

7-Night Southern Snowdonia Guided Walking Holiday

Tour Style: Guided Walking

Destinations: Snowdonia & Wales

Trip code: DGBOB-7

2, 3 & 5



HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

Steeped in history, the landscapes of southern Snowdonia unfold to reveal one of Wales' best-kept secrets. Tucked away from the honeypot hotspots to the north of the National Park, the solitude and stunning scenery await discovery on our Guided Walking holidays.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- High quality en-suite accommodation in our country house
- Full board from dinner upon arrival to breakfast on departure day
- 5 days guided walking; 1 free day
- Use of our comprehensive Discovery Point
- Choice of up to three guided walks each walking day
- The services of HF Holidays Walking Leaders

HOLIDAYS HIGHLIGHTS

- Head out on full day walks to discover the varied beauty of Snowdonia on foot
- Admire panoramic valley, lake and river views from slopes and peaks
- Let a local leader bring classic routes and offbeat areas to life
- Enjoy magnificent Snowdonia mountainscape scenery
- Look out for wildlife, find secret corners and learn about Welsh history
- A relaxed pace of discovery in a sociable group keen to get some fresh air in one of Britain's most beautiful walking areas
- Discover what makes the Snowdonia so special from the sweeping valleys to the rocky peaks
- Evenings in our country house where you share a drink and re-live the day's adventures

ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrival Day

You're welcome to check in from 4pm onwards.

Day 2: Around Harlech

Option 1 - Shell Island & Harlech

Distance: 7 miles (11.5km)

Total ascent: 850 feet (260m)

In Summary: A super walk which takes us from Barmouth Bay into Tremadog Bay via some outstanding beaches all the way to famous Harlech.

Highlight: The stunning haven of Shell Island. Winter storms can often reveal hundreds of different types of shell.

Option 2 - Dyffryn Ardudwy To Harlech

Distance: 8½ miles (14km)

Total ascent: 1,300 feet (400m)

In Summary: With a longer start and a relaxing stop in pretty Llanbedr, this walk takes in the glorious experience of the wild beaches which lead up to Harlech and its iconic castle.

Highlight: Harlech Castle commands a wonderful position overlooking the sweeping sands of Cardigan Bay with the mountains of Snowdonia behind.

Option 3 - Moelfre Viewpoint To Harlech

Distance: 11 miles (17.5km)

Total ascent: 1,650 feet (500m)

In Summary: From the excellent viewpoint below shapely Moelfre, a hill more gentle in character than the rest of the Rhinogs, we head over to the unmissable section of coast to Harlech.

Highlight: Delightful walking in the foothills of the Rhinogs.

Day 3: Barmouth & The Mawddach Estuary

Option 1 - Panorama Walk, Barmouth & Fairbourne

Distance: 6 miles (9.5km)

Total ascent: 1,000 feet (300m)

In Summary: After visiting the Panorama viewpoint above Barmouth, and a stop in this traditional seaside town, we cross the Trestle Bridge over the estuary and finish in Fairbourne.

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

Option 2 - Bwlch Y Llan, Barmouth & Fairbourne

Distance: 8 miles (12.5km)

Total ascent: 1,800 feet (540m)

In Summary: The higher ground above Barmouth is well worth exploring and, after the highest point at Bwlch y Llan (Pass of the Church), we take a pause in Barmouth and continue over the estuary to Fairbourne.

Highlight: The views above Barmouth are worth the effort

Option 3 - Llanaber, Barmouth & Arthog Waterfalls

Distance: 9 miles (14.5km)

Total ascent: 2,400 feet (720m)

In Summary: Starting on the coast a couple of miles north of Barmouth, we ascend steeply to Bwlch Cwm Maria and follow a stunning ridge down to Barmouth. We then cross the estuary and, before finishing, make a detour via the hamlet of Arthog

Highlight: Arthog Waterfalls, seen at their best in the off season.

Day 4: Free Day

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

Day 5: Dolgellau & Beneath Cadair Idris

Option 1 - Llyn Gwernan, Dolgellau & Torrent Walk

Distance: 7 miles (12km)

Total ascent: 850 feet (260m)

In Summary: Starting from Ty Nant we walk beside Llyn Gwernan then follow paths into Dolgellau. After a break we'll explore the countryside to the south east, including the lovely wooded Arran Valley and the hamlet of Tabor.

Highlight: Llyn Gwernan is a beautiful and tranquil spot beneath mighty Cadair Idris.

Option 2 - Old Precipice Walk, Dolgellau & The Torrent Walk

Distance: 8½ miles (14km)

Total ascent: 1,400 feet (420m)

In Summary: The Precipice Walk is a real classic - a contouring path with great views of the surrounding mountains. We head towards those mountains via a pause in Dolgellau town and then enjoy the beautiful woodland of the Torrent Walk, local to Dolserau Hall.

Highlight: Several points on the Precipice Walk offer probably the best views in the region of the Mawddach Estuary.

Option 3 - Dragon's Back, Dolgellau & Foel Caerynwch

Distance: 12½ miles (20km)

Total ascent: 2,050 feet (620m)

In Summary: The harder walk ascends the Dragon's back, a delightful rugged area in the foothills of Cadair Idris, passes through Dolgellau and takes in a fine hill standing just south of our country house to where we return on foot.

Highlight: The Dragon's Back is beautiful, rugged country and should be all ours!

Day 6: Walks Above Bala

Option 1 - Llyn Tegid & Craig Yr Allor

Distance: 6½ miles (10½km)

Total ascent: 1,250 feet (380m)

In Summary: A gradual ascent from south of Bala through woodland and on field paths taking us onto the hillsides above Llyn Tegid. Enjoy great views before returning to finish in Bala.

Highlight: Gaze down over Llyn Tegid, or Bala Lake. At 4 miles long it's the largest natural lake in Wales.

Option 2 - Arenig Fawr

Distance: 8½ miles (14km)

Total ascent: 2,000 feet (600m)

In Summary: We walk to a remote lake and bothy, then ascend steeply to the majestic summit of Arenig Fawr. We walk down to the west and follow a disused railway line to finish beside Llyn Celyn.

Highlight: Arenig Fawr is an imposing summit; one of the best mountains in southern Snowdonia.

Option 3 - Aran Fawddwy & Aran Benllyn

Distance: 9 miles (14½km)

Total ascent: 2,850 feet (880m)

In Summary: A big day out traversing the Aran Ridge, in part grassy, in part rocky, but with stunning views. We take in the twin summits of Aran Fawddwy and Benllyn.

Highlight: Choose a clear day and you'll be rewarded with a stunning panorama across the mountains of Snowdonia.

Day 7: Cadair Idris And The New Precipice Walk

Option 1 - New Precipice Walk

Distance: 7 miles (12km)

Total ascent: 1,200 feet (380m)

In Summary: Enjoy the New Precipice Walk with its spectacular views of the Mawddach Estuary. We take this classic trail to Penmaenpool, returning on the Mawddach Trail to the lovely market town of Dolgellau.

Highlight: Another classic trail that contours around the hillside; the view down the Mawddach Estuary is stunning.

Option 2 - Cadair Idris

Distance: 6½ miles (10½km)

Total ascent: 2,900 feet (880m)

In Summary: Follow the Minffordd path up Cadair Idris, passing an impressive corrie lake and dramatic ridge. We descend along the Victorian pony track.

Highlight: Cadair Idris is the most impressive mountain in Southern Snowdonia; a favourite with many walkers.

Option 3 - Cadair Idris Ridge

Distance: 8½ miles (13½km)

Total ascent: 3,150 feet (960m)

In Summary: Ascend to the top of Cadair 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.

Day 8: Departure Day

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before making your way home.

ACCOMMODATION

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

Need To Know

Important Covid-19 Steps We Have Taken For Guest Safety: Please Read

As we slowly reopen in the wake of the Coronavirus lockdown, our country house stays are set to be organised a little differently; extra steps have been taken to keep our guests, house teams and leaders safe while we return to action. We ask all our guests to respect the measures put in place.

Initially the overall capacity of the houses has been reduced. Guests must wear face coverings in public spaces. To adhere to social distancing guidelines, we have taken the necessary steps to space out furniture and seating in public areas. In addition, a one-way system will be in place around the house. Adequate signage will be displayed to support the direction of travel to be followed by guests and house teams.

As a temporary measure, we will not be servicing rooms during a stay. Extra tea, coffee, milk, and toiletries will be made available on request for all guests. It is recommended that guests bring their own toiletries for the duration of their stay. We have removed all non-essential and reusable items from our rooms for the meantime including cushions, hairdryers, bathrobes, bed throws, and printed materials to reduce the number of items that need to be disinfected. Hairdryers will be available on request. Clean towels will be available on request. We will though be increasing the frequency of cleaning in our public areas providing particular attention to frequently touched items including door handles and handrails.

For now, there is no cream tea on arrival day. We have also adapted our food offering to remove all buffets and open food items. Different sittings may be required for breakfast and dinner due to the occupancy and size of the house. Picnic lunches will now be pre-ordered the night before from an order form in the room. The bar in each country house will be open, and we will be offering a table service for drinks. At this time there is no, or only a very limited, evening social programme available. Outdoor swimming pools at those houses that have them will re-open throughout August, except at Freshwater Bay House, where the pool will remain closed for 2020. Indoor swimming pools will remain closed.

For more information and to see all the steps taken, [visit our page on how house stays will be adapted](#).

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 and larger television – upgrade your stay for just an extra £15-25 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

Our address is: Dolserau Hall, Dolgellau, Gwynedd, LL40 2AG
Tel: [01341 422522](tel:01341422522)

By Train:

The most convenient railway station to Dolserau Hall is at Machynlleth. For train times and route planning visit www.nationalrail.co.uk or phone 03457 484950

By Taxi:

The 16-mile journey from Machynlleth railway station takes approximately 30 minutes. You can pre-book a taxi from our recommended taxi company, Mach Taxis. As a guide price, it cost £30 per 4-seat taxi in 2020. 8-seat taxis are also available at a higher rate. Mach Taxis will arrange shared taxis wherever possible. Please pre-book your taxi at least 7 days in advance by contacting:

Mach Taxis*
Tel: +44 (0) 1654 702048
Email: taxi@machtaxis.com

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

*Mach Taxis is not owned or managed by HF Holidays

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

USEFUL HOLIDAY INFORMATION

What To Bring

"There's no such thing as bad weather, just the wrong type of clothing!" goes the adage. Come prepared for all eventualities and you'll walk in comfort as well as safety. Britain's famous for its changeable weather, so here's our advice on what to wear and bring.

Essentials

- Waterproof walking boots providing ankle support and good grip.
 - A waterproof jacket and over-trousers
 - Gloves and a warm hat (it can be chilly at any time of the year)
 - Rucksack
 - Water bottle (at least 1 litre capacity)
 - A small torch (everywhere in winter, year round in mountains)
 - Sun hat and sunscreen
- Denim jeans and waterproof capes are not suitable on any walks.*

Recommended

- Several layers of clothing, which can be added or removed
- Specialist walking socks to avoid blisters.
- A first aid kit inc plasters– your leader's first aid kit doesn't contain any medication
- Sit mat (insulated pad to sit on when you stop for a break)

You Might Also Want

- Walking poles, particularly useful for descents.
- Insect repellent
- Flask for hot drinks
- Rigid lunch box
- Gaiters
- Blister kit (eg Compeed) just in case
- Waterproof rucksack liner

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.

HOW TO BOOK

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: 9am – 1pm Sunday & Bank Holiday Monday: closed

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 £20 per person per holiday. Alternatively, full membership is available from £100 – visit 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

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

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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

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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