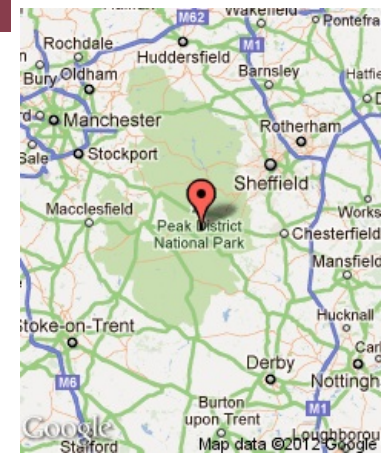


Short Weekend Breaks in the Peak District



Highlights

Discover some of the UK's most beautiful landmarks on this unique short weekend break in the Peak District. Combining cycling and walking, this three-day tour takes you from the magnificent country house of Chatsworth to Millers Dale on the banks of the Wye

The Peak District is the second most-visited National Park in the world (Japan's Mount Fuji National Park is the first), and with good reason. With rolling, rounded hills, densely wooded valleys and patchwork farmlands, this is a quintessentially British landscape. Yet look closer and you'll discover the true diversity of the Peaks; gritstone escarpments, heather moorland, blanket peat bogs and lead rakes are just some of the unusual habitats to be found. The Peak District also has a rich cultural heritage. There are abundant Stone and Iron Ages sites, as well as roads and monuments left by the Romans, who are known to have made use of the now famous spring at Buxton. More recent additions to the landscape include towering railway viaducts from the nineteenth century and the majestic Chatsworth, voted Britain's favourite country house.

This weekend cycling and walking break is an excellent way to explore this beautiful region. Based in the picturesque hamlet of Monsal Head, you'll spend your first full day cycling through quiet country lanes, stopping at Chatsworth to visit the house and gardens (including the maze, fountains and canal pond) and at Bakewell to sample some of the famous tart! Then on day two you'll take a leisurely stroll along the River Wye, passing through Tideswell Dale, home to the impressive 14th century Church of St. John the Baptist, and the dramatic gorge at St. Peter's Dale, before heading back through the forest to Monsal Head, where this wonderful weekend comes to a close.

Is it for me?

This is a great weekend break that can be enjoyed by just about anyone. As long as you're in fairly good shape you won't find the cycling (19 miles) and walking (9 miles) too strenuous, and neither is particularly challenging (no bumpy terrain, steep inclines, etc.). The tour is self-guided (you'll be given a detailed map with route notes) so you can explore the countryside under your own steam, leaving plenty of time for photography, wildlife-spotting and other interests. Then at the end of the day you can put your feet up back at the inn, which is carefully chosen for comfort and good food.

Accommodation

The accommodation is all hand-picked and tends to be in bed and breakfasts, country pubs or inns. They have been carefully chosen on account of their friendliness, cleanliness and location.

All of the bikes used are well looked after and are serviced after every ride, leaving them clean & in excellent condition. There is a choice of sizes, so rest assured you will all have bikes that fit!

The bikes come fitted with handlebar bags which allow you to carry your camera and other valuables. You will also be provided with water bottle holders, cycle computer, bell, map holders, locks & helmets. A puncture repair kit, pump and tool are also supplied. There is emergency back up, so in the unlikely event of your bike not working properly, help is at hand!

Prices from

140 GBP (3 days) per person

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Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive Monsal Head

Settle into your accommodation – either a fine B&B or quality country Inn.

Day 2: Chatsworth House & Bakewell Cycle (19 miles)

A fantastic quiet country lane takes you through a number of attractive limestone villages to arguably the finest country house in England. Built in 1549 by the Cavendish family, the house was finished by Bess of Hardwick after the death of her husband, Sir William Cavendish. Over the years, money continued to pour into Chatsworth, making it an almost unparalleled showcase for art treasures. Every aspect of fine arts is here, ranging from old masterpieces, furniture, tapestries, porcelain & alabaster carvings. There are also some fantastic gardens which have a number of interesting features such as the Emperor Fountain, which dominates the Canal Pond & can reach up to 290 feet. There is a maze, laburnum tunnel & behind the house is the famous cascades. The park was designed by 'Capability' Brown in 1761. You will continue to Bakewell before joining the traffic free Monsal Trail to return to your base at Monsal Head.

Day 3: Millers Dale & Tideswell Walk (9 miles)

From Monsal Head you will follow the River Wye along the Monsal Trail through Water-cum-jolly Dale to Millers Dale. Passing through Tideswell Dale takes you to 'Cathedral of the Peak' Tideswell, known for its magnificent 14th century Church of St John the Baptist. On through pretty Litton you will pass through the dramatic gorge at St. Peters Dale before returning through scenic woodland back to Monsal Head.

Details

Price includes

Accommodation, cycle hire, emergency back up, maps, local information and luggage transfers.

Price details

A single supplement will apply

When is best

You can enjoy this tour all the year round, although the weather in the area tends to be best from Spring - Autumn

Available

Jan—Dec

Typical Duration

3 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