University of Illinois
Alumni Association

**Duration**
8 days

**Activity Level**
Moderate

**Journey Type**
Land

# Wales: Land and Legend

## October 6-14, 2027

**Starting from $5,245/pp**

Venture through enchanting Wales on a journey rich in history, culture and dramatic landscapes! Marvel at the medieval glory of Conwy Castle and the formidable, 13th-century Caernarfon Castle . Behold breathtaking Bodnant Garden and stroll the promenade in Victorian seaside Llandudno. Be awed by Snowdonia National Park's rugged natural grandeur as you ride aboard a historic railway to the top of Mount Snowdon, and visit a former slate quarry and museum. In South Wales, explore the eclectic literary haven of Hay-on-Wye, brimming with delightful bookshops. Along the way, immerse yourself in authentic Welsh culture during a lively, interactive music performance, a visit to a family-owned farm shop, and a tour and whisky tasting at the renowned Penderyn Distillery.

# Day-by-Day Itinerary

**Wales | Land & Legend**

**Air Program: 9 days/ 8 nights (includes 1 air night)**

**Land Program: 8 days/ 7 nights**

**Breakfasts: 7 | Lunches: 4 | Receptions: 2 | Dinners: 4**

**B | L | R | D denotes included breakfasts, lunches, receptions and dinners.**
A special note about air: If you have purchased only the Land Program, please book flights that arrive on Day 2, the first day of the Land Program. The date is listed at the top of your Reservation Confirmation.

This itinerary is subject to change due to operational conditions.

Activity Level ratings indicate each excursion's physical expectations. To make the best personal choice, please evaluate each excursion's rating and your ability to meet the tour's physical demands. Excursions on this program require: walking on cobblestones, unpaved paths or uneven surfaces; walking up and down inclines and steps; and getting on/off motor coaches and trains.

- Mild – Walk under 1 mile on mainly flat terrain; navigate under 50 stairs; stand under 1 hour
- Moderate – Walk 1–3 miles on flat/uneven terrain; navigate 50–100 stairs; stand 1–2 hours
- Active – Walk 2+ miles on flat/uneven terrain and/or up/down inclines; navigate 100+ stairs; stand 3+ hours

Depending on the excursion, more leisurely alternatives may be available.

**Day 1 | Depart gateway city**
AHI FlexAir passengers depart for Manchester, England. Please check your luggage from your gateway city to your arrival city. Your claim checks should have the following airport code: MAN.

**Day 2 | Manchester, England | Llandudno, Wales**

**St George's Hotel**

**R | D**
Upon arrival at Manchester Airport, proceed through immigration to the baggage claim area and retrieve your luggage. After completing customs, AHI FlexAir passengers traveling on flights that qualify for the group arrival transfer and Land Program passengers who have purchased seats on the group transfer should exit the baggage claim area and proceed to the designated meeting spot, where an AHI Travel representative will meet you. The meeting location will be provided with your final documents.

Enjoy a scenic drive into North Wales, where rolling countryside and coastal vistas introduce the region's character. Arrive in the elegant, seaside resort town of Llandudno, and check in to the St George's Hotel. Please note, if you arrive before check-in time, your room may not be immediately available.

Gather for tonight's Welcome Reception and Dinner at the hotel, a convivial introduction to your fellow travelers, the journey ahead and the rich traditions of Wales.

**Day 3 | Conwy | Bodnant Garden**

**St George's Hotel**

**B | L**
A generous breakfast buffet will be served at each hotel every morning during your program.

Enrichment: Wales, Past & Present.  After breakfast, begin the day with an engaging discussion on Welsh history and modern national identity as you travel to Conwy Castle.

Conwy Castle. Listed among the UNESCO World Heritage Castles and Town Walls of King Edward, Conwy Castle was built in the late 13th century by Edward I, and it is considered one of the finest examples of medieval military architecture in Europe. Explore the castle's formidable towers, Great Hall and Royal Apartments and walk atop its remarkably preserved curtain walls. From these lofty vantage points, take in sweeping views of the Conwy Estuary and the surrounding mountains, which reveal the strategic importance of this iconic fortress. (Active)

Bodnant Welsh Food Centre. Continue to this celebrated hub dedicated to local producers and regional culinary traditions. Discover the ingredients and customs that shape Welsh cuisine, browse the artisanal farm shop and savor a thoughtfully prepared lunch showcasing seasonal fare. (Moderate)

Bodnant Garden. This afternoon, visit one of United Kingdom's most celebrated historic gardens. Wander through terraced lawns, wooded valleys and formal parterres, which display a wide variety of plant species collected from across the globe. Designed over generations, the garden offers ever-changing vistas framed by distant views of the Snowdonia mountains. (Moderate)

Free Time: Return to Llandudno for the remainder of the day at leisure, including dinner on your own. Your AHI Travel Director can assist with recommendations and reservations.

## Day 4 | Snowdonia National Park | Mount Snowdon

### St George's Hotel

### B | L

Snowdonia Mountain Railway. Begin the day with a storied ascent aboard the Snowdonia Mountain Railway, riding vintage carriages that climb the slopes of Mount Snowdon through a tapestry of craggy peaks, glistening lakes and wide, windswept valleys. At the summit, linger over the breathtaking scenery across Snowdonia National Park before descending into the emerald countryside. (Moderate)

Pause for a leisurely lunch at a welcoming Welsh inn, savoring freshly prepared local dishes served with warm hospitality and rustic charm.

National Slate Museum. After lunch, delve into the Welsh slate industry at this atmospheric museum, which is set within an authentic former quarry complex. During a guided visit, learn how slate once underpinned the nation's economy and profoundly shaped the social and cultural life of its communities during the Industrial Revolution. Watch skilled craftsmen split slate by hand, as generations once did, and witness Britain's largest working waterwheel turning once more, a powerful reminder of the ingenuity and labor that defined Wales' industrial heritage . (Moderate)

Free Time: Return to your hotel in Llandudno with dinner at leisure this evening.

## Day 5 | Isle of Anglesey | Caernarfon

### St George's Hotel

### B | L | D

Anglesey Panoramic Tour & Halen Môn Sea Salt Company.  Begin the day exploring the Isle of Anglesey, where coastal beauty and deep-rooted heritage unfold through charming villages and along rugged shorelines. Stop by the Halen Môn Sea Salt Company to discover the sustainable craft behind this celebrated Welsh treasure and sample its pure, mineral-rich crystals drawn from the Menai Strait. Continue to the stately Menai Suspension Bridge for sweeping views of the strait and countryside before arriving in the historic town of Caernarfon. (Moderate)

Relax over lunch in Caernarfon before your visit to the castle.

Caernarfon Castle. Another castle among the UNESCO World Heritage-listed Castles and Town Walls of King Edward, Caernarfon Castle is one of Edward I's most imposing fortresses and a lasting symbol of royal authority in Wales. Built in the late 13th century, its massive stone walls and distinctive polygonal towers project power and permanence. During a guided visit, explore the castle's formidable interiors and meander through grand courtyards within the fortresses' riverside walls. Walk along the lofty battlements that offer expansive views over the Menai Strait. Conceived as an expression of imperial ambition, Caernarfon Castle remains indelibly linked to the investiture of the Prince of Wales and to centuries of royal ceremony and statecraft. (Active)

Return to Llandudno this afternoon.

AHI Connects | Welsh Music Traditions. Join an informative, interactive and lively session with a Welsh musician who shares songs and stories that reflect the nation's folk heritage, language and sense of community. (Moderate)

Afterward, enjoy dinner together with your group tonight.

## Day 6 | Snowdonia National Park | Aberystwyth | Llyswen

### Llangoed Hall

### B | L | D

After breakfast, check out of the hotel and depart by motor coach for Llyswen.

Snowdonia National Park. Travel south through the dramatic landscapes of Snowdonia National Park, one of Wales' most evocative regions. From your deluxe coach, take in rugged peaks, lush valleys and rushing rivers, pausing for photo stops to fully appreciate the grandeur of the scenery. Long celebrated in Welsh legend and poetry, this awe-inspiring landscape reveals the enduring bond between nature and national identity. (Moderate)

Aberystwyth. Arrive in this lively seaside town and intellectual hub shaped by its historic university and proud cultural traditions. With its elegant promenade, vibrant Victorian architecture and cliffside setting, Aberystwyth seamlessly blends academic energy with coastal charm. Enjoy lunch at a local restaurant followed by free time to stroll along the waterfront, breathe in the sea air and admire panoramic views across Cardigan Bay. (Moderate)

Continue to Llyswen and check in to the first-class Llangoed Hall, a historic country house hotel set amid rolling countryside along the River Wye. Dating back centuries, the manor blends traditional architecture with refined comfort.

After settling in, gather for a light dinner at the hotel this evening.

## Day 7 | Llyswen

### Llangoed Hall

### B

Free Time: After breakfast, spend a full day at leisure crafting your own itinerary. Discover the charm of Llangoed Hall with its beautifully landscaped grounds, curated art collection and traditional afternoon tea. Take a stroll along the River Wye or visit the nearby 14th-century St. Gwendoline's Church, renowned for its distinctive box pews and tranquil churchyard with historic memorials. Your Travel Director is available to offer suggestions and guidance.

## Day 8 | Hay-on-Wye | Brecon | Penderyn

### Llangoed Hall

### B | R | D

Take in South Wales during a scenic drive through the Brecon Beacons, a landscape of open moorland, gentle peaks and pastoral valleys. Stop along the way to admire the scenery and snap some photos.

Hay-on-Wye. Arrive in this internationally renowned book town and literary haven, celebrated for its vibrant intellectual life. Relish time at leisure to explore its extraordinary concentration of bookshops, ranging from vast secondhand emporiums to carefully curated antiquarian collections. (Moderate)

Free Time: Arrive in the historic market town of Brecon for lunch on your own. Afterward, relish some free time to stroll the compact town center, browse local shops or simply soak in the relaxed atmosphere shaped by centuries of trade and its gateway setting to the Brecon Beacons.

Penderyn Distillery. Conclude with a visit to Penderyn, Wales' acclaimed whisky distillery. During a guided tour, discover the revival of Welsh whisky-making and the distinctive single copper pot still that defines Penderyn's elegant style. Sample a tasting of select expressions that reflect the character and craftsmanship of modern Welsh distilling. (Moderate)

Return to Llangoed Hall. This evening, gather for a Farewell Reception and Dinner at the hotel. Celebrate your journey through Wales with fellow travelers and reflect on the landscapes, history and traditions that have brought this remarkable destination to life.

## Day 9 | Depart for gateway city

**B**

After breakfast, check out of the hotel and bid farewell to enchanting Wales. AHI FlexAir passengers traveling on flights that qualify for a group transfer and Land Program passengers who have purchased seats on the group transfer depart for London Heathrow Airport for your return flights home. Your Travel Director will provide the details.

# What's Included

### Program Overview

- Small group:  Sized just right at 28 guests.
- 4 nights in Llandudno, Wales, at the first-class St George's Hotel.
- 3 nights in Llyswen at the first-class Llangoed Hall Hotel.
- AHI Connects:  Local immersion.
- AHI Sustainability Promise:  We strive to make a positive, purposeful impact in the communities we visit.
- Complimentary travel mementos.

### Meal Program

- 7 breakfasts, 4 lunches and 4 dinners.
- Welcome and Farewell Receptions & Dinners to mingle with fellow travelers.
- Tea or coffee with all meals, plus wine with dinner.

### On-site Features

- Deluxe motor coach transfers during the Land Program with baggage handling.
- Engaging excursions  showcase the local culture, heritage and history.
- Enrichment by expert speakers  enhances your insight into the region.
- Free time to pursue your individual interests.
- Tipping of guides and drivers.
- A personal VOX headset to hear your English-speaking guide clearly.

# FlexAir Travel Program

**Need assistance booking your travel arrangements? Our experts are here to help. Our air program offers the following benefits.**

### Trip Transportation

- Assistance in the event of schedule changes or delays
- Arrival and departure transfers on group dates

### Price Guarantee

- Price guarantee to protect you from fuel surcharge increases after ticket purchase

# Travel and Hotel Accommodations

## Llangoed Hall

Revel in the bucolic atmosphere of the Welsh countryside at this special manor home, where classic elegance, timeless style and gracious service are the underpinnings for a memorable stay. Each guest room has been individually decorated, creating a distinctive and cozy ambience, and is outfitted with modern amenities, such as complimentary Wi-Fi. Inside, admire paintings by renowned artists, including Whistler, and outside, take a walk through the manicured gardens. A kitchen garden supplies the award-winning restaurant with fresh fruits and vegetables.

Tripadvisor

## St George's Hotel

Opened in 1854, the St. George's Hotel upholds the grand Victorian art of seaside repose, pairing thoughtful modern touches with the enduring pleasures of attentive service, sweeping sea views and refined surroundings. Overlooking the beautiful Bay of Llandudno, the stylish sea-facing Terrace Restaurant and Lounge offers a front-row seat to the coast. Savor the hotel's celebrated Afternoon Tea or linger over a hand-crafted cappuccino or cocktail as you admire the views.

Tripadvisor

# Pricing

**$500 Full Payment Discount expires  May 9, 2027**
**$250 Special Savings expires  December 7, 2026**

Trip Price (USD)

| | |
|---|---|
| Base Price | **$5,245** |
| Special Savings (Expires December 7, 2026) | **-$250** |
| Full Payment Discount * | **-$500** |
| **Special Price** | **$4,495** |
| **You Pay** | **$4,495 per person** |

Package rates are per person based on Double occupancy from Land Only. Prices include all service charges; port charges when applicable; U.S. government taxes and fees. The minimum deposit is $1000.00 per person. To view Program Terms and conditions please click here. Some airlines may impose additional charges if you choose to check any baggage. Please contact your airline or refer to its website for detailed information regarding your airline's checked baggage policies.

*Full Payment Discounts are only available at the time of booking with initial payment 150+ days prior to departure. This offer only applies to full payment at the time of reservation. Details on how to qualify for this savings will be included when your reservation request is confirmed.

Irish Sea
Manchester
Llandudno
Conwy
glesey
narfon
Mount Snowdon
National Slate Museum
Snowdonia
National Park
WALES
digan Bay
Aberystwyth
ENGLAND
Llyswen
Hay-on-Wye
Brecon
Penderyn
Lo