



# Snowdonia & North Wales

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## Why Go?

Rugged mountain trails, historic train lines, World Heritage castles and rejuvenated seaside towns ensure North Wales holds its own against attractions down south. The region is dominated by Snowdonia National Park, where mighty peaks scrape moody skies.

Protected by such a formidable mountain shield, it's little wonder that the less-visited Llŷn Peninsula and the ancient island enclave of Anglesey have retained their traditional language and culture.

In fact, the whole region feels properly Welsh: you'll hear the language on the street, see the Celtic legacy in the landscape, and soak up the cultural pride in galleries, museums and attractions, all the way from the beaches of the North Coast to the river-threaded heartland of northeast Wales. In many ways, North Wales distills the very essence of Welshness – just don't mention that to the folks in Cardiff.

## Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Blas (p748)
- ➔ Soul Food (p734)
- ➔ Osteria (p748)
- ➔ Coconut Kitchen (p745)
- ➔ Tyddyn Llan (p728)

## Best Places to Sleep

- ➔ Ffynnon (p729)
- ➔ Victoria House (p747)
- ➔ Cleifiog (p756)
- ➔ Totters (p747)
- ➔ Bodysgallen Hall (p754)

## When to Go

- ➔ May is the driest month and Llandudno celebrates the warming weather with its Victorian Extravaganza festival.
- ➔ May to September arguably gives you the best hiking weather, but the warmest months – July and August – bring crowds.
- ➔ The Snowdon train runs to the summit between Easter and November.
- ➔ In July you can shuttle between the beaches and Llangollen's International Musical Eisteddfod and Fringe Festival.
- ➔ Late autumn and early winter bring the heaviest rains, while late winter and early spring are particularly raw and bracing.



## Snowdonia & North Wales Highlights

- 1 Beaumaris (p756)** Falling for the Georgian charms of Anglesey's finest town.
- 2 Cader Idris (p728)** Climbing Snowdonia's second most-famous peak.
- 3 Pontcysyllte Aqueduct (p725)** Floating through the air across this World Heritage Site,

- 4 Blaenau Ffestiniog (p735)** Testing claustrophobia in gloomy caverns.
- 5 Caernarfon Castle (p747)** Witnessing the Byzantine beauty of North Wales' mightiest fortress.
- 6 Welsh Highland Railway (p744)** Taking a coast-to-coast

- journey on a narrow-gauge railway.
- 7 Llandudno (p752)** Discovering vast Bronze Age mines alongside the Victoriana at this popular seaside resort.
  - 8 Braich-y-Pwll (p746)** Gazing towards the magical 'Pilgrims' Island of Bardsey.