

TRIP NOTES: SNOWDON SPECIAL 3-DAY WEEKEND

Many thanks for joining us for what I'm sure will be an awesome weekend.

While we need to remain flexible to allow for weather and trail conditions, we'll start the weekend at Coed y Brenin, where we'll share all our favourite trails, on and off-piste. The bonus here is that we can ride straight from the accommodation giving us all a chance to warm up as well as enjoy some huge views up over Snowdonia.

Sunday, we'll do the Dyfi - training ground of the Athertons and a paradise of wild, unmarked trails as well as a few absolute gems that do follow arrows.

And then Monday, after an early breakfast, we'll drive up to Llanberis to start the huge ascent of Snowdon. The usual plan is an ascent of the Llanberis Path and a descent of the Ranger Path before we double back down the awesome Telegraph Valley.

It won't be a long day, even though it's a tough one, so it'll then be back to Old Skool for showers and lunch before starting the journeys home.

As always, the itinerary may change depending on weather and trail conditions.

Old Skool

We're staying in a beautiful and extremely comfortable converted old schoolhouse not far from Coed y Brenin (address below). And will be looked after by Danielle and Lewis, who run the place and are both keen mtbers themselves.

They'll be cooking us delicious 3-course meals for the evenings and a pretty full-on , breakfast every morning. They'll also be providing us with packed lunches and there's bound to be some tea, coffee and cake involved too:)

We usually have access to the Old Skool from 5pm on a Friday but it may be possible to make this a little earlier if you let us know what time you'll be arriving. Dinner is usually served around 8pm on this first night to give you time to get there.

Please let us know what time you're planning to arrive so Danielle and Lewis can plan around it.

Other mealtimes are likely to depend on the weather and the plan!

Bedding and towels are supplied.

Yr Hen Ysgol
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Directions

The Old Skool is approximately 3 miles north of Coed y Brenin on the A470. It's set back from the road a little so is easily missed. Heading south, you'll come into the village of Bronaber and the drive is on the left, just before a turning on the left - it's not the last drive on the left but the one before. If you're coming from the south, you'll pass Coed y Brenin on your right and continue for 3 miles into Bronaber. The drive is on the right - it's the second drive after the turning on the right. The postcode works with most Satnavs LL41 4UR.

Kit list

The weather in the mountains can be quite unpleasant at any time of year - although hopefully, it won't! For most of the weekend, you'll definitely need to carry more than you would on a typical trail centre ride.

Riding kit

Some items can be shared between the group. Please let us know at the briefing on Friday night (or before) if there's anything you haven't got that you may need.

- Hydration pack big enough to carry everything in the list below – suggested size 15L to 20L
- Water and snacks – gels, energy bars, jelly babies etc
- Lunch (this will be provided but you'll need to carry it)
- Dry bag to keep everything dry inside your pack
- Mini pump for your valve type
- Inner tube (even if you use tubeless)
- Tube patches (preferably self-adhesive)
- Tubeless repair kit (if you use tubeless)
- Tyre levers
- Multi-tool
- 1 set of spare brake pads
- Rear gear hanger for your bike
- Cable ties
- Duct tape (we suggest wrapping 1m around your pump)
- Power link for your chain type and speed
- Mobile phone - in a waterproof case or plastic bag
- Small personal first aid kit
- Any medication you need

Recommended clothing

- Helmet
- Knee and elbow pads
- Cycling shorts and/or waterproof shorts (or trousers)
- Wicking base layer or cycling jersey

- Mid layer (fleece or soft shell)
- Windproof and/or waterproof jacket (depending on the weather forecast)
- Insulated jacket or warm emergency layer
- Woolly hat or buff
- Riding glasses
- Gloves (worth having a spare pair if it's wet)
- Waterproof socks
- Cycling shoes (you must be able to walk in them!)

Bikes

Your bike needs to be ready for the rigours of the mountains – steep and rocky climbs and descents. A lightweight x-country bike probably won't be strong enough for the descents and a downhill rig will be too heavy for the climbs. Just about everything in between will do the job.

Tyres are important. Lightweight racing tyres are easily torn. We recommend good trail or all-mountain tyres such as Maxxis High Rollers.

Please make sure your bike is ready for 2 days of hard riding. Anything that looks slightly suspect will almost certainly break.

There's a good bike shop at Coed y Brenin if you need any spares.

We'll have secure storage for bikes overnight and a hose, brushes and a full cleaning kit, supplied by Fenwick's, so you can clean your bike after riding

Ethics on the hill

Mountain biking in Snowdonia is a sensitive issue. There's no getting around it, a large group of mountain bikers will be pretty conspicuous and we'll have some impact on the landscape and other trail users.

As a company, we're 100% committed to minimising our impact in every way we can. We operate a strict 'pack it out' policy for all litter (including banana skins and orange peel), and we try to leave as little trace of our passing as possible.

While we'll enjoy some epic descents and trails, please ride in control and at a speed that reflects your line of sight and abilities.

We'll certainly meet walkers and we want any interactions to be as positive as possible. It's important to give mountain bikers a good name. The Welsh Government are being very positive about extending access and we don't want to do anything that will jeopardise this.

See you at the Old Skool :)

Tom and Steph