



Coast to Coast East (Self-Guided)

Please email us at info@ukexploratory.com or call us on +44 (0)1729 823 197 to chat about this holiday. You'll find all the latest information at www.alpineexploratory.com/holidays/coast-to-coast-east.html.



Above Swaledale from a point near Keld

About these Holiday Notes

These Holiday Notes help you decide whether this holiday is right for you. Before your trip we send you final detailed information.

Details

Start Kirkby Stephen
Finish Robin Hood's Bay
Region Yorkshire Dales, North York Moors
Country England
Length 8 walking days and 9 nights
Total distance 177.5km or 111 miles
Typical day 22km (14 miles), 480m ascent
Highest altitude 662m, Nine Standards Rigg
Grade Intermediate

Introduction

The famous Coast to Coast walk in England runs for nearly 200 miles between the Irish Sea on the West coast (start point St Bees) and the North Sea on the East coast (a triumphant finish at Robin Hood's Bay).

This self-guided walking holiday treks the Eastern half of the route, starting in Kirkby Stephen. As well as being a way to complete the walk over two trips, this week is a magnificent walking holiday in its own right. Taking 8 days to reach the North Sea, your schedule can readily be made faster or slower according to your plans.

The Coast to Coast walk was devised by Alfred Wainwright, the well known author of guidebooks to the Lake District, and published in his book *A Coast to Coast Walk* in 1973. The aim was to cross England and visit the national parks of the Lake District, the Yorkshire Dales and the North York Moors. Over the three decades since, the walk has become one of, if not the most, popular treks in the British Isles. The clever route and the sheer beauty and variety of the views make sure of that!

Walking the whole route, or any of the tougher stages, is a challenge. As well as pastoral footpaths and shady woods, there are sections over rough open moorland landscape. The two main challenges are the Yorkshire Dales crossing, in particular Nine Standards Rigg, and the moorland walking on the North York Moors. Proper outdoor equipment and experience are essential.

Compared to some long distance trails in the UK, the paths underfoot are a real mixture. Where the West Highland Way for example has purpose-built stony paths for much of its distance, the Coast to Coast runs on pre-existing paths and tracks, and these vary from wide and smooth to narrow, boggy and sometimes unclear.

The real charm of the Coast to Coast lies in the genuine and unspoilt places met along the way. Hidden corners of England reveal themselves as you cross the country. This is true long distance walking, passing through the landscape and enjoying new aspects every day.

Our approach to the Coast to Coast

Your route

Your route follows the Coast to Coast, as officially as the slightly relaxed nature of the route allows, but starting in Kirkby Stephen. Enter the Yorkshire Dales on Nine Standards Rigg, the barrier between East and West and a major milestone. Swaledale beckons, all the way to Richmond, past Keld and Reeth. Cross the flat Vale of York to Ingleby Cross and Osmotherley before setting off for the last section on the North York Moors. High and open walking on good ground leads you past Blakey Ridge and down to Glaisdale and Grosfont. A final stage leads to the coast with a few short cliff-top miles left before Robin Hood's Bay.

Fancy the whole route?

As well as the complementary Western half of the route, from St Bees to Kirkby Stephen over 6 days, we offer the whole Coast to Coast route in one splendid trip of about a fortnight.

Routecards and maps

Each day's route is explained in detail on your routecards, to bring you to your night's accommodation. We give you the real maps for you to follow, not printouts or photocopies.

Getting there and back

Your holiday starts in Kirkby Stephen and ends at Robin Hood's Bay. Travel to Kirkby Stephen and from Robin Hood's Bay is not included in the holiday price - we leave it to you to make the arrangements that suit you

best. Kirkby Stephen is on the Leeds-Settle-Carlisle train line and Robin Hood's Bay is linked to Whitby by bus. Your info pack contains full information on travel options. It is possible to leave a car at either your first or last night's accommodation. If you would like to do this, please let us know.

Itinerary

Day 1: Arrival in Kirkby Stephen

Settle into this relaxed and pretty small town. There's chance to eat out locally.

Guesthouse, Kirkby Stephen

Day 2: Kirkby Stephen to Keld

(18.5km or 11.5 miles)

Start your walk today with an ascent of Nine Standards Rigg, a moorland ridge. Stone pillars mark the summit. Drop down over the moor and fields to Keld, a hamlet in the folds of Upper Swaledale.

Guesthouse, Keld

Day 3: Keld to Reeth

(17.5km or 11 miles)

The main Coast to Coast route follows old mine tracks on the moor, past interesting ruins, to Reeth. An easier alternative follows the Swale through the valley, visiting Muker and other villages linked by field paths.

B&B, Reeth

Day 4: Reeth to Richmond

(17km or 10.5 miles)

Gentle walking with a mix of woodland and open fields leads all the way to Richmond. Arrive in Richmond with time to see the castle and other sights of this handy and handsome market town, the largest on the whole CTC.

Guesthouse, Richmond

Day 5: Richmond to Danby Wiske

(22.5km or 14 miles)

Start the two-day crossing of the Vale of York, a flat agricultural area between the Dales and North York Moors. Fields and country lanes make it easy going.

B&B, Danby Wiske

Day 6: Danby Wiske to Osmotherley

(19.5km or 12 miles)

Watch the North York Moors draw closer. The terrain is flat for much of the day but rises into woodland before you drop to Osmotherley, a charming village.

Inn, Osmotherley

Day 7: Osmotherley to Clay Bank Top

(19km or 12 miles)

Start the first of three days on the North York Moors with an undulating route on the edge of the hills. Today's ascent is substantial but is spread out over the miles.

B&B, near Clay Bank Top

Day 8: Clay Bank Top to Grosmont

(38km or 24 miles)

Return to Clay Bank Top and pick up the main route onto the moor. The track is one of the easiest sections of the whole route and the miles fly by on its smooth surface. Follow an old mining railway to Blakey Ridge and an isolated inn. After a lunch stop, keep on for an easy afternoon over gentle moorland tracks and roads to Glaisdale. A final section on some beautiful valley paths leads past Egton Bridge to Grosmont, a quaint railway village.

B&B, Grosmont**Day 9: Grosmont to Robin Hood's Bay**

(25.5km or 16 miles)

The final Coast to Coast stage reveals the sea only towards the end. Cross moors and wind through some delightful woodland on the way. The final cliff-top miles form a magnificent and fitting finale to your walk as you drop down to Robin Hood's Bay.

Guesthouse, Robin Hood's Bay**Day 10: Departure from Robin Hood's Bay**

Morning departure from Robin Hood's Bay.



Our usual schedule of accommodation might not be available, especially if there is not much time between booking and your trip starting. We will book accommodation as closely as possible to this itinerary and present you a schedule for you to check before we proceed.

Accommodation

This holiday stays in pleasant guesthouses, bed & breakfasts and inns along the route. We place most value on a friendly welcome, comfortable standards and a good location within the village or town. We book ensuite accommodation except where it is not available, for example in older buildings or more remote locations. Your info pack contains full details of your accommodation including contact details and directions.

Food

The food of the Yorkshire Dales and North York Moors is hearty and often locally produced. Classic dishes include Cumberland sausages or lamb shank with mashed potato; steak and kidney pie; and of course fish and chips. Fish and game are often seen. You will have enough chances to buy lunch ingredients, or to stop for lunch, along the way. However, on some stages you will have to be self-sufficient throughout the walk. Your routecards show places to eat and stock up on the route. We include all breakfasts.

The walking**Terrain**

The terrain is a mix of the following and more:

Paths in woodland
Walled tracks
Paths through fields (some indistinct)
Country lanes
Paths over the open hillside (some indistinct)
Steep rocky paths or steps

The landscape should be treated as wild terrain in which you will need to be self-reliant. We strongly recommend that you know how to navigate with a map and compass; the skills are easy to learn and your notes include details of some good books.

Signposts and waymarks

Directions on the ground vary from wooden or metal Coast to Coast finger posts, through small yellow arrow waymarks, to nothing at all. Please be prepared to navigate!

Your own routes

While your routecards make up the walking for the trip, you are of course free to walk wherever you choose, taking side trips or going by a different route of your own choice. Please note that if you follow your own route you will have left the holiday for the duration.

Local transport

No local transport is needed for this holiday due to its nature as a continuous walk. Your only focus is on the walking – a real break! Excursions to local towns, for example Appleby and Northallerton, might be possible by bus or train. As well as these options your notes and routecards tell you about the options for shortening or missing out entirely each day's walk by using buses and trains, where possible.

Language

English is the local language.

Weather

The weather in the Pennines and North York Moors between April and October is generally very suitable for walking. While snowfall is in theory possible on higher ground all year round, it is very rare in the summer months. April and May can often be excellent months for warmth and relative dryness. Any time in June, July and August is likely to be warm enough for comfort but with a good chance of rain on at least some days. Towards the Autumn, September and October can be quieter and very pleasant, though colder.

This all means that it is sensible to come equipped for and expecting all the types of weather that might be experienced in a typical summer in the UK: from heavy rain storms with a chill in the air, to hot sunshine.

Equipment

You will need the usual equipment for mountain walking in the UK. Especially important are good walking boots, waterproofs and sun protection. Your info pack contains a suggested equipment list. Please also see the Equipment page of our website for more information.

Insurance

We recommend, but it is not compulsory, that you have insurance cover for personal liability, cancellation and your baggage and money. Your info pack contains details of suitable insurance policies.

Money in the UK

The currency is the Pound Sterling (GBP).

Local expenses

Local expenses include food and drink other than breakfast, which is included, plus any local transport, attractions and extras.

Guided days

Hire a professional mountain leader to join you on this self-guided holiday, for one or more days. A leader helps plan and carry out each day's walking and adds interest to your holiday by pointing out local features. Please contact us for prices and more information.

Groups

Walk by yourself or in your own group, or see if we can match you up with other like-minded walkers on the same holiday. Any group will be a maximum of 8 people.

Hazards**Health**

The UK does not require tourists to take any vaccinations. However, it is recommended to keep tetanus vaccines up to date.

Safety

This is adventure travel! This holiday takes you to some wild and remote areas, in particular some areas of upland moor and mountain where navigation can be difficult in poor weather. The weather can also be a hazard in itself. During any walking, whether following a routecard or making your own route, you are responsible for your own actions and safety and you should join the trip with suitable skills, experience and equipment.

Further information

Please email us with any questions at info@ukexploratory.com.

Disclaimer

This information is given in good faith and is believed to be correct at the time of issue. UK Exploratory cannot be liable for any loss or injury incurred.