



Heritage Walking Holidays

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WALL - 4 Day walk from Chollerford to Carlisle (5 nights)

Day	Route	Approximate mileage
1	<b>Arrival.</b> Your first night's accommodation will be at or near to Chollerford ready to start your walk the following morning. Travel to Chollerford is usually by train from Newcastle to Hexham and then by taxi or bus from Hexham to your accommodation.	-
2	<b>Chollerford to Steel Rigg.</b> From Chollerford you begin your first full day's walk. Crossing the 18 <sup>th</sup> century five-arch bridge at Chollerford the trail then passes Chesters Fort and rises gently, following a well preserved section of the Wall, to Limestone Corner. Here you'll see some large boulders lying in the Wall ditch with evidence of having been worked on by Roman stonemasons. From here the trail turns south-west passing the unexcavated fort of Brocolitia, Coventina's Well (the discovery site for a large amount of gold, silver and bronze coins in the 19C), and the nearby Mithras temple. Further fine examples of the Wall are evident at Sewingshields Crags in the now rugged but romantic landscape, with fine views in all directions as you approach Housesteads Fort. The trail undulates on from here passing Sycamore Gap, named after the lone tree featured in the Kevin Costner film 'Robin Hood - Prince of Thieves', which is a short distance from Steel Rigg the end of today's walk.	14



### Heritage Walking Holidays

<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>Steel Rigg to Gilsland.</b>          Steel Rigg provides the opportunity to spend additional time visiting the on-going excavations at Vindolanda, the new National Landscape Discovery Centre at The Sill, or sampling the locally brewed delights of the Twice Brewed Brew House.          Re-joining the trail at Steel Rigg for your next day of walking you climb to the highest point of the trail. Winshields Crag at 345m is the highest point with a wonderful section of the Wall leading up to it. Have your camera at the ready for some iconic shots looking back to the east over Crag Lough! Continuing west you follow the line of the Wall through a landscape that has remained unchanged since Roman times. You follow the undulating crags to reach the disused quarry at Cawfields where picnic tables and toilets provide a good resting place. Suitably refreshed continue along the trail to Walltown Crag getting an insight to how the turrets on the Wall would have looked with the finely preserved example at Turret 45A. Nearby is the Roman Army Museum situated at Carvoran featuring a 3D film of the Wall as well as an exhibition displaying what life was like in the Roman Army.          The final leg of today's walk takes in the ruins of 14<sup>th</sup>-century Thirlwall Castle and brings you to your overnight stop at Gilsland.</p>	<p><b>7</b></p>
<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>Gilsland to Newtown/Brampton.</b>          Leaving Gilsland after breakfast you pass Poltross Burn Milecastle and the trail enters a more cultivated landscape with some fine sections of well-preserved Wall. The views are no less dramatic than the previous days and the landscape equally as steeped in history and folklore. As you approach Birdoswald Roman Fort take time to spot the engravings on some of the stones which make up the section of Wall leading up to it. Carved by workmen nearly 2000 years ago. Birdoswald Fort is well positioned and provides panoramic views and the museum here provides details of the Roman occupation and also the unique history of the local area.          After following some long stretches of Wall the trail provides the opportunity for a short detour to visit the historic Lanercost Priory founded in 1166 with the adjacent Lanercost Tearooms offering excellent refreshments. Your walking day concludes at your accommodation in the Newtown/Brampton area.</p>	<p><b>10</b></p>



### Heritage Walking Holidays

<b>5</b>	<b>Newtown/Brampton to Carlisle.</b> For your last day you re-join the trail where you left it the day before. From Newtown you follow the course of the Vallum and the ditch, passing through numerous kissing-gates. The walk is gentle and through pasture land. Crossing into the village of Crosby-on-Eden the road you join forms part of the Stanegate - the roman road which pre-dates the Wall by several decades and linked Corbridge (Corstopitum) to Carlisle (Luguvalium). Passing through the village you enter Rickerby Park on the outskirts of Carlisle and en-route you will see the former defensive Peel Towers of Linstock Tower and Drawdykes Castle, a legacy from the days of Border reiving! You end your trail walk in Carlisle, home to the site of the Petriana Fort. This fort accommodated up to 1000 cavalry, the largest body of cavalry anywhere in the Roman Empire making it a most important fort, the largest on the Wall and where the most senior Wall officer was stationed. Carlisle also offers a number of places of interest to visit such as the castle and Tullie House museum as well as the opportunity to take in some retail therapy. An additional day could easily be spent taking in all it has to offer.	<b>10</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Onward travel</b>	