

Midnight Mountain



DISCOVER
Adventure

Snowdon by Night



Activity: Trek Grade:  Duration: 2 days

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, its 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 by moonlight will be an unforgettable experience, as will seeing the sunrise from the mountain slopes. As we descend, we will be able to see the spectacular landscapes open up before us as the day grows lighter. We celebrate our huge achievement with a slap-up breakfast!



Dates & Prices

2016

20 – 21 May

Fundraising Option

Registration Fee £49
PLUS Fundraising Target £250

Self Payment Option

Registration Fee £49
PLUS Trip Cost £125

2017

19 - 20 May

Fundraising Option

Registration Fee £49
PLUS Fundraising Target £290

Self Payment Option

Registration Fee £49
PLUS Trip Cost £145

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. We'll have dinner and a full briefing and as it starts to get dark 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 which will afford some good views in the fading light; after this our route continues quite gradually. As it gets darker we'll get out our head-torches, and our path up the mountain will show up quite easily most of the time. 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 of this mountain, and the views of the night sky.

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!



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Trekking Information

The paths we use are generally well-maintained and vary from steps, steep inclines or gradual slopes, to more rocky ground. In wet weather it can be slippery in places, and in some areas it can be easy to lose the path. In the dark it's easier to lose your footing or become disoriented, so we take it easy. There will be marshals or lit markers on any sections of the route which are not clear.

You will trek approximately 9 miles on the night, though it would be a mistake to base your training on this! It's vital when training to think about the hours you need to walk for and the terrain you are walking on – ie purely uphill, followed by purely downhill.

Weather

The mountains that make up Snowdonia National Park are stunning and beautiful on a good day but this can lead to a false sense of security; mountain environments must always be respected. The summit is considerably cooler than at the base, more likely to get rain, and can be exposed to high winds. Weather conditions can change rapidly during the course of a day. This can make a big difference to your safety, particularly if you are ill-equipped.

In bad weather, keep close together as a group. Walking in the dark can confuse your sense of direction, and mist, rain or wind will make it worse. If you are poorly dressed for bad weather, exposure can rapidly deplete your concentration and energy. Keep a regular check on your location.

Detailed Itinerary (cont)

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 leave the summit and return to Llanberis the same way. The sky will start to lighten on our way down, and we may be able to enjoy the wonderful views over the Menai Strait towards Anglesey while we are still high enough to enjoy them. As the sun rises and lights up our surroundings, 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.

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What's Included

The tour cost includes a hearty dinner to get you prepared for the mountain, and a slap-up celebration breakfast at the end, as well as snacks to carry with you. It also includes experienced Discover Adventure leaders and back-up support. The food is good and will give you plenty of energy! Please let us know about any dietary requirements in advance.

It does not include personal travel insurance (optional), extra food, drinks, souvenirs or personal items, or any transport / parking costs. We strongly recommend you carry a credit card in case of personal emergency.



Trip Safety

Our tour leaders are selected for their experience in harsh wilderness environments, knowledge of travel in remote areas, friendliness and approachability, sense of humour and ability to safely and effectively deal with any situation that arises. They may decide to change the route for safety reasons should local conditions dictate.

Your crew will be equipped with radios and emergency mobile phones, medical kit and other safety apparatus where necessary. They always have access to our 24-hour emergency UK back-up.

DESIGNED TO BE CHALLENGING!

This trek is designed to be challenging for those of good health and fitness, and is achievable for most people provided they train well in advance. We will supply you with a thorough training guide when you have registered. Training for the challenge is all part of the preparation and requires commitment! Without it, you will find the trek less enjoyable – and we want you to have the time of your life!



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