



Offa's Dyke Path

14-day Self-Guided Walking Tour

Officially opened in 1971, this long-distance path follows an earthwork of much greater antiquity. Built by King Offa of Mercia in the 8th century, Offa's Dyke formed the ancient frontier between England and Wales. There are no border skirmishes these days, but you'll find miles of quiet, uninterrupted countryside, stunning upland scenery and a plethora of wildlife. Market towns and cultural heritage sites are dotted along the route and you'll encounter the Severn and Wye Rivers as the path winds southwards from Denbighshire to Monmouthshire.

Please note: Although our route description runs North to South, we're also very happy to arrange a holiday starting in Chepstow for those who prefer to walk northwards.

Day 1

Prestatyn to Bodfari - 11 miles (18 km)

Leaving Liverpool Bay and the coast, the route heads inland through Denbighshire on the first day.

Day 2

Bodfari to Clwyd Gate - 13 miles (21 km)

A more challenging day today as you cross the Clwydian Hills but ample recompense in the form of wonderful views and a number of Iron Age hill-forts to explore.

Day 3

Clwyd Gate to Llangollen - 14 miles (22 km)

Down from the hills and through the conifer forests to Llangollen. Don't miss Plas Newydd, a beautiful black-and-white timbered building at the heart of this charming town.



Day 4

Llangollen to Craig Nant - 10 ½ miles (17 km)

Craggy limestone cliffs replace the gentle hills today, as the path heads south past Dinas Bran Castle and on to a highlight of Offa's Dyke – the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct. A thousand feet in length and 126 feet above the River Dee, this is one section of the walk you will not forget!

Day 5

Craig Nant to Llanymynech - 11 miles (18 km)

Chirk Castle makes a worthwhile detour today. A 700-year old fortress surrounded by a medieval hunting park, you can enjoy views over nine counties from the roof.

Day 6

Llanymynech to Buttington - 10 ½ miles (17 km)

The path now crossed a flat plain and follows the Tir-y-Mynach Embankment for several miles, making for easy walking and good views as you travel southwards to the town of Welshpool.

Day 7

Buttington to Brompton Crossroads - 12 ½ miles (20 km)

Leaving the River Severn, there's stiff climb to the Beacon Ring Hill Fort before the gradient eases as you cross the Plain of Montgomery.



Day 8

Brompton Crossroads to Knighton - 14 ½ miles (23 km)

Cross the ancient drovers' road, the Kerry Ridgeway today, which has survived almost intact for centuries in this unspoilt corner of the Marches. Pretty villages lie en route, before an exhilarating stretch onto Llanfair Hill. The dyke itself is well-preserved on this airy section of the path, which leads down to Knighton, the "Town on the Dyke".

Day 9

Knighton to Kington - 13 ½ miles (22 km)

Spectacular views and lovely walking across springy turf as you continue through the county of Powys. A stiff climb up Hawthorn Hill gives you a good excuse to pause to watch the once-endangered Red Kite, a striking bird of prey.

Day 10

Kington to Hay-on-Wye - 14 ½ miles (23 km)

More great scenery as the route heads down to the Wye Valley through an area of atmospheric conifer woods known as Bettws Dingle. End the day by sampling the delights of Hay-on-Wye, the world-famous book town. Hay is well appointed making it a great choice for a rest day.



Day 11

Hay on Wye to Longtown/Llanthony - 12 ½ miles (20 km)

A strenuous but very scenic day through the Black Mountains, beginning with a climb up to Hay Bluff and the Gospel Pass – Wales' highest motorable road.

Wonderful views of the Wye Valley and the ruins of 11th century Llanthony Priory, deep in the quiet Vale of Ewyas.



Tour summary

Duration	14 days
Distance	177 miles (285 km)
Grading	Strenuous
Price	£875 per person based on 2 people sharing a twin/double room. Contact us for sole traveller/single occupancy rates.
Meals	Cooked breakfast included. Packed lunches & evening meals can be arranged on your behalf, if required.
Options	Add an extra night at any stage of the tour, prices from £40pp per night.

Remember, this itinerary is just the starting point.

Please contact us if you have any special requirements and we will be happy to tailor the tour to suit you.

Day 12

Longtown/Llanthony to White Castle - 13 miles (21 km)

Easier walking as you leave Powys and enter the gentler landscapes of Monmouthshire, skirting north of Abergavenny. It's an area rich in castles and quaint villages.



Day 13

White Castle to Redbrook - 15 miles (24 km)

Walk through the heart of the Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) today, with spectacular craggy limestone cliffs and dense woodland which is carpeted with flowers in the spring. It's a good chance to spot bird life and even otters at the water's edge.



Day 14

Redbrook to Sedbury Cliffs – 14 ½ miles (23 km)

The route passes close Tintern Abbey (you can take a detour if you wish to visit the monastic ruins) before continuing on to Chepstow with its fine, 11th century castle.

