

Brief descriptions of local walks from the hotel

From the nine walks there is a choice of short, medium and long with the level of difficulty ranging from the easy (1) to the strenuous (5). On three of the walks there is a need for some transport to get to the beginning of the day-long linear walks.

1. An easy (1) walk of about 5 miles on level ground and country roads which is a good introduction to the area.

Starting from the hotel take the farm roads leading into the hills making for the Philiphaugh Estate. After a walk through the grounds and past the 'big house' cross the main road to pass a saw-mill on the way beside the fish farm to the Philipburn. TIME: 1 ½ - 2 hours

2. An easy (1) walk around the nearby Royal Burgh of Selkirk looking at the museums and places of interest which gives this Medieval town its character.

From the hotel up into the town centre to look at places such as the Sir Walter Scott Courthouse, Halliwells House Museum, The Old Churchyard - with its William Wallace and American Connections, a visit to a Victorian daylight photographic studio and a walk round the 'Ring o the toon'. This walk is a good way to spend half a day in the town and do a little shopping. TIME: 3-4 hours

3. This longer harder (3/4) walk takes the walker into the hills behind the hotel on a circular route.

Leaving the hotel go down to the riverside walk and follow this until you reach Linglie Farm where you make your way up the Linglie Glen onto the hills. We cross over a ridge into the valley of the Philipburn from where you make your way downhill on forestry roads through beautiful mature woodlands to the hotel. TIME: 5 hours

4. An all day fairly strenuous (4/5) circular walk over the hills to the Bowhill Estate and back to the hotel through the grounds of that and another small estate.

Walk straight into the hills via the Philiphaugh Valley to reach a cross-roads on an ancient roadway on the ridge. From here it is a descent towards the valley of the river Yarrow at the village of Yarrowford. Over the river and into the extensive grounds of Bowhill Estate (home of the Duke of Buccleuch) Walking on the estate roads you pause to look at the imposing ruin of a typical Border Peel tower. On past the house and another crossing of the river into a smaller estate from where you stroll back to the hotel. TIME: 5/6 hours

5. Another all-day fairly easy (3/4), but long, circular walk takes the walker out of the hotel through a beautiful wooded area into a small valley and over the river Ettrick by a footbridge before returning to the hotel.

Towards Selkirk (walk 2) and through the grounds of Haining House round the lake and into the small valley of the Hartwood burn towards the valley of the river Ettrick. You will see the site of a Norman castle before crossing the river and walking towards the Generals Bridge over the river Yarrow. From here you return as in 4 above. TIME: 5/6 hours

6/7/8. These three walks utilise the range of hills behind the hotel and its ancient system of roadways. The walks are linear and the starting points are reached by some form of transport.

The first long and strenuous (5) walk begins in the village of Traquair. Entering the hills via the farm and forestry roads you soon find yourselves on the top of a long ridge with its well marked and used roadways. Stop to feed the fairies with some cheese at the Cheese Well before carrying on towards the three cairns of the Three Brethern and the extensive views in every direction. Before the descent of the Philipburn valley towards the hotel. TIME: 5/6 hours

A different starting point for this long and strenuous (5) walk leads us onto the hills and back as above.

Bus to Yair bridge and have a look at the River Tweed and an area of 'white water' used by canoeists from all over Britain in competition. Up through the forests to reach the Three Brethern cairns and a well earned break to have a picnic and to take those photographs of the beautiful Border scenery stretched out all around. It is then down the burn as in (6) above. TIME: 5/6 hours

Yet another starting point for a long and fairly strenuous (4/5) walk this time over the ridge from the back.

Bus to the site of the old General Hospital for the area before its move 10 years ago. Up a farm road into a valley before taking to the hills. A long slow climb and many opportunities to look back at the view before you reach the ridge and a break for a picnic and a rest. Return to base is as 6 and above. TIME: 5/6 hours

9. No visit to the area would be complete without a visit to Melrose and an easy (1/2) walk up to the summit of one of the Eildon Hills.

Melrose is famous for its Abbey and the Robert Bruce connection and is a tourist town of great charm.

Travel to Melrose by bus and have a quick look around at what awaits you when you get back from the Eildon walk. Up the hill to the well sign-posted path which takes you onto the hills themselves. After an initial ascent of 'the stairs' you emerge between the fields and you make your way to the 'saddle' where you stop to look around and decide which hill you wish to climb. From the top you can see why the Celts, Romans and thousands of tourists throughout time have made the same climb. Down again for a look at the Abbey and a cup of tea/coffee before meeting the bus back to the hotel. TIME: 5/6 hours

The walks above are a selection of what could be done during a week-end stay and can be mixed and matched with an easy (1/2) intermediate (3/4) and a strenuous (5) OR any combination being taken.

All walkers should have suitable boots and waterproof clothing on all of the walks except the Town Walk in Selkirk.