

THE
GREAT INNS
OF BRITAIN

**Exploring the Countryside
and Coast**

Walking Guide

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The Great Inns of Britain

The Great Inns of Britain is a hand-picked collection of traditional coaching inns and small independent luxury hotels with rich histories and charismatic owners, found in some of the most idyllic countryside and coastal locations across the UK.

Each room is unique, some offering antique surroundings that will transport you to another time, whilst others have modern stylings, both bursting with character and perfect for an indulgent escape.

Our talented and creative chefs are proud to showcase their seasonal menus, using locally sourced produce to create fresh and delicious meals just for you.

A great meal deserves a great accompaniment - and all of the Great Inns offer an extensive wine list and quirky local ales, a perfect way to end your day of hiking and exploring the local areas.

Rest assured that your faithful four-legged friend will enjoy The Great Inns of Britain as much as you do. Well-behaved dogs can join their owners in many of the inns' restaurants, bars and some bedrooms and can expect to be spoiled with special treats, toys and miles of walks on the doorstep.

At all the Great Inns you will be welcomed by loyal and experienced staff who go out of their way to ensure that you have an unforgettable stay.

Whether you're a total novice or walking enthusiast, the Great Inns of Britain Walking Guide is a fantastic place to start!



The Great Inns of Britain

Top tips

Choosing your walk

When choosing a walk, it is important to pick one that suits your interests, time frame, abilities and comfort zone. You'll find a variety of hilly terrain and mountainous scenery, as well as flatter trails, tracks and water-side walks on the doorstep of many of the inns.

Navigation

Whilst most walking trails from The Great Inns of Britain are well signposted, it is important to familiarise yourself with the route beforehand and have some basic navigation skills, to make sure you don't lose your way.

Check the weather forecast

It's always a good idea to check the weather forecast ahead of your trip. The changeable UK weather also means packing for all weathers is crucial.

And even if the forecast looks grey and overcast, it's always recommended to wear sun protection to shield your skin.



On your walk

Consider the Countryside Code

It is important to familiarise yourself with the Outdoor Access Code for the country in which you are walking. The Code provides helpful guidance and tips for situations such as when you encounter a diversion on your route.

The Countryside Code: England Scottish Outdoor Access Code



Where to walk?

Shibden Mill Inn, West Yorkshire

Nestled in the beautiful Shibden Valley, Shibden Mill Inn has an array of wonderful walks right from the doorstep. We've rounded up our top three recommendations.

- Shibden Hall: a flat and easy route, the circular walk from Shibden Mill Inn to Shibden Hall provides a leisurely stretch of the legs. We'd allow two hours for this three-mile round trip, depending on how long you plan to spend admiring the impressive 15th century Hall, the focus of the hit BBC drama series Gentleman Jack.
- Shibden Dale: take in the impressive views of the beautiful Shibden Valley on this 3.75 mile walk. Although there are several moderate climbs and the potential for muddy spots, we'd still class this walk as fairly easy.
- Calderdale Way: for those looking to take on more of a challenge, set off from Shibden Mill Inn to join the Calderdale Way for a 7.5 mile walk through the stunning West Yorkshire countryside. This moderate walk should take you around four to five hours.

[Click here to download the maps for all three walks!](#)



Where to walk?

The Hundred House Hotel, Shropshire

Set in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), there are plenty of countryside walks close to The Hundred House Hotel which allow you to take in the breath-taking views of the Shropshire Hills. Here's our top four.

- The Burnway Loop: as a popular hill walk, the Burnway Loop takes you to the highest point of the Long Mynd to see the fabulous views across Shropshire and beyond.
- The Stiperstones: follow the circular 5.5 mile Stiperstones route along a ridge steeped in history and myth.
- Offa's Dyke: a route for the more adventurous, this 177 mile walk is one of the longest linear earthworks in Britain, built by King Offa of Mercia in the 8th century, although we wouldn't suggest you tackle this all in one day!
- The Wrekin: fondly named 'the little mountain with many secrets', this 8-mile walk takes you up The Wrekin, an area which has some of the most diverse geology found on earth.



Where to walk?

Kings Head Inn, Oxfordshire

Explore the idyllic Cotswold countryside with a gentle ramble in this Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty with our selection of the best circular walks from the Kings Head Inn.

- Evenlode Circular: pleasant level walking through the village of Bledington and the watermeadows of the River Evenlode.
- Foxholes Nature Reserve: farmland walking to an ancient woodland reserve rich in flora and fauna.
- Westcote and Icomb: explore four gorgeous Cotswold villages with superb views over the Evenlode valley.

[Click here to view the full walking routes and maps!](#)



Where to walk?

The Peacock, Derbyshire

The Peak District is a walker's paradise and there are plenty of circular walks directly from the front door. Here's our top four.

- Manners Wood: this route takes you from the front door of The Peacock through Rowsley village to the top of Coombs Valley with fabulous views towards Bakewell to the north and Matlock to the south.
- Lathkill Dale from Monyash to Rowsley: this is a 13 km route that follows the course of the Lathkill river and back to The Peacock at Rowsley.
- Peacock to Haddon Hall and Return: this is the very pretty off-road route, entirely on the Haddon Estate, from The Peacock at Rowsley to Haddon Hall and return.
- Stanton Moor: a 10k circular walk from the Peacock at Rowsley exploring Stanton Moor, with fabulous views in all directions.

[Click here to download the maps for all four walks!](#)



Where to walk?

The Boar's Head, North Yorkshire

The beautiful historic village of Ripley is on the route of several footpaths and cycleways – and they all pass the front door of this Great Inn. The Boar's Head residents enjoy free access to Ripley Castle deer park, grounds and magnificent walled gardens. A walk through the park, past several ancient trees and the landscaped lake is highly recommended.

- The Nidderdale Greenway links Ripley to Harrogate and lower Nidderdale. Turn right outside the hotel's front door, past the front gates of the castle onto Hollybank Lane. Return via High Rails Farm which provides lovely views up Nidderdale and over the deer park.
- Turn left outside the front door for a circular walk up Birthwaite Lane and into Cayton Gill; enjoy the splendid views across the Vale of York to the North Yorkshire Moors beyond.
- Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal is located a 15 minute drive away. A World Heritage Site featuring the substantial ruins of a 12th Century Cistercian monastery in beautifully landscaped grounds.
- The 53 mile Nidderdale Way conveniently passes the The Boar's Head's front door. The walk from Pateley Bridge to Scar House Dam and back via Middlesmoor is a particularly beautiful 22 mile circular route.



Where to walk?

White Horse & Griffin, North Yorkshire

For walkers, Whitby is the perfect destination, with stunning walks from the front door of the White Horse & Griffin. Climb the 199 steps to take in the dramatic views from Whitby Abbey, the inspiration for Bram Stoker's 'Dracula'. Or, take a short walk along the beach front to the village of Sandsend. This will take you around one and a half hours - or more - depending on how often you stop to admire the views!

For the more adventurous, you could try walking a section of the Cleveland Way National Trail which is a 109 mile (175 km) walking route through beautiful and ever-changing landscapes and scenery.

Starting from the picturesque market town of Helmsley, the Cleveland Way heads across the breathtaking heather moorland of the North York Moors National Park, before reaching the coast at Saltburn-by-the-Sea. From here, it's a visual feast along the North Yorkshire coastline to Filey, passing old fishing villages and lively coastal towns.

Find out more about the Cleveland Way [here](#)!



Where to walk?

The Inn at Whitewell, Lancashire

Situated in the Forest of Bowland AONB, The Inn at Whitewell is an ideal base from which to explore the surrounding countryside on foot. Nestled on the banks of the River Hodder, the inn is the perfect starting point from which to follow the the 6 mile Radholme Circular walk. Other walks further afield include:

- Hodder Bank Fell Circular: a 4.3 mile walk combining riverside and open fell. This walk offers fantastic views of the Hodder valley and surrounding hills.
- River Dunsop and Black Brook Circular: a 2 mile walk following the edge of Black Brook Wood takes you onto farmland overlooking Beatrix Fell and the Hodder valley.



Where to walk?

The Rose & Crown, Teesdale

Take a short drive to Bowlees Visitor Centre and from there you can choose to walk down to the River Tees at Low Force, a series of waterfalls and rapids. From here, follow the river a couple of miles up to High Force, England's tallest waterfall. If you'd like to extend your walk, a few more miles up the Tees you will find Cauldron Snout waterfall where the Tees emerges from Cow Green Reservoir. The rugged riverside path below takes you through a remarkable part of the North Pennines, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, a Natural Nature Reserve and a European Geopark.

Maps are available to borrow from The Rose & Crown, and their knowledgeable team can help you choose a walk to suit you and the conditions.



Where to walk?

The Selkirk Arms, Dumfries & Galloway

The Selkirk Arms is located in the heart of Kirkcudbright, right by the sea and a stones throw from the surrounding hills. A walk through the streets of Kirkcudbright is not to be missed, with colourful houses and a little fishing harbour. Other walks in the local area include:

- St Mary's Isle Walk: this 4.5 mile circular walk follows the edge of St Mary's Isle on pavements and paths.
- Senwick Shore Walk: a 4 mile moderate coastal walk to Senwick old church and back.
- Torrs Point Walk: this 9 mile walk follows pavements along the east side of Kirkcudbright Bay with a loop out to Torrs Point.

Find out more about the variety of walks available around Kirkcudbright Bay and view the maps [here](#).



What to take?

First things first

When planning a walking trip, it is important to consider the type of terrain you will be walking; walking trainers are useful on more rugged paths, or for walks that are less maintained, walking boots will keep your feet dry.

Waterproofs: non-negotiable

When walking in the UK, you can almost guarantee you'll experience some wet weather. A pair of waterproof trousers and waterproof jacket are essential.

The importance of snacks!

When staying at one of The Great Inns of Britain, you can start your day the right way with a hearty cooked breakfast. But walking is hungry work so making sure you bring snacks along for the journey is a necessity!

The essentials

A map of your route, compass and emergency first aid kit are essential.

Don't forget a camera!

Surrounded by rolling hills and stunning countryside, when walking from one of the Great Inns of Britain you'll experience such incredible scenery that you'll want to capture every moment!



Explore more of the great outdoors

You may just want to take a gentle stroll to discover the local paths or villages during your stay at one of The Great Inns of Britain; but if you're keen to cover more ground, whether on foot, bike or horseback, then the hills, moors and valleys that surround many of the inns make the perfect place to start - and finish - your adventure.

You'll find the Inn Keepers and their teams are happy to offer advice on the best routes for hiking and biking, and are willing to answer any questions you may have about the local area.

The Great Inns of Britain also boast some excellent spots for private fishing and shooting, often very close by and, in some cases, on their own land. Many of the inns also warmly welcome visits by dogs, so your four-legged friends needn't be left at home.



Discover more of The Great Inns



Discover more of The Great Inns

The Great Inns of Britain is a collection of traditional coaching inns and small luxury hotels; our hand-picked properties are located in Britain's best countryside and coastal regions – we can't wait to welcome you soon.

Find your perfect inn...

[The Selkirk Arms, Dumfries & Galloway](#)

[The Rose & Crown, County Durham](#)

[The Boar's Head, North Yorkshire](#)

[Shibden Mill Inn, West Yorkshire](#)

[The Inn at Whitewell, Lancashire](#)

[The Peacock at Rowsley, Derbyshire](#)

[The Hundred House Hotel, Shropshire](#)

[The King's Head Inn, The Cotswolds](#)

[White Horse and Griffin, North Yorkshire](#)



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