

# Llyn Coastal Path Guided Trail Holiday

**Tour Style:** Trails

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

**Trip code:** BGLLP

**Trip Walking Grade:** 3



## HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

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The Llyn Peninsula is a beautiful, unspoilt section of Wales tucked away by the mountains of Snowdonia. As well as dramatic cliffs and wide expanses of sandy beach, this quieter section of the Wales Coast Path offers isolated island views, pretty fishing villages and an incredible array of birdlife. The Llyn Peninsula's unique climate and friendly Welsh-speaking communities creates a feeling unlike anywhere else in Wales.

## HOLIDAYS HIGHLIGHTS

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- Dramatic cliffs and wide sandy beaches
- Island views, pretty fishing villages
- Spotting birds such as Choughs and Manx Shearwater

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## TRIP SUITABILITY

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This Guided Walking/Hiking Trail is graded 3 which involves walks/hikes on well-defined paths, though often in hilly or upland areas, or along rugged coastal footpaths. These may be rough and steep in sections and will require a good level of fitness. It is your responsibility to ensure you have the relevant fitness required to join this holiday.

### Fitness

We want you to be confident that you can meet the demands of each walking day and get the most out of your holiday. Please be sure you can manage the mileage and ascent detailed in the daily itineraries. It is important for your own enjoyment, and that of your fellow guests that you can maintain the pace.

It makes a lot of sense to spend time getting some additional exercise before your holiday. We suggest that you try to fit in a number of longer walks, including some on hilly terrain. Other exercises such as cycling, jogging and swimming are also excellent for developing increased stamina.

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## ITINERARY

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### Day 1: Arrival Day

### Day 2: Nefyn To Porth Colmon

From Nefyn, our route takes us high above the beach onto the cliff top path with superb views towards Trwyn Porth Dinllaen. We hug the coastline around the promontory and continue on the undulating coastal route, passing a couple of waterfalls to Porth Colmon and our day's destination, with distant views of Anglesey, and on a good day Ireland.

12 miles (19km) with 900 feet (270m) of ascent.

### Day 3: Whistling Sands To Aberdaron

We continue along the coast from Whistling Sands - so named due to the sound the sand makes when walked upon, as highlighted on the Coast TV series. We gain height substantially to reach the top of Mynydd Mawr, with its colony of rare Choughs, and views toward Bardsey Island, reputedly the burial place of 20,000 saints, but now hosts around 16,000 pairs of Manx Shearwaters. We then round the southwest tip of the Llŷn peninsula to arrive at the picturesque former fishing village of Aberdaron.

10½ miles (17km) with 1,900 feet (570m) of ascent.

### Day 4: Rest Day

A day without any walks programmed, giving you the opportunity to explore the local area independently.

### Day 5: Hell's Mouth To Llanbedrog

Staring at Hell's Mouth we round the southernmost point of the Llŷn, and then turn north, with Snowdonia views ahead, and make our way through the popular holiday village of Abersoch and its sandy beaches. We can enjoy far-reaching views as we make our way round the headland of Mynydd Tŷr-y-cwmwd, before

descending past the Tin Man to Llanbedrog, which features the Victorian Gothic mansion of Plas Glan Y Weddw, with its cafe, shop, outdoor theatre and Wales' oldest art gallery.

13½ miles (22km) with 1,500 feet (460m) of ascent.

## Day 6: Llanbedrog To Llanystumdwy

We pass the multi-coloured beach huts on Llanbedrog beach and the sands and dunes of Traeth Crygan lead us to Pwllheli, the sailing capital of Wales and largest town on the peninsula. We continue with views ahead of the rugged Rhinog mountain range. We head inland to reach Llanystumdwy, a small but interesting village, most famous for being the home of 'The Welsh Wizard' – Prime Minister David Lloyd George. The village features a pub, a rabbit farm and the Lloyd George museum, which adjoins his Victorian boyhood home.

12 miles (20km) with 350 feet (105m) of ascent

## Day 7: Llanystumdwy To Porthmadog

We rejoin the coast along the River Dwyfor and pass Criccieth with its imposing 13th-century castle. We continue to the superb viewpoint of Craig Ddu before descending onto the famous Blackrock Sands at Morfa Bychan, with its fisherman church and nearby fish smokers. An undulating dune path takes us into Borth-y-Gest's picturesque bay and on to Porthmadog, with its harbour and famous railway.

8 miles (13km) with 650 feet (195m) of ascent.

## Day 8: Departure Day

## ACCOMMODATION

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### Craflwyn Hall

In the heart of Snowdonia, Craflwyn Hall at the foot of Mount Snowdon, close to the picturesque village of Beddgelert, is a glorious story of recovery; once a substantial 19th century house in the heart of the Nan Gwynant Valley, the property was allowed to fall into a state of disrepair before being acquired by the National Trust and painstakingly restored. Now a walkers' mountain retreat in a picture-perfect spot, it's the ideal base for exploring northern Snowdonia. As well as places to stay in the main house, the stable block has been imaginatively converted into bedrooms too. Comfy lounges and a snug bar provide other creature comforts. The countryside on the doorstep provides the ultimate attraction though. Wake up early and enjoy the views if the cloud is up, then grab your walking boots and head out on to one of the trails up Snowdon. Or you could go further afield to the Glydrs, Moel Siabod, Cricht and Moel Hebog, as well as the pretty town of Betws Y Coed.

### 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 stables behind the house. With 22 rooms, Craflwyn Hall has plenty of space and there's a range of Good and Better Rooms to choose from. Ask for Room 1, a large corner space with great green views, or Room 8, for its giant square picture window.

All 'Good' rooms are ensuite and furnished to a high standard. There are also several 'Better' and 'Best' 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, three lounges, library and board games to borrow

After a day rambling over the slopes of Snowdon or summiting a cracking peak, come back to the house and its specially tailored walkers' facilities. Sit out in the grounds with a coffee or great local Welsh ale or take a chance to relax in the small conservatory. If the weather's not so favourable retire to the lounge and sink into one of the squashy leather sofas in front of the fireplace. The snug bar provides a great space to swap stories of mountain days too.

## 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 Craflwyn Hall is varied and tasty and has a strong emphasis on ingredients from the area and seasonal produce. Kick off your day with a 'Miner's Breakfast'. Once a week the dining room hosts a Local Food Night, when, over a sociable evening, you might try a five-course feast of regional flavours. Look out for highlights including Glamorgan sausages, braised salt marsh lamb shoulder shepherd's pie and a Welsh version of Eve's pudding.

## Accessibility

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

## Travel Details

Our address is: Craflwyn Hall, Beddgelert, Gwynedd, LL55 4NG

### By Train:

The nearest railway stations are Porthmadog and Betws-y-Coed; however we would recommend taking the train to Bangor which has the best train service. For train times and route planning by train visit [www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk) or phone 03457 48 49 50.

### By Taxi:

The 25 mile journey from Bangor railway station takes approximately 40 minutes. Pre-booked taxis cost approx £45 per taxi. Details of our current recommended taxi company and rates will be sent to you with your final dispatch documents, four weeks before departure. The return taxi journey can be arranged on your behalf by the Craflwyn Hall Manager.

### By Bus:

There is a limited bus service which runs past Craflwyn Hall. Any bus route that goes between Beddgelert and Pen-y-Gwryd will pass the end of the drive of Craflwyn Hall. For bus times see [www.traveline.info](http://www.traveline.info)

### By Car:

For a lovely drive through the Welsh countryside, head towards Betws-y-Coed. In Betws-y-Coed take the A5, heading towards Bangor, as far as Capel Curig, then turn left onto the A4086. After a further 4 miles bear left

onto the A498 at the Pen-y-Gwyrdd Hotel; this road follows the Glaslyn Valley passing two large lakes. The entrance to Craflwyn Hall is on the right hand side of the road, approximately 1 mile after the second lake. Look out for the brown National Trust sign.

## Travelling From Overseas

Manchester Airport has the quickest onward connections to Bangor. Trains from the airport take 3 hours, with one change at Crewe or Chester. See [www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk) for train times.

Flying to London Heathrow airport is another option, but has a longer onward train journey - allow at least 4½ hours to reach Bangor by train. You'll need to head to Euston station in the centre of London, from where there are direct trains to Bangor. See [www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk) for train times.

## Local Area

The picturesque village of Beddgelert is about 1 mile from Craflwyn Hall. Facilities here are limited and include a post office, pubs and cafés. The nearest town is Porthmadog, about 8 miles away, which has a wide range of shops and facilities

During your visit to Craflwyn 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)

## About

Mountain Country House • 22 Bedrooms • Open March to October & Festive Period • Standard check-in from 2.30pm • Free Parking on site • Free Wi-Fi throughout • Walkers' Facilities including Boot Room & Drying Room • Discovery Point with route guides and maps • Dogs Welcome

## USEFUL HOLIDAY INFORMATION

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### Holiday Information

We try to create a relaxed atmosphere on the walk but please listen to safety instructions from your leader.

Keep members of the group in view especially when weather or visibility is poor. If you leave the group, then your leader will no longer have responsibility for you. Our leaders consider the safety of the group as a whole and are likely to be more cautious over potential risks such as bad weather.

## What To Bring

### Essential Equipment

To enjoy walking/hiking comfortably and safely, footwear, clothing and equipment needs to be suitable for the conditions. Safety is our priority and Britain is famous for its changeable weather, so our advice is to come prepared for all eventualities.

- Footwear with a good grip on the sole (e.g. Vibram sole) is the key to avoiding accidents
- Walking/hiking boots providing ankle support and good grip are recommended (ideally worn in), and specialist walking socks to avoid blisters
- Several layers of clothing, which can be added or removed, are better than a single layer (include spares)
- Fabrics (lightweight and fast drying) designed for the outdoors are recommended
- Waterproof jacket and waterproof over trousers
- Warm hat and gloves. Gaiters are an optional but useful extra
- Denim jeans and capes are not suitable on any walks
- Rucksack with a waterproof liner
- Thermos flask for hot drink
- Water bottle (at least 1 litre)
- Spare high-energy food such as a chocolate bar
- Small torch
- First aid kit – your leader's first aid kit doesn't contain any medication or blister kits (such as Compeed)

### Optional Equipment

- Walking poles are useful, particularly for descents
- Insect repellent
- Sun hat
- Sunglasses
- Sun cream
- Camera

### Useful Information

Our experienced and knowledgeable volunteer leaders undergo a thorough assessment to lead you on your Guided Walking/Hiking Trail and are delighted to share their knowledge and enthusiasm with you.

Please ensure you complete and hand in your registration form on arrival and let the leader know about any medical problems you may have. This may be useful in the event of a problem on the walk and will be treated confidentially by the leader.

### In The Event Of A Problem

If you become separated from the party, please stay where you are. Your leader will retrace their steps to find you.

All our leaders carry a mobile phone, group shelter, spare maps and a compass. In the unlikely event your leader is incapacitated, please use any emergency kit in their rucksack. Call the emergency services (call 999 in the UK, or 112 overseas).

Please then try to call the hotel where you are staying to let them know there is a problem.

### Ticks

Ticks are tiny creatures that live in vegetation and can attach themselves to passing animals or walkers and may carry a risk of Lyme Disease. Please refer to NHS advice and guidelines for information prior to your holiday.

Your trail leader will carry all the necessary maps and guides. For your own interest you may consider looking at some of the following:

OS Explorer Maps 253, 254

The Lleyn Peninsula Coastal Path (Cicerone guide) by John Cantrell

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## 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.

### ASSOCIATE'S FEE

Non-members can join our holidays by paying an Associate's fee of £10 per person per holiday. Alternatively, full life 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

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.

**Document produced:** 23-10-2019

