

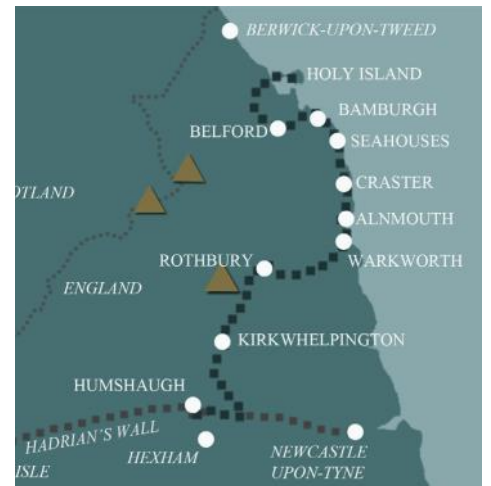


Walking Holidays in Britain's most Beautiful Landscapes

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St Oswald's Way

This walking holiday traces the footsteps of St Oswald, the Anglo Saxon King who played a significant role in the introduction of Christianity to England. Covering a distance of 97 miles, St Oswald's Way starts on the historic island of Lindisfarne. It follows the spectacular Northumberland coastline to Warkworth before heading inland along the beautiful River Coquet to the ancient town of Rothbury. From there it heads south over heather-clad moors, through forest and rolling countryside, finishing at the World Heritage Site of Hadrian's Wall.

St Oswald's Way has everything: stunning coastal walking, wild expansive moorland, spectacular geology, quiet fishing villages and picturesque market towns. This walking holiday takes you through centuries of history, passing Neolithic rock art, Iron Age forts, Roman sites, medieval castles, imposing eighteenth century limekilns, and coastal defences from World War Two.



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Summary

Why do this walk?

- A great route linking the Northumberland Coast with Hadrian's Wall, through the quiet Northumberland countryside.
- Start on Holy Island, with its castle, ruined priory, and seal colony.
- Finish with a visit to Chesters Fort on Hadrian's Wall.
- Follow the Northumberland coast along sweeping beaches linking old fishing villages, and dotted with dramatic castles.
- Lots of history - mediaeval castles, prehistoric settlements, and the Roman Wall.

Essential Info

Length	6 - 9 days
Full Route Length	99 miles / 159 km
Shortest Break Length	37 miles / 60 km

Grade
Moderate



The route starts on the coastal path, along beaches and dunes, before turning inland through rolling countryside and moorlands. If you are a regular walker this route should be within your capability.

Terrain: A walk of two halves – the coastal path is pretty straightforward. If you walk on the beaches stick to the more firm, sea washed sand. Once you turn inland the route follows tracks, paths and lanes along the River Coquet, then southwards over moorlands, forests, and fields.

What's it like underfoot? On the whole the paths are well defined and maintained, but at times the countryside section can encounter some muddy paths, so good footwear is essential.

How Much Up & Down? There is a climb of 300m (1000ft) after Rothbury, and a smaller one of 150m (500ft) between Lindisfarne and Belford. Otherwise pretty flat along the coastal section and rolling countryside, with small climbs inland.

Signposting: Generally good.

Navigation: Pretty straightforward, but you do go through some remote countryside, so make sure you can read your map.

Route

Lindisfarne to Warkworth

Your walk starts on the island of Lindisfarne, one of the most important early centres of Christianity in England. You cross the Holy Island Causeway to the mainland, and head inland. Walking on easy tracks and through woodland, you reach the old market town of Belford, perhaps stopping en route for a detour to visit St Cuthbert's Cave. Heading east, you meet the sea again at Bamburgh, King Oswald's capital, with one of the finest castles in the UK.

Next stop is Seahouses, where boats take visitors to the Farne Islands, home to puffins, guillemots and arctic terns. Then, following some of the most spectacular coastline in Britain, you pass Beadnell, with its tiny harbour and imposing lime kilns, until eventually the ruins of Dunstanburgh Castle come into view. Just beyond here is the fishing village of Craster, famous for its kippers, then further south again is Alnmouth, boasting one of the oldest golf courses in England.

A walk through coastal dunes, with splendid views of Coquet island, brings you to the historic market town of Warkworth, with its imposing 12th century castle and links with the Percy family.



Warkworth to Rothbury

The trail leaves the sea at Warkworth and follows the Coquet Valley inland. You walk along tracks and lanes, and through fields, crossing the River Coquet at the village of Felton. Walking on pretty riverside paths and through semi-native woodlands, you cross the river again at Weldon Bridge, near an 18th century coaching inn, The Angler's Arms. Passing very close to the restored 12th century Brinkburn Priory, you eventually reach a disused railway track which takes you to the peaceful, historic market town of Rothbury.

Rothbury to Heavenfield

The Way leaves the River Coquet at Rothbury and heads south, passing through some of the most, beautiful, interesting and ancient features of the trail. Entering the Northumberland National Park, you pass Lordenshaws, an important archaeological site. Here you will see an Iron Age hill fort and some mysterious Neolithic rock art. The path rises up over open moorland, with spectacular views of the sandstone formations on Simonside, to the highest point on the trail, Coquet Cairn. Here it enters Harwood Forest, where you walk on forest tracks, often getting lovely open vistas of the surrounding landscape. Leaving the forest behind, you cross wide open fields and farmland, to reach the



village of Kirkwhelpington.

Continuing south, you walk along paths and tracks over gently rolling countryside. You go through several pretty villages and ancient settlements, and pass some glorious viewpoints. Eventually you reach the Military Road, built by General Wade in 1745, along the line of Hadrian's Wall. From now on you walk west along Hadrian's Wall Path, until you reach the end of the trail, at Heavenfield, where King Oswald had his famous battle victory.

Additional Days

Lindisfarne

The Holy Island of Lindisfarne is an excellent place for a rest day. Because the Island is only accessible across its tidal causeway, you may be restricted by the tide times and not have sufficient time to visit all that it has to offer before your departure. As well as its historic attractions of the Castle and Priory, Holy Island is situated at the heart of the Lindisfarne National Nature Reserve. Please note that Lindisfarne Castle is closed on Mondays.

Rothbury

Rothbury is a pleasant market town straddling the River Coquet, with a number of shops, cafes, and tearooms. Cragside House, Gardens and Estate,

former home of the Victorian industrialist Lord Armstrong is situated a pleasant 2 mile walk from Rothbury and worth a visit at anytime of the year. The first house to be lit by hydro electricity, Cragside is also now one of the last strong holds of the red squirrel.

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.

Getting There:

By Air: The nearest International Airport to the trail is Newcastle. There is a Tyne & Wear Metro station at Newcastle Airport with frequent services to Newcastle Central Station (journey time approx. 30 min).

By Public Transport: The most convenient railway station for Holy Island (Lindisfarne) is Berwick-upon-Tweed. Berwick station (BWK) is located on the East Coast Main Line with hourly trains between London Kings Cross, Newcastle and Edinburgh.

From Berwick-upon-Tweed: Perryman's bus service 477 runs between Berwick station and Holy Island although the times and frequency vary considerably



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according to the tides and safe crossing times (journey time approx. 35 min). See Perrymans buses

Alternatively, you may wish to make the journey by taxi but again this will be restricted by the tides (journey time approx. 35 min). There is a taxi rank at Berwick station. We can provide you with taxi company numbers if you wish to pre-book.

By Road: Holy Island (Lindisfarne) is located just off the A1 trunk road between Alnwick and Berwick-upon-Tweed. Please note that the Island is only accessible across a causeway at low tide. We also supply details about the safe crossing times during your stay in your holiday pack.

You must take note of the safe crossing times and plan your journey accordingly – do not attempt to cross the causeway at any other time as the tides come in very rapidly and the journey across can become very dangerous.

Returning:

By Public Transport: The nearest Railway Station to Chollerford is Hexham. Hexham station (HEX) is located on the Tyne Valley Line with fast and frequent trains between Newcastle and Carlisle.

The nearest bus pick-up points to

Chollerford are Humshaugh and Low Brunton Crossroads. From either stop, the 880 bus service runs frequently to Hexham Railway station (journey time approx. 30 min).

Between April and October, the AD122 bus service runs between Chesters Roman Fort (near Chollerford) and Hexham Railway Station (journey time approx. 10 min). Alternatively, you may wish to make the journey by taxi (journey time approx. 10 min).

By Road: Chollerford is located on the B6318 between Newcastle and Carlisle. From the West (Carlisle): Leave the M6 motorway at Junction 43 and follow signs for the A69 Hexham. Approaching Greenhead, follow the signs for the B6318 to Chollerford.

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 your 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.



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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 into the day-to-day operation, and lets us spot any potential issues before they become a problem.

We have a variety of accommodation on St Oswald's Way, including small country house hotels, guest houses, bed and breakfasts and farm house accommodation. 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 2 single rooms for any 1 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 a Full English or Continental breakfast.

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

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 1:40000 maps from Harvey 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.

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



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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're all outdoor enthusiasts – we know what makes a good holiday, and we want you to have one!
- 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 the Association of British Travel Agents (ABTA). We 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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St Oswald's Way

Lindisfarne to Humshaugh in 6 Days Walking Code: SO7				Lindisfarne to Humshaugh in 7 Days Walking Code: SO8		
		miles	km		miles	km
Day 1	Travel to Lindisfarne for your first night of accommodation			Travel to Lindisfarne for your first night of accommodation		
Day 2	Lindisfarne to Bamburgh	19	31	Lindisfarne to Belford	12	19
Day 3	Bamburgh to Howick	17	27	Belford to Seahouses	11	18
Day 4	Howick to Warkworth	11	18	Seahouses to Howick	12	19
Day 5	Warkworth to Rothbury	18	29	Howick to Warkworth	11	18
Day 6	Rothbury to Kirkwhelpington then transfer back to Rothbury	15	24	Warkworth to Rothbury	18	29
Day 7	Transfer to Kirkwhelpington then walk to Humshaugh	20	32	Rothbury to Kirkwhelpington then transfer back to	15	24
Day 8	Depart from Humshaugh after breakfast			Transfer to Kirkwhelpington then walk to Humshaugh	20	32
Day 9				Depart from Humshaugh after breakfast		

Lindisfarne to Humshaugh in 8 Days Walking Code: SO9				Lindisfarne to Humshaugh in 9 Days Walking Code: SO10		
		miles	km		miles	km
Day 1	Travel to Lindisfarne for your first night of accommodation			Travel to Lindisfarne for your first night of accommodation		
Day 2	Lindisfarne to Belford	12	19	Lindisfarne to Belford	12	19
Day 3	Belford to Seahouses	11	18	Belford to Seahouses	11	18
Day 4	Seahouses to Howick	12	19	Seahouses to Howick	12	19
Day 5	Howick to Warkworth	11	18	Howick to Warkworth	11	18
Day 6	Warkworth to Rothbury	18	29	Warkworth to Weldon Bridge	11	18
Day 7	Rothbury to Knowesgate then transfer to Rothbury	14	23	Weldon Bridge to Rothbury	7	11
Day 8	Transfer to Knowesgate then walk to Great Whittington, transfer to East Wallhouses	12	19	Rothbury to Knowesgate then transfer to Rothbury	14	23
Day 9	Transfer to Great Whittington then walk to Humshaugh	9	14	Transfer to Knowesgate then walk to Great Whittington, transfer to East Wallhouses	12	19
Day 10	Depart from Humshaugh after breakfast			Transfer to Great Whittington then walk to Humshaugh	9	14
Day 11				Depart from Humshaugh after breakfast		



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Coastline & Castles: St Oswald's Way Coastal Highlights

If you've only got 4 or 5 days to spare, the coastal section of St Oswald's Way is not to be missed. After a section inland near Lindisfarne, it follows the stunning, unspoilt Northumberland coastline from Bamburgh to Warkworth. Walking along paths and tracks, over farmland, sand dunes and cliff tops, you will get superb views of imposing castles, spectacular geology, beautiful beaches, and a wealth of bird and animal life.

Lindisfarne to Warkworth in 3 Days Walking Code: SOC4				Lindisfarne to Humshaugh in 7 Days Walking Code: SO8		
		miles	km		miles	km
Day 1	Travel to Lindisfarne for your first night of accommodation			Travel to Lindisfarne for your first night of accommodation		
Day 2	Lindisfarne to Bamburgh	19	31	Lindisfarne to Belford	12	19
Day 3	Bamburgh to Howick	17	27	Belford to Seahouses	11	18
Day 4	Howick to Warkworth	11	18	Seahouses to Howick	12	19
Day 5	Depart from Warkworth after breakfast			Howick to Warkworth	11	18
Day 6				Depart from Warkworth after breakfast		



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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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