



Introduction

Staying at the three star graded Wooler Youth Hostel on the edge of the Northumberland National Park, Walk Northumbria Guides and Northumberland National Park Rangers will offer three walks each day and a night walk on the Saturday. Sharing their knowledge and enthusiasm for the cultural heritage of the area, they will introduce you to the Cheviot Hills and beyond.

Your Weekend starts with arrival on the Friday evening followed by introductory talk and audio visual presentation "Northumberland - England's Border County". Three guided walks will be available on the Saturday with the option of a bookable night walk. The walks will be repeated on the Sunday giving you the option of selecting a different guide with a different tale to tell. Your last evening (Sunday) can be spent around the fire listening to entertainment provided by local Northumbrian Musicians. You depart after breakfast on the Monday morning.

Provisional Programme

Friday 13th November

Earliest arrival time	4pm
Pre-booked evening meal	7pm
Welcome and Introductions	8.30pm

Peter McEwen	Walk Northumbria Guide
Richard Holmes	Walk Northumbria Guide

Followed by audio visual presentation
“Northumberland - England’s Border County”

Saturday 14th November

Pre-booked breakfast	8am
Assemble for walks 9.15am	departing 9.30am
Walks return	4-4.30pm
Pre-booked evening meal	6.30pm
Night walk assembles	8pm

Sunday 15th November

Pre-booked breakfast –	8am
Assemble for walks 9.15am	departing 9.30am
Walks return	4-4.30pm
Pre-booked evening meal	6.30pm
Northumbrian Music around the Fire	7.30pm
An evening of music provided by local musicians.	

Monday 16th November

Pre-booked breakfast	8am
Depart before 11am please	

Who are your Guides?

Peter McEwen - founded **Walk Northumbria** in 2002

Peter has over 30 years experience of walking in Northumberland and Scotland, and has also walked in America, Canada, Switzerland, France and Poland. He began leading Guided Walks for the Northumberland National Park in 1987. It is estimated that in his 22 years of leading walks that he has walked in excess of 20,000 miles in Northumberland.

Peter holds a Mountain Leadership Certificate issued by The Scottish National Sports Centre, having taken his training and assessment at Glenmore Lodge, Aviemore as well as a British Red Cross First Aid at Work Certificate - Health and Safety Executive Approved. Until recently he was an active call-out member of the Northumberland National Park Mountain Rescue Team for which he was the recipient of The Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal.

Richard Holmes

Richard is an experienced walker and Northumberland National Park Voluntary Ranger, who until recently was Leader of the Northumberland National Park Mountain Rescue Team. He was also a recipient of The Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal.

His academic and field teaching interests include Meteorology, Geomorphology and Geology. He currently trains Voluntary Rangers and Long Distance Path Volunteers in hill skills, navigation, incident management and first aid as he is also a qualified First Aid Instructor.

Richard has been guiding walks for several years and currently guides in his own right as well as guiding for Walk Northumbria as a Guest Guide. He has recently guided several journalists on visits to Northumberland.

The Walks

Peter's walk on Saturday and Sunday will be in the region of 17km with a total height gain of about 725m over undulating terrain to the south/west of the Youth Hostel – starting from the Hostel front door. Peter normally tells a story on his guided walks and he has selected for his theme this weekend the “History of the Landscape – the Inhabitants” His route will include Gains Law (319m), Yeavinger Bell (361m) and Humbleton Hill (298m) all sites of ancient habitation.

Richard's walk on Saturday and Sunday will be approximately a six hour, 16 kilometre (10 miles) circular walk direct from the front door of Wooler Youth Hostel into the Cheviot's south and west of Wooler. The focus of the walk will be the evolving history of the physical landscape from the time of the Cheviot volcano to the present, including the changes caused by the “recent” ice age. The route includes extensive views eastwards towards the coast, north into Scotland and west towards the Cheviot massif. The more familiar human landscape based on hill farming, plantation forestry and outdoor pursuits (from hill walking to grouse shooting – there is even an active gliding site in clear view on the Milfield Plain) will also form part of the interpretation. This undulating route involves a total of 450 metres (1476ft) of ascent overall.

The National Park Ranger walk will be lead by the Ranger on duty over the weekend and will be shorter for those who prefer a less strenuous walk; details will be available on the Friday evening.

A Walk in the Dark A short night walk on Saturday (approximately 5km/3 ml and 212m/500ft of ascent) from the hostel out onto the hill just before the new moon (so little or no natural illumination) to provide people with a taste of walking at night. The route includes easy footpaths and tracks over pastureland, through woodland and out onto open moorland to experience the different terrains. Come and try night navigation, use different senses, experiment with night vision and, if the sky is clear, view the night sky, spot a shooting star or even a satellite. A head torch is ideal but the usual hand torch from the bottom of your rucksack will do. Most people use far too much illumination and destroy their precious night vision – come and find out how to move safely at night.

What do you need for the walks?

You should come equipped for “Walking in Northumbrian Hills”. Boots and warm waterproof clothing are essential together with hat, gloves and rucksack. We would also hope that you would carry a small personal first aid kit, flask for a hot drink, bottle of water and a packed lunch. For participation on the night walk – a head torch with spare batteries, it does not have to be an expensive one and a hand torch would suffice if you do not have a head torch. If you like to follow the routes on a map the one to bring would be OS Outdoor Leisure 1 – 25,000 Sheet 16 The Cheviot Hills and if it is not a waterproof version a map case would be useful. Need we mention a change of clothing for the evenings?!