



# BODYSGALLEN HALL

## NORTH WALES GUIDED TOURS



Caernarfon Castle

### TOUR 1 - EDWARD LONGSHANK'S RING OF IRON

A tour crossing North Wales from north to west coast via Eryri/Snowdonia National Park, whilst visiting three of the UNESCO World Heritage castles commissioned by King Edward I of England (1239-1307), with a commentary explaining the conquest of Wales from a Welsh perspective!

Today's castles are all World Heritage sites and are described by UNESCO as 'the most important examples of medieval military architecture in Europe' and 'the zenith of English castle building'. Our luxury touring vehicle will head south down the Conwy valley, over the Crimea pass and across to the West Coast where we find the famous Harlech Castle perched on what seems like an inaccessible rock. Learn about the legend of Bran and Branwen and their links to the Tower of London and the Holy Grail and about the last great rebellion of the Welsh led by the heroic local, Owain Glyndwr.



Harlech Castle and Bran's Throne

Heading on through the heart of Eryri/Snowdonia with stops at the Yr Wyddfa/Mt Snowdon viewpoint en route where we learn about King Arthur's links to the area. We'll drop down through steeply sided valleys filled with boulder fields and pass the enormous Dinorwig quarry, another of North Wales' UNESCO World Heritage Sites, where slate was mined for over 200 years. We head on through Llanberis before arriving at Caernarfon's huge castle, the site of King Edward I's royal seat in Wales. We'll explore the vast castle followed by either a sit-in or take-out lunch before we head along the north coast to the bustling town of Conwy.



Llynau Mymbyr to Snowdon Horseshoe

King Edward I's castle in Conwy has just been voted the most beautiful in Europe but the town also features the smallest house in Britain, the best preserved Elizabethan town house in Britain, a pretty fishing quay and a number of bustling, cobbled streets with independent and artisan shops. From Conwy, It's a short drive back to Bodysgallen Hall.



Conwy Castle and Quay



Ymddiriedolaeth Genedlaethol  
National Trust

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Mountain Goats at Dinorwig Quarry

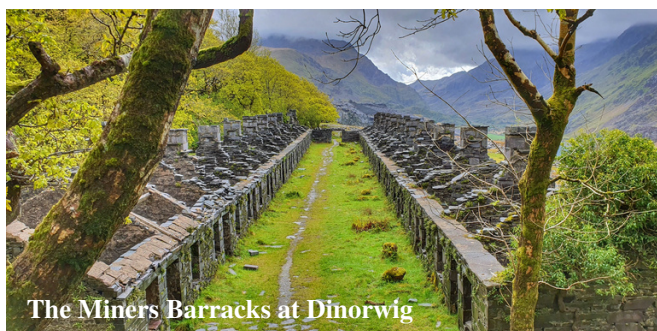
### TOUR 2 - WHEN WALES ROOFED THE WORLD

Tying together three elements of the slate industry in Wales, this tour also includes spectacular views of Eryri/Snowdonia, one of the Welsh castles of the native Princes of Gwynedd and a gentle 60-minute hike into the mountains - if guests would like!

Today, we travel along the north coast before turning south for a tour of the Eryri/Snowdonia mountains, bringing us into Llanberis. Here we will visit the National Slate Museum, discovering one of the most important periods in Welsh history, when this area of Wales produced more slate than the rest of the world combined. You will learn how slate was produced from the massive mine, but also the hardship endured by the miners.



Dinorwig Quarry



The Miners Barracks at Dinorwig

We can take an easy hike into the mine itself and see where the miners lived 1000 feet up in the mountains in barrack-like buildings. This has to be one of the most spectacular walks in the area, with views directly across to the highest mountains in Wales one way, across to the Irish Sea the other way, and with the 13th century castle of the Welsh Princes of Gwynedd below us. There's also a chance of seeing wild Welsh Mountain Goats among other things!

We will have time for lunch before or after this walk. Lastly we will visit Penrhyn Castle, the home of a number of generations of the Pennant family, who were owners of one of the largest slate mines in North Wales. Here we will discover the immense and controversial wealth amassed by the mine owners. It is said that the family spent the equivalent of £150 million renovating Penrhyn Castle in the 1800s.



Penrhyn Castle





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Conwy Castle and Estuary

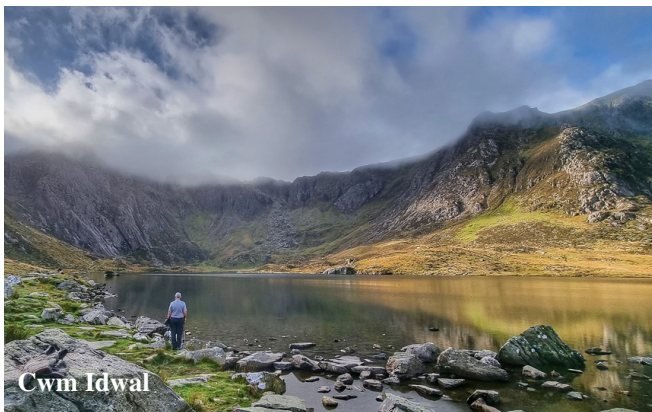
### TOUR 3 - THE CONWY VALLEY AND ERYRI/SNOWDONIA

You may already have admired the view from the windows at Bodysgallen Hall across the gardens to Conwy Castle with a backdrop of Snowdonia Mountains. This tour will take you to Conwy, Bodnant Garden, along the Conwy Valley and into the heart of Eryri/Snowdonia.

This tour begins in Conwy, with a visit to the bustling town, where we can visit King Edward I's magnificent Castle built between 1283 and 1287, or walk around the pretty medieval town with its cobbled streets and artisan shops. We then continue on a short drive to Bodnant Garden, one of the UK's best horticultural gardens featuring plants and flowers from all over the world. Renowned for its camellias and azalea display in Spring, late May into June is also a great time to visit when Bodnant's world famous Laburnum Arch is in full flower.



Laburnum Arch at Bodnant Garden



Cwm Idwal

Next we head south to Betws-y-Coed, the pretty little village set in a wooded valley and is known as the 'Gateway to Snowdonia'. We'll take time for a quick explore and coffee before heading deep into the spectacular Eryri/Snowdonia National Park where we can visit a café to try traditional Welsh food, such as Bara Brith, Welsh rarebit, Cawl and Welsh Cakes, and visit the high passes and sparkling lakes of the area.





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The golden sand beach at Harlech

### TOUR 4 - WONDERFUL WEST COAST

This tour explores the no less dramatic side of Wales, where mountains tumble down to the sea and golden beaches stretch for miles. We will visit another of King Edward I's castles, and the delightful Italianate village of Portmeirion.

Arriving at the attractive seaside town of Barmouth, we can hike up to the first land owned by the National Trust, offering amazing views. Next, we head north to Harlech Castle where we learn about the conquest of Wales by King Edward I in the late 1200s. We will also learn about the legend of Bran and Branwen, and their links to the Tower of London and the Holy Grail, predating King Edward I by many hundreds of years.



Barmouth and Mawddach



Harlech Castle

The tour continues to Portmeirion, the quirky fantasy creation of the 1920s architect Sir Clough Williams-Ellis. Portmeirion takes the form of a magical Italianate village set in beautiful landscaped gardens on a peninsula. The village provided the backdrop for the 1960s cult TV series, 'The Prisoner', starring Patrick McGoohan.

Guests will have a late lunch and time to explore the village before heading back to Bodysgallen via the mountain passes of Eryri/Snowdonia.



Portmeirion Village