

WILD PHOTOGRAPHY HOLIDAYS



NORTH WALES CLASSIC LANDSCAPES OF SNOWDONIA

PHOTOGRAPHY & WALKING SHORT BREAK

HIGHLIGHTS

- Llanberis & Llyn Padarn
- Scenic walking
- Dolbadarn Castle
- Llanberis waterfalls
- Dinorwic Slate Quarries
- Cwm Idwal & Devil's Kitchen
- Nant Gwynant Valley
- Lakes and fairy pools
- Epic mountain landscapes
- Sea cliffs and beaches
- Train to Snowdon half-way station

INTRODUCTION

This lovely five-day photographic/walking break takes place in Snowdonia, home to some of the wildest, ethereal and magical landscapes in the UK. The mountains and hills, rivers and lakes, wind and rain, coast and castles of the Snowdonia National Park have a wealth of fine landscapes, heritage and oodles of photographic interest. 'Eryri' the ancient Welsh name for Snowdonia, originates from the snow covered mountains and the Eagles that once lived here in large numbers. Most importantly the photographic interests of Snowdonia are beautifully compact and accessible. A few of the best locations for photography lie off the beaten track and require some walking to access. We will use the Snowdon

railway so we can take in the best landscapes in the good light time. Our base in Llanberis is the perfect place to reach all of our locations easily including the dramatic Welsh coastline. This break will suit photographers who enjoy walking but would like to take the next step by discovering how to take the 'Road less travelled' in safety.

Your Photography Guide: Jethro Kiernan

Jethro is a North Wales based photographer specialising in adventure sports, landscape and industrial photography. He has lived in and around Snowdonia for over 25 years.



DAILY ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrival in Llanberis

Our comfortable hotel and base for this workshop is a stones throw from Snowdon on the shores of Llyn Padarn. The oft photographed Dolbadarn Castle dating from the 13th Century is a five minute walk from our base. We will meet together as a group at 17.00 for introductions, a trip briefing and a sunset shoot. We will return to our hotel for dinner.

Accommodation hotel (D)

Days 2–4: Photography in Snowdonia

Much of our itinerary will depend on the weather and local conditions. This will be assessed daily allowing us to maximise the best of our numerous locations. Some can be enjoyed after a short/medium walk, others will require a drive of up to 30 minutes or so. We will aim to be out all day in all but the very worst of the weather, but we will find time for processing and viewing images. The following are some of the places that we will visit during the trip.

Accommodation hotel (B,L,D)

Llyn Padarn and Llanberis

The lake has many photographic vantage points and its famous 'lone tree' at the north west tip of the lake is a wonderful subject at sunrise. Penllyn can offer wonderful reflections of the Snowdon massif. Colourful buildings in Llanberis and Dolbadarn Castle offer great interest and history.

Dinorwic Slate Quarry

The slate quarries of north-west Wales have just been nominated for UNESCO World Heritage Site status. Once, slate carved from here was sent all around the world, literally roofing the Industrial Revolution. Then the industry largely collapsed, leaving behind prescient apocalyptic wonderlands for outdoor-lovers and photographers to explore. At its peak in the 19th century, Dinorwig was the second-largest slate quarry in the world. In the mornings, thousands of men in flat caps hiked up the zig-zag path to the quarry huts which perch high on Elidir's mountainside, their clogs clacking on slate waste. Nowadays the quarries offer a graphic and powerful loca-



tion for photographers and climbers. Easily walked tracks lead through the quarries giving an insight into a very recent industrial history. The lower slopes of the quarries are littered with remnants of the past, old railway tracks, abandoned buildings, tunnels and slate waste. Higher, the views open out over the Llanberis Pass, Dolbadarn Castle and the Snowdon mountains.

The Ogwen valley and Cwm Idwal

In the heart of Snowdonia lies one of its most easily accessible and photogenic valleys. The Ogwen valley cuts between the Glyderau and Carneddau mountain ranges. The striking old glacial landscape persuaded Charles Darwin that the mountains of Snowdonia developed their current size and shape during the last ice age, 10,000 years ago. Cwm Idwal the first National Nature Reserve in Wales is a mecca for geologists, botanists and photographers. The dramatic Cwm Idwal feels rugged and mountainous although it is fairly easily accessed on foot giving photographers some diverse subjects.



Snowdon

Mount Snowdon is the highest peak in Wales and a superb view point for the whole of Snowdonia. We will spend several hours walking at a leisurely pace taking in some of the best vantage points. We will go $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way up on the train and walk down into sunset.

Lake Mymbyr, Capel Curig and Nant Gwynant

The small village of Capel Curig is home to one of the most iconic views in Snowdonia. The view along the twin lakes of Llynau Mymbyr to the Snowdon Horseshoe is much sought after. Viewed from Capel Curig, or a little

further along the lakes, a calm morning can give remarkable reflections and panorama options.

Nantlle and Fron

On the western edge of Snowdonia lies the scenic Dyfryn Nantlle. Opposite, the small village of Y Fron there is access to many sterling locations where we will be able to capture the atmospheric Nantlle ridge. Within the valley of Nantlle we encounter old quarries and lakes giving several good photographic opportunities and a glimpse of the area's history and heritage.

Anglesey and the Llyn Peninsula

Anglesey and the Llyn Peninsula offer us some fabulous coastal landscapes. Generally blessed with milder and drier weather than Snowdonia, a day exploring these areas allows for some great coastal photography. Sea Stacks, lighthouses, the Menai Bridge, fishing villages and wild empty beaches are sure to whet your creative juices.

Day 5: Sunrise and Departure

This morning we hope to have a final sunrise shoot before breakfast at the hotel.



A morning transfer will be provided to Bangor Railway Station. Please discuss this at the time of booking.
(B)

JOINING ARRANGEMENTS AND TRANSFERS

We will meet together as a group at 17:00 at our hotel in Llanberis for introductions and a trip briefing. There will be a transfer to and from Bangor railway station on Days 1 & 5. We would appreciate it if you are able to let us know your travel plans as soon as possible so that we are able to coordinate arrangements/pick ups. For those planning to drive themselves there is good parking at our hotel in Llanberis.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- 4 nights hotel accommodation in Llanberis
- Breakfast & dinner
- Transport during the workshop
- Photographic tuition
- Transfer to and from Bangor train station before and after the trip for those travelling by train

- One-way train ticket to Snowdon half-way station (¾ of the way up)

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- Lunches
- Beverages and alcohol
- Travel & medical insurance

ACCOMMODATION

We will be staying in a comfortable hotel in the heart of Llanberis. All guests will have their own rooms with private facilities, free WiFi and private parking.

TRAVELLING TO LLANBERIS

By Air

The nearest international airports to Llanberis are Liverpool, Manchester and Birmingham with onward train, bus or taxi.

By Rail

There are frequent trains to Bangor see [Trainline...](#)



By Road

Traveling to Llanberis is scenic and worthwhile and would be great for spending independent time before or after the trip. Our travel throughout the trip will be by minibus so cars can be left securely at the hotel's private parking area.

PERSONALISED GUIDING IN SNOWDONIA

If these dates do not suit we will be able to arrange a personalised photographic guiding workshop just for you or a small group of friends. This way you can choose the dates, locations and the amount of walking that you prefer to undertake. We do realise that some folks might enjoy locations that are very easily accessed and others might indeed prefer some longer walks to more remote locations that are difficult to access, the choice is yours! Get in touch with us for a chat and together we can come up with a personalised itinerary.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

It is recommended that you take out appropriate insurance to cover personal accident, medical costs, repatriation, camera equipment and loss of baggage.

LANGUAGE

English & Welsh

CLIMATE AND CLOTHING SUGGESTIONS

Being on the Atlantic coast of the UK and close to the Snowdon mountain range, we will have the benefit of changeable weather conditions. Temperature extremes are rare but September is a transitional month so we can expect diverse and often beautiful photographic landscape light. We will be spending the majority of our time outdoors in the hills, valleys and coast of Snowdonia, so a good pair of comfortable, sturdy shoes or walking boots are essential. Please bring suitable clothing for changeable weather conditions including a waterproof jacket and over-trousers.

ADDITIONAL CLOTHING LIST ITEMS

- Wellington boots (optional)
- Warm hat
- Fleece neck-warmer
- Light warm gloves
- Casual clothes for inside wear
- Sun cream, sunglasses
- Head torch
- Small, basic first aid to include plasters, blister repair and any medication that you normally use.



If you have any questions feel free to contact us at any-time before the trip.

SPENDING MONEY

UK Pound Sterling is the currency and cash can be easily obtained from ATMs. Credit cards are widely accepted

PASSPORT, VISA REQUIREMENTS

If you are coming from abroad you will need a valid passport or national identity card to enter the UK. You might also need a visa, see the [UK Government website](#).

TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS DUE TO COVID 19

Due to possible Covid 19 restrictions we advise you to check the [official Covid pages](#) and if travelling from abroad to consult [Entering the UK](#) on the UK Government website.

PHOTOGRAPHIC EQUIPMENT AND INFORMATION

- In addition to your chosen camera equipment you will need to carry a day pack that will also hold a few extra items such as water, spare layer etc. Specially designed camera rucksacks like F-Stop, Lowepro and Peak design will be fine.
- A camera with interchangeable lenses such as a digital SLR or a mirrorless system camera.
- A set of lenses to cover the whole range from wide-angle to telephoto, for example...
for full-frame cameras: 16–35mm wide-angle, 24–105mm mid-range and a 70–200mm or longer tele zoom. For crop format cameras: 10–20mm wide-angle,



17–50mm mid-range and a 70–200mm or longer tele zoom.

- Spare camera
- Sturdy travel tripod for low light photography
- Remote release to avoid shake on long exposures
- Neutral density, graduated filters and polariser, if you use these. Please do not buy especially for this tour.
- Lens cloth
- Sensor cleaning device (optional)
- Sufficient memory cards for the whole holiday as it may not be possible to buy more during the trip.
- Film users should bring enough film, as it may not be possible to buy in many places.
- A laptop or tablet with the image editing applications of your choice, essential for checking and presenting images during the trip and for one-on-one sessions with the tutor.
- Backup storage device (optional)

- Spare batteries and chargers
- Camera rain cover that can be left on while taking pictures.
- International all-in-one travel plug adapter, if you're coming from outside the UK. These are on sale at airports. All electrical sockets are UK three-pin.

There will be opportunities to review and discuss any issues you have with your photographic equipment throughout the workshop. For further advice please contact us.

PARTNERS

Although this is primarily a photography workshop, non-photographer partners will be very welcome as there are many options and interesting possibilities in addition to taking photographs. If any guests do not wish to join the walks/photographic sessions they will be able to relax in and around the accommodation. The cost will be the same for photographers and non-photographers.



MORE QUESTIONS?

While we hope that this information has answered most of your questions about the holiday, we know it will not give you all the information you need. If you have any more questions, please get in touch. Talking to us on the phone (we will always call you back) can often be a quick way of sorting out individual questions. It also helps us to get to know each other before the holiday.

BOOKING THIS HOLIDAY

Fill in the [online booking form](#), or give us a call on +44 (0)1270 440222.

LINKS

View [images and information for this tour](#) on the website.

Visit [Jethro Kiernan's website](#)

Read about [our approach to teaching photography](#)