

# 4 Night Southern Snowdonia Christmas & New Year Guided Walking Holiday

**Tour Style:** Guided walking

**Destinations:** Snowdonia, United Kingdom & Wales

**Trip code:** DGXFW-4

2, 3 & 5



## HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

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There's something magical about winter walks in Wales – especially around Snowdonia (Eryri). Even the name gives off a winter wonderland feel. Make this Christmas truly memorable and spend the festive season at Dolserau Hall – our 17th century manor house in the heart of Snowdonia (Eryri) National Park. We pull out all the stops at this time of year and our houses welcome you with warm festive cheer, seasonal food, and plenty of yuletide treats.

## WHAT'S INCLUDED

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- Comfortable en-suite accommodation in our 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

## HOLIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

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- Getting into the festive spirit with a guided walking holiday
- A choice of winter walks with our experienced HF Holidays Leaders
- Discovering the stunning landscapes of Southern Snowdonia (Eryri) on foot
- Staying in our country house in Snowdonia (Eryri) National Park
- Enjoying festive fare and leaving all the organising to us
- A celebration dinner with all the trimmings on Christmas Day and New Year's Eve

## TRIP SUITABILITY

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Our House Manager and leaders are busy putting together a unique programme of walks and social activities, and look forward to welcoming you on your holiday.

The walks are tailored to the time of year and will remain flexible to suit the weather conditions. Each day three grades of walk will be offered.

Typically, easier walks are up to up to a maximum of 7 miles (11½km), medium walks are up to a maximum of 9 miles (15½m), while harder walks can be up to up to a maximum of 11 miles (17½km). Walks in each grade are generally shorter than this and tailored to finish usually by 3.30pm – 4pm, at a comfortable pace.

## ITINERARY

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### Day 1: Arrival Day

You're welcome to check in from 4pm onwards. Enjoy a complimentary cream tea on arrival.

### Day 2: Panorama Viewpoint & Rhiwgy Pass

#### Option 1 - Panorama Viewpoint & Barmouth

**Distance:** 4 miles (6½km)

**Total ascent:** 520 feet (160m)

**In summary:** Starting just outside Barmouth, we ascend gradually to the Panorama viewpoint above the town, arguably one of the best in Wales. We then descend beside a stream to the estuary and can walk out onto the famous trestle bridge for some sea air and wildlife spotting.

**Highlight:** The Trestle Bridge across the Mawddach is a great experience looking right up the middle of the estuary.

#### Option 2 - Over The Hills To Barmouth

**Distance:** 5.5 miles (8.5km)

**Total ascent:** 1,060 feet (320m)

**In summary:** Follow the stunning panorama walk above the Mawddach Estuary, heading over the hills to Barmouth.

**Highlight:** This walk combines spectacular ridge walking with wonderful views of the coast and estuary, and beyond to the Snowdonian (Eryri) mountains.

### Option 3 - Bwlch-y-Rhiwgyr Pass

**Distance:** 8½ miles (13½km)

**Ascent:** 2,020 ft (620m)

**In summary:** We ascend from Caerdeon to the Bwlch-y-Rhiwgyr pass, then follow the crest of a wide grassy ridge, with wonderful estuary and coastal views, descending gradually to finish along the beach to Barmouth

**Highlight:** Superb views over The Mawddach estuary from the Bwlch-y-Rhiwgyr pass.

## Day 3: The Torrent Walk & Y Foel

### Option 1 - Brithdir & Torrent Walk

**Distance:** 4.5 miles (7km)

**Ascent:** 490 feet (150m)

**In summary:** An easy circular walk from Dolserau Hall to visit the remains of the Roman fortlet and St Mark's Church in Brithdir. We then walk on one of the most popular paths in the Dolgellau area, Torrent Walk.

**Highlight:** Enjoy an easy calming walk from the house visiting ancient forts and walking along the river.

### Option 2 - Foel Caerynwch And Torrent Walk

**Distance:** 6 miles (9½km)

**Ascent:** 1,200 feet (360m)

**In summary:** A circular walk from the house, we start by walking through the tranquil woods behind the house crossing streams and fields reaching Brithdir. We then ascend up to the summit of Foel Caerynwch where you can take some time to enjoy the views. Following that, we will descend to reach the very interesting St Mark's Church before walking along the river back to the house.

**Highlight:** Short and easy summit walk with great views at the top and a visit to St Mark's Church.

### Option 3 - Roman Road, Foel Caerynwch And Torrent Walk

**Distance:** 7½ miles (12km)

**Ascent:** 1,540 feet (480m)

**In summary:** Leaving the House, we climb gradually through woods to reach a Roman road, then across open moorland to the summit of Foel Caerynwch. We then descend to the road, passing St Marks Church, and descending the Torrent Walk to the House.

**Highlight:** Roman road, views of the Mawddach Valley and Cader Idris, the Art Nouveau St Marks Church

## Day 4: Cadair Idris & The Old Precipice Walk

### Option 1 - Old Precipice Walk

**Distance:** 6 miles (10km)

**Total ascent:** 450 feet (140m)

**In summary:** 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!).

**Highlight:** This panoramic trail enjoys wonderful views of Coed y Brenin Forest, the Mawddach Estuary and Cadair Idris.

### Option 2 - Coed Y Brenin & Old Precipice Walk

**Distance:** 9 miles (14km)

**Total ascent:** 2,100 feet (640m)

**In summary:** Walk from the Coed y Brenin Forest to Dolserau Hall, passing the Rhaeadr Ddu waterfall, ruins of the Glasdir Copper mine, and following the famous Precipice Walk.

**Highlight:** The 60 foot cascade of Rhaeadr Ddu (Black Waterfall), is one of the most spectacular in Snowdonia (Eryri).

### Option 3 - Cader Idris

**Distance:** 5½miles (9km)

**Total ascent:** 2,750 feet (850m)

**In summary:** Follow the Minffordd path up Cader Idris, passing an impressive corrie lake and dramatic ridge. We descend along the Victorian pony track, taking in superb views on our way. Please note that due to operational reasons this walk is limited to 15 guests.

**Highlight:** Cader Idris is the most impressive mountain in Southern Snowdonia (Eryri); a favourite with many walkers.

## Day 5: Departure Day

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before making your way home.

## ACCOMMODATION

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### Dolserau Hall

Arresting countryside views dominate at this characterful 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).

## Country House Accommodation

### Rooms

Designed with your comfort in mind, Dolserau Hall has 23 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.

The **Choose Your Room** service is available at our UK country houses, allowing you the option of choosing and confirming a specific room for an extra charge of £30 per room. This is subject to availability. Upgrade supplements apply.

### Check in & check out

You are welcome to check in from **4:00pm at the earliest**. 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.

On the day of departure, we kindly ask all guests to check out by **10:00am**. You'll be asked to settle your bill prior to leaving. You may, of course, make a charitable donation to our HF Holidays Pathways Fund if you wish. Please note that we only accept card payments.

### Room supplements

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

## 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, the HF Holidays Big Pub Quiz 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 Leaders host guided walking information briefings before dinner on arrival days. This is followed by a group Walks Talk for information on the following day's walking delights (held before dinner every evening). Self-guided walking guests are, of course, welcome.

### The walking day

Prior to setting off on 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.

## Food & Drink

Led by experienced chefs, we serve a wide range of dishes made with fresh and seasonal ingredients. We always aim to source the best produce available and use home-grown herbs and vegetables from our own gardens whenever possible. Additionally, we have a licensed bar with beers, soft drinks, and a superb selection of spirits. Full-board comes as standard and includes a cream tea on arrival and a hearty breakfast on departure day.

HF Holidays understands the importance of managing allergens effectively to ensure food is safe for guests with food allergies. Whilst we are always able to confidently inform guests which allergens are present in our ingredients and dishes, we are unable to guarantee absolute freedom from the 14 main allergens in our kitchens. Vegetarian and vegan menu choices are available. If you have allergies, food intolerances, or any special dietary requirements, please inform our reservation team at the time of booking.

## 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

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### 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\* and Mach Taxis\* directly.

### Cader Cabs

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

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

Email: [info@cadercabs.co.uk](mailto:info@cadercabs.co.uk)

### Mach Taxis

We recommend pre-booking your taxi at least seven days in advance.

Tel: [+44 \(0\)1654 702048](tel:+44(0)1654702048)

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

A return journey can be arranged on your behalf by the HF Holidays House Manager at Dolserau Hall.

\*Cader Cabs and Mach Taxis 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 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

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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 Dwyryd Estuary and the subtropical forest known as The Gwyllt.

## USEFUL HOLIDAY INFORMATION

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### Essential Information

The UK has a famously unpredictable climate so it's best to be prepared for weather that's sunny one minute

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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. Fleeeces make 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

### Recommended

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

## Safety On Your Holiday

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 while 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.

## TRIP NOTE VALIDITY

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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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