

The Shropshire Way - Eastern Hills Guided Trail Holiday

Tour Style: Guided trails

Destinations: Shropshire Hills & England

Trip code: CSLES

Trip Walking Grade: 3



HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

The Shropshire Way Eastern Hills trail is 58 miles (93km) of enjoyable, yet occasionally challenging ridge and hilltop walking. You will pass through the Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), beginning at Long Mynd ridge and progressing towards Ludlow. Set mainly in quiet countryside, the route passes numerous ancient sites and tracks, as well as more 'modern' castles and follies. This holiday offers excellent opportunities for many outstanding hilltop panoramas, in contrasting scenery.

HOLIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Walk through the Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)
- Walk along along The Long Mynd Ridge and Wenlock Edge
- Finish at the charming town of Ludlow
- Pass many ancient sites, castles and follies

TRIP SUITABILITY

This Guided Walking/Hiking Trail is graded 3 which involves walks/hikes in remote countryside and rough terrain. These may be rough, muddy and steep in sections, and will require a good level of fitness. It is your responsibility to ensure you have the relevant fitness and equipment required to join this holiday.

Fitness

We want you to be confident that you can meet the demands of each walking day and get the most out of your holiday. Please be sure you can manage the mileage and ascent detailed in the daily itineraries. It is important for your own enjoyment, and that of your fellow guests that you can maintain the pace.

It makes a lot of sense to spend time getting some additional exercise before your holiday. We suggest that you try to fit in a number of longer walks, including some on hilly terrain. Other exercises such as cycling, jogging and swimming are also excellent for developing increased stamina.

ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrival Day

Your leader will give an introductory talk about the holiday.

Day 2: Long Mynd House To Edgton Village

Walking from the House, we head into Carding Mill Valley and ascend on the Shropshire Way via the Motts Road bridleway, onto the heather moorland of the Long Mynd. From there, we turn SSW to reach the highest point of Pole Hill at 516m (1,693ft). We then continue all the way along the broad Long Mynd ridge on the ancient Port Way. We descend from the ridge at Black Knoll, to cross the River Onny (after a short section of 'A' road) and head up through Plowden Woods to Edgton village. From there we catch our coach to return to the House.

11 miles (17.5km) with 1,875 feet (570m) of ascent.

Day 3: Edgton To Harton Hollow

We return by coach to Edgton village to continue our walk through charming Round Oak and onto the expansive top of Hopesay Hill Common. From there, we head east to Craven Arms, passing Stokesay Castle, enroute to the Secret Hills Discovery Centre. Leaving Craven Arms to the NE we pass below Flounders Folly* and onto the wooded, long limestone escarpment of Wenlock Edge. Today we follow this broad edge as far as the Harton Hollow Nature Reserve Car Park. [* If interest, time and weather all allow, then we could loop an additional 1.5km off route, to ascend another 120m on Callow Hill, to the prominent viewpoint of Flounders Folly tower].

11 miles (17.5km) with 1,750 feet (535m) of ascent.

Day 4: Rest Day

A day without any walks programmed, giving you the opportunity to explore the local area independently

Day 5: Church Stretton To Wilderhope Manor

Following the 'Rest Day' we can again walk out from Long Mynd house, this time down through Rectory Wood into Church Stretton. Our route then takes us over Ragleth Hill, with excellent views of our hotel above Church Stretton and the hills beyond, plus Caer Caradoc behind and Wenlock Edge ahead. We continue onwards past the famous Acton Scott Farm, to ascend back up to Wenlock Edge, a short distance before Harton

Hollow. From here, we continue NE through multiple woods, coppices and fields – eventually reaching Wilderhope Manor above Longville in the Dale.

12 miles (19.5km), with 1,875 feet (570m) of ascent.

Day 6: Wilderhope Manor To Coldgreen

Today we head SE, before ascending the first of the Clee Hills – Brown Clee Hill. We take in its two summits – firstly Abdon Burf at 540m (1,775ft) Shropshire's highest point – and then Clee Burf at 510m (1,673ft). The summits have been 'worked' from Iron Age times right up to the present day radio masts. Weather permitting; there are extensive 360° views from the toposcope on Abdon Burf – of the Shropshire Hills to the West and the Welsh Hills beyond; over the Severn Valley to the East and the Clent Hills beyond; North to The Wrekin; and South to the Malvern Hills and maybe even the Black Mountains. From Clee Burf, we descend via Lodge Hill for our coach pick up from the Three Horseshoes Inn at Coldgreen, near Wheathill.

12 miles (19km) with 2,000 feet (610m) of ascent.

Day 7: Coldgreen To Ludlow

Returning to Coldgreen we head South, through Bromdon to Callowgate lane, where we ascend to the top of Titterstone Clee Hill at 532m (1,745ft). Again, this is a great vantage point, complete with radar station, from which we should again enjoy far horizons. We descend SE from the summit, passing nearby Farden and Knowbury, to visit Caynham Camp which was the site of an Iron Age Hill Fort. From there we head generally west, to enter Ludlow alongside the River Teme. After a little time to explore Ludlow, our return coach picks us up from the centre of this charming town, nearby to the impressive Ludlow Castle.

11½ miles (18.5km) with 1,575 feet (480m) of ascent in a day.

Day 8: Departure Day

ACCOMMODATION

Longmynd House

Hidden in plain sight, there's a well-kept countryside secret in the heart of England that might just surprise you with its wonderful upland walking, trails, history and heritage. Discover the heart of Shropshire from striking Longmynd House, stood on a wooded hillside above Church Stretton, on the border of England and Wales. Wake early to watch the sunrise from your balcony; take a dip in the heated outdoor pool and gear up for a great day in the hills on walks full of rich variety. Stride out on the Long Mynd itself, a dramatic, isolated whaleback hill with an expanse of heather wilderness and deeply cut valleys, explore the Stiperstones and climb to the Iron Age fort on top of Caer Caradoc, or surround yourself with historic castles, market towns and trails of all kinds.

Country House Accommodation

Need To Know

Important Covid-19 Steps We Have Taken For Guest Safety: Please Read

Following the relaxation in government guidance on 19 July, we are continuing to take extra steps to keep our guests leaders, and staff safe in our HF country houses. We ask all our guests to respect the measures put in place.

The English, Scottish and Welsh governments are not in sync, so measures in our country houses will vary between the nations. With the relaxation of social distancing in England, from 19 July we will be allowing larger groups to dine and relax in the bar together. However, we will still give guests space e.g. we will seat 6 people at a table where pre-pandemic we may have seated 8. We will ensure our public rooms are well ventilated by opening doors and windows wherever possible. If you have any concerns about distancing, please speak to the House Manager. The government recommendation for England is to wear face coverings in crowded areas. You must wear a face covering by law in public areas in hotels in Scotland. This is mandatory in public spaces; however, face coverings will not be required whilst eating and drinking in the restaurant and bar areas or whilst you are outside our houses. In Wales face coverings will remain a legal requirement indoors, with the exception of hospitality premises.

As a temporary measure, we will not be servicing rooms during a stay. Extra tea, coffee, milk, and toiletries will be made available on request for all guests. It is recommended that guests bring their own toiletries for the duration of their stay. We will though be increasing the frequency of cleaning in our public areas providing particular attention to frequently touched items including door handles and handrails.

Menus for the week will be available in your room on arrival. A self-service breakfast will be served from 7.45am – 9am. Picnic lunches will now be pre-ordered the night before from an order form in the room. Evening meals will be table service. A dinner order form will be available in each room for completion. Dinner is served at either 7.15pm or 7.30pm. Please check at the house for details. The bar will be open. We will be offering a table service but guests can also come to the bar to order (depending on local restrictions).

Join our team after dinner on Wednesday evenings for the HF Big Pub Quiz. There will be one other evening of entertainment at the start of the week, which will vary depending on the country house that you are staying at. Our Walk Leaders will also be on hand in the bar or lounge for individual or small group walks talks briefings, which allow guests to talk through the following day's walk options and ask any questions. All of our swimming pools are open, except for Glen Coe, which will not re-open this year. Swimming Pools will be operated in line with maximum capacities.

For more information and to see all the steps taken, [visit our page on how house stays will be adapted](#).

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Rooms

Tea & coffee-making facilities, TV, Hairdryer, Toiletries, Wi-Fi

Stay in the smartly presented rooms in the main house or in one of 8 brick-built lodges in the grounds. With 54 rooms, Longmynd House has plenty of space and there's a range of Classic and Premium Rooms to choose from. Chose Room 16 for the four poster bed and separate sitting area, with green leafy views or Room 44 with its compact balcony and outdoor eating area overlooking the heather-clad rise on the far side of the valley. The lodges away from the house offer a little more privacy and their own terrace looking out over the gardens.

All 'Classic' rooms are ensuite and furnished to a high standard. There are also several 'Premium' Rooms that are either larger or have a desirable view, a more luxurious mattress and larger television – upgrade your stay for just an extra £15-20 per person per night. You can choose a specific room for an extra £30 per room, subject to availability. Upgrade supplements still apply.

About Your Stay

Free Wi-Fi, boot room and drying room, extensive garden, lounge, bar, ballroom, library and board games to borrow

After a day exploring the Shropshire Hills, return to the house. Stroll through the extensive grounds and discover the woodland sculpture trail that threads through the trees, looking out for 'deer' and 'bears'. Dip into the heated outdoor pool to swim below the trees. Head to the long lounge with its wall of glass giving on to the view outside, or for a more intimate space, sit at the smart bar with its crouching lions and attractive jug lamps

or surrender to the leather sofas around the fireplace and enjoy a local pint of Shropshire Lad or Lass with a lively conversation among your fellow guests.

Food & Drink

As at all our country houses, holidays are full board, from afternoon tea served as a welcome treat through that evening's meal to a hearty breakfast on the day of departure. Lunch is a chance to stock up on our famous picnic snacks. Food at Longmynd House is varied and tasty and has a strong emphasis on ingredients from the area and seasonal produce. Once a week the bright dining room with its wrap around windows hosts a Local Food Night, when, over a sociable evening, you might try a five-course feast of regional flavours.

Accessibility

For accessibility and assistance information, please contact our expert team on 020 3974 8865 or view the accessibility information online for [Longmynd House](#)

TRAVEL DETAILS

Our address is: Longmynd House, Cunnery Road, Church Stretton, Shropshire SY6 6AG
Tel: [01694 722244](tel:01694722244)

By Train:

The nearest train station is Church Stretton, which is less than a mile from Longmynd House. However the house is at the top of a steep hill (it has great views!) so a taxi is recommended.

For train times and route planning by train visit www.nationalrail.co.uk or phone 03457 48 49 50.

By Taxi:

It is possible to pre-book a taxi. The journey from Church Stretton railway station takes approximately 15 minutes. You can pre-book a taxi from our recommended taxi company, Alan's Cab. As a guide price, it cost £17 per 4-seat taxi in 2019. 8-seat taxis are also available at a higher rate. Please pre-book your taxi at least 7 days in advance by contacting:

Alan's Cab*
Tel: +44 (0) 7970 683126
Email: alanbrough207@btinternet.com

The return taxi journey can be arranged on your behalf by the Longmynd House Manager.

*Alan's Cab is not owned or managed by HF Holidays

IMPORTANT NOTE: All taxi companies in Church Stretton are booked for school runs between 2pm and 4:30pm.

By Car:

Follow the A49 to Church Stretton. At the traffic lights turn off the A49 into the town. At the first T junction turn left into the High Street. Go straight over the mini-roundabout, and then take the next right into Cunnery Road. Follow the road up a steep hill and around a hairpin bend. Longmynd House is at the top of the hill on the left hand side. Look out for our sign. A car park is available in the grounds with free parking.

Travelling From Overseas

Manchester Airport has the quickest onward connections to Church Stretton. Trains from the airport take 2

hours. See www.nationalrail.co.uk for train times. (See IMPORTANT NOTE above)

Flying to London Heathrow airport is another option, but has a longer onward train journey - allow at least 4½ hours to reach Church Stretton by train. There are a variety of routes. See www.nationalrail.co.uk for train times. (See IMPORTANT NOTE above)

LOCAL AREA

The attractive small town of Church Stretton is around 10 minutes' walk downhill from Longmynd House. After the arrival of the railway, the town grew in the Victorian and Edwardian eras and became known as 'Little Switzerland' due to the dramatic hills on both sides of the valley. Today the town retains its bygone charm and has a range of facilities including a variety of small shops, banks, cafés, pubs and a supermarket.

During your stay at Longmynd House you may enjoy visiting the following places of interest, either in your free time, during a self-guided walking holiday or on your journey to and from Shropshire:

Ludlow

Easily reached by train, or around 20 minutes' drive away, Ludlow is a particularly attractive market town. The historic centre retains many of its medieval buildings, and is towered over by its [well-preserved castle](#). In recent years the town has developed as something of a gastronomic centre, being home to celebrated Michelin-starred restaurants and many acclaimed local food producers.

Ironbridge Gorge

A little further afield, about 45 minutes' drive from Church Stretton, are the many excellent museums of [Ironbridge Gorge](#). Known as the 'birthplace of the Industrial Revolution' it was here that Abraham Darby perfected the manufacture of cast iron which was later used to build the area's iconic iron bridge across the River Severn. Today there are 10 museums in the gorge including the Museum of Iron, the Coleport China Museum and the excellent Blists Hill Victorian town.

Severn Valley Railway

The [Severn Valley Railway](#) is one of Britain's premier steam railways. This lovingly recreated Great Western Railway branch line is now run largely by volunteers and is home to an impressive collection of locomotives. As its name suggests, the line follows the rural valley of the River Severn from Bridgnorth to Kidderminster. The nearest station at Bridgnorth is about 40 minutes' drive from Church Stretton.

Acton Scott Working Farm

Situated just 10 minutes' drive from Church Stretton, the [Acton Scott Working Farm Museum](#) is a living museum based around a restored Victorian farm. In recent years this has featured in the BBC2 series Victorian Farm and Escape in Time.

Shrewsbury

Also easily reached by train, or a 30-minute drive, Shrewsbury is the county town of Shropshire. The town centre is particularly attractive, featuring many black and white timber houses dating from the 15th and 16th centuries.

Much Wenlock

The small town of Much Wenlock, about 30 minutes' drive from Church Stretton, is particularly attractive with

many black and white timbered houses. Despite its small size, the town can claim to be the birthplace of the modern Olympic Games.

Hereford

The cathedral city of Hereford, is just under an hour's drive away, and can also be reached by direct train from Church Stretton. [Hereford Cathedral](#) houses a chained library and the famous Mappa Mundi, a 13th century map of the world.

Attingham Park

[Attingham Park](#) is a grand 18th century house surrounded by an extensive deer park, located outside Shrewsbury, around 25 minutes' drive away. Now managed by the National Trust you can visit the ornate rooms and explore the walled garden and grounds.

Powis Castle

This former medieval fortress has been re-modelled over more than 400 years – each generation adding to the magnificent collection of paintings, sculpture, furniture and tapestries. The world-famous garden is overhung with clipped yews, and shelters rare and tender plants. [Powis Castle](#) is owned by the National Trust and is located near Welshpool, about 45 minutes' drive from Church Stretton.

Chirk Castle

Just under an hour's drive north of Church Stretton, [Chirk Castle](#) is a fine medieval fortress completed in 1310. As well as military displays, the castle was also a domestic home for many centuries, and is surrounded by excellent gardens.

USEFUL HOLIDAY INFORMATION

Holiday Information

We try to create a relaxed atmosphere on the walk but please listen to safety instructions from your leader.

Keep members of the group in view especially when weather or visibility is poor. If you leave the group, then your leader will no longer have responsibility for you. Our leaders consider the safety of the group as a whole and are likely to be more cautious over potential risks such as bad weather.

Essential Information

"There's no such thing as bad weather, just the wrong type of clothing!" goes the adage. Come prepared for all eventualities and you'll walk in comfort as well as safety. Britain's famous for its changeable weather, so here's our advice on what to wear and bring.

Essentials

- Waterproof walking boots providing ankle support and good grip.
 - A waterproof jacket and over-trousers
 - Gloves and a warm hat (it can be chilly at any time of the year)
 - Rucksack
 - Water bottle (at least 1 litre capacity)
 - A small torch (everywhere in winter, year round in mountains)
 - Sun hat and sunscreen
- Denim jeans and waterproof capes are not suitable on any walks.*

Recommended

- Several layers of clothing, which can be added or removed
- Specialist walking socks to avoid blisters.
- A first aid kit inc plasters– your leader's first aid kit doesn't contain any medication
- Sit mat (insulated pad to sit on when you stop for a break)

You Might Also Want

- Walking poles, particularly useful for descents.
- Insect repellent
- Flask for hot drinks
- Rigid lunch box
- Gaiters
- Blister kit (eg Compeed) just in case
- Waterproof rucksack liner

Useful Information

Ticks

Ticks are tiny creatures that live in vegetation and can attach themselves to passing animals or walkers and may carry a risk of Lyme Disease. Please refer to NHS advice and guidelines for information prior to your holiday.

Our experienced and knowledgeable volunteer leaders undergo a thorough assessment to lead you on your Guided Walking/Hiking Trail and are delighted to share their knowledge and enthusiasm with you.

Please ensure you complete and hand in your registration form on arrival and let the leader know about any medical problems you may have. This may be useful in the event of a problem on the walk and will be treated confidentially by the leader.

In The Event Of A Problem

If you become separated from the party, please stay where you are. Your leader will retrace their steps to find you.

All our leaders carry a mobile phone, group shelter, spare maps and a compass. In the unlikely event your leader is incapacitated, please use any emergency kit in their rucksack. Call the emergency services (call 999 in the UK, or 112 overseas).

Please then try to call the hotel where you are staying to let them know there is a problem.

Your trail leader will carry all the necessary maps and guides. For your own interest you may consider looking at the following:

Harvey Maps 1:40,000 map 'Shropshire Way' (2011) and Shropshire Great Outdoors website:

<http://www.shropshiresgreatoutdoors.co.uk/walking/the-shropshire-way/>

HOW TO BOOK

When you're ready to book, you can choose to **book online** or book **over the phone**. Our website offers secure

online booking for our holidays, is available 24/7, and offers more in-depth information about all our holidays. If you prefer to call us, our experienced and knowledgeable team are available to answer any specific questions you have and can offer guidance as to which holiday is best suited to your needs.

Our office is open: Monday to Friday: 9am – 5.30pm, Saturday: 9am – 1pm, Sunday & Bank Holiday Monday: closed

PAYING YOUR DEPOSIT

To secure the holiday of your choice, you will need to pay a deposit: UK & European Holidays: £150 per person and Worldwide Holidays: £250 per person. You can pay your deposit by debit or credit card with no additional card fees charged or make an online BACS payment directly into HF's bank account, please see details under BACS payments. You can also pay your deposit by cheque within seven days of booking. Cheques should be made payable to 'HF Holidays Ltd' with your booking reference / Order ID on the back.

NON-MEMBER FEE

Non-members can join our holidays by paying a Non-Member's fee of £30 per person per holiday. Alternatively, full membership is available from £100 – visit hfholidays.co.uk/membership for details.

BACS PAYMENTS

Please quote your booking reference / Order ID when you make your payment online: Bank Name: National Westminster Bank, Account Name: HF Holidays Limited, Account Number: 48904805, Sort Code: 60-00-01, IBAN: GB90NWBK60000148904805

Once we have received your booking and deposit, we will send a confirmation invoice to the lead name. Please check this carefully. For bookings 'with flights' it is essential that the names on your booking confirmation invoice match those on your passport for bookings overseas. Please advise us immediately of any errors. Any name changes after the balance of your holiday has been paid will be subject to a fee levied by the airline.

MANAGE MY BOOKINGS

Payments can also be made through the Manage My Booking function on our website. Click on the link at the top of our homepage. This is available to all customers who provide an email address at the time of booking.

YOUR FINAL BALANCE

The balance is due 10 weeks before departure. As with paying your deposit, you can pay your final balance by debit or credit card, make an online BACS payment directly into HF's bank account or pay by cheque.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Travel insurance is an important part of any booking and essential for one of our holidays. HF Holidays works with specialist. Insurance Brokers Campbell Irvine Direct. For more information or to obtain a quote call them on 01702 427 236 or visit hfholidays.co.uk/insurance

PEACE OF MIND

ATOL:

The air holidays and flights in this brochure are ATOL-protected, since we hold an Air Travel Organiser's Licence granted by the Civil Aviation Authority. Our ATOL number is ATOL 710. In the unlikely event of our insolvency, the CAA will ensure that you are not stranded abroad and will arrange to refund any money you have paid us for advance bookings. For further information visit the ATOL website atol.org.uk

MEMBER OF ABTOT:

HF Holidays is a member of ABTOT (The Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited) which provides financial protection under the Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations 1992 for HF

Holidays Ltd and in the event of their insolvency, protection is provided for the following: 1. non-flight packages commencing in and returning to the UK; 2. non-flight packages commencing and returning to a country other than the UK; 3. flight inclusive packages that commence outside of the UK and Republic of Ireland, which are sold to customers outside of the UK and Republic of Ireland. 1, 2 and 3 provides for a refund in the event you have not yet travelled. 1 and 3 provides for repatriation. Please note that bookings made outside the UK and Republic of Ireland are only protected by ABTOT when purchased directly with HF Holidays Ltd.

TRIP NOTE VALIDITY

These Trip Notes are valid based on the date printed at the bottom of the page. They will occasionally be updated post booking and pre-departure. We will send you the latest trip notes prior to departure through a link in your pre departure documents or we can send you a copy in the post if preferred.

In booking this trip you should be confident in your ability to participate in all activities described in these Trip Notes. If you have any doubt about your suitability you should call HF Holidays and ask to speak to one of the team about this itinerary.

The information in these Trip Notes is given in good faith. Where differences exist between the Trip Notes and our current brochure, the Trip Notes supersede the brochure. All holidays can be subject to unexpected changes; so please be prepared to be flexible where necessary. At times, it may not be possible to follow the itinerary as planned due to weather conditions, political, physical or other factors. In these circumstances we will make the best possible alternative arrangements to maintain the integrity of the original itinerary.

PRICE GUARANTEE

We promise that our earliest published prices will always be the best and if we reduce our holiday price after your booking has been confirmed, we will pass this reduction on to you. Our price promise applies if any subsequent offer price is for an identical holiday, duration, location and date and does not cover any optional extras, flights or additional services.

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