

# Southern Snowdonia Family Walking Adventure

**Tour Style:** Family Walking Holidays

**Destinations:** Wales & United Kingdom

**Trip code:** DGFAM

1, 2, 3 & 5



## HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

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Children Aged 5 and Under Go FREE! Tucked away from the honeypot hotspots to the north, there's something for everyone in southern Snowdonia; the rolling green hills of the lowlands to conquering the high peaks of Cadair Idris, the Rhinogs and the Arans. Dolserau Hall sits in Dolgellau within the National Park and boasts spectacular views from every room. Snowdonia has all the ingredients for a great family holiday. Active teenagers will love the high mountains, while the whole family will love the coastal walks that end on the glorious sandy beach at Barmouth, or the iconic Harlech Castle.

## HOLIDAYS HIGHLIGHTS

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- Choice of up to 3 walks per day
- Discover the wild Welsh hillsides alive with legends of giants, monsters and heroes
- Visit Barmouth Beach
- Explore waterfalls & a goldmine
- Conquer Cadair Idris

- Discover the great little trains of Wales

## TRIP SUITABILITY

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This trip is graded Activity Level one, two, three and five, Our family holidays offer the choice of up to 3 guided walks each day – you can choose an Easier Walk one day and switch to a Harder Walk the next. Our routes range from short coastal strolls that are ideal for little legs, to challenging mountain ascents that will appeal to active teenagers.

Mountains, beaches, forests, waterfalls and goldmines! What more could we pack into a week in wonderful Wales? Explore the myths and legends of this stunning area.

Expert leaders: our friendly leaders are the cornerstone of these guided holidays and will ensure that families get the most out of the walks  
Peace of mind: only families can book on our dedicated Family holidays - the kids get the run of the Country House in a safe environment  
Free day: on our 7 night holidays, enjoy a day without walks to get out and make the most of the nearby family-friendly attractions.

## ITINERARY

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### Day 1: Arrival Day

Arrive at Dolserau Hall

### Day 2: Cadair Idris And The Talyllyn Railway

#### Option 1 - Option 1: Talyllyn Railway

The walk in a nutshell: Explore the area around Abergynolwyn, before taking a ride on the Talyllyn railway, a historic narrow-gauge railway set in beautiful Welsh scenery.

Don't miss: The Talyllyn railway was the first preserved line in Britain, and was the inspiration for the Skarloey Railway in the Thomas the Tank Engine books.

Distance: 5 miles (8km) Total ascent: 1,000 feet (320m)

#### Option 2 - Option 2: Bird Rock

The walk in a nutshell: Burn off some energy: a more challenging walk around the Abergynolwyn area taking in the impressive outcrop of Bird Rock.

Don't miss: Admire the views down to the sea from the top of Bird Rock. Our day concludes with a ride on the Talyllyn Railway.

Distance: 8½ miles (14km) Total ascent: 1,100 feet (335m)

### Day 3: Harlech

#### Option 1 - Option 1: Harlech Beach

The walk in a nutshell: We'll start the day exploring Llanfair Farm Park before making our way to Harlech to play on the beach.

Don't miss: Visit Harlech Castle which commands a wonderful position overlooking the sweeping sands of Cardigan Bay with the mountains of Snowdonia behind

Distance: 5 miles (8km) Total ascent: 750 feet (240m)

### **Option 2 - Option 2: Harlech Coastline**

The walk in a nutshell: We'll be walking from Llanbedr on to Llandanwg and then on to Harlech and time on the stunning beach.

Don't miss: There are great views along the coast, and of Harlech castle on the final leg.

Distance: 6½ miles (10½km) Total ascent: 850 feet (260m)

### **Option 3 - Option 3: Over The Hills To Harlech**

The walk in a nutshell: Walk in the rolling foothills of the Rhinog mountains. We'll finish in Harlech for a well deserved ice-cream.

Don't miss: This is a real 'away from it all' walk, passing through unspoilt scenery, with views down to the sea.

Distance: 9 miles (14½km) Total ascent: 1,400 feet (420m)

## **Day 4: Rhinog Fawr & Coed Y Brenin –**

### **Option 1 - Option 1: Gruffalo Trail**

The walk in a nutshell: Follow the Gruffalo Trail through the Coed y Brenin forest, discovering more about the woodland creatures mentioned in the story.

Don't miss: There's also a great woodland playground at the end of the walk.

Distance: 6 miles (10½km) Total ascent: 1,300 feet (400m)

### **Option 2 - Option 2: Coed Y Brenin**

The walk in a nutshell: Our woodland journey will take us to view waterfalls and a goldmine!

Don't miss: There's plenty of interest on this walk, with time for games in the woods.

Distance: 8 miles (13km) Total ascent: 2,050 feet (620m)

### **Option 3 - Option 3: Rhinog Fawr**

The walk in a nutshell: Don't be misled by the ascent, this is a tough walk in the wild and rugged Rhinog mountains. We ascend to the head of the Roman steps then on rough terrain to Rhinog Fawr summit.

Don't miss: The Rhinogs are one of Snowdonia's lesser-known gems, with rugged shapely peaks and fabulous sea views.

Distance: 8½ miles (14km) Total ascent: 2,250 feet (680m)

## **Day 5: Over The Hills To Barmouth**

### **Option 1 - Option 1: Barmouth Bridge**

The walk in a nutshell: Walk from Barmouth across the River Mawddach estuary on the Grade II\* listed

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Barmouth bridge. We'll head to Fairbourne then take a boat back to Barmouth.

Don't miss: We'll have plenty of time to enjoy Barmouth; a classic seaside town with lots of sand, donkeys, ice cream and fun.

Distance: 5½ miles (9km) Total ascent: 750 feet (220m)

### **Option 2 - Option 2: Panorama Walk**

The walk in a nutshell: Follow the stunning panorama walk above the Mawddach Estuary, heading over the hills to Barmouth.

Don't miss: This walk combines spectacular ridge walking with wonderful views of the coast and estuary, and beyond to the Snowdonian mountains.

Distance: 5½ miles (8½km) Total ascent: 1,050 feet (320m)

### **Option 3 - Option 3: The Southern Rhinogs**

The walk in a nutshell: Heading to the southern end of the magnificent Rhinog mountain ridge we ascend the summit of Diffwys, before descending to the coast at Barmouth.

Don't miss: Diffwys, the second highest of the Rhinog peaks, commands a wonderful view out into Cardigan Bay and to Cadair Idris.

Distance: 10 miles (16m) Total ascent: 2,450 (740m)

## **Day 6: Arans And Around Dolserau**

### **Option 1 - Option 1: Llyn Cynwch**

The walk in a nutshell: A circular walk around the beautiful Llyn Cynwch, which is just a couple of miles from Dolserau Hall.

Don't miss: Legend has it that there is a marble fairy castle at the bottom of this lovely lake.

Distance: 5 miles (8km) Total ascent: 450 feet (140m)

### **Option 2 - Option 2: Old Precipice Walk**

The walk in a nutshell: The Precipice Walk is a real classic - a contouring path with amazing views over the Mawddach Estuary and the surrounding mountains (and it's nothing like as scary as the name suggests!).

Don't miss: This panoramic trail enjoys wonderful views of Coed y Brenin Forest, the Mawddach Estuary and Cadair Idris.

Distance: 6 miles (10km) Total ascent: 850 feet (250m)

### **Option 3 - Option 3: Aran Fawddwy**

The walk in a nutshell: A big day out traversing the Aran Ridge, in part grassy, in part rocky, but with stunning views. Our highest point is the summit of Aran Fawddwy.

Don't miss: Choose a clear day and you'll be rewarded with a stunning panorama across the Snowdonian mountains.

Distance: 7½ miles (12km) Total ascent: 2,750 feet (840m)

## Day 7: Departure Day

Depart after breakfast

## ACCOMMODATION

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### Dolserau Hall

Walkers in the know head to southern Snowdonia to uncover one of Wales' best-kept secrets. Stood in the heart of the Snowdonia National Park, just a couple of miles from the attractive market town of Dolgellau, Dolserau Hall makes a superb base for getting off the beaten path. The tranquillity of the location wraps around you. A smart country house with breathtaking views from every room, attractive gardens and vistas that stretch across the valley to the summit of Cadair Idris, you're surrounded by rural inspiration. Depending on what mood strikes, explore the Rhinogs, take on a classic ridge walk with great views, set foot on the Mawddach Trail or follow the coast to Harlech, where the eponymous medieval castle stands on a wonderful position overlooking the sweeping sands of Cardigan Bay. Croeso I Cymru, as they say around here.

## Matchless Country House Accommodation

### Accommodation Info

### Rooms

*Tea & coffee-making facilities, TV, Hairdryer, Toiletries, Wi-Fi*

Stay in the smartly presented rooms in the main house or in one of the handful of bedrooms in the converted coach house close by. With 23 rooms, Dolserau Hall has plenty of space and there's a range of Good and Better Rooms to choose from. Enjoy the extra space of Room 1 and soak luxuriously in the tub that comes with the room, or watch the light change outside from the comfort and privacy of the sofa in front of the large picture window in Room 5.

*All 'Good' rooms are ensuite and furnished to a high standard. There are also several 'Better' Rooms that are either larger or have a desirable view, a more luxurious mattress, larger television, enhanced toiletries and a fluffy bathrobe & slippers – upgrade your stay for just an extra £15-20 per person per night. You can choose a specific room for an extra £30 per room, subject to availability. Upgrade supplements still apply.*

### Facilities

*Free Wi-Fi, boot room and drying room, extensive garden, lounge bar, library and board games to borrow*

After a day rambling over the slopes of the Rhinogs or summiting a cracking peak, come back to the house and its specially tailored walkers' facilities. Wander through the Coach House garden and admire the far-reaching views. Settle into the lounge bar and sink into the comfy leather sofas here. Grab a book or a board game and make yourself comfortable.

### Food & Drink

As at all our country houses, holidays are full board, from afternoon tea served as a welcome treat through that evening's meal to a hearty breakfast on the day of departure. Lunch is a chance to stock up on our famous picnic snacks. Food at Dolserau Hall is varied and tasty and has a strong emphasis on ingredients from the area and seasonal produce. Once a week the dining room hosts a Local Food Night, when, over a sociable evening, you might try a six-course feast of regional flavours. Look out for highlights including Cawl

Cennin, a leek and potato broth, smoked haddock with Welsh rarebit and lava bread and Welsh lamb Wellington. If you've space, tuck into a slice of Monmouth Pudding, a great old-fashioned desert of breadcrumbs, fruit, cream and meringue

## **Accessibility**

For accessibility and assistance information, please contact our expert team on 020 3974 8865

## TRAVEL DETAILS

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Our address is: Dolserau Hall, Dolgellau, Gwynedd, LL40 2AG

### By Train:

The most convenient railway station to Dolserau Hall is at Machynlleth. For train times and route planning visit [www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk) or phone 03457 484950

### By Taxi:

The 16-mile journey from Machynlleth railway station takes approximately 30 minutes. We have negotiated a preferential rate of £30 with Mach Taxis for all pre-booked journeys. They will arrange shared taxis wherever possible. To book a transfer please phone or email:

Mach Taxis

Tel: +44 (0)1654 702048

Email: [taxi@machtaxis.com](mailto:taxi@machtaxis.com)

The return journey can be arranged on your behalf by the House Manager.

### By Bus:

From Machynlleth take the X27 bus to Dolgellau. The 2 mile journey to Dolserau Hall from Doglellau can be completed by taxi. Alternatively alight at Dolgellau Starbucks, from where it is a 1-mile walk along a quiet country lane to the house.

### By Car:

Dolserau Hall is approximately 1 1/2 hours' drive from the M56 at Chester or the M54 at Telford.

From the North head to Chester, then take the M53 and A55 around the south of Chester. Join the A550 then 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, after the campsite. Follow the country lane for 1/2 mile to Dolserau Hall.

From the South take the M54 and A5 to Shrewsbury. Follow the A5 around the south of Shrewsbury and join the A458 towards Welshpool. Continue on the A458 through Welshpool and after a further 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 hand side. Take the turning on the right immediately before the petrol station. Dolserau Hall is about 1 mile along this country lane on your right.

## LOCAL AREA

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During your visit to Dolserau Hall you may enjoy visiting the following places of interest:

### Welsh Highland Railway

The recently re-opened Welsh Highland railway runs from Caernarfon to Porthmadog, passing through Beddgelert on route. This is a spectacular journey which includes the dramatic Aberglaslyn Pass and views of Snowdon. The steep gradients require powerful locomotives which have to work particularly hard on the climb from Beddgelert to the summit of the line at Rhyd Ddu. [www.festrail.co.uk](http://www.festrail.co.uk)

## Great Little Trains Of Wales

Snowdonia is noted for its concentration of narrow gauge steam railways, all of which offer highly scenic journeys. The Ffestiniog Railway and Snowdon Mountain Railways are both within reach. For a truly unique day out you can take the mountain railway to the summit of Snowdon (best to book in advance as tickets can sell out quickly on busy days). [www.greatlittletrainsofwales.co.uk](http://www.greatlittletrainsofwales.co.uk)

## National Slate Museum

Located at Llanberis, the excellent, and free, National Slate Museum tells the story of this once extensive industry. You can see slate being cut by hand, the huge waterwheel that powers the machinery, and the fascinating quarrymen's houses which show their development over the centuries. Llanberis is around 30 minutes' drive from Beddgelert, and can also be reached using the Snowdon Sherpa bus.

[www.museumwales.ac.uk/slate](http://www.museumwales.ac.uk/slate)

## Caernarfon Castle

Built by King Edward I after his conquest of Wales, Caernarfon Castle is one of the most impressive and well preserved fortifications in the principality. Along with neighbouring castles at Harlech, Beaumaris and Conwy it now has World Heritage status. Caernarfon is around 30 minutes' drive from Beddgelert, or can be reached using the Welsh Highland Railway. [www.cadw.wales.gov.uk](http://www.cadw.wales.gov.uk)

## Criccieth

The seaside town of Criccieth is around 25 minutes' drive from Beddgelert, and full of Victorian character. You could visit the historic castle, relax on the beach, or sample the excellent ice cream at Cadwaders parlour.

## Llyn Peninsula

The long arm of the Llyn Peninsula offers beautiful and contrasting scenery, with wild cliffs and white sandy coves. Enjoy the glorious beaches at Aberdaron or Abersoch, or walk to the tip of the peninsula and enjoy the views of Bardsey Island.

## Harlech Castle

Harlech Castle occupies a superb vantage point overlooking the coast and the mountains of Snowdonia. Built by Edward I, its imposing walls were built by 1,000 skilled craftsmen between 1283 and 1295. [www.cadw.gov.uk](http://www.cadw.gov.uk)

## Llechwedd Slate Caverns

Located near Bleanau Ffestiniog, about 30 minutes' drive from Beddgelert, the Llechwedd Slate Caverns are one of the area's most popular attractions. Take the underground railway deep into the mountain where a knowledgeable guide will tell you how slate was hewn by hand. [www.llechwedd-slate-caverns.co.uk](http://www.llechwedd-slate-caverns.co.uk)

## Bodnant Gardens

Situated in the Conwy Valley, about 50 minutes' drive from Beddgelert, the National Trust's gardens at Bodnant have impressive collections of colour and views of the Snowdonian mountains. [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/bodnant-garden](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/bodnant-garden)

## Plas Newydd

The grand house at Plas Newydd enjoys glorious views overlooking the Menai Straits. Built for the 1st Marquess of Anglesey, the house itself is impressive, as are the extensive gardens. Now managed by the National Trust. Around 50 minutes' drive from Beddgelert. [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/plas-newydd](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/plas-newydd)

## Portmeirion

This quaint Italianate village was the brainchild of the architect Clough Williams-Ellis. It is also well-known as the setting for the cult 1960's TV series The Prisoner. Portmeirion is around 20 minutes' drive from Beddgelert. [www.portmeirion-village.com](http://www.portmeirion-village.com)

## USEFUL HOLIDAY INFORMATION

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### What To Bring

#### Suggested Kit List

- a rucksack,
- a waterproof jacket
- waterproof over trousers,
- a spare jumper or fleece,
- sun protection cream,
- a water bottle (at least 1 litre),
- some spare high-energy food such as a chocolate bar
- a small torch
- first aid kit – your leader's first aid kit doesn't contain any medication or blister kits (such as Compeed).

(in spring, autumn and winter)

- a hat and gloves (Britain is famous for its changeable weather after all!)
- You might find walking poles useful, particularly for descents (the kids usually find their own big stick en route!).
- thermos flask for a hot drink
- sun hat
- towel for paddling on hot days

## HOW TO BOOK

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When you're ready to book, you can choose to **book online** or book **over the phone**. Our website offers secure online booking for our holidays, is available 24/7, and offers more in-depth information about all our holidays. If you prefer to call us, our experienced and knowledgeable team are available to answer any specific questions you have and can offer guidance as to which holiday is best suited to your needs.

Our office is open: Monday to Friday: 9am – 7pm Saturday & Sunday: 9am – 1pm Bank Holiday Monday: 9am – 1pm

### PAYING YOUR DEPOSIT

To secure the holiday of your choice, you will need to pay a deposit: UK & European Holidays: £150 per person and Worldwide Holidays: £250 per person. You can pay your deposit by debit or credit card with no additional card fees charged or make an online BACS payment directly into HF's bank account, please see details under BACS payments. You can also pay your deposit by cheque within seven days of booking. Cheques should be made payable to 'HF Holidays Ltd' with your booking reference / Order ID on the back.

### NON-MEMBER FEE

Non-members can join our holidays by paying a Non-Member's fee of £10 per person per holiday. Alternatively, full membership is available from £100 – visit [hfholidays.co.uk/membership](http://hfholidays.co.uk/membership) for details.

## **BACS PAYMENTS**

Please quote your booking reference / Order ID when you make your payment online: Bank Name: Svenska Handelsbanken AB (publ) Account Name: HF Holidays Ltd Account Number: 35923304 Sort Code: 40-51-62 IBAN: GB92HAND40516235923304 Swift / Bic Code: HANDGB22

Once we have received your booking and deposit, we will send a confirmation invoice to the lead name. Please check this carefully. For bookings 'with flights' it is essential that the names on your booking confirmation invoice match those on your passport for bookings overseas. Please advise us immediately of any errors. Any name changes after the balance of your holiday has been paid will be subject to a fee levied by the airline.

## **MANAGE MY BOOKINGS**

Payments can also be made through the Manage My Booking function on our website. Click on the link at the top of our homepage. This is available to all customers who provide an email address at the time of booking.

## **YOUR FINAL BALANCE**

The balance is due 10 weeks before departure. As with paying your deposit, you can pay your final balance by debit or credit card, make an online BACS payment directly into HF's bank account or pay by cheque.

## **TRAVEL INSURANCE**

Travel insurance is an important part of any booking and essential for one of our holidays. HF Holidays works with specialist. Insurance Brokers Campbell Irvine Direct. For more information or to obtain a quote call them on 01702 427 236 or visit [hfholidays.co.uk/insurance](http://hfholidays.co.uk/insurance)

## **PEACE OF MIND**

### **ATOL:**

The air holidays and flights in this brochure are ATOL-protected, since we hold an Air Travel Organiser's Licence granted by the Civil Aviation Authority. Our ATOL number is ATOL 710. In the unlikely event of our insolvency, the CAA will ensure that you are not stranded abroad and will arrange to refund any money you have paid us for advance bookings. For further information visit the ATOL website [atol.org.uk](http://atol.org.uk)

### **MEMBER OF ABTOT:**

HF Holidays is a member of ABTOT (The Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited) which provides financial protection under the Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations 1992 for HF Holidays Ltd and in the event of their insolvency, protection is provided for the following: 1. non-flight packages commencing in and returning to the UK; 2. non-flight packages commencing and returning to a country other than the UK; 3. flight inclusive packages that commence outside of the UK and Republic of Ireland, which are sold to customers outside of the UK and Republic of Ireland. 1, 2 and 3 provides for a refund in the event you have not yet travelled. 1 and 3 provides for repatriation. Please note that bookings made outside the UK and Republic of Ireland are only protected by ABTOT when purchased directly with HF Holidays Ltd.

## **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.

## PRICE GUARANTEE

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We promise that our earliest published prices will always be the best and if we reduce our holiday price after your booking has been confirmed, we will pass this reduction on to you. Our price promise applies if any subsequent offer price is for an identical holiday, duration, location and date and does not cover any optional extras, flights or additional services.

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