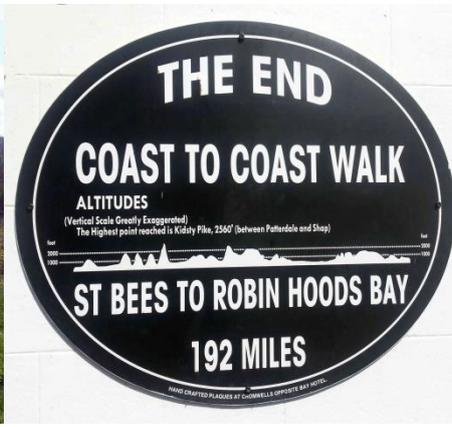
**Included:** Bed and breakfast accommodation with (mostly private or en-suite) bathroom facilities. Luggage transfers from Inn to Inn each day as shown. Full route notes and map package (1 set per room).

**Grading:** Not recommended for first time walkers. This mostly undulating moderate to challenging walk offers some long days and steep climbs and descents. The weather can be mixed, with strong winds and rain a possibility, and the trails in the Lake District are steep and rocky at times. Waymarking can be erratic and you should be accustomed to using map and compass possibly in low visibility at times.

**Getting to the Start:** Manchester Airport is 4-5 hours away by rail. Travel is usually via Carlisle then local train from Carlisle to St Bees (1 hour 15 mins) and a short walk from station to hotel. At the end of the walk take a bus/taxi from Robin Hood's Bay to Scarborough. Then train from Scarborough to London.



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



**Accommodation:** The accommodation described below is our usual choice for this tour. Note that the sheer popularity of this tour may mean that we cannot get you into the described accommodation for the dates of your tour. We will endeavour to get you into a similar standard of accommodation nearby, but please appreciate that there is limited accommodation especially in remote areas.

On occasion a small supplement may apply which will be advised at the time of booking. Also, although we aim to book accommodation with ensuite rooms this is not always possible; at some accommodation you may be sharing bathrooms.

### **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. We recommend allowing time to visit the Abbey church, which has features on the local history and a display on a mummified knight that was discovered in a lead coffin from the graveyard. If you have an extra night here, you can follow the coastal path or quiet inland roads to the attractive town of Whitehaven, with its marina and great museum. Stay in a 17<sup>th</sup> Century sandstone barn situated on the main street in this coastal village. Initially converted in the 1980s, it has been recently refurbished throughout.

#### **Day 2 St Bees to Ennerdale Bridge**

**walking @ 15 miles (24km), 6 hours**

Climb from the beach taking a footpath along the red sandstone coastal cliffs of St Bees Head (with England's only breeding colony of Black Guillemots) and then inland over hilly ground to the edge of the Lake District National Park. Dent Hill is the first real fell that you cross and will give you some indication as to whether you are fit enough for the days to come!

Then follows a short but possibly the steepest descent of the whole tour down to *Nanny Catch Gate* and beck, a delightful stroll bringing you to the final descent to leafy Ennerdale Bridge. Overnight at a friendly family owned hotel, with a traditional feel. The fully licensed bar serves a range of beverages including locally produced ale. This is a small hotel so on occasion you may stay in the nearby village of Rowrah (free-of-charge pick/drop off service provided).

#### **Day 3 Ennerdale Bridge to Borrowdale**

**walking @ 17 miles (27km), 7 hours**

Follow a quiet footpath along the scenic shore of Ennerdale Water. Then 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, originally a shepherd's hut. A steep climb follows up the Lowther Beck, then you traverse some of the Lakeland fells, perhaps with views down to Buttermere. Finally you reach the 'drum house' which marks the descent path to the Honister slate mine workings (with its useful café) to Borrowdale.

Borrowdale is 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 ('thwaite' is Old Norse for paddock). Delightful riverside paths connect the places and their pubs together if you have sufficient energy left of an evening. Tonight stay in a small and long established guesthouse. No ensuite facilities available as it is a historic listed building that cannot be modified.

#### **Day 4 Borrowdale to Grasmere**

**walking @ 9 miles (14km), 5 hours**

Classic Lakeland scenery over Greenup Edge to Easedale and Grasmere, with the Wordsworth Museum at Dove Cottage, William Wordsworth's grave at the church and the famous Ginger bread shop. Stay in a small family run guesthouse, conveniently placed in the centre of this delightful village.

Grasmere is one of Lakeland's most celebrated villages, and there is time either this afternoon or tomorrow morning to look around and visit the poet Wordsworth's home at Dove Cottage.

**Day 5 Grasmere to Glenridding****walking @ 8 miles (12km), 6 hours**

Over Grisedale Pass (2000 feet / 610m) and around the small mountain lake of Grisedale Tarn to Patterdale. In good weather and if you are reasonably strong, the best option is to take the route up St. Sunday Crag, for some exceptional views down across Ullswater as you descend to Patterdale, possibly the most breathtaking of the trip (this detour adds 1½ hours to your walk). Stay in a wonderful old coaching inn which has been popular with visitors and locals alike since the early 1800s. Many a tale could be told of events that have taken place in its lifetime! This is a listed building and the rooms are small; to change this would spoil the character.

**Day 6 Glenridding to Bampton Grange****walking @ 14 miles (23km), 6 hours**

Some would say this was the most difficult stage especially in bad weather when you do need to be ready with map and compass. The day starts with a steep climb up past pretty Angle Tarn, and then up and onwards to a critical cairn where you turn to go up and over Kidsty Pike (2560 feet / 780m, the highest point on the whole route) and then descend steeply to walk along Haweswater, a huge body of water conceived in 1929 to supply Manchester with drinking water, drowning a couple of villages in the process.

At the end of Haweswater, at Burnbanks, you leave the original Wainwright route to complete the final mile and a half to Bampton Grange. Stay tonight in a traditional whitewashed stone country inn with great atmosphere and sense of history.

**Day 7 Bampton Grange to Orton****walking @ 12 miles (20km), 5 hours**

Purists may want to return to Burnbanks to continue the original route, or you can re-join it a couple of miles down the country road from Bampton near Rosgil. Walk over undulating terrain through fields to Shap Abbey, the most easterly point of the Lake District National Park. After this continue into Shap, the old granite mining town with several pubs and shops. There follows a hilly section across Limestone Moors with limestone pavements in places strewn with 'glacial erratics' – boulders moved there by glaciers. Finally drop into the gentler climes around Orton, a quaint picturesque village with attractive architecture, chocolate factory and tea shops. We use a number of guesthouses here.

**Day 8 Orton to Kirkby Stephen****walking @ 11 miles (18km), 5 hours**

A bridging day between Cumbria and the Yorkshire Dales. Walk mainly through farmland with a section of moors around Sunbiggin Tarn. A steep descent to the Scandal Beck at Smardale Bridge then ascend over Smardale Fell for the pretty descent into Kirkby Stephens, a market town, with St. Hedda's Church containing the 8<sup>th</sup> Century Loki stone of Norse mythology. You stay in a listed Georgian townhouse full of character, with a friendly relaxed atmosphere.

**Day 9 Kirkby Stephens to Keld or Thwaite****walking @ 15 or 17 miles (24 or 27km), 6-7 hours**

Climb to the cairns of Nine Standards Rigg (2170 feet / 660m) with its array of obelisks, a mysterious ancient feature that marks the Watershed of England. Then cross the moors down to Keld in Swaledale. The moors become gentler as you walk into Keld with its many waterfalls and old stone barns. Keld is a gateway to the Pennines, the "Backbone of England". Accommodation in a small guesthouse in Keld or Thwaite.

**Day 10 Keld or Thwaite to Reeth****walking @ 13 or 12 miles (20 or 19km), 5 hours**

Walk today through wild moorland with long-abandoned lead mines, or take the pretty alternative route via Swaledale with a nice pub in Gunnerside. Finish the day in Reeth, an attractive Green Village which flourished at the height of the mining age. Stay in a peaceful and comfortable hotel with courtyard and garden, formed from a terrace of traditional 16<sup>th</sup> Century miners' cottages.

**Day 11 Reeth to Richmond****walking @ 13 miles (20km), 5 hours**

A morning walk through pretty Swaledale lined with limestone crags on either side, allowing time for shopping (note most shops closed Sunday) and sightseeing in Richmond whose Norman Keep towers above the Swale on one side and the ancient cobbled market square on the other. You can also follow the swale to Town Falls which are quite impressive in flood. This extremely picturesque North Yorkshire town is an ever-popular destination for visitors. Stay in a small comfortable guesthouse within easy reach of all the sights.

**Day 12 Richmond 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 your way to Brompton-on-Swale, an ideal spot to stop for lunch in the church yard. Continue following beside tiny streams and quiet country roads to reach the village of Danby Wiske with its Green and single pub. Stay in a popular B&B in the centre of the village.

**Day 13 Danby Wiske to Osmotherley****walking @ 10 miles (16km), 4 hours**

Today is a road walk with some cross country sections. A short climb to (what was) East Harlsey Castle, and then, with the North York Moors pressing ever closer, cross the road to a woodland footpath up to Osmotherley. You may like to visit the ruins of the 14<sup>th</sup> Century Mount Grace Priory on the way. Osmotherley is a quaint hill village with three pubs and Britain's oldest functioning Methodist Church (1754). Stay in a Grade II-listed stone B&B tonight in this picturesque village at the edge of the North York Moors National Park.

**Day 14 Osmotherley to Clay Bank Top/Chop Gate** walking @ 11/13 miles (18/21km), 5-6 hours

A steep stretch from Osmotherley to the North York Moors, sandy heather clad hills and forests. After coming off Scarth Wood Moor, there is a long ascent up Live Moor and Carlton Bank (408 m) before descending to Lord Stones Café. Then follows the succession of Cringle Moor, Broughton Bank and White Hill all at or over 400 metres. You lose and then re ascend 100-200m between each one. Thread through the sandstone boulders called the Wainstones on the way up White Hill. There are views to Roseberry topping, Vale of Mowbray and the Pennines.

Descend off the ridge at Clay Bank Top to your overnight stop. There is no real town or centre here, and we use a number of guesthouses in this remote area or further on at Chop Gate.

**Day 15 Clay Bank Top or Chop Gate to Blakey** walking @ 7 or 9 miles (11 or 15km), 4-5 hours

Follow a moorland ridge up over Round Hill (454m), then the track maintains its height as it follows the route of the old dismantled Rosedale railway line. There are enticing views at times into the fertile upper valleys of Farn and Esk dales. Arriving at the ancient Lion Inn at Blakey is a great relief especially when it is misty, wet and cold. You stay at the Lion Hotel in this bleak moorland location. This pub hotel has been a refuge from the elements for 400 years or so, and very cosy it is too!

**Day 16 Blakey to Egton Bridge or Grosmont** walking @ 10 miles (16km), 4 hours

After passing a white cross called Fat Betty, there follows an easy undulating descent down to beautiful wooded Eskdale. You also get some views opening up to the sea. Part of the walk today follows a pretty path through the wood on the banks of the River Esk to the 'Beggars Bridge', a parabolic stone structure that has a story of love lost and love re-found.

Egton Bridge features a church in a pretty setting; the river is famous for fly fishing and for the stepping stones between the two pubs. We use a variety of guesthouses or B&Bs in either Egton Bridge or nearby Grosmont, another picturesque village on the River Esk.

**Day 17 Egton Bridge or Grosmont to Robin Hoods Bay** walking @ 16 miles (26km), 7 hours

Walk along a private road to Grosmont, then ascend steeply across heather moors with views down to Whitby Abbey. Journey's end is still tantalisingly far as the route changes course to visit the May Beck valley with its Falling Foss waterfall. A high moor brings you to the coast and you walk three miles on coastal cliff path to finally reach Robin Hood's Bay, a village of red roofed houses and a harbour on the North Sea coast – marking the end of the Coast to Coast crossing of England!

Your final night is spent in an elegantly refurbished Victorian guesthouse in this popular seaside location (or other similar B&B).

**Day 18: Departure day.**

Tour ends after breakfast. Take public transport to Whitby Bay or Scarborough for connections to London.



**Outdoor Travel** offer walking holidays, guided in small groups or self-guided, inn-to-inn with luggage transfers in many parts of the UK and Europe including **Hadrian's Wall Coast to Coast** trail, the scenic wild **West Highland Way** in Scotland, the pilgrim's **Way of St James** or **Camino de Santiago** from Le Puy in France to Santiago in Spain or the **Via Francigena**, the pilgrim's 'road to Rome' in Italy. Other journeys inspired by artists and literary figures include **Provence in Van Gogh's Footsteps**, **Stevenson's Trail** in the unspoiled Auvergne and Cevennes in France, or **Mozart Cycle Path** in the Austrian Lake District near Salzburg.

**Contact Outdoor Travel for more itinerary details and reservations**

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