

Northern Snowdonia Guided Walking with Sightseeing

Trip style: Walking with sightseeing

Destination: ☺ Snowdonia

Trip code: SNT06-WOD11

Trip Walking Grade: ⚡ 2



Holiday Overview

Explore Northern Snowdonia with the perfect mix of short, guided walks and sightseeing visits. Discover the very best half-day walks in the area including Swallow Falls and Llyn Idwal, and ride the Snowdon Mountain Railway for spectacular views from Snowdon's summit. We'll also visit the 19th century fantasy-like castle of Penrhyn, take a scenic journey on the Ffestiniog Railway, and spend time at the National Trust's Bodnant Gardens – grand manor house gardens set against the backdrop of the Carneddau mountains of Eryri (Snowdonia).

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Comfortable en-suite rooms in our partner accommodation(s)
- Cooked or continental breakfast every morning
- Half-board
- Three-course evening meals, plus tea & coffee

- Tickets for the Snowdon Mountain Railway, Ffestiniog Railway and entry to Portmeirion village.
- Guided walks with experienced HF Holidays Leaders
- All transport to and from walks where necessary
- Discovering the very best half-day walks in the area, including Swallow Falls and Llyn Idwal.
- Taking the Snowdon Mountain Railway up to the summit of Snowdon.
- Exploring the glorious Bodnant Gardens created over 150 years ago
- Visiting Penrhyn Castle, a 19th-century manor house built in the style of a Norman fortress
- Riding the Ffestiniog Railway through the heart of Eryri (Snowdonia)
- Visiting the Italian style village of Portmeirion
- A more personalised experience thanks to small group sizes (maximum 15 people)

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Day 1 Arrival Day

Check in at the hotel is available from 3pm. Your leader will be at reception at 6:30pm to meet the group and give you a quick introduction to the holiday before dinner.

Day 2 Swallow Falls, Betws y Coed, and Bodnant Gardens

Distance: 3 miles (5km)

Ascent: 50 feet (20m)

In Summary: Leaving from the hotel, we walk through the village of Betws y Coed, following a footpath upstream alongside the Afon Llugwy to the famous Ty Hwl (Ugly House). The path is through woods and fields, with some occasional uneven sections.

After our walk we travel to Bodnant gardens, an 80-acre horticultural paradise. We'll have the chance to wander through formal gardens, meadows and woodland home to national collections and champion trees (please note entrance is not included in the holiday. The gardens are managed by the National Trust and NT members get free entry)

Day 3 Llanberis, Llyn Padarn and Snowdon mountain railway

Distance: 3.5 miles (5.5 km)

Ascent: 500 feet (160m)

In Summary: We'll start from the village of Brynrefail at the western end of Llyn Padarn and take a quiet minor lane, flat initially, then rising gradually with crags on the left and woods on the right. Descending on tracks through woods, we'll reach the Slate Hospital and head on to the Snowdon Railway Terminus in Llanberis.

We'll board the train using the traditional diesel service and enjoy spectacular mountain views. We'll pass everything from viaducts, waterfalls and gorges to remnants of abandoned farms, chapels and medieval settlements as we head to the summit of Snowdon (Yr Wyddfa). We'll have 30 minutes at the top to walk to the summit and explore the UK's highest visitor centre Hafod Eryri, before reboarding the train and journeying back to Llanberis

Day 4 Vale of Ffestiniog

Distance: 4 miles (6.5 km)

Ascent: 600 feet (180m)

Descent: 1,100 feet (340m)

In Summary: Today starts at Ffestiniog railway station. We'll board the steam train and travel to Dduallt station where we start our walk. Walking through by the waterfalls of the National Nature Reserve of Coedydd Maentwrog, we'll make our way to the scenic Llyn Mair and on to Plas Tan y Bwlch – a grand house that's now the study centre for Snowdonia National Park. Visit the tea shop and gardens or take a stroll through the estate woodland before we finish today's walk at the Oakley Arms.

Day 5 Llyn Ogwen & Llyn Idwal

Distance: 4 miles (6.5 km)

Ascent: 600 feet (200m)

In Summary: We start our day from the eastern end of Llyn Ogwen and walk on a footpath on the northern shore to Ogwen Cottage, where there is a small Information Centre, café and toilets. We then walk round the magnificent Cwm Idwal, close to the lake. Under the dark crags of Devils Kitchen and the craggy mountain of Tryfan, we return to Ogwen Cottage.

We then travel to Penrhyn Castle. Built in the early 19th century, its formidable architecture, opulent interiors and fine art collection lean on a long history of sugar and slate fortunes, social unrest and the longest-running industrial dispute in British history (please note entrance is not included in the holiday. Penrhyn Castle IS managed by the National Trust and NT members get free entry).

Day 6 Pont Bethania and Beddgelert

Distance: 4.5 miles (7km)

Ascent: 250 feet (80m)

In Summary: Today we leave the coach at Pont Bethania, which is the starting point for one of the routes up Snowdon, which featured in the film *Carry On Up the Kyber*. We walk down Nant Gwynant alongside the Afon Glaslyn on a good footpath passing Llyn Dinas and the old copper mine at Sygun. Following a quiet lane that takes us to the village of Beddgelert, we visit the grave of the faithful hound Gelert and enjoy time to explore the village.

We then journey on from Beddgelert to the enchanting Italianate style village of Portmeirion. The village was created by Welsh Architect Sir Clough Williams-Ellis and was designed to show how a naturally beautiful site could be developed without spoiling it.

Day 7 Departure Day

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before making your way home.

Daily Walk Options



Easier Walks

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

Accommodation

Gwydyr Hotel

Nestled in the heart of Betws y Coed, Gwydyr Hotel is a splendid Victorian-era gem dating back to the 1800s. In the town, you'll discover charming shops, a railway station with a captivating museum, and a tourist information centre. The hotel has a bar, restaurant, and drying room. Comfortable en-suite guest rooms all come with TV, tea & coffee making facilities, and free Wi-Fi. The hotel is dog-friendly, so you may perhaps make some four-legged friends in the communal areas.

Food & drink

Our holiday in Snowdonia is half-board. Breakfast and evening meals are provided at the hotel. Packed lunch provisions can be purchased locally.

Dietary requirements

Our partner hotels can cater for most dietary requirements, but it is important you advise us of any allergies and dietary restrictions you have at the time of booking.

Useful Holiday Information

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

Essentials

- Suitable footwear such as waterproof walking boots that provide ankle support and good grip
- Waterproof and windproof jacket
- Comfortable clothing (jeans & waterproof capes are not suitable)
- Mid-layer(s) to keep you warm. Fleeces 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

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

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

Recommended

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

Trip Information

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

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

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

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

Tripnote validity

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

Document produced: 23 July 2026

