

Snowdon by Night (Yr Wyddfa)



Duration: 2 days (overnight)

Snowdonia National Park in North Wales is synonymous with beautiful, rugged landscapes and wonderful trekking and outdoor pursuits. The highest mountain in England and Wales at 1085m, Snowdon's Welsh name is Yr Wyddfa, reputedly the burial place of a mythical giant. A popular summit trek by day-time, it forms a real challenge by night.

Standing at the summit as the dark disappears will be an unforgettable experience, as will seeing the sunrise from the mountain slopes. Witnessing the spectacular landscapes opening up before us as the day grows lighter is a magical and unforgettable experience.

Our base for this challenge is a friendly hotel, which makes for a sociable start to our challenge as we sort our kit and get to know each other and the crew. At the end, we gather back together in the warm and celebrate our overnight achievement with a slap-up breakfast!

DETAILED ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrive Llanberis

We'll meet in the evening in Llanberis, the popular village at the foot of Snowdon, and get ready for our trek with some sandwiches and light refreshments. After checking our kit and following a full-briefing we switch on our head-torches, and set off on our exciting night challenge!

We follow the Llanberis Path, which roughly shadows the route of the famous Snowdon Mountain Railway. It's the most gradual route up Snowdon with good conditions underfoot, and therefore best suited to our ascent in the dark! There is an initial steep section; after this our route continues quite gradually. The path shows up quite easily most of the time under the torchlight. Trekking up at night is a very different experience than during the day; our senses grow used to the darkness and we can enjoy the silence and the remoteness, and the views of the night sky arcing above us.

After the Halfway House the gradient becomes steeper in places, but we know we're not far off the summit! We pass through a narrow railway bridge, and it's not long before we get to a standing stone, marking where other trails meet ours. A little further on we come to the summit at 1085m. We have gained approx 900m in height since we set off – quite an achievement!

Day 2: Descend and Depart

After some time to experience the summit – though it will probably be quite cold at the top, so you may not want to linger too long! – we start our descent and return to Llanberis the same way. The sky will now light our way down, and we may be able to

DETAILED ITINERARY (cont.)

enjoy the wonderful views over the Menai Strait towards Anglesey while we are still high enough to enjoy them. As our surroundings get lighter, we'll be amazed by what we climbed in the dark! The descent will be much quicker and less arduous, but still tiring and can be hard on the knees. We return to Llanberis for a big celebration breakfast! After saying our farewells to our fellow trekkers, we head home, tired but very elated!

Ascent approx. 5-7 hours; descent approx. 2-3 hours

Discover Adventure reserves the right to change the route or itinerary for safety reasons should local conditions dictate.



CHALLENGE GRADING

Trips are graded Yellow, Orange or Red, in increasing level of challenge. This trek lies within the **Yellow** range.

The grade is determined by factors such as terrain, distance, climate, altitude, etc. Each colour grade has a **spectrum** which reflects the difficulty of these factors; trip duration, accommodation and living conditions are also taken into account.

The Challenge Factor icon shows the most challenging aspect – the ascent in the dark, which makes the rugged terrain more taxing.

The grade reflects the overall trip; some sections will feel more challenging than others. Unusual weather conditions also have a significant impact, and not all people are tested by the same aspects.