Snowdonia Slate Trail



Trip style:	Destination:	Walking Grade	Carbon Footprint:
Guided trails	Snowdonia	8	136kg CO2

HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

Walk Snowdonia National Park's Slate Trail, an incredible route that takes you into the heart of Wales' slate mining past. Centuries of slate mining has not only carved the landscape we see today but created tight-knit mining communities. Journey through historic slate mining villages and explore abandoned quarries that tell the story of a proud industrial heritage. From the sea at Bangor to the towering slate mountains this remarkable walk visits some of the lesser-known parts of Snowdonia while providing a fascinating insight into the lives of Welsh slate workers.

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
- Guided walks with experienced HF Holidays Leaders
- All transport to and from walks where necessary

- Exploring lake, river, forest, and mountain landscapes in Snowdonia National Park
- Discovering Welsh slate mining history from Roman Britain to the Industrial Revolution

- Visiting traditional Welsh villages with proud mining heritage
- Snowdonia's people and past
- A mix of moderate to challenging walking, ideal for those looking to test their stamina while enjoying a rewarding experience
- A more personalised experience thanks to small group sizes (maximum 15 people)

ITINERARY - ITINERARY

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 BANGOR TO LLANBERIS

Distance: 13.5 miles (21.5km)

Ascent: 2050 feet (640m)

Descent: 1800 feet (540m)

We start our trip on the seafront at Bangor, following the tree-lined Lon Las Ogwen (Ogwen Green Lane). We walk beside the Afon Ogwen, with views of Penrhyn Castle, then ascend through farmland to circle the upland village of Rachub. We'll have great views of the Carneddau mountains before descending to the slate town of Bethesda. Passing Penrhyn Quarry we cross open moorland and descend through the Padarn Country Park beside the National Slate Museum – the former slate workshops of the Dinorwig quarry. We'll walk between two lakes to finish in Llanberis.

Day 3 LLANBERIS TO DYFFRYN NANTLLE

Distance: 10 miles (16km)

Ascent: 1,800 feet (540m)

Starting in Llanberis we ascend to the back of the town with widening views of the Glyder range, the Snowdon massif, the coastal plain and Anglesey beyond. The route passes low hills then descends to Waunfawr, crossing the Welsh Highland Railway. We ascend again to the west, passing the remains of ancient settlements accompanied by views of the dramatic Nantlle Ridge. We visit the upland village of Y Fron and walk through the remains of Dorothea quarry to finish in the Nantlle valley.

Day 4 DYFFRYN NANTLLE TO NANTMOOR

Distance: 11.5 miles (18.5km)

Ascent: 1,450 feet (440m)

Descent: 1,700 feet (520m)

Today, we'll walk beside Llyn Nantlle Uchaf and continue east through the valley. It's then on to the lower slopes of Mynydd Mawr and through woodland to Rhyd Ddu village which has a pub and a café. The route passes the attractive lake Llyn y Gader and continues on the Lon Gwyrfai path through woods to the pretty village of Beddgelert. From here we walk beside the Afon Glaslyn, initially pastoral then becoming a rocky gorge to Pont Aberglaslyn before finishing our walk at Nantmoor.

Day 5 NANTMOOR TO BLAENAU FFESTINIOG

Distance: 9 miles (15km)

Ascent: 2,450 feet (740m)

Descent: 1,750 feet (540m)

This is a lovely, varied day of walking. We'll begin with a stroll through Nantmoor village then ascend on an old drovers' road to arrive at the village of Croesor. We ascend diagonally up the flank of Moelwyn Mawr to the remains of Croesor quarry and on through rough terrain to Rhosydd quarry. We follow a track down to Cwmorthin, passing beside the lake and an eerie ruined chapel, continuing down to Tanygrisiau, crossing the Ffestiniog railway. From here it is a simple walk into Blaenau Ffestiniog, the iconic slate town.

Day 6 BLAENAU FFESTINIOG TO CWM PENMACHNO

Distance: 13.5 miles (21.5km)

Ascent: 2,900 feet (880m)

Descent: 3,000 feet (920m)

We leave Blaenau Ffestiniog to the south, walking through the beautiful undulating valleys of Cwm Bowydd, Cwm Teigl then on to Llan Ffestiniog. We visit Cwm Cynfal, a spectacular gorge with waterfalls and torrents and follow the river's valley up to open moorland that offers a sense of wilderness. We pass the iron age hillfort of Bryn y Castell, before a steep descent to the remote ruined village and quarry of Rhiwbach. From here we continue down to Cwm Penmachno, one of the most settlements in North Wales.

Please note this walk is +1 grade higher than the overall grade of the holiday as a whole.

Day 7 CWM PENMACHNO TO TY HYLL

Distance: 11.5 miles (18.5km)

Ascent: 1, 950 feet (600m)

Descent: 2,150 feet (660m)

From Cwm Penmachno we'll follow forest tracks along the side of the valley to Penmachno and continue north to join the Conwy valley. We pass the delightful Fairy Glen and continue ahead to Betws y Coed, passing our hotel. We walk through the town and continue beside the Afon Llugwy, passing the Miners' Bridge and Swallow Falls before arriving at Ty Hyll meaning 'The Ugly House'.

Day 8 TY HYLL TO BETHESDA

Distance: 13.5 miles (21.5km)

Ascent: 1,950 feet (600m)

Our final day follows tracks through the Gywdyr forest then descends to Capel Curig. We take the green lane through the pass between the Carneddau and Glyderau ranges. At Llyn Ogwen the magnificent U-shaped valley of Nant Ffrancon opens up ahead and the remaining walk is an easy stretch on the old road around the purple slate tips of Penrhyn quarry. Finally, we walk the Afon Ogwen back to Bethesda where a statue marks the end of the trail.

Day 9 **Departure Day**

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before making your way home.

DAILY WALK OPTIONS



Challenging walking grade 8

Challenging walks for fit, experienced walkers. Expect rugged or mountainous terrain, or some longer distances than typical for this grade. Typically, 12-13 miles (19-21km) with around 2,300ft (700m) of ascent.

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.

Joining instructions

Hotel Address:

The Gwydyr Hotel,

Holyhead Road,

Betws Y Coed,

Snowdonia,

North Wales,

LL24 0AB

By Car
The hotel has free parking, there are 12 parking spaces 2 of which are EV charging spaces. The hotel spaces are on a first come first served basis. There is also on street and public car parks near the hotel and a pay and display car park across from the hotel 100m away.

By train

The nearest station is Betws y Coed. The Gwydyr Hotel is a two-minute walk from the station.

For train times and to plan your route check the National Rail website https://www.nationalrail.co.uk/ or call +44(0)3457 484950.

FOOD & DRINK

Dining at Gwydyr Hotel

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.

SAFETY ON YOUR HOLIDAY

Walking safety

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.

ESSENTIAL INFORMATION

Packing list

Weather conditions in the UK can vary throughout the day, and conditions in the mountains may be cold and windy even in summer. Use the following list as a guide when preparing for your holiday.

Essentials

- Suitable waterproof walking boots with ankle support and good grip
- Waterproof, wind-resistant jacket with a hood, taped seams and a hydrostatic head rating of at least 10,000 mm
- Waterproof overtrousers
- Spare warm clothing, such as a synthetic insulated jacket
- Comfortable walking clothing (jeans & waterproof capes are not suitable)
- Warm mid-layers, such as fleeces
- Gloves and a warm hat, even in summer
- Rucksack with a waterproof liner
- Water bottle with a capacity of at least 1 litre
- Flask for hot drinks
- Sunscreen
- UV-protective sunglasses
- Spare high-energy food
- Head torch and spare batteries for holidays between October and March
- Passport (if applicable)
- Visa (if applicable)
- Copy of your travel insurance policy

Recommended

- Several base layers, with long or short sleeves
- Cushioned walking socks to avoid blisters
- First-aid kit, including plasters, insect repellent, a midge net and a tick-removal tool
- Sit mat
- Waterproof pouch for valuables
- Rubbish bags
- Wallet or purse

- Camera
- Walking poles
- Sun hat
- Gaiters
- Mobile Phones
- Swimwear (please see accommodation information for hotel facilities)
- Membership cards for English Heritage, the National Trust or similar heritage organisations in Scotland and Wales, if you are a member. These may be useful when visiting attractions during your itinerary or on your free day.

JOINING INSTRUCTIONS

Joining Instructions for Northern Snowdonia

Hotel Address:

The Gwydyr Hotel,

Holyhead Road,

Betws Y Coed,

Snowdonia,

North Wales,

LL24 0AB

By train

The nearest station is Betws y Coed. The Gwydyr Hotel is a two-minute walk from the station.

For train times and to plan your route check the National Rail website https://www.nationalrail.co.uk/ or call +44(0)3457 484950.

USEFUL INFORMATION

Useful information

Our experienced and knowledgeable volunteer leaders undergo a thorough assessment to lead you on your holiday 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 your group, 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 and 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.

If you have any cause for complaints regarding accommodation, you should notify your leader who can then attempt to rectify the 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.

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.

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