

7 Night Southern Snowdonia Guided Walking

Trip style: Guided Walking Holidays

Destination: ☺ Snowdonia

Trip code: DOL07-BOB01

Trip Walking Grade: ul 2, 4 & 5



Holiday Overview

At 823 square miles, Eryri (Snowdonia) is Wales' largest and loftiest national park. It's a landscape of soaring peaks, tumbling waterfalls, and ancient woodlands, with walks to match its dramatic beauty. On this week-long holiday, our guided walks will take you along wildlife-rich stretches of coastline and into dramatic mountains. Highlights include a walk above Llyn Tegid, the largest natural lake in Wales, and the chance to scale the rugged Aran Ridge. We'll top it all with a walk on the scenic Minffordd Path to the summit of Cader Idris – the second highest peak in South Eryri (Southern Snowdonia) and one of its most popular.

WHAT YOU'LL LOVE

- Discovering the dramatic scenery of South Eryri (Southern Snowdonia) on foot
- Climbing to the summit of spectacular mountain tops
- Keeping your eyes peeled for buzzards, merlins, and black grouse
- Spending time with like-minded people in the great outdoors
- Finding new routes and places to explore with your HF Holidays Leaders
- Staying at Dolserau Hall, our Victorian country house

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- En-suite accommodation in our 4-star country house
- Cream tea on arrival day
- Cooked or continental breakfast every morning
- Daily packed lunches
- Three-course evening meals, plus tea & coffee
- Guided walking with experienced HF Holidays Leaders
- Choice of up to three guided walks (on walking days)
- All transport to and from walks where necessary
- Easy-to-follow routes, maps, and information in our Discovery Point if you want to explore independently

WALKING GRADES AND OPTIONS

This trip is graded Activity Levels 2, 3 and Level 5. Discover the dramatic scenery of South Eryri (Southern Snowdonia) on our guided walks. We offer the opportunity to climb famous summits as well as enjoying coastal walks. Join our friendly and knowledgeable guides who will bring this stunning national park to life. With the choice of up to three different walks each day, select the option which best suits your interests and fitness.

ITINERARY VERSION 1

Day 1 Arrival Day

Check-in at the hotel is available from 16:00. If you are a member you can arrive at the house from 14:00. Enjoy a complimentary cream tea at 16:30 and meet other guests.

Day 2 Rhobell Fawr & Brithdir

Option 1 - Wnion Valley & Roman Road

Distance: 6.5 miles (10.5km)

Total ascent: 900 feet (260m)

In summary: Our walk climbs the lower slopes of the Wnion valley through farmland to the track of a Roman road with extensive views of the mountains of southern Snowdonia (Eryri). Crossing two ancient bridges, believed to be Roman, we reach the hamlet of Brithdir. Leaving Brithdir, we visit the Art Nouveau church of St. Marks and then descend the iconic Torrent Walk to return to the house.

Highlight: Panoramic views of the Cader Idris and Rhinogydd ranges.

Option 2 - Rhobell Fawr

Distance: 10.5 miles (17½km)

Total ascent: 2,300 feet (700m)

In summary: Ascend steeply to the local summit of Rhobell Fawr. Descending to the southwest, with great views of Coed y Brenin forest, we follow an old drovers' road then walk back through park land to Dolserau Hall.

Highlight: Rhobell Fawr is another outstanding viewpoint, with a sweeping panorama across all the peaks of north Wales.

Option 3 - Rhobell Fawr Foothills

Distance: 8.5 miles (14 km)

Ascent: 1350 feet (420m)

In summary: This is a varied route in the remoter parts of southern Snowdonia (Eryri). We ascend through farmland then a forest to the slopes of Rhobell Fawr. We then follow a track through rugged, rocky terrain, with streams and sometime waterfalls, visiting a disused slate quarry. There are far reaching views throughout. The descent is gradual, eventually walking beside the Wnion river to return to the House.

Highlight: Wild and rugged scenery, with stunning views, away from the crowds, and always reasonable gradients.

Day 3 Cader Idris & Abergynolwyn

Option 1 - Cader Idris Ridge

Distance: 8½ miles (13½km)

Total ascent: 3,150 feet (960m)

In summary: Ascend to the top of Cader Idris via the Minffordd path. This outstanding mountain walk continues along this wonderful ridge, taking in two more summits, before descending gradually to Dolgellau.

Highlight: A fabulous ridge walk atop one of Britain's most loved mountains, with great views down the Mawddach Estuary to the sea.

Option 2 - Castell-y-Bere & Abergynolwyn

Distance: 6 miles (9.5km)

Total ascent: 1000 feet (300m)

In summary: Walk to Castell y Bere, a 13th century castle - the last stronghold of the Welsh Princes, and Mary Jones' chapel, before the Dysynni valley takes us to Abergynolwyn village.

Highlight: The views from the Dysynni Valley and Castell-y-Bere are stunning.

Option 3 - Minffordd Path to Cader Idris

Distance: 7 miles (11km)

Total ascent: 3,150 feet (950m)

In summary: A classic mountain day. From the car park we follow the Minffordd Path up through woods and into an impressive corrie. After pausing at the lake, we climb to the ridge and follow it to the summit of Cader Idris. We retrace our steps back down to Craig Cwm Amarch, and then continue our descent to Tal y Llyn.

Highlights: Wild mountain scenery, a beautiful corrie lake, superb views of Eryri (Snowdonia) from summit ridge.

To note when choosing your walk: This walk has significant ascent and descent over rough terrain.

Day 4 Free Day - Southern Snowdonia

Discover more about [Dolserau Hall and the local area](#) for ideas on how to make the most of your free day.

Day 5 The Precipice Walk & Waun Oer

Option 1 - Foel Offrwm and The Old Precipice Walk

Distance: 9 miles (15 km)

Ascent: 2,000 ft (620m)

In summary: We walk up through a former medieval deer park, then ascend to the summit of Foel Offrwm (Hill of Sacrifice). Retracing our steps, we descend to the Old Precipice Walk, perched high above the Afon Mawddach before returning to the House by farm track and quiet lanes.

Highlight: Historic medieval deerpark, historic mansion, iron age fort, stunning views of south Snowdonia (Eryri).

Option 2 - The Old Precipice Walk

Distance: 7.5 miles (12km)

Ascent: 1,200 ft (360m)

In summary: We walk up through a former medieval deer park to the Precipice walk, visiting Llyn Cynwch, to a viewpoint overlooking the upper Mawddach valley, returning to the House by farm track and quiet lanes

Highlight: Historic medieval deer park, historic mansion, stunning views of south Snowdonia (Eryri)

Option 3 - Waun Oer

Distance: 10 miles (15.5km)

Ascent: 1,900 feet (580m)

In summary: We explore the seldom visited Dyfi Hills at the southern extremity of the Snowdonia (Eryri) National Park. Leaving our transport at the top of a pass, we climb up to the ridge, passing through a remote abandoned slate quarry to the summits of Waun Oer and Mynydd Ceiswyn. Descending from the ridge we stop at a rocky knoll giving superb views of Cader Idris and the Tal y Llyn valley before continuing our descent through a SSSI noted for its orchids, and the Torrent Walk back to the house.

Highlight: Exploring the less visited wilds of Eryri (Snowdonia), stunning views of Cader Idris, the Dyfi Hills and Dyfi Forest, and (in season) possibly finding orchids.

Day 6 Harlech & the Southern Rhinogs

Diffws

Distance: 10 miles (16.5km)

Total ascent: 2,500 feet (760m)

In summary: We begin in the valley of Cwm Mynach, we follow the track of a former mine tramway across open ground before climbing steeply through old mine workings to the summit of Diffws. We turn and follow a broad grassy ridge with great views in all directions if we are lucky. We then descend to the coast at Barmouth.

Highlight: Fantastic views of the Rhinogydd range and Mawddach Estuary.

Day 7 Southern Snowdonia (Eryri)

Option 1 - Aran Fawddwy & Benllyn

Distance: 9.5 miles (15½km)

Ascent: 2950 feet (900m)

In summary: A big day out, starting midway between Dolgellau and Bala, we ascend to the Aran Ridge, in part grassy, in part rocky, but always with stunning views. We take in the summits of Aran Fawddwy and Benllyn, before descending, with views of Bala lake, to Llanuwchllyn village.

Highlight: A big mountain day on the mighty Aran ridge and the highest peak of Southern Snowdonia (Eryri).

Option 2 - Mary Jones Walk and Bala

Distance: 7 miles (11.5km)

Ascent: 1,150 feet (340m)

In summary: A gradual ascent from Llangower takes us onto the elevated footpath above Llyn Tegid (Bala Lake) on field and fell paths above the eastern shores of the Lake. Enjoy great views towards the Arenig mountains before descending into Bala.

Highlight: Impressive views over the largest natural lake in Wales and a visit to the historic town of Bala.

Option 3 - Arenig Fawr

Distance: 7½ miles (12km)

Ascent: 1850 feet (560m)

In summary: From near Llyn Celyn, we ascend gradually to the llyn then follow a delightful curving ridge, sometimes rocky, up to the summit. The descent is never too steep then we follow a track and minor road passing the disused Arenig quarry to finish beside the lake.

Highlight: Arenig Fawr is a fine mountain rising above miles of wild heather moorland. Being so remote, it is largely ignored by the crowds, but deserves to be better known.

Day 8 Departure Day

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before making your way home.

Daily Walk Options



Easier Walks

Good paths but walks are a bit longer. Some walks, particularly in mountain areas, may have sections over rough or steeper terrain.



Medium Walks

Long distances in remote countryside and on rough terrain. You can expect some sustained ascents and descents; there may be occasional sections of scree and steep ground.



Harder Walks

Good fitness and stamina required. Expect rocky terrain with sustained ascents and descents. Walks may include high summits and ridges.

Accommodation

Dolserau Hall

We're delighted to share that Dolserau Hall has now reopened following a significant investment in this much-loved Welsh HF Country House. With beautifully updated social spaces, refreshed bedrooms, and thoughtful enhancements throughout, it's the perfect moment to rediscover this special spot in southern Eryri (Snowdonia). Read more. Dolserau Hall enjoys arresting countryside views at this Victorian manor house at the southern end of Snowdonia (Eryri) National Park. The location is idyllic; think ancient woods and craggy uplands in all directions (parts of the park served as the inspiration for Middle Earth in JRR Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings*). There's no shortage of things to do, either, including following the Mawddach Trail along the edge of the Mawddach Estuary, discovering the compact range of hills known as the Rhinogs, and climbing the rugged foothills of Cader Idris – the highest mountain in southern Snowdonia (Eryri) at 893 metres. You'll also be close to Dolgellau, the small market town best known for its once flourishing woollen industry (ruins of the Pandy fulling mills used to remove fats and grease from the wool cloth can still be seen along the Afon Aran River). With only 21 rooms, it's one of HF Holidays' smaller country houses and 40% of its rooms are reserved for singles, making it easier than ever to have your own space.

Check-In & Check-Out

You are welcome to check in from 4pm at the earliest. HF Members can check in earlier, from 2pm. On arrival, you'll enjoy a complimentary cream tea and get to meet your fellow guests, our HF Holidays Leaders, and the rest of the friendly team. Check out 10am.

About

- 21 well-appointed guest rooms • Exclusive occupancy: 31 guests minimum • Check in from 4:00pm • For members check in from 2:00pm • Full-board (including a cream tea welcome) • Free Wi-Fi • Free on-site parking • Boot room and drying room • Discovery Point offering a wide range of local area maps, route guides, and information for self-guided walks • Books and games to borrow • Licensed bar • Lounge • Garden • [Well-behaved dogs welcome](#) • Electric vehicle charging point - Please note, you will need to bring your own cables to use this EV charging point



Food & drink

Seasonal dining, tailored for you

Our team of skilled chefs design our dinner menus to showcase the best of each season, from warming winter comfort food to vibrant summer dishes, including vegetarian, vegan and high-protein options. We also source fruit and vegetables within a 40-mile radius of each house, open every break with a Chef's Special menu inspired by dishes and flavours of the local area, and are able to adapt dishes to suit special dietary requirements.

Welcome Cream Tea

What better way to start your stay than with a cream tea, served fresh on arrival to make you feel instantly at home. A quintessentially English tradition, our scones are baked in-house and served with preserves and clotted cream, providing the perfect opportunity to meet fellow walkers.

A hearty breakfast to start the day

Start the day with a freshly-prepared cooked breakfast and a wide choice from our continental buffet, including hot drinks, juices and fresh fruit. Our team offer a quick and friendly service, leaving you fuelled and ready for your day's adventures.

Our famous picnic lunch

Our personalised picnic lunches are perfect for a day out walking, ready to enjoy when hunger strikes. Choose from a large selection of fresh sandwiches and salads, freshly baked cakes and snacks, including the ever-popular Freddos chocolate bar! Everything is designed to fit neatly into your rucksack, and all of the packaging we provide is recyclable or compostable.

3-course evening meals

Our à la carte evening menus feature a wide choice of starters, mains, and desserts, made with seasonal ingredients and, wherever possible, herbs and vegetables from our own gardens. Shared around sociable tables, dinners are relaxed occasions, with drinks available to order at the table or from the bar, and a traditional Sunday roast to round off the week.

Rooms

A choice of guest rooms at Dolserau Hall

Designed with your comfort in mind, Dolserau Hall has 21 well-appointed guest rooms available in two categories: Classic and Premium.

Classic Rooms are comfortable en-suite guest rooms, ideal for a peaceful night's sleep. Amenities include free Wi-Fi, tea and coffee-making facilities, toiletries (hand wash, shampoo, and shower gel), and a TV.

Premium Rooms are more spacious en-suite guest rooms*. Amenities include free Wi-Fi, tea and coffee-making facilities, toiletries (hand wash, shampoo, body lotion, shower gel), and a 32-inch TV. Extras include bathrobes, slippers, and comfortable mattresses.

We love: The rooms in the main house or converted coach house. Some come with standout views of Snowdonia (Eryri) National Park.

Premium single	Premium double/twin	Choose your room
£20 pppn	£20 pppn	£30 per room

*Views and layout reflect each properties unique character and location

Choose Your Room Service

Some guests love choosing a particular room, for the view, a quiet spot in an annex, or to be close to the dining room. Many return to the same room time and again, creating a familiar and comforting sense of place for only £30 per room.

Accessibility

For accessibility and assistance information, please contact our expert team on [020 3974 8865](tel:02039748865) or view the accessibility information online for [Dolserau Hall](#)

About your stay

A warm welcome

We want you to feel comfortable from the moment you arrive. You'll find a welcome pack in your room with guest registration forms, menus, order forms for dinners and picnic lunches, the Wi-Fi password, and the front door code. Our houses are locked at night, so we recommend noting the Duty Manager's number on arrival in case of an emergency (or getting locked out).

Evening entertainment

While evening entertainment varies from house to house, HF Holidays Inter-House Quiz night held after dinner on Wednesdays is a weekly staple. Your HF Holidays leader may be around for tips on guided and self-guided walking routes as well as visit-worthy local attractions.

Walks talks

Our HF Holidays walk leaders host guided walking information briefings before dinner on guided walking holiday arrival days. This is followed by a group Walks Talk for information on the following day's guided walks (held before dinner every evening). Self-guided walking guests are, of course, welcome.

The walking day

Prior to setting off on guided walks, your HF Holidays Leader will run you through a short safety briefing. There's also an up-to-date weather forecast on display at the house to ensure you have appropriate clothing and footwear. If you choose to do your own walks or are on a self-guided walking holiday, we ask that you please complete an Independent Walker Card each day. These can be found near the Discovery Point in the house.

Accessibility

For accessibility and assistance information, please contact our expert team on [020 3974 8865](tel:02039748865) or view the accessibility information online for [Dolserau Hall](#)

Travel Details

Address

Dolserau Hall
Dolgellau
Gwynedd LL40 2AG

Tel: [+44 \(0\)1341 422522](tel:+44(0)1341422522)

By train

The nearest station is Machynlleth.

For train times and to plan your route check National Rail.

By taxi

The 16-mile journey from Machynlleth railway station takes about 30 minutes.

For pricing, please contact Cader Cabs directly.

Cader Cabs

A local, 24/7 firm, who can provide transport from nearby train stations and bus stops. No pre-booking is required.

Cader Cabs are offering a 10% discount on all taxi journeys for guests coming to or going from Dolserau Hall.

Tel: [+44 \(0\)7766 983 103](tel:+44(0)7766983103)

Email: This email address is being protected from spambots. You need JavaScript enabled to view it.

*Cader Cabs are not owned or managed by HF Holidays.

By bus

From Machynlleth take the T2 bus to Dolgellau. You can complete the two-mile journey to Dolserau Hall by taxi. Or if you alight at Dolgellau Starbucks, it's a one-mile walk along a quiet country lane to the house.

By car

It takes about 90 minutes to drive from the M56 at Chester or the M54 at Telford to Dolserau Hall.

From the north

Head to Chester, then take the M53 and A55 to join the A550, followed by the A5104 for about 20 miles, then finally the A494 signposted to Bala.

Stay on the A494 through Bala heading towards Dolgellau. A mile after going past a junction for the B4416 to Brithdir, take the next turning on the left to follow the country lane for half a mile to Dolserau Hall.

From the south

Take the M54 and A5 to Shrewsbury to join the A458 towards Welshpool. Continue on the A458 through Welshpool and after 27 miles turn right at a roundabout onto the A470 towards Dolgellau. As you come down a steep hill before Dolgellau, look out for a petrol station on the right. Take a right turn immediately before it, then you'll find Dolserau Hall is about one mile along this country lane on your left.

By Shared Transfer

If you're travelling to or from Dolserau Hall on Mondays or Fridays, you can join our group transfer from Shrewsbury Railway Station.

2026 prices are £30 per person for a return transfer or £15 per person for a single transfer.

Outward journey: Depart Shrewsbury Railway Station at 15:00; arrive at Dolserau Hall at 16:40. Return journey: Depart Dolserau Hall at 09:00; arrive at Shrewsbury Railway Station at 10:40.

By air

The nearest airport is Manchester Airport.

You'll need to allow around five hours, firstly taking the train to Chester, changing to the Sapphire bus to Wrexham, and from there taking the T3 bus to Dolgellau.

Local Area

Whether you're enjoying a guided or self-guided walking holiday, there's always the opportunity to linger for longer. Here's our pick of the very best things to see and do within easy travelling distance of Dolserau Hall.

Ffestiniog & Welsh Highland Railway

Established in 1832, this heritage line offers nearly 40 miles of Snowdonia (Eryri) scenery. The Ffestiniog Railway runs from Porthmadog to Tan y Bwlch while the Welsh Highland Railway travels from Caernarvon to Beddgelert. Porthmadog station is a 40-minute drive away.

Great Little Trains of Wales

A collection of little steam railways, this makes for an enchanting way to discover the visually-striking Welsh countryside. The Snowdon (Yr Wyddfa) Mountain Railway has been taking passengers to the mountain's summit since 1896 (early bookings are highly recommended).

National Slate Museum

A 90-minute drive away, this Llanberis-based museum is housed in the industrial Victorian workshops once used for serving and maintaining the Dinorwic slate quarry. Highlights include watching slate being cut by hand and visiting the terrace of quarrymen's houses.

Caernarfon Castle

Just over an hour's drive away, this fortress-palace on the banks of the River Seiont was built by Edward I. The Royal Welsh Fusiliers Museum is located inside the castle and offers a wealth of exhibits that tell the story of the oldest infantry regiment in Wales.

Harlech Castle

A 45-minute drive away, Edward I's stone fortress dominates the landscape and affords incredible views across Snowdonia (Eryri). The castle is largely a ruin, although the huge inner walls and towers still stand almost to their full heights.

Criccieth

A 50-minute drive away, this seaside town is famed for its 13th century castle ruins overlooking Cardigan Bay. Highlights include relaxing on the beach and stopping for an ice cream at Cadwaladers - the esteemed Welsh ice cream parlour founded here in 1927.

Llechwedd Slate Caverns

A 40-minute drive away, this visitor attraction is best known for its deep mine tour that descends 500 feet underground. Highlights include learning about the subterranean chambers and enjoying a fabulous light and sound display at the underground lake.

Bodnant Gardens

Just over an hour's drive away, these breathtaking gardens spread across 80 acres offer wonderful views of Snowdonia (Eryri). Founded in 1874 and given to the National Trust in 1949, highlights include the Italianate terraces, wildflower meadows, and woodland.

Plas Newydd House

A 90-minute drive away, the historic home of Lady Eleanor Butler and Sarah Ponsonby (the so-called Ladies of Llangollen) was a stone cottage converted into a gothic fantasy. The mansion also comes with 40 acres of garden and 129 acres of woodland and parkland.

Portmeirion

Designed by celebrated Welsh architect Sir Clough Williams-Ellis in the mid-1920s, this Italianate-style coastal village is an hour's drive away. For walkers, not-to-be missed sights include the Dwyrdd Estuary and the subtropical forest known as The Gwyllt.

Useful Holiday Information

The UK has a famously unpredictable climate so it's best to be prepared for weather that's sunny one minute and raining the next. To make it easier, here's a list of items you should consider packing.

Essentials

- Suitable footwear such as waterproof walking boots that provide ankle support and good grip
- Waterproof and windproof jacket
- Comfortable clothing (jeans & waterproof capes are not suitable)
- Mid-layer(s) to keep you warm. Fleece makes a good choice
- Waterproof overtrousers
- Gloves and a warm hat
- Rucksack with waterproof liner
- Flask for hot drinks
- Water bottle (at least 1 litre capacity)
- Sunscreen
- UV sunglasses

For holidays operating October through to the end of March, please also bring the following on your walks:

- spare warm clothing
- spare high energy food
- head torch and spare batteries
- please note for the October to March season your waterproof jacket needs to offer a high level of waterproofing and wind resistance, and a hood. Look for a waterproof jacket with sealed/taped seams and a minimum HH (hydrostatic head - this is the rating given on waterproof jackets) of 10,000mm+

Recommended

- Several base layers (long-sleeve or short-sleeve)
- Cushioned walking socks to avoid blisters
- First aid kit, including plasters and insect repellent and tick remover tool
- Sit mat
- Waterproof pouch for valuables
- Rubbish bag (remember to always leave no trace)
- Wallet/purse
- Camera
- Walking poles

Trip Information

Walks may be changed for safety reasons and are subject to a maximum and minimum number of guests.

Leaders always consider the safety of the group as a whole, and may need to alter or curtail the walk if the conditions dictate. Your leader may refuse to accept a guest where clothing, equipment or behaviour is unsuitable. In the event of a problem all leaders carry a mobile phone, first aid kit, group shelter, spare maps and a compass.

Please note: If you choose to leave the group your leader is no longer responsible for you.

If you have a particular health condition or disability please put this on your guest registration form. This information will be confidential to your leaders and the house manager, but leaders do need to take account of any issues when planning walks. Please carry a copy of these trip notes with you, or note down the contact phone number for your accommodation (details in the travel section) should you need them in case of emergency.

Tripnote validity

TRIP NOTE VALIDITY These Trip Notes are valid based on the date printed at the bottom of the page. They will occasionally be updated post booking and pre-departure. We will send you the latest trip notes prior to departure through a link in your pre departure documents or we can send you a copy in the post if preferred. In booking this trip you should be confident in your ability to participate in all activities described in these Trip Notes. If you have any doubt about your suitability you should call HF Holidays and ask to speak to one of the team about this itinerary. The information in these Trip Notes is given in good faith. Where differences exist between the Trip Notes and our current brochure, the Trip Notes supersede the brochure. All holidays can be subject to unexpected changes; so please be prepared to be flexible where necessary. At times, it may not be possible to follow the itinerary as planned due to weather conditions, political, physical or other factors. In these circumstances we will make the best possible alternative arrangements to maintain the integrity of the original itinerary.

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