

SNOWDONIA - NORTH WALES

8-day / 7-night centre-based – one-hotel guided walking in one of Britain’s most spectacular landscapes

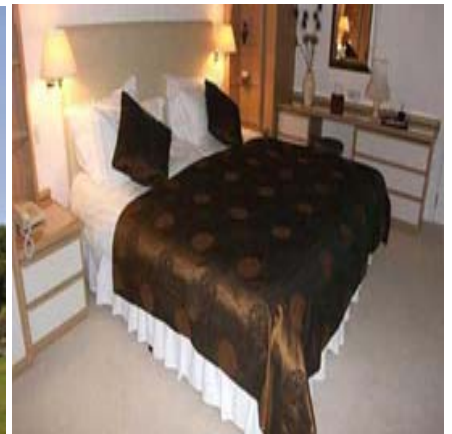


Enjoy the splendid scenery of the Snowdonia National Park on our Guided Walking holiday based in the attractive market town of Dolgellau. From here we will walk on the spectacular mountains of Cadair Idris, the Rhinogs and Aran Fawddwy. We can discover the stunning Mawddach estuary, with the charming coastal town of Barmouth and historic Harlech Castle also within easy reach. Let us guide you through Snowdonia and North Wales. Snowdonia boasts some of the grandest mountain scenery south of Scotland; its individual summits are crying out to be explored. There is plenty of scope for challenging mountain walking. Less demanding walks delve into forests and moorland massifs, and pass brooding lakes and rushing waterfalls.

Cost per person: AU\$1235 per person twin share. Single room supplements \$120

Departs: 17, 27 Feb, 24 Mar, 13 Apr, 23, 30 Jun, 14 Jul, 11 Aug, 1, 8, 22 Sep, 27 Oct, 5, 12 Nov, 2012

Tour price includes: 7-nights of twin share accommodation with en-suite, breakfast & dinner each night, picnic lunches, guided walking as described and sightseeing (at extra cost - as available).



Dolserau Hall, our country house two miles from the attractive market town of Dolgellau, currently has 20 en-suite bedrooms; all of a good size and furnished to a high standard. We plan to add further bedrooms, including additional single rooms, during the forthcoming year. Rooms are either located in the main building or the tastefully converted coach house.

Walking Days - Generally start after breakfast, taking a picnic lunch and returning to the house between 5.00pm and 6.30pm, in time to relax before dinner. Seven night holidays offer five days’ walking - one day is left free for independent time or sightseeing. A typical classic walking day will offer you a choice of 2 or 3-guided walks each of varying length and ascent. If you are new to walking, start at the easier level, where the pace is the gentlest. There are plenty of stops to enjoy the views and to rest.

As your holiday progresses you may try a more challenging walks or stay at the same level - it’s your choice.

For reservations call OUTDOOR TRAVEL Pty Ltd on 1800 331 582

Suggested itinerary:

Day 1: Arrival day

Day 2: Abergynolwyn and the Tarren Hills

The hills and paths to the south of the region provide a wonderful introduction to this quiet, varied and spectacular part of Snowdonia. The easier follows a lovely circular route, with Castell y Bere as one of the highlights. The medium follows a similar route, with an extension to Pennant. The harder walk sets out from Dolgoch, a little way in from the coast at Tywyn. Enjoy 360° views of mountain and sea from Tarrenhendre, before descending to Abergynolwyn through birch-clad hillsides, via Bryn-Eglwys quarry.

Day 3: Waun Oer or the New Precipice Walk

There are highlights in opposite directions in this group of walks. The easier group enjoys the New Precipice Walk from the village of Llanelltyd just north of Dolgellau. The medium and harder both have a flying start from the top of the pass Bwlch Oerddrws and zigzag steeply to the narrow grassy ridge leading to Waun Oer. We follow an undulating grassy ridge (steep slopes but no cliffs) with great views of Cader Idris and the Rhinogs, finishing at the Cross Foxes Hotel. The harder walk also tops Waun Oer before heading across quiet hills above the atmospheric cwm below Craig Portas. This walk finishes at Meirion Mill near Dinas Mawddwy.

Day 4: Cadair Idris or the (old) Precipice Walk

Just south of Dolgellau a mountain many say is the finest in Wales, dominates. While the easier walk heads north to admire it from afar, both the medium and harder walks go to the top of Cadair Idris. The easier walk will do a scenic loop of this famous circuit, with wonderful views of all the major Snowdonia mountains. It's not as precipitous as it sounds and we walk back along quiet lanes all the way to the hotel. The medium walk follows the Victorian pony path from Ty Nant to the summit on good mountain paths, and then descends via Llyn y Cadair. The harder walk takes the same path to the top then continues along this wonderful ridge to Dolgellau.

Day 5: No organised walks Today will be free to explore southern Snowdonia independently or just relax.

Day 6: Across the estuary from Barmouth or into the wild Rhinogs

The stunning mouth of the Mawddach estuary features today, with the easier group staying with it for its duration and the others enjoying spectacular aerial views. Salt marsh, tidal flats, birdlife, views, the lot! The medium and harder walks both start a little way north of the famous trestle bridge and head north into the hills above the estuary. Over a mix of tracks, short sections of moorland path and a little minor-road walking, the medium offers a stone circle, gold-mine and fabulous views of the estuary and its mountains – and the same finish at the hotel and terrace by the lovely Penmaen bridge. The harder walk heads directly for the southern end of the magnificent Rhinog mountain ridge, with Diffwys as its target.

Day 7: Above Llyn Tegid and The Aran Ridge

Today's walks head northeast towards Lake Bala for a stunning group of walks. The easier walk makes a gradual ascent through field paths and open woodland from Bala onto the gentle hills east of the lake, with ever-better views. The medium and harder both tackle the iconic and dramatic Aran Ridge, in part grassy moorland, in part rocky terrain near our walk's highest point. The medium walk heads for the 2,900-foot (885-metre) summit of Aran Benllyn, a fabulous, dramatic mountain walk with no great difficulties. The harder walk offers a big day out. Starting by the Coed y Brenin forest, reaching the Aran ridge, which is narrow in places. We then take in Arans Fawddwy and Benllyn before descending all the way to Pont y Pandy (above).

Day 8: Depart

Tour ends after breakfast

Easier Walks: 5 to 8 miles, generally on good tracks and field paths with up to 1,200ft of ascent in a day.

Medium Walks: 5 to 10 miles on mainly good, but sometimes less well defined, paths across mountain and moorland with up to 2,500ft of ascent in a day. Exceptionally, the Cadair Idris walk includes 3,000ft of ascent.

Harder Walks: 6 to 12 miles on a mixture of good paths, rough paths and trackless terrain over sometimes marshy moorland with up to 3,500 ft of ascent.

As different departures may have different itineraries, please ask for details when making a booking.

Contact OUTDOOR TRAVEL or your travel agent for more details, brochures and reservations

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