

Walk the Beacons Way!



Highlights

Walk 100 miles in eight days on this guided or self-guided walking holiday along the Beacons Way in Wales. High up in the hills, you'll be rewarded with views of unspoilt landscapes and ancient sites, while down in the valley you'll spend time in picturesque villages and charming towns.

The Beacons Way is a relatively new 100 mile (161km) walk through the stunning Brecon Beacons National Park. The route is fairly strenuous with regular ascents and sections through open moorland, but the incredible landscape more than makes up for it. The Beacons Way starts at the Holy Mountain and ends in Llangadog passing many of the best views in the park.

This walk has highlights every step of the way. Hike up into the Black Mountains and spend the night close to the ruins of Llanthony Priory. Walk along mountain ridgeways where views sweep across a wild and untamed landscape, and then spend time in the quaint Georgian town of Crickhowell – well-known for its gastronomic delights. Your tour will also see you climb to the summits of Pen Y Fan, Tor Y Foel and Cribyn – all in one day, and wander around the 13th-century Carreg Cennen castle.

Is it for me?

The team that organises this walk has graded it as strenuous, so that means some of it will be tough going. There may well be parts on the walk where it's hard going underfoot and it'll certainly help if you've had some prior experience of hill walking. In terms of other things to consider, you need to be aware that you'll be spending your days in a small group – with a maximum of ten people. It's a great chance to make new friends if you're happy mingling, however if you're more of a lone ranger you might be happier on a self-guided tour.

Accommodation

You'll be staying in B&B accommodation and good guesthouses that the team has used previously – so they know they're of a high standard. In terms of food, you'll get breakfast at your accommodation, and the team will provide tasty packed lunches every day, but it's up to you what you fancy for your evening meals – so make sure you budget extra for this.

Itinerary

Day 1-Abergavenny to Llanthony (13 miles)

From Ysgyryd Fawr, known as the Holy Mountain, the path takes you up into the Black Mountains. You'll end the day high in the hills, beside the ruins of Llanthony Priory, with its beautiful 12th-century buildings.

Day 2-Llanthony to Crickhowell (13 miles)

Crossing three major ridges, this is a spectacular day with far-reaching views of the surrounding countryside. You'll stay overnight in the charming Georgian town of Crickhowell, famous for good food and a fine 17th-century bridge over the River Usk.

Day 3-Crickhowell to Llangynidr (12 ½ miles)

An easier day with a different perspective as the route steers clear of the high mountain paths, and stays closer to the valley floor.

Prices from

525 GBP (8 days) per person

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Day 4-Llangynidr to Craig Cerrig-gleisiad (16 ½ miles)

A wonderful and challenging day through the Central Beacons. You'll summit the peaks of Pen y Fan, Tor y Foel and Cribyn. This is a day of wild, open moorland and fresh upland wind - breathtaking! In the evening you'll head down to the market town of Brecon, set astride the River Usk with its cathedral and fine Georgian architecture.

Day 5-Craig Cerrig-gleisiad to Craig-y-Nos (13 ½ miles)

A quieter and less strenuous day through the Fforest Fawr Geopark – an area of exceptional geological importance. Towards the end of the day you'll encounter a landscape pockmarked with potholes, signs of an extensive network of caves which lie beneath the surface in this part of the National Park.

Day 6-Craig-y-Nos to Llanddeusant (11 miles)

The day begins beside the fabulous Dan-yr-Ogof show caves, and then climbs onto the Black Mountain, passing the lakes of Llyn y Fan Fawr and Llyn y Fan Fach. As you walk you'll hear about the legend of the "Lady of the Lake", which originated here. The character of the landscape feels quite different on this stretch – wild, empty and untamed.

Day 7-Llanddeusant to Carreg Cennen (15 miles)

Traces of the industrial heritage of South Wales are evident today as you follow old tram roads and tracks across the Black Mountain. A dramatic end to the day as you approach Carreg Cennen castle – a 13th-century stronghold perched on top of sheer limestone cliffs.

Day 8-Carreg Cennen to Llangadog (10 miles)

The final day leads to the western edge of the park. Admire the view from the enormous Iron Age fort of Carn Goch, strategically sited high above the Towy Valley. The tiny village of Bethlehem is your last port of call before reaching Llangadog and the end of the walk.

Details

Getting there

Abergavenny has its own railway station which is served by Arriva Trains Wales. Plus there's Cardiff International Airport which is only 40 miles away.

Price includes

Price quoted is per person for the self-guided 8 day walk. The price for the guided 8 day walk is £745.

Guided walk date: 9 Sep - 17 Sep 2011

Pick-up and drop-off at nearest railway station at the start and end of the tour, B&B and guesthouse accommodation, packed lunches every day, luggage transfer, full vehicle back-up – incase you get weary, access to a laptop so you can check your emails.

When is best

If you choose the self-guided option, you can depart whenever you wish.

Typical Duration

8 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