

What is a National Park?

A National Park can be described as an area of land that is protected for the public's enjoyment. The main purpose of National Parks in the United Kingdom is to protect and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the area and to provide opportunities for enjoyment and understanding of the area by the public.

Britain's National Parks

There are 15 National Parks (NP) in Britain; 3 in Wales, 2 in Scotland and 10 in England. There are no National Parks in Northern Ireland

Wales - Eryri (Snowdonia), Bannau Brycheiniog (Brecon Beacons) and Arfordir Sir Benfro (Pembrokeshire Coast).

Scotland - Loch Laomainn is nan Troisichean (Loch Lommond & The Trossachs) and Mohnaide Ruaid (Cairngorms).

England - Peak District, Lake District, Northumberland, North Yorkshire Moors, Yorkshire Dales, Broads, Exmoor, Dartmoor, New Forest and South Downs.

Which National Park is the...

Oldest - The Peak District is the oldest, created on the 17th April 1951.

Youngest - The South Downs, created on the 1st April 2010.

Largest - Mohnaide Ruaidhe (Cairngorms) is the largest at 4,528km²

Smallest - Broads - this is the smallest National Park at 305km²

Highest - Cairngorms. The highest peak is Ben Macdui which stands at 1,309m. Scafell Pike is England's highest point at 978m. Wales' highest point is Snowdon at 1,085m

Most Populated - South Downs has the highest population density with 108,000 people living in the area.

Least Populated - Northumberland with a population of 2,200.

Most Coastal - Pembrokeshire Coastline with 418km of coastline.

Most Northerly - Cairngorms.

Most Southerly - Dartmoor.

Most Easterley - Broads.

Most Westerley - Pembrokeshire Coastline.

British National Parks share a website with educational material on it and links to every NP. Visit www.nationalparks.gov.uk for more information



Welsh National Parks role of honour ...

Oldest - Snowdonia is the oldest, created on the 18th October 1951.

This was followed by Pembrokeshire Coastline in 1952 and Brecon Beacons in 1957.

Largest - Snowdonia is the largest at 2,176 km²

This is followed by Brecon Beacons at 1,344 km² and Pembrokeshire Coastline at 621 km²

Highest - Snowdonia has the highest peak with Snowdon measuring 1,085m. Brecon Beacons' highest peak is Pen y Fan which is 886m and Moel Cwmcerwyn is Pembrokeshire Coastline's tallest peak at 536m.

Most Populated - Brecon Beacons is the most populated National Park with 32,000 people living within its boundaries. Snowdonia NP's population is 25,682 and Pembrokeshire Coast NP has a population of 22,800. Because of its small size, Pembrokeshire Coast NP has the largest population density.

Most Coastal - Pembrokeshire Coast, with 418km of coastline. Snowdonia has 60km of coastline and Brecon Beacons has no coastline at all.

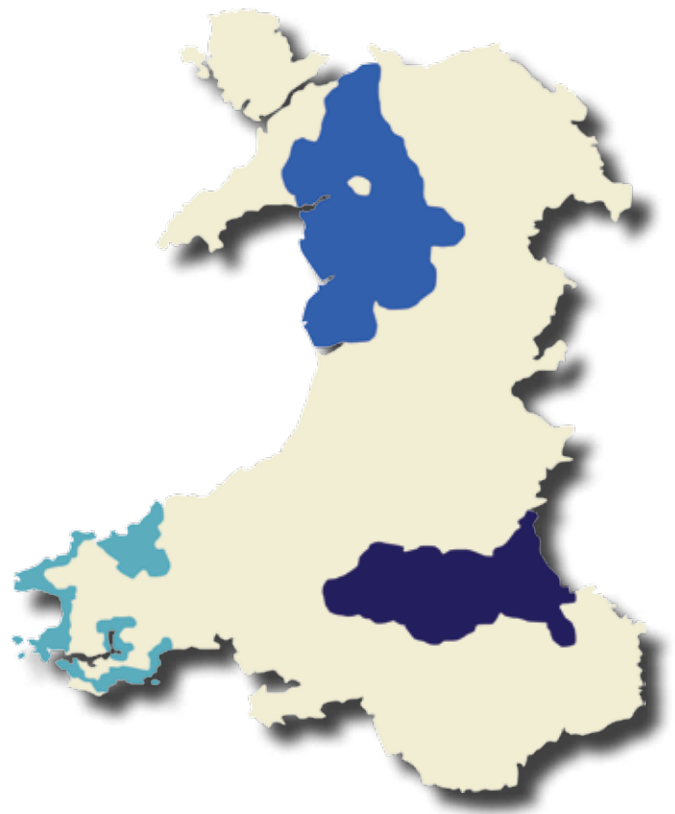
Wettest - Snowdonia is the wettest with Snowdon receiving around 4,343mm of rainfall each year and the valleys below receiving around half that amount. Pembrokeshire Coastline only receives around 1,000mm annually.

Snowdonia National Park

Snowdonia National Park was created in 1951 and is the largest in Wales at 823 square miles or 2,176 square kilometres.

Quick facts about Snowdonia

- Snowdon is Wales' highest mountain - it is 1,085 meters. In Welsh it is called "Yr Wyddfa"
- Over 500,000 people reach the top of Snowdon each year.
- Snowdonia has four mountains over 1,000 meters in height.
- Over 6 million people visit Snowdonia each year.
- About 26,000 people live in Snowdonia.
- Over 60% of Snowdonia's population speak Welsh.
- There are five narrow gauge railways in Snowdonia (steam trains).
- Snowdonia's most important industry is tourism.
- Llyn Tegid near the town of Bala is Wales' largest natural lake.
- The first people to climb Everest came to Snowdonia for their training.
- 14% of Snowdonia's houses are holiday homes.



Visiting us?

The first thing you will notice when you visit us here in Snowdonia are the mountains and hills. Around half of the land in Snowdonia is higher than 300 meters. Snowdon is the highest mountain in Wales and it measures 1,085 meters in height. Did you know that the Welsh name for Snowdon is **Yr Wyddfa**, which means 'burial place'. As legend goes, a giant called Rhita is buried at the summit.

Snowdonia is not just made of mountains and hills. From the top of the mountains, around 700 kilometres of rivers flow into spectacular valleys and there are hundreds of lakes of all shapes and sizes.

We must not forget that Snowdonia National Park has around 140 kilometres of coastline, which includes seaside towns and miles upon miles of long, clean, sandy beaches. Between the sea and the mountain, there are historical towns along with traditional villages. There are also a variety of habitats, each one rich in wildlife.

Snowdonia National Park Authority Education Services
















What do we have to offer?

- If you provide us with your postal details, we'll send you some free posters.



- We can send you a copy of our annual Snowdonia magazine, although it is available online
- If you'r visiting Snowdonia, we can give your group a talk, or take you for a walk in the hills.
- email addysg@eryri-npa.gov.uk for any of the above.



-  Information Centre
-  Historical building
-  Castle
-  Abbey / Church
-  Museum
-  Garden / Arboretum
-  Nature reserve
-  Preserved railway
-  Other tourist feature
-  Viewpoint
-  Picnic
-  Walks/trails
-  Camping and caravan site
-  Golf course
-  Youth Hostel