



Snowdonia & North Wales

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Why Go?

From rugged mountain trails and historic train lines to World Heritage castles and rejuvenated seaside towns, North Wales holds its own against arguably more famous 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, from the beaches of the North Coast to the river-threaded heartland of northeast Wales. In many ways, North Wales distils the very essence of Welshness – just don't mention that to the folks in Cardiff.

When to Go

May is the driest month and Llandudno celebrates the warming weather with much Victorian merriment. In June, as summer kicks in, the Snowdon train can once again make it to the summit. In July you can shuttle between the beaches and Llangollen's International Musical Eisteddfod and Fringe Festival. July and August offer the warmest weather. The north is at its wettest between October and December. Average temperatures rarely scrape into two digits anytime between December and March.

Best Places to Eat

- » Castle Restaurant & Armoury Bar (p725)
- » Fish Tram Chips (p744)
- » Gales of Llangollen (p740)
- » Ann's Pantry (p734)

Best Places to Stay

- » Ffynnon (p722)
- » Escape B&B (p743)
- » manorhaus (p741)
- » Venetia (p730)



Snowdonia & North Wales Highlights

- 1 Exploring the charms of **Beaumaris** (p732), Anglesey's finest town
- 2 Climbing Wales's highest peak **Snowdon** (p719)...or cheating by taking the rack-and-pinion train to the top!
- 3 Sailing across **Pontcysyllte Aqueduct** (p738), Britain's latest World Heritage site
- 4 Disappearing underground into the slate caverns at **Blaenau Ffestiniog** (p717)
- 5 Witnessing the Byzantine beauty and strength of **Caernarfon Castle** (p726)
- 6 Taking an unforgettable coast-to-coast journey on the narrow-gauge **Welsh Highland Railway** (p731)
- 7 Revelling in all things Victorian – pier, promenade and Mr Punch – at the seaside resort of **Llandudno** (p741)
- 8 Gazing toward the holy island of Bardsey from end-of-the-world headland **Braich-y-Pwll** (p728)