

Self-Guided Walk Along Hadrian's Wall



Highlights

One of Britain's most iconic landmarks, Hadrian's Wall offers some fantastic walking through the wild north of England. The well-marked self-guided Hadrian's Wall walk is a great way to explore this historic landscape, while daily B&B stops and baggage transfers add a dose of comfort to proceedings.

A UNESCO World Heritage Site, mighty Hadrian's Wall was once the northernmost frontier of the Roman Empire, behind which lurked the Pictish tribes of what is now Scotland. The mighty wall took just six years to complete, with construction proceeding westwards along high escarpments, ideal strategic locations for forts, milecastles and turrets, many of which are still visible today. The Hadrian's Wall walk was opened in 2003 and follows the course of the ancient frontier along its length, from the vibrant city of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, through the barren, sweeping landscapes of Northumberland to Cumbria and the timeless beauty of the Solway Firth.

A self-guided walk gives you the opportunity to explore this unique historical route under your own steam and at your own pace. Trips can last anything between five and 10 nights, depending on which sections of the trail you want to see and how quickly you want to do so. You'll be supplied with a detailed map and comprehensive guidebook, and there are also plenty of museums and archaeological sites en route where you can learn more about the wall's 2,000 year history. Then at the end of the day you can relax and enjoy some fine dining in the hand-picked bed and breakfasts, country inns and guesthouses dotted along the path – your bags will be waiting for you when you arrive. Our Hadrian's Wall Walking holiday is operated by **Mac's Adventure**, experts in walking in Scotland.

Is it for me?

This really is one of Britain's most enigmatic landscapes, a place of intimate history, and we can't recommend it highly enough. Self-guided walks can be enjoyed by pretty much anyone. If you're interested in history but aren't a keen walker you can opt for a "Best of Hadrian's Wall" itinerary, taking in Housesteads Fort and Steel Rigg crags. More experienced hikers might fancy tackling the whole 135 kilometre trail, considered one of Britain's best long-distance paths. The walking is easy and varied, and there's ample opportunity to indulge other interests like bird-watching and photography. The clincher, though, is the accommodation, all of it carefully selected and top quality, particularly the food. Comfort, freedom and wild natural beauty – what more could you want?

Accommodation

Accommodation on the Hadrian's Wall Walk is in bed and breakfasts, hotels, country inns and guesthouses which have all been handpicked and screened by the tour operator.

Food wise, a hearty breakfast is included, but you will need to arrange your own lunch and dinner. Most of your accommodation hosts will be more than happy to arrange a packed lunch for you, which you can book with them on arrival. Dinner can be enjoyed at your accommodation, or in a local pub or restaurant. There will be suggestions in your guidebook.

Full details of the accommodation used can be found [here](#).

Prices from

445 GBP (7 days) per person

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How you decide to approach the walk depends on how many days you want to walk and at what pace. It is possible to complete the walk from Newcastle to Bowness in 4 or 5 days. But you would be covering around 20 miles per day, so would need to be a fairly experienced long distance walker. If you are short of time, but don't fancy tackling the whole route in a short amount of time, you can opt just to see the highlights.

The most popular version of the walk, is the 7 day option which sees you walking from 7 - 15 miles per day. If you fancy taking longer, there is also the option of extending the walk to take in a side trip to the Roman town of Corbridge.

Below is the itinerary of the whole walk.

Section 1: Wallsend/Newcastle to Newburn – 11 miles – 17 km – 5-6 hours

Note: This day is mainly on hard surfaces so you may prefer to wear running shoes/trainers rather than walking boots. The Segedunum Roman Fort and museum is the official start point and a worthwhile and comprehensive museum which will get you into the swing of things. The path follows the River Tyne for most of the section and gives a real insight into the industrial history of Newcastle and the ongoing regeneration of this vibrant city.

Suggestion: The first day's walk to Heddon (or beyond) is one of the longer walks so many of our walkers choose to arrive early in Newcastle, drop their bags at their accommodation in Wallsend/Newcastle and then enjoy the 5 mile (2.5 hour) walk to Tyne Bridge that afternoon, returning by metro to Wallsend and starting again from Tyne Bridge in the morning.

Section 2: Newburn to Heddon-on-the-wall – 4 miles – 6 km – 2-3 hours

This is really where the city begins to fall behind you and after leaving the river the path climbs gently past the golf course and up the hill to Heddon. This small town has a couple of local pubs and both the Swan Hotel and Three Tuns do meals. Facilities include a post office and small shop. Overnight Accommodation: Heddon has limited overnight accommodation so you may be staying in Wylam or slightly outside the village.

Section 3: Heddon-on-the-wall to East Wallhouses – 6 miles – 9 km – 3-4 hours

From Heddon you join the Roman Road and begin to see ever more frequent signs of the actual wall. After a couple of miles you pass the Vindovala Roman Fort and then the Ironsign Country Restaurant (sometimes used as overnight stop). There are a few small climbs but on the whole the gradients are relatively gentle. Harlow hill is a small hamlet and two miles further on is East Wallhouses. Home to Robin Hood's Inn, a fantastic old pub.

Section 4: East Wallhouses to Chollerford/Wall – 9 miles – 14 km – 4-6 hours

From East Wallhouses the path follows the old military road (now B6318) and the wall for most of the way to Chollerford, passing through the beautiful rolling countryside of Northumberland. The Errington Arms close to the Portgate is a great pub and a pleasant stop for an early lunch. After Portgate you climb to the highpoint of Whittington Fell 268m and continue to follow the military road down to Brunton and then Wall and Chollerford, which is home to a lovely bridge and the extensive Chesters Fort.

Section 5: Chollerford/Wall to Once Brewed – 12 miles – 19 km – 6-7 hours

You start the day by passing Chesters Museum, an important site on the wall and then ascending to Tower Tye, again following the roman road. You will soon be entering the most spectacular sections of the wall and walk so keep that camera handy. After parting company with the wall after Shield on the wall you will enjoy a lovely journey through rugged countryside and a host of roman ruins and forts. Housesteads Fort has an interesting museum and a tea shop at the car park if you are feeling peckish. The section ends at Steel Rigg Peel Crags, a short walk from the hamlet of Once Brewed. The Twice Brewed Inn in Once Brewed is a lively pub which does good hearty food. There is an information centre next door and the Vindolanda Fort complex a couple of miles SE is a large and interesting complex. (Also accessible by Hadrian's Wall Bus).

Section 6: Once Brewed to Gilsland – 9 miles – 13 km – 4-5 hours

The section starts with a climb to the top of Winshields Crags and the highest point of the trail, rewarded by stunning views in every direction. This is one of the most strenuous sections of the walk but is equally rewarding due to the quality of the wall and the views in every direction. Should you be staying in Greenhead turn left after Thirlwall Castle, alternatively continue on to Gilsland. Both small towns have local pubs which serve a well earned pint and dinner.

Section 7: Gilsland to Walton – 8 miles – 12 km – 4-5 hours

From Gilsland the path follows a fantastic section of consolidated wall to Birdoswald and then continues up the hill to Banks and through farmland to Walton. This is a very pleasant section of walking after the rigours of the past few sections. There is limited accommodation in Walton so we may have to accommodate you in Brampton which is the neighbouring town.

Section 8: Walton to Crosby-on-Eden – 6 miles – 9 km – 3-4 hours

As the wall was predominantly dirt and turf in this section there is very little evidence on the wall remaining but this is still a lovely section of rural countryside and gives you time to reflect before entering the hustle and bustle of Carlisle. The Stag Inn does lunches and dinners and is a good option for lunch if going on to Carlisle.

Section 9: Crosby-on-Eden to Carlisle – 5 miles – 8 km – 2-3 hours

This is a relaxed section of the walk as you follow the banks of the River Eden into Carlisle. The walking is generally flat and the going good so enjoy it. Carlisle is a large town and has all the facilities you may have been missing over the past couple of days. The magnificent Castle, cathedral and the Tullie House Museum are all well worth a visit if you have any spare time. Numerous pubs and restaurants of every description will tempt you in.

Section 10: Carlisle to Bowness-on-Solway – 14 miles – 22 km – 7-8 hours

This is the final stretch on your adventure. This section is occasionally affected by very high tides but this is very rare and the tourist info centre in Carlisle will let you know times that this may be a problem. After following the River Eden out of Carlisle the route passes through Burgh by Sands (good lunch stop) and then follows the quiet road to Port Carlisle and Bowness-on-Solway. This area is regarded as an area of outstanding natural beauty and the birdlife is prolific. The Kings Arms in Bowness is a great location for a celebratory drink and contemplation of your achievement. The Hadrian's Wall Path National Trail is a fantastic achievement and an experience I am sure you will treasure forever. I hope that we will be able to welcome to another walking adventure in future.

Details

Getting there

The walk starts in Newcastle which is a major transport hub in the Northeast of England and had excellent rail, road and air links from both Scotland and the South of England.

Price includes

Bed and breakfast accommodation in ensuite rooms wherever possible; door to door baggage transfer; detailed info pack; guide book and map for the group leader; emergency telephone support in the event of a problem.

Price is per person based on 2 people sharing. Prices vary depending on group size and duration of trip.

Available

Apr—Oct

Typical Duration

5 days - 11 days

Comfort level

Reasonably comfortable (Inns, B&Bs, luxury camping etc.)

Experience required

A reasonable level of fitness and interest is all that is needed

Travellers should bring

The trail is clearly waymarked so you will have no problem following the route with the map and guidebook supplied. You will need standard walking kit including walking shoes or boots, comfortable clothes, waterproof clothes and a daypack. We do of course supply a full equipment list on booking.