

IVEL VALLEY WALKERS DURHAM HOLIDAY

Thursday 14th May to Monday 18th May 2026



Kevin Barrett is pleased to announce the IVW Spring 2026 holiday in Durham offering five days of walking.

Surrounded on three sides by the River Wear, Durham is a compact City. Arriving at Durham train station, the view is one of the finest in northern England with the panoramic prospect of Durham Cathedral dominating the skyline. Standing on the site of an early wooden Saxon cathedral, built to house the remains of St Cuthbert, it is a supreme example of the Norman Romanesque style and was completed in 1133.

Walks connected to the River Wear and nearby beautiful Durham Dales are plentiful and the holiday will be accessible by public transport which is both plentiful and good from this location.

Getting there:

By road Durham is 217 miles from Bedford taking approximately 3 ½ hours (dependent upon traffic).

Alternatively, LNER offer a regular direct service from London Kings Cross or Peterborough to Durham.

Where to stay

There is a plentiful supply of accommodation within the city itself from budget hotels such as Premier Inn and Travelodge to numerous guest houses and more luxurious spa hotels.

There are also several Caravan and camping options nearby.

Proposed itinerary

Thursday 14th May

This will be an afternoon walk starting at 2pm and based within the city surroundings.

Starting from the Station and approaching the impressive Cathedral from the West our walk will encircle the city along the steep, wooded banks of the river, passing its historic bridges along the way. Turning up onto Palace Green, we reach the heart of the enchanting city: here you can admire the castle, cathedral and a plethora of historic buildings up close. The route will then rejoin the river and follow it upstream for a lunge into the countryside, returning to the start via an Iron Age hillfort, old Elvet Bridge and city's market square.

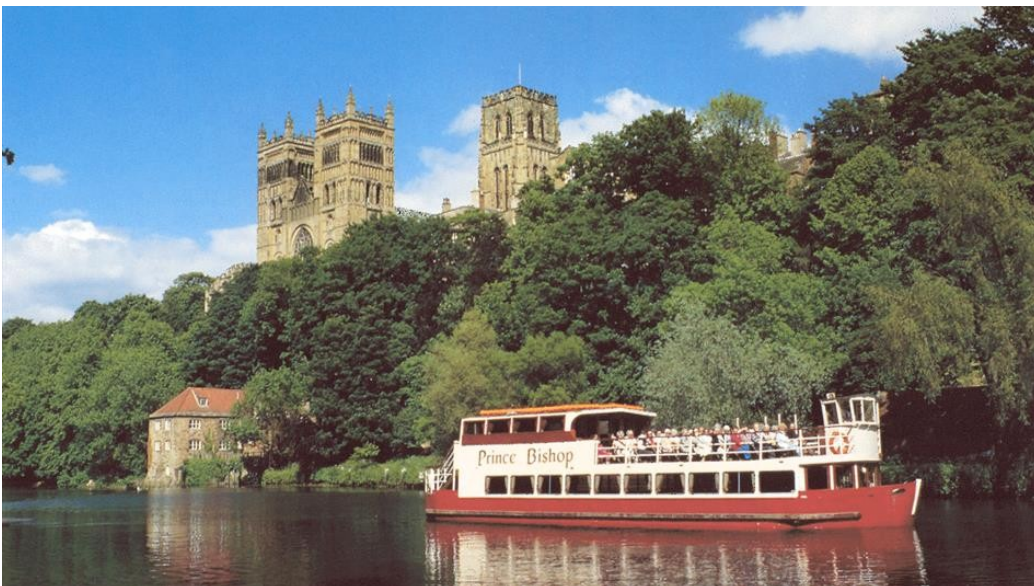


Friday 15th May

In the morning there will be a short walk starting at 10am (6 miles)

The walk will start at the bus station cutting across Crossgate Moor and out to the site of the Battle of Neville's Cross, a decisive victory for the English Army against the Scots during the second Scottish war of independence in 1346. The route will then follow the course of the River Browney and then onto the Brandon – Bishop Auckland Railway Path before returning to the City in time for lunch.

Following a lunch break and free time in the city we plan (subject to availability) to have a cruise on the Prince Bishop on the river – cost of this £10 pp to be included in the booking fee. Should this not be possible there a further 4 mile walk will be arranged for the afternoon. If the cruise does not proceed the £10 will be credited against the food bill for the Sunday dinner instead.



Saturday May 16th

This will be a full day circular walk of approximately 12 miles starting from the Village of Wolsingham – 30 minutes by car from Durham. There is a bus service from Durham which takes 1 hour to the start point - the aim will be to start the walk at 9.45. The route will take us through the Durham Dales, including the picturesque Bollihope Burn (see picture below) where there is usually the option to get an ice cream or snack (weather permitting) We will then climb to the village of Frosterley where there is option of finishing at about 8 miles with a bus back to the start. There will also be the option of getting a train from Wolsingham on the heritage railway (<https://www.weardale-railway.org.uk/>) and meeting the group at Frosterley for the return leg of the walk, about 4 1/2 miles. This will drop us down to walk along side the River Wear as we return to the start point.



Sunday 17th May

A 5 minute bus journey from Durham is the village of Shincliffe (our start point) this will be an 8 mile circular walk. Walking through varied waterside woodland this route takes in a private chapel (views only), a wooded nature reserve, botanic garden and two rivers (plus a café at 5 ½ miles – at which point anyone wishing to leave can do so by bus to the city centre (or a short additional walk). People doing the full walk will continue back to Shincliffe, where a handy pub is available for a post walk drink.



On Sunday evening there will be a group meal in the city (location to be determined)

Monday 18th May

A walk will commence at 9.30am of approx 8 miles. This will head North along the Weardale Way and passing the National Trust's Crook Hall Gardens (pictured) and then up as far as the remains of Finchdale Priory (English Heritage) before following the banks of the River Wear South to return to the city for the final time.



BOOKING DETAILS

Bookings for the Durham 2026 holiday are now open for IVW members and from Wednesday 20th August for IVW Affiliate members.

To book your place on the holiday, and if you have any queries, please email walk leader and organiser Kevin Barrett on ivwholiday.durham2026@gmail.com Early booking is advised!

Please do not pay the admin fee of £15 into the IVW Social Account or book accommodation until you have received confirmation that you are confirmed on the holiday, which is limited to 35 members.

After confirmation, please pay £15 into

Ivel Valley Social Account 60-83-01 Sort Code 20201274 account number Ref Durham