



SNOWDONIA & THE LLŶN

3 PERFECT DAYS

♥ DAY 1 // CONQUER THE MOUNTAIN

Check the weather forecast before making an assault on Snowdon (p226). If you're fit, catch the Snowdon Sherpa bus to Pen-y-Pass and take the Pyg Track (p227). Time your descent via the Rhyd Ddu Path to catch the Welsh Highland Railway (p244) back to Caernarfon. If you're not up for climbing, head to Llanberis and take the Snowdon Mountain Railway (p227). You'll be up and down the mountain in 2½ hours, leaving plenty of time to check out the National Slate Museum (p230) and Dolbadarn Castle (p231) before stocking up on mead at Snowdon Honey Farm (p231). Head to Caernarfon and watch the sunset over the Menai Strait from beside the city walls before dining at the Black Boy Inn (p235).

♥ DAY 2 // BE A PILGRIM

Spend the morning exploring Caernarfon Castle (p233) before heading for the Llŷn Peninsula. Ideally you'll have prebooked a boat to Bardsey but if they're not running, make do with gazing at the island from Braich-y-Pwll (p239). Abersoch (p241), Criccieth (p243) and Porthmadog (p244) are good places to stop for the night, but Harlech (p218) has the best restaurants – along with another World Heritage castle.

♥ DAY 3 // A SCENIC OVERLOAD

Wherever you ended up, take the scenic A498 through the Pass of Aberglaslyn and back into the national park. Spend the day pottering along the route between Beddgelert (p228) and Betws-y-Coed (p222), stopping at the lakes, lookouts and falls. Betws makes a wonderfully atmospheric coda to a Snowdonia stay.

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CAERNARFON CASTLE p233

A Byzantine show of strength beside the Menai Strait

SNOWDON p226

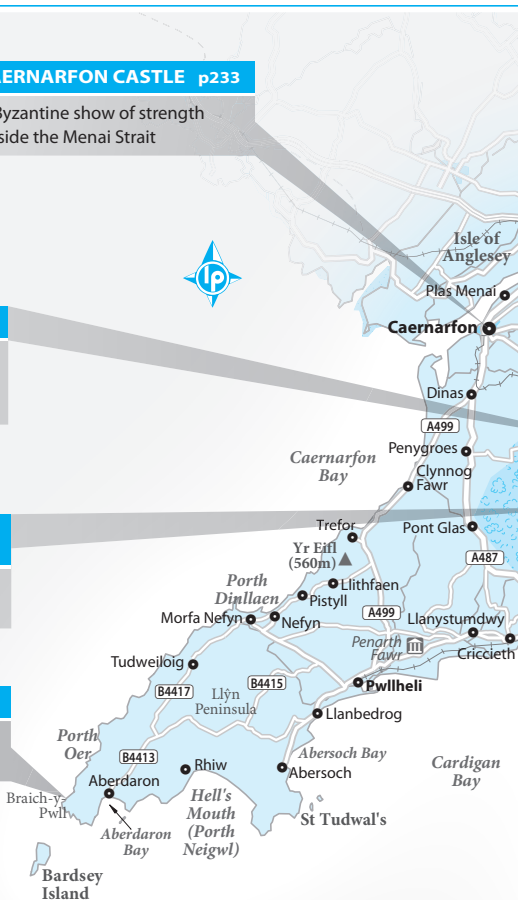
Wales rises to a crescendo at this beautiful, surprisingly accessible, peak

WELSH HIGHLAND RAILWAY p245

A (nearly) coast-to-coast alpine train journey you'll never forget

BRAICH-Y-PWLL p239

The Llŷn gazes towards the holy island from this magical land's end



GETTING AROUND

Driving through this region involves zigzagging around mountains on well-kept, exceedingly scenic, minor roads. A network of regular and heritage lines makes a rail-based itinerary appealing. The Cambrian Coast Line connects Machynlleth to Pwllheli, via Porthmadog, where the Ffestiniog & Welsh Highland Railways head to Blaenau Ffestiniog and (by the time you're reading this) Caernarfon. From Blaenau the Conwy Valley Line heads through Betws-y-Coed to Llandudno. Pwllheli is the hub for Llŷn buses, while Snowdon Sherpa services zip around Snowdonia.