

Press Release

January 2014

Winter walks and 'beat the blues' breaks in Wiltshire



Walking in Wiltshire's peaceful, glorious countryside will show you rural England at its very best. And, with over 8,000 paths and almost half the county designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, walking in Wiltshire has never been better.

[VisitWiltshire](#) has compiled a roundup of Wiltshire's walking highlights, good food and accommodation options – the perfect combination for a short 'beat the blues' break in the county this month.

Stunning winter walks

- Following a route used since prehistoric times by travellers and said to be Britain's oldest road, [the Ridgeway](#) passes through downland, secluded valleys and woodland. The trail takes in the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty – one of three which the county boasts – and the hugely important site of Avebury, the largest stone circle in the world
- England's most southerly cross-country canal, the [Kennet and Avon Canal](#) is Wiltshire's main waterway and runs for 87 miles across the centre of the county. A walk along the towpath is also a great excuse to visit two of Wiltshire's hidden gems situated on the canal: the bustling market town of [Devizes](#), and the picturesque Saxon town of [Bradford on Avon](#)
- Try out one of the exciting new circular walking routes in the beautiful [Nadder Valley](#) region of the Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). All 11 routes have been designed with pubs, community shops and tea-rooms en route which make the trail perfect for a great day out!

- If you're looking to venture off the beaten path, consider a guided walking break with the award-winning [Alison Howell's Foot Trails](#). With extensive local knowledge provided and accommodation and meals included, their winter warmer packages are the perfect choice for a Wiltshire walking break to beat the blues; 2 nights from £199 per person
- Those planning a self-guided walking break or tailor-made walking tour around the county should also check out [Footpath Holidays](#), a family-run operator of walking holidays in the West Wiltshire Downs that has been operating for over 30 years
- There are, of course, many more fantastic routes around the county, including the circular [Salisbury Country Way](#), the [Thames Path](#) and the [Mid Wilts Way](#). For more information, visit: <http://www.visitwiltshire.co.uk/things-to-do/outdoor-activities/walks>

Award-winning pubs and good grub

What better way to relax after a long winter walk than with some fine food in one of Wiltshire's many award-winning pubs? There are plenty to choose from – from hidden gems to Michelin-starred treasures. Some of VisitWiltshire's top picks include:

- The [Dove Inn](#) is a delightful country tucked away in the beautiful village of Corton. Offering an award-winning menu and locally-sourced produce, the inn is just a stone's throw from Warminster and conveniently located for Longleat and Stonehenge
- Ideally situated for Devizes, walks on the Salisbury Plains and a number of historic sites, the [Green Dragon Inn](#) offers great food and Cask Marque-approved Wadworth Ales – not to mention a roaring log fire during the cold winter months
- An ideal stop-off for cyclists and ramblers in the Savernake Forest and those travelling along the Kennet & Avon Canal, head to [The Three Tuns](#) in Great Bedwyn for delicious homemade food and local ales
- [The Lamb at Hindon](#) oozes character and winter warmth. Part of the Boisdale Group, the food is traditional and warming and is a true retreat from any inclement weather. The tables next to the dramatic fireplace are a must

Where to stay

- Conveniently located for Swindon, Marlborough and the Ridgeway path, [Chiseldon House Hotel](#) is an elegant Grade II listed Georgian building that offers the perfect blend of upmarket style and comfort in the heart of the Wiltshire countryside. Double rooms from £80 including breakfast

- Trying out the Salisbury Country Way? Rest up in the beautiful [Grasmere House Hotel](#), situated on the outskirts of the city and on the banks of the Rivers Avon and Nadder. Winter warmer breaks available through to 31st March; two nights' accommodation including tea on arrival and a three-course dinner on the first night is £165.50 for two people
- Enjoying a beautiful rural location, the recently-opened [Meadowbank House](#) – near Swindon – offers the perfect setting for walkers, with a number of footpaths and the Ridgeway National Trail on its doorstep. Double rooms from £50 per night including breakfast
- Set in a quiet hamlet just outside the historic market town of Devizes, [Southdown B&B](#) offers a very warm welcome and a comfortable stay – and is particularly well suited for walkers, with a footpath running past the house which leads to the canal and town centre, and a short walk from Roundway Down and the Devizes Millennium White Horse. Double rooms from £79 including breakfast

For more suggestions, route guides and information to help plan a 'beat the blues' break in Wiltshire, visit: www.visitwiltshire.co.uk

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NOTE TO PRESS – PRESS TRIP SUGGESTION

If you would be interested in an overnight stay in Wiltshire to explore what the county has to offer it has to offer, we would love to host you on a dinner, B&B basis. We can also help create a two day itinerary if needed. If you are interested please contact Sophy, Callum or Josh as below.

For further information please contact:

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VisitWiltshire

VisitWiltshire Ltd was established in August 2011 and is the official Tourist Board for Wiltshire. It is a private sector membership organisation representing over 530 members. VisitWiltshire's priority is to grow the county's Visitor Economy by raising awareness of the destination and generating additional tourism visits and spend. Wiltshire's Visitor Economy currently generates an estimated £1billion and supports over 21,000 jobs.

Note to editors

Visitors can also find more information at: <http://www.visitwiltshire.co.uk>