



ADS VENTURES
WALKING HOLIDAYS & SHORT BREAKS

WALKING AND SIGHTSEEING IN MID-WALES

Trip notes

Walking and sightseeing on the Welsh Borders in Llangollen

Take in extensive views from Castel Dinas Bran above Llangollen, discover the lives of the ladies of Llangollen at Plas Newydd and the Yorke family and their staff at Erddig Hall, explore the World Heritage site of the Llangollen canal and the breath taking Pontcysyllte aqueduct.



- 5 nights, 4 days walking and sightseeing
- Departure dates: October 29th 2023
- Cost £ 660
- Single room/sole occupancy supplement from £40

- Grade 

The historic border town of Llangollen lies in stunningly beautiful countryside on the banks of the River Dee. It is surrounded by hills and overlooked by the distinctive remains of Dinas Bran Castle perched high above the town. On this 5 night break in the Welsh borders we visit some of the historic houses and structures in the area and explore the lives of the people who lived in them, as well as seeing the UNESCO world heritage site of Llangollen canal and Thomas Telford's breathtaking Pontcysyllte aqueduct -worth the trip alone if you haven't seen it.

Holiday highlights

- Visit the romantic remains of Castell Dinas Bran above Llangollen to take in spectacular views and visit the home of the ladies of Llangollen at Plas Newydd.
- Wonder at the beauty and engineering of Telford's Pontcysyllte aqueduct high above the river Dee. Travel by boat over the aqueduct as it follows the canal back to Llangollen.
- Explore the house and grounds of Erddig Hall, described as the most evocative Upstairs/Downstairs house in Britain.
- Stay at the welcoming Hand Hotel situated on the banks of the River Dee in the historic border town of Llangollen

Accommodation



Standing above a beautiful stretch of the river Dee close to the centre of the pretty market town of Llangollen, the Hand Hotel with its stunning riverside garden and old world charm, is an ideal base for our holiday. Each of the comfortable bedrooms (some with a river view) has an en-suite bathroom, remote control colour TV, radio, tea and coffee making facilities

Single supplements and upgrades

Single room supplement: £50

Sole use of a double room: £125



Included

- En-suite half board accommodation in the lovely Hand hotel.
- A three-course meal, with tea and coffee to follow, served on each evening in the hotel restaurant.

- Guided walking and sightseeing with a qualified and professional leader each day.
- Transport to and from walks including a narrow boat to return from Pontcysyllte aqueduct.

Not included

- Lunches -these are available to buy from local shops in Llangollen
- Incidental expenses such as drinks.
- Entrance fees to Plas Newydd, Erddig Hall and Valle Crucis Abbey



Detailed Itinerary

The following is the proposed itinerary. However, please bear in mind that in the event of local conditions changing, for example due to weather or other unforeseen circumstances, it may be necessary to change the itinerary.

Day 1

Arrive at the Hand Hotel and check into your room. Meet at 7pm in the lounge for a short briefing about the week ahead before our three-course dinner is served in the hotel's restaurant.

Meals included: dinner

Day 2: Castell Dinas Bran and the Ladies of Llangollen

There is only one way to start this holiday and that is by heading up to the romantic ruins of Castell Dinas Bran that look down on Llangollen from their dramatic vantage point above the town. The views from here across the Dee Valley to the Berwyn mountains and along the Creig iau Eglwyseg rocks, one of the finest limestone escarpments in Britain, are spectacular. We drop down from the Castell and return to Llangollen to visit Plas Newydd, the house of the remarkable ladies of Llangollen. There will be time to explore Llangollen before returning to the hotel.



7 km (4.5 miles) ascent/descent 320 m

Meals included: breakfast and dinner

Day 3: Erddig Hall and Wat's Dyke



Erddig Hall, home to the Yorke family until the 1970s, is a truly remarkable property and is described as the most evocative Upstairs/Downstairs house in Britain. The Yorke's relationship with their servants which was unusual as the family celebrated their staff with a large collection of portraits and poems. Additionally, many of the servants' areas are well preserved and this provides a unique insight into the lives of 18th to 20th century servants. We catch the bus to Ruabon and follow Wat's Dyke, a defensive earth mound which parallels the route of Offa's dyke onto the Erddig estate. There will be ample time to explore the house and grounds at Erddig before we walk onto Wrexham to return to Llangollen.

Distance: 8 km (5 miles) ascent and descent 95 metres

Meals included: breakfast and dinner

Day 4: The Horseshoe falls and Valle Crucis Abbey.



Today we continue our exploration of the Llangollen canal by walking to its source, the Horseshoe falls. Less dramatic, but every bit as beautiful as you might expect, this is where water from the river Dee is diverted to feed the canal. After exploring the falls and pausing for elevenses in the Chain bridge hotel we continue onto Valle Crucis Abbey to explore the ruins of this majestic medieval abbey founded in 1201 by Prince Madog. After visiting the abbey we return by foot along the canal to Llangollen.

As an alternative to walking, for the outward or return journey you may wish to take a horse-drawn boat or steam chain from Llangollen to the Horseshoe falls.

Distance: 7 km (4.5 miles) ascent and descent 75 metres

Meals included: breakfast and dinner

Day 5: Pontcysyllte aqueduct



Today we explore Telford's engineering wonder and UNESCO World Heritage site, the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct. Starting from Llangollen wharf we walk the length of the canal to the aqueduct for lunch. Tea and coffee are available from the shop; there is a pub for a swift half and even toilets! However, whatever else you do, walking over Telford's fantastically engineered aqueduct is an absolute must. To return, we board a narrow boat which first crosses the aqueduct for dizzying views of the Dee valley before taking us back to Llangollen.

Distance: 8 km (5 miles) ascent and descent 50 metres

Meals included: breakfast and dinner

Day 6: Farewells until next time!

After a good breakfast we say goodbye, until next time.

Meals included: breakfast

Kit list

For walking each day:

- Good walking boots or shoes
- Waterproof jacket and trousers
- Lightweight, quick drying trousers
- Base layer
- Mid-layer such as a fleece jacket and an additional 'spare' layer depending on the forecast
- Walking socks
- Warm hat and gloves -just in case the weather turns
- Sun hat, sunglasses, lip salve and high SPF sun block
- Day sack (25 litre capacity is a good size) to comfortably carry your kit, lunch and water
- Dry bag or rucksack cover to keep the contents of your daypack dry
- Water bottle

- Basic first aid kit (plasters, blister treatment, antiseptic etc)
- Some snacks to keep you going
- Walking/trekking poles (if you use them)

Maps: OS Explorer maps 256 Wrexham and Llangollen.

Group size

This guided holiday will have a maximum group size of 14.

Personal expenditure

All breakfasts and evening meals are included in the holiday cost.

You will need enough money to cover lunches and incidental expenses such as drinks.

Any other queries, please get in touch with me.