



Ffordo yr Arfordir The Coastal Way

An epic journey through Wales

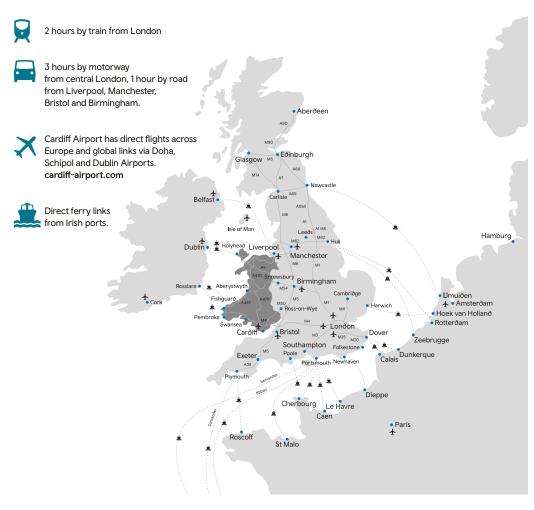
thewalesway.com



Where is Wales?

Getting here.

Wales is accessible to all major UK cities including London, Birmingham, Manchester and Liverpool. Wales is served by its own international airport, Cardiff International Airport (CWL) which has more than 50 direct routes, including major European cities and over 1,000 world wide connecting destinations. Wales is also easily served by Bristol (BRS), Birmingham (BHX), Manchester (MAN) and Liverpool (LPL) airports.



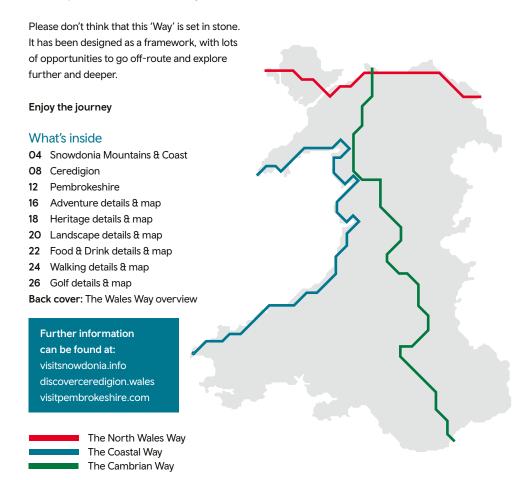
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Go The Wales Way

The Wales Way is one Epic journey, three distinct routes – The North Wales Way, The Coastal Way and The Cambrian Way – that lead you across castle country, along the coast and through our mountainous heartland.

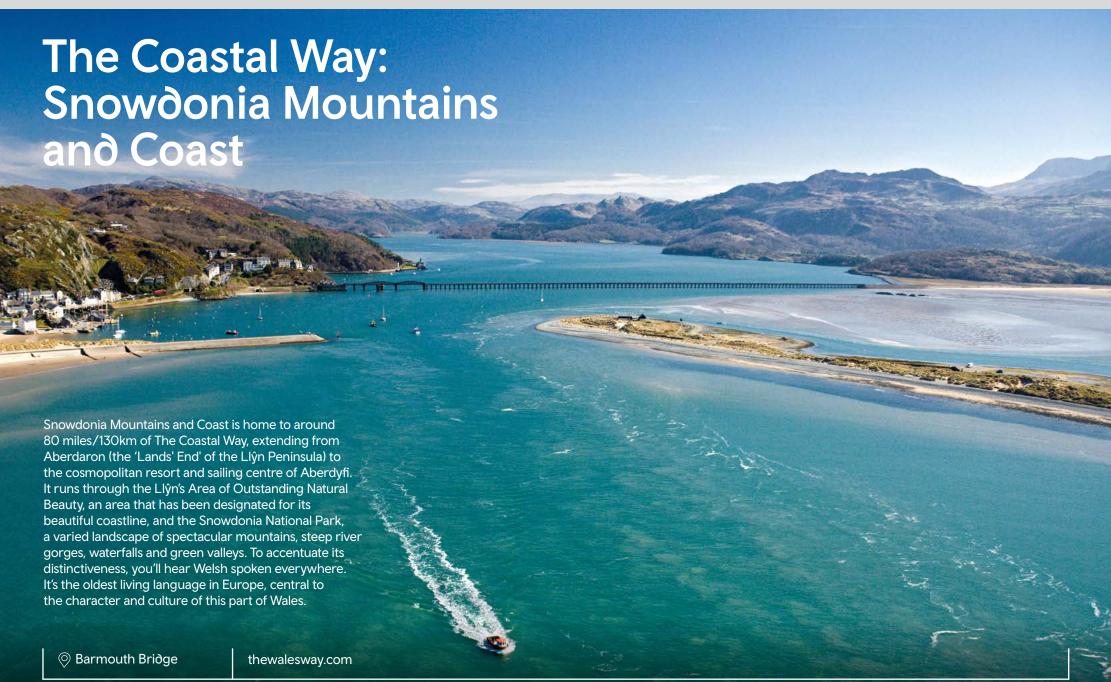
The Coastal Way runs the entire length of Cardigan Bay. It's a 180 mile/290km odyssey that threads between blue seas on one side and big mountains on the other.

We've broken the journey down into bite-sized chunks as it passes through the various tourism destinations in Wales – Snowdonia Mountains and Coast, Ceredigion and Pembrokeshire. And within each destination we feature places to visit all year under the headings Adventure, Heritage, Landscape, Food and Drink, Walking and Golf.









Adventure

Snowdonia's stretch of The Coastal Way offers excitement on water, land, up in the air and under the ground. **Abersoch** on the lovely Llŷn Peninsula is a mecca for splashy sports like surfing, bodyboarding and stand-up paddleboarding. At **Dragon Raiders Activity Park** near Criccieth you can blast away on the paintball range, explore trails by Segway and quad bike or learn how to live in the wild at the Bear Grylls Survival Academy.

An outstanding range of aerial and subterranean adventures await at Blaenau Ffestiniog's slate caverns. At **Zip World**, former mines now house a vast playground of zip wires and underground rope bridges and trampolines. See the **Llechwedd caverns** and surroundings on a 'deep mine tour' and off-road quarry tour. Or dive downhill on an **Antur Stiniog** mountain bike trail.



Heritage

History doesn't get much more theatrical than at **Harlech Castle**. The towers of this mighty World Heritage Site spring from the rocky crag on which it sits, with rolling dunes leading to the sea at one side and the peaks of Snowdonia at the other.

Running for 25 picturesque miles (40km) from Caernarfon to Porthmadog, the **Welsh Highland Railway** is the longest heritage railway in the UK and the ideal way to see this spectacular landscape in style. You can go even further by hopping on its sister line, the classic **Ffestiniog Railway**, all the way from Porthmadog to Blaenau Ffestiniog.

Experience living Welsh culture at **Nant Gwrtheyrn**, the National Welsh Language
and Heritage Centre on the Llŷn Peninsula.

This former Victorian quarrying village, tucked in beneath steep cliffs, gives visitors a glimpse into Wales's deep and distinctive cultural heritage as well as telling the story of Nant's industrial past.



Landscape

Towering over the skyline, mighty Mount Snowdon needs no introduction. But it's just part of what the **Snowdonia National Park** has to offer. Encompassing everything from lush wooded valleys and moody moorlands to rocky coastline and golden sandy beaches, the Park presents a suitcase of reasons to go off the beaten track.

The **Llŷn Peninsula**, pointing forcefully into the sea, has been called 'Snowdon's Arm'. Its wild and wonderful coastline – the perfect counterpoint to Snowdonia's rugged grandeur – is an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Bounded by tree-covered hills and misty mountains, the **Mawddach Estuary** ('the loveliest in Wales') reveals jaw-dropping vistas as it winds its way towards the sea at Barmouth. It's also a popular spot with wading birds and gulls, so don't forget your binoculars



Food and drink

In a stylish art deco building right next to the beach in Criccieth, **Dylan's Restaurant** is the perfect place to enjoy a taste of the sea. Try the Menai mussels, a house speciality, perfectly prepared with white wine, cream and garlic. There's more local flavour at **Bwyty Mawddach** near Dolgellau where you can sample Snowdonia-reared beef and lamb with a side order of stunning views over the Mawddach Estuary and Cader Idris.

For liquid refreshment head to **Cwrw Llŷn** in the pretty seaside village of Nefyn. This local brewery produces a range of delicious hand-made beers inspired by the landscape, legends and history of Wales, as well as running backstage tours that lift the lid on the brewing process.



Walking

One of the best ways to enjoy Snowdonia Mountains and Coast is on a circular walk. At **Llanbedrog** on Llŷn's south coast, a 2.3-mile/3.6km loop takes you through shady woods and over open heathland, with panoramic views in all directions. For pretty villages, a wooded nature reserve and lovely vistas of Cardigan Bay, try the 6.3-mile/10km walk from the bustling harbour town of **Porthmadog**.

Rising up into the hills behind **Barmouth**, a 5.6-mile/9km route lead to Dinas Oleu (birthplace of the National Trust) and across farmland and woodland, with long-range views of the Mawddach Estuary and Llŷn Peninsula.



Golf

Sitting in the looming shadow of mighty Harlech Castle, **Royal St David's** is a king among golf courses. With wicked sea breezes, towering dunes and thick rough that lies in wait for wayward shots, it has built a deserved reputation as the world's toughest par 69. Just as stellar is **Aberdovey**, an inspiring collaboration between its designers and Mother Nature. Sandwiched between the Dyfi Estuary and Snowdonia's mountains, it's an elemental links experience that demands a well-stocked golf bag and the ability to improvise.

At **Porthmadog** you don't have to choose between links and parkland as a round here comprises a front nine of undulating heath followed by a back nine of classic coastal links.



For further information

on things to do and where to stay go to: visitsnowdonia.info/coastal-way







Adventure

Saddle up for first rate cycling in Ceredigion. Ride quiet, mostly traffic-free routes like the Ystwyth and Rheidol Valley Trails, or test your off-road mettle on bone-shaking singletracks at Bwlch Nant yr Arian near Aberystwyth. If you need to hire a bike, head to Summit Cycles in town. For aquatic action, go to Cardigan Bay Watersports Centre in New Quay, which offers activities like windsurfing, sailing, stand-up paddleboarding, waterskiing and wakeboarding.

If you prefer to stay above the waves, go sea fishing with **Epic Fishing Trips** (also based in New Quay). As you try to land the big one, watch out for the dolphins and porpoises that play in the bay's crystal-clear waters.



Heritage

Housed in a beautifully preserved Edwardian theatre close to the seafront in Aberystwyth, **Ceredigion Museum** tells Ceredigion's story through an eclectic collection of more than 60,000 artefacts ranging from the Neolithic period to the 20th century. There's more history at **Cardigan Castle**, scene of centuries of battles and sieges (plus Wales's first eisteddfod, held in 1176). After falling into disrepair it has been rescued, restored and reborn as both a fascinating heritage attraction and unique place to stay.

Explore the area's creative side on the **Ceredigion Art Trail**, which gives you a peek into the studios and galleries of local artists and craftspeople making everything from pottery and paintings to glassware and jewellery.



Landscape

The stretch of coast between Aberystwyth and Ynyslas is home to some intriguing natural features. Just back from the sea is **Cors Fochno**, a rare area of raised peat bog alive with unusual plant species like the carnivorous sundew, while at the shore an otherworldly submerged forest of millennia-old trees is revealed when tidal conditions are just right. Whatever the weather, you'll enjoy stunning sea views on your journey on the coast road between **Aberystwyth** and **Aberaeron**.

Magical **Mwnt** is one of Ceredigion's hidden gems. The sheltered sandy beach is perfect for paddling, while a walk to the top of Foel y Mwnt is a must for dolphin spotting and lovely views of Cardigan Island to the west as well as northwards towards Snowdonia.



Food and drink

In Aberystwyth you'll find **Ultracomida**, a Spanish-influenced restaurant and deli that stocks a cracking selection of local Ceredigion cheeses. For the freshest seafood, head to Jonah's Fish Market to take your pick from the day's catch. If you'd prefer someone else to do the cooking, book a table at **Pysgoty** restaurant on the harbour. Jonah's sister establishment, its menu is filled with produce plucked straight from Cardigan Bay's waters.

Cosmopolitan Cardigan is also packed with foodie delights. Try **Crwst**, a café and deli specialising in freshly baked bread, cakes and pastries, housed in a building that was once an ironworks and car showroom.



Walking

Ceredigion's coast and countryside are latticed with wonderful walks. The 6-mile/10km route between **Bwlch Nant yr Arian** and **Devil's Bridge** takes in ancient oak woodland, former mine workings, a host of tumbling waterfalls and great views across the Rheidol Valley. The walk between **Aberaeron** and **Lampeter** follows the route of the old railway line, passing the National Trust's Llanerchaeron, a rare example of an 18th-century 'gentleman's estate' that's hardly changed over the last two centuries. The 21-mile/34km walk can be tackled in sections, with the possibility of returning by bus. For a shorter option, go as far as Llanerchaeron from Aberaeron (it's just under 2½ miles/4km).

Take a walk on the **Ceredigion Coast Path** near Llangrannog to see the jagged rock formation known as Carreg Bica (legend says it's the lost tooth of a local giant) and some spellbinding views over Ynys Lochtyn, a green-backed tidal island at the end of a stubby, sea-washed peninsula.



Golf

Founded in 1885, **Borth & Ynyslas** stakes a claim to being Wales's oldest golf club. It certainly offers a timeless out and back links experience, complete with sweeping views over Cardigan Bay. Founded in 1990, **Penrhos Park Golf Club** at Llanrhystud near Aberystwyth is a relative newcomer on Ceredigion's golfing scene, but its hilly terrain, water hazards and natural features combine to make a big impression.

Links and parkland blend together at **Cardigan Golf Club**, a splendid seaside course that has drawn comparisons with the USA's famous Pebble Beach. The views across the bay can take the breath away, but watch out for the thick gorse that lies in wait for players who get too caught up with the scenery.



For further information

on things to do and where to stay go to: discoverceredigion.wales/thewalesway

11





The Coastal Way: Pembrokeshire



Adventure

Catch some waves at **Whitesands Bay**, one of the UK's best surfing beaches. Curving towards the rocky outcropping of St Davids Head, you'll find the biggest swell at the northern end of this wide sweep of soft sand. Tucked in amongst tall cliffs, **Ceibwr Bay** between Newport and Cardigan is the place for stellar sea kayaking. Exploring on the water is the best way to appreciate the unusual folded textures in the rocks and see the spectacular sea cave Pwll-y-Wrach (The Witches' Cauldron).

If you prefer dry land, head out for a bike ride on the **Gwaun Valley Trail** inland from Fishguard. Following the river along a wooded valley carved out at the end of the last Ice Age, this 6-mile/9.7km loop is an easy way to immerse yourself in Pembrokeshire's hidden, green countryside.



Heritage

St Davids Cathedral, one of the most important holy sites in Wales, still attracts pilgrims from across the world centuries after two pilgrimages here equalled one to Rome. If you're visiting, make some time to see the cathedral's library (home to a huge collection of books dating back to the 16th century) and the neighbouring ruins of the Bishop's Palace.

Music lovers won't want to miss the weekly folk night (every Tuesday) at the Royal Oak in Fishguard. Featuring traditional Welsh music, Irish jigs and sea shanties, it's a fun and informal get-together for performers and audience alike. For arts and crafts, call into Newport Collective Gallery, an innovative community-run enterprise packed with locally made paintings, jewellery, textiles, furniture and sculptures.



Landscape

The Pembrokeshire Coast National Park dips inland to take in the haunting Preseli Hills, source of Stonehenge stones. The Preselis most compelling landmark is **Carn Ingli**, the 'Mountain of Angels' and Iron Age fort poised 1,135ft/346m above Newport. To visit, take the minor road south from Newport to Cilgwyn and in a mile or so (1.6km) look out for the large car park, starting point for a path to the rock-strewn summit.

Back beside the sea, get a feel for the rugged remoteness of the north coast by following the coast path from Poppit Sands near Cardigan to **Cemaes Head**. Further west there's Strumble Head or Pencaer dominated by Strumble Lighthouse perched on a tiny island just off the coast. It's an untamed location with a bird observatory, making it a favourite spot for wildlife watchers.



Food and drink

Sample fresh Pembrokeshire produce at **St Davids Kitchen**, a farm-to-fork restaurant that places local growers and producers at the heart of its business. Alongside hogget (sheep's meat) from Ramsey Island and fresh fish from the waters around St Davids Peninsula, you can try local gin made with hand-foraged botanicals. **Pwnc Café** in Newport also keeps things local. The ingredients for its delicious but healthy meals and snacks are sourced from the surrounding region (and the café's own garden).

The award-winning **Ferry Inn** in St Dogmael's is extremely proud of its Pembrokeshire connections. Its tempting seasonal menu of classic dishes with contemporary influences is built around supplies from the area's best butchers, cheesemakers, farmers and fishermen.



Walking

It's no surprise that Pembrokeshire – home to the UK's only coastal-based National Park – boasts exceptional coastal walking. Starting in the village of Pwllgwaelod, the loop around the steep cliffs of **Dinas Head** may only measure 3 miles/4.8km, but it packs in some challenging climbs (not to mention sensational views). The 3.6-mile/5.8km circular walk from the quirky harbour village of **Porthgain** takes in beautiful sandy beaches at Traeth Llyfn and Abereiddi and the striking Blue Lagoon, a flooded former slate quarry that has become an adventure sports mecca.

For a longer stroll, walk the 5.9-mile/9.5km stretch of the Wales Coast Path between **St Justinians** and **Porthclais**. Alongside stunning views of

Ramsey Island and the sea, you'll be able to spot a huge range of marine wildlife, from seals and porpoises to gannets, shags and cormorants.



Golf

Combine great golf with some old-fashioned Welsh hospitality at family-run **Priskilly Forest**, just inland from Fishguard. It's a scenic (and very green) nine-hole parkland course, with cosy country house accommodation attached. The most westerly course in Wales, **St Davids City Golf Club** is a compact but captivating nine-hole, 18-tee links course with views across Whitesands Bay and Ramsey Island.

For links golf on a slightly larger scale, head to **Newport Sands**. Starting life in 1925 as a nine-holer designed by legendary course architect James Braid, it's now 18 holes of championship challenge with some world-beating views over Newport Bay.



For further information on things to do and where to stay go to: visitpembrokeshire.com/explorepembrokeshire/the-coastal-way

Adventure Locations on The Coastal Way





Adventure Key:

- 1 Abersoch visitsnowdonia info/abersoch
- 2 Dragon Raiders **Activity Park** Llanystumdwy LL52 OLR dragonraiders.co.uk
- 3 Zip World Slate Caverns Blaaenau Ffestiniog LL41 3NB zipworld.co.uk
- 4 Ystwyth and Rheidol **Valley Trails**
- Aberystwyth SY231JX discoverceredigion. wales/cycling

- **5** Bwlch Nant yr Arian Ponterwyd SY23 3AB naturalresources. wales/mid-wales
- **6** Cardigan Bay Watersports Centre New Quay SA45 9PS cardiganbaywatersports. ora.uk
- Kayaking Ceibwr Bay visitpembrokeshire.com/ activities-adventure/kayaking
- Snowdonia National Park Criccieth Harlech Vyrnwy Aberdaron •Dolgellau Barmouth Tywyn Aberdovey Clywedog Borth 8 Cycling the Gwaun Valley CARDIGAN BAY Llanidloes cyclepembrokeshire.com • Devil's Bridge 9 Surfing at Whitesands Bay visitpembrokeshire.com/ Llandrindod Wells activities-adventure/surfing Aheraeron New Quay 6 • Tregaron Builth Wells • Lampeter Newport • Brecon nbrokeshire Coast National Park Llangorse Lake Llys y Fran Pen y Fan Carmarther **Brecon Beacons** 886m/2907ft Broad Haven • Haverfordwest • Narberth Merthyr Tydfil Milford Haven • Pembroke • Tenby • Rhondda

Holyhead

Anglesey AONR

Menai

Bridge

Caernarfon

Snowdon

Bangor

Llandudno

Llanrwst

aenau Ffestiniog

Swansea

AONB

Pontypridd •

Betws-y-Coed

St Asaph Holywell

Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB

• Hay-on-Wye

Cardiff

Abergavenny

Wye Valley

Chepstow

Newport

Heritage Locations on The Coastal Way





Heritage Key:

- 1 Nant Gwrtheyrn -**National Welsh Language** and Heritage Centre Llithfaen LL53 6NL
 - nantgwrtheyrn.org
- 2 Welsh Highland Railway Caernarfon LL55 2YD festrail co.uk
- **3** Harlech Castle Harlech I I 44 2YH cadw.gov.wales

- 4 Ceredigion Museum Aberystwyth SY23 2AQ ceredigionmuseum.wales
- **5** Ceredigion Art Trail ceredigionarttrail.org.uk
- 6 Cardigan Castle Cardigan SA43 1JA cardigancastle.com
- Newport Collective Newport SA42 OSY newportcollective.co.uk

- 8 Royal Oak, Fishguard Fishquard SA65 9HA royaloakfishguard.co.uk
- St Davids SA62 6RD stdavidscathedral.org.uk



Llandudno

St Asaph Holywell

Holyhead

Anglesey AONR

Menai

Bridge

Landscape Locations on The Coastal Way





Landscape Key:

- LIŷn Peninsula AONB
 visitsnowdonia.info/llyn-areaoutstanding-natural-beauty
- 2 Snowdonia National Park visitsnowdonia.info/ snowdonia-national-park
- **3** Mawddach Estuary
- 4 Ynyslas & Cors Fochno Borth naturalresources. wales/mid-wales

- **5** Aberaeron discoverceredigion. wales/aberaeron
- 6 Mwnt discoverceredigion. wales/mwnt
- Cemaes Head
 welshwildlife.org/naturereserve/cemaes-head



Holyhead

Anglesey AONR

Menai

Bridge

Porthmadog

• Caernarfon

Snowdon

Bangor

Llandudno

Llanrwst

Blaenau Ffestiniog

Betws-y-Coed

St Asaph Holywell

Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB

Newport

Cardiff

Food and Drink Locations on The Coastal Way





Food and Drink Key:

- 1 Cwrw Llŷn Nefyn LL53 6EG cwrwllyn.cymru
- 2 Dylan's Criccieth Criccieth LL52 OHU dylansrestaurant.co.uk
- 3 Mawddach Restaurant Dolgellau LL40 2TA mawddach.com
- 4 Ultracomida Aberystwyth SY23 2LN ultracomida.co.uk

- **5** Pysgoty
 Aberystwyth SY23 1JY
 pysgoty.co.uk
- 6 Harbourmaster
 Aberaeron SA46 OBT
 harbour-master.com
- **7 Ferry Inn St Dogmaels** St Dogmaels SA43 3LF theferryinn.co.uk

8 Pwnc Café
Newport SA42 OSY
facebook.com/pwnccafe
9 St Davids Kitchen
St Davids SA62 6NS
stdavidskitchen.co.uk

Broad Haven



Walking Locations on The Coastal Way





Walking Key:

- 1 Llanbedrog Circular Walk Llanbedrog LL53 7TT visitsnowdonia.info
- 2 Porthmadog Circular Walk Porthmadog visitsnowdonia.info
- **3 Barmouth Circular Walk**Barmouth LL42 1N
 visitsnowdonia info
- Wulch Nant yr Arian Devil's Bridge SY23 3AB/SY23 3JW discoverceredigion. wales/walking

- **6** Ceredigion Coast Path discoverceredigion. wales/ceredigion-coast-path
- 6 Aberaeron Lampeter SA46 OBT/SA48 7ED discoverceredigion.wales/ walking
- **Dinas Head circular walk**visitpembrokeshire.com/
 activities-adventure/walking

- Porthgain circular
 coast path walk
 visitpembrokeshire.com/
 activities-adventure/walking
- coast path walk
 visitpembrokeshire.com/
 activities-adventure/walking

9 St Justinians

Porthgain St Davids 9 Solva Pembrokeshire Coast National Park

Milford Haven

Broad Haven



Llandudno

Golf Locations on The Coastal Way





Golf Key:

- 1 Porthmadog Golf Club Porthmadog LL49 9UU porthmadog-golf-club.co.uk
- 2 Royal St. David's Golf Club Harlech LL46 2UB royalstdavids.co.uk
- 3 Aberdovey Golf Club Aberdovey LL35 ORT aberdoveygolf.co.uk
- 4 Borth & Ynyslas Golf Club Borth SY24 5JS borthgolf.co.uk

- **5** Penrhos Park Golf Club Llanrhystud SY23 5AY penrhosgolf.co.uk
- 6 Cardigan Golf Club Gwbert SA43 1PR cardigangolf.com
- Newport Sands Golf Course Newport SA42 ONR newportsands.co.uk
- 8 Priskilly Golf Course Castlemorris SA62 5EH priskilly-forest.co.uk
- 9 St Davids City Golf Course St Davids SA62 6PT stdavidscitygolfclub.co.uk



Llandudno

Llanrwst

Blaenau Ffestiniog

Snowdonia National Park

•Dolgellau

Betws-y-Coed

St Asaph Holywell

Clwydian Range and Dee Valley AONB

Vyrnwy

Clywedog

• Devil's Bridge

Llanidloes

Newport

27

Holyhead

Aberdaron

CARDIGAN BAY

Anglesey AONR

Abersoch

Menai

Bridge

Porthmadog

Criccieth Harlech

Barmouth

Aberdovey 9

Aberystwyth

Borth

Caernarfon

Snowdon 1085m/3560ft

Bangor

The Wales Way

The Wales Way is one Epic journey, three distinct routes – The Cambrian Way, The Coastal Way and The North Wales Way – that lead you along the coast, across castle country, and through our mountainous heartland. The Cambrian Way crosses the spine of Wales for 185 miles/300km between Llandudno and Cardiff, through National Parks and the Cambrian Mountains. The Coastal Way travels the west coast around Cardigan Bay, a 180 mile/290km road-trip between the sea and mountains. The North Wales Way leads 75 miles/120km past mighty castles into the island of Anglesey.





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