

# 6-Night Southern Snowdonia Outdoor Escapes

**Destinations:** Snowdonia & Wales  
**Trip code:** DGBOE-6  
2, 4 & 5



## HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

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Experience the very best of Southern Snowdonia on our walks. Each day we'll offer three options, ranging from relaxing shorter strolls, to more challenging longer walks. Our flexible programme allows you to choose the option that suits your mood. For those of you staying for 6 nights, there will be a free day in the middle of the holiday - the perfect chance to head off and explore independently, or just kick back and relax.

## HOLIDAYS HIGHLIGHTS

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### Moment Of The Weekend

When you find the secret tidal island on the edge of Snowdonia. Overlooked by the Moelwyn Mountains, the small island of Ynys Giffan in the Dwyryd Estuary is a seemingly isolated, insignificant, unbridged granite outcrop. Roll up your trousers and step onto the rippled sands at low tide though for an adventure unlike any other. Explore the temporary pools, shallow channels and exposed sandflats as you splash to the island, watching for wildfowl, otters and water voles. If you're lucky you might even catch sight of an osprey diving for fish. Climb up to find the island's only house, an abandoned stone-built farm cottage and imagine living in

splendid seclusion!

## TRIP SUITABILITY

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This trip has a choice of 3 walk options each walking day and the walks range from level 2 to 5. Most of the days include a full day walking with distances covered upto 12½ miles and with 3,900ft of ascent.

## ITINERARY

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### Day 1: Arrival Day

Join us at Dolserau Hall, our Country House, for an action-packed short break. If the weather is fine we can take a short pre-dinner stroll along the Torrent Walk to help get your bearings. After a delicious 3-course evening meal, there's time to relax with the rest of the group and look forward to the adventures to come.

### Day 2: The Mawddach & The Dragon's Back

Enjoy the choice of 3 guided walks, ranging from a leisurely exploration of the beautiful Mawddach Estuary, to a scrambly ascent and the Dragon's Back.

#### Option 1 - Panorama Walk

**Distance:** 9 miles (14km). This walk can be split into two if you're looking for a shorter half day walk.

**Total ascent:** 650 feet (200m)

**In Summary:** After the Panorama viewpoint, we cross the estuary at Barmouth to pick-up the Mawddach Trail, all the way to Penmaenpool.

**Highlight:** Watch for birdlife on the way, then relax with a pint in the George III at the end of the day.

#### Option 2 - The Dragon's Back

**Distance:** 9 miles (14.5km)

**Total ascent:** 1,750 feet (540m)

**Total Descent:** 1,750 feet (540m)

**In Summary:** From Dolgellau we've got a gradual climb up to Gwernan Lake. It's then an ancient trackway and the Dragon's Back, before we finish on the Mawddach Trail to Penmaenpool.

**Highlight:** Fantastic ridge walking with cracking views of the coast and estuary and beyond to the Snowdonian mountains.

#### Option 3 - Cregennan Lakes

**Distance:** 10 miles (16.5km)

**Total ascent:** 2,050 feet (640m)

**In Summary:** We climb up beside waterfalls to Cregennan Lakes. We've then the option of a scrambly ridge, before we continue to the Dragon's Back and then Penmaenpool.

**Highlight:** This is the chance to get off the beaten track and appreciate superb mountain scenery and

solitude.

### Day 3: Dolgoch, Bird Rock & Tarren Hendre

Today's 3 guided walks focus on the area around the stunning Dolgoch Falls and the Talylylyn steam railway.

#### Option 1 - Castell Y Bere

**Distance:** 5 miles (8km)

**Total ascent:** 1000 feet (320m)

**In Summary:** Walk to Castell y Bere, a 13th century castle - the last stronghold of the Welsh Princes, and Mary Jones' chapel, before the Dysynni valley takes us to Abergynolwyn village for trip on the Talylylyn steam railway.

**Highlight:** See the beauty of Dolgoch Falls, after a trip on the steam train.

#### Option 2 - Bird Rock

**Distance:** 8½ miles (14km)

**Total ascent:** 1,100 feet (335m)

**In Summary:** Starting near Abergynolwyn we climb up onto Bird Rock, the most inland nesting site for sea birds. We then follow the beautiful Dysynni valley, along the river to Abergynolwyn.

**Highlight:** The chance to visit Castell y Bere and Mary Jones' chapel, and to end the day with a pint in the Railway Inn.

#### Option 3 - Tarren Hendre

**Distance:** 6½ miles (10.5km)

**Total ascent:** 2,150 feet (660m)

**Total Descent:** 1,950 feet (600m)

**In Summary:** From the pretty village of Pennal, on the Dovey estuary, gentle hills treat us to 360 degree views of the mountains and coast from the top of Tarren Hendre. We then head down to beautiful Dolgoch Falls.

**Highlight:** If we're in good form, there should be time to ride the Talylylyn steam railway to Abergynolwyn at the end of the day.

### Day 4: Free Day

### Day 5: The Rhinogs, Llandanwg & Harlech

Enjoy the choice of 3 guided walks, ranging from a leisurely exploration of the Arduwy coast, to the highest point in the Rhinogs.

#### Option 1 - Llandanwg & Harlech

**Distance:** 5 miles (8.5km)

**Total ascent:** 750 feet (240m)

**In Summary:** Explore the Arduwy Coast and stroll along the stunning beach at Llandanwg. En route we'll visit

a slate cavern then continue to Harlech with its impressive 13th century castle.

**Highlight:** Harlech Castle - this magnificent medieval castle was built by Edward I to control the Welsh. Not into castles? - kick back and relax in one of the local cafés.

### Option 2 - Over The Hills To Harlech

**Distance:** 8½ miles (13.5km)

**Total ascent:** 1,850 feet (540m)

**In Summary:** Walk on the lower slopes of the Rhinogs above the Ardudwy coast. Our walk passes a beautiful lake and an ancient stone circle before we descend gradually to Harlech.

**Highlight:** There are great views along the coast and of Harlech castle on the final leg.

### Option 3 - The Southern Rhinogs

**Distance:** 11 miles (18km)

**Total ascent:** 2,400 feet (720m)

**In Summary:** This circuit of the southern Rhinog peaks sets off from near Bontddu, ascending to Diffwys, then north along a stunning ridge to Llethr, the highest point in the Rhinogs. It's then downhill to the coast and Llanbedr.

**Highlight:** A well-deserved pint in the Queen Victoria at the end of a fantastic day's walking.

## Day 6: Cadair Idris & The Wales Coast Path

Today's 3 guided walks offer the chance to explore beautiful coastline, or to tackle the mighty Cadair Idris.

### Option 1 - Wales Coast Path

**Distance:** 5 miles (8.5km)

**Total ascent:** 1,080 feet (330m)

**In Summary:** From Llwyngwril village, the Wales Coast path treats us to great views down to the sea. We visit the Blue Lake then head down to walk along the beach to the seaside resort of Fairbourne in time for ice cream.

**Highlight:** A trip on the scenic coastal railway from Tywyn to Llwyngwril, where we begin our walk - a fantastic start to the day.

### Option 2 - Cadair Idris

**Distance:** 6½ miles (10.5km)

**Total ascent:** 2,900 feet (880m)

**In Summary:** We tackle Cader Idris, climbing along the Minffordd path above the corrie basin of Llyn Cau on a dramatic ridge to reach the summit. The Pony path then leads us down to Gwernan Lake, and (if you're still feeling fresh) Dolgellau.

**Highlight:** Cadair Idris - one of our favourites and arguably the most impressive mountain in Southern Snowdonia.

### Option 3 - Cadair Idris Ridge

**Distance:** 12½ miles (20.5km)

**Total ascent:** 3,900 feet (1,200m)

**In Summary:** Not to be missed! We follow the route of the option 2 walk to Pen y Gadair summit, walk on the Pony path, then continue along the mountain's west ridge, with stunning views to the coast, before descending to Fairbourne.

**Highlight:** A superb ridge walk on top of one of Britain's most loved mountains, with great views down the Mawddach Estuary to the sea.

### Day 7: Departure Day And The Torrent Walk

Make the most of your final morning with the opportunity to join us on a local classic - the Torrent Walk.

#### Torrent Walk

**Distance:** 2½ miles (4km)

**Total ascent:** 500 feet (150m)

**In Summary:** This is the signature walk for the area around Dolserau Hall. It includes a nice mix of woodland, waterfalls, a pretty church and open fields - a bit of everything. We'll arrive back at Dolserau in time for lunch before your journey home.

**Highlight:** Take some time and see what wildlife you can spot. The gorge is an SSSI, and otters, amongst other wildlife, have been spotted here.

## 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

#### 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

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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

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## TRAVEL DETAILS

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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](http://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](mailto: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.

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## LOCAL AREA

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

### Welsh Highland Railway & Ffstiniog Railway

Take a steam train ride on these two heritage railway routes to enjoy Snowdonia's spectacular scenery from

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the comfort of a railway carriage. The [Ffestiniog Railway](#) runs from Porthmadog to Tan y Bwlch while the [Welsh Highland Railway](#) runs from Caernarvon to Beddgelert. The station at Porthmadog is about a 40-minute drive from Dolserau Hall while Caernarvon station is just over an hour away.

## Great Little Trains Of Wales

Snowdonia is noted for its concentration of [narrow gauge steam railways](#), all of which offer highly scenic journeys - there are 11 to choose from. For a truly unique day out you can take the [Snowdon Mountain Railway](#) to the summit of Snowdon (best to book in advance as tickets can sell out quickly on busy days). The railway runs from Llanberis - about 1 hour 20 minutes from Dolserau Hall.

## 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 1 hour 20 minutes' drive from Dolgellau.

## 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 1 hour 10 minutes' drive from Dolgellau.

## Criccieth

The seaside town of Criccieth is around 50 minutes' drive from Dolgellau and full of Victorian character. You could visit the ruins of [Criccieth Castle](#), relax on the beach, or sample the excellent ice cream at [Cadwaladers parlour](#) - open since 1927!

## 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. The castle is about 45 minutes from Dolgellau.

## Llechwedd Slate Caverns

Located near Bleanau Ffestiniog, about 40 minutes' drive from Dolgellau, 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.

## Bodnant Gardens

Situated in the Conwy Valley, about 50 minutes' drive from Beddgelert, the National Trust's [Bodnant Gardens](#) have impressive collections of colour and views of the Snowdonian mountains.

## 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 1 hour 20 minutes' drive from Dolgellau.

## Portmeirion

This quaint and fascinating 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 village](#) is around an hour's drive from Dolgellau.

## USEFUL HOLIDAY INFORMATION

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### Essential Information

"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.

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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: 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](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)

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**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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