

## WALES - SNOWDONIA DOLGELLAU

8-day / 7-night one-hotel GUIDED walking in one of Britain's most spectacular landscapes



Enjoy the splendid scenery of the Snowdonia (Eryri) National Park on our Guided Walking holiday based in the attractive market town of Dolgellau. Walk on the spectacular mountains of Cadair Idris, the Rhinogs and Aran Fawddwy, and discover the stunning Mawddach estuary. The charming coastal town of Barmouth and historic Harlech Castle are within easy reach. The area boasts some of the grandest mountain scenery south of Scotland; its 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.

Walks generally start after breakfast, taking a picnic lunch and returning to the house between 5.00pm and 6.30pm, to relax before dinner. Seven-night holidays offer five days of walking and a free day for relaxing or sightseeing. A typical walking day offers a choice of up to three guided walks of varying length and ascent. Each evening your experienced walk leaders will brief you on the proposed walking routes and plans for the next day.

**Cost from:** \$2655 per person twin share      Single supplement on request

**2024 Departures:** 1, 15, 29 March, 12, 26 April, 10 May, 7, 21 June, 12, 26 July, 6, 20 September, 25 October, 1 November

**Includes:** 7 nights in comfortable ensuite twin-share accommodation, full board (breakfast, picnic lunch & dinner), experienced walks leader, 5 guided walks, local transport to/from the walks, evening social activities.

**Not included:** Transport to/from the house, drinks, personal expenses, transport/activities on your free day.

**Accommodation:** **Dolserau Hall** is near the market town of Dolgellau with 23 ensuite bedrooms, in the main building or the converted coach house. The hall sits amidst attractive gardens with views across the valley with the summit of Cadair Idris in the background. **Premium rooms** may be available for a surcharge.



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**Trip Grading:** Moderate to long distances, usually on well-defined paths, sometimes on uneven terrain with occasional sections of scree and some steeper ground. Some sustained ascents and descents on rocky terrain, may include high summits and ridges. Easier walks 10-12km with up to 380m of ascent, medium walks 9-15km with up to 850m of ascent, harder walks 14-18km with up to 960m of ascent in a day.

**Suggested itinerary (routes are determined each day by walk leaders – subject to change):**

**Day 1: Arrival day**

Arrive mid-afternoon and settle into your charming country house accommodation. Ask about local transport or taxi transfer options from Machynlleth railway station.

**Day 2: Rhobell Fawr & Brithdir**

Walk the lower slopes of the Wnion valley to an ancient Roman road, which we follow to tiny Brithdir and visit its Arts & Crafts Movement church of St Marks, then descend the iconic Torrent Walk back to Dolserau Hall. Other routes follow the lower slopes of Rhobell Fawr over rugged terrain, or ascend steeply to the summit of Rhobell Fawr, which offers sweeping views over the peaks of north Wales.

**Day 3: Cadair Idris**

South of Dolgellau, this distinctive peak dominates the skyline and is a favourite of many walkers. The easier walk admires it from afar, the medium and harder walks head to the summit. The easier route heads to the 13<sup>th</sup> century castle Castell y Bere, the last stronghold of the Welsh Princes, and the Dysynni valley. The medium and harder walks follow the rugged Minffordd path past the corrie lake Llyn Cau and many glacial erratics, large boulders left by retreating glaciers, to the summit. From the summit we descend via the Victorian-era Pony Path or continue along the ridge to two more summits before the gradual descent to Dolgellau.

**Day 4: Free day**

Free day with no organised walks. Explore the area independently or relax at the Country House. Perhaps enjoy a ride on the heritage Ffestiniog & Welsh Highland Railway or visit the ruins of Edward I's Harlech Castle.

**Day 5: The Old Precipice Walk or Waun Oer**

The Old Precipice Walk is a contouring path with panoramic views over the Coed y Brenin Forest, the Mawddach estuary and Cadair Idris. The easier and medium walks utilise this classic trail, with the medium walk also summiting Foel Offrwm, the Hill of Sacrifice. The harder walk explores the seldom visited Dyfi Hills at the southern end of Snowdonia (Eryri) National Park, climbing Waun Oer and Mynydd Ceiswyn, with superb views of Cadair Idris and the Tal y Llyn Valley.

**Day 6: Harlech & the Rhinogs**

The easier route is a delightful walk, along the beach at Llandanwg and in the rolling hills above the coast, with time to visit Harlech Castle, a 13<sup>th</sup> Century fortification in a commanding position above Cardigan Bay. The medium walk is along the lower slopes of the Rhinogs, passing an ancient stone circle and with wonderful views of Harlech Castle as we approach Harlech. The harder route is a rugged walk in the wild Rhinogs, with an ascent over rough terrain to Rhinog Fawr with its fabulous sea views.

**Day 7: Above Llyn Tegid and the Aran Ridge**

We head northeast towards Llyn Tegid (Lake Bala) for wonderful walks. The easier walk ascends gradually on field paths and through woodland onto the gentle hills east of the lake. The medium walk heads for the summit of Arenig Fawr, a remote and lightly-touristed peak above wild heather moorland – in clear weather the superb views include every major peak in Snowdonia (Eryri) National Park. The harder walk tackles the iconic and dramatic Aran Ridge, taking in the twin summits of Aran Fawddwy, the highest peak in southern Snowdonia (Eryri), and Benllyn.

**Day 8: Departure day**

Tour arrangements end after breakfast.

**Outdoor Travel** offer walking holidays, guided in small groups or self-guided with inn-to-inn luggage transfers and meals, in many parts of the UK, Ireland and across Europe including the **Coast-to-Coast** trail, the Cotswolds Way, the spectacular **Yorkshire Dales**, the rugged coast of **Cornwall**, Exmoor, the **West Highland Way** in Scotland or in Ireland on the **Ring of Kerry**. Also in France, Austria, Germany, Spain, & Greece.

**Contact Outdoor Travel for more details and reservations:**

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