



# Snowdonia National Park



Situated on the west coast of Britain covering 823 square miles of diverse landscapes, Snowdonia National Park is a living working area, home to over 26,000 people. As well as being the largest National Park in Wales, Snowdonia boasts the highest mountain in England and Wales, and the largest natural lake in Wales, as well as a wealth of picturesque villages like Betws y Coed and Beddgelert. Snowdonia is an area steeped in culture and local history, where more than half its population speak Welsh.

The National Park Authority's aims are to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the area, promote opportunities to understand and enjoy its special qualities; and to foster the economic and social well-being of its communities.

Dominated by the impressive Snowdonia mountain range, a visit to this park reveals picturesque villages, fast-flowing waterfalls and a coastline of fine sandy beaches.

With the largest mountain in Wales, wooded valleys, historic villages and endless trails to walk, Snowdonia National Park is a truly amazing landscape. Go hill-walking on the trails, follow some incredible mountain biking routes or take a leisurely ride on the Snowdon Mountain Railway. Departing from Llanberis station, the train climbs 1,085 metres to the summit of Yr Wyddfa – Mount Snowdon. The national park takes its name from the imposing mountain and the dramatic ranges around it, which are incredibly popular with climbers, hikers and cyclists.



Climbing to the highest peak in England and Wales is challenging, but it's also hard to resist. In addition to the rugged mountain landscapes there are numerous rolling green valleys, packed with woodlands, streams and waterfalls, and 60 miles of spectacular coastline. On the west coast of Wales stands the formidable 13th-century fortress of Harlech Castle, looming proudly over the picturesque golden sands of Harlech beach. The castle is one of four in North Wales that form a UNESCO World Heritage Site, alongside the grey stone castles and town walls of Caernarfon, Conwy and Beaumaris.

Snowdonia is also a place for adventure, as you can zoom over Penrhyn Quarry on a zip line at speeds of up to 100 miles per hour at [Zipworld](#), tackle Olympic-grade rapids on the Tryweryn River near Bala, or test your nerve on a caving trip at [GoBelow](#). Cycling and riding routes criss-cross Snowdonia, with cycle hire available from a range of locations including Llanbedr, Caernarfon, Betws-y-Coed and Beddgelert.

## Getting to Snowdonia

Direct train services to North Wales run from London and most other parts of Britain, while the Conwy Valley Line runs through Snowdonia National Park, providing inland services to Betws-y-Coed and Blaenau Ffestiniog. Transfers via road from the international gateways of Manchester, Liverpool and Birmingham take less than two hours via the M56 and A55. An alternative is the Explore Wales Pass, a ticket which provides access to all of the mainline train services in Wales and to the vast majority of bus services.





### What's nearby?

The picturesque seaside resort of Llandudno with its Victorian pier and funicular railway can be found to the north of Snowdonia National Park, while the Italianate fantasy village of Portmeirion is just to the north of Harlech. If you're keen to explore, the Wales Coast Path follows coastal routes around Wales, offering spectacular scenery and wildlife watching opportunities, while the North Wales Way is a 75-mile route along the north coast of the country that takes in mighty castles, golden beaches and the mysterious island of Anglesey.

### Choose the correct option.

1. Snowdonia borders with ...  
Britain                      the sea
2. It covers 823 square ... of diverse landscapes.  
miles                      kilometres
3. It is the largest national park in ...  
Britain                      Wales
4. It has the highest peak in ...  
Britain                      Wales
5. More than half the population speak ...  
Welsh                      Gaelic
6. The National Park Authority aims at ... the environment of the region.  
fostering                      preserving
7. On a visit to the park, you will encounter fast-flowing ...  
rivers                      waterfalls
8. Along the coastline there are ... beaches.  
sandy                      limestone
9. You can mountain bike along the cycling ...  
lanes                      routes
10. You may even take the Snowdon Mountain ...  
Railway                      Gondola
11. The mountain ranges attract numbers of ...  
skiers                      climbers

### Match the correspondences.

Gorges	zip line
Water landscape	Beaumaris
Land scenery	green valleys
UNESCO World Heritage site	Harlech Castle
UNESCO World Heritage site	Conwy Valley Line
Cycle Hire	Caving trip
Height adventure	M56 and A55
Water adventure	woodlands
Underground adventure	rapids
Road transport	Beddgelert
Railway transport	streams

