

Britain

Self-Guided Hiking Tour

Active Journeys



Tour description

Day 1	
Arrive Ilkley	
Day 2	19.5 km
To Burnsall	
Day 3	26 km
To Upper Wharfedale	
Day 4	29 km
To Dentdale	
Day 5	14 km
To Sedbergh	
Day 6	19 km
To Grayrigg	
Day 7	20 km
To Bowness	
Day 8	

Yorkshire Dales Way

The Yorkshire Dales are an idyllic pastoral landscape of green valleys crisscrossed by dry-stone walls marking field boundaries. Picturesque villages and hamlets consisting of little more than a pub and post office abound, and old farmhouses and 'stone barns' dot the valley sides. Above the Dales are open rolling moorlands rising to 600m or more. This tour includes the whole of the much-loved Dales Way long distance path, which runs right across the Yorkshire Dales National Park and on to the shores of Windermere in the Lake District National Park

The Dales Way, as its name suggests, is essentially a valley walk, traversing landscapes, which are among those best loved by the English themselves. Of course, for Yorkshire folk, there is absolutely nothing to compare with Yorkshire scenery, and one has to concede that they have a point. The hamlets and farmsteads of the Yorkshire Dales, with their dry stone walls and outlying stone barns are, frankly, incomparable. If you walk nowhere else in England, walk here. You won't regret it!

The route starts from the pleasant small town of Ilkley, overlooked by Ilkley Moor. Just upstream, the River Wharfe emerges from Wharfedale. Then it follows the river past the medieval ruins of Bolton Abbey, past the Strid and past the pretty villages of Burnsall, Grassington, Kettlewell and Buckden. You then climb over open moorland to reach the highest point of the route at Cam Fell (518m). You descend along Dentdale, quieter and more remote than Wharfedale, through the pretty village of Dent with its cobbled streets to the market town of Sedbergh, nestling below the steep slopes of the Howgill Fells. For the last two days of the tour, the trail crosses a delightful landscape of small sheep farms and the land becomes more rugged as you enter the Lake District.

Tour Details

Daily April 1 to September 29

Cost: \$1695per person

Single Supplement: On Request

Length: 8 days / 7 nights

Grade: Moderate

Starts: Ilkley

Ends: Bowness

Fast Facts

Includes:

- 7 nights hotels with breakfasts
- Luggage transfers, route notes & maps
- Local support

- **Waymarks:** You will be able to follow the trail easily as the route is very popular and easy and well marked.

ITINERARY

This tour includes the whole length of this much-loved long-distance path, which runs right across the Yorkshire Dales National Park. Gradients and terrain are easy, but the going may be muddy in wet weather. There are also a large number of "stiles" and "kissing gates" to negotiate. The itinerary follows Wharfedale (where there is time to admire the ruins of Bolton Abbey) and then Hubberholme, gradually gaining height upstream to reach the Pennine watershed at Cam Fell (1700 feet). The way then runs down Dentdale to the market town of Sedbergh and across sheep pastures to Bowness on Windermere.

Day 1 Ilkely

Travel to starting point. Take an optional walk to Cow and Calf rocks and Ilkley Moor. Meet with our local representative who will go over the itinerary, route and highlights with you.

Day 2 Ilkely to Burnsall 19.5 km/6 hrs

via Lower Wharfedale and Bolton Abbey. Today is a pleasant introduction to Wharfedale with steady hiking and plenty to see including Bolton Abbey and Strid.

Day 3 Burnsall to Upper Wharfedale 26 km/7 hrs

Pass Kilnsey Crag (famous overhanging rock) and the pretty villages of Grassington and Kettlewell, and continue up Wharfedale with its rugged limestone scenery.

Day 4 Buckden to Dent 29 km/7 hrs

Reach the head of Wharfedale, the route now climbs to the wilder country of the Pennines. Then, begin your descent into the gentler terrain of Dentdale.

Day 5 Dent to Sedbergh 14 km/4 hrs

Continue down Dentdale from the village of Dent and following the River Dee, and arrive in the pleasant town of Sedbergh.

Day 6 Sedbergh to Grayrigg 19 km/6 hrs

Gentle countryside greets you today as you walk below Howgill Fells, by the River Lune and into the Lake District. Here you will meander through an undulating landscape of sheep pastureland.

Day 7 Grayrigg to Bowness 20 km/6 hrs

Here you will have a relatively short day as the spectacular mountains of the Lake District come closer until you find yourself at the journey's end in Bowness. Here partake in a morning's walk to Bowness on Lake Windermere, England's largest natural lake.

Day 8 End of Tour



What to Expect

What will the weather be like?

The daytime temperature will be around 15 to mid-20 degrees C (60's to 70's F), with moderate rainfall. It often rains making the countryside lush and green. It is usually misty and not torrential downpours, but rain gear is still necessary, both a jacket and a pair of pants.

How many hours of hiking a day?

Be prepared to hike between 4 to 7 hours daily. This is not a supported tour, so you must be able to get to the next destination en route. If you need to take a day off and rest, you can easily get to the next town by public transport.

How fit do I need to be?

The fitter the better, so you will be able to enjoy this active holiday. There are some hills and some level terrain, rolling hills rather than any steep pitches.

Walking is unquestionably the best way to see this beautiful landscape. The distances covered each day are fairly short so there is ample time to pause and admire the unsurpassed scenery. It should be noted that good hiking boots are a must.

What is the food like?

We have included a full breakfast each day. For lunch, you can stop in a pub and local restaurant for a full meal or mid-day snack. For dinner, our notes will suggest a location, or you can eat at the hotel or discover the restaurants in town.

What are the hotels like?

They are chosen for their charm and location. Properties are charming B&B's, well- located in the towns. The rooms have private facilities.



Extra Services

Please note that some of our guests have suggested a rest day or days to be interspersed during your holiday. You can easily do this on this trip and make it a longer holiday.

We have a selection of hotels available for you, both before and after the tour.

Getting There

From Manchester Airport it is 2 hours to Ilkley via Leeds. Or take the train from London King's Cross to Leeds, then change trains for Ilkley (3 - 3 1/2 hours). The first night's hotel is a short taxi ride/ walk from the station.

Return journey to London at end of tour: Taxi/walk to Windermere rail station. Then train to London Euston (change trains at Ox-enholme).



How to book your holiday

- Contact our office to make sure there is space available. One of our travel planners will walk you through the entire process.
- Download the reservation form from our site and send in the completed form by fax or email. Once this is done, your space is confirmed and pre-departure packet will be sent.
- A deposit is required immediately, and final payment is required 60 days prior to the trip departure. Terms & conditions are outlined in our Reservation Form.
- Plan your air travel as soon as possible.
- We encourage you to purchase travel insurance, either through us or a travel insurance provider directly.
- Ensure you are in proper health for the trip chosen. Contact us for more information on vaccinations, inoculations, and fitness requirements.