

TRAVEL

I tried this new walking holiday concept - and I don't know why it's not done more

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THE feeling of elevating ones aching feet at the end of the day is much better appreciated with a crisp drink in hand and a belly full of warm truffle and beef pie.

Under the soft beam of fairy lights and the warm glow of a nearby hearth, I felt truly accomplished and nurtured sitting within the homely comfort of The Lion at Malpas pub.

As a person with a busy day to day routine, a chance to break away into the serene countryside is not one I take often enough.

The country has always been a chance to clear the head from the blusterous noise of a city job.

Coming off the M6 and turning into the vibrant greenery of Cheshire was like a soother to the soul and a well needed rest for my eyes which usually take in the concrete jungle of Glasgow.

Heading through the quaint high street of Tarporley I turned onto the cobbled lane leading to the courtyard of The Swan at Tarporley my first lodging for this exciting new walking holiday concept.

This pub and hotel was my home for the evening before I embark on The Great Pub Walk, a 13-mile trail leading from one Bear's Inn Ltd hotel to the other.

After being led to my room, I dumped my bags on the luggage storer at the nearest wall and threw myself onto the cloud-soft bedding to appreciate the softly nature of my room.

100% cotton towels, heated rails, all natural shampoo, conditioner and soap, I knew I was in for some luxury treatment... something we all deserve from time to time.

Once turned around and freshened up, I was seated at a table in the Swan's dining area colourfully decorated with paisley florals and adorned with warmly lit candelabras.

With a quick scour of the menu, I decided to satiate myself with some hot honey boneless chicken wings, before a cauliflower, sweet potato and spinach curry.

It didn't take long for the waiter to spur me out of my people-watching gaze, which admired the old gas lamps on the street outside, to tuck into sweetly glazed wings.

After scraping the last dregs of my vegetable curry not long after, I felt warm, content and as though I was in a stylish version of my grandmothers front room. Homely and taken care of.

Deciding to take an early night to build my energy, I jumped in the shower, wrapped myself in the thick soft duvet and fell asleep.

The next day, the Great Pub Walk, had me waking up excited for the day ahead. Of where I would go, who I may meet and



what lay ahead. Having undertaken long walks many times before, I often find they can be the best kind of holiday for the mind, your thoughts can drift for hours all while taking in the serene, peaceful outlook of the country.

Having dug into some Turkish eggs and toast for breakfast, picking up my packed lunch and fasten the strings on my boots, I was ready for an adventure.

Setting off at 11am, I pulled out the map I'd been given and associated directions and read instruction number 1.

From the Swan, turn right along Tarporley High Street, passing St Helen's Church on your right.

With each direction featuring a landmark or piece of interest as a focal point the trail was easy to follow from the get-go.

Through the High Street I wandered,

Emily Moore embarked on The Great Pub Walk, a 13-mile trail

looking out for a right turn to take me away from the town and into the quaint countryside on offer.

Within the first 15 minutes of my walk, I had already ran into a man tending to his horses in a field, two dog walkers with whom I shared a brief 'Good morning' and a sign for free apples recently picked from the adjacent apples tree.

Turning onto Pudding Lane and walking deeper into the country, it felt like I was truly in the middle of nowhere.

I swear I heard my bustling brain give a sigh of relief.

There is something so special, unchangeable and unique about the healing that can be provided by the great outdoors.

Regardless of how your day might be going, walking at the foot of the rolling hills of Cheshire, the air will never feel cleaner