



**Collett's**  
MOUNTAIN HOLIDAYS

## PEAK DISTRICT EXPLORER

DISCOVER THE PEAKS ON A SERIES OF STUNNING SMALL GROUP WALKS

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# Peak District Explorer

## The Facts

This centre-based walking break is the perfect Peak District adventure. We stay at the George Hotel in Hathersage, nestled beneath the iconic Stanage Edge alongside the River Derwent. It is the ideal springboard for the many wonders of the central Peak District. Straddling both the 'Dark' and 'White' Peak, we will explore vibrant moorland, rolling dales and lofty gritstone edges. This is a hillwalker's dream over hill, through dale and punctuated by quaint villages, classic summits, plus the occasional majestic country estate. If you love the flexible Collett's centre-based formula in Europe, this break is for you. Choose daily whether to join an easier moderate walk, a classic 'crowd-pleaser' if you like; or opt for the adventure of a harder longer trek. Each evening join us in the bar at 'Office Hour.' Over maps and a relaxing pre-dinner drink with our hosts, choose your walk for the next day. Then, with everything sorted, you can enjoy a 3 course dinner with us and other guests before a well-earned sleep!

## Accommodation

The George Hotel in Hathersage is on an old packhorse route between Castleton and Sheffield. It is some 600 years old and has been welcoming passing trade for centuries. With a warm atmosphere and a welcoming bar, it is easy to unwind here after a stimulating day on foot. Delicious dinners from an award-winning kitchen will be a fondly remembered part of your stay.

## Terrain

This route varies from well-trodden woodland paths to open moorland and bridleways. As is normal in the UK, there are some sections along country roads and through towns and villages. Naturally, in the Peak District a certain level of hiking experience and a reasonable level of fitness are essential. Weather conditions can change quickly in this part of the world, so being well-prepared on a daily basis can make all the difference to your holiday.

## Guided Walks

The aim each day is to offer two guided walks – one easier than the other. To do this we have handpicked two guides – each of whom will offer a different walk each day. However, in order to keep group sizes nice and small, most guides tend to limit their numbers to 10-12 people. With this in mind, we recognise that we will need a minimum of 4 people to sign up to each walk to ensure both walks can take place. In any event, once the group is together, there will be ways of making satisfactory contingency plans. We are confident that at least 4 guests will want to do the harder option on any given day, so both walks should venture out as planned – but it is important that you are aware of this 'group size' matter at the time of booking.

## Dates & Prices

5-10 September &

12-17 September 2021

These walking breaks run Sunday-Friday

Standard - £650 per person

Superior - £725 per person

*Prices are per person and based on two people sharing a twin or double room.*

*Single rooms are available at The George during our second week (12-17th September) and whilst single occupancy of a double room is always possible, it works out to be rather expensive (£300+). Sorry!*

## Included in the price

- 5 nights half board accommodation at the George Hotel, Hathersage
- Picnic lunches on all walk days
- Daily choice of two guided walks:
  - One classic, moderate walk
  - One harder, longer and more challenging trek
- Office Hour - *guarantee yourselves a succession of unforgettable days out at a sociable, pre-dinner gathering with us and other guests. Sign up for the walk of your choice and enjoy your evenings with everything sorted for the following day.*

## Not included in the price

- Travel – to and from Hathersage
- Local Transport – to and from walks, if required
- Admission – to Chatsworth House & Gardens
- Drinks & snacks – and all other extras
- Insurance

# Itinerary

The itineraries below are purely indicative, and do not guarantee that a given route will be offered on a given day, or indeed at all. These are very much the routes we plan to offer but the exact routes are always subject to change depending on the weather and ultimately of course the overall ability of participants.

## Day 1, Sunday – Arrive in Hathersage & Settle In

Guests are welcome to arrive at The George any time after 4pm. The hotel has ample parking. Unpack and settle in. If you arrive early perhaps take a short stroll along the river, or plan ahead and book a session in the local outdoor swimming pool! That evening, we will welcome everybody, brief you all on the planned itineraries for the following day and be on hand to answer any questions during the evening. A sumptuous 3 course dinner will then be served.

## Day 2, Monday – Padley Gorge & Surprise View, or Bamford & Stanage Edges

### **The Easier Moderate Option - Padley Gorge & Surprise View (12.5km, 265m ascent/descent)**

This walk starts from the door with a gentle amble through fields and woodland alongside the River Derwent. With an abundance of wildlife and flowers, it is a relaxed and pleasant start to the day. Then we bear north and climb through the ancient woodland of Padley Gorge. Making our way towards the Longshaw Estate with its newly-refurbished cafe, there should be time for a cuppa and maybe a cheeky flapjack? We forge on across open moorland towards Surprise View and Millstone Edge, where we are rewarded with a heartwarming panorama of the Derwent Valley. A steady descent will lead us back to Hathersage and the welcoming comforts of the George Hotel.

### **The Harder Option- Bamford & Stanage Edges (15.3km, 405m ascent/descent) The Harder Option**

A short climb out of Hathersage through farmland gives us fabulous views up towards Mam Tor and Castleton. Soon we will leave the farmland behind and venture out onto wilder open moorland, as we skirt along Bamford Edge. Our reward is an amazing view across the Ladybower reservoir. We venture to the higher reaches of the Derwent Valley beyond, a favourite Peak District spot for local photographers. Climbing higher still, we reach the iconic Stanage Edge before a gentle descent returns us to picturesque Hathersage.

## Day 3, Tuesday – Mam Tor & Rushup Edge, or The Edal Skyline

### **The Easier Moderate Option - Mam Tor, Hollins Cross & Rushup Edge (12.7km, 430m ascent/descent)**

After a short bus ride to Castleton, there is time to have a look around this quaint village famed for its Blue John caverns. We start the walk by climbing up through Cave Dale along the Limestone Way. The path then ascends Mam Tor, where panoramic views will surely bring us to a temporary standstill. Then we make our way along the distinctive and undulating Rushup Edge, passing Hollins Cross and onto Lose Hill. A steady descent brings us down to the village of Hope, where there might be time for a well-earned drink before catching a bus back to Hathersage.

### **The Harder Option - The Edale Skyline (16.4km, 515m ascent/descent)**

After a short train ride through the Hope Valley to Edale, this walk begins at the start of the Pennine Way, Britain's oldest long distance footpath. This trail follows up to the watershed that divides England into East and West. Following the flagstones along the spine of the Pennines, the route passes Brown Knoll and onto Rushup Edge, a favoured launching spot for local paragliding enthusiasts, before reaching Mam Tor, the Great Ridge and Hollins Cross. After a steady descent back into the valley, we take a train ride back to Hathersage.

## Day 4, Wednesday – Chatsworth & Surrounds

**Today we provide you with as much – or as little – time as you wish to visit the Chatsworth Estate.** The choice is yours. You can either plump for an easy stroll on the level into Chatsworth from Baslow -this will ensure you have plenty of time to explore both the house, gardens and wider estate; or you can choose a longer, circular option which includes Chatsworth along the way, before heading back to Baslow.

### **The Easier Moderate Option The Chatsworth Estate (10.0km, 175m ascent/descent)**

A short bus journey takes us to Baslow, where a footpath provides walkers with access to the Chatsworth estate, ultimately meandering towards 'The Palace of the Peak'. Time permitting, we can explore the estate, ascending to the Hunting Tower, which stands guard above the house. Our reward is splendid views over the estate. From here we can wander through Stand Wood and past both the Emperor and Swiss Lakes, which send water down to the gardens below, bringing to life the cascade and main fountain. We descend to the house before a short stroll brings us back to Baslow and the bus back to Hathersage.

### **The Harder Option - Gardom's Edge & The Hunting Tower (11.7km, 250m ascent/descent)**

We climb up from Baslow in search of the Wellington Monument on Baslow Edge, before sweeping south towards Chatsworth along Gardom's Edge. This is a site of archaeological significance, accommodating a petroglyph and bronze-aged sundial dating back to 2000 BC. After crossing open moorland, we enter the Chatsworth Estate along Dobbs Edge to reach the Hunting Tower high above the grounds with panoramic views of the splendid surroundings. If time permits, we make a descent in order to visit the house and gardens. Or we can extend our walk in the estate above Chatsworth House, by following a similar loop to the easier option.

## Day 5, Thursday – The Gritstone Edges, or Dambusters' Circular

### **The Gritstone Edges (12.2km, 170m ascent, 375m descent) The Easier Moderate Option**

We take a short bus ride to access a path that climbs gently onto Stanage Edge. There are wonderful views all day as our route hugs the gritstone edges above the Derwent Valley. Eventually, we cross wild open moorland towards Burbage Edge and onto Higger Tor, including the ancient Iron Age settlement of Carl Wark. It's a gentle descent back into Hathersage.

### **The Dambuster's Circular (17.9km, 550m ascent/descent) The Harder Option**

Starting from the Ladybower Inn, we climb through open moorland, as magnificent views across the upper Derwent Valley unfold before us. Continues along Derwent Edge, we pass the Coach & Horses rock formation on our way to Back Tor, the highest point of the day. The route then plunges towards the valley floor, to the foot of the imposing Derwent Dam, where the Dambusters of WW2 fame made many a practice run. Some welcome refreshment awaits us at Fairholmes before an ascent to Hagg Farm, crossing open fields as it drops back towards Ladybower bridge and – we regret to say – the end of our week's walking.

## Day 6, Friday – Departure

**Onward Travel** – Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before you check out and head home. But if the Peak District has won you over, take a look at our self-guided walking breaks in the Peaks, For example, our Peak District Southern Loop explores the southern peaks and visits the historic spa town of Buxton.



