

ENGLAND – SHROPSHIRE HILLS & WELSH BORDERS

8-days / 7-nights one-hotel GUIDED walking tour centre-based at Church Stretton



The attractive small town of Church Stretton, friendly and welcoming to walkers, is an ideal base from which to explore the rolling Shropshire Hills, an *Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty*, and the Welsh Borders. There are wonderful walks to the Long Mynd, Caer Caradoc and Ragleth Hill direct from Church Stretton, whilst travelling a little further afield enables a wider exploration of this scenic county, and this guided walking holiday offers a great range of walks in the Shropshire Hills and Welsh borderlands. After the arrival of the railway, in the Victorian and Edwardian eras, Church Stretton grew and became known as 'Little Switzerland' due to the dramatic hills on both sides of the valley. Today the town retains the charm of a bygone era. Our accommodation is in a wonderful location just a few minutes' walk from the lovely town centre.

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

Departs: 1st, 15th, 22nd, 29th March; 5th, 19th April; 3rd, 10th, 31st May; 21st, 28th June; 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th July; 16th, 23rd, 30th August; 6th, 13th, 27th September; 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th October; 15th, 22nd November

Includes: 7 nights in comfortable room with ensuite bathroom, 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: Longmynd House is set in a wonderful elevated position above Church Stretton, about 10 minutes' walk from the town, with excellent walks on the doorstep. The house is designed to maximise the outstanding views across the Stretton Valley. Longmynd House sits in extensive wooded grounds, There are 50 bedrooms, some with a balcony, and eight separate lodges in the grounds. The large heated swimming pool is open May to September. There are **premium rooms** available with a surcharge – ask for details when booking.

Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations



A typical 'Classic Walking Week' suggested itinerary:

Day 1: Arrival day – we suggest you plan to arrive at your country house accommodation mid-afternoon. From Church Stretton town centre you can walk or take a taxi to the house. Meals begin with dinner on the first night.

Days 2 - 4: 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 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. Perhaps visit Ludlow with its medieval buildings and well-preserved castle, and its reputation as a gastronomic centre, with Michelin-starred restaurants and acclaimed local producers. Or see the many museums of Ironbridge Gorge, 'birthplace of the Industrial Revolution' where Abraham Darby first manufactured cast iron used to build the iron bridge across the River Severn.

Days 5 - 6: Again choose from up to three full-day walks each day; evening social activities.

Day 8: Departure day. Tour ends after breakfast.

Footpath information:



Easier walks: Up to 8 miles (13km) on generally on good tracks and field paths. Up to 1350ft (400m) of ascent in a day



Medium walks: Up to 10 miles (16km) with up to 1950ft (600m) of ascent in a day on tracks and field paths, occasionally rough underfoot.



Harder walks: Up to 13 miles (21km) with up to 2750ft (840m) of ascent in a day on tracks, field paths and rugged terrain.

Possible walking routes may include – walks for each day are determined by the walk leaders:

Stretton Hills – Scenic paths around and above Church Stretton. Routes may traverse the slopes of Caer Caradoc, or climb to the summit with its Iron Age hillfort, said to be the site of a British chieftain's stand against the Romans, or 'bag' the summits of all three hills surrounding Church Stretton.

Pole Bank & the Long Mynd Valleys – The great plateau of the Long Mynd rises behind out country house and offers miles of outstanding walking. On these walks we ascend from the Townbrook Valley through the heather-covered moorland of the Long Mynd to its summit, Pole Bank.

Stiperstones – Stiperstones is a rugged quartzite ridge, shattered by glaciation and erosion into a mass of scree surrounding several rocky tors. The area was a centre for lead mining until the early 20th Century; we may see some evidence of this on our walk. Our easy route skirts round Stiperstones, while other walks traverse the full ridge, gaining views over the Shropshire and Welsh countryside.

The Clun Valley – We explore the tranquil Clun Valley on these walks. From various starting points we walk the valley past pretty little Hopesay, with its 13th Century church, and Stokesay Castle, a 13th Century manor house which was besieged during the English Civil War, finishing in Craven Arms, which takes its name from the 17th Century inn. Some of these walks utilise stretches of the Shropshire Way.



Outdoor Travel offer walking holidays in many parts of the United Kingdom, Ireland and Europe including Wainwright's challenging **Coast-to-Coast** trail, the **Lake District**, the **Yorkshire Dales**, **Cornwall** or **Snowdonia** in Wales, Ireland's **Ring of Kerry**, **Provence** or the **Alps** or **Pyrenees** in France and walks in Austria, Spain or Italy. We offer pilgrimage trails such as the **Way of St James**, the Camino de Santiago from Le Puy in France to Santiago de Compostela in Spain, or the **Via Francigena** – the pilgrims' *Road to Rome*.

Contact Outdoor Travel for more details and reservations:

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