



NEW

## Walk Northumberland

UNITED KINGDOM - TRIP CODE WNU

WALKING AND TREKKING

### Why book this trip?

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A walking and sightseeing tour that explores the hidden gems and varied beauty of unspoilt Northumberland. Centre-based in Alnwick we walk the rugged coast to ancient castles; discover Roman Britannia on Hadrian's Wall and scenic beauty in the Simonside Hills.

- **Holy Island** - Walk the Pilgrim's Path to Lindisfarne
- **Rich Cultural Heritage** - Cragside House, Bamburgh and Dunstanburgh Castles
- **Hike Hadrian's Wall** - Housesteads Fort and Vindolanda Settlement



**INCLUDED MEALS**  
Breakfast: 5



**TRIP STAFF**  
Explore Tour  
Leader / Driver  
Driver(s)



**TRANSPORT**  
Bus  
On Foot



**ACCOMMODATION**  
5 nights  
comfortable hotel



**WALKING GRADE:**  
Easy To  
Moderate



**GROUP SIZE:**  
10 - 16

## Itinerary

Itineraries on some departure dates may differ, please select the itinerary that you wish to explore.

### DAY 1 - Join trip in Alnwick

Arrive in the small town of Alnwick, located on the south bank of the River Aln. Alnwick Castle and Gardens was home to one of the most powerful, medieval, northern baronial families - the Earls of Northumberland - and we highly recommend a visit today or the day you leave.

Check in is available from 3pm and the hotel has free car parking for guests. If arriving by train, Alnmouth Station is about 5 miles away by taxi.

The Tour Leader plans to meet you in reception at 6pm for the introductory briefing, followed by the option to enjoy a group meal (not included) to meet your fellow guests.

NB - Please note that during covid restrictions it is advisable to pre-book entrance tickets for most suggested site visits on this trip. Go to the optional activities listed in the trip information section for more details on pre-booking the visit (with timings and prices).



**ACCOMMODATION:**  
The Oaks Hotel (or similar)

**Grade: Comfortable Hotel**



**SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE**





MEALS PROVIDED: NONE

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## DAY 2 - Walk Pilgrim's Path to Holy Island of Lindisfarne

We drive after breakfast to the mainland overlooking Holy Island. The island is cut off by the tide twice a day and there is a causeway that allows vehicle access. We plan to follow the Pilgrim's Path and walk to Holy Island (sometimes best to remove shoes and socks for part of this route!) following the route of St Aiden who walked this route to found the Priory in 635AD. Part of the first section may be alongside the causeway depending on the tides before taking its own course across the sands. Back on firm ground, we walk around the island followed by a recommended visit to the Priory (English Heritage, entrance not included), Lindisfarne Castle (National Trust, entrance not included) and you can visit the Lindisfarne Mead Shop to sample the local meads. Later this afternoon we drive back to Alnwick.

Today's easy-moderate graded walk will take approximately 4 hours and will cover a distance of 12 kilometres mostly on the flat.



ACCOMMODATION:

The Oaks Hotel (or similar)



Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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## DAY 3 - Coastal AONB hike to Dunstanburgh Castle ruins. Visit Bamburgh Castle

This morning we drive the short distance to Howick and the start point of our circular walk exploring the Northumberland Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The route takes us up the rocky coastline to Craster, watching out for the Kittiwakes and Fulmers that nest on the rocks at Cullernose Point. Craster is a fishing village famous for its Kippers that are still smoked in the village today. Next we reach the magnificent ruins of Dunstanburgh Castle (English Heritage, entrance not included) standing proudly on a remote headland. Turning inland we start our return walking through the tracks and fields back to Howick Hall (entrance not included) for possible visit depending on timings. Later this afternoon we drive back to Alnwick with a stop at Bamburgh Castle (entrance not included). The castle's impressive ramparts have stood guard over the spectacular Northumberland coastline for over 1,400 years.

Today's moderately-graded walk will take approximately 5 hours and will cover a distance of 14 kilometres with a total ascent and descent of 140m.





ACCOMMODATION:

The Oaks Hotel (or similar)



Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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#### DAY 4 - Hike Hadrian's Wall – Housesteads Fort, Sycamore Gap, Vindolanda settlement

We drive (1.5hrs) inland today to Hadrian's Wall at The Sill Visitor Centre. This is one of the best-preserved sections of the wall, with Milecastles and Turrets, and part of our circular route walks alongside it with breathtaking views. Along the way we will pass the photogenic Sycamore Gap and

Housesteads Roman Hill Fort for an optional visit (National Trust, entrance not included). After completing the walk, we drive a short distance to visit the ruins of the Roman archaeological site of Vindolanda, a Roman auxiliary fort just south of the Wall that originally pre-dated it. Around 25% of Vindolanda has been excavated, archaeologists are still hard at work here and it may be possible to learn about that process and any recent finds. Entrance to Vindolanda is included.

Today's moderately-graded walk will take approximately 4-5 hours and will cover a distance of 13-15 kilometres with a total ascent and descent of 400m.



ACCOMMODATION:

The Oaks Hotel (or similar)



Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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#### DAY 5 - Simonside Hills short circular walk. Visit Cragside House and Gardens

This morning's walk in Northumberland National Park explores the Simonside Hills. We drive to the trailhead near Rothbury. The walk itself is short but there are some very steep gradients and we reach the

summit on Simonside. The 360-degree views are magnificent and on a clear day it is possible to see the Cheviot Hills and the North Sea coastline. There is the chance to see wild Cheviot goats if we are lucky. This afternoon we have included a visit to Cragside House and Gardens. If you want to do more walking there are a number of self-guided routes ranging from 3 to 10 kilometres around Cragside woods that the Tour Leader can explain. Cragside is a remarkable Victorian house, a wonder of its age and the work of Lord Armstrong - inventor, innovator and landscape genius. It was the first house in the world to be powered by hydroelectricity. Entrance into Cragside House and Gardens is included.

Today's easy graded walk will take approximately 2 hours and will cover a distance of 7 kilometres with a total ascent and descent of 240m. Additional optional walks range from 3 to 10 kilometres.



ACCOMMODATION:  
The Oaks Hotel (or similar)

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**Grade: Comfortable Hotel**



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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### **DAY 6 - Trip ends in Alnwick**

The trip ends after breakfast at our hotel. You may choose to explore more of the local area under your own steam. Beyond Alnwick House and Gardens you can take a walk around Hulne Park, a former hunting park for the Duke of Northumberland, to Brizlee Tower and the ruins of Hulne Abbey.



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

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## **Trip information**

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### **Climate and country information**

United Kingdom

## Climate

The UK has a temperate but very variable climate. In general the summers are warm with July and August being the warmest. The winters are cool and the lowest temperatures are recorded during January and February. Whatever the season it is advisable to be prepared for rain!

Time difference to GMT	Plugs	Religion	Language
0	3 Pin Flat	Christian	English

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## Budgeting and packing

### Optional activities

The following excursions and/or activities are usually available and may be arranged locally. Estimated costs are provided below for guidance only, are on a per person basis unless shown otherwise, and may depend on the number of participants. Prices quoted are correct as of the date these tour notes were originally issued but may change at any time due to currency fluctuations. Please note: These activities are booked and paid for direct with the supplier and do not form part of your Explore holiday contract.

We recommend visits to the following sites. It is worth considering becoming a member of English Heritage and the National Trust. During Covid restrictions, both members and non-members are required to pre-book a visit to English Heritage and National Trust sites. We advise that you visit the website for each attraction for the latest visitor information related to Covid restrictions and your visit. Estimated costs are provided below and the recommended time slot that you should book for those sites where applicable.

- Alnwick Castle and Gardens - £31 (in free time pre- or post-trip)
- Lindisfarne Castle - 12noon - (National Trust) - £9
- Lindisfarne Priory - 2pm - (English Heritage) - £7.90
- Dunstanburgh Castle - 11am - (English Heritage) - £5.90
- Howick Hall and Gardens - queue on arrival, no pre-booking possible - £8.80
- Bamburgh Castle - no time restrictions - £11
- Housesteads Roman Hill Fort - 11am - (National Trust) - £9

### Clothing

A warm jacket or fleece and long trousers are advisable, especially in early and late season when the weather tends to be cooler. Come prepared for all weather - rain jacket, fleece, warm layers, hat, gloves as well T-shirts, sunhat, good sun cream and sunglasses.

### Footwear

We recommend you bring walking boots - leather or fabric are both fine. Waterproof boots are advisable. Some of the paths are rocky or can be muddy underfoot and you could twist an ankle if not wearing boots. Trainers are not recommended. Make sure that your boots are worn-in and comfortable before the start of the trip. Comfortable footwear to change into after the walk.

### Luggage

20Kg

## Luggage: On tour

One main piece of baggage and a waterproof rucksack large enough to carry what you need for the day - waterproofs, warm layer, water, picnic, sun-cream, phone etc. On hot days you will carry fewer clothes but more drinking water.

## Equipment

Bring a rucksack for the walks and a water bottle. You may like to bring trekking poles. If your rucksack doesn't have a waterproof cover then consider plastic bags to keep things dry should it rain. Tap water is fine to drink but there won't always be places to refill on the walks. We encourage our clients not to buy mineral water because of the negative environmental impact with plastic bottles.

## Tipping

### Explore leader

At your discretion you might consider tipping your Tour Leader in appreciation of the efficiency and service you receive.

### Local crew

Although entirely voluntary, tipping is a recognised part of life in tourism. Some local staff will look to members of the group for personal recognition of particular services provided. In order to make things easier for you, the Tour Leaders may organise a tip for the driver if applicable.

## United Kingdom

### Food and drink

The costs for meals may vary depending upon location, type of restaurant and number of courses eaten and so the prices given are an average guide. Local restaurants located off the beaten track may be less expensive, whereas an upmarket restaurant located in the centre of a major city may charge more.

<b>Lunch price</b>	<b>Dinner price</b>	<b>Beer price</b>	<b>Water price</b>
£10	£18	£4	£0.8

### Foreign Exchange

<b>Local currency</b>	<b>Recommended Currency For Exchange</b>
Pounds Sterling.	Carry a combination of UK Sterling cash, ATM and credit cards.

<b>Where To Exchange</b>	<b>ATM Availability</b>
Your tour leader will advise you on arrival.	ATM's are widely available in main towns.

<b>Credit Card Acceptance</b>	<b>Travellers Cheques</b>
Widely accepted.	Can be exchanged at most banks and post offices.

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## **Transport, Accommodation & Meals**

### **Transport Information**

Bus, On Foot

### **Accommodation notes**

The Oaks Hotel in Alnwick has comfortable en-suite rooms, a bar/lounge and free parking and Wi-Fi for guests.

### **Arrival and departure information**

Transfers to and from our accommodation are not provided for this trip. If you are planning to arrive or depart by train, this information may be useful to you. Whilst we are unable to make a reservation for you, we have provided contact numbers to enable you to make a direct booking.

Arriving from Acklington railway station: Our local agent is also a licensed private hire vehicle operator so may be able to assist. If you do require a taxi, please call us and we can provide their contact details for you.

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## **Essential Information**

### **Government Travel Safety Advice**

We strongly recommend that you check your government's travel advisory for up-to-date information and advice about your destination: safety and security, entry requirements, health, local laws and customs. For UK citizens, check the latest Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office advice.

Please refer to our COVID-19 entry requirements page for any country-specific conditions of entry. Whilst we strive to update this on a regular basis we recommend you also check the FCDO website for the latest advice on entry requirements in this fast-evolving situation. Information can change at any time.

### **Under 18 immigration guidance**

Please note that some countries require proof of parental consent when travelling overseas with under 18s. Please check requirements with the relevant embassy or consular office well in advance of travel if this applies to your party.

### **Price Guarantee**

Once your booking has been confirmed we guarantee the price will not increase, whatever the circumstances. Before booking please ensure you have read our important tour pricing information. [Booking Conditions](#)

### **Visa and Passport Information**

UK: Visas are not required by UK, Australian, New Zealand, US and Canadian citizens. Other



nationalities should consult their local embassy or consular office.

If you do require assistance in obtaining a visa then you may be able to apply through Explore's recommended visa service in the UK, Travcour. See [www.travcour.com](http://www.travcour.com) to download the relevant visa application for your trip, if applicable (UK citizens only), along with details of how to apply for your visa through Travcour. The Team at Travcour will be happy to answer specific questions relating to visa applications, please call them directly on 0208 5431846.

It is your responsibility to ensure that you are in possession of a full passport, with the correct validity for your chosen destination.

## Booking conditions

Before booking your Explore trip, please ensure that you read both our Essential Information and Booking Conditions.

## Transfers

Find out more about [Trip Transfer Terms and Conditions](#) before you book.

### Booking a land only package with Explore

Customers who have chosen to book on the 'Land Only' arrangements of our tour, please ensure that you have checked your tour specific 'Joining Instructions' prior to booking your own travel arrangements. Your joining instructions can be found below in the dates and prices information.

You may also be eligible for the Free Explore Transfer.

### Joining Tour Abroad

Customers booked on the 'Land Only' arrangements will receive a Free Transfer, provided you arrive and depart on the tour only itinerary start and end dates. The complimentary transfers will be arranged from the Explore designated airport or train station to your trips joining point, and then back from the ending point to the designated airport or train station. Generally the airport or station that Explore have selected will be the one that is closest to the town or city where the trip starts, or the one nearest to the joining point. It will be either an airport or train station but not both.

The exception to this rule is customers who are booked on a tour where the joining and ending point is at the designated airport or train station.

Free transfers are not available for Self-Guided, Polar, Tailormade or Tours for Churches customers.

If you are not eligible for the Free Transfer then you will need to make your own way through to the joining and ending point. On a majority of our tours Explore will be able to provide a private transfer at an additional cost. Please ask for a quote at the time of booking.

For more information regarding the Explore Free Transfer [click here](#)

## Insurance

It is a condition of booking with Explore that you have adequate valid travel insurance. It is your responsibility to arrange appropriate travel insurance and ensure you have read and understood the full terms and conditions of your travel insurance policy to ensure that you are covered for all activities you intend to undertake whilst on the tour, including all optional activities. Your Insurance Policy must fully cover you for medical expenses and emergency repatriation to your home country. Please ensure your

policy includes medical emergency helicopter evacuation in the event of illness or injury and covers the entire duration of your holiday. If you are trekking at altitude please ensure that there is no upper altitude limit which may limit or exclude cover for your trip. The cost of many of our Polar Voyages will exceed the capped amount covered by standard insurance premiums and you will be required to pay an additional premium to cover the full value of your trip. Please ensure that you are covered for the full amount of your holiday cost, as insufficient cover could invalidate a claim under the policy. Medical and repatriation insurance cover is not mandatory for UK residents who are travelling on trips within the United Kingdom.

Read more information about what travel insurance is required.

## **Flight information**

Explore offers a wide range of flexible flying options to make joining and leaving our trips easy. Read more about them here.

### **Flight Information**

You are able to book this tour on a 'land only' basis or as a 'flight inclusive' package. Your flight inclusive package will be fully protected by the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) ATOL protection scheme.

### **Booking a flight inclusive package with Explore**

We have a good selection of flights not only from London but from many regional airports around the UK allowing us to compare fares between scheduled carriers as well as low cost and charter airlines. Our dedicated flights team will match the best flight options to your arrival and departure airport.

On our website we display a UK flight inclusive package guide price which is generally based on a London departure. To avoid paying supplements or to secure your preferred flight option, we recommend booking as early as possible, especially for peak travel dates.

## **United Kingdom**

### **Vaccinations**


Nothing compulsory, we recommend protection against tetanus, diphtheria, polio and hepatitis A. The above is not an exhaustive list. Further information regarding vaccinations and travel health advice can be found by following the NHS and NaTHNaC links at <http://www.explore.co.uk/Travelhealth/> and from your local healthcare provider. Visa and vaccination requirements are subject to change and should be confirmed before departure.

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## **Walking and Trekking information**

## DAILY DISTANCES

Day 2	12km	4hrs
Day 3	14km	5hrs
Day 4	13km	4hrs
Day 5	7km	2hrs
Day 6	14km	6hrs

 Optional Walks

### Walking grade

Easy to moderate

### Trek details

Walks on 3 full days for between 4 to 5 hours. The short walk on day 5 is 2-3 hours with further optional walking in the afternoon. We follow a variety of trails from the flat sands of the Pilgrim's Path to the rocky terrain of Hadrian's Wall and Simonside Hills. The terrain is flatter on the coastal walks and generally undulating with some rocky and uneven sections on the inland walks with some steep hills. We have graded this trip as Easy to Moderate.

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### Additional Information



## Reviews



AWARD WINNING  
EXPLORE LEADERS



PRICE GUARANTEE  
PROMISE



AIRPORT  
TRANSFERS