

Rambling in England's Peak District

Friendship Force Post-Conference Tour

5 Days / 4 Nights

Mon, 28 Aug 17 - Fri, 01 Sep 17

Price : £475 per person



The Accommodation

Set in 60 acres of grounds ranging from meadows to limestone crags is an 18th century Grade II listed castle. The grand building of Willersley Castle Hotel overlooks the River Derwent and stands on the edge of the Peak District National Park. The hotel with its stunning grounds, lounges, restaurant and indoor swimming pool provides an excellent location for exploring the highlights of the Peak District.

The Walks

Cromford, near Matlock is an excellent centre for exploring the outstanding natural beauty of the Dales. All the best walking is easily accessible as are such man made highlights as Chatsworth House and the town of Bakewell.

Our three walks feature one of the three major rivers in the area – the Derwent, the Wye and the Dove. Each walk has a shorter and longer version and ends in a town or village where traditional English afternoon tea can be taken or a pub can be visited. Every evening, your tour leader will discuss with you the programme for the following day. If you do not wish to join the organised group programme, please let the leader know.

Whilst every effort will be made to adhere to the outlined itinerary and advertised programme, local conditions can change due to weather or other unforeseen circumstances. This may mean that routes and timings need to be amended or the order of days may change at short notice.

DAY 1: Monday, August 28, 2017

After arriving at the Willersley Castle Hotel you'll have a few hours to settle in and enjoy the grounds and facilities. Please come to the hotel bar at 6:00pm for a half-hour introduction to your rambling tour leader and an outline of the planned programme for the next few days. Afterwards the group will head into the dining room for dinner and a relaxing, convivial evening with friends.

Meals: Dinner

DAY 2 : Tuesday, August 29

MILLERS DALE AND THE MONSAL TRAIL TO BAKEWELL

Today's walk starts by the church in the sleepy village of Taddington, one of the highest in England. We cross farmland to the north to meet the Monsal Trail which follows the twists and turns of the River Wye through Miller's Dale. We pause at Monsal Head, a beauty spot where the river carves its way through a high limestone ridge. The walk ends in Bakewell, a fine old town with numerous tea-shops serving cream teas and the local specialty Bakewell Pudding.

14.5 km, 200m ascent / 400m descent, 4 hours

The shorter walk starts at the southern end of Monsal Dale and is 8.7km long. If necessary an alternative start would be at the Monsal Head Hotel, making the walk 6.5km long, but this would miss out any river sections.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 3: Wednesday, August 30

DOVE DALE

The River Dove winds its way gently north to south between wooded hills. The longer walk starts in the village of Hartington, one of the main places where Stilton cheese is produced. We meet the river about 500m south of the village, and shortly after enter Wolfscote Dale where wolves were supposed to have inhabited the caves in the past. You cross the river on stepping stones where is swings west, then leave the river to cross open pastureland with cows, sheep and sweeping views towards Ilam. The tiny village of Ilam has a Norman church and an old manor house, now a youth hostel, with tea room and gardens to explore.

14.4 km. 300m ascent / 385m descent, 5 hours

The alternative shorter walk starts by the river at Milldale and is 6.7km long. Both longer and shorter walkers have the option of the ascent of Thorpe Cloud close to the stepping stones. This is very steep, but not at all hazardous, with fantastic views from the summit.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 4: Thursday, August 31

HIGH PEAK TRAIL

This is the longest walk of the holiday, but involves no transport from our hotel. The trail follows in part the line of the former Cromford and High Peak Railway. Built in 1830, it was one of the earliest railways in the country and was designed on canal principles, with inclines where the trucks were hauled up or down by stationary steam engines. The inclines are still there, and one of the winding engines has survived at Middleton Top. Towards the end of the walk we can visit the spa town of Matlock Bath.

20.1km, 600m ascent & descent, 6 hours

The shorter walk follows the River Derwent North to Matlock, a maximum distance of 5km. On the way you can visit Derwent Gardens and possibly admire the view from the top of High Tor. Walkers on the shorter track may also return to the hotel by train at their own expense.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

DAY 5: Friday, September 1

After a leisurely breakfast check out of the hotel and return to Manchester by coach. You have the option getting off the coach at the Midland Hotel or at Manchester International Airport, estimated arrival 11:30-12:00 noon.

Meals: Breakfast

TOUR INCLUDES :

- 4 nights hotel accommodation in twin or single rooms, subject to availability.
- Breakfast daily
- 4 dinners at the hotel
- Experienced rambling guides
- Local transport for walking tours
- Admission costs or donations for visits where applicable.
- Private touring motorcoach for all transfers

NOT INCLUDED :

- Any entrance fees to sites visited
- Picnic lunches, which can be purchased from the hotel or local shops.
- Admission costs or donations for visits where applicable.

- Health, trip cancellation/interruption or baggage insurance. All are strongly recommended.
- Items of a personal nature (hotel extras, laundry, phone calls etc.).
- Items not specifically mentioned above.

RECOMMENDED PACKING LIST :

- Comfortable walking socks
- Lightweight waterproof walking boots
- Sun hat, sunglasses, lip salve and high SPF sun block
- Light backpack
- Water bottle and cereal bars/fruit for snacks
- Basic first aid kit (plasters, blister treatment, antiseptic etc)
- Picnic lunch, which can be purchased from the hotel or local shops
- Optional: Walking/trekking poles