

Walk the South Downs Short Break

UNITED KINGDOM - TRIP CODE WSD

WALKING AND TREKKING

Why book this trip?

A short break with beautiful walks and panoramic views exploring the South Downs National Park. From our comfortable hotel in Bramber we walk through pretty villages and rolling landscapes which have inspired literary greats such as Jane Austen, Virginia Woolf and the Bloomsbury set.

- **Hike the South Downs Way** - Ditchling Beacon, Devil's Dyke and Chanctonbury Hill
- **Visit an award winning Sussex vineyard** - English sparkling wine tasting
- **Comfortable 3 star hotel** - located beside the South Downs



INCLUDED MEALS
Breakfast: 3



TRIP STAFF
Explore Tour
Leader / Trek
Guide
Driver(s)



TRANSPORT
Bus
On Foot



ACCOMMODATION
3 nights
comfortable hotel



WALKING GRADE:
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 Bramber, Sussex

Arrive in the small village of Bramber, conveniently located near the South Downs National Park. Check in is possible from 3pm. There is a car park for hotel guests. If arriving by train, Pulborough Station is 25 minutes away by taxi and Shoreham-by-Sea is 10 minutes away. The hotel will be able to provide picnic lunches and the nearest shops are located close by in Steyning. Please note that during Covid there will not be a mini-bar fridge in your room.

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 get acquainted with your fellow guests.



ACCOMMODATION:
Old Tollgate Hotel & Restaurant (or similar)

Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: NONE

DAY 2 - Circular Hike via Chanctonbury Ring; evening wine tasting

We start our first walk after breakfast directly from the hotel, heading quickly into Steyning Bowl and onto the Downs. We follow the paths of the Monarch's Way and the South Downs Way towards Chanctonbury Ring. The South Downs way is an ancient footpath and Chanctonbury Hill marks the site of a pre-historic hill fort dating back to the late Bronze or early Iron Age. We explore this small site with views of the North Downs, the Weald and the English Channel. The afternoon offers a choice of routes that lead to the beautiful rural town of Steyning, which dates back to Anglo-Saxon times. We then take the short walk to the hotel in Bramber. In the early evening there will be a small wine tasting event, sampling Sussex wines.

Today's moderately-graded walk will take approximately 7 hours and will cover a distance of 19 kilometres with a total ascent of 620m and 620m descent.



ACCOMMODATION:

Old Tollgate Hotel & Restaurant (or similar)



Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 3 - Hike from Ditchling Beacon via Devil's Dyke along the South Downs Way. Visit award-winning Sussex vineyard

After breakfast we travel by vehicle the short distance to a vineyard near Ditchling. Nestled below the South Downs, we visit the vineyard and learn about the vines and wine making. We then walk up to Ditchling Beacon - once the site of an Iron Age hillfort - which is one of the highest points on the South Downs at 248m. We hike all day along the South Downs Way in a westerly direction. We pass the Jack and Jill windmills at Clayton and pass the Devil's Dyke; a 100m deep V-shaped valley, with stunning views north towards the Sussex Weald. After around two and a half hours we leave the South Downs with a descent that leads to the River Adur and our hotel.

Today's moderately-graded walk will take approximately 7 hours and will cover a distance of 21 kilometres with a total ascent of 620m and 720m descent.



ACCOMMODATION:

Old Tollgate Hotel & Restaurant (or similar)

Grade: Comfortable Hotel



SINGLE ROOM AVAILABLE



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

DAY 4 - Circular walk with sea views from Lancing Hill. Tour ends.

To make the most of this short break we have planned a walk today ending at around 2:30pm. You will need to check out of your room before the walk starts and can store luggage at the hotel. Today's circular walk retraces our steps through the village to the River Adur. We then follow the river path for about 6km towards the coast before heading west walking up to Lancing Hill for far-reaching sea views and the impressive and imposing Lancing College. The austere Gothic revival style college chapel built in 1868 is the largest school chapel in the world. Next we head north away from the coast up to Steep Down and to Annington Hill before finally descending back to our hotel in Bramber. We aim to end the walk by 2:30pm, so you will be free to head home or explore the area further yourselves.

Today's moderately-graded walk will take approximately 5 hours and will cover a distance of 19 kilometres with a total ascent of 300m and 300m descent.



MEALS PROVIDED: BREAKFAST

Trip information

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

Budgeting and packing

Clothing

A warm sweater 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 shoes or boots and comfortable footwear to change into in the evening. Make sure that your boots are worn-in and comfortable before the start of the trip.

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 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 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.

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.

Lunch price	Dinner price	Beer price	Water price
£10	£18	£4	£0.8

Foreign Exchange

Local currency

Pounds Sterling.

Recommended Currency For Exchange

Carry a combination of UK Sterling cash, ATM and credit cards.

Where To Exchange

Your tour leader will advise you on arrival.

ATM Availability

ATM's are widely available in main towns.

Credit Card Acceptance

Widely accepted.

Travellers Cheques

Can be exchanged at most banks and post offices.

Transport, Accommodation & Meals**Transport Information**

Bus, On Foot

Accommodation notes

We stay at the comfortable 3-star Old Tollgate Hotel located in Bramber, on the South Downs, within the South Downs National Park. It has ample free parking and a good bar that serves food. The restaurant includes a carvery and selection of locally sourced foods. Breakfast is large with a choice of full English breakfast, continental breakfast and plenty of fruit, yoghurts and cereals.

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 Brighton railway station: There are a number of taxi companies that can be hailed from the train station and the journey to our accommodation should take around 20 minutes.

Arrival from Shoreham-by-Sea railway station: Taxi's should be pre-booked and the journey to our accommodation should take about 10 minutes

Bel Cabs: 01273 454455

Adur Cabs: 01273 454454

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 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.

Walking and Trekking information

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Walking grade

Moderate

Trek details

Walks on 2 full days for between 6 to 7 hours. The shorter walk on departure day is 3 to 4 hours. We follow the well-maintained South Downs Way and connecting paths on flat or undulating terrain with some steep hills. We have graded the tour as moderate.

Additional Information

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Reviews



AWARD WINNING
EXPLORE LEADERS



PRICE GUARANTEE
PROMISE



AIRPORT
TRANSFERS