

Self-guided Hiking tour

Tour description

Day 1	
Arrive Beddgelert	
Day 2	16 km
Circular walk	
Day 3	11 km
Snowdonia	
Day 4	13 km
Betws-y-Coed to Ty-Hyll	
Day 5	16 km
Bryncroes to Aberdaron	
Day 6	12 km
Bardsey Island	
Day 7	14 km
Aberdaron	
Day 8	
Tour ends	



North Wales and Snowdon

Compact but geologically diverse, Wales offers myriad opportunities for escaping into nature. It may not be wild in the classic sense but there are plenty of lonely corners to explore, lurking behind mountains, within river valleys and along surf-battered cliffs. An extensive network of trails makes Wales a hiker's paradise.

Castles are an inescapable part of the Welsh landscape. They're absolutely everywhere. You could visit a different one every day for a year and still not see them all.

The scenery is superb: fine beaches, tumbling rivers and the mountains, lakes and waterfalls of Snowdonia. This part of Wales really packs it in, from rugged mountain trails to coastal paths, old industrial sites and heritage train lines. The gem is Snowdonia National Park, where the mightiest peaks south of Scotland scrape glowering skies.

On this tour, you stay in two different locations, firstly in the picturesque and unspoilt village of Beddgelert. Small and friendly, it boasts a full range of amenities. The second part of your tour is in the Quaint village of Aberdaron, renowned for its beauty, whitewashed houses, blue seas and rugged cliffs forming an amazing backdrop. A stream meanders through the heart of the village and an old stone hump-backed bridge forms the medieval version of a traffic moderator.

Beyond the scenery, it's the interactions with Welsh people that will remain in your memory the longest. Perhaps you'll recall sitting in a Caernarfon cafe, listening to the locals chatter in the ancient British tongue. Or that time in the pub, screaming along to the rugby with a red-shirted mob. They talk a lot in Wales about 'hiraeth'. A typically Welsh word, it refers to a sense of longing for the green, green grass of home.

Tour Details

Daily departures from
March until October

Cost: \$1695 per person

Single Room Upgrade: \$495

Length: 8 days / 7 nights
Grade: Moderate

Starts: Beddgelert

Ends: Aberdaron

Fast Facts

Includes:

- 7 nights accommodations in specially chosen B&Bs and guesthouses with breakfasts
- Luggage transfers, route notes & maps
- Local support

Highlights:

- A bird-watcher's dream
- Experience the only cable-hauled tramway to the Great Orme
- Welsh pubs, music & dance

Day 1 Arrive Oughterard

Arrive at Liverpool or Manchester Airport and take a train to Bangor, then bus to your first accommodation in Beddgelert. After settling in you could spend the afternoon/evening exploring this wonderful little village.

Day 2 Round walk Beddgelert 16km, Ascent 320m, 4-5 hrs

Your first walk will be a fantastic introduction to the Welsh countryside. From the village, you take a small road passing beautiful old-style cottages and the Sygun Copper Mine, one of the wonders of Wales. From there the trail takes you to the lake 'Llyn Dinas' and over the shoulder of 'Mynydd Llyndy' where you have superb views in all directions. Through an area of moorlands and a series of natural woodlands to lead you into the peaceful hamlet of Nantmor and back to Beddgelert via the fisherman's trail.

Day 3 To Snowdonia 11 km, Ascent 725m 3 hrs

Your next walk takes you to Snowdon, the highest mountain in Wales 1085 m. From Beddgelert, you take public transport for the short distance to the start of the trail at 'Pen-y-Pass', a mountain road built in the 1830's. Your trail leads you along one of these old miner's tracks, called the Pyg Track to the summit of Snowdon. From the summit (weather permitting) you will enjoy the spectacular views of the Welsh mountains. Public transport back to Beddgelert.

Day 4 Betws-y-Coed to Ty-Hyll 1 km, Ascent 360m, 3.5 hrs

Once more you take public transport to the start of your walk, this time in the colourful town of Betws-y-Coed. Situated in a wonderful setting, surrounded by dense woodlands and magnificent countryside. Take a small forest trail to the 'Llyn Elsi Reservoir', built in 1914. The trail continues via an old Roman Road that takes you across the 'Miner's Bridge' and on to the Swallow Falls. These falls are considered to be one of the loveliest spots in North Wales. Your day ends at 'Ty Hyll', the Ugly House, built overnight by two outlaw brothers, now the offices of the National Trust. Public bus back to Beddgelert.

Day 5 Bryncroes to Aberdaron 16 km, Ascent 365m, 4.5 hrs

A taxi transfer (included in cost) today to the small hamlet of Bryncroes for the start of your walk. A very mixed and varied walk today, taking you through open farmlands, over small hills, along some very quiet country roads on your way to Aberdaron. Mynydd Rhiw is the high point of the day at 304m and from the top, you will be rewarded with sweeping views of both land and sea. Old Stonewalls reach out for miles in all directions, built with skill care and pride. Fields lay abandon but clear evidence of old farming practices can still be seen in the field, evidence of now a forgotten era.

Day 6 Bardsey Island 12 km, Ascent 160m, 3.5 hrs

Bardsey Island lies across the Sound about 3km off the tip of the Llŷn Peninsula. It is 2.5km in length and, at its widest point and just over 1km across. The mountain, Mynydd Enlli, rises to a height of 167m. The island has been a refuge for nature lovers and those seeking solitude for centuries. It was declared a national nature reserve in 1986, and many make the journey from Aberdaron each summer to glimpse cormorants, shags, Manx shearwaters and curlews. Grey seals also come to bask on the beaches, and other unusual animals live on the island's mountain and grasslands. Between eight and thirteen people are resident on the island. To get to the island you will take a small ferry from just outside Aberdaron for the 15-minute crossing.

Day 7 Aberdaron 14.5 km, Ascent 585 m, 5 hrs

This is one of the most spectacular coastal walks to be found anywhere in the British Isles. It is made up of coastal paths, open countryside; moorlands, peace and tranquillity. The trail take's you in a clockwise direction around the headland of the Llyn Peninsula, up to the top of Mynydd Mawr. From here on a good day, you can see across the Irish Sea to the Wicklow Mountains in Ireland. You will also have great views over Bardsey Island.

Day 8 Departure

Take public transport from Aberdaron to Bangor and from there a train or bus to wherever your journey takes you.



What to Expect

What will the weather be like?

The daytime temperature will be around 15 to mid-20 degrees C (60's to 70's F), with moderate rainfall. It often rains in Wales, making the countryside lush and green. It is usually misty and not torrential downpours, but rain gear is still necessary, both a jacket and a pair of pants.

How many hours of hiking a day?

Be prepared to hike between 4 to 6 hours daily. This is not a supported tour, so you must be able to get to the next destination en route. If you need to take a day off and rest, you can easily get to the next town by public transport.

How fit do I need to be?

The fitter the better, so you will be able to enjoy this active holiday. There are some hills and some level terrain, rolling hills rather than any steep pitches. Good waterproof hiking boots are a MUST.

What is the food like?

We have included a full breakfast each day. For lunch, you can stop in a pub and local restaurant for a full meal or mid-day snack. For dinner our notes will suggest a location,

What are the properties like?

You will stay at family owned guesthouses and B&B's. All the rooms have private facilities. They are chosen for their charm and hospitality.

Getting There

- Arrive at Liverpool or Manchester Airport and take a train to Bangor, then bus to your first accommodation in Beddgelert.
- After the tour take public transport from Aberdaron to Bangor and from there a train or bus.



How to book your holiday

- Contact our office to make sure there is space available. One of our travel planners will walk you through the entire process.
- Download the reservation form from our site and send in the completed form by fax or email. Once this is done, your space is confirmed and pre-departure packet will be sent.
- A deposit is required immediately, and final payment is required 60 days prior to the trip departure. Terms & conditions are outlined in our Reservation Form.
- Plan your air travel as soon as possible.
- We encourage you to purchase travel insurance, either through us or a travel insurance provider directly.
- Ensure you are in proper health for the trip chosen. Contact us for more information on vaccinations, inoculations, and fitness requirements.