


7 Night Snowdonia Discovery Tour

Trip style:

Destination:  Snowdonia

Trip code: DOL07-HCR05

Carbon Footprint:  131kg CO2



HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

A trip fit for royalty, this 7-night discovery tour lines up a trio of UNESCO-listed castles that each played a pivotal role in the history of the British monarchy. You'll visit the quirky village of Portmeirion and also tour Plas Brondanw, Sir Clough Williams-Ellis' former home. And to cap it all, there'll be a ride on the Snowdon Mountain Railway to the summit of Snowdon (Yr Wyddfa) itself.

WHAT YOU'LL LOVE

- Discovering the royal history of Wales
- Admiring the enchanting Italianate style village of Portmeirion
- Enjoying a scenery-rich journey on the Snowdon Mountain Railway
- Exploring the National Slate Museum
- Visiting Caernarfon Castle
- Staying at Dolserau Hall, our Victorian country house

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Tickets for the Snowdon (Yr Wyddfa) Mountain Railway
- Comfortable en-suite accommodation in our country house
- Cream tea on arrival day
- Cooked or continental breakfast every morning
- Daily packed lunches
- Three-course evening meals, plus tea & coffee
- Guided sightseeing with an experienced HF Holidays Leader
- All transport to and from sites of interest
- Easy-to-follow routes, maps, and information in our Discovery Point if you want to explore independently

Please note - Entrance fees are not included. See more information tab for details.

TRIP SUITABILITY

Trip suitability

Our Discovery holidays give you the opportunity to immerse yourself in the culture of the local area through **active sightseeing**.

On each Discovery day, you will be walking throughout the course of the day as you explore the venues and locations we visit. You'll also be hopping on and off the coach throughout - you should expect to spend the majority of the day on your feet. Most of this walking will be at attractions but some may be across country tracks or footpaths so be sure to **bring sturdy shoes**. There will also be stairs to climb in the majority of the venues you visit, though other more accessible options may be available. At some venues, there may also be uneven surfaces, such as cobbles or rocky paths.

ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrival Day

Check-in at the hotel is available from 16:00. If you are a member you can arrive at the house from 14:00. Enjoy a complimentary cream tea at 16:30 and meet other guests.

Day 2: Conwy Castle

We'll kick off the holiday with a castle fit for a king – King Edward I to be exact. You'll visit Conwy Castle, whose mighty fortress and towers preserve the most intact set of medieval royal apartments in Wales. Then following the town walls, you'll find out just how easily the castle was captured.

Day 3: Harlech Castle and Mawddach Estuary

Another of King Edward I's statements of power, Harlech Castle dominates with its dramatic position atop a plinth of rock. You'll delve into its equally dramatic past as you wander the battlements – an eye-opening story of battles, sieges, and capture that goes beyond the late 13th century. During the afternoon, you have the option of heading to Mawddach Estuary for a short yet scenic walk.

Day 4: Free Day - Southern Snowdonia

Discover more about Dolserau Hall and the local area for ideas on how to make the most of your free day.

Day 5: Powis Castle and Lake Bala

The 13th century medieval Powis Castle houses an enchanting collection of paintings, sculptures, furniture, and tapestries. You'll get a sense of its historical and strategic importance for Wales as you visit the rooms and world-famous gardens – first built by a Welsh prince and now cared for by the National Trust. Their theatrical mix of dramatic terraces, sophisticated flower borders, and precise topiary combined with jaw-dropping views never fail to impress. Then in the afternoon, we'll stop off at RSPB reserve on Lake Vyrnwy and have time to explore the market town of Bala.

Day 6: Snowdon Mountain and Llanberis Lake Railway

Today we make tracks for Llanberis where if the weather's kind we'll take a trip on the Snowdon Mountain Railway, described as one of the most scenic railway journeys in the world. On a clear day, you'll trundle past plunging waterfalls and open mountain vistas as you journey through valleys climbing towards the top of Snowdon. You'll not want to miss a second. At the National Slate Museum, we gain a fascinating insight into the history and lives of the slate workers, and there'll also be the option to take a ride alongside the shores of Llyn Padarn on the Llanberis Lake Railway.

Day 7: Caernarfon Castle

Our fourth castle provides a fitting finale to the holiday – a building that’s hailed as one of the greatest of the Middle Ages. We’ll visit Caernarfon Castle, a royal fortress-palace, which has witnessed its fair share of rivalries, feuds, and storied history throughout the centuries. The location itself is steeped in history too. Add to that the sheer scale of this extraordinary castle and you’ve got a sight to behold - climb the Eagle Tower and you’ll have an eagle’s-eye view over it all. In more recent times, the investiture of HRH The Prince of Wales, now King Charles III, was held here in 1969.

Day 8: Departure Day

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before making your way home.

Dolserau Hall

We're delighted to share that Dolserau Hall has now reopened following a significant investment in this much-loved Welsh HF Country House. With beautifully updated social spaces, refreshed bedrooms, and thoughtful enhancements throughout, it's the perfect moment to rediscover this special spot in southern Eryri (Snowdonia). Read more. Dolserau Hall enjoys arresting countryside views at this Victorian manor house at the southern end of Snowdonia (Eryri) National Park. The location is idyllic; think ancient woods and craggy uplands in all directions (parts of the park served as the inspiration for Middle Earth in JRR Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings*). There's no shortage of things to do, either, including following the Mawddach Trail along the edge of the Mawddach Estuary, discovering the compact range of hills known as the Rhinogs, and climbing the rugged foothills of Cader Idris – the highest mountain in southern Snowdonia (Eryri) at 893 metres. You'll also be close to Dolgellau, the small market town best known for its once flourishing woollen industry (ruins of the Pandy fulling mills used to remove fats and grease from the wool cloth can still be seen along the Afon Aran River). With only 21 rooms, it's one of HF Holidays' smaller country houses and 40% of it's rooms are reserved for singles, making it easier than ever to have your own space.

A warm welcome

We want you to feel comfortable from the moment you arrive. You'll find a welcome pack in your room with guest registration forms, menus, order forms for dinners and picnic lunches, the Wi-Fi password, and the front door code. Our houses are locked at night, so we recommend noting the Duty Manager's number on arrival in case of an emergency (or getting locked out).

Evening entertainment

While evening entertainment varies from house to house, HF Holidays Inter-House Quiz night held after dinner on Wednesdays is a weekly staple. Your HF Holidays leader may be around for tips on guided and self-guided walking routes as well as visit-worthy local attractions.

Walks talks

Our HF Holidays walk leaders host guided walking information briefings before dinner on guided walking holiday arrival days. This is followed by a group Walks Talk for information on the following day's guided walks (held before dinner every evening). Self-guided walking guests are, of course, welcome.

The walking day

Prior to setting off on guided walks, your HF Holidays Leader will run you through a short safety briefing. There's also an up-to-date weather forecast on display at the house to ensure you have appropriate clothing and footwear. If you choose to do your own walks or are on a self-guided walking holiday, we ask that you please complete an Independent Walker Card each day. These can be found near the Discovery Point in the house.