

WALES: THE MAJESTIC BRECON BEACONS

8-day / 7-night centre-based – one-hotel guided walking in South Wales



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: \$2250 per person twin share Single supplement on request

Departs: 18th March; 8th, 15th, 25th April; 6th, 13th, 27th May; 3rd June; 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd July; 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th August; 2nd, 16th, 30th September; 7th, 21st, 28th October; 4th November 2022

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

A typical 'Classic Walking Week' suggested itinerary:

Day 1: Arrival day. Plan to arrive at your country house accommodation mid-afternoon.

Days 2 to 4: Choice of full day walking options. Walking days generally start after breakfast around 9.30am, taking a picnic lunch and returning to the country house by 6.30pm, with time to relax before dinner. Each day there is a choice of up to three guided walks of varying length and ascent. You choose the walk that best suits your ability, interests and fitness. Walks leaders make the final decision on which routes are offered; each evening they will brief you about the walks for the next day and answer questions you may have. After dinner perhaps join in an organised activity such as a quiz or a talk about the area, or relax in the bar.

Day 5: Free day. No walks are organised today. You can relax at the hotel, walk independently, or explore the local area. You may like to spend time in the quaint town of 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.

Days 5 to 6: Choice of full day walking options; evening social activities.

Day 8: Departure day. Tour ends after breakfast.

Possible walks may include: *the choice of walks offered each day is at the discretion of the walk leaders*

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 Ogor 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.

The Central Beacons: A rugged walk to the summit of Fan Frynych, 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.

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, walk the Dragon's Back 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.

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.

Footpath information:



Easier Walks: Up to 7½ miles (12km), with up to 1100ft (340m) of ascent in a day.

Medium Walks: Up to 9½ miles (15.5 km) with up to 2250ft (685m) of ascent in a day.

Harder Walks: Up to 12 miles (20km) with up to 3100ft (960m) of ascent in a day

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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