

The Snowdonia National Park

Snowdonia, in the North West area of Wales was officially designated as the [Snowdonia National Park](#) in 1951, the first of three and being the largest park by mass at 838 square miles, 2170 Square Kilometers. Snowdonia also hosts the largest peak in Wales and England, Mount Snowdon at 3,560 ft (1,085 m) above sea level, also known as Yr Wyddfa in Welsh.



The Snowdonia National Park, also known as Parc Cenedlaethol Eryri in Welsh was created through a combination of volcanic activity and later by glacial erosion leaving deep valleys and high peaks of outstanding natural beauty. The Park now has a landscape of open moorland and wooded valleys and the area around [Betws-y-Coed](#), known as “The Prayer house in the wood” is a very good example of a picturesque town

surrounded woods as the name suggests and the Gwydir Forest nearby.

The park also contains many native species of plants unique to the area and some other non-native species such as rhododendrons which have become invasive and require controlling. An example of these amongst others can be seen on the A498 road from [Beddgelert](#) towards [Betws-y-Coed](#) skirting the southern flanks of Mount Snowdon, and particularly during the month of May these can be seen as vast areas of purple flowers.

The Park originally housed a vast industry of slate quarrying and evidence of this can be seen around [Llanberis](#) and Blaenau Ffestiniog, and while this industry has greatly reduced, some of these quarries and mines have been turned into tourist attractions. The National Slate Museum of Wales can be found in Llanberis which houses machinery and interactive displays and demonstrations whilst in [Blaenau Ffestiniog](#), mines can be explored, and some with a small train ride to the levels.



The area hosts several narrow gauge railways within the park, mainly with origins associated with the Welsh slate industry, though now running as popular tourist attractions. The Snowdon Mountain Railway, over 100 years old and possibly the best

known however was created just to ferry passengers to the summit. Other narrow gauge railways include The [Llanberis](#) Lake Railway, Ffestiniog & Welsh Highland Railways, Bala Lake Railway, and the Talylyn Railway

Whilst renowned for its rugged, mountainous scenery, it must not be forgotten that the Snowdonia National park has approximately 37 miles of coastline to the west overlooking the Irish Sea. This itself provides a spectacular backdrop of mountain scenery when viewed from the coast if you are to stay in many of the coastal towns or campsites.

This document was produced by camping-wales.co.uk