

GUIDE TO RURAL WALES

# NORTH COAST & ANGLESEY

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ACCOMMODATION

FOOD & DRINK

SHOPPING

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# North Wales Coast & Anglesey

The coastline from Prestatyn to Bangor was, before the coming of the railways, littered with small fishing villages. During the 19th century, as the hours of mill workers from the industrial towns of Lancashire and the Midlands were reduced, the concept of an annual holiday, albeit in some cases just the odd day at the seaside, became widespread. Served by the newly-built railway network, the fishing villages expanded to accommodate visitors. Boarding houses and hotels were built for society visitors coming to take the sea air, and amusements and entertainment were soon a regular feature. Llandudno still retains much of its Victorian and Edwardian charm, while other resorts, such as Rhyl, have tried to counter the unsettled British summer weather with the creation of indoor complexes. The coast of North Wales draws visitors in their thousands to its holiday resorts, but this very traditional region, where Welsh is still spoken on a daily basis, has many other treasures, both man-made and natural.

Prestatyn, to the east, lies at one end of Offa's Dyke (see Prestatyn). Built more as a line of demarcation rather than a fortification, the dyke runs from the coast southwards to Chepstow. Still substantially marking the border with England, many sections of the ancient earthwork are visible and can be seen from the waymarked footpath that runs the length of the dyke. It was also along the coast that Edward I built his Iron Ring of castles and while many are in ruins, two in particular are exceptional. Conwy Castle, now a World Heritage Site, was built in such a position that

the surrounding land provides suitable protection from attack. Caernarfon Castle, as much a royal residence as a fortress, was the place where Edward, in 1301, crowned his son (later Edward II) as Prince of Wales. There were princes before this. In 1218 Llywelyn the Great and his descendents were given the title by his brother-in-law, Henry III of England. However, Edward II was the first heir to the English throne to have the title bestowed on him. Centuries later, in 1969, it was in the grounds of the splendid castle ruins that Queen Elizabeth invested the same title on her eldest son, Prince Charles.

Caernarfon and Bangor lie at opposite ends of the Menai Strait, the channel of water that separates mainland Wales from the Isle of Anglesey. It was not until the 19th-century that a bridge was constructed across the strait, and Thomas Telford's magnificent Menai Suspension Bridge of the 1820s was joined, some 30 years later, by Stephenson's Britannia Bridge. Two great monuments to 19th century engineering, the bridges still carry traffic, both road and rail.

The Isle of Anglesey, with its rolling hills, fertile farmland and miles of wild and craggy coastline, has attracted settlers from the Stone Age onwards and is littered with evidence of Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age people. Anglesey has its impressive castle, Beaumaris, built by Edward I to repel invasion from its neighbours. Today's invaders are largely tourists and holidaymakers, attracted by the elegant seaside resorts, the fishing, the sailing and the walking.

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## Llandudno

 Church of St Tudno	 Deganwy Castle	
 Great Orme	 Llandudno Museum	
 Promenade	 Pier	 White Rabbit Statue
 Great Orme Tramway	 Llandudno Cable Car	
 Great Orme Copper Mine	 Bodafon Farm Park	

Originally just a collection of fishermen's cottages, Llandudno – the Queen of Welsh resorts – was developed in the 1850s under the watchful eye of the Liverpool surveyor Owen Williams. A delightful place that is a wonderful example of Victorian architecture, Llandudno was planned around a pleasant layout of wide streets and, of course, a promenade, the essential feature of a resort from that age. The **Promenade** is now lined with renovated, redecorated and elegant hotels

and the wide boulevard gives it an air of the French Riviera. Off the Promenade towards the Little Orme by the fields, **Bodafon Farm Park** is a working farm and also home to the North Wales Bird Trust. Farm attractions include sheep shearing, ploughing, harvesting and collecting eggs. The Trust houses 1,000 birds, including eagle owls, falcons and tropical birds. A permanent Victorian puppet show can be watched on the promenade close to the **Pier**, which was opened in 1878 and has been popular with visitors ever since. Stretching 2,220 feet out to sea, it's the longest in Wales and one of the finest in the UK, with shops, cafés, bars and amusements. In 1914 the suffragettes attempted to burn it down. Later, Ringo Starr, of Beatles fame, worked on the pleasure steamers that docked at the pier. The North Shore has been voted one of the two

### Bodafon Farm Park

*The Promenade, Llandudno LL30 3BB*

*Tel: 01492 549060/545702*

*e-mail: [bodafon.farm@btopenworld.com](mailto:bodafon.farm@btopenworld.com)*

*website: [www.bodafonfarmpark.co.uk](http://www.bodafonfarmpark.co.uk)*

In May 2001 the well known attraction, formerly known as 'Anglesey Bird World' joined with Bodafon Farm Park at Llandudno. This enabled the North Wales Bird Trust, a registered charity whose pivotal aim is towards education and conservation, to give talks to schools and similar organisations, either at their own venue or at Bodafon Farm Park. As well as being tailored to an individual curriculum, children have the opportunity to hold and stroke many of the Owls. The range of birds on view is enormous and includes eagle owls, barn owls, tawny owls, snowy owls as well as parrots, pheasants, water birds and even a kookaburra.

This is, of course, in addition to the attractions of Bodafon Farm Park, a working farm. The animals to be seen here range from shire horses, highland cattle and lambs to llamas and deer. Tractor and trailer rides and pony rides are available and there is free parking. A shop sells souvenirs and crafts and snacks can be purchased from the cafe. BBQ lunches are available most days and picnic areas are provided.

During the warmer months, guests are encouraged to make use of the courtyard and lawn area, complete with BBQ and outdoor furniture set.





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White Rabbit Statue, Llandudno



best beaches in Wales.

Along the seafront can be found the **White Rabbit Statue**, from Lewis Carroll's much loved story *Alice In Wonderland*. The tribute is to the real Alice – Alice Liddell – who came here on holiday with her family; it was also at Llandudno that her parents spent their honeymoon. Among the visitors to Dean Liddell's holiday home were such notable characters of the day as William Gladstone and Matthew Arnold, as well as Lewis Carroll. Though little is known today of Carroll's stay with the family, visitors can be certain that it was on the broad, sandy beaches at Llandudno that the Walrus and the Carpenter "wept like anything to see such quantities of sand" and it was the White Knight who considered "boiling it in wine" to prevent the Menai Bridge from rusting.

Although Llandudno is very much a product of the Victorian age, it earlier

played host to Bronze Age miners and the Romans and, in the 6th century, St Tudno chose Great Orme as the site of the cell from where he preached. The saint was one of the seven sons of King Seithenyn, whose kingdom, it is said, sank beneath the waves of Cardigan Bay. The cell's successor is the **Church of St Tudno**, which was Llandudno's parish church when it was a fishing village, and, which dates mainly from the 15th century. In 1852 it lost its parish church status. One of its treasures is a roof boss depicting Christ's 'stigmata' – the wounds to his hands and feet where he was nailed to the cross and the wound in his side. At **Llandudno Museum** visitors are taken through the town's history, from ancient times to the present day, by a collection of interesting exhibits including a child's footprint imprinted on a tile from the Roman fort of Canovium (Caerhun), and objets d'art collected from all over the world by Francis Chardon.

As well as being the home of Llandudno's roots, the massive limestone headland of **Great Orme** still dominates the resort today and also separates the town's two beaches. Two miles long, one mile wide and 679 feet high, its name, Orme, is thought to have



Great Orme Tramway, Llandudno

historic building 
 museum and heritage 
 historic site 
 scenic attraction 
 flora and fauna 
 stories and anecdotes 
 famous people 
 art and craft 
 entertainment and sport 
 walks

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## Llandudno Cable Car

*Happy Valley, Great Orme, Llandudno, LL30 2DF*  
 Tel: 01492 877 205

An enjoyable and relaxing way to reach the Great Orme's Summit is to ride the Llandudno Cable Car. Built in 1969 and overhauled in 2006, the cabins each hold four people.

The ride starts close to the base of the Great Orme in Happy Valley which is easily reached on foot or by car, and is just a short distance from the promenade.

Rising to 615ft, the cable car journey is the longest in Great Britain, and once at the summit, visitors can enjoy unbeatable, stunning views of Llandudno and the north Wales coastline.

Visitors can choose a return ride (18 minutes) or single ride from Happy Valley or the summit. There is a cafe and play park at the summit allowing visitors to enjoy refreshments before they start their journey back down. A good combination is to take the cable car on one leg of the journey and the Great Orme Tram on the other. For those who wish to explore this delightful area on foot, there are plenty of walks that begin at the summit.

Those who enjoy photography are advised to have their cameras at the ready, especially for the lower part of the journey as this offers the best views of Llandudno Pier, Happy Valley, the town centre and the ski slope.



originated from an old Norse word for sea monster. In what is now a country park, there are prehistoric sites in the form of stone circles and burial sites, and the remains of Bronze Age mines. The summit can be reached by the **Great Orme Tramway**, a magnificent monument to Victorian engineering constructed in 1902 that is Britain's only cable hauled, public road tramway. Another way of reaching the summit is by the **Llandudno Cable Car** (see panel above), the UK's longest. The **Great Orme Copper Mine** is the only Bronze Age copper mine in the world open to the public. Visitors can explore the 3,500-year-old passages, see the great opencast mine workings, peer into the 470-foot shaft and discover how our ancestors turned rock into metal. The Visitor Centre is open to non-mine visitors, and also

at the site are a tearoom serving Welsh cream teas and a shop selling a wide variety of books, minerals, fossils and other souvenirs. Great Orme is home to a herd of wild goats descended from a pair presented to Queen Victoria by the Shah of Persia.

Just south of Llandudno, on Conway Bay, lies Deganwy, a once thriving fishing village that shares the same stretch of coastline though it has now been taken over by its larger neighbour. Often mentioned in Welsh history, Deganwy was a strategically important stronghold and **Deganwy Castle** was the seat of Maelgwn Gwynedd as early as the 6th century. The first medieval castle was probably built here by Lupus, Earl of Chester, shortly after the Norman Conquest. The scant remains seen today are, however, of a castle built by one of the Earl's successors in 1211.



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Henry II was besieged here by the Welsh and Deganwy was finally destroyed by Llewelyn ap Gruffydd (Llewelyn the Last) in 1263.

## Around Llandudno

### RHOS-ON-SEA

*3½ miles E of Llandudno on the B5115*

 Bryn Eurin  Rev W Venable Williams

 Harlequin Puppet Theatre



This very sedate North Wales coastal resort has a breakwater to shelter the pleasure boats and, along the promenade, is the small Chapel of St Trillo. Though the chapel's age is unknown, it is said to have been built above an ancient holy well and also on the spot from where, reputedly, Owain Gwynedd set sail in 1170, and eventually landed on the North American continent – some 322 years before Columbus made his historic voyage to the New World! It is said to be the smallest church in Britain, as it can only seat six people. Southwest of the town is **Bryn Eurin**, all that is left of a prehistoric fort.

On the promenade is a monument to the **Rev W Venable Williams**. He helped in the development of Rhos, but was in many ways a controversial figure. He resisted the demands of local farmers to have their tithes reduced, and his mission church in Colwyn Bay was set on fire because of this. He also tried frantically to stop Colwyn Bay from splitting from his own parish of Llandrillo yn Rhos, taking his fight all the way to Parliament and even Queen Victoria.

The **Harlequin Puppet Theatre** can be found on the town's promenade. When built, in 1958, it was Britain's first permanent theatre specially for puppet shows and continues to present shows to this day.

### COLWYN BAY

*5 miles SE of Llandudno on the A55*

 Welsh Mountain Zoo  Terry Jones


 Timothy Dalton  Bertrand Russell

A more genteel place than the resorts found to the east, Colwyn Bay was built largely during the 19th century to fill the gap along the coast between Rhos-on-Sea and the village of Old Colwyn. As a result, there are many fine Victorian buildings to be seen, and the beach is served by a promenade along which most of the town's attractions can be found. Colwyn Bay includes among its famous sons ex-Monty Python **Terry Jones** and a former James Bond, **Timothy Dalton**. The philosopher **Bertrand Russell** (1872–1970) was cremated with no ceremony at Colwyn Bay crematorium and his ashes scattered in the sea.

Although Colwyn Bay lies on the coast, it is also home to the **Welsh Mountain Zoo**, a conservation centre for rare and endangered species that is best known for the Chimp Encounter, its collection of British wildlife and its feeding of the sealions. The zoo's gardens, laid out by TH Mawson at the end of the 19th century, incorporate both formal terraces and informal woodlands, with paths offering superb views of Snowdonia as well as the Conwy estuary and the North Wales coast. The Tarzan Trail Adventure Playground is a sure fire winner with young visitors.

### LLISFAEN

*7 miles off the A55 SE of Llandudno*

 Parish Church of St Cynfran



The **Parish Church of St Cynfran** was supposedly founded in AD777 by the saint of the same name. The present church has been heavily restored, though parts date from the 14th century, with incorporated masonry from

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an even earlier building. Cynfran himself is a shadowy figure, said to be the son of King Brychan of Brecknock, himself a saint. There is a holy well to the north of the church.

## ABERGELE

*10½ miles E of Llandudno on the A548*

 Gwrych Castle  Parish Church of St Michael

 Cefn-Yr-Ogo  Abergele Train Disaster

Along with Pensarn, its neighbour on the coast, Abergele is a resort, which, though more modest than such places as Rhyl, Prestatyn and Colwyn Bay, is justly popular with those looking for a quieter seaside holiday. Outside the town, on Tower Hill, is the mock-Norman **Gwrych Castle**, built in 1814 and formerly the seat of the Earl of

Dundonald. It is now a holiday centre and among its many attractions are medieval jousts and banquets. The **Parish Church of St Michael** is medieval in origin, though it was heavily restored in the mid 19th century. Outside the church is a Penitential Stone. This was where people had to do penance for their sins by standing and asking the congregation for mercy as they left the church. Also in the graveyard is the mass grave of those people killed in the **Abergele Train Disaster**, which took place on 20 August 1868 when the Irish mail train from London was hit by wagons that had rolled down an incline towards it. They were being shunted onto a side line at the time, and their brakes had not been applied. It would have been a simple collision











had not two of the wagons contained 50 barrels of paraffin. On impact, the wagons exploded, causing the front carriages of the mail train to catch fire. Thirty three people were killed, making it, at that time, the worst rail disaster in British history.

On 30 June 1969, two members of the Mudiad Amddiffyn Cymru (Welsh Defence Movement), Alwyn Jones and George Taylor, were killed when a bomb they were planting on the line went off prematurely. The royal train was due to pass on its way to Caernarfon for the investiture of Prince Charles as Prince of Wales, and they wanted to stop it as a protest (see also Caernarfon)

Situated on higher ground behind the castle are the natural caverns of **Cefn-Yr-Ogo** whose summit commands magnificent views of the surrounding coastline.



Gwrych Castle, Abergele

 historic building  museum and heritage  historic site  scenic attraction  flora and fauna  
 stories and anecdotes  famous people  art and craft  entertainment and sport  walks




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## RHYL

14 miles E of Llandudno on the A548

 Sun Centre  SeaQuarium

 Nerys Hughes

Once little more than a couple of fishermen's cottages until its development as a seaside resort from 1833, Rhyl used to be the destination for many workers and their families from the industrial towns and cities of Wales, the Midlands and the northwest of England. Though the heyday of this once elegant resort has long since passed, Rhyl still has a lot to offer the holiday maker.

As well as the full range of amusement arcades and seaside attractions, Rhyl is home to two large and exciting complexes: the **Sun Centre**, one of the first all-weather leisure attractions in the country, with indoor surfing and daredevil water slides and flumes; and **SeaQuarium**, where visitors can enjoy a seabed stroll surrounded by sharks, rays and other ocean creatures.



**Nerys Hughes**, the actress from the TV series *The Liver Birds* and *District Nurse*, was born in Rhyl, and **Carol Vorderman**, though born in Bedford, attended school in the town when her family moved to North Wales.

To the southwest of the town lies the mouth of the River Clwyd, which is crossed by Foryd Bridge, and to the south lies Rhuddlan Marsh where, in AD795, Caradoc was defeated by Offa of Mercia.

## PRESTATYN

16½ miles E of Llandudno on the A548

 Prestatyn Castle  Offa's Dyke

 John Prescott  Offa's Dyke National Trail











With three great beaches – Ffrith Beach, Central Beach and Barkby Beach – Prestatyn has proved a popular holiday destination over

the years and, as expected, all types of entertainment are available, making the town an ideal centre for family holidays. Although the town undoubtedly expanded with the opening of the Chester to Holyhead railway line in 1848, people were flocking here 50 years before that lured by descriptions of the air being like wine and honey and the abundant sunshine being deemed excellent for the relief of arthritic conditions and nervous disorders.

However, Prestatyn's origins go back to prehistoric times, as excavated artefacts have shown. While the Roman's 20th legion was stationed at Chester, it is thought that an auxiliary unit was based at a fort on what is now Princes Avenue. The discovery in 1984 of a Roman bath house in Melyd Avenue would certainly seem to support this assumption.

The settlement is mentioned in the Domesday Book as Prestetone, from the Anglo-Saxon Preosta Tun (meaning a settlement in, which two or more priests reside). It was Lord Robert Banastre who was responsible for building the Norman **Prestatyn Castle**. It was of a typical motte and bailey design, but all that remains of the fortification today is one stone pillar on the top of a raised mound that can be found close to Bodnant Bridge.

Prestatyn lies at one end of the massive 8th century earthwork **Offa's Dyke**. Although the true origins of the dyke have been lost in the mists of time, it is thought that the construction of this border defence between England and Wales was instigated by King Offa, one of the most powerful of the early Anglo-Saxon kings. From AD757 until his death in AD796 he ruled Mercia, which covers roughly the area of the West Midlands. He seized power in the period of civil strife that

 historic building  museum and heritage  historic site  scenic attraction  flora and fauna  
 stories and anecdotes  famous people  art and craft  entertainment and sport  walks

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followed the murder of his cousin King Aethelbald and, ruthlessly suppressing many of the smaller kingdoms and princedoms, created a single settled state that covered most of England south of Yorkshire. His lasting memorial is the dyke, which he had built between Mercia and the Welsh lands. With an earthwork bank of anything up to 50 feet in height and a 12-foot ditch on the Welsh side, much of this massive feat of engineering is still visible today. The northern end of **Offa's Dyke National Trail** leads up the High Street, climbs the dramatic Prestatyn hillside and wanders through the Clwydian Range. This long-distance footpath of some 180 miles crosses the English-Welsh border 10 times and takes in some extraordinarily beautiful countryside. From the Clwydian Hills through the lush plains of England and the much fought over lands of the Welsh borders, the footpath not only covers some superb terrain but also allows those walking its route to see a great variety of flora and fauna as well as take in the traditional farming methods that have survived in the more remote areas of this region.



View from Gop Hill, Trelawnyd

**John Prescott**, the labour politician, was born in Prestatyn in 1938.

## LLANASA

*20 miles E of Llandudno off the A548*

Parish Church of St Asaph and St Cyndeyrn

Gyrn Castle

The **Parish Church of St Asaph and St Cyndeyrn** largely dates from the 15th century, though there has been a church on the site since at least the 6th century. It incorporates some stained-glass windows from Basingwerk Abbey (see Holywell), which was dissolved by Henry III in 1536. Close by the village stands **Gyrn Castle**, which originates from the 1700s and was castellated in the 1820s. It now contains a large picture gallery, and its grounds offer some pleasant woodland walks.

## TRELAWNYD

*19 miles E of Llandudno on the A5151*

Parish Church of St Michael Gop Hill

Trelawnyd Male Voice Choir

Formerly called Newmarket, this village is well known for its Bronze Age cairn, **Gop Hill**, the biggest prehistoric monument in Wales, which marks the place where, traditionally, Offa's Dyke began, although the town of Prestatyn also claims this honour. The **Trelawnyd Male Voice Choir**, with over 100 members, is reckoned to be one of the best choirs in North Wales. The **Parish Church of St Michael**, which measures only 55 feet by 19 feet, was

historic building museum and heritage historic site scenic attraction flora and fauna  
 stories and anecdotes famous people art and craft entertainment and sport walks

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rebuilt in 1724, though a church has stood on the site for centuries.

## MELIDEN

*17 miles E of Llandudno on the A547*

 Parish Church of St Melyd  Craig Fawr

Meliden is a former mining village, and in the 19th century several hundred miners worked in the local mines. Just to the south of Meliden lies **Craig Fawr**, a limestone hill that supports a wide variety of flowers and butterflies, including the Brown Argus, a rare sight in North Wales, whose larvae feed on the Common Rockrose. Nature trails have been laid around the site that not only take in the myriad of wildlife and plants, but also an old quarry where the exposed limestone reveals a wealth of fossils left deposited here over 300 million years ago. The short walk to the summit is well worth the effort as there are panoramic views from the top over the Vale of Clwyd, the coastline and beyond to Snowdonia.

The **Parish Church of St Melyd** is mentioned in the Domesday Book, though the present church largely dates from the 13th century and later. It is the only church in Wales dedicated to that particular saint. The half-timbered south porch, which seems out of place tacked on to a stone building, was added in 1884. It also has a Devil's Door (now bricked up), which allowed the devil to leave the church when summoned to do so by the priest. When the churchyard wall was rebuilt some time ago, a surprising number of skeletons were unearthed. It is thought that these may have been people who were thought at the time to be in league with the devil, and who were not allowed to be buried in consecrated ground. The relatives got round this ecclesiastical edict by burying them half in and half out of the churchyard.

## POINT OF AYR

*21½ miles E of Llandudno off the A548*

Marking the western tip of the Dee estuary and with views across the river mouth to Hilbre Island and the Wirral, this designated RSPB viewing point is an excellent place to observe the numerous birds that come to feed on the sands and mudflats left by the retreating tide.

## LLANFAIR TALHAIARN


*11½ miles SE of Llandudno off the A544*



 Mynydd Bodran  John Jones

This village, the start of a walk to the Elwy Valley, is the burial place of **John Jones** (1810–1869), another poet who was acclaimed as the Welsh Robert Burns (see also Llanarmon Dyffryn Ceiriog). The waymarked walk is basically a circuit of **Mynydd Bodran**, which rises to nearly 950 feet above the Elwy and Aled Valleys and provides some spectacular views.

## LLANGERNYW

*10½ miles SE of Llandudno on the A548*

 Parish Church of St Digan

 Sir Henry Jones Museum  Llangernyw Yew

This quiet Denbighshire village was the birthplace, in 1852, of Sir Henry Jones, who became known as “the cobbler philosopher”. Born the son of a local shoemaker, Henry Jones left school at the age of 12 to become apprenticed to his father but, after the long working day, Henry continued his studies well into the evenings. His hard work paid off, and he won a scholarship to train as a teacher, and then went on to study philosophy before eventually becoming Professor of Moral Philosophy at Glasgow University. A well-known and highly regarded academic, and a

## SNOWDONIA NURSERIES

Llanrwst Road, Glan Conwy,  
Colwyn Bay, Conwy, LL28 5SR  
Tel: 01492 580703

e-mail: [info@snowdonianurseries.co.uk](mailto:info@snowdonianurseries.co.uk)

website: [www.snowdonianurseries.co.uk](http://www.snowdonianurseries.co.uk)

**Snowdonia Nurseries** is a family owned and run traditional Garden Centre with a difference, offering a huge range of garden products, but focussing very much on its own nursery grown plants.

Snowdonia Nurseries have developed an enviable reputation for quality, established after more than twenty five-years of steady trading. They are conveniently situated at Glan Conwy, just off the A55; and in addition to offering spectacular views of the estuary, and a superb range of plants, also provide first class car parking for the disabled - and an excellent coffee shop.

Personal service and attention is high on the agenda for Snowdonia Nurseries. Richard, proprietor, who has a BSc honours degree in horticulture from Bath University, is vastly experienced, and readily available to offer friendly advice on all potential purchases or just to load up your car with a heavy bag of potting compost.

He is justifiably proud of all their goods and confirmed: "We don't just put anything on the shelves. We specialise in quality, and offer a comprehensive range of products." A key event in the Centres calendar is at Christmas when the displays are spectacular which automatically creates and enhances the true Christmas spirit. It has been described as a magical environment and the children can meet Father Christmas in an amazing grotto, each year all donations go to charity. Amongst just some of the items available at his wonderful Aladdin's cave of goodies during the festive season are decorative Christmas lights for both indoor and outdoor displays; very bright and long life LED lights; artificial Christmas trees; candles, table and giftware - plus real Christmas trees available from the first week in December.

In addition to their wide range of festive products, during the rest of the year they also have numerous soft fruit trees, bushes and vegetable plants displays, together with garden furniture, barbeques, gift ware and home accents.

And when all the shopping is completed, take some time to unwind and enjoy some light refreshments in the Olive Tree Coffee Shop; where home made cakes, tea, coffee, and snacks form an essential part of a varied menu.





widely acclaimed lecturer on social affairs and liberalism, Henry received his knighthood in 1912, and was made a Companion of Honour in 1922. He died in the same year. Though Sir Henry is buried in Glasgow, this village has not forgotten its local hero. In 1934, Jones' childhood home, Y Cwm, was purchased by a fund set up to honour his memory and his work. Today, the **Sir Henry Jones Museum** takes visitors on a tour through the family house – the tiny kitchen and bedroom where the family lived and shoemaker's workshop where Henry and his father worked.

The whitewashed **Parish Church of St Digian** dates from the 13th century, though it was much restored in the 1800s. In the churchyard is the **Llangernyw Yew**. The oldest known tree in Wales, and one of the oldest living things in the world, the yew is estimated to be over 3,000 years old. An old legend says that every Easter and on the 31 July each year the angel of death – known as the Angelystor in Welsh – appears beneath the tree's boughs and solemnly announces the names of the people of the parish who will die within the next six months. A story is told



of one Shôn ap Robert, who mocked the legend while drinking in a local pub. His friends challenged him to visit the yew tree on the next 31 July, and he took up the challenge. The first name he heard as he approached the tree was his own, and though he declared jokingly that he was not yet ready to die, within six months he was being buried in the churchyard.

## LLANSANFFRAID GLAN CONWY

*3 miles S of Llandudno off the A470*

Felin Isaf Parish Church of St Ffraid

In Garth Road **Felin Isaf** has two working watermills and a museum describing the history of the site and the various uses and types of mills. The **Parish Church of St Ffraid** is medieval in origin, though it was largely rebuilt in 1839.

## BODNANT

*6 miles S of Llandudno off the A470*

Bodnant Gardens

Situated above the River Conwy and covering some 80 acres are the famous Edwardian **Bodnant Gardens**, laid out by the 2nd Lord Aberconwy in 1875 and presented to the National Trust in 1949.



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## Conwy

 Conwy Castle	 Town Walls	 Toll House
 Suspension Bridge	 Conway Mussel Centre	
 Plas Mawr	 Aberconwy House	
 Conway River Festival		
 Britain's Smallest House		
 Conway Rail Bridge		
 Parish Church of St Mary and all Saints		

Situated opposite Deganwy, on the south bank of the Conwy estuary, Conwy has in recent times returned to something of its former self with the completion of the tunnel that carries the A5 under the estuary. No longer harassed by heavy traffic, the town is a delight to wander around, its small streets steeped in history and the whole place dominated by another of Edward I's great castles. The ruins of what was one of the most picturesque of the many Welsh fortresses remain eye-catching to this day. **Conwy Castle** is situated on a rock that overlooks the River Conwy and its estuary, from which it commands wonderful views of the whole area.

Begun in 1283, the castle's construction was

largely finished by the autumn of 1287 and, compared with some of Edward's castles, Conwy is of a relatively simple design, which relies on its position rather than anything else to provide a defence against attack. The town was walled at the same time and today the **Town Walls** still encircle the vast majority of Conwy, stretching for three quarters of a mile and including 22 towers and three gateways. The castle was also built to be a suitable royal residence and was used twice by Edward I: once on his way to Caernarfon where his son, the first English Prince of Wales was born; and again in 1294, when trying to put down the rebellion of Madoc ap Llewelyn. Now a World Heritage Site, the castle not only offers visitors spectacular views from its battlements, but also the huge curtain walls and eight massive round towers are still a stirring sight. In 1399, Richard II stayed at the Castle before being lured out and ambushed by the Earl of Northumberland's men on behalf of Henry Bolingbroke, the Duke of Lancaster, who later became Henry IV. Conwy attracted the attention of Owain Glyndwr during his rebellion, and his men burnt it to the ground.

As with other castles further east, Conwy was embroiled in the Civil War. A Conwy man, John Williams, became Archbishop of York and, as a Royalist, sought refuge in his home town. Repairing the crumbling fortifications at his own expense, Archbishop Williams finally changed sides after shabby treatment by Royalist leaders and helped the Parliamentary forces lay siege to the town and castle, which eventually fell to them in late 1646.

Conwy Castle



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The town developed within the shadows of its now defunct fortress, and slate and coal extracted from the surrounding area were shipped up and down the coast from Conwy. Later, the town fathers approached Thomas Telford, who planned a causeway and bridge, as Conwy's trade and links grew with the outside world. Built in 1826, the elegant **Suspension Bridge** replaced the ferry that previously had been the only means of crossing the river so close to its estuary. The **Toll House** (NT) has been restored and furnished as it would have been over a century ago. This suspension road bridge, its design sympathetic to its surroundings, was soon followed by the construction of the railway. By the side of Telford's bridge stands the Robert Stephenson designed tubular **Conwy Rail Bridge** of 1846. Both builders breached the town walls in styles that complemented the town's architecture and the two structures are still admired today.

Bridges, however, are not the only architectural gems Conwy has to offer. **Plas Mawr** (CADW), an Elizabethan town house on the High Street, is one of the best preserved buildings in Britain from that period. Built for the influential merchant Robert Wynn between 1576 and 1585, the house has an interesting stone façade and over 50 windows. Plas Mawr (the name means Great Hall) is particularly noted for its fine and elaborate plasterwork, seen to striking effect in the decorated ceilings and friezes and in the glorious overmantel in the hall. The authentic period atmosphere is further enhanced by furnishings based on an inventory of the contents in 1665. The house came into the possession of the Mostyn family during the 18th century, and in 1991 was given to the nation by Lord Mostyn. Close by is

**Aberconwy House** (NT), a delightful medieval merchant's home that dates from the 14th century. The rooms have been decorated and furnished to reflect various periods in the house's history.

Occupying part of the site of a 12th century Cistercian Abbey, founded by Llwelyn the Great in 1199 and then moved to Maenan by Edward I, is the **Parish Church of St Mary and All Saints**. Some interesting features still remain from that time though there have been many additions over the centuries. The 15th-century rood screen is particularly fine. This was the burial place of the Princes of Gwynedd, and Llwelyn himself.

It is not surprising that the town and the surrounding area have strong links with the sea and Conwy also has a traditional mermaid story. Washed ashore by a violent storm in Conwy Bay, a mermaid begged the local fishermen who found her to carry her back to



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the sea. The fishermen refused and, before she died, the mermaid cursed the people of the town, swearing that they would always be poor. In the 5th century, Conwy suffered a fish famine that caused many to avow that the curse was fulfilled.




St Brigid is connected to another fish famine story. Walking by the riverside carrying some rushes, she threw the rushes upon the water. A few days later the rushes had turned into fish and ever since they have been known as sparlings or, in Welsh, brwyniaid – both meaning rush-like. Fishermen still land their catches, on the quayside and from here pleasure boat trips set sail. Nearby can be found what is claimed to be **Britain's Smallest House**, measuring 10 by 6 feet. It seems that its last tenant was a fisherman who was 6ft 6in tall – he was presumably also a contortionist! Conwy was once a famous pearl fishing centre, and had a thriving mussel industry, whose history is told in the **Conwy Mussel Centre**, open daily from mid-May to September. The **Conway River Festival** takes place every year in August, and is the premier yachting occasion for the whole of the Irish Sea.

## Around Conwy

### ROWEN

*4 miles S of Conwy off the B5106*

 Parish Church of St Celynin  Maen-y-Bardd

 Caer Bach  Parc Mawr  Tal-y-fan

From this very pretty, quiet village a track, which was once a Roman road, skirts by the foot of **Tal-y-fan**, which reaches 2,000 feet at its peak. Roughly six miles in length, the path passes by **Maen-y-Bardd**, a Neolithic burial chamber, and eventually drops down towards

the coast at Aber. Another, circular walk of about five miles, one of several in the Conwy Valley devised by Active Snowdonia, passes many impressive cromlechs and standing stones. The route also takes in **Caer Bach**, where there are traces of a Neolithic settlement, the wonderfully unspoilt 14th-century **Parish Church of St Celynin** and the Woodlands Trust's **Parc Mawr** woods.











### TREFRIW

*8 miles S of Conwy on the B5106*

 Trefriw Woollen Mill  Fairy Falls  Taliesin

This village, nestling into the forested edge of Snowdonia in the beautiful Conwy valley, sits on an old Roman road. It was once one of the homes of Llywelyn the Great, and the Parish Church of St Mary stands on the site of a former church built by him to please his wife, who refused to climb to the church at Llanrhydyrn, above the village. Standing eight miles from the sea, it was once the biggest inland port in Wales. The village today has two main attractions, **Trefriw Woollen Mill** and the local chalybeate springs. The woollen mill has been in operation since the 1830s and is still owned by descendants of Thomas Williams, who purchased it in 1859. It is run by hydro-electric power generated from the two lakes – Crafnant and Geirionydd – which lie to the west of the village. While the source of power is modern, the tapestries and tweeds produced here from raw wool are very traditional.

A footpath above the woollen mill leads to **Fairy Falls** where, in the early 19th century, a forge was founded to make hammers and chisels for use in the slate quarries. It closed at the beginning of the 20th century. Sometime between AD100 and AD250, while prospecting for minerals in this area, the

 historic building  museum and heritage  historic site  scenic attraction  flora and fauna  
 stories and anecdotes  famous people  art and craft  entertainment and sport  walks



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## TJ PARRY-JONES & DAUGHTERS

Kendal, Trefriw, Conwy LL27 0JJ

Tel: 01492 640110

**TJ Parry-Jones & Daughters** is a popular family butchers and grocers situated in the delightful village of Trefriw and set within the Conwy Valley on the edge of Snowdonia National Park. This attractive shop has a traditional atmosphere and appearance, so it will come as no surprise that the family business was founded 60 years ago. It has clearly managed to retain the personal touch, with friendly staff always happy to help.

As well as offering a range of high quality beef, lamb, pork and locally made sausages, there is also a selection of delicious home made pies, quiches, lasagnes and cottage pies. The abundance of groceries on display include home made jams and chutneys and freshly prepared stir fries. The shop is fully fitted with coolers enabling it to sell chilled and frozen products.

With ample parking available locally, this is an ideal place to stock up on supplies if you're staying in any of the nearby holiday parks and cottages. The owners also have a second shop in the village of Tal-y Bont offering the same fantastic range of produce as the Trefriw shop and with the added claim of being the first shop in Wales to have a refrigerated window.



Romans opened up a cave where they found a spring rich in iron (chalybeate). Covered in later years by a landslide, it was not until the 18th century that the spring was uncovered by Lord Willoughby de Eresby, owner of nearby Gwydir Castle, who went on to build a stone bathhouse. Taking the waters became so popular that by 1874 the original bathhouse was replaced with a pumphouse and bath, and the bottled water was exported worldwide. Following a decline during much of the 20th century, interest in the natural spring waters has been rekindled. Visitors can take the waters, view the museum artefacts in the tearoom and browse in the spa beauty shop.

Lake Geirionydd, to the south of the village, was the supposed birthplace, in the 6th century, of the great bard **Taliesin**, to whom in 1850, Lord Willoughby erected a monument. Taliesin was possibly the earliest poet to write in the Welsh language. He was referred to as the "Chief Bard of Britain", and is said to have served at the court of at least

three British kings. In 1863, a local poet, Gwilym Cowlyd, being dissatisfied with the National Eisteddfod, started an arwest, a poetical and musical event that was held in the shadow of the monument every year until 1922. The monument fell down in a storm in 1976, but was restored in 1994. It lies on one of Active Snowdonia's Conwy Valley walks, which also passes Fairy Falls and old mine workings. The walk skirts Lake Crafnant and provides memorable views at many points along its route.

## LLANRWST

10 miles S of Conwy on the A470

- Parish Church of St Grwst
- Gwydir Uchaf Chapel Gwydir Chapel
- Llanrwst Almshouses Old Bridge
- Gwydir Castle Tu Hwnt i'r Bont
- Battle of Llanrwst

The market centre for the central Conwy Valley owes both its name and the dedication

- historic building museum and heritage historic site scenic attraction flora and fauna
- stories and anecdotes famous people art and craft entertainment and sport walks

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of its church to St Grwst (Restitutus), a 6th century missionary who was active in this area. The town lies in the middle of the Conwy Valley between rich agricultural hills to the east, and the imposing crags of Snowdonia to the west. The **Battle of Llanrwst** took place in AD954 between armies from North and South Wales, resulting in the defeat of the army commanded by the sons of Howell the Good, king of Deheubarth, in southwest Wales.

Famous for its livestock fairs and the manufacture of grandfather clocks and Welsh harps, Llanrwst was also known for its woollen yarn and its sail-making industry. The **Parish Church of St Grwst** with its fine rood screen dates from 1470, though the tower and north aisle are 19th century. The 1470 building replaced a thatched church from 1170 that was destroyed in the fighting of 1468. Next to the church lies **Gwydir Chapel**, famous for its

richly carved Renaissance interior. This was the private chapel of the Wynn family and among its treasures is an imposing stone sarcophagus of the Welsh prince Llewelyn the Great. This chapel should not be confused with **Gwydir Uchaf Chapel**, which lies on the opposite bank of the river Conwy and is particularly noted for its ceiling covered with paintings of angels. The **Llanrwst Almshouses** date from 1610, and were built by Sir John Wyn of Gwydir. They were closed in 1976, and now house a small museum.

Below the chapel lies **Gwydir Castle**, the Wynn family's Tudor mansion, which has, in its grounds, some fine cedars of Lebanon planted in 1625 in celebration of the marriage of Charles I to Henrietta Maria of France. Here, too, is an arch built to commemorate the end of the Wars of the Roses, while inside the much restored house is a secret room, once hidden by a wooden panel, which is

home to the ghost of a monk said to have been trapped in the tunnel that leads to the arch. A walk west from the town takes in these historic buildings, the remains of an old crushing mill and the site of the old Hafna Galena Mine. Gwydir Castle was the home of Catherine of Berain, Elizabeth I's cousin (see also Denbigh). Although called a castle, it is, in fact, a fine Tudor house.

Back in town, the **Old Bridge** is thought to have been designed by Inigo Jones; it was built in 1636 by Sir Richard Wynn. Next to it stands **Tu Hwnt i'r Bont** (the House over the Bridge), a 16th-century



Gwydir Castle, Llanrwst

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courthouse that has since been divided into two cottages and is now a tearoom. At one point the town was governed neither by the Welsh nor the English, giving rise to the saying Cymru, Lloegr a Llanrwst – Wales, England and Llanrwst. It even applied (tongue in cheek, it has to be said) for independent membership of the United Nations.



## BETWS-Y-COED

*12 miles S of Conny on the A5*

The Gateway to Snowdonia – see next chapter.

## CAPEL CURIG

*9 miles S of Conny on the A5*





-  Parish Church of St Julitta  Mount Siabod
-  Plas-y-Brenin

Situated at the junction of the mountain roads to Beddgelert, Llyn Ogwen and Betws-y-Coed, Capel Curig has the reputation of being the wettest place in Wales. However, it is popular with climbers as well as hill walkers and anglers, who use the village as a base. A walk south of the village passes by lonely Llyn y Foel and climbs the steep ridge of Daiar Ddu to the top of **Mount Siabod**. The reward for this expenditure of energy is the most spectacular panoramic view of many of Snowdonia's great peaks. **Plas-y-Brenin**, the National Mountain Centre, provides excellent facilities for climbing, canoeing, dry slope skiing and orienteering.

The former **Parish Church of St Julitta** was founded by St Curig, a 6th-century bishop. The smallest church in Snowdonia, it is being gradually restored by the Friends of St Julitta. It was deconsecrated in the 1970s. St Julitta was a wealthy Turkish widow who was the mother of Cyriacus, killed by the Roman governor of Seleucia when he was three years











old. Julitta was martyred, and her son was also declared a martyr.

## Bangor

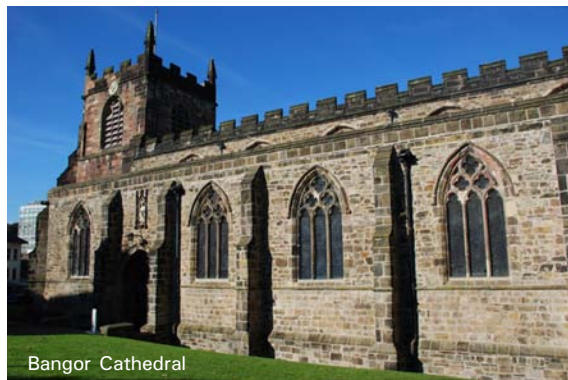
-  Bangor Cathedral  Theatre Gwynedd
-  Gwynedd Museum and Art Gallery  Bryn Terfel
-  Aled Jones  Menai Suspension Bridge
-  Britannia Bridge  Victoria Pier
-  University College of North Wales
-  Penrhyn Castle  The Swellies

A cathedral and university city, Bangor incorporates a wide variety of architectural styles that remind the visitor that this is not only an interesting and stimulating place, but also one with a long history. A monastic community was founded here as early as AD525 by St Deiniol, and the town's name is derived from the wattle fence that surrounded the saint's primitive enclosure – the term 'bangori' is still used in parts of Wales to describe the plaiting of twigs in a hedge. However, there were settlers in the area long before St Deiniol, including the Romans at nearby Segontium, and the **Gwynedd Museum and Art Gallery** is just the place to discover the area's 2,000 years of history, as well as to see the reconstructions of the domestic life of the past generations. The art gallery exhibits a range of work by artists from all ages. Close by in Deiniol Street is **Theatre Gwynedd**.

The main church of the oldest bishopric in Britain, **Bangor Cathedral** dates from the 13th century and has probably been in continuous use for longer than any other cathedral in Britain. During the Middle Ages, the cathedral became a centre of worship for the independent principality of Gwynedd, and the tomb of Owain Gwynedd, buried here

-  historic building  museum and heritage  historic site  scenic attraction  flora and fauna
-  stories and anecdotes  famous people  art and craft  entertainment and sport  walks

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Bangor Cathedral

after his death, became a starting point for pilgrims setting out on the arduous journey to Bardsey Island. Restored in 1866, the cathedral also contains a life-size carving of Christ dating from 1518 while, outside, there is a Biblical garden that contains plants associated with the Bible.

Until the slate boom of the 19th century, Bangor remained little more than a village, albeit with an impressive church. Its position on the Menai Strait, which separates Anglesey from the mainland, made this the ideal place for nearby Penrhyn Quarry to build its docks, and the town soon flourished as a commercial centre. Its importance increased further when the **University College of North Wales** was founded here in 1884.

Improvements in the roads, and then the coming of the railways to the North Wales coast, also saw Bangor grow in both stature and importance. The **Menai Suspension Bridge** was built by Thomas Telford between 1819 and 1826 and was the first permanent crossing of the Menai Strait. Before its completion, the

crossing was made by ferry, and cattle on their way to and from market would swim the channel. Another deciding factor in building the bridge was the treacherous currents to be found in the strait. The worst accident took place in 1785, when a ship carrying 55 people ran aground on a sandbar. Efforts to refloat it proved fruitless, and when it became swamped with water and keeled over only one person

survived. Rocks and reefs called **The Swellies** just beneath the surface between the two bridges also cause whirlpools. This was where HMS Conway was lost in 1953.

However, there was much local opposition to the construction, not only from the ferrymen but also from shipowners worried that the structure would impede the passage of their tall ships. As a result of this concern, the road bridge stands at a height of 100 feet. The **Britannia Bridge**, a mile further southwest from Telford's bridge, is a combined road and rail crossing and was built between 1846 and 1850 by Robert



Menai Suspension Bridge, Bangor



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Stephenson. In 1970, a fire meant that it had to be rebuilt. The lions guarding the bridge are by John Thomas, who was responsible for much of the sculpture at the Houses of Parliament. Also jutting out into the Menai Strait from the town is the 1,500-foot long **Victoria Pier**, which was built in 1896. As well as being attractive, the pier is a pleasant place from which to view Snowdonia, the coast and the small boats passing by, and to admire the houses, some of them quite magnificent, which stand beside the water. Both pleasure and fishing trips can be taken from the pierhead. Bangor is a major centre of the mussel industry.

The town was the birthplace of two singers – **Bryn Terfel**, the international operatic tenor, and **Aled Jones**, singer of *Walking in the Air*. Surprisingly, on the sound track of the film *The Snowman*, someone else sings the song.

To the west of the town and overlooking Beaumaris on the Isle of Anglesey lies **Penrhyn Castle** (NT), a dramatic neo-Norman construction built by Thomas Hopper between 1820 and 1845, and incorporating Doll and Railway Museums.



Penrhyn Castle, Bangor

## Around Bangor

### ABERGWYNGREGYN

6 miles E of Bangor off the A55

The Cross Rhaeadr Aber Falls

Well to the south of the village lie **Rhaeadr Aber Falls**, reached by taking a footpath through sheltered woodland, where the drop of the river is said to be among the steepest in Wales. Above the village is **The Cross**, a huge cross marked out by trees on the hillside. Some people claim it was planted as a memorial to the crew of a German bomber that crashed on the hillside. The reality is more mundane – it was planted by scientists from Bangor University in the mid 1950s as an experiment in sheep management.

### LLANFAIRFECHAN

8 miles E of Bangor on the A55

The Parish Church of St Mary and Christ

Traeth Lfan

An excellent base for energetic walks amid stunning scenery, Llanfairfechan also has a long stretch of sandy beach and a nature

reserve at **Traeth Lfan**. The **Parish Church of St Mary and Christ** dates from 1864, and was built by local benefactor Colonel John Platt.

### PENMAENMAWR

10 miles E of Bangor off the A55

Parc Plas Mawr Cefn Coch

A tiny quarrying village before the arrival of the railway in 1848, this small holiday resort, with its sand and shingle beach, has changed little since William Gladstone holidayed here in the




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19th century, and it still boasts many fine Victorian buildings. Gladstone was a frequent visitor, and there's a bust of him on a granite obelisk in Paradise Road. Penmaenmawr has a small industrial heritage park, **Parc Plas Mawr**, which features industrial heritage, as well as works of art such as sculpture and objects carved from wood. The foundations of a house owned by the Derbyshire family have been uncovered by archaeologists.

In the town's steep mountain-backed hinterland can be found many prehistoric sites, including one of Wales' best known Bronze Age stone circles, **Cefn Coch**. An urn was uncovered here containing the remains of a child as well as a bronze dagger said to be evidence that a ritual sacrifice once took place here.

## BETHESDA

*7 miles SE of Bangor on the A5*

-  Penryn Slate Quarries  Nant Ffrancon Pass
-  Carneddau Estate











This old quarry town takes its name from the Nonconformist chapel that was built here and served many of the 2,300 men and their families who worked in the quarry at its peak in 1875. The gouged rock of the **Penrhyn Slate Quarries** forms a huge hillside amphitheatre; it was the largest opencast slate mine in the world and still produces high-quality slate 250 years after it was first worked.

From the town, the main road travels through the beautiful **Nant Ffrancon Pass**, which runs straight through and up the valley of the River Ogwen and into the Snowdonia National Park. Five miles south of Bethesda on the A5, Llyn Idwal is one of several lakes on the National Trust's **Carneddau Estate**. In 1954 it was declared the first National Nature Reserve in Wales.

## Caernarfon

-  Caernarfon Castle  Parish Church of St Mary
-  Hanging Tower  David Lloyd George
-  Museum of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers
-  Caernarfon Air World  Welsh Highland Railway
-  Segontium Roman Fort and Museum
-  Sir Hugh Owen  Lôn Las Menai

Situated on the right bank of the River Seiont, near the southwest end of the Menai Strait, Caernarfon (the name means fort on the shore) is a town steeped in history as well as a bastion of the Welsh language and national pride. The history of Caernarfon goes back to Roman times. **Segontium Roman Fort and Museum**, half a mile from the town centre on the road towards Beddgelert, is the only place in Wales where it is possible to see something of the internal layout of an auxiliary station. Built to defend the Roman Empire against attack from rebellious tribes, the fort dates back to AD77, when the Roman conquest was finally completed following the capture of Anglesey. Certainly this was one of the most important garrisons on the edge of the Roman Empire and, during its life, it was not only a military, but also an administrative centre for northwest Wales. It is believed that Constantine the Great was born here. Excavations of the site have revealed coins, which show that the fort was garrisoned at least until AD394. This long occupation can be explained by its strategic position controlling the fertile lands and mineral rights of Anglesey and providing a defence against Irish pirates. The well-preserved site is managed by CADW and the museum, which is run by the National Museum and Galleries of Wales, displays many items, including coins, pottery and weapons that have been uncovered during excavation work.

-  historic building  museum and heritage  historic site  scenic attraction  flora and fauna
-  stories and anecdotes  famous people  art and craft  entertainment and sport  walks

## Segontium Roman Fort

Beddgelert Road, Caernarfon, Gwynedd LL55 2WG  
Tel: 01286 675625

website: [www.segontium.org.uk](http://www.segontium.org.uk)



The Segontium Roman Fort was an auxiliary fort built by the Romans when they spread their conquest of Britain into Wales, and dates back to 77 AD. Although it was a remote outpost, it is one of the most well known Roman sites in Britain and attracts thousands of visitors each year. From records, it is clear that it held a regiment of up to 1,000 auxiliary soldiers until about 394 AD. These troops were non citizens who would be in the service of the Roman army for 25 years. It was a very strategic establishment, as it controlled access to Anglesey, and protected the Welsh coast from the sea bound Irish raiders. Apart from being of military use, Segontium was also the administrative centre for north west Wales.

Visiting the fort, it is apparent that you are encouraged to have a 'hands on' approach. The fort is active in that it allows visitors into the remains so that you can not only see the remains, but experience them too.

The museum tells the story of the conquest and occupation of Wales and contains fine examples of the finds excavated from the Segontium site. Here you can get a vivid idea of life in this part of occupied Britain.

The Segontium Roman Museum opened in 1924 vividly portrays the story of the conquest and occupation of Wales by the Romans and displays the finds from nearby auxiliary fort of Segontium, one of the most famous in Britain. The site was one of the first Roman sites to be developed as a historical venue.

However, it is another great construction and symbol of military power – the impressive **Caernarfon Castle** – that still dominates the town today. The most famous of the numerous great fortresses in Wales, the castle was begun in 1283 by Henry de Elreton, who was also building Beaumaris Castle, under the orders of Edward I. It took some 40 years to complete. Built not only as a defence but as a royal palace and a seat of government, the castle's majestic appearance was no accident, as it was designed to be a dream castle and is based around two oval-shaped courts divided by a wall. The outer defences are strengthened at intervals by towers and are, in places, up to 15 feet thick! Many attempts were made by the Welsh, over the years, to destroy the castle but

their failure is confirmed by the presence today of this magnificent building. It was here that, in 1284, Edward I crowned his son the first English Prince of Wales, and the castle was once again used for such an investiture when, in 1969, the Queen crowned Prince Charles Prince of Wales. Many protests were planned about the investiture, but it passed off peacefully. However, two members of the Mudiad Amddiffyn Cymru (Welsh Defence Movement) were killed at Abergele the day before as they tried to plant a bomb on the line to stop the royal train (see also Abergele). Also at the castle, and housed in the Queen's Tower, is the **Museum of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers**, the country's oldest regiment.

The castle sits where the River Seiont meets

## Caernarfon Castle

*Caernarfon, Gwynedd LL55 2AY*

*Tel: 01286 677617*

Mighty Caernarfon is possibly the most famous of Wales' many castles. Its sheer scale and commanding presence easily set it apart from the rest and, to this day, still trumpet in no uncertain terms the intentions of its builder, Edward 1. Begun in 1283 as the definitive chapter in his conquest of Wales, Caernarfon was constructed not only as a military stronghold but also as a seat of government and royal palace.

The castle's majestic persona is no architectural accident: it was designed to echo the walls of Constantinople, the imperial power of Rome and the dream castle, "the fairest that ever man saw", of Welsh myth and legend. After all these years, Caernarfon's immense strength remains undimmed. Standing at the mouth of the Seiont river, the fortress (with its unique polygonal towers, intimidating battlements and colour banded masonry) dominates the walled town also founded by Edward. Caernarfon's symbolic status was emphasised when Edward made sure that his son, the first English Prince of Wales, was born here in 1284. In 1969, the castle gained worldwide fame as the setting for the investiture of Prince Charles as Prince of Wales.

History comes alive at Caernarfon in so many ways - along the lofty wall walks, beneath the towered gatehouse and with imaginative exhibitions located within the towers.



the Menai Strait, the expanse of water that separates mainland Wales from the Isle of Anglesey. Close by, the old Slate Quay, from where slate was once shipped, is now the place from where fishing trips and pleasure cruises depart up the Strait to Beaumaris. Castle Square, on the landward side of the castle, holds markets and here, too, can be found statues of two famous Welshmen: the gesticulating, urging **David Lloyd George**, once a member of Parliament for the area, and **Sir Hugh Owen**, the founder of Further Education in Wales.

The Anglesey Hotel and the **Hanging Tower** stand by the castle walls; they were a customs house until 1822. The last hanging to take place in the tower was in 1911 when an Irishman named Murphy was executed for murdering a maid. It is said that when he died

the bell clapper in the **Parish Church of St Mary** fell off. The church itself was founded in 1307 and, though much of it has since been reconstructed, the arcades of the eastern and southern walls are part of the original 14th-century building.

Northgate Street is called, in Welsh, *Stryd Pedwar a Chewch*, meaning four and six street. Apparently it originates from the time when sailors flocked to this part of town looking for lodgings: four pence for a hammock and six pence for a bed!

From the town, walkers can enjoy a scenic footpath, the **Lôn Las Menai**, which follows the coastline along the Menai Strait towards the village of Y Felinheli and from which there are views across the water to the Isle of Anglesey. Caernarfon is the terminus of the **Welsh Highland Railway**, which is owned



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and operated by the Ffestiniog Railway, the oldest independent railway company in the world. In 2008, the Welsh Highland was extended through the spectacular Aberglasyn Pass to Porthmadog and a link with the Ffestiniog Railway.

To the southwest of Caernarfon, and overlooking Caernarfon Bay, is **Caernarfon Air World**, located on the site of an RAF station that was built in 1940 and, which is also the home of the first RAF mountain rescue team. As well as offering pleasure flights to visitors, there is the Aviation Museum, housed in one of the great hangars, which not only displays over 400 model aircraft, but also has various planes and helicopters on show and provides visitors with the opportunity to take the controls in a flight trainer.

## Around Caernarfon

### DINAS DINLLE

*3 miles S of Caernarfon off the A499*

 Fort St David  Fort Williamsburg


 Dinas Dinlle Fort

Dinas Dinlle is a seaside village at the mouth of the Menai Strait. With a shingle beach and cliffs overlooking Caernarfon Bay, there are many pleasant spots to picnic and enjoy the views down the Llyn Peninsula or across the bay to Anglesey. At the beach's northerly tip at Belan lies **Fort St David**, which was built in the 18th century along with **Fort Williamsburg** at Glynllivon. It was constructed by the first Lord Newborough, who felt concern over the threat of invasion by Napoleon; he also raised and equipped his own private army, The Royal Caernarfonshire Grenadiers, which, by the time of his death in 1807, had cost him a quarter of his fortune.

**Dinas Dinlle Fort**, overlooking the shore, is much older, as it dates from the Iron Age.

### LLANDWROG


*4 miles S of Caernarfon off the A499*

 Parish Church of St Tyrog

Llandwrog was built to serve the estate of Lord Newborough at Glynllifon Park, and memorials to the Newborough family may be seen in the **Parish Church of St Tyrog**.

### CLYNNOG FAWR

*10 miles SW of Caernarfon on the A499*

 Parish Church of St Beuno  St Beuno's Well

 Bachwen

This typical Llyn Peninsula village on the Heritage Coast is famous for its remarkably large and beautiful **Parish Church of St Beuno**, which stands on the site of a chapel founded by the saint around AD616. One of the sons of the royal family of Morgannwg, St Beuno had great influence in North Wales, and he built his chapel on land that was presented to him by Cadwallon, King of Gwynedd. St Beuno's burial place and his shrine can be seen in this early 16th-century building, which lies on the Pilgrims' Route to Bardsey Island. For many years, his tomb was thought to have curative powers.











Nearby is **St Beuno's Well**, whose waters were also thought to cure all manner of illness and conditions, especially if the sufferer had first visited the church. Close by, and virtually on the seafront, stands the capstone and three uprights of **Bachwen**, a Neolithic burial chamber.

### Y FELINHELI

*4 miles NE of Caernarfon off the A487*

 The Greenwood Centre  Glan Faenol

Situated south of this village is **The**

 historic building  museum and heritage  historic site  scenic attraction  flora and fauna  
 stories and anecdotes  famous people  art and craft  entertainment and sport  walks

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**Greenwood Centre**, a forest heritage and adventure park. Opened in the early 1990s, this centre concentrates on exploring and explaining man's relationship with trees and how, by using conservation techniques, the loss of trees from the countryside can be halted whether in the equatorial rain forests or ancient temperate forests of Europe. The skills of ancient carpenters and joiners are also on show, particularly in the Great Hall. This building was constructed entirely using medieval skills and knowledge and is held together by 500 oak pegs!

A couple of miles further east off the A487, bordering the Menai Strait, is **Glan Faenol** (NT), which includes parkland and farmland around Vaynol Hall, once one of the largest estates in North Wales. This is an important habitat for wildlife, and a pleasant walk leads to the sea and two viewing platforms. The estate has tracts of ancient woodland and several follies, including one built to rival the Marquess Column on Anglesey. The views of Snowdonia and across the strait are memorably depicted in one of Rex Whistler murals at Plas Newydd.


mainland Wales. The waterfront is a popular place for anglers and for those wishing to view the annual Regatta on the Menai Strait held every August, as well as for the promenade, known as the Belgian Promenade because it was built by refugees from Belgium who sought shelter here during World War I.


On Church Island, reached by a causeway from the town, there is the 14th-century **St Tysilio's Church**, built on the site of a foundation by St Tysilio in AD630. The site is thought to have been visited by Archbishop Baldwin and Giraldus when they may have landed here in 1188. It can be reached by a short causeway from the Belgian Promenade.


For a place with a difference, **Pili Palas** (Butterfly Palace) is an interesting and unusual attraction that will delight everyone. The vast collection of exotic butterflies and birds, from all over the world, can be seen in tropical environments, where visitors can marvel at the colourful creatures and see the wonderful tropical plants. There is also a Tropical Hide, an amazing Ant Avenue and a Snake House, and while adults relax in Pili Palas' café, children can let off steam in the adventure play area.

## Isle of Anglesey

### Menai Bridge

 Menai Suspension Bridge











 St Tysilio's Church

 Pili Palas

Acting as a gateway to Anglesey, this largely Victorian town grew and developed after the construction of Thomas Telford's **Menai Suspension Bridge**, which connects the island to

Pili Palas Nature World, Menai Bridge



 historic building  museum and heritage  historic site  scenic attraction  flora and fauna  
 stories and anecdotes  famous people  art and craft  entertainment and sport  walks

## ORIEL GLYN DAVIES GALLERY

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Glyn Davies Photo Artist Ltd is the company name of the talented Glyn Davies, a man who has made an impressive name for himself amongst contemporary photographers with a recent highest accolade, when the Prime Minister David Cameron purchased two of Glyn's books, "Anglesey Landscapes Volumes 1 and 2" as a personal wedding gift for the Royal couple, Prince William and Catherine Middleton!

Glyn comes from generations of artists and art lecturers. Following a one year Arts Foundation Course at the highly respected Falmouth School of Art in Cornwall, he left to take a degree in "Photography, Film & Television" at Harrow in London. On completion in 1987 he started freelancing for magazine clients, especially yachting and countryside titles such as Classic Boat, Yachting World and Country Living.

Over his career he has undertaken numerous commissions for clients including National Grid, National Trust, Midland Mainline Railways, BBC and S4C TV. For thirteen years he was a photography tutor at the University of Wales. He has featured in various TV programmes including the BBC's "Welsh Journeys" and "Weatherman Walking"; ITV's "Tidal Wales" and S4C's "Sioe Gelf" and "Wedi 7" but also BBC Radio Wales' "Mouse-mat" "Jamie & Louise" and the "Roy Noble Show". He has also self-published three books about his Welsh works, "Anglesey landscapes" Volumes 1 & 2, and "Nant Gwrtheyrn - The Enchantment". He has been honoured with the prestige of various solo exhibitions, most notably at the Royal Festival Hall in London, Wales Millennium Centre and the Kooywood Gallery in Cardiff, Oriel Ynys Mon on Anglesey and the Williamson Municipal Art Gallery on the Wirral.

In 2002 Glyn established his own studio and gallery in Menai Bridge on the beautiful Isle of Anglesey. The Oriel Glyn Davies Gallery occupies two floors of Waverley House which is centrally located in the town.

With evocative music playing throughout the gallery and no high-powered sales pressure from staff, visitors are welcome to simply browse and enjoy.

Equally with the artist available daily, you will be able to discuss Glyn's work with him, and purchase prints and Limited Editions should you desire. Indeed many of these Limited Edition prints are held in private and public collections worldwide.

Glyn's passion for landscape and the great outdoors, which started as a young child brought up in windswept Cornwall, is matched only by his passion for the perfect print, something his discerning customers can testify to. A visit to the gallery will show guests all too clearly how well Glyn's work befits its fine-art title.










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## Around Menai Bridge

### BEAUMARIS

*4 miles NE of Menai Bridge of the A545*

-  Beaumaris Castle  Courthouse
-  Museum of Childhood Memories
-  Beaumaris Lifeboat Station
-  Parish Church of St Mary and St Nicholas
-  Beaumaris Gaol  Menai Strait Regatta

An attractive and elegant town, Beaumaris was granted a charter by Edward I in 1294 and it adopted the Norman name beau marais, which translates as 'beautiful marsh'. The lawned seafront, now with its elegant Georgian and Victorian terraces, was once a marsh that protected the approaches to **Beaumaris Castle**. Often cited as the most technically perfect medieval castle in Britain, Beaumaris











Castle was the last of Edward I's "Iron Ring" of fortresses built to stamp his authority on the Welsh. Begun in 1295, and designed by the king's military architect, James of St George, this was to be his largest and most ambitious project. Regarded as a pinnacle of military architecture of the time, with a concentric defence rather than the traditional keep and bailey, the outer walls contained 16 towers, while the inner walls were 43 feet high and up to 16 feet thick in places. It was never actually completed, as the money ran out before the fortifications reached their full planned height. Perhaps a measure of the castle's success was that, unlike other castles built by Edward I, it never experienced military action. Now a World Heritage Site and in the hands of CADW (Welsh Historic Monuments), Beaumaris Castle is still virtually surrounded by its original moat. There was also a tidal

### ARIANDY

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Ariandy is an elegant four star Grade II listed Georgian town house located in the centre of the historic town of Beaumaris, close to the Castle, the Courthouse, the gaol and the parish church. Above what was formerly a bank and which is now a successful contemporary art gallery (Oriol Janet Bell) the property has recently been completely refurbished resulting in spacious four star self catering accommodation of a high standard with everything needed for a short or long break in outstanding comfort for up to nine guests. On the first floor are fitted kitchen with a roomy breakfast area where guests can eat together, a large lounge with four inviting sofas and digital TV and a bay window overlooking historic Castle Street and the Bull Hotel, a double bedroom and a bath/shower room with separate WC. On the floor above are three further bedrooms – a twin, a double with sea view and a spacious family room with double and single bed – a shower room and WC. To the rear of the property is a secluded walled sunny courtyard with a decking area – a delightful suntrap where guests can relax with a drink after a day's sightseeing. Ariandy, which is open all year round, is an ideal base for exploring the region and the town with its numerous restaurants and shops. Attractions include sandy beaches, the coastal footpath, the hills and mountains, yachting and golf.

-  historic building  museum and heritage  historic site  scenic attraction  flora and fauna
-  stories and anecdotes  famous people  art and craft  entertainment and sport  walks



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dock here for ships coming in through a channel in the marshes – an iron ring where vessels of up to 40 tons once docked still hangs from the wall.

The **Parish Church of St Mary and St Nicholas** dates from the 14th century, and was originally the church for the castle garrison. It has noteworthy 16th-century choir stalls and the stone coffin of Princess Joan, wife of Llywelyn the Great and illegitimate daughter of King John. For many years the coffin was used as a drinking trough for horses. The building has four clocks on its tower, and it is said that Richard Rowlands, who was about to be hanged in the old gaol nearby, cursed the clock facing the gaol, saying that it would never tell the same time as the other three. It never did, until it was found out that the prevailing southwest winds were interfering with the hands. This was rectified and the clock has shown the correct time ever since.

Although Beaumarais saw little or no military action, the town briefly enjoyed notoriety as a haven for pirates, as well as being a busy trading port. With the advent of steam ships and paddle boats, the resort developed during Victorian times as visitors from Liverpool and elsewhere took the sea trip down to the town. It is now a popular place with the yachting fraternity due to its facilities and involvement in the annual **Menai Strait Regatta**.

While having connections with the sea trade and developing as a holiday resort, Beaumarais was at one time also an administrative and legal centre for the island. The **Courthouse**, dating from 1614,

is open to the public during the summer and, although it was renovated in the 19th century, much of its original Jacobean interior remains. It was here, in 1773, that Mary Hughes stood in the dock and was sentenced to transportation for seven years after she had been found guilty of stealing a bed gown valued at six pence!

Close by is **Beaumaris Gaol**, which was designed as a model prison by Hansom in 1829. In this monument to Victorian law and order, the last man to hang was Richard Rowlands, who cursed the church clock opposite as he climbed to the scaffold in 1862. Today's visitors can relive those days of harsh punishment as well as view the cells and the treadmill and follow the route taken by the condemned men to their rendezvous with the hangman.

An equally interesting place for all the family to visit is the **Museum of Childhood Memories** in Castle Street. It is a treasure house of nostalgia with a collection of over 2,000 items in nine different rooms. Each one has its own theme, such as entertainment, pottery and glass, and clockwork tin-plate toys. Visitors can wander around and see the amazing variety of toys, which illustrate the



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changing habits of the nation over the past 150 years.

## LLANFAES

*5 miles NE of Menai Bridge off the B5109*


 **Parish Church of St Catherine**

Now a quiet and sedate place, Llanfaes was a busy commercial village long before the establishment of Beaumaris as one of the island's major centres, and travellers from the mainland arrived here after crossing the Menai Strait from Aber and the Lavan Sands.

In 1237, Llywelyn the Great founded a monastery in the village over the tomb of Joan, his wife and the illegitimate daughter of King John. The tomb can now be seen in St Mary's Church, Beaumaris, where it was moved at the time of the Dissolution. In 1295, Edward I moved the inhabitants of Llanfaes to Newborough so that he could use the stone in the town to build Beaumaris Castle. During World War II, flying boats were built at a factory near the village. The **Parish Church of St Catherine** dates from 1845, and replaces an earlier church. It is an imposing, steepled building that seems much too large for the village.

## LLANGOED

*6 miles NE of Menai Bridge on the B5109*

 **Castell Aberlleiniog**



 **Haulfre Stables**

In Edwardian times, this historic village was a popular resort with the lower middle classes who came here to relax in boarding houses by the sea. Llangoed's seaside charm is enhanced by its pastoral setting where a walk downstream, alongside the river,

leads to **Castell Aberlleiniog**, found in the midst of some trees. This was originally a timber castle, built in around 1090 by Hugh Lupus, Earl of Chester, who, along with Hugh the Proud, Earl of Shrewsbury, exacted great cruelty on the Welsh. Lupus was later killed during an attack on the castle by Magnus, King of Norway, when he was struck in the eye by an arrow. The ruins of the bailey, which was constructed later, are still visible. Close by is the site of a battle where, in AD809, the Saxons were, albeit briefly, victorious over the defending Welsh. **Haulfre Stables** is a small equestrian museum housed in a historic stable block and containing a collection of Victorian harnesses and saddlery, carts and carriages.

## PENMON

*7 miles NE of Menai Bridge off the B5109*

 **Penmon Priory**  **Parish Church of St Seiriol**











 **Dovecote**  **Puffin Island**  **St Seiriol's Well**

On the eastern tip of Anglesey, this is a beauty spot whose lovely views across the Menai Strait go some way to explaining why it was chosen, centuries earlier, as a religious site.

**Penmon Priory** was established by St Seiriol



Penmon Priory

 historic building  museum and heritage  historic site  scenic attraction  flora and fauna  
 stories and anecdotes  famous people  art and craft  entertainment and sport  walks

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in the 6th century, and in 1237, Llywelyn the Great gave the monastery and its estates to the prior of Puffin Island. St Seiriol was nicknamed Seiriol the Pale, as he used to meet and talk to St Cybi of Holyhead at a point halfway between their monasteries. Seiriol travelled westwards in the morning and eastwards in the evening, so the sun never tanned his face. St Cyri, on the other hand, travelled in the opposite direction, and was known as St Cyri the Tanned. Seiriol was eventually buried on nearby **Puffin Island**, where he had also founded a monastery. Once known as Priestholm and now often called Ynys Seiriol, this island is thought to have been connected to the mainland at one time, as St Seiriol was said to have a chapel across the bay in Penmaenmawr and ancient records tell of journeys between the two places. The remains of monastic buildings that date back to the 6th century can still be seen here. The island was so named because of the large puffin colonies that nested here. However, the numbers of the nesting birds declined in the 19th century partly due to rats on the island and also because the young birds were considered a delicacy when pickled.

The **Parish Church of St Seiriol**, originally the priory church, was rebuilt in the 12th century and contains wonderful examples of Norman architecture and a carved cross, recently moved to the church from the fields nearby, that shows influences from both Scandinavia and Ireland. The ruins of the priory's domestic buildings include a 13th-century wing with a refectory on the ground floor where traces of the seat used by the monk who read aloud during meals can still be seen.

A nearby **Dovecote**, built in around 1600 by Sir Richard Bulkeley, contains nearly 1,000

nesting places. A path, beginning across the road, leads up to **St Seiriol's Well**, which was probably the site of the original 6th-century priory. Although the upper part of the building covering the well appears to date from the 18th century, the lower portion is much older and could indeed incorporate something from the priory's original chapel.

An abandoned quarry close to the village once provided stone for Beaumaris Castle, as well as the Telford and Stephenson bridges, which link the island and the Welsh mainland.

## PENTRAETH

*4 miles NW of Menai Bridge on the A5025*

 Parish Church of St Mary  Plas Gwyn

 Three Leaps

Before land reclamation, this sleepy village stood on the edge of Traeth Coch (known in English as Red Wharf Bay). Its name reflects this, as it means head of the beach. At low tide, the almost 15 square miles of sand supported a flourishing cockling industry. Nowadays, this is a popular place for a holiday, even though it is not ideal for swimming due to the strong tidal currents. The **Parish Church of St Mary** dates originally from the 14th century, and in the graveyard is the mass grave of people who perished on the *Royal Charter*, a sailing ship that was blown onto the rocks near the village as it sailed from Australia to Liverpool (see also Moelfre). There are no names on the stones, as very few bodies were identified. Close to **Plas Gwyn**, an 18th-century Georgian mansion, is the **Three Leaps** – three small stones in a row that commemorate a contest in AD580 between two rivals for the hand of the granddaughter of the warrior Geraint. The contest was won by the man who could leap the furthest, in this case, by a champion named

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Hywel. The stones mark his efforts, in possibly what we now know as the triple jump. The loser is said to have died of a broken heart.

## BENLLECH

*6½ miles N of Menai Bridge on the A5025*

Castell Mawr Goronwy Owen

With its excellent beach to attract holidaymakers, Benllech is probably the most popular resort on Anglesey, but those coming here should take care as there are strong tidal currents and the sands can be treacherous. This resort has another claim to fame, as the birthplace of the poet **Goronwy Owen**. He lived between 1723 and 1769, and spent his last years in Virginia as the rector of St Andrew's Church in Laurenceville. His fame rests on an output of just 55 poems.

Traces of a hill fort, **Castell Mawr**, can be found on the west side of Red Wharf Bay, and on the evidence of coins found here, the site could once have been occupied by the Romans.

## MOELFRE

*9 miles N of Menai Bridge on the A5108*

Parish Church of St Gallgo Royal Charter  
 Lligwy Burial Chamber Ynys Moelfre  
 Seawatch Centre Din Lligwy Village  
 Lifeboat Station

This is a charming coastal village with a sheltered, pebbled beach, attractive cottages and sandy beaches to both the north and the south. Fame, however, came to Moelfre in an unfortunate and bizarre way via its lifeboat, which, over the years, has been involved in many rescues, two of which are worthy of mention.

## CROMLECH MANOR FARM

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*website: www.angleseyhorseriding.co.uk*



**Cromlech Manor Farm** is a family-run Stud Farm, Livery Stable, Riding School and Pony Club Centre set in some 35 acres of peaceful countryside, and boasting its own ancient monument - a cromlech or ancient stone burial chamber.

Drawing on more than 30 years experience, the Lomas family can cater for all your riding needs. They have a good selection of horses and ponies catering for varying capabilities, from novice to advanced horses and riders, and can provide for all ages. All lessons are taught in the outdoor menage. Lessons are group lessons, unless you specifically ask for a private lesson, and include half-hour, full hour and a 40 minute jumping lesson.

For the more experienced rider hacks out on the road of approximately 1 hour are available. And if you have always dreamt of riding on the beach, at Cromlech you can. They take experienced riders only on beach rides along beautiful Benllech Bay that last for approximately one and a half hours. Cromlech also offers a full livery service and if you would like to stay in this lovely corner of Anglesey, a caravan is available that can sleep up to 5 people, and parking for horse boxes to 'bring your pony on holiday'.



historic building museum and heritage historic site scenic attraction flora and fauna  
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Returning to Liverpool from Australia in October 1859, laden with cargo and passengers, including gold prospectors coming home after making their fortunes in the Australian Gold Rush, the **Royal Charter** sank. A rigged iron vessel and the pride of the merchant fleet, the ship was all set to make the long passage in record time but, while sheltering from a hurricane in Moelfre Bay, she foundered with the loss of 450 passengers and crew. Only 39 people survived, and many believe that the gold still lies with the wreck out in the bay. Efforts have been made to recover the lost fortune with varying but not overwhelming degrees of success and it has been said that the larger houses around Moelfre were paid for with gold washed ashore from the wreck. This is despite customs officers swamping the village in an attempt to ensure that any salvaged gold ended in the Exchequer rather than in the hands of the locals. Charles Dickens visited the site on New Year's Eve 1859, and apparently based a story on the disaster in *The Uncommercial Traveller* (see also Pentraeth).

One hundred years later, almost to the day, in October 1959, the coaster *Hindlea*, struggling in foul weather, had eight crew members rescued by the Moelfre Lifeboat. The rescue earned Richard Evans, the lifeboat's coxswain, his second RNLI gold medal for gallantry. The **Lifeboat Station** can be visited between 9am and 4pm, with crew training at 7pm on Wednesdays.

At Llanallgo, between Moelfre and Dulas, is the mainly 15th-century **Parish Church of St Gallgo**, with its ancient bell, one of the oldest in the country. It was struck in the 13th century, and bears the inscription *Ave Maria Gracia Plena* (Hail Mary, Full of Grace), as well as the imprint of an Edward I coin struck in

1281. In the graveyard is a memorial to the victims of the *Royal Charter* tragedy. St Gallgo is famous as being the brother of Gildas, the 6th century historian of Britain, who wrote *De Excidio et Conquestu Britanniae*. He was born in the Kingdom of Strathclyde in Scotland, which at that time had strong ties with Wales, and even spoke the same language.

The **Seawatch Centre** has displays and exhibits about Anglesey's rich maritime heritage, including the village's lifeboat. Beyond the station is a small outcrop of rocks, **Ynys Moelfre**, a favourite spot for seabirds and, occasionally, porpoises. About a mile inland from the village, off the narrow road, is the impressive **Lligwy Burial Chamber**, a Bronze Age tomb with a huge capstone supported by stone uprights, which lies half hidden in a pit dug out of the rock. Close by is **Din Lligwy Village**, the remains of a Romano British settlement that covers over half an acre. Certainly occupied around the 4th century AD, after the Roman garrison on Anglesey had been vacated, some of the stone walls of the buildings can still be seen and excavations of the site have unearthed pottery, coins and evidence of metal working from that period. Nearby are the ruins of the 14th century Capel Lligwy.

## LLANDDYFNAN

5 miles NW of Menai Bridge on the B5109

 Stone Science  Llanddyfnan Standing Stone


To the west of the village lies **Stone Science**, an unusual attraction that tells the story of the earth from its beginning to the present – a journey spanning 650 million years. The museum illustrates the science with displays of fossils, crystals and artefacts, and there are numerous and varied items for sale in the Stone Science shop. Nearly opposite is the

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eight-foot-high **Llanddyfnan Standing Stone**.

## LLANGEFNI

*6 miles NW of Menai Bridge on the B5420*

 **Oriel Ynys Môn**

The island's main market and administrative centre, Llangefni is also the home of **Oriel Ynys Môn** (the Anglesey Heritage Centre), an attractive art gallery and heritage centre, built in 1991, which gives an insight into the history of Anglesey. From prehistoric times to the present day, the permanent exhibition covers a series of themes including Stone Age Hunters, Druids, Medieval Society and Legends.


Llyn Cefni Reservoir to the northwest of the town is an important wildlife habitat and nature reserve overlooked by a hide; it also provides a pleasant picnic area. On the

northwest edge of town by the River Cefni, The Dingle is a local nature reserve with footpaths through mature woodland. The A5114, which connects Llangefni to the A5, is the shortest A road in the British Isles.

## LLANFAIR PG

*1 mile W of Menai Bridge off the A5*

 **Railway Station**  **Llanfairpwllgwyngyll**

 **Marquess of Anglesey Column**

**Llanfairpwllgwyngyll**, often called Llanfair PG, is the village with the world's longest place name. The full, tongue-twisting name is: Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwyl-lantysiliogogogh and the translation is even longer – St Mary's Church in a hollow of white hazel near to a rapid whirlpool and St Tysilio's Church near the red cave. The name is

## ORIEL DANIEL GALLERY

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The charming **Oriel Daniel Gallery** occupies a prominent double fronted building on the High Street in Llangefni on Anglesey. The gallery was opened in 2009 by young artist and entrepreneur Rhys G Morris as a tribute to the late Sir Kyffin Williams, who lived in the town of Llangefni. Inside you will find original paintings, limited edition prints and hand mounted and framed greeting cards depicting local landscapes, seascapes and figures. The work of Sir Kyffin Williams is displayed here alongside the work of other talented artists, including Rhys himself.

As well as viewing the fine artwork, visitors can also treat their taste buds to a Welsh Cream Tea or light lunch in the gallery tearoom or outside in the courtyard. You can choose from freshly prepared sandwiches, scones with clotted cream, Bara Brith and Welsh cakes. All ingredients are sourced locally (except the Cornish clotted cream) and tables can be reserved for up to 10 people.

There is also a picture framing service available. Rhys has years of experience and offers outstanding craftsmanship, making bespoke frames to match your chosen artwork and even matching the decor of your home. Oriel Daniel Gallery is open Monday to Saturday between 10am and 5pm.



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said to have been invented, in humorous reference to the burgeoning tourist trade, by a local man. Whether this is true or not, it has certainly done the trick, as many visitors stop by initially out of curiosity at the name.


The village, overlooking the Menai Strait, is where the Britannia Bridge crosses to the mainland. The **Marquess of Anglesey Column** looks out from here over to Snowdonia, and the quite splendid views from the top of the column are available to anyone wishing to negotiate the spiral staircase of some 115 steps. The column was finished two years after the battle of Waterloo, and the statue on top of the column was added, in 1860, after the death of Henry Paget, Earl of Uxbridge and 1st Marquess of Anglesey, whom it commemorates. Paget fought alongside the Duke of Wellington at Waterloo, where he lost a leg to one of the last shots of the battle. He lived to be 85, having twice been Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland after his military career ended (see also Plas Newydd).

The last public toll house, designed by Thomas Telford when he was working on the London-Holyhead road in the 1820s, stands in the village; it still displays the tolls charged in 1895, the year the toll house closed. Next door is the modest building where, in 1915, the first Women's Institute in Britain was founded. The movement originated in Canada earlier in the same year.

However, the village's most famous building is its **Railway Station** – the often filmed station whose platform has the longest station sign and where the longest platform ticket in Britain could be purchased. Today, visitors can see a replica of the Victorian ticket office, examine some rare miniature steam trains and wander around the numerous craft and souvenir shops that can now be found here.

## LLANGADWALADR


*10½ miles W of Menai Bridge on the A4080*

 Parish Church of St Cadwaladr


Around the time that Aberffraw was the capital of Gwynedd, this small village was said to have been the burial place of the Welsh princes. The **Parish Church of St Cadwaladr** was founded in AD615 as part of a royal monastery, and was probably built of wattle and daub – wattle walls covered in dried mud to provide stability and waterproofing – as the village's early name was Eglwys Ail, meaning 'wattle church'. The present building dates from the 12th century, and has a memorial stone to Cadfan, King of Gwynedd, who died in AD625. It is embedded in the church wall, and reads *King Cadfan, the Wisest and Most Renowned of All Kings Lies Here*. Cadwaladr was Cadfan's grandson, and he died in Rome in AD682. His body was brought here for burial.

## ABERFFRAW

*12½ miles W of Menai Bridge on the A4080*

 Parish Church of St Beuno

 Church of St Cywfan  Llys Llywelyn Museum

 Din Dryfol Burial Chamber

 Barclodiad y Gawres Burial Chamber

Though this was the capital of Gwynedd between the 7th and 13th centuries, and therefore one of the most important places in Wales, there remains little trace of those times. In fact, no one quite knows where the court buildings were situated. However, a Norman arch, set into the **Parish Church of St Beuno** is said to be from the chapel of the royal court. The church as we see it today dates largely from the 16th century. The **Llys Llywelyn Museum**, although modest, has exhibitions recounting the area's fascinating history.

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On an island just offshore is the **Church of St Cywfan**. It dates originally from the 13th century, though what we see today mainly dates from the 14th and 15th centuries. At one time, the building was much bigger, but when erosion started to bite at the island, and old graves started to fall into the shoreline, parts of it were demolished. By 1891 it was roofless, but money was eventually raised to refurbish it.

Inland, the **Din Dryfol Burial Chamber** provides further evidence of Iron Age life on the island while, to the north of Aberffraw, on the cliff tops above Porth Trecastell, is the **Barclodiad y Gawres Burial Chamber**.

Considered to be one of the finest of its kind, this burial chamber, along with Bryn Celli Ddu, contains some notable murals. This area is also known as Cable Bay, as it is here that a transatlantic cable came ashore.

## PLAS NEWYDD

*2 miles SW of Menai Bridge off the A4080*

 Plas Newydd  Bryn Celli Ddu








**Bryn Celli Ddu**, a wonderful example of a Bronze Age passage grave, lies up a narrow country road close to **Plas Newydd** (NT),

which is situated on the banks of the Menai Strait. The splendid mansion house was designed by James Wyatt, and is surrounded by gardens and parkland laid out in the 18th century by Humphry Repton. Not only are there fabulous views over the water to Snowdonia from the lawns but there is a woodland walk, an Australian arboretum and a formal Italian style garden terrace.

As well as Britain's largest collection of works by Rex Whistler, the house contains a military museum. It is not to be confused with Plas Newydd near Llangollen.

## BRYNSIENCYN

*5 miles SW of Menai Bridge on the A4080*











 Tre-Drwy  Caer Leb  
 Bodowyr Burial Chamber  
 Castell Bryn Gwyn  Foel Farm Park  
 Anglesey Sea Zoo  Sir Ellis Jones Ellis-Griffith

Close to this village there was once an important centre of Druid worship, but no signs remain of the temple that stood at **Tre-Drwy**. There are, however, several other interesting remains in the area. Just to the west of the village lies **Caer Leb**, an Iron Age earthwork consisting of a pentagonal

enclosure 200 feet by 160 feet encircled by banks and ditches, while, just a short distance away is **Bodowyr Burial Chamber**, a massive stone that is, seemingly, delicately perched upon three upright stones. To the south of the burial chamber, and just a mile west of Brynsiencyn, are the earthwork remains of **Castell Bryn Gwyn**, a



Bryn Celli Ddu, Plas Newydd

 historic building  museum and heritage  historic site  scenic attraction  flora and fauna  
 stories and anecdotes  famous people  art and craft  entertainment and sport  walks



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site that has been excavated and shows traces of having been used from as far back as the New Stone Age through to the time of the Roman occupation of Britain.

Back in the village, and found down the small road leading to the shore is **Foel Farm Park**, a real working farm that offers visitors the opportunity to bottle feed lambs and baby calves, cuddle rabbits, see and help with milking and enjoy the homemade ice cream. There are also covered areas for rainy days, which include an adventure play den and an indoor picnic room.

Also overlooking the Menai Strait is the **Anglesey Sea Zoo**, an award-winning attraction that takes visitors beneath the waves and into the underwater world of a wide variety of sea creatures. The imaginative and innovative displays allow visitors a unique view of these interesting beasts, which include sea

horses, oysters, conger eels and rays.

In the graveyard of the Victorian parish church is a monument to the grandly named **Sir Ellis Jones Ellis-Griffith**, MP for Anglesey from 1895 until 1918. Though born in Birmingham, he was brought up in the village, and died in 1926.

## DWYRAN

*8 miles SW of Menai Bridge off the A4080*

### Bird World

Just outside the village lies **Bird World**, a wonderful family attraction set in extensive parkland, with views over to the Snowdonia mountain range, where visitors can admire the wide variety of birds on display as well as picnic in the beautiful surroundings of the lake. There is also a small animal farm and pet area for the children along with a huge indoor play barn.

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## The Old Barn

Llangaffo, Isle of Anglesey











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 stories and anecdotes  famous people  art and craft  entertainment and sport  walks

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## NEWBOROUGH

9 miles SW of Menai Bridge on the A4080

-  Church of St Dwywnen  Abermenai Point
-  Llanddwyn Island
-  Anglesey Model Village and Gardens
-  Newborough Warren  Charles Tunnicliffe











Founded in 1303 by the former inhabitants of Llanfaes, who had been moved here by Edward I, the village stands on the edge of a National Nature Reserve that covers 1,566 acres of dunes, coast and forest. Among the many footpaths through the reserve, there are several forest trails that show how the Forestry Commission is constantly trying to stabilise the dunes. **Newborough Warren** is so called because, before myxomatosis, about 80,000 rabbits were trapped here annually. There is a route through the warren to **Abermenai Point**, but the way can be dangerous and advice concerning tidal conditions should be

sought before considering the walk.

**Llanddwyn Island** is also accessible on foot, but again, tidal conditions should be carefully studied before setting out. On the island stand the ruins of the early medieval **Church of St Dwywnen**. She is the Welsh equivalent of St Valentine, and even today St Dwywnen's Day is still celebrated in some parts of Wales. Though she is the patron saint of love, her own story was far from lovely. She was one of the 24 daughters of Brychan Brycheiniog, and said to be the prettiest. She fell in love with a man called Maelon, but when he discovered that she was already promised to someone else, he raped her and left her. She prayed to God to let Maelon truly repent, and asked for two further wishes. God obliged. The other two being that he protected the hopes and wishes of true loves and that she should never marry. Also on the island is a holy well, in which, it was once thought, a



Llanddwyn Island, Newborough

-  historic building  museum and heritage  historic site  scenic attraction  flora and fauna
-  stories and anecdotes  famous people  art and craft  entertainment and sport  walks










sacred fish swam that could predict the future.

Until the 1920s, marram grass, which has been grown for conservation purposes from Elizabethan times, was also a mainstay of the area, helping to sustain a cottage industry in the production of ropes, baskets, matting and thatching materials. A high embankment was built here in the 18th century by Thomas Telford to stop the sea, which had previously almost cut the island into two.

**Charles Tunncliffe**, the renowned wildlife artist, had a studio on the island for over 30 years and Anglesey Council has purchased a collection of his marvellous work, which can be seen at the Oriel (Gallery) Ynys Môn in Llangefni. On the A4080 signposted from Newborough, Newborough Forest is a pine forest with rides, glades and miles of walks.

Situated between Newborough and Dwyran lies **Anglesey Model Village and Gardens**, a delightful place where visitors can wander through the attractive landscaped gardens and see many of the island's many landmarks – all built to one twelfth scale. There is a children's ride-on train, as well as the garden railway, and the gardens themselves are particularly beautiful, with many water features and a good collection of plants and trees.

## Holyhead

 Parish Church St Cybi	 Eglwys Bedd	
 Lifeboat Station	 Four Mile Bridge	
 Gogarth Bay	 Salt Island	 Trearddur Bay
 Cytiau'r Gwyddelod	 Trefignath	
 South Stack	 Porth Dafarch	
 Ellin's Tower	 Canolfan Ucheldre Centre	
 Caer y Twr	 Breakwater Quarry Country Park	

Holyhead Mountain (Mynydd Twr) rises to 720 feet behind this town, which is usually called

the largest on Anglesey though it actually sits on another island off Anglesey's coast, Holy Island. A busy rail and ferry terminal, especially for travellers to and from Ireland, Holyhead has all the facilities needed to cater for visitors passing through. It is also, despite being something of an industrial and commercial centre, a seaside resort. Its origins lie back in the times of the Romans and the early Celtic Christians. Parts of the **Parish Church St Cybi** date from the 14th to the 17th century and it is situated within the partially surviving walls of the small Roman fort, Caer Gybi (the source of Holyhead's Welsh name), and on the site of a 6th-century chapel. St Cybi, who died in AD554, was the brother of St David, patron saint of Wales, and he came here at the end of his life. His friend was St Seiriol of Penmon (see also Penmon). The shrine and relics of St Cybi were removed to Dublin by Henry IV's army when it invaded Anglesey, but were lost at the Reformation. Close to the church is a smaller church, **Eglwys Bedd** (Church of the Grave), which reputedly contains the tomb of Seregri, an Irish warrior who was repelled by the Welsh chief, Caswallon Lawhir, in AD550. The town's triumphal arches, built in 1821, commemorate George IV's visit here as well as the end of the A5, the major road from London.

The interesting **Canolfan Ucheldre Centre** is housed in an old convent chapel. It is an arts centre for northwest Wales opened in 1991, and presents both film, music and drama events as well as holding all manner of art and craft exhibitions and workshops. **Salt Island** (Ynys Halen), close to the town centre, is self-explanatory: a factory was built here to extract salt from the seawater. Rock salt was added to improve the sea salt's quality, and when an excise duty was charged, smuggling flourished, particularly between



Gogarth Bay, Holyhead

Four Mile Bridge and the Isle of Man, where salt was duty free.

While the town itself is not without interest, it is the immediate surrounding area that draws most visitors to Holyhead. **Four Mile Bridge** connects Holy Island to Anglesey, and was so called, not because it is four miles long, but because it is four miles from the ferry terminal in Holyhead. Its old name was Pont Rhyd Bont. **Breakwater Quarry Country Park**, just northwest of the town, incorporates Britain's largest breakwater. Designed by James Meadow and started in 1845, the structure, which shields an area of 667 acres, took 28 years to construct. From the country park there are many walks along the coast, including a route to **South Stack**. This is a reserve of cliffs and heath teeming with birdlife, including puffins, guillemots and

razorbills. The RSPB visitor centre is open daily, the café daily in summer, and the lighthouse is open daily in summer for guided tours. The lighthouse, one of the most impressive in Wales, was built in 1809 and stands on a beautiful but dangerous site reached by a steep stone stairway of over 400 steps. Above the harbour and breakwater, is a memorial to Captain Skinner, who drowned when his packet boat, *Escape*, was lost in 1832.

At the summit of Holyhead Mountain, from where, on a clear day, Snowdonia, the Isle of Man and the Mourne Mountains in Ireland can be seen, there is evidence of an ancient settlement. The remains of **Caer y Twr**, a hill fort, are visible and, close by, is **Cytiau'r Gwyddelod**, a hut settlement from the 2nd century.

Between South Stack and North Stack lies



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**Gogarth Bay**, where the RSPB sea bird centre includes a cavern, known as Parliament House Cave, which is used by a profusion of sea birds such as puffins, guillemots and even falcons. Visitors here can also watch the thousands of cliff-nesting birds via live television pictures, and enjoy the beautiful cliff top walks. **Ellin's Tower**, in the centre, is another spot favoured by ornithologists.

Aqua diving, windsurfing, water skiing and fishing are some of the many attractions of **Trearddur Bay**, a popular part of Anglesey's extensive coastline that lies just to the southwest of Holyhead. With large sandy beaches, clear water and safe bathing, it is obviously popular. The Georgian house, Towyn Lodge, on the south side of the bay, played host to Thomas Telford while he was working on what is now the A5 road in the

19th century. A portion of the bay, **Porth Dafarch**, is owned by the National Trust. **Trefignath** is a chambered cairn with two tall pillars at each side of the entrance.

Down the years, the crew of Holyhead's lifeboats have won an amazing 70 awards. The **Lifeboat Station** can be visited on Sunday mornings, when crew training takes place at 10am.

## Around Holyhead

### RHOSCOLYN

*4½ miles S of Holyhead off the B4545*











 Parish Church of St Gwenfaen  Bwa Gwyn  
 St Gwenfaen's Well  Rhoscolyn Head

The name of this village means the moor of the column, the column in question thought to be a Roman one. It was once home to a thriving oyster industry that is now, sadly, in decline. China clay was also once quarried here, while the local marble was used in the construction of Worcester, Bristol and Peterborough Cathedrals.

The **Parish Church of St Gwenfaen** was originally founded in the 6th century by St Gwenfaen. **St Gwenfaen's Well** was said to have properties that cured, in particular, mental illness. **Rhoscolyn Head** is a superb headland ideal for cliff walking, and there are splendid views northwards over Trearddur Bay and, southwards, over Cymyran Bay. At **Bwa Gwyn** (White Arch) is a memorial to Tyger, a remarkable dog who, in 1817, led the four-man crew from a sinking ketch to safety. After dragging the cabin boy ashore and returning for the ship's captain, the dog collapsed and died from exhaustion.

Bwa Gwyn, Rhoscolyn



 historic building  museum and heritage  historic site  scenic attraction  flora and fauna  
 stories and anecdotes  famous people  art and craft  entertainment and sport  walks

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## CIGYDD Y FALI BUTCHERS

*The Old Court House, Station Road, Y Fali, Anglesey LL65 3EB*

*Tel: 01407 742391*

*e-mail: cigydyfali@aol.com website: www.valleybutchers.co.uk*

**Cigydd Y Fali** translates as The Valley Butchers and for many years Karl Jones and his team have been feeding the local population on the very best and succulent meats available - Karl achieving local acclaim when the shop won 11 Gold Awards for Excellence for their meat products.


Karl sells only meat reared on Anglesey that has been handpicked by himself, and specialises in tender lamb, tasty pork and well hung beef, with people travelling from all over the island - and even from the mainland - to buy his high-quality produce. It also sells award-winning pies and sausages, which are made on the premises, as well as locally produced eggs and cheeses. Its cooked meats are all produced on the premises, ensuring maximum flavour and freshness, and the shop sells to all the major hotels and restaurants in the area.

The shop is noted for its value-for-money prices, and also features a section selling fresh fruit and vegetables. This area of Anglesey is holiday country, with many self-catering cottages, campsites and caravan parks. So the shop is also popular with holidaymakers, who appreciate the immaculately clean premises, the friendly staff and the help and advice that is always given when choosing a cut of meat.



## VALLEY

*3½ miles SE of Holyhead on the A5*

 Llyn Penrhyn


Valley sits on Anglesey, immediately opposite Holy Island. It was thought to have gained its name while Thomas Telford was cutting his road through the small hill here. Centuries earlier this was the home of Iron Age man whose weapons and horse trappings found in the area are now on display in the National Museum of Wales.



However, Valley is perhaps better known today for the nearby airfield established here during World War II as a fighter pilot base. In 1943, the American Air Force expanded the base's capability for use as an Atlantic terminal and now the RAF uses it for training flights

and for Air/Sea rescue. Opposite the barracks is **Llyn Penrhyn**, a complex of reed-fringed lakes with lots of wildfowl and dragonflies. Before the bridges to Holyhead were built, during the construction of the A5, the crossing to the town was made via Four Mile Bridge (see Holyhead).











## RHOSNEIGR

*7½ miles SE of Holyhead on the A4080*

 Parish Church of St Maelog  Cymyran Bay

 Tywyn Trewan Common  Norman Court

This small resort is situated in a quiet spot, close to the sandy beaches and rocky outcrops of **Cymyran Bay**. The River Crigyll, which runs into the sea by the town, was the haunt, in the 18th century, of the

 historic building  museum and heritage  historic site  scenic attraction  flora and fauna  
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“Wreckers of Crigyll”, who were famous for luring ships onto the rocks. Tried at Beaumaris in 1741, where the group of desperate men were found guilty and hanged, the wreckers became the subject of a ballad, *The Hanging of the Thieves of Crigyll*. In March 1883, the tea clipper the **Norman Court** ran aground off the coast near the village, though not as a result of wreckers. She was one of the fastest and best of the tea clippers of the day, and had become a famous name. She was carrying, not tea, but 1,000 tons of sugar for Greenock in Scotland. Twenty men were rescued from the ship, and two were lost. For over 24 hours the men had been clinging to the ship’s rigging. For many years after, her wreckage could still be seen.

The **Parish Church of St Maelog** dates from 1848-49, though it looks much older. There has been a church on the site since at least the 6th century, when St Maelog chose this site to establish a church and monastery. He was the brother of Gildas and St Gallgo (see Moelfre), and died in Brittany.

The 1,400 acres of gorse and dunes at **Tywyn Trewan Common** is a paradise for botanists and ornithologists.

## LLANFAIRYNGHORNWY

7 miles NE of Holyhead off the A5025

 The Skerries  Frances Williams







This village, on the approach to **Carmel Head**, has two claims to fame. It was here, in the 19th century, that **Frances Williams** founded the Anglesey Association for the Preservation of Life from Shipwreck. Along with her husband, who was the local rector, Frances raised funds for lifeboats on the island and, through her efforts, the first lifeboat station in the area was established. She was also noted as an artist, and some of her

drawings are held by the University of Wales at Bangor.

Lying two miles offshore from the point at Carmel Head are **The Skerries**, a group of windswept islets whose Welsh name, Ynysodd y Moelrhoniaid, means Island of Porpoises. On the islets stands the last lighthouse to be privately owned (ships had to pay a toll as they passed). When braziers stood there during the 18th century, they burnt approximately 100 tons of coal a night! Now automated and owned by Trinity House, its beam is rated at four million candles.

## CEMAES

11 miles NE of Holyhead off the A5025

 Parish Church of St Patrick Llanbadrig  
 Mynachdy  Ogof y March Glas  
 Wylfa Nuclear Power Station  Cemaes Bay  
 Parish Church of St Mechell, Llanfechell  
 North Anglesey Heritage Coast

Boasting two glorious, safe, sandy beaches, **Cemaes Bay** is a popular place on the island that was also once a favourite with smugglers. However, today, Cemaes is a quiet and picturesque fishing village, with a small tidal harbour with much to offer holidaymakers: wonderful walks, abundant wildlife, fishing, hotels, shops, pubs and also the opportunity to learn a little of the Welsh language. Cemaes sits in the middle of the **North Anglesey Heritage Coast**, and is the most northerly village in Wales.

**Ogof y March Glas** – Cave of the Blue Horse – on Cemaes Bay was named after an incident that took place over 200 years ago. Following a family dispute, a young man furiously galloped away from his house near the bay on his dappled grey horse. Blinded by rage, he galloped headlong over the cliff; only

his hat was ever seen again, although the carcass of his horse was found washed up in the cave.

At Llanbadrig, north of the village, is the **Parish Church of St Patrick**.

Badrig is Welsh for Patrick, and there are three churches in Wales dedicated to that particular saint. However, the one at Llanbadrig is the only one with a tangible connection to him. The original church dates from about AD440, and was founded by the great man himself after he was sent by Pope Celestine I to Ireland to spread Christianity. It is said he was shipwrecked on Yns Badrig, off the coast, but managed to get to land, where he took refuge in St Patrick's Cave on the shore close to where the church now stands. He found a well there with fresh drinking water, and founded the church in gratitude. The present church dates from the 15th century, though there is a more modern church in the village as well. At Llanfechell, south of the village, is the **Parish Church of St Mechell**; the nave and part of the chancel dates from the 13th century.

Around the headland at the western edge of the bay lies **Wylfa Nuclear Power Station**. Its visitor centre is the starting point for a guided tour of the station and also contains a mass of information about the nature trail surrounding the plant. Cemlyn Bay, home to thousands of terns between April and July, is managed as a nature reserve by the North Wales Wildlife Trust. **Mynachdy** contains old settlement sites and the remains of some long disused copper mines.



Parys Mountain Trig, Amlwch

## AMLWCH

*14 miles NE of Holyhead on the A5025*

Amlwch Railway Museum Parys Mountain

South of this seaside town lies the pock-marked **Parys Mountain**, which has provided copper for prospectors from as early as Roman times. In 1768 a copper boom helped make Anglesey the copper centre of the world, but by 1820 the rush was over as prices fell and the mineral deposits became exhausted. The harbour, which was built during more prosperous times, is now used mainly by pleasure craft. In its heyday, Amlwch had 6,000 inhabitants and 1,000 ale houses. The **Amlwch Railway Museum** has displays on trains and associated memorabilia.

## DULAS

*15 miles E of Holyhead off the A5025*

Ynys Dulas

A once thriving village, Dulas was, in the early 19th century, home to both a brickworks and a shipbuilding industry. Standing at the head of the Dulas River, that runs into the bay, the village overlooks **Ynys Dulas**, a small island, which lies a mile or so offshore and is the




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haunt of grey seals. On the island is a 19th century tower built as a beacon and a refuge for sailors; a former lady of Llysduelas manor house had food left there for stranded mariners.

## LLANERCHYMEDD

*11 miles E of Holyhead on the B5112*

 Parish Church of St Mary  Llyn Alaw

To the north of the village lies **Llyn Alaw**, Anglesey's largest lake, well known for its fine trout fishing as well as the abundant wildlife found around its shores. Covering some 770 acres, the lake is actually a man-made reservoir, produced by flooding marshland. It supplies most of the island's industrial and domestic needs. Some people actually believe that Llanerchymedd was the burial place of Mary, mother of Jesus. A book, *The Marian Conspiracy*, was even published claiming that the actual burial site is where the present **Parish Church of St Mary** now stands. This flies in the face of Roman Catholic dogma, which teaches that

Mary bodily ascended to heaven.

## LLANDDEUSANT

*6½ miles E of Holyhead off the A5025*

 Llynnon Mill  Bedd Branwen

This village is home to Anglesey's only stone tower working windmill, built in 1775–76 at a total cost of £529 11s 0d. Four storeys high, with a boat-shaped cap, it ceased milling by wind power in 1924, but was restored and opened to the public in 1984. **Llynnon Mill** not only mills stoneground flour for sale (wind and conditions willing) but also has an attractive craft shop and a popular tearoom for visitors to enjoy.

Tradition has it that the green mound, **Bedd Branwen**, near the River Alaw, is the grave of Branwen, the heroine of the Welsh epic, *Mabinogion*. Opened in 1813, it later revealed a rough baked clay urn containing fragments of burnt bone and ashes. Since the discovery of more funeral urns in 1967, the site has become even more significant.

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<i>Cadeirlan Bangor Cathedral, Bangor</i>	© Alan Fryer	pg 20	<i>Bwa Gwyn Natural Arch, Rhoscolyn</i>		
<i>Menai Suspension Bridge, Menai Bridge</i>				© Stephen Ehwyn Roddick	pg 41
	© Anne Burgess	pg 20	<i>Parys Mountain Trig, Amlwch</i>	© Iain Macaulay	pg 44

## TOWNS, VILLAGES AND PLACES OF INTEREST

### A

#### Aberffraw 35

- Barclodiad y Gawres Burial Chamber 36*
- Church of St Cynfan 36*
- Din Dryfol Burial Chamber 36*
- Llys Llywelyn Museum 36*
- Parish Church of St Beuno 36*

#### Abergele 8

- Abergele Train Disaster 8*
- Cefn-Yr-Ogo 8*
- Gwrych Castle 8*
- Parish Church of St Michael 8*

#### Abergwyngregyn 21

- Rhaeadr Aber Falls 21*
- The Cross 21*

#### Amlwch 44

- Amlwch Railway Museum 45*
- Parys Mountain 44*

### B

#### Bangor 19

- Aled Jones 21*
- Bangor Cathedral 19*
- Britannia Bridge 20*
- Bryn Terfel 21*
- Gwynedd Museum and Art Gallery 19*
- Menai Suspension Bridge 20*
- Penrhyn Castle 21*
- The Swellies 20*
- Theatre Gwynedd 19*
- University College of North Wales 20*
- Victoria Pier 21*

#### Beaumaris 28

- Beaumaris Castle 28*
- Beaumaris Gaol 29*
- Courthouse 29*
- Menai Strait Regatta 29*
- Museum of Childhood Memories 29*
- Parish Church of St Mary and St Nicholas 29*

#### Benllech 32

- Castell Mawr 32*
- Goronwy Owen 32*

#### Bethesda 22

- Carneddau Estate 22*
- Nant Ffroncon Pass 22*
- Penrhyn Slate Quarries 22*

#### Betws-y-Coed 19

#### Bodnant 13

- Bodnant Gardens 13*

#### Brynsiencyn 36

- Anglesey Sea Zoo 37*
- Bodowyr Burial Chamber 37*
- Caer Leab 37*
- Castell Bryn Gwyn 37*
- Foel Farm Park 37*
- Sir Ellis Jones Ellis-Griffith 37*
- Tre-Drwy 37*

### C

#### Caernarfon 22

- Caernarfon Air World 25*
- Caernarfon Castle 23*
- David Lloyd George 24*
- Hanging Tower 24*
- Lôn Las Menai 24*
- Museum of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers 23*
- Parish Church of St Mary 24*
- Segontium Roman Fort and Museum 22*
- Sir Hugh Owen 24*
- Welsh Highland Railway 24*

#### Capel Curig 19

- Mount Siabod 19*
- Parish Church of St Julitta 19*
- Plas-y-Brenin 19*

#### Cemaes 43

- Cemaes Bay 43*
- Mynachdy 44*
- North Anglesey Heritage Coast 44*
- Ogof y March Glas 44*
- Parish Church of St Mebell 44*
- Parish Church of St Patrick 44*
- Wylfa Nuclear Power Station 44*

## TOWNS, VILLAGES AND PLACES OF INTEREST

### Clynnog Fawr 25

- Bachwen 25*
- Parish Church of St Beuno 25*
- St Beuno's Well 25*

### Colwyn Bay 7

- Coltrand Russell 7*
- Terry Jones 7*
- Timothy Dalton 7*
- Welsh Mountain Zoo 7*

### Conwy 14

- Aberconwy House 15*
- Britain's Smallest House 16*
- Conwy River Festival 16*
- Conwy Castle 14*
- Conwy Mussel Centre 16*
- Conwy Rail Bridge 15*
- Parish Church of St Mary and All Saints 15*
- Plas Mawr 15*
- Suspension Bridge 15*
- Toll House 15*
- Town Walls 14*

## D

### Dinas Dinlle 25

- Dinas Dinlle Fort 25*
- Fort St David 25*
- Fort Williamsburg 25*

### Dulas 45

- Ynys Dulas 45*

### Dwyran 38

- Bird World 38*

## H

### Holyhead 39

- Breakwater Quarry Country Park 40*
- Caer y Twr 41*
- Canolfan Ucheldre Centre 40*
- Cytiau'r Gwyddelod 41*
- Eghrys Bedd 39*
- Ellin's Tower 41*
- Four Mile Bridge 40*
- Gogarth Bay 41*

### Lifeboat Station 41

- Parish Church St Cybi 39*
- Porth Dafarch 41*
- Salt Island 40*
- South Stack 40*
- Trearddur Bay 41*
- Trefignath 41*

### Isle of Anglesey 26

## L

### Llanasa 10

- Gyrn Castle 10*
- Parish Church of St Asaph and St Cyndeyrn 10*

### Llanddeusant 45

### Llanddyfnan 34

- Llanddyfnan Standing Stone 34*
- Stone Science 34*

### Llandudno 4

- Bodafon Farm Park 4*
- Church of St Tudno 5*
- Deganwy Castle 6*
- Great Orme 5*
- Great Orme Copper Mine 6*
- Great Orme Tramway 6*
- Llandudno Cable Car 6*
- Llandudno Museum 5*
- Pier 4*
- Promenade 4*
- White Rabbit Statue 5*

### Llandwrog 25

- Parish Church of St Tŷrag 25*

### Llanerchymedd 45

- Llyn Alaw 45*
- Parish Church of St Mary 45*

### Llanfaes 30

- Parish Church of St Catherine 30*

### Llanfair PG 35

- Llanfairpwllgwyngyll 35*
- Marquess of Anglesey Column 35*
- Railway Station 35*



## TOWNS, VILLAGES AND PLACES OF INTEREST

### Llanfair Talhaiarn 11

*John Jones 11*

*Mynydd Bodran 11*

### Llanfairfechan 21

*Parish Church of St Mary and Christ 21*

*Traeth Lafan 21*

### Llanfairynyghornwy 43

*Carmel Head 43*

*Frances Williams 43*

*The Skerries 43*

### Llangadwaladr 35

*Parish Church of St Cadwaladr 35*

### Llangefni 34

*Oriel Ynys Môn 34*

### Llangernyw 11

*Llangernyw Yaw 13*

*Parish Church of St Digian 13*

*Sir Henry Jones Museum 13*

### Llangoed 30

*Castell Aberlleiniog 30*

*Haulfre Stables 30*

### Llanrwst 17

*Battle of Llanrwst 18*

*Gwydir Castle 18*

*Gwydir Chapel 18*

*Gwydir Uchaf Chapel 18*

*Llanrwst Almsbouses 18*

*Old Bridge 18*

*Parish Church of St Grwst 18*

*Tu Hwnt i'r Bont 18*

### Llansanffraid Glan Conwy 13

*Felin Isaf 13*

*Parish Church of St Efrad 13*

### Llisfaen 7

*Parish Church of St Cynfran 7*

## M

### Meliden 11

*Craig Fawr 11*

*Parish Church of St Mehd 11*

### Menai Bridge 26

*Menai Suspension Bridge 26*

*Pili Palas 26*

*St Tysilio's Church 26*

### Moelfre 32

*Din Lligny Village 33*

*Lifeboat Station 33*

*Lligny Burial Chamber 33*

*Parish Church of St Gallgo 33*

*Royal Charter 33*

*Seavatch Centre 33*

*Ynys Moelfre 33*

## N

### Newborough 38

*Abermenai Point 38*

*Anglesey Model Village and Gardens 39*

*Charles Tannicliffe 39*

*Church of St Dwywen 38*

*Llanddwyn Island 38*

*Newborough Warren 38*

## P

### Penmaenmawr 21

*Cefn Coch 22*

*Parc Plas Mawr 22*

### Penmon 30

*Dovecot 31*

*Parish Church of St Seiriol 31*

*Penmon Priory 30*

*Puffin Island 31*

*St Seiriol's Well 31*

### Pentraeth 31

*Parish Church of St Mary 31*

*Plas Gwyn 31*

*Three Leaps 31*

### Plas Newydd 36

*Bryn Celli Ddu 36*

*Plas Newydd 36*

### Point of Ayr 11

## TOWNS, VILLAGES AND PLACES OF INTEREST

### Prestatyn 9

*John Prescott 10*

*Offa's Dyke 9*

*Offa's Dyke National Trail 10*

*Prestatyn Castle 9*

## R

### Rhos-on-Sea 7

*Bryn Eurin 7*

*Harlequin Puppet Theatre 7*

*Rev W Venable Williams 7*

### Rhoscolyn 41

*Bwa Gwyn 42*

*Parish Church of St Gwenfaen 41*

*Rhoscolyn Head 42*

*St Gwenfaen's Well 42*

### Rhosneigr 43

*Cymyran Bay 43*

*Norman Court 43*

*Parish Church of St Maelog 43*

*Tŷwyn Trewan Common 43*

### Rhyl 9

*Carol Voderman 9*

*Nerys Hughes 9*

*SeaQuarium 9*

*Sun Centre 9*

### Rowen 16

*Caer Bach 16*

*Maen-y-Bardd 16*

*Parc Mawr 16*

*Parish Church of St Celynin 16*

*Tal-y-fan 16*

## T

### Trefriw 16

*Fairy Falls 16*

*Taliesin 17*

*Trefriw Woollen Mill 16*

### Trelawnyd 10

*Gop Hill 10*

*Parish Church of St Michael 10*

*Trelawnyd Male Voice Choir 10*

## V

### Valley 42

*Llyn Penrhyn 42*

## Y

### Y Felinheli 25

*Glan Faenol 26*

*The Greenwood Centre 25*