

# Byways Breaks

WALKING & CYCLING

2021





# Contents

## Your Holiday with Byways

Short Cycling Breaks	4
Longer Cycling Breaks	7
Walking holidays	10
Walkers accommodation booking and luggage service	12
More Information	15
How Do I Book?	16
How Do I Get There?	16



## Welcome to Byways Breaks Walking and Cycling Holidays

What an unprecedented year 2020 was. There are signs things will begin to slowly improve and while we can't be sure how this year will be, we are hopeful that by Spring/early Summer we can all start to plan adventures again. A self led walking or cycling holiday is a great way to safely explore the countryside again.

Byways Breaks have 25 years experience of delivering quality walking and cycling holidays. The safety of our customers and suppliers is top priority. Byways and our suppliers, have been working hard over the last months to ensure we are continually adapting to the situation so our clients all have a safe, trouble-free and excellent holiday experience. Customer feedback has always been important to us. We've been delighted that despite the challenges of Covid-19, the feedback continues to be excellent. People have been so pleased to get back out in the countryside and have well organised, uninterrupted holidays.

We know the areas inside-out. Routes and itineraries are carefully planned so and stay in the nicest places. 2020 was difficult however we are flexible and experienced and have been able to adapt itineraries and make adjustments where necessary. Be assured you are in good and safe hands when booking your holiday with us.

Our holidays are self led so you explore at your own pace, keep safely in your bubble and take detours stopping when and where you want. We move your luggage each day so you travel light, with just what you need for the day. If you need help we're only a phone call away.

The Walkers' Accommodation Booking and Luggage Service on trail walks continues to be popular. As well as Offa's Dyke we offer several sections of the Wales Coast Path and the Shropshire Way.





# Your Holiday with Byways Breaks

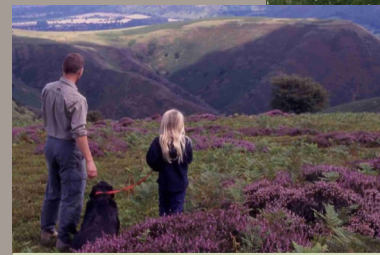
## Cycling Holidays

Cheshire, Shropshire and the island of Anglesey are ideal for cycling; gently rolling countryside with variety, views, and few steep hills! Routes follow quiet lanes, bridleways and canal towpaths and can be managed by most people. Gentle routes are 10 – 15 miles and moderate are 20 – 25 miles. We also have longer, more strenuous routes of 30 - 40 miles a day for keen and regular cyclists. As a guide, in gentle countryside, 20 miles will take someone who doesn't cycle regularly 2 – 3 hours, so there's plenty of time to explore and have a leisurely lunch. Quality hybrid bikes are provided - see page 15 for more information.



## Walking Holidays

Our walking holidays are in Wales, Shropshire, Cheshire and Lancashire. Many of our walking holidays are along well signed long distance trails like Offa's Dyke, Shropshire Way and the Wales Coast path. Other holidays follow well-marked footpaths, bridleways and towpaths. Walks are graded with gentle 4 - 6 miles, moderate 6 - 10 miles and strenuous ones 10 - 14 miles. Our Walkers' Accommodation Booking and Luggage Service along trail walks is a flexible service offering flexible walking distances, with accommodation booking and luggage transfers



## Accommodation

We know at the end of the day it's important that a comfortable bed, warm welcome and good food are waiting for you. Over the years we've gathered a variety of lovely places to stay with individual character. These range from quiet farmhouses, inns and hotels with good food and beer, to luxury country houses with swimming pools and award winning restaurants. See page 15 for more details. All accommodation providers have special arrangements to ensure social distancing and covid safe cleaning procedures.



## Holiday Information Packs

Holidays are self-led and you receive a holiday information pack containing written directions, an Ordnance Survey Map marked with the route and background information about the area including places of interest, pubs, shops and tearooms. If you don't want to stick to our directions, you have enough information to discover your own detours! For people using the Walkers' Accommodation Booking and Luggage Service directions to each night's accommodation are provided but maps and guides can be purchased separately.



## Support

On all holidays (except the Walkers' Accommodation Booking and Luggage Service) we meet or phone you on arrival to answer any questions you may have about routes and other arrangements. On cycling holidays bikes are delivered to the first night's accommodation as you arrive and we will adjust your bike to make sure you are comfortable.

Each day we transfer your luggage to your next destination - you only take what you need each day. During your holiday, in the unlikely event that you break down or need any help we are only a phone call away. You will have a mobile number to contact us throughout the day.





# Short Cycling Breaks



Canals, Castles & Chester	4
Peckforton Hills & County Inns	4
One Centre Breaks	5
Shropshire Lakes & Hidden Highways	5
Cheshire & Shropshire Lakes	6
Delamere to Ellesmere	6

## Canals, Castles & Chester

2 nights/3 days or 3 nights/4 days

Gentle or Moderate

### Highlights

- Roman City of Chester
- Cheshire Ice Cream Farm - award winning ice cream
- Cholmondeley Castle Gardens
- Beeston Castle, Tarporley, Bunbury
- Shire Horse Centre



### Accommodation

Farmhouse B & B, hotels/inns or country house hotels

### Holiday

A relaxing break with choice of distances. The gentle holiday is ideal for those wanting easy cycling with plenty of time to explore. The moderate option offers longer distances exploring this interesting part of Cheshire. Begin in, or near Chester and visit this Roman city at the start or end of your break (cycling out of the city along the canal, so no traffic).

Cycle through rolling farmland past pretty villages, canals and castles south of Chester. There are plenty of places to visit, including the Cheshire Cheese and Ice Cream Farm, a working Water Mill, Beeston Castle, antique shops and pretty villages like Tarporley and Bunbury. The moderate break also explores Delamere Forest. Adding a fourth day takes you to Wrenbury on the Shropshire Union Canal and Cholmondeley Castle Gardens. There are plenty of good pubs and cafes for lunch stops including one of our favourites, the Dysart Arms at Bunbury with its lovely garden.

### Holiday includes

- Accommodation, breakfast (based on two sharing)
- Detailed routes, maps, background information
- Luggage transport and full support
- Transfer to and from station (Chester) or car parking

## Peckforton Hills & Country Pubs

3 nights/4 days

Moderate

### Highlights

- Great pubs, good food
- Delamere Forest, Little Budworth Common, and Stretton Mill
- Peckforton Hills and Beeston Castle
- Pretty villages - Farndon on River Dee, Tarporley and Tattenhall



### Accommodation

Country pubs

### Holiday

Cheshire is a rich farming county and renowned for its quality food and drink. This route explores the quiet Cheshire countryside and villages close to the Welsh border, and visits some of the pubs, tea shops and farm shops - opportunity to taste some of the county's finest produce - many award winning! Start near Tarporley at the Alvanley Arms with Shire Horse Centre (with free entry) and Lakeside Cafe.

Cycle over the Peckforton Hills (not high!) to Farndon and Barton on the Welsh border. From here through Malpas for a night at the Cholmondeley Arms a regular award winner. Visit Beeston Castle, Stretton Water Mill and Cholmondeley Castle Gardens. Stop at some of the excellent pubs on the route, (many are regulars in the Good Pub and Good Beer Guides) like Dysart Arms at Bunbury, Rising Sun in Tarporley, and Cholmondeley Arms.

### Holiday includes

- Accommodation, breakfast (based on two sharing)
- Detailed routes, maps, background information
- Luggage transport and full support
- Transfer to and from station (Chester) or car parking



## One Centre Breaks

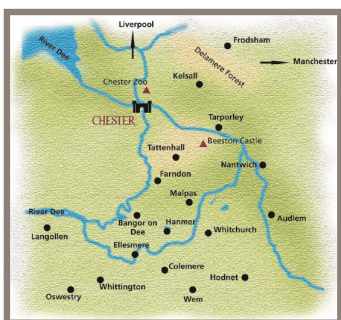
2 nights/3 days or 3 nights/4 days

Gentle or Moderate

### Borders Break

#### Highlights

- Lakes & Colemere Country Park
- Whittington Castle, Hawkstone Park
- Cholmondeley Castle Gardens



#### Accommodation

Farmhouse B & B, or country house hotel

Explore the canals, rivers, meres and mosses of North Shropshire. Stay in a country house hotel in Wem, or comfortable farm in Ellesmere, a small market town on the edge of the largest lake in the area. Circular cycle rides along peaceful lanes past the many small lakes to Colemere Country Park, Whittington Castle, Hanmer Mere, Hawkstone Park Follies and Cholmondeley Castle Gardens. Visit market towns of Ellesmere and Wem.

### Tarporley and Delamere Break

#### Highlights

- Delamere Forest, Little Budworth Common
- Beeston Castle (views of 8 counties)
- Ice Cream Farm, Tarporley
- Bunbury village and the Dysart Arms

#### Accommodation

Country pub or country house hotel

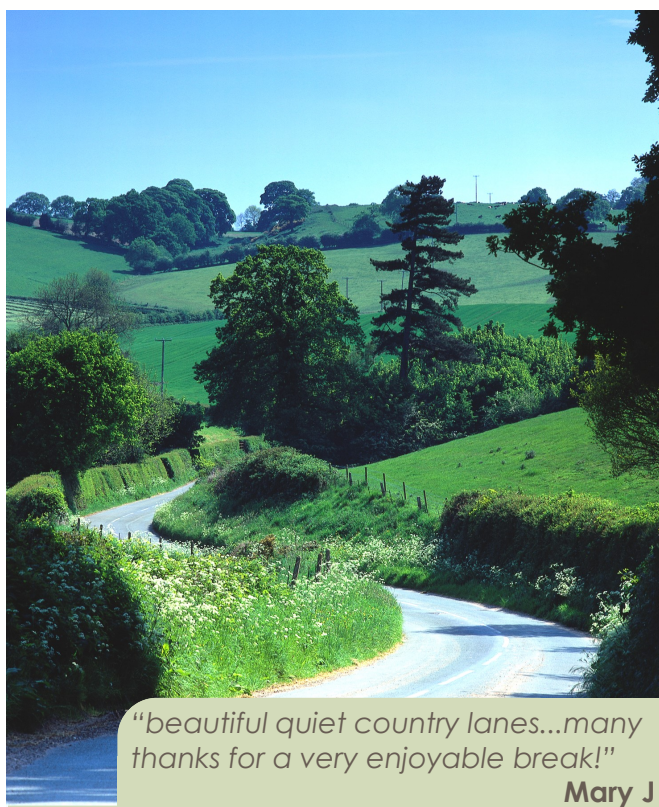
Stay in, or near, Tarporley, close to the Peckforton Hills and Beeston Castle. Tarporley has a pretty High Street (good local shops, choice of pubs and tea shops). The surrounding countryside offers quiet lanes and pretty villages. Visit Beeston Castle, Cheshire Cheese and Ice Cream Farm, Delamere Forest, the Shire Horse Centre and pretty villages of Tattenhall and Bunbury with the Dysart Arms, one of the best pubs in the area.

#### Holiday includes

- Accommodation, breakfast (based on two sharing)
- Detailed routes, maps, background information
- Luggage transport and full support
- Transfer to/from station (Chester or Wem) or car parking



"Thoroughly enjoyed this break...very good planning, routes were so easy to follow" Liz C



"beautiful quiet country lanes...many thanks for a very enjoyable break!"

Mary J

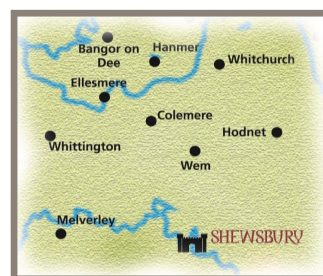
## Shropshire Lakes & Hidden Highways

3 nights/4 days

Gentle or Moderate

#### Highlights

- Pretty lakes and Colemere Country Park
- Hawkstone Park
- Wollerton Old Hall Gardens
- Ellesmere, canal, lake, market, visitor centre



#### Accommodation

Farmhouse B & B, hotels and pubs

#### Holidays

Explore the gently rolling Shropshire Plain with its small glacial lakes, mosses, rare plants and wildlife. The cycling is quiet with little lanes and few cars, making it an ideal holiday for children or those wanting a peaceful wind down for a few days. Shrewsbury is nearby allowing opportunity to visit this historic town either at the start or end of your break.

From Ellesmere cycle along the quiet lanes and through pretty villages like Loppington, English Frankton and Clive. Meander past the many small lakes dotted around the Shropshire Plain. Visit Colemere Country Park and the pretty town of Ellesmere (with its weekly market, Mere, heron watch and canal wharf).

The moderate break also passes Hanmer Mere, the Whixall and Fenns mosses, an site of special scientific interest and Whittington Castle.

#### Holiday includes

- Accommodation, breakfast (based on two sharing)
- Detailed routes, maps, background information
- Luggage transport and full support
- Transfer to and from station (Wem, Whitchurch) or parking





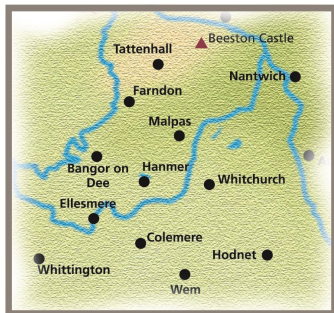
## Cheshire & Shropshire Lakes

3 nights/4 days

Moderate or Strenuous

### Highlights

- Whittington Castle
- Marbury Mere
- Cholmondeley Castle Gardens
- Market towns of Ellesmere, Wem and Whitchurch
- Beeston Castle (views of 8 counties)
- Colemere Country Park



### Accommodation

Inn & farmhouse B & B or Inn/Country House Hotel

### Holiday

Begin in the quiet countryside, at Cholmondeley close to the Peckforton Hills. The first afternoon has with a gentle ride to the Candle Workshops and Pheasant Inn at Higher Burwardsley, with fantastic views over the surrounding countryside. There is an additional, optional loop to Beeston Castle.

The next day cycle through the pretty countryside and villages either to the market town of Ellesmere with its busy canal and large lake (farmhouse option) or Wem (Country Hotel). Spend two nights and take a circular ride exploring the lakes in the area, including Ellesmere, and Colemere Country Park. For those staying in Ellesmere cycle to Whittington Castle.

Head back to Cholmondeley past Whixhall Moss, a site of special scientific interest and on through the market town of Whitchurch. From here to Marbury village, with its lovely views of the Mere from the churchyard.

### Holiday includes

- Accommodation, breakfast (based on two sharing)
- Detailed routes, maps, background information
- Luggage transport and full support
- Transfer to and from station (Chester) or car parking

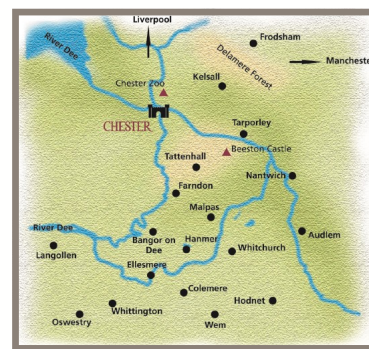
## Delamere Forest to Ellesmere

3 nights/4 days

Strenuous

### Highlights

- Delamere Forest
- Tudor town of Nantwich
- Cholmondeley Castle Gardens, Beeston Castle
- Market towns of Ellesmere, Wem
- Whittington Castle



### Accommodation

Farmhouse B & B, pub, country hotel

### Holiday

This holiday with longer cycling distances is ideal for keen, regular cyclists. Visit the quieter parts of Cheshire and North Shropshire along the Welsh borders. Start near Tarporley, explore Delamere Forest and then head south through Nantwich and Audlem across rolling Cheshire farming country.

From here head into North Shropshire passing many small lakes and visiting the market town of Ellesmere. Spend 2 nights here and explore the small glacial lakes, mosses and Whittington Castle. Head back to Tarporley along the Welsh border through the villages of Bangor-on-Dee and Farndon.

Cycling distance is 40 - 50 miles a day or 35 - 40 miles a day (missing Nantwich). Can upgrade to Country House Hotel some nights.

### Holiday includes

- Accommodation, breakfast (based on two sharing)
- Detailed routes, maps, background information
- Luggage transport and full support
- Transfer to and from station (Chester) or car parking





# Longer Cycling Breaks

Black and White Villages	7
Castle and Meres	7
Marches Meander	8
Anglesey Challenge	8
Anglesey Tour	9
Nantwich, Waterways and Meres	9
Cheshire and Shropshire Tour	9



## Black & White Villages

4 nights/5 days

Gentle or Moderate

### Highlights

- Chester - roman ruins and museum
- Nantwich - shops, market, museum
- Delamere Forest, Little Budworth
- Cholmondeley Castle Gardens
- Black & white villages— Bunbury, Audlem, Tattenhall



### Accommodation

Farmhouse B & B, hotels/country pub

### Holiday

A leisurely tour of some of Cheshire's finest black and white villages and the lovely Tudor market town of Nantwich. Starting in, or near Chester, explore Delamere Forest or Little Budworth Common, then to Tarporley with its Georgian High Street and good selection of places to eat.

From here the route takes you to pretty villages like Bunbury and the market town of Nantwich. On the moderate route you head to Audlem before joining the gentle route near Wrenbury where you can watch the canal boats negotiate the swing bridge from a canal-side pub. Head back to Chester through the unspoilt borders area around (not up) the Peckforton Hills, past Stretton Water Mill and through the pretty black and white village of Tattenhall, stopping at the Ice Cream Farm for refreshment!

### Holiday includes

- Accommodation, breakfast (based on two sharing)
- Detailed routes, maps, background information
- Luggage transport and full support
- Transfer to and from station (Chester) or car parking

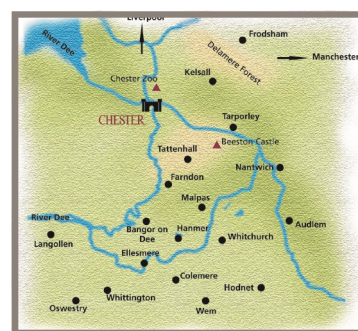
## Castles and Meres

5 nights/6 days, 6 nights/7 days

Gentle, Moderate or Strenuous

### Highlights

- Roman Chester
- Delamere Forest or Little Budworth
- Shire Horse Centre
- Beeston Castle
- Cheshire Cheese and Ice Cream Farm
- Cholmondeley Castle Gardens
- Lakes, Colemere Country Park



### Accommodation

B&Bs, hotels, country house hotels

### Holiday

This cycling holiday starts near Chester allowing an opportunity to visit the Roman city at the start or end of your break. Meander through the quiet countryside of west Cheshire, through Delamere Forest, crossing canals, and circling the Peckforton Hills (dotted with castles) before exploring Shropshire's Lakeland. The Shropshire Lakes area has many small glacial lakes, mosses, rare plants and wildlife and cycling is particularly quiet and peaceful with some lanes rarely seeing a car!

Head back to Chester along the Welsh border through pretty villages like Bangor-on-Dee and Farndon. Can add extra night in the Ellesmere/Wem with circular ride to Whittington Castle.

### Holiday includes

- Accommodation, breakfast (based on two sharing)
- Detailed routes, maps, background information
- Luggage transport and full support
- Transfer to and from station (Chester) or car parking





"We thoroughly enjoyed our holiday...your support, help and service was a large part of that enjoyment !"

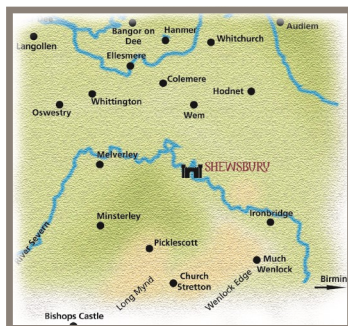
Bob C

## Marches Meander & Marches Tour

4 nights/5 days 5 nights/6 days Strenuous  
5 nights/6 days or 7 nights/8 days Moderate/Strenuous

### Highlights

- Ellesmere lake
- Moreton Corbett Castle, Wroxeter Roman ruins
- Attingham Park
- Ironbridge Gorge and Museum
- Molverley Church
- Foothills of Long Mynd and Church Stretton



### Accommodation

B&Bs, hotels/country pubs

### Holiday

This holiday explores the quiet countryside and history of Shropshire, starting gently on the Shropshire Plain and heading to the market town of Shrewsbury. Pass Attingham Park, Moreton Corbet Castle, the Roman ruins at Wroxeter, a vineyard and Acton Burnell Castle.

From here the route takes you into the Long Mynd and the Shropshire Hills. There is an optional climb over the Long Mynd for the more energetic, (worth the effort for the views), or more gentle route round the hills. Then back through Molverley on the banks of the River Severn with its 13<sup>th</sup> century timber church and on to the small lakeside, market town on Ellesmere.

The 7 night holiday takes you to historic Ironbridge for 2 nights to visit the world famous World Heritage Site. The Marches Meander holiday is a moderate or strenuous holiday. The Marches Tour is a 4 night option with distances of 40 - 45 miles a day and can add extra day to cycle to Ludlow

### Holiday includes

- Accommodation, breakfast (based on two sharing)
- Detailed routes, maps, background information
- Luggage transport and full support
- Transfer to/from station - Wem (or Whitchurch) or parking

## Anglesey Challenge

4 nights/4 days Strenuous +

### Highlights

- More challenging distances
- Fabulous beaches and mountain views
- Seaside towns, Beaumaris and Menai Bridge



### Accommodation

B&Bs & country pubs

### Holiday

A 4 day tour of the lovely island of Anglesey off the north wales coast, much of it an Area Of National Beauty, with distances for more experienced cyclist of 40 - 50 miles a day. Anglesey is not too hilly so lovely cycling, with fantastic sea and views to Snowdonia. Explore the varied coast with high cliffs at South Stack, wonderful estuaries, the Menai Strait and lots of long sandy beaches.

Visit lovely seaside towns of Menai Bridge, Beaumaris and pretty villages of Moelfre and Cemaes Bay. Fabulous wildlife - porpoises, dolphins if you're lucky, and lots of birdlife.



### Holiday includes

- Accommodation, breakfast (based on two sharing)
- Detailed routes, maps, background information
- Luggage transport and full support
- Transfer to and from station (Holyhead) or car parking



## Isle of Anglesey Cycle Tour

6/5 nights, 7/6 days

Moderate/Strenuous

### Highlights

- Beaches, mountain views
- Lovely seaside towns of Beaumaris and Menai
- Plas Newydd House, South Stack lighthouse, Penmon Priory, Beaumaris Castle,



### Accommodation

A mix of accommodation, B&Bs, pubs, small hotels

### Holiday

Anglesey has great cycling, not too hilly and fantastic views over to Snowdonia. This circular tour of the island explores the varied coast from high cliffs at South Stack, to wonderful estuaries, the Menai Strait, long sandy beaches like Newborough and Red Wharf Bay. Spend the night in lovely towns like Beaumaris, Cemaes Bay and Menai Bridge. Moderate distances 20 - 25 miles, strenuous distances 30 - 40 miles a day.

### Holiday includes

- Accommodation, breakfast (based on two sharing)
- Detailed routes, maps, background information
- Quality bikes and equipment (discount for own bikes)
- Luggage transport and full support
- Transfer to and from station (Holyhead) or car parking

## Nantwich Waterways & Meres

4 nights/5 days

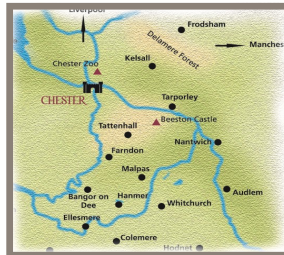
7 nights/8 days

Strenuous

Gentle or Moderate

### Highlights

- Cholmondeley Castle Gardens, Beeston Castle
- Canal villages of Bunbury, Audlem and Wrenbury
- Shropshire lakes area
- Llangollen



### Accommodation

B&Bs, hotels/country pubs

### Holiday

Explore quiet parts of Cheshire and North Shropshire. Visit Little Budworth or Delamere Forest, head south to Nantwich, Audlem and Wrenbury, to Cholmondeley Castle Gardens, and Malpas. From here its quiet lanes to the Shropshire lakes area. Spend two nights in Wem or Ellesmere exploring small glacial lakes, then along the canal to spend a night in the lovely welsh town of Llangollen before heading back to Tarporley.

### Holiday includes

- Accommodation, breakfast (based on two sharing)
- Detailed routes, maps, background information
- Luggage transport and full support
- Transfer to and from station (Chester) or car parking



"all accommodation was an excellent standard"

Mrs B

"Overall a wonderful experience.  
Thank you so much!"

Tony and Christine W



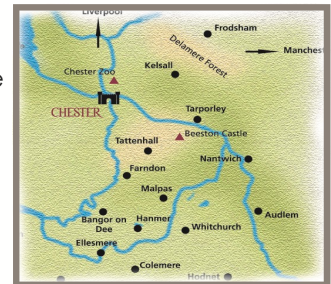
## Cheshire and Shropshire Tour

8 nights/9 days

Strenuous

### Highlights

- Delamere Forest
- Cholmondeley Castle Gardens, Beeston Castle
- Shropshire Lakes & Mosses
- Ironbridge Heritage site
- Long Mynd, Church Stretton and Tudor market town of Ludlow



### Accommodation

B&Bs and hotels

### Holiday

A cycle tour of the best of the Cheshire and Shropshire countryside, for experienced and keen cyclists. A circular tour starting and ending in Chester, explore Delamere Forest and the rolling countryside of central Cheshire crossing canals and circling the Peckforton Hills (dotted with castles). Pass Beeston Castle and visit the Dysart Arms, one of the best pubs in the area before heading to Shropshire's Lakeland.

From here head south to Shrewsbury, and Ironbridge. And over to the more hilly Shropshire Hills and Church Stretton area for 2 nights. There is a circular ride to Ludlow before heading back to Chester along the welsh border and the villages on the River Dee.

Cycling distances are 40 - 50 miles a day, however there is some flexibility on this holiday and we can tailor it to accommodate slightly shorter distances (of around 30 - 40 miles) or less nights. Please contact us with your requirements and we can tailor a holiday.

### Holiday includes

- Accommodation, breakfast (based on two sharing)
- Detailed routes, maps, background information
- Luggage transport and full support
- Transfer to and from station (Chester) or car parking



# Walking Holidays



Sandstone Trail	10
Llangollen Canal	10
Llangollen Single Centre	11
Offa's Dyke - Shropshire Hills	11
Offa's Dyke - Clwydian Hills	11

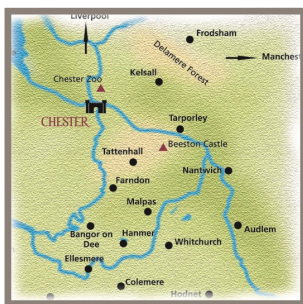
## Sandstone Trail

2, 3 or 4 nights

Strenuous/Moderate/Gentle

### Highlights

- Beeston Castle (views of 8 counties)
- Delamere Forest
- Primrose Hill woods
- Peckforton Hills
- Frodsham, Tarporley and Whitchurch
- Lock Gate Cafe



### Accommodation

Hotels, country pubs and B & B

### Holiday

The Sandstone Trail follows a low sandstone ridge from Beacon Hill at Frodsham, through Delamere Forest, past Beeston Castle and over the Peckforton Hills to Whitchurch on the Shropshire border. The ridge, characterised by rocky outcrops and wooded areas, divides the plains of the River Dee to the west and River Weaver to the east. There are lovely views over to the Welsh Hills.

The terrain is relatively gentle with a few hills and is 32 - 35 miles depending on overnight stops. The gentle option is a 3 night 4 day break with a max of 10 miles a day, the moderate option is a 3 night, 3 day break of 11 - 12 miles a day. The strenuous option is 2 nights, 2 days walking of 15 - 18 miles a day. Option of extra last night in Whitchurch. We can also tailor this holiday - please contact us with your requirements.

### Holiday includes

- Accommodation, breakfast (based on two sharing)
- Detailed routes, maps, background information
- Luggage transport and full support
- Transfer to/from station (Frodsham/Whitchurch) or parking

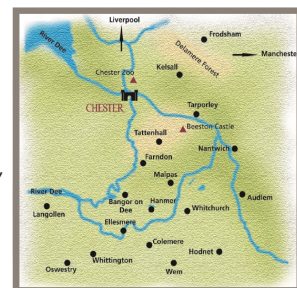
## Llangollen Canal

6 nights/8 nights

Gentle/Moderate

### Highlights

- Chirk Castle
- Whixhall Moss, meres
- Pontcysyllte and Chirk aqueducts
- Market towns of Nantwich, Ellesmere, Whitchurch, Llangollen
- Colemere Country Park



### Accommodation

B&Bs, pubs and hotels

### Holiday

Walk this beautiful canal from Nantwich through the market towns of Whitchurch and Ellesmere to Llangollen. The canal is a major engineering feat which starts on the Cheshire Plain, winds through Shropshire, crosses Chirk and Pontcysyllte Aqueducts as you get to more hilly countryside of the Welsh hills. The canal follows the Dee Valley through Llangollen to its source at the Horseshoe Falls.

There's plenty of boat traffic to watch and lots of wildlife with occasional kingfishers. There is a short day to Ellesmere, so time to explore this market town with its pretty Mere.

On the 6 night option walk 10 - 12 miles a day, with a short day to Ellesmere of 6 miles. The gentle holiday of 8 nights covers 6 - 9 miles a day so plenty of time to stop off on the way to take in the wildlife and scenery.

### Holiday includes

- Accommodation, breakfast (based on two sharing)
- Detailed routes, maps, background information
- Luggage transport and full support
- Transfer to/from station (Nantwich/Ruabon) or parking



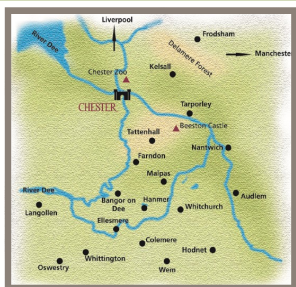
# Llangollen One Centre Break

2 nights/3 days or 3 nights/4 days

Gentle or Moderate

## Highlights

- Chirk Castle
- Pontcysyllte and Chirk aqueducts
- Dinas Bran Castle and Vale Crucis Abbey
- Llangollen with independent shops, River Dee and nice pubs



## Accommodation

B&B, or restaurant with rooms

## Holiday

Stay in the pretty town of Llangollen on the River Dee with nice tea shops and places to eat in the evening. Walks are circular, either from where you are staying, or close by and are moderate distances of between 6 and 9 miles. Walks include up to Castle Dinas Bran above the town, to Vale Crucis Abbey, Trevor rocks and Panorama walk, or along Offa's Dyke path to Chirk Castle and the famous Pontcysyllte aqueduct.

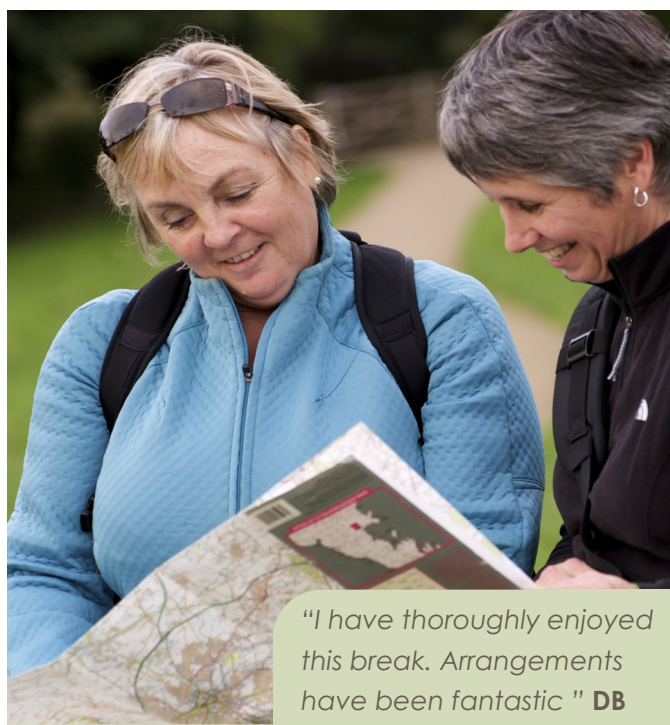
## Holiday includes

- Accommodation, breakfast (based on two sharing)
- Detailed routes, maps, background information
- Full support and help should you need it
- Transfer to and from station ( Ruabon) or car parking

## Offa's Dyke Short Breaks

Offa's Dyke was built by King Offa 1200 years ago to mark the border between Wales and England. Offa's Dyke Trail follows the line of the original Offa's Dyke, and old earth works can be seen in several places .

This walk is a National Trail and is 177 miles long. It runs from Chepstow in the south of Wales to Prestatyn in North Wales. This is a varied walk and has views over some of the most spectacular mountains and valleys in Wales and England. Our short breaks offer a taster of this lovely, varied long distance walk.



"I have thoroughly enjoyed this break. Arrangements have been fantastic " DB



"fantastic time and impressed by the smooth organisation" AS

## Offa's Dyke, Shropshire Hills

4 nights/4 days

Moderate

## Highlights

- Knighton, Offa's Dyke Centre
- Montgomery with its castle
- The Shropshire Hills
- Powis Castle



Start from Knighton, head over the hills to the Clun Valley. From here on to Montgomery and Welshpool.

The first 2 days are hilly over the 'switchbacks'. There are great views, and the route passes some of the best preserved sections of the Dyke. Spend a night in the pretty town of Montgomery, then on to Welshpool with chance to visit Powis Castle. 8 - 10 miles a day.

**Accommodation** - B&Bs, pub, hotel

**Arrival** - Stations at Knighton and Welshpool.

## Holiday includes

- Accommodation, breakfast (based on two sharing)
- Detailed routes, maps, background information
- Luggage transport and full support
- Transfer if required from station or parking

## Offa's Dyke, Clwydian Hills

3 nights/4 days or 4 nights/4 days

Moderate

## Highlights

- Llangollen and river Dee
- Pontcysyllte aqueduct
- Clwydian Hills
- Castle Dinas Bran



Follow the northern part of Offa's Dyke path along the Clwydian hills from the market town of Llangollen to Bodfari or Prestatyn. This break has lovely hill walking with views to Snowdonia and the sea. Cross the famous Pontcysyllte aqueduct, Castle Dinas Bran on the hillside above Llangollen. From Llandegla follow the Clwydian range, up Moel Famau and on to Bodfari.

Walk 8 -10 miles a day. There are some pick-ups from the path as accommodation on the path is scarce. The 3 night break can be extended by a night to walk the 12 miles to the end of the Offa's Dyke in Prestatyn.

**Accommodation** - B&Bs and pub.

**Arrival** - Stations Ruabon nr Llangollen and Prestatyn.

## Holiday includes

- Accommodation, breakfast (based on two sharing)
- Detailed routes, maps, background information
- Luggage transport and full support
- Transfer if required from station or parking



# A Service for Independent Walkers

Accommodation booking and luggage service - use our experience and knowledge of the area to help you plan your walk



## Use our knowledge and experience of the area to help you plan your walk

A flexible accommodation booking and luggage service for independent walkers. Use our experience of organising walking holidays and knowledge of the trail walks, without having to book a fully 'packaged' walking holiday. We

- help walkers plan walks around the walking distance you want to do and accommodation
- make accommodation bookings and payments
- Make arrangements for packed lunches and evening meals (in more remote areas)
- arrange for your luggage to be transferred allowing you to enjoy a stress free walking holiday.
- give detailed directions from the path to where you stay

Tell us how far you want to walk, whether you want a rest day, whether you want to walk the whole trail or just part of it and any other particular requirements you may have - including walking with dogs.

We visit all accommodation and have carefully selected the farms, guest houses, pubs and hotels we use. They are all places we would be happy to stay ourselves and are comfortable and welcome walkers. Almost all rooms have ensuite or private bathrooms (very occasionally in remote areas this isn't possible). Our standard price is for farms, pubs and guest houses, but we also have a number of lovely hotels along the routes should you want to upgrade some nights.

Walking maps and walking guide books trail guide books are not included in the package but are sold separately. We can also help with travel arrangements, including; parking and taxis to and from stations.

For walkers preferring to organise their own walking holidays and making their own accommodation arrangements we can arrange luggage transfer only. For a luggage transfer price, please contact us to discuss your requirements.

## Offa's Dyke Path

This 177 mile walk is one of the National Trails. It is a varied and interesting walk which follows the original Offa's Dyke, built by King Offa in the 8th century to mark the border between Wales and England.

Walk from Chepstow on the Severn estuary, to Prestatyn on the North Wales coast. The trail offers varied walking and scenery with views over some of the most spectacular mountains and valleys in Wales. It passes through many interesting towns and villages, and in parts you can see parts of the original 8th century Offa's Dyke earthworks.

Highlights of the walk include the Wye Valley, Tintern Abbey, the Black mountains, Shropshire Hills, Powys and Chirk Castles and the Clwydian Hills.

There are many pleasant villages and towns you pass through including Hay on Wye (famous for its bookshops), Knighton (with Offa's Dyke Centre), Welshpool and Llangollen - all lovely for a rest day.

We can organise your walk in either direction. There are stations at Chepstow, Knighton, Welshpool and Prestatyn.





## Glyndwr's Way

This 135 mile walk is named after Owain Glyndwr, a legendary Welsh nobleman who led a successful revolt against English domination in 1401. The newest of the National Trails it starts in Knighton on the English/Welsh border, crosses the hills of mid Wales to Machynlleth and heads east to finish in Welshpool. You can also add a section of Offa's Dyke path from Welshpool to Knighton in order to complete the loop.

This is a walk through beautiful remote areas, and is suitable for more experienced walkers. It is an ideal walking holiday for those wanting to get away from the crowds and experience solitude. You will not meet many other walkers! The trail passes over moorland, rolling farmland, woodlands and forest areas with fabulous countryside and views over to the mountains of Snowdonia including Cader Idris.

Highlights include towns of Knighton, Llanidloes and Machynlleth with the Owain Glyndwr Centre. Visit Powis Castle, many lakes including Lake Vyrnwy as well the wild and remote countryside. There is abundant wildlife including buzzards and red kites.

The route is fully waymarked. We can organise your walk in either direction. There are stations at Knighton, Machynlleth and Welshpool.

## Shropshire Way

The Shropshire Way, recently relaunched with a new guide book, is a varied walk through beautiful unspoilt countryside. There is a southern and northern loop, both starting from the lovely market town of Shrewsbury.

The southern loop includes bracing hill sections in the Shropshire Hills and Long Mynd and gentler, pastoral walking in the valleys. The walk visits Shrewsbury, Bishop's Castle, Clun, Ludlow, Clee Hills, World Heritage Site at Ironbridge, Stokesay and Ludlow Castles, Wenlock Priory and Bury Ditches hill fort.

The northern section is a contrast to the Shropshire Hills and takes you along the canals, and past the meres and mosses of north Shropshire. The Mosses Nature Reserve is an important area for birdlife and rare plants.

The route is well waymarked. There are stations in Shrewsbury, Church Stretton, Ludlow and Wem

*"We appreciated the attention to detail and friendly service"*

Fiona W



## Ribble Way

The 71 mile Ribble Way walk begins at Longton on the salt marshes near Preston, goes up river to Clitheroe. It then climbs onto higher ground on the Lancashire border and continues to the river source in Yorkshire on Cam Fell in North Yorkshire.

The Ribble Valley has an interesting history with Roman influence, ancient abbeys, and landmarks from the Industrial Revolution. Highlights include Roman remains and the museum at Ribchester, Sawley Abbey founded by Cistercian monks in 1147, the market town of Settle and the famous Ribblehead viaduct.

The Ribble valley is well known for good food and pubs. The route is fully waymarked with the Ribble way logo making it easy to follow.

There are stations at each end - at Preston and Ribblehead. There are also other stations along the route .



*"Thank you for organising the accommodation and luggage transfer for our Offa's Dyke holiday. We really appreciate the hard work and effort that went into the arrangements and had a fabulous time!" AS & GP*





*"all accommodation was fabulous, friendly and interesting"* **Nicky A**

## Wales Coast Path

The Wales Coast Path follows the fabulous coastline from South Wales, all the way up to Chester in the north. The Welsh coast offers fabulous coastal walking with tiny fishing villages, clifftop walks, unspoilt beaches as well as wonderful wildlife.

We provide a flexible accommodation booking and luggage service along the following sections of the Wales Coast Path. All can be organised in any direction.

## Pembrokeshire Coast Path

The 185 mile Pembrokeshire Coast Path follows the fabulous West Wales coastline from St Dogmaels in the north to Amroth in the south. Pembrokeshire beaches have been voted the 2nd best in the world by the National Geographic. The Pembrokeshire Coast Path, one of the National Trails has also been voted one of the best long distance walks in the world, ahead of the Inca Trail.

This walk passes through little fishing villages, and offers magnificent clifftop walking, unspoilt beaches, islands and plenty of wildlife including dolphins, puffins and seals. Highlights include the small city of St Davids with the cathedral and ruined chapel of St Nons, lovely fishing villages like St Dogmaels, Newport, Solva, Dale and Little Haven. There are Castles in Pembroke and Manorbier, and the beautiful lily ponds at Bosherton. There are many fabulous beaches including at Whitesands, Newgale, Marloes Sands.

Stations at Kilgetty, Pembroke, Fishguard.

## Meirionnydd Coast Path

The Meirionnydd Coast Path is one of the wilder, more remote sections of the Wales Coast Path, on the edge of the Snowdonia National Park. There are plenty of sites of historical interest, including standing stones, castles, small churches and iron age hill forts. The lovely coastal walk passes through small fishing villages, wide sandy beaches and estuaries, with views over Cader Idris. The route takes you from Machynlleth to Porthmadog. We can arrange this holiday in either direction.

Highlights along the walk include Portmerion, Harlech Castle, the lovely Mawddach estuary and the towns of Machynlleth and Aberdyfi. There is plenty of wildlife, including many species of birds.

Stations at Machynlleth and Porthmadog

## Anglesey Coastal Path

A 125 mile circular walk with some of the finest coastal scenery in Wales, much of it an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The Anglesey Coast Path crosses wide estuaries, sandy dunes, cliffs and rolling farmland with fantastic views to Snowdonia and Llyn Peninsula. On clear days you can see as far as the Isle of Man and Irish mountains.

Highlights include villages of Cemaes and Moelfre; views from Holyhead Mountain (the highest point on Anglesey), Thomas Telford's Suspension Bridge (1st large iron suspension bridge) South Stack Lighthouse, Church of St Cadwaladr, Penmon Prior, Beaumaris with its castle, Jacobean courthouse and Victorian gaol. There is abundant wildlife, including many sea birds and seals and you may be lucky enough to see dolphins. Stations - Holyhead, Llanfair PG, Bangor.



## North Wales Coast Path

The 90 mile North Wales Coastal Path runs from Caernarfon, alongside the Menai Strait, through the coastal villages and towns of North Wales, along the Dee estuary, to the outskirts of Chester. There is abundant birdlife along the salt marshes of the Dee estuary, lovely sandy beaches and the path is mostly easy walking. There are a couple of inland alternative more hilly routes between Conwy and Llanfairfechan and also near to Ffynnonogyw near Prestatyn.

Highlights of the walk include the lovely towns of Conwy with its castle, independent shops and narrow streets, the Victorian seaside town of Llandudno with its pier and the Great Orme, and Caernarfon, with its imposing Castle. There are stations in Bangor and Chester as well as several places along the coast

### Our service includes:

- Help planning your holiday around the distances you want to walk
- Accommodation bookings and payments
- Help with evening meal & packed lunch arrangements
- Directions to B&Bs from the paths
- Luggage transfer each day



# More Information

## Accommodation

At the end of a days activity, a warm welcome, comfortable bed and good food are essential. Over the years we have found many special places to stay. Whether you prefer a quiet farmhouse, country pub or hotel with good food or luxury country house hotel we have found the best places to stay along our routes. We inspect accommodation regularly, and insist on high standards. We pay a great deal of attention to customer feedback which helps us ensure that accommodation standards are high.

All holidays include bed and breakfast; some walking holidays include a packed lunch. Evening meals are not included as we find people prefer to make their own arrangements. Most accommodation is in villages with choice of places to eat in the evening and we provide advice about the best options. Farmhouses can be a distance from villages but all accommodation (except for some of the trail walking holidays, where evening meals are provided) is close to at least one good pub and somewhere to eat in the evening.

Our accommodation options are flexible. If you would like to stay in a selection, sampling the best, (perhaps a night in a quiet, farmhouse, another in a country house hotel) give us a call and we can suggest the best options for you on the holiday you select.



## Do I need to be fit to go on a cycling or walking holiday?

You do not need to be super-fit to enjoy one of our holidays, they are pleasurable - not an endurance test! Routes are graded so there is something for all abilities. You have all day to go at your own pace so one of the gentle holiday options is easily manageable for most people. If you do not cycle or walk regularly it is a good idea to do some preparation before you begin. If you are reasonably fit then the moderate distances should be fine. Please contact us if you would like guidance on selecting the most suitable holiday.

## Bikes and Equipment

We hire in quality hybrid bikes if you don't want to bring your own bike on holiday. These are at home on bridleways, towpaths and country lanes. We can also hire children's trailer bikes and buggies, and can arrange electric bike hire in some areas.

A safety helmet, bike lock, gel seat cover, and handle bar bag are provided with each bike and a tool kit per group. Bikes have 'puncture resistant' tyres. Many people prefer to bring your own bikes and we offer discounts if you choose to do this.

## Families

Cycling or walking is an ideal family holiday provided the right distances are chosen for the younger ones in the party. Many routes are manageable by older children and gentle cycling holidays with daily distances of 10 - 15 miles are suitable for younger children. One centre holidays are good for families - they are flexible and you don't have to cycle or walk every day. We find children are generally happier on their own bikes which they are familiar with.

Please ask us for advice on what might suit your family best. We offer discounts for children sharing rooms with parents on all breaks.

## Tailor-made Holidays and Groups

While we offer a wide range of holidays many people do not find exactly what they are looking for. We arrange many individually tailored holidays including alterations to holidays featured in the brochure through to completely tailored personal itineraries.

We can also cater for larger groups and at several of the one centre bases we can offer very competitive dinner, bed and breakfast breaks.







## How do I book?

- To check availability, or if you have any questions or do not find exactly what you want, please email us at [info@byways-breaks.co.uk](mailto:info@byways-breaks.co.uk) or call us on +44 (0)151 722 8050.
- Complete the enclosed booking form indicating the dates you require. Please return the form along with a deposit payment of £50 pp for breaks up to 4 nights and £50 pp for breaks over 4 nights.
- Payments can be made by Credit or Debit Card, Cheque or International Bankers Order in GB pounds (£). We do not take payment over the internet. Please note we do make a 1% charge for Credit Cards, (there is no charge for debit cards or cheques). You can also transfer direct into our bank account. Please contact us for our bank details.
- Once we have received your deposit payment we will confirm your booking with details of where you will be staying. We will also send an invoice showing the balance outstanding and date on which it is due. You must ensure your holiday is paid in full 6 weeks prior to your departure date. Once we receive full payment a final booking confirmation will be sent to you. Your holiday pack will be sent out to you one to two weeks before your holiday.

## How do I get there?

Cheshire, Shropshire and the Welsh borders have good road (M6, M56 and M54) and rail links. Most holidays are easily accessible by train and there are stations in Chester, Shrewsbury, Whitchurch as well as other local stations. London is only 2 hours by train from Chester. Leeds and Sheffield are also about 2 hours. If booking in advance there are many cheap ticket offers.

Manchester airport is 45 minutes from Chester and Liverpool airport is less than 40 minutes. Airport transfers can be arranged.

On walking and cycling holidays come by car and we will arrange parking for you. If you come by train we will collect you from the nearest local station and take you to your first nights accommodation. Detailed instructions on how to get to the start of your holiday will be sent to you in your holiday information pack.

For walkers using the Accommodation Booking and Luggage Service on trail walks, there are accessible stations on Offa's Dyke, Pembrokeshire Coast Path, Glyndwr's Way, Anglesey Coastal Path, North Wales Coast Path, Shropshire Way, and Ribble Way. We can help with advice on parking arrangements on these walks and also book taxis to collect you from stations. Please email or give us a call and we can help you.



Thanks to Visit Chester and Cheshire, Cheshire East and Cheshire West, Visit Wales and Shropshire Tourism who provided some of the photographs.

*Byways Breaks*  
WALKING & CYCLING

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