



# 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, Wales' north holds its own against the arguably more famous attractions down south. The region's dominated by Snowdonia National Park, where the mightiest peaks south of Scotland scrape moody skies. With such a formidable mountain shield, it's little wonder that the less-visited Llŷn Peninsula and the ancient island enclave of Anglesey have held tightly to their 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 burgeoning 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.

## Best Places to Eat

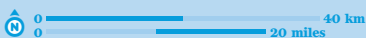
- » Castle Restaurant & Armoury Bar (p755)
- » Fish Tram Chips (p728)
- » Gales of Llangollen (p725)
- » Ann's Pantry (p734)

## Best Places to Stay

- » Ffynnon (p753)
- » Escape B&B (p727)
- » manorhaus (p727)
- » Venetia (p741)

## 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 and Llangollen gets the giggles with its annual comedy festival. 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.



## Snowdonia & North Wales Highlights

- 1 Exploring the island hub of **Beaumaris** (p733), then eating and sleeping in style
- 2 Making a weekend of it at the reborn seaside resort of **Llandudno** (p726)
- 3 Taking a ride across **Pontcysyllte Aqueduct** (p724), Wales' latest World Heritage Site, near Llangollen
- 4 Seeing Wales rise to a crescendo at the (accessible) peak of **Snowdon** (p745)
- 5 Walking through a postcard of stone cottages and cascading rivers at **Betws-y-Coed** (p749)
- 6 Witnessing the Byzantine beauty and strength of **Caernarfon Castle** (p737)
- 7 Taking a (nearly) coast-to-coast alpine train journey you'll never forget with the **Welsh Highland Railway** (p742)
- 8 Gazing toward the holy island of Bardsey from this magical land's end of **Braich-y-Pwll** (p740)