

Black & White villages itinerary for Herefordshire

Herefordshire Black & White Villages

Discover the delightful Black and White villages of North Herefordshire, set in the beautiful and historic borderlands of England and Wales.

Morning Meet outside the Tourist Information Centre in Corn Square, Leominster.



STOP - From Leominster, the tour heads to **Monkland Cheese Diary** where Little Hereford Cheese is hand-made to original recipes.

From Monkland, the tour heads through the first village of Dilwyn. *Dilwyn was mentioned in the Domesday book, present day Dilwyn is the result of more than a 1,000 years of settlement. Because of this, Dilwyn has many historic buildings and interesting features. The central village itself is designated as a conservation area.*

From Dilwyn, the tour travels through Weobley.

Pronounced Webley – The village prospered from the medieval wool trade and later through glove and ale making – Weobley ale was famous for its quality. Charles 1st stayed here after the battle of Naseby in 1645. The spire of the fine church is a landmark for miles around. Sadly, a number of Weobleys black and white houses were destroyed by fire in 1943, but a remarkable collection of buildings still survive.



From Weobley, the tour travels through Sarnesfield, a small village whose churchyard contains the grave of John Abel, Charles 1st King's Carpenter, the builder of Grange Court, Leominster and many other Herefordshire buildings. The church is situated on the main road, so please take care if wishing to stop for a photo opportunity.

Then after 2 miles, continue onto Kinnersley and just before the village, on the left, is Kinnersley Castle, an impressive Elizabethan House remodelled from a medieval castle by Roger Vaughan about 1588, The Castle is only open occasionally – always check in advance with Leominster TIC. Next to the Castle is an impressive church, which houses a remarkable collection of monuments – the Smalman monument (1635) with family members in Stuart costume and plump, trumpeting cherubs, is particularly appealing.



Follow the tour for a further 2 miles to enter the next village of Eardisley. St Mary's Church, on the left, contains a wonderful font of 1150, decorated in the Herefordshire style of Romanque carving. Further along the main street, with its pretty cottages and gardens, is Tram Square, named for the horse-drawn tramway from Brecon to Kington which ran through Eardisley from 1818 until the coming of the railway.

STOP - Small Breeds Farm Park & Owl Centre.

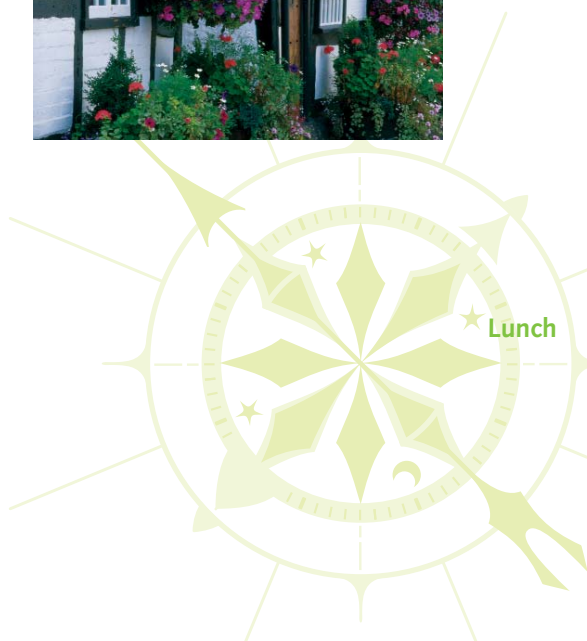
An award-winning family attraction, with an endearing collection of miniature animals as well as one of the finest collections of owls in the county. Open daily except Christmas Day. Tea room and gift shop. Opening hours are 10:30am - 5:30pm

Lunch

The Burton Hotel, Kington.

Kington is one of Herefordshire's five market towns, named for Edward the Confessor. The original town clustered around the impressive church, and the area is reputedly haunted by a black dog said to be Conan Doyle's inspiration for 'The Hound of the Baskervilles'

The Burton Hotel is an attractively modernised coaching inn set in the heart of Kington.





STOP - After lunch, travel beyond the church, to Ridgebourne Lane. This leads to the famous gardens of **Hergest Croft**. *Spectacular rhododendrons and azaleas in spring, sensational autumn colours from maples and birches, a traditional kitchen garden and many champion trees. Tea room and shop.*

Kington is located on the English/Welsh border, and possesses the highest golf club in England, over 390 metres above sea level. It is an ideal centre for walking, situated on Offa's Dyke long-distance path, and at one end of the Mortimer Trail. In the town centre is a Museum and Tourist Information Centre, (both seasonal), plus a range of traditional shops.

From Kington, pass Penrhos Court, a fine 14th C. house on the right. In about 1 mile you will reach **Lyonshall**, with the church on the left. Travel through Lyonshall until you reach

STOP - Westonbury Mill Water Garden. *(An optional visit) a two acre garden laid out around a tangle of streams and ponds behind an old corn mill.*

Sallys Pantry café offering morning coffees, light lunches and afternoon teas. The gardens are open from 1st April – end of September. 11am until 5pm.

Travel to the village of Pembridge with its wonderful timber framed buildings along its main street. There are also a few shops and craft outlets, including the Old Chapel Gallery.

In the small square the Market Hall still stands in front of the 17th C. New Inn and steps lead up from the Market Place to St. Mary's Church with its remarkable detached bell tower. This extraordinary structure, more pyramid or pagoda than conventional tower, is supported by massive 14th C. timbers, and houses the clock and a ring of five bells.

Then onto, **Eardisland**, on the River Arrow, is perhaps the prettiest village in Herefordshire. An exceptional building is Staik House, built around 1300 as a Yeoman's Hall, with many original windows and doors intact. The 17th C. Georgian dovecote contains over 900 nesting alcoves in the upper story, and the church of St Mary the Virgin, which is of Norman origin, is always ready to welcome visitors who wish to sample the peace and calm of a traditional village church. Eardisland grew around a castle which has long since vanished, although the great moated mound where the castle once stood can still be seen.

Continue through Eardisland towards Leominster, where the tour ends.

The above itinerary is only a suggestion, group organisers are warmly recommended to contact the Visit Herefordshire Group Travel Desk in order to discuss other itineraries, driving routes and other requirements by contacting Liz Hill on **(01432) 260621** or by email at groups@visitherefordshire.co.uk.

For further information on Herefordshire, and for details of Tourist Information Centres within the county, see www.visitherefordshire.co.uk.

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