

ENGLAND – ISLE OF WIGHT

8-day / 7-night one-hotel guided walking tour based at Freshwater Bay



The Isle of Wight is a delightful haven away from the bustle of the mainland, easily reached by ferry. Its size, 25 miles long by 15 miles wide, makes it perfect for a week of exploration on foot. On this holiday we walk on chalk downs and beautiful coastal paths. We follow in the footsteps of writers Tennyson, JB Priestley and Lewis Carroll and also trace Queen Victoria's long connection with the island. Freshwater Bay is an idyllic seaside cove beneath the stunning chalk cliffs of Tennyson Down, and provides beautiful coastal and downland walks right on the doorstep of Freshwater Bay House.

On a typical Classic Walking day there is a choice of up to three guided walks of varying length and ascent. You choose the walk that suits your fitness and interests. There is also a free day mid-week, so you can relax, explore independently, or join your tour leaders for a local excursion (paid locally) if there is enough interest.

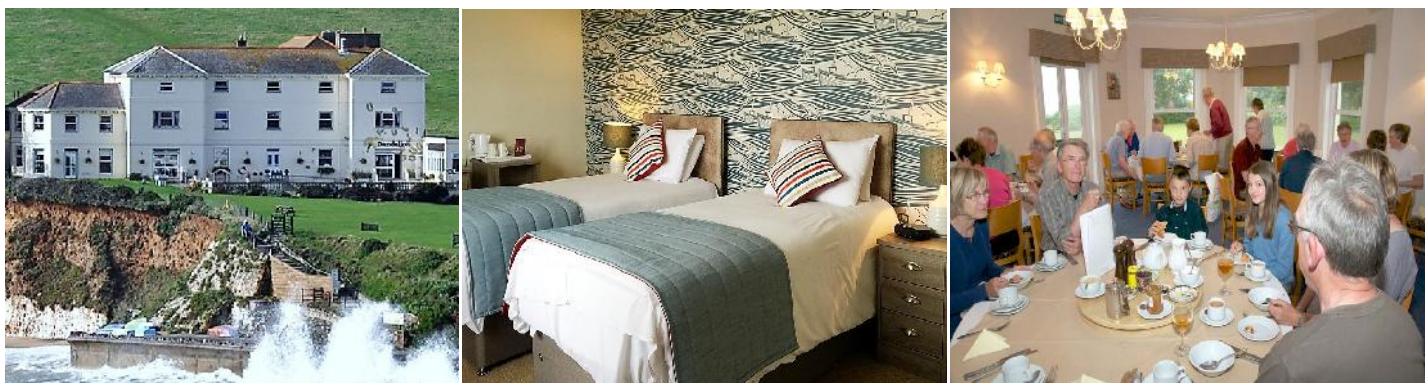
Cost from: \$1750 per person twin share Single room supplement on request

Departs: 15th March; 19th, 27th April; 4th, 11th May; 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th June, 6th, 13th, 20th July; 24th, 31st August; 7th, 27th September; 18th, 25th October; 1st, 8th November, 2019

Includes: 7 nights in comfortable room with ensuite bathroom, full board (breakfast, picnic lunch and dinner), experienced walks leader, 5 guided walks, transport to/from the walks, evening social activities.

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

Accommodation: Freshwater Bay House is a comfortable country house in a premier coastal location beneath the cliffs of Tennyson Down. Dating back to the 1790s, this prominent local landmark sits in extensive gardens, with steps down to the beach, and has a heated outdoor pool (usually open from Easter to September), putting green, croquet lawn, badminton and tennis courts in the grounds. Inside the house you will find comfortable lounges, bar, café, painting studio and games room. The country house has 48 bedrooms, each with its own bathroom, in the main house and in a cottage on the grounds. A limited number of **Premium rooms** are available for a small surcharge (please ask when booking).



Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations

Suggested itinerary:

- Day 1:** Arrival day – plan to arrive at your accommodation mid-afternoon. Ask about ferry and transfer options to Freshwater Bay. Meals begin with dinner on the first night.
- Day 2 - 4:** Full day walking options
- Day 5:** Free day with no walking. You may like to explore the area independently, or relax at the hotel.
- Day 6 - 7:** Full day walking options
- Day 8:** Departure day, the tour ends after breakfast.

Walking routes are determined by walk leaders each day and walking routes may include:

Tennyson Down and Alum Bay: From various starting points we walk over the chalk cliffs of Tennyson Down and see the multi-coloured sand cliffs at Alum Bay. Glorious coastal and sea views abound.

Godshill and Appuldurcombe House: Starting from the charming village of Godshill, with its thatched cottages and historic church, we walk a delightful circuit past the Palladian ruins of Appuldurcombe House and its surrounding parkland, laid out by Capability Brown. The harder walk also takes in the tops of Stenbury Down and St Boniface Down, the highest point on the island.

Shorwell and Carisbrooke Castle: These walks take in picturesque Shorwell and Carisbrooke Castle, a fine medieval castle where King Charles I was imprisoned after the English Civil War. The harder route follows the spine of the island from the castle to Freshwater Bay, via the Tennyson Trail which runs atop the chalk downs.

Walks through the Undercliff: We walk through the lush and verdant Undercliff, an area that has its own microclimate, warmer than the rest of the island, created by a series of landslips over the centuries. We visit the Victorian resort town of Ventnor and walk a coastal path to Shanklin Old Village.

Eastern Wight: We soak up the sea air walking on the eastern tip of the isle. We pass by Bembridge Windmill, a working windmill owned by the National Trust, and walk atop the chalk cliffs of Culver Down, then follow the coastal path to Sandown. The Yarborough Monument on Culver Down commands wonderful views over the Solent and English Channel, where we may see vessels ranging from hovercraft to enormous container ships.

Walks to Ventnor Botanic Garden: The easier walk follows the coast along the Undercliff from St Catherine's Point to the botanic garden at Ventnor, while the medium walk crosses the downs from Godshill. The path of the harder walk, through Borthwood Copse and America Wood near Sandown, takes us to one of the best places in England to spot rare red squirrels, before crossing the downs to Ventnor. The Ventnor Botanic Garden, in its sheltered position in the mild climate of the Undercliff, has an excellent subtropical and exotic plant collection, planted outdoors rather than in glasshouses.

Footpath information:



Easier Walks: Up to 7 miles (11km) on gently undulating gradients. Up to 1250 feet (380m) of ascent in a day.



Medium Walks: Up to 9½ miles (15km) on undulating paths with occasional steeper sections. Up to 1500 feet (460m) of ascent in a day.



Harder Walks: Up to 13 miles (21km) on undulating paths with some steeper sections. Up to 1800ft (560m) of ascent in a day.

Outdoor Travel offer walking holidays in many parts of the United Kingdom, Ireland and across Europe including the challenging **Coast-to-Coast** trail, the Cotswolds Way, the spectacular Yorkshire Dales, the rugged coast of Cornwall, Exmoor, Scotland's **West Highland Way** or in **Snowdonia**, Wales or the **Ring of Kerry** in Ireland. In France see the Dordogne, Alps, Provence or Riviera Coast, walks too in Austria, Germany, Spain, Greece, Croatia, Turkey or in the Cinque Terre or Amalfi Coast in 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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