



Walking Holidays in Britain's most Beautiful Landscapes

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Northumberland Coast Path

The Northumberland Coast is renowned for its sweeping beaches, spectacular castles, rolling dunes, dramatic rock formations and isolated islands. Amidst this striking landscape is the evidence of an area steeped in history, spanning 7000 years of human activity. A host of conservation sites, including two National Nature Reserves, testify to the immense variety of wildlife and habitats also found on this stunning stretch of coast.

The 64 mile route for the most part hugs the coastline, only making a detour inland between Belford and Fenwick. The terrain is generally level and as such, in clear weather, you're rewarded with tremendously far reaching views. The majority of the paths are public rights of way, however in places beaches, minor roads and permissive paths are used.

You will journey along a wild and empty expanse of endless beaches punctuated by some of the most imposing castles in England – Warkworth reflecting magnificently in the River Aln, the dramatic ruins of Dunstanburgh, the most majestic of all Bamburgh, and the remains of the once great castle at Berwick-Upon-Tweed, famous for its Elizabethan town walls. Each has its own remarkable history and are worthy of thorough exploration.

Also deserving of exploration are the offshore attractions of Croquet Island, the Farne Islands and the Holy Island of Lindisfarne. Consider factoring in a rest day or two when planning your adventure.

Nature lovers will delight in the Northumberland coast. On the river estuaries you'll find wading birds such as ring plovers and oyster catchers, wetlands host egrets, herons and a variety of waterfowl, while the offshore islands are home to puffins, razorbills and guillemots. The dune systems, saltmarshes and grasslands support an amazing array of plant life including the southern marsh orchid, marsh helleborine, sea campion, common rock-rose and fairy flax.



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Summary

Why do this walk?

- A string of dramatic castles along the coast punctuate your walk.
- The serene beauty of the wide open bays of Northumbrian beaches are reason enough themselves!
- Take an extra day to cross the tidal causeway to Holy Island with Lindisfarne Castle and Priory.
- This is an easy, mainly flat walk on generally good paths - no need to over exert yourself!

Essential Info

Length	5 - 7 nights
Full Route Length	64 miles / 102 km
Shortest Break Length	4 days / 5 nights

Grade

Easy to Moderate



This is a mainly flat coastal walk, and can be completed by people with limited walking experience.

Terrain: Flat walking along the edge of the coastal plateau. A small excursion into the low lying Kyloe hills. Coastal paths, and country lanes, beaches, a couple of sea cliffs, and a golf course or two!

What's it like underfoot? On the whole

the paths are well defined and maintained, but at times a bit sandy. Walking in soft sand on the beach can get tiring – but there's usually a parallel path further inland.

How Much Up & Down? Not very much at all! Most days are pretty flat. The high point of the route, near St Cuthbert's Cave, is only just over 200m.

Signposting: Generally good.

Navigation: Pretty straightforward.

Route

Cresswell - Alnmouth

After spending your first night in Warkworth, a taxi will take you to Cresswell. The route starts in Cresswell village and follows 8 miles of the sandy Druridge bay to the fishing port of Amble. Offshore Coquet Island can be seen, where there are large seabird colonies. The river Coquet is then followed upstream to Warkworth, dominated by Warkworth castle, the ancient seat of the Percy family.

On leaving Warkworth, the route quickly returns to the beach and onwards to Alnmouth. The Aln Estuary provides an important habitat for migratory birds and other wildlife. Alnmouth was once Northumberland's major port, today's hotels and guesthouses were once vast silos storing wheat.

Alnmouth - Seahouses

Continuing north, the path passes through Boulmer, one of the only true remaining Northumberland fishing villages, having changed very little in over 100 years. It's then on to Craster, another fishing village dating back to the 17th century, famous for the kippers produced in the village smokehouse.

Just beyond Craster, the route reaches the imposing ruins of Dunstanburgh Castle, originally built in the 14th Century by Thomas Earl of Lancaster. Puffins and guillemots nest on the cliffs below.

The rest of this section is characterised by the two long sandy beaches of Embleton and Beadnell Bays, a haven for birdwatchers and beach goers! Low Newton is home to sea and shore birds, whilst the nearby pool with its bird hide is a good place to see wildfowl, especially in winter.

Beyond Beadnell the route continues along the coast to Seahouses, once an important fishing port and now a centre for the local tourist industry. Boats can be taken from the harbour to the Farne Islands, a cluster of small islands lying just offshore.

Seahouses - Fenwick

From Seahouses harbour head towards the village centre to then pick up the coastal path towards Bamburgh. Founded



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in 547 by King Ida, Bamburgh was once the capital of ancient kingdom of Northumbria. Perched on a basalt outcrop, Bamburgh Castle now dominates the village.

Just after Bamburgh you will reach the vast sands of Budle Bay, a National Nature Reserve and an important habitat for waterfowl. Holy Island and Lindisfarne Castle can be seen across the water.

The quiet village of Belford sits below the Kylee Hills on the fringe of the fertile Northumberland coastal plain. A change of scenery follows as our route heads inland, woodland and farmland replacing seascapes. The route briefly visits the hills and passes close to the dramatic sandstone overhang of St. Cuthbert's Cave. Near to Fenwick you will pass through Kylee Old Wood, which in the 19th Century was owned by the Leyland family of nearby Haggerston Castle.

Fenwick - Holy Island (Optional day)

Originally known as Lindisfarne, Holy Island is only accessible at low tide,* either by the causeway (approximately 3 mile walk) or by the Pilgrims' Way across the sands (not recommended). As well as its many historic attractions, Holy Island is situated at the heart of the Lindisfarne National Nature Reserve. If you wish to

take this option, please select a rest day at Lowick which is our nearest stop to the island. (The Castle is closed on Monday's). *check tide times.

Fenwick - Berwick-upon-Tweed

The final stage starts near the causeway to Holy Island, it then heads north through some of the remotest areas of the coast. Cliff top paths and more beaches lead to historic Berwick-upon-Tweed, the capital of the Borders, with its magnificent town walls, spectacular riverside and three bridges, the oldest of which was built in 1624. Take time to explore this lovely old town and in particular the Victorian ramparts.

Additional Days

Seahouses

Seahouses is known as the Gateway to the Farnes and is well worth a rest day. Famous for its outstanding natural beauty, superb attractions and bustling harbour. Boat trips can be taken to the Farne Islands where you can experience an abundance of wildlife, including Puffins and seals.

Fenwick

Choose a rest day at Fenwick to allow an extra day to visit Holy Island. Holy Island is

only accessible at low tide, either by the causeway (approximately 3 mile walk) or by the Pilgrims' Way across the sands. Also known as Lindisfarne, the island has many historic attractions and is situated at the heart of the Lindisfarne National Nature Reserve. Please note that Lindisfarne Castle is closed on Monday's.

Getting There and Away

Detailed instructions on getting to your first night's accommodation by car, or on foot from the nearest train or bus station, will also be included in the holiday pack on individual accommodation maps.

To view train times please visit trainline.com where you can also purchase tickets in advance. For information on bus timetables please visit traveline.info

Getting There:

By Air: The nearest airport to Warkworth is Newcastle (NCL). Travel by train to Morpeth (16 miles) followed by bus or taxi to Warkworth (16 miles).

By Public Transport: Travel by train to Morpeth, followed by bus or taxi to Warkworth.

By Road: Warkworth is 32 miles north of Newcastle via the A1. There is no public



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parking in the Morpeth/Warkworth area so if you intend to leave your car you will need to park at Berwick upon Tweed and transfer south for the start of your walk.

Returning from Berwick upon Tweed:

By Public Transport: There is a railway station in Berwick upon Tweed. Trains to London take approximately 4 hours.

By Road: From Berwick upon Tweed you can take the A1 north or south. To travel west take the A698.

How our holidays work

We specialise in self guided walks because we think it's the best way to really experience local landscapes, cultures & history. You walk under your own steam, at your own pace, safe in the knowledge that we have organised everything, and help is only a phone call away. We book all you accommodation, move your luggage between overnight stops, provide you with maps and guidebooks, and all the details you need for a successful holiday. You just turn up and walk!

Inbuilt flexibility

Our holidays are designed to be flexible and can therefore be tailored to suit your requirements. If you're looking for something different, or extra, from the

holidays described here, give us a ring and we'll do our best to please!

You can start on any day you like. We can arrange extra nights at any of the overnight stops, allowing for rest days or giving you more time to explore the locality. Or you can book part of a walk if you don't have the time to complete the entire distance.

How to Book

Once you have decided which holiday you wish to book, please fill in the form at the back of this brochure and either post or email it to us. We will get in touch with you shortly afterwards to confirm your holiday details.

Alternatively you can book on our website mickledore.co.uk, or telephone us in office hours.

Accommodation

Good accommodation and friendly hosts are an essential part of any holiday. We make a special effort to find the hidden gems, as well as keeping a close eye on the quality of the more mainstream accommodation.

As well as visiting the accommodation ourselves, we ask all our customers to complete a short evaluation on each

night's accommodation, which then gives us an insight in to the day-to-day operation, and lets us spot any potential issues before they become a problem.

The Northumberland Coast Path includes a great variety of accommodation, including small country hotels, guest houses, bed and breakfasts, farm house accommodation, and Victorian town houses. In selecting the accommodation we look for helpful, friendly hosts with good quality, characterful accommodation close to the trail. Occasionally we may use a chain hotel.

Single Rooms

We are happy to book single rooms on this walk at a supplement, but can't normally book more than two single rooms for any one group.

What We Provide

All Holidays

Accommodation Overnight Bed and Breakfast accommodation in selected hotels, farmhouses, village inns, guest houses and family B&Bs. Including full English or Continental breakfast.

Guidebook A guidebook with route information, maps, photos and background information.



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Information of Services Along the Route

A comprehensive Service Info sheet, including services such as cash points, banks, post offices, village shops, inns, cafes and taxis.

Maps Two waterproof 1:50000 OS maps covering the whole route.

Personal Itinerary A personal itinerary setting out each overnight stop, including large scale maps of each accommodation, to ensure you find it easily.

Emergency Telephone Support If you get in to difficulties during your holiday, we are always available to help, even out of office hours.

12.5% discount at Cotswold Outdoors We will issue you with a 12.5% Discount Card valid at all Cotswold Outdoor stores, and online, for the whole year on confirmation of your booking.

Options

Luggage Transport We will transfer your luggage between each overnight stop – leave your luggage at the accommodation when you set off in the morning, it will be moved on to your next B&B. You only need to carry a small day sack with the clothes and provisions you require during the day's walk. We ask you to limit your luggage to one bag per person, up to 18kg .

Packed Lunches Provided for each day's

walking and recommended on this holiday as there will not always be a handy shop or cafe on the route.

Off Road Parking If you are travelling by car we can usually arrange off road parking for the duration of your trip. (There may be a small charge for this).

Arrangement of return transport We can also arrange your transfer back to your car, (or advise you when public transport is a better option!)

What's not Included

Evening Meals Your evening meal isn't included in the package, but we include full details and recommendations for each evening meal in your itinerary. You will normally be within walking distance of a pub and/ or restaurant, or where there is good food available at the accommodation, we'll book that for you. Allow about £30.00 per night.

Transport to the Start & Away from the Finish

Taxi or Bus transport if you need to miss a stage (but we'll help you organise it if you need help)

Travel Insurance Even if you are based in the UK travel insurance is worth having.

Prices

Detailed prices for all our holidays are available on the website mickledore.co.uk.

About Mickledore

Mickledore Travel is based in Keswick at the heart of the English Lake District. We are one of the leading specialists in self guided walking and cycling holidays in the UK, and provide a friendly, professional and flexible service.

We are walkers and cyclists ourselves, so it really matters to us that you have a good holiday. We are still a small business, with a lot of local knowledge, and personal enthusiasm for the outdoors. If you've got any queries, we're always happy to help, so don't hesitate to pick up the phone or drop us an email, or call in and see us if you're in Keswick.

- We specialise in UK holidays, and by concentrating on what we consider the best routes, we get to know the trails, accommodation, and local area intimately.
- All your accommodation has been carefully selected and is regularly monitored.
- We listen to you and tailor each holiday to meet your requirements.
- We have an excellent level of customer service.
- We have 15 years experience, and very high levels of customer satisfaction.
- Peace of mind – help is only ever a telephone call away.
- We are all outdoor enthusiasts – we know what makes a good holiday, and we want you to have one!



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- 12.5% discount card for all your outdoor equipment purchases from Cotswold Outdoors.
- 100% financial protection – in the very unlikely event of Mickledore's financial failure, you receive a full refund.

Book With Confidence

Financial Protection

Your payments are fully protected against our financial failure. We are members of the Association of Independent Tour Operators (AITO), and have arranged bonding through ABTA. This means that in the unlikely event of our financial failure, any monies you have paid to us will be refunded. This bonding is fully compliant with the Package Travel Regulations and provides 100% financial protection.

AITO Quality Statement

Mickledore Travel is a member of the Association of Independent Tour Operators. The Association represents Britain's leading independent tour operators. It promotes high levels of professionalism and a shared concern for quality and personal service. The Association encourages the highest standards in all aspects of tour operating.

Mickledore Travel abides by AITO's Code of Conduct and adheres to the Quality Charter which can be viewed at aito.com. Visit the website to find out more about the Association or call 020 8744 9280.



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Northumberland Coast Path

Cresswell to Berwick in 4 Days Walking Code: NC5				Cresswell to Berwick in 5 days Walking Code: NC6			Cresswell to Berwick in 6 Days Walking Code: NC7		
		M	km		M	km		M	km
Day 1	Travel to Warkworth for your first night of accommodation			Travel to Warkworth for your first night of accommodation			Travel to Warkworth for your first night of accommodation		
Day 2	Transfer to Cresswell then walk to Alnmouth	16	26	Transfer to Cresswell then walk to Warkworth	11	18	Transfer to Cresswell then walk to Warkworth	11	18
Day 3	Alnmouth to Seahouses	18	29	Warkworth to Howick	11	18	Warkworth to Howick	11	18
Day 4	Seahouses to Fenwick then transfer to Lowick	17	27	Howick to Bamburgh	17	27	Howick to Seahouses	12	19
Day 5	Transfer back to Fenwick then walk to Berwick-Upon-Tweed	13	21	Bamburgh to Fenwick then transfer to Lowick	14	23	Seahouses to Belford	9	14
Day 6	Depart from Berwick-Upon-Tweed after breakfast.			Transfer back to Fenwick then walk to Berwick-Upon-Tweed	13	21	Belford to Fenwick then transfer to Lowick	8	13
Day 7				Depart from Berwick-Upon-Tweed after breakfast.			Transfer back to Fenwick then walk to Berwick-Upon-Tweed	13	21
Day 8							Depart from Berwick-Upon-Tweed after		



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Booking Form

Contact Details

Address

Mobile Telephone..... Landline telephone.....

Email.....Emergency Contact no

Your Holiday

Holiday Code.....Holiday Name.....

Date of First Night.....Date of Last Night.....

Party Members

Title	First Name	Last Name	Date of Birth

Options	Rooms Required	Rest Days (give date & location)
Luggage Transport	Y/N No. Double Rooms	
Packed Lunches	Y/N No. Twin Rooms	
Off Street Parking	Y/N No. Single Occupancy Rooms	
Return Transfer required (additional charge)	Y/N	

Comments (special diets, other requirements etc):

Upon receipt of your booking form Mickledore will send by email a confirmation with the full price and 20% deposit cost required. You can pay by card or cheque (GBP only for cheque).

How did you hear about Mickledore Travel?



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