



# Tour Information



## The Great Gardens of Snowdonia & Anglesey



Maenan Hall



Plas Cadnant



Plas Brondanw



Plas Newydd



The tour commences and concludes at **IXORA Hotel & Spa, Conwy.**

Conwy Road Dolgarrog

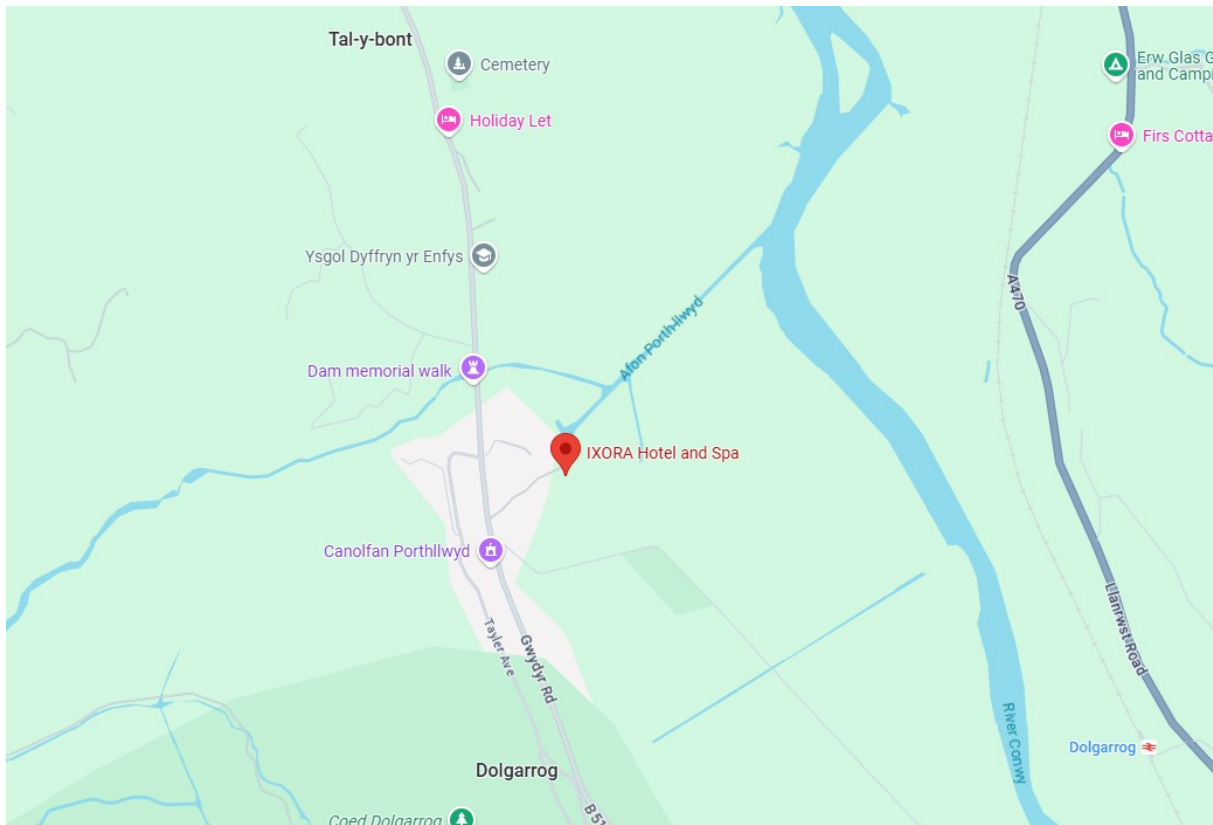
Conwy

LL32 8QE

Tel: 01492 353353

## Transport

**Please note that transport to the hotel is not included in the price of the tour.**



### If you are travelling by car:

#### **From the A470:**

From the A4871, turn onto The Pont Fawr (Inigo Jones Bridge) Llanrwst, and follow the B5106 north for approx. 5 miles and your destination will be on the right.

### If you are travelling by train:

The closest railway station is Dolgarrog, which is a 13 minute drive to the hotel.



## Accommodation

### **IXORA Hotel & Spa, Conwy**

This four-star hotel based in Conwy is well located for our tour. Facilities here include spa and wellness centre, garden, terrace, bar, restaurant as well as comfortable bedrooms with all modern amenities including en-suite bathroom, TV, telephone, free wifi, hairdryer, iron, and tea/coffee making facilities.

More information can be found via the hotel's website:

<https://www.ixorahotelandspa.co.uk/>

### **Check-in and departure from the hotel**

On the day of arrival, you will be able to check-in at the hotel from 15.00, and the tour manager will meet you in the evening at the welcome reception.

On the last day, the tour will not finish until approximately 16.45 so you should check with your tour manager, or the hotel reception, where luggage should be stored until your departure.

### **Extra nights**

If you have booked to stay an extra night at the hotel, this is on bed and breakfast basis and check out from the hotel is at 11.00.

### **Dining**

On the first night, a private 3-course dinner with wine is served after the introductory talk by Tony Russell. On the second and third nights, dinner will be served in the hotel restaurant, with drinks payable on the night. Breakfast on all days of your stay is included in the price but meals other than these stated are not included.

### **Special requests**

If you haven't already done so, please notify Travel Editions of any special requests as soon as possible to allow sufficient time to make the necessary arrangements.

## Places Visited

### **Maenan Hall**

A superbly beautiful 4 hectares on the slopes of the Conwy Valley, with dramatic views of Snowdonia, set amongst mature hardwoods. Both the upper part, with sweeping lawns, ornamental ponds and retaining walls, and the bluebell carpeted woodland dell contain copious specimen shrubs and trees, many originating at Bodnant. Magnolias, rhododendrons, camellias, pieris, cherries and hydrangeas, amongst many others, make a breathtaking display.

<https://findagarden.ngs.org.uk/garden/8174/maenan-hall>

### **Bodnant Gardens**

With intimate corners, sweeping lawns, grand terraces and verdant woodland, there are many gardens in one at Bodnant. Created over 150 years, with plants collected and brought to Britain from far afield, and the incredible vision of generations of the McLaren family and Puddle head gardeners, this haven of rarity and beauty with a stunning backdrop of the Carneddau mountains of Snowdonia is a delight for the senses.

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/bodnant-garden>

### **Plas Brondanw**

Plas Brondanw was given to Sir Clough Williams-Ellis by his father in 1902. The gardens at Plas Brondanw are the finest example of Sir Clough's talent for creative landscape design. The main features date from the early part of the 20th Century before he began Portmeirion, but work continued on and off until the 1960's. Sir Clough created a unique and characteristic garden landscape which provides a series of dramatic and romantic prospects set within the Snowdonia National Park, between Snowdon and the sea. Inspired by the gardens of renaissance Italy, strong architectural influences are evident within the Plas gardens, stone walls, topiary and avenues of trees leading the eye to the dramatic back drop of the mountains beyond.

<https://www.plasbrondanw.com/>

### **Glaslyn Osprey Centre**

When the RSPB's stewardship of the Glaslyn ospreys came to an end in 2013 a group of interested wildlife enthusiasts agreed to take over the reins and run the project at a local level. Consequently in 2013 Bywyd Gwyllt Glaslyn Wildlife (BGGW) was set up as a community interest company with the aim of continuing the work of protecting breeding ospreys in the Glaslyn Valley, whilst at the same time highlighting the wealth of other wildlife in the region.

<https://www.glaslynwildlife.co.uk/>

### **Portmeirion**

In 1925, Welsh architect Clough Williams-Ellis acquired the site which was to become Portmeirion. He had been searching for a suitable site for his proposed ideal village for several years and when he heard that the Aber Iâ estate near Penrhyndeudraeth was for sale, he did not hesitate to make an offer. He wanted to show how a naturally beautiful location could be developed without spoiling it, and that one could actually enhance the natural background through sympathetic development. The Aber Iâ estate had everything he had hoped for as a site for his architectural experiment: steep cliffs overlooking a wide sandy estuary, woods, streams and a nucleus of old buildings.

<https://portmeirion.wales/>



## Plas Newydd

Plas Newydd is an enchanting mansion and gardens, with spectacular views of Snowdonia and the Menai Strait. Home of the Marquess of Anglesey, its previous historic residents include the 1st Marquess, who lost his leg during the Battle of Waterloo, and the flamboyant 5th Marquess. This elegant 18th century house is an interesting mixture of classical and Gothic which also boasts Rex Whistler's 58-foot mural.

The Grade I-listed landscape consists of 40 acres of garden and 129 acres of woodland and parkland, and include the Terraces, Rhododendron Garden and Australasian Arboretum.

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/wales/plas-newydd-house-and-garden>

## Plas Cadnant

In 1996, the present owner bought the 200-acre Plas Cadnant Estate and work began on the restoration of the historic garden and grounds. Since then large parts of the gardens have undergone a spectacular transformation and have been restored to their former glory. Described as one of North Wales best kept secrets is the hidden world of Plas Cadnant Gardens, situated at the side of the Menai Strait, hidden from view near to Menai Bridge on the Isle of Anglesey. Three different gardens have been discovered, including an unusual walled garden with curving walls and pool, a secret valley garden with three waterfalls and river, and an upper woodland garden with stone outcrops and the remains of a 19<sup>th</sup> century folly.

<http://www.plascadnant.co.uk/2/en-GB/THE-HIDDEN-GARDENS>

## Your Garden Guide

Tony Russell has worked in horticulture for almost 40 years, including 14 years in charge of Britain's National Arboretum at Westonbirt and 10 years as plant consultant to the National Trust. During this time Tony has also presented several television and radio programmes, as well as appearing as a panellist on BBC Radio 4's Gardeners Question Time. He is the author of 20 published books on gardens, plants and trees and the editor of the annual publication Great Gardens to Visit. Tony is currently consulting on a large, new arboretum being created at Rahanna House in Ireland and in 2024 will be leading a number of exclusive garden and plant-based tours, both in the UK and overseas.



**Tony will give the following talk on the first evening of the tour:**

*'The Gardens of Snowdonia and North Wales'*

## Practical Information

**Tour manager** - Your tour manager will be on hand throughout the tour to ensure that everything operates according to plan. If you have any problems or questions please see him or her immediately – it is often possible to resolve complaints or problems very quickly on the spot, and do everything to help you enjoy your holiday.

**Tipping** – To keep our tours affordable, we do not increase the tour price by adding in tips. However, in the tourism industry, there is a certain level of expectation that when receiving a good service, one does award with a tip. Tour Managers, Representatives, Guides and Drivers appreciate a tip at the end of their involvement with the tour, but this is entirely at your discretion. We believe in allowing you to tip according to your level of satisfaction with their services, but for your guidance about £2-3 per person per day for the tour manager is the norm. We would like to reiterate that tipping is an entirely optional payment and this information is given purely to answer any questions you may have about it.

**Grading** – This tour has been graded as **Moderate**: Walking between sites, lots of standing for viewing.

There is a considerable amount of walking around the different attractions, and some of the gardens are extensive. Paths will be a mixture of paved, tarmac, and gravel. Some sections of path may be muddy if there has been recent rainfall. Some gardens will have fairly steep paths and slopes. Please also note that some steps may have handrails, but historic stone steps may not.

## Insurance

Although this is a UK holiday please note that, should you cancel your holiday, the amount paid is non-refundable. For this reason you may wish to take out insurance just in case an unforeseen event caused you to have to cancel the tour. As well as covering cancellations, your travel insurance will also cover your baggage and personal belongings in case they are lost or stolen.

# **Emergencies**

**Should an emergency arise, please call our offices on:**

020 7251 0045

Outside office hours (Mon-Fri 09.00-17.00), telephone our emergency staff on:

07841 023807 or 07441 343850

**PLEASE USE THESE NUMBERS ONLY IN THE EVENT OF A GENUINE EMERGENCY.**

Travel Editions Group Ltd

Tel: 020 7251 0045

Email: [tours@traveleditions.co.uk](mailto:tours@traveleditions.co.uk) [www.traveleditions.co.uk](http://www.traveleditions.co.uk)

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