

17 October 2011

**Visit Europe's First International Dark-Sky Reserve**  
and stay at HF Holidays' Country House on Exmoor

Exmoor National Park has been designated an International Dark-Sky Reserve – the first one in Europe and only the second place in the world, after Mont Mégantic in Quebec. The Park will now have greater powers over lighting controls to protect the view of the night sky - for more info see [Exmoor National Park](#).

For those wishing to see the night sky over Exmoor as well explore the Park's superb scenery by day, **HF Holidays** – the UK's largest walking and leisure activity holiday organisation – is highlighting its choice of holidays based at its Holnicote Country House, situated in the heart of a 12,500 acre estate in the Exmoor National Park.

Guided walking holidays, for example, take in the coastal and moorland scenery with highlights including the wooded gorges around Watersmeet, the dramatic valley of Rocks near Lynton or Dunkery Beacon – the highest point in the national park.

A three-night guided walking break in 2012 costs from £249 per person, twin-share, inclusive of full board, a full programme of guided walks and evening entertainment, transport to and from the walks, plus the services of a HF Holidays' leader.

Alternatively, the company's Freedom Breaks are ideal for the independent holidaymaker wishing to explore the countryside at their leisure.

Guests have full use of the house facilities, enjoy full board accommodation and are provided with an Ordnance Survey Explorer map of the local area together with a guide listing local attractions and activities.

As an example of price, a two-night Freedom Break in 2012 costs from £138 per person, based on two sharing.

The house has four-star Guest Accommodation rating with Enjoy England and facilities include a heated outdoor pool, extensive gardens, putting green, croquet lawn, plus good quality boot and drying rooms.

**0845 470 7558, [www.hfholidays.co.uk](http://www.hfholidays.co.uk)**

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Press trips are available for commissioned articles – please contact if interested.

For further information contact HF Holidays' PR Manager Vladi Harris on 020 8732 1236  
Release issued by Shirley Robins at Beacon PR 01572 748 800

**Editor's notes:**

- Founded in 1913, HF Holidays is a co-operative society arranging walking, outdoor and leisure activity holidays for 50,000 people each year (for non-members, a £5 associate fee is payable per holiday).
- Options range from guided walking breaks and self-guided trails in Britain to challenging ascents Worldwide. The leisure activities range includes art, music, literature and mind-and-body holidays.
- HF Holidays is the recommended walking holiday partner of the Ramblers, Britain's walking charity ([ramblers.org.uk](http://ramblers.org.uk)), and supports the work of the Ramblers through membership initiatives and charitable donations.
- HF Holidays has 18 Houses in the UK's National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty as well as independent hotels for overseas holidays.
- HF Holidays' walks leaders who are passionate about walking and keen to share their experience with guests (after passing a rigorous selection course).
- HF Holidays is committed to Responsible Tourism, contributing to environmental projects around the UK – such as footpath maintenance – through its Pathways Fund and supporting local Air Ambulance and Mountain Rescue teams as well as charities in Kenya and South Africa.
- Voted Best Large Tour Operator by Guardian and Observer readers 2010 and 2011, with a 2011 satisfaction score of 98 per cent. Also Best Short Break Operator 2011.
- HF Holidays is a member of ABTOT and is ATOL protected.