

Peak District Walking Holiday



Highlights

Rugged crags, limestone gorges, sweeping moorland and bolder-strewn hillsides – the epic landscape of the High Peak is among the most iconic in Britain. This week long Peak District walking holiday is the perfect way to explore this dramatic region

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 week long Peak District walking holiday is a great way to experience the diversity and drama of the Peaks landscape. One day you'll be hiking along mighty ridges through Longshaw Estate to Chatsworth and Bakewell (make sure to try the tart!), the next you'll explore the limestone gorges of the Wye valley. At Tideswell you'll pass the imposing 13th century church of St. John the Baptist, known as the 'Cathedral of the Peak', then there's the infamous plague village of Eyam, which chose to quarantine itself in 1665 to prevent the spread of the disease. More ridge walking above the Hope and Edale valleys – with epic views over the Derwent valley, Ladybower reservoir & Stanage Edge - completes this awesome High Peak adventure.

Is it for me?

A great tour covering some of England's most wild and wonderful countryside. Be warned though that you'll need to be in pretty good shape for this walk. Although you're not covering any mammoth distances – you'll average about 11 miles per day – there are several stiff climbs up onto the ridges, so some hill-walking experience is desirable. Rest assured it's not all uphill; there are plenty of valley villages with cosy pubs and decent regional ales. 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. And you won't have to worry about lugging your gear around; your luggage is transferred daily from one guesthouse to the next. Talking of guesthouses, these are all top quality with good food and a healthy dose of comfort – the perfect end to a hard day's rambling!

Accommodation

All accommodation is hand-picked and tends to be in a locally run bed and breakfasts, country pubs or inns. All accommodation used By Steve has been carefully chosen on account of friendliness, cleanliness and location.

Itinerary

Day 1: Arrive Hathersage

Arrive at your accommodation in Hathersage. With easy access to Sheffield & the M1 Hathersage is an attractive village overlooked by a line of Gritstone Edges.

Prices from

395 GBP (6 days) per person

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Day 2: Hathersage - Baslow (11 miles)

Start your journey with a walk to Higger Tor & the remains of the Iron Age fort Carl Wark which offers splendid vistas over the Hope Valley. Further down the trail pass the vertical face of Burbage Rocks before dropping to the Longshaw Estate, presented to the National Trust by the Duke of Rutland in 1927. Continue past a succession of gritstone edges including Froggatt, Curber & Baslow, looking out over the Chatsworth Estate. Pass Wellington's monument before your final descent into Baslow, standing at the northern gates to Chatsworth.

Day 3: Baslow - Monsal Head (11 miles)

Amble through the impressive Chatsworth Estate with a chance to visit the opulent house & gardens. Often referred to as 'Palace of the Peak' Chatsworth is without doubt one of the finest of great houses in Britain. A walk through Manners Wood, part of the Haddon Estate provides an opportunity to visit another of Britain's great houses, Haddon Hall. The 16th century terraced gardens are thought by many to be the most romantic in England. Passing through Bakewell, known for its delicious pudding you will arrive at one of Derbyshires prettiest villages Ashford in the Water. The walk to Monsal Head provides superb views across the Wye valley & the picture postcard scenery of Monsal Dale.

Day 4: Monsal Head - Eyam (12 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 'Cathederal 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 Cressbrook Dale before strolling through Silly Dale to Foolow & onto the infamous plague village of Eyam. Eyam is also home to Eyam Hall, a wonderful, unspoilt 17th century manor house that is now open to the public.

Day 5: Eyam - Castleton (9 miles)

Climb to Bretton which offers marvellous panoramic views over the area. Stroll past Abney Low to the isolated hamlet of Abney before passing Robin Hoods Cross to Bradford Dale. Join the Limestone Way at Old Moor before descending past the 11th century Peveril Castle into Castleton. Situated at the head of the Hope Valley Castleton is a popular place surrounded by dramatic scenery.

Day 6: Castleton - Hathersage (11 miles)

Leaving Castleton behind you will pass by the base of Mam Tor before reaching the spectacular viewpoint at Hollins Cross. A fine ridge walk along 'The Great Ridge' offers fantastic panoramic views over the both the Hope & Edale valleys below. Yet more impressive vistas lie in wait as you reach the summit of Win Hill & look out over the Derwent valley, Ladybower reservoir & Stanage Edge. Descending through attractive pine woodland you will reach the Derwent Valley Heritage Way which takes you along the banks of the River Derwent the rest of the way to Hathersage.

Details

Price details

This price is based on 2 people sharing and also includes baggage transfer. The price without baggage transfer is £295

When is best

You can walk in the Peak District at any time of the year, although the weather is more hospitable from March - October

Available

Jan—Dec

Typical Duration

1 week

Comfort level

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

Experience required

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