

THE THAMES PATH(OXFORD to MAIDENHEAD) 5th or 6th to 12th JUNE 2024(may vary, see last para)

The trail holiday for 2024 will be a scenic walk along the Thames Path, starting at the beautiful city of Oxford and heading downstream to finish at Maidenhead. The full trail stretches for 185 miles but we will walk 67 miles over five walking days. There is also the option to travel a day early and spend a rewarding day(highly recommended) visiting the city of Oxford and travel round some of the numerous sights by the hop-on hop-off bus tour and take advantage of one of the guided walking tours with a knowledgeable local guide.

View from Folly Bridge, Oxford



The trail mainly follows the riverbank and is predominantly flat other than one hill at Goring Gap. The trail is on a mixture of surfaces but walking shoes would suffice.

Wallingford Boathouse



The trip will be excellent value for money as I will directly book the accommodation and baggage transfer and avoid agent's fees. The holiday will consist of six or seven nights ensuite B&B accommodation in a mix of hotels and guesthouses, five days walking plus the option of an extra day touring Oxford and transfer of your main case($\leq 20\text{kg}$) to the next accommodation.

DAILY WALK STAGES

Most daily walks will be 10-15 miles with two longer walks of 17 and 16 miles on the last two walking days. Accommodation is scarce on some sections of the trail which is why the two longer walking days. We will stay overnight at Oxford(one or two nights), Abingdon, Wallingford, Pangbourne, Henley and Maidenhead.

TRAVEL

We will fly Aer Lingus from Belfast City to Birmingham and then train or coach from the airport to Oxford. Our return will be a taxi from Maidenhead to Heathrow and a British Airways flight to Belfast City. Aer Lingus currently charge £75 for the flight to Birmingham including a hold case and a small cabin bag(your normal back pack is probably too big!). British Airways charge £55 for the return flight, again including a hold bag.Travel between Birmingham and Oxford and from Maidenhead to Heathrow will be £30. A total of £160 approximately for travel.

COSTS/CANCELLATION

Most guesthouses and hotels on the route will only request payment on departure.

Accommodation costs will be about £340 per person sharing for six nights or £420 for seven nights. A single room (often single occupancy of a double room) will cost £570 for six nights or £720 for seven nights.

Luggage transfer costs depend on the group size but will be about £60 per person for a small group. Bags must not weigh more than 20kgs, if your bag does weigh above 15kgs then I suggest that you are bringing too much!

Most of the guesthouses and hotels serving the route do not require deposits to secure a booking but a couple of possible options may require a deposit. The baggage transfer company will only require full payment about a month before travel. I am therefore requesting a deposit from you of £100 per person and some or all of this deposit may be forfeited if you subsequently cancel and your cancellation means that the individual costs of others are increased (e.g. a single supplement becomes due) or cancellation charges arise.

Accommodation charges will be payable to the proprietors less any deposit already paid.

The total cost of accommodation(6 nights on a B&B basis), luggage transfer, buses/taxis and travel will be about £560 per person sharing or £790 for a single room. The total cost of accommodation(7 nights on a B&B basis), luggage transfer, buses/taxis and travel will be about £640 per person sharing or £940 for a single room.

WHAT TO DO

If you want to discuss the trip please contact me by phone or e-mail. Further information can be found at the National Trail website [Thames Path](#). There are several guidebooks to the trail but I purchased a copy of the Trailblazer guide Thames Path from their website. the price should be about £12.99. The Trailblazer guide includes hand-drawn maps of the complete route.

If you want to join the holiday then please send me a deposit cheque for £100 (payable to John Holmes, dated 8 December 2023) by 8 December to my home address(see below).

Please include your name and contact details (name and title, postal and e-mail addresses and phone numbers), and indicate if you are willing to share a room or would prefer a single room and if you wish to arrive a day early and tour Oxford for a day before commencing the walk. I will then book the accommodation and pay any required deposits by card but will only cash your cheques once the bookings are confirmed. **If any of the preferred locations are already booked for those dates I may need to move the trip forward by a week (to start on 12th or 13th June).** Let me know if this would be a problem for you. Please contact me by 8 December

or sooner if you are interested, several of the destinations offer a limited number of rooms and I do not expect to be able to cater for more than eight walkers.

John Holmes

Tel - Mobile 07***** (I no longer have a landline)

E-mail – *****