



## **Pembrokeshire Coast, Wales** **May 23-30, 2017**

The trip to the Pembrokeshire Coast of Wales begins and ends in St. Davids, Wales. You can fly to London or Cardiff, Wales then take the train to Haverfordwest, Wales. After the minimum of 10 reservations is reached we will advise you to make your air travel reservations. We will meet at the Grove Hotel in St. Davids.

Trip Start: May 23, 2017 – The Grove Hotel, St. Davids, Wales  
Trip Finish: May 30, 2017 – The Grove Hotel, St. Davids, Wales  
Trip Length: 8 days, 7 nights  
Trip Cost: \$2,750 per person sharing a room  
\$2,990 for a single room

(Trip cost includes everything except airfare, 2 dinners, 1 lunch, beverages, and tips.)

### **Day by Day Overview**

**Tuesday, May 23** - Arrive in St. Davids, Wales, and check in at the Grove Hotel in the village center. (Ask the local bus driver to let you off at the Grove Hotel.) The trip officially begins with dinner in the hotel dining room at 7:00PM, but meet me for drinks in the hotel lounge at 6:30. After dinner, we will have coffee in the hotel lounge and our guide will give details of our week's program.

Lodging: The Grove Hotel - <http://www.grovestdavids.com/>

**Wednesday, May 24** - A day on Skomer Island, a British National Nature Reserve managed by the local Wildlife Trust where half a million seabirds breed annually. Among the inhabitants here are Manx shearwaters, guillemots, razorbills, kittiwakes, gulls and puffins! Skomer, 2 square miles in size, is a 20-minute boat trip from Martin's Haven. We will take a bus from St. Davids to Martin's Haven – 1 hour journey. Bring binoculars. 3-5 miles today.

➤ Dinner together

**Thursday, May 25** - Walk from the Grove Hotel to St. Non's Well and onto the Coastal Path. Our walk takes us past the shrine to St. Non (St. David's mother) then on to Porthclais harbor-William the Conqueror came into this harbor. Along the way we round the most westerly point of Wales. We will be seeing beautiful sea views, seabirds, old copper mines and earthen forts. At St. Davids Lifeboat Station we will turn away from the sea and back toward St. Davids. About 8 miles today.

➤ Dinner together

**Friday, May 26** - This is a relaxed day on your own to explore St. Davids. We will have a one hour cathedral tour in the morning (10:30). Enjoy a day of leisure to investigate the shops, read a good book, or take a walk. After dinner our guide will do a slide presentation about the Pembrokeshire Coast: past and present.

- Lunch on your own.
- Dinner together.

**Saturday, May 27** - A local bus this morning to Porthgain and a look around the artists' galleries there before a walk through the harbor village and onto the coast. We will have wonderful views to the west as we follow the path by old quarries, (Blue Lagoon at Abereddy), badger sites, hill forts, and gull colonies; maybe even see some seals bobbing in the water. Our path takes us back into St. Davids. Today 9.5 miles.

- Dinner on your own.

**Sunday, May 28** - We will take the local bus to Pen-y-Cwm where we begin our short walk to join the coastal path. We have long views to the sea today and closer views of choughs and peregrine nest sites. Our lunch is at Solva Boat Club on the perfect harbor of Solva. You could take a little shopping time here if you choose and take the bus back into St. Davids or continuing on the coastal path— the afternoon walk follows a varied coastline taking us by an Iron Age hill fort, lime kilns, an old mill and maybe a surprise tea stop! Via Caerfai Bay, we are back into St. Davids. Today we have a series of steep hills that have many steps--you will be using your hiking poles a lot. About 8 miles today.

- Lunch today at Solva Boat Club
- Dinner on your own.

**Monday, May 29** - A final day walking. Our aim today is St. Davids Head. A pre-historic burial chamber, Iron Age field system and hut circles are sites we will visit on this headland. Our walk back into St. Davids will be along the mile-long beach of Whitesands Bay watching out for orchids and butterflies. Today 6-7 miles.

- Farewell dinner in hotel dining room.

**Tuesday, May 30** - Breakfast and departure.

**Please Note: The above schedule is subject to change due to weather or other circumstances beyond our control.**

## **Flight and Airport Info**

**Getting to St. Davids**—Fly from the U.S. to either London Gatwick, London Heathrow, or Cardiff, Wales. From Gatwick you can take a train to Haverfordwest, Wales. From Heathrow you take a direct bus to Reading train station then a train to Haverfordwest. From Cardiff trains leave regularly for Haverfordwest, Wales. The train from London to Haverfordwest takes about 5 hrs. Cardiff to Haverfordwest takes about 2 hours. You can take a taxi (expensive!) or bus (# 411) from Haverfordwest train station to St. Davids (15 miles).

If you plan to stay in London directly after your flight arrival : from Heathrow take the Heathrow Express to Paddington Station; from Gatwick take the Gatwick Express to Victoria Station. All trains going to Wales leave from Paddington Station.

**Weather:** Mild spring weather with likely some rain.

## **Helpful Websites:**

Hotel in St. Davids: [www.grovestdavids.com](http://www.grovestdavids.com)  
Pembrokeshire Coast: [www.visitpembrokeshire.com](http://www.visitpembrokeshire.com)  
[www.pembrokeshiregreenways.co.uk](http://www.pembrokeshiregreenways.co.uk)  
Wales: [www.wales-calling.com](http://www.wales-calling.com)  
Train: [www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk)

## **Reading:**

*One Small Wilderness* – Roseanne Alexander (non-fiction) - 1992 (limited availability)

*Skomer: Portrait of a Welsh Island* – Jane Alexander (non-fiction) – 2007

*Pembrokeshire Coast – The Official National Park Guide* – Alf Alderson (non-fiction) – 2001

Lonely Planet or Rough Guide to Wales (non-fiction)