



From  
**\$12,279** NZD

Single Room  
 \$14,228 NZD

Twin Room  
 \$12,279 NZD

Prices valid until  
 30th December 2024

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13 days  
 Duration

Wales  
 Destination

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Level 3 - Moderate to  
 Challenging  
 Activity

# Exploring Wales on foot : small group walking tours for seniors

Aug 03 2024 to Aug 15 2024

## Exploring Wales on Foot – a small group tour for seniors

The Exploring Wales on Foot tour is a small group walking tour designed for mature travellers. It gives the active traveller the opportunity to explore the stunning Welsh landscapes on foot. On this 11 night tour, we travel by coach across the length of Wales with the chance to walk up to 15 kilometres each day. The paths selected will



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take you through some of the most spectacular scenery in the country including the Brecon Beacons where we base ourselves in Crickhowell. Our tour takes us from Betwys-y-Coed in the north to St. Davids in the south. We will travel through rolling hills, rocky mountain passes and along the magical coastline.

We will visit several Welsh national parks, castles, cities, towns, and villages:

- Manchester city, northwestern England, is the nucleus of the largest metropolitan area in the north of England. It was at the forefront of the Industrial Revolution in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, expanding rapidly from a market town to be the first industrialised city in the world due to a boom in textile manufacturing. Despite a process of deindustrialisation following the Second World War and a resulting decline in vitality and influence, it still remains a notable city today for its architecture, culture, musical exports, scientific and engineering output, sports clubs, and transport connections.
- Betwys-y-Coed is a village in the Conwy Valley on the verge of the Gwydyr Forest in North Wales. Lying in the heart of Snowdonia National Park at the intersection of four gushing rivers, it is North Wales' most popular inland resort and accommodation provider. It has been attracting visitors for centuries to experience its scenic beauty and partake in numerous outdoor activities.
- Penrhyn Bay is a small town on the northern coast of Wales to the east of the Little Orme between Llandudno and Rhos-on-Sea. Penrhyn Bay beach is a quite sandy and pebbly beach mostly used by locals. It is perfect for enjoying the sea air, beautiful views, and a seaside stroll. Located on the North Wales Path, coastal walks lead to nearby Colwyn Bay or Ormes Bay.
- Llandudno Bay is a two mile curving sand, shingle and rock beach between the headlands of the Great Orme and the Little Orme, located on the North Wales Path. For most of the length of Llandudno's North Shore is an elegant wide curving Victorian promenade with many hotels. Wales' longest pier is also located on the North Shore and includes a bar, a cafe, amusement



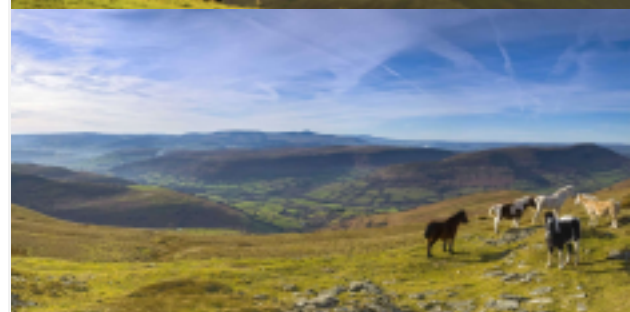
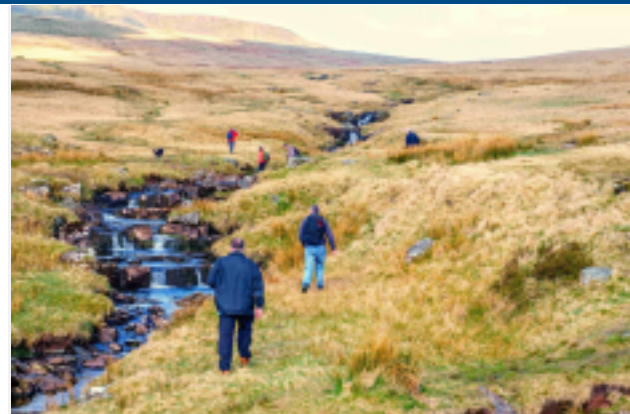
arcades, fairground rides, shops and kiosks.

- The Great Orme's Head is a prominent limestone headland on the coast in North Wales, north-west of the seaside resort town Llandudno. The Head is 3km long and 2km wide, rising to 207m at the summit, and is bounded by precipitous cliffs to the north and west. Attractions include its massive Bronze Age copper mine, rich flora and fauna, stunning views from the summit, historic Orme tramway and Llandudno cable-car, and outdoor activities.
- Conwy is a walled town and community in Conwy County Borough on the north coast of Wales situated on the west bank of the River Conwy's estuary. Historic sites throughout the town tell of its past from the site of the 12<sup>th</sup> century Welsh Aberconwy Abbey, to a key English fortification and strategic and commercial centre. The UNESCO World Heritage listed Conwy Castle especially is a exceptional medieval masterpiece rich in history.
- Caernarfon Castle is a medieval fortress in Caernarfon, Gwynedd, north-west Wales. It was built on the shoreline at the southern end of the Menai Strait between north Wales and Anglesey in 1283 by King Edward I following the English conquest of Wales – and acted as the administrative centre of north Wales. Today the gigantic castle and its polygonal towers, eagle statues and multi-coloured masonry is recognized around the world as one of the greatest buildings of the Middle Ages.
- Aberystwyth is a small ancient market town and stunning seaside resort in Ceredigion on the west coast of Wales. Established as a castle town in the Middle Ages, the town has developed over the centuries first into a major port, then a Welsh centre of culture and education famous for its Edwardian architecture and scenic coastal railway. Today it is a popular sea-side holiday destination attracting tourists to relax within its picturesque scenery and at its numerous hotels, cafes, restaurants, bars and pubs.
- The Brecon Beacons are a mountain range running through South Wales, including the two highest peaks in the region, Pen y Fan and Corn Du. Pen y Fan ("the top peak") has an elevation of 886 metres, and the walk up features a sandstone footpath. Corn



Du is the second highest peak in South Wales at 873 metres. Both summits are quite similar—flat and anvil-shaped—and both marked by a Bronze Age cairn. The burial cairns dotting Brecon Beacons speak to the legacy of the prehistoric Neolithic and Bronze Age settlements that once thrived in this area.

- St. Davids is a historic city located within the stunning Pembrokeshire Coast National Park near the tip of St Davids Peninsula, the most westerly point in Wales. The smallest city in Great Britain, consisting of four streets that meet in the ancient marketplace Cross Square, it has more of a charming feel like that of a large village. Yet despite its small space, as the birthplace of St David, the patron saint of Wales, the city holds a vast amount of history waiting to be explored.
- Castell Coch (Welsh for ‘Red Castle’) is a 19<sup>th</sup>-century gothic revival castle built above the village of Tongwynlais in South Wales, just outside of Cardiff. The current castle is built upon the ruins of a stone fortification most likely built by Gilbert de Clare in the mid-13<sup>th</sup> century to defend his freshly annexed Welsh lands. Designed in the 19<sup>th</sup> century by the architect William Burges, the stunning fairy tale castle is a romantic reconstruction of an imaginary medieval world with conical towers over a fanciful drawbridge, and an elaborately decorated interior.
- Cardiff is the capital of Wales, surrounded by beautiful scenery at its location on the Bristol Channel at the mouth of the River Taff. From its historical humble beginnings as a Roman fort and small town throughout the middle ages, the city has developed significantly over the last 200 years playing a key role in Welsh history as an industrial center. Today modern Cardiff continues to serve as the country’s center of commerce and the prime hub of cultural, political and media institutions.



## Highlights of this small group walking tour in Wales

The tour, Exploring Wales on Foot, encompasses a range of natural and cultural wonders to see and explore. Throughout the experience, we will be listening to stories of local history and culture from local guides with the chance to explore some of the hidden gems of Wales. We walk to

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see the limestone and dolomite cliffs at [Great Orme's Head](#) and visit the walled town of [Conwy](#) (where you can see 'The Smallest House in Great Britain'). Along the way, we'll see numerous castles, including Castell Dolbadarn and [Castell Coch](#). There is also the opportunity to enter Carreg Cennen castle, magnificently perched on a limestone outcrop. During this small group walking tour our guides share lessons about the history, landscapes and people of Wales. Our departure point is in [Manchester](#) and from there we travel to the small town of Penrhyn Bay of the northern coast of Wales. Towards the end of the tour there is the opportunity to explore [Cardiff](#) with a guided day tour before finishing up in [London](#). Here you are welcome to end your tour by exploring the sites of the city, such as Big Ben and St. Paul's Cathedral.

This is a holiday program suited to a senior couple or solo travellers who enjoy a good walk, and only one of the many [walking tours](#) Odyssey offers each year. The total number of participants in this tour will be 12 or fewer with the addition of an Odyssey program leader. This trip is paired with Odyssey's [Walking Tour of Ireland & the Lake district](#). You can also learn more about [Britain](#) and [Wales](#) and see all other departures on the country profile page.

For more details on this tour, click the 'Top 5' or 'Itinerary' buttons above! If you're keen to experience this tour, [please call](#) or [send an email](#). Or, to book, simply fill in the form on the right hand side of this page.

## Articles helping to prepare senior travellers for a walking tour

To help you prepare for any walking program these articles by Odyssey or carefully selected external sources are intended to help you prepare for your holiday:

- [Selecting walking shoes for women](#)

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- [footwear and walking shoes](#)
- [what to pack when travelling](#)
- [maintaining muscle fitness in senior and mature age travellers](#)
- [selecting socks for walking](#)
- [preparing for a walking holiday](#)
- [Hiking advice for women](#)
- [Aluminium water bottles safe for water?](#)
- [Bringing too much luggage and overpacking the day pack.](#)
- [Tips for preventing dehydration when walking](#)

## Articles about Wales

The following list of articles published by odyssey Traveller for mature aged and senior travellers to maximise their knowledge and enjoyment of Wales when visiting;

- [Roman roads in Britain](#)
- [Understanding British Churches](#)
- [Medieval British life](#)
- [Icons of British villages](#)
- [Studying Gargoyles and grotesques](#)
- [New discoveries about Britain's stone circles](#)
- [Britain's neolithic past](#)
- [Lumps and bumps, how to read the British landscape](#)
- [Guide to Wales](#)
- [Great Britain; A profile](#)
- [National trust; Britain's best walks with Julia Bradbury](#)

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- [National Parks of Britain](#)
- [Ten books about Walking in Britain from the Guardian](#)
- [Wales in the last civil war ; refuge of the Monarchy](#)
- [Harlech; West Wales](#)

You can also browse all the articles published on [Wales](#) by Odyssey Traveller.

## Highlights

1. Circle around from Llanberis with great views of Mt Snowdon on a clear day.
2. Visit Carreg Cennen with a local guide.
3. Admire the scenery around St Davids on a coastal walk.
4. Walk Conway to Morfa Beach via the Coastal Path.
5. Enjoy the spectacular Millennium Coastal Path

## Itinerary

### Day 1

**Locations:** Manchester

**Overview:**

After we meet at the Manchester hotel, we gather with the Programme Leader for a welcome dinner.

**Accommodation:**

Mercure Manchester Picadilly or similar

## Day 2

**Locations:** Betws-y-Coed

**Overview:**

After breakfast in the hotel, we drive from Manchester to Penrhyn Bay. For our first walk, we travel 5km from Penrhyn Bay to Llandudno via North Wales Path. On the way, we see Little Orme's Head, Llandudno Bay and Llandudno Pier.

From there, we walk 3km from Llandudno to Great Orme's Head. We drive from Great Orme's Head to Conwy, where you'll see 'The Smallest House in Great Britain' We then walk 5km along the Coastal Path to Morfa Beach. We drive to Betws-y-Coed where we have dinner at the hotel.

**Accommodation:**

Royal Oak Hotel or similar

## Day 3

**Locations:** Betws-y-Coed

**Overview:**

After breakfast, we walk 4km to the picturesque Swallow Falls along Afon Llugwy. We then walk back to Betws-y-Coed via Llyn Elsi, and see the Llyn Elsi reservoir en route.

The rest of the day is at leisure.

(B)

**Accommodation:**

Royal Oak Hotel or similar

## Day 4

**Locations:** Beaumaris (Anglesey)

**Overview:**

After breakfast, we drive to Llanberis for an 8km circular walk around the spectacular lake, Llyn Padarn. During the walk, you will be able to see the highest mountain in Wales, Mount Snowdon. and the Dolbadarn



Castle.

We then drive to Moelfre, and from there we walk 7km to Dulas via the Wales Coastal Path. Along the way, we see Lligwy Bay and Dulas Bay.

We drive to Beaumaris where we spend the night after dinner at the hotel.

(B,D)

**Accommodation:**

The Bulkeley Hotel or similar

**Day 5**

**Locations:** Aberystwyth

**Overview:**

After breakfast, we begin the day with an 8km walk to Penmon Point. We then drive to Caernarfon, where we'll enjoy a guided city highlights tour, and entrance to Caernarfon Castle.

We then drive to Harlech, and take a 6km walk to Llandanwg. This is followed by a drive to Aberystwyth, during which we'll be able to see Snowdonia National Park.

We have dinner at the hotel.

**Accommodation:**

Belle Vue Royal Hotel or similar

**Day 6**

**Locations:** Aberystwyth

**Overview:**

After breakfast, we begin the day with a 9km walk towards Borth via the Ceredigion Coastal Path. Along the way, we'll visit the Camera Obscura on Constitution Hill. We then drive from Borth to New Quay, and walk

6km from New Quay to Cwmttydu via a coastal path.

We drive back to Aberystwyth where we spend the night.

**Accommodation:**

Belle Vue Royal Hotel or similar

**Day 7**

**Locations:** St. Davids

**Overview:**

Today, we have the first part of the day at leisure in Aberystwyth. You can take the time to visit the local sights and museums, or just take a break. Later in the day we drive from Aberystwyth to St. Davids, where we have dinner at the hotel.

**Accommodation:**

St. David's Cross Hotel or similar

**Day 8**

**Locations:** St. Davids

**Overview:**

After breakfast we take a 3km morning return walk to Caerfai Beach, followed by a guided city highlights tour of St. Davids, which includes entrance to Bishop's Palace. We then drive to St. Martin's Haven; during the drive we'll be able to see Pembrokeshire National Park. We walk from St. Martin's Haven to St. Anne's Head via the Welsh Coastal Path. After visiting the Old Stables Heritage Centre, we drive back to St. David's where we spend the night.

**Accommodation:**

St. David's Cross Hotel or similar

## Day 9

**Locations:** Crickhowell

### Overview:

In the morning we drive from St. Davids to Llanelli. From there, we take a 7km walk to Burry Port, taking the Millennium Coastal Path. We then drive from Burry Port to Carreg Cennen, where we visit Carreg Cennen Castle, and take a 7km walk around the area with a guide. We drive to Crickhowell – where we spend the night – via Brecon Beacons, during the drive we'll have views of the Brecon Beacons National Park.

We have dinner at the hotel.

### Accommodation:

Dragon Inn or similar

## Day 10

**Locations:** Crickhowell

### Overview:

After breakfast we drive to Storey Arms, and take an 8km return walk from Storey Arms to Pen Y Fan summit, with a local guide. We then drive from Storey Arms to Libanus, where we visit the Brecon Beacons National Park Visitor Centre. In the afternoon, we drive to Llangynidr, where we take an 8km guided walk along a canal to Talybont. We drive back to Crickhowell in the evening.

### Accommodation:

Dragon Inn or similar

## Day 11

**Locations:** London

### Overview:

After breakfast, we drive from Crickhowell to Cardiff, stopping on the way at Tongwynlais, where we visit Castell Coch.

Once we arrive at Cardiff, we enjoy a guided city tour, and visit the Cardiff Bay area.

In the afternoon we drive to London for our last night of the tour, here we enjoy a farewell dinner.

### Accommodation:

Overnight London Lodge or similar

## Day 12

**Locations:** London

### Overview:

After breakfast at the hotel, the tour comes to an end.

## Inclusions / Exclusions

### What's included in our Tour

- 11 nights hotel accommodation
- 11 breakfasts and 7 dinners
- Transport in comfortable and modern coach.
- Gratuities and necessary tips.
- Services of Tour Leader for the duration of tour.

### What's not included in our Tour

- Comprehensive travel insurance.
- International airfares and departure taxes.
- Items of a personal nature such as telephone calls and laundry.

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### **Level 3 - Moderate to Challenging**

Participants must be in excellent health, extremely mobile and live an active lifestyle. Program activities may include up to 6 hours of continuous strenuous, moderate to fast paced activity per day over varied terrain.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any requests for further information about this tour or any others offered by Odyssey Travel.