

Getting there

**Nearest railway stations** » Betws-y-coed, within the Snowdonia National Park [www.nationalrail.co.uk/stations/byc/details.html](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk/stations/byc/details.html).  
 » Bangor, connect with the Snowdon Sherpa Bus service [www.nationalrail.co.uk/stations/bng/details.html](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk/stations/bng/details.html).

227 Miles from London  
 895 Miles from Manchester  
 109 Miles from Birmingham

**MEET THE PHOTOGRAPHER...** David White heads up a design agency in Chester and as often as possible is introducing bespoke photography into his client work. David's real love affair is with the wilderness places of the UK - this, and a formally taught eye for composition, drives his landscape photography in Snowdonia and Scotland. David loves sharing his techniques in fine-art landscape photography, and runs a range of digital photography and post-processing workshops in Snowdonia National Park. [www.davidwhitestudio.co.uk](http://www.davidwhitestudio.co.uk)



**Elidir Fawr and Marchlyn Mawr from the summit of Tryfan**  
 Canon EOS 400D with EF-S 17-55mm f/2.8 IS USM lens at 17mm, ISO 100, 1/160sec at f/7

*My favourite spots*

**Snowdon horseshoe from Llyn Mymbyr** A good classic early morning Snowdonia shot is the Snowdon horseshoe mountain range glowing pink, reflected in the sheltered waters of Llyn (Lake) Mymbyr. Don't stay with the crowd and shoot from the roadside - the best and most creative compositions are to be found down by the lake.

**Llanberis slate quarry** Dinorwic Slate quarry at Llanberis is a vast and eerie place. It's also the second largest slate quarry in Wales, indeed, it's awe-inspiring in scale. You'll find semi-derelict slate buildings, huge cliffs and rusting industry topped off with great views over the mountains. The most dramatic view is from the village of Bro Elidir, west of the quarry. From here, follow Lon Garret road until footpaths take you to the quarry's high viewpoints.

**The Spinnies Nature Reserve, Aberogwen**  
**Lagoon, Menai Strait** Snowdonia's river Ogwen meets the sea at Aberogwen, and in the evening looking back into the National Park from the coast can provide some dramatic sunset shots. Also look out for the silhouette shots of Penrhyn Castle, eroded groynes and a multitude of birdlife. At low tide, you can safely walk out (with wellies!) onto the silty beach if you stick by the river.

*Favourite pub/cafe*

» **Caffi Gwynant Café** A lovely community run café in a converted chapel, serves delicious food made from local Welsh produce. Look out for the local Snowdonia Ale and postcards by other local photographers. [www.cafesnowdon.co.uk](http://www.cafesnowdon.co.uk)



**Fairy Glen near Betws-y-Coed** Canon EOS 400D with EF-S17-55mm f/2.8 IS USM lens, ISO 100, 54mm, 2.0sec at f/22, tripod

*Top tip*

**Snowdon Sherpa bus shuttle service** You can forget about driving and focus on the scenery when you use the Snowdon Sherpa bus service. Whether you are staying on the North Wales coast or in the heart of the country, these services are your best passport to a great day out in Snowdonia National Park. The Sherpa takes you all over a whole range of mountain destinations. [www.visitcaernarfon.com/sherpa](http://www.visitcaernarfon.com/sherpa)

*Seasonal highlights*

- Spring** Fairy Glen, access via Betws-y-Coed
- Summer** Castell-y-Gwynt mountain rock formations, Glyder Fawr, access from Ogwen Cottage and Devil's Kitchen.
- Autumn** Plas Gwynant woodland, waterfalls and hafod ruins (summer dwelling), access via the Watkin Path, near Beddgelert.
- Winter** Llyn Llydaw winter mountain/lake views, access via Snowdon Miners' path



**Note from the warden**

A trip to the south of Snowdonia National Park is not complete without a visit to the Precipice Walk, a courtesy path on the Nannau estate a few miles north east of Dolgellau (car park SH 748212). It is an easier route than the name suggests, following a contour line around Foel Cynwch and skirting Cynwch Lake. The views in all directions are breathtaking, but particularly the wide sweep of the Rhinogydd hills towards the coast, the Mawddach valley and the length of the Cader Idris mountain range. Any season has an appeal, but for me, calm autumn mornings standing above mist filled valleys, or late evening when the heather slopes glow in the sunset, lift the soul and offer a real photographic challenge to capture such beauty.

Rhys Gwynn

# Snowdonia

Combining tough heritage with dramatic and rugged beauty, Snowdonia has something for everyone, says **David White**



The wild and rugged region of north Wales that makes up Snowdonia National Park, is traditionally known to the locals as 'Eryri' or 'the high land'.

To visitors, it's become the high mountains of the park they associate with the name Snowdonia.

The dramatic high peaks of Snowdonia, although wonderful, occupy only a relatively small proportion of the photographic opportunities the park has to offer. The true diversity of the park is only revealed by travelling south of the major peaks, where the park extends down as far as Aberdyfi, along the way exposing scars of a tough industrial heritage, rivers and lakes, ancient woodlands, estuaries as well as rugged sea-cliffs and sandy coastlines. There is something for all tastes, indeed, Snowdonia

National Park now attracts over 12 million visitors each year.

As an insider to the area, you soon learn that the majority of these visitors flock to very specific areas of the park's mountains and coastline, namely, Ogwen valley and the coast to the south of the park. This leaves the rest of the park unspoilt, and it is the domain for sheep farmers that have traditionally made a living here.

The exposed rocky mountain landscapes of Snowdonia mean you often have to think that little bit harder to tame the complexity of what lies before you into pleasing compositions. One tip: follow the sun around the outside of the high mountain areas, using the mountain landscapes as a background to your carefully thought out and executed compositions.

*Most photogenic...*

**Towns and villages**

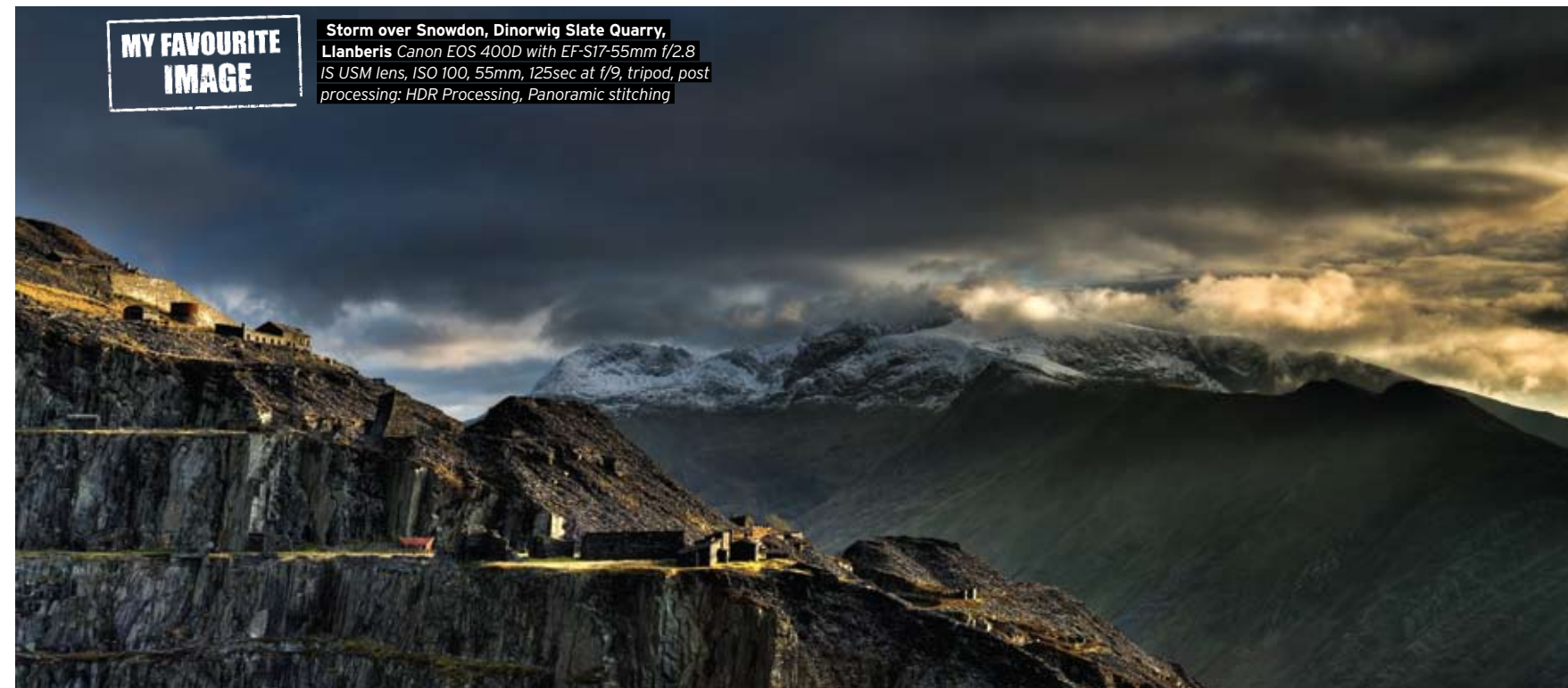
- » **Beddgelert** Snowdonia's equivalent to a lazy Lake District town/village, Beddgelert boasts terraces of stone buildings with an ivy-covered stone bridge over the river Glaslyn. The valley is said to be one of the prettiest in Wales.
- » **Aberdovey** Bustling seaside town on the southernmost tip of the park, featuring colourful houses built into the cliffs, great beaches and nearby wildlife marshes.

**Buildings**

- » **Cwmorthin Barracks** and Chapel ruins Rhosydd, Blaenau Ffestiniog [www.cwmorthin.co.uk](http://www.cwmorthin.co.uk)
- » **Dolbadarn Castle**, Llanberis, a ruined tower ½m south east of Llanberis, between the lakes

**MY FAVOURITE IMAGE**

**Storm over Snowdon, Dinorwig Slate Quarry, Llanberis** Canon EOS 400D with EF-S17-55mm f/2.8 IS USM lens, ISO 100, 55mm, 125sec at f/9, tripod, post processing: HDR Processing, Panoramic stitching



Snowdonia National Park was established in 1951 as the third national park in

Britain, following the Peaks and the Lakes. It covers around 827 square miles