



# Snowdonia & the Llŷn

## Includes ➔

North Wales Borderlands.....	212
Holywell (Treffynnon) .....	212
Snowdonia National Park (Parc Cenedlaethol Eryri) ...	218
Tywyn.....	225
Snowdon (Yr Wyddfa).....	244
Llŷn Peninsula.....	248
Pwllheli .....	253

## Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Manorhaus (p218)
- ➔ Castle Restaurant & Armoury Bar (p234)
- ➔ Bistro Bermo (p233)
- ➔ Tyddyn Llan (p219)
- ➔ Gallt-y-Glyn (p243)

## Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Beech Bank (p243)
- ➔ Coed-y-Celyn Hall (p238)
- ➔ Old Rectory on the Lake (p225)
- ➔ Natural Retreats (p258)
- ➔ Ffynnon (p223)

## Why Go?

This part of Wales really packs it in, from rugged mountain trails and coastal paths to industrial sites and historic train lines. It'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 northwestern county of Gwynedd has held tightly to its language and culture. Over 64% speak the ancient mother tongue here, which is the highest proportion in the country.

Along with the mountains there's the sea – battering the rocks at Braich-y-Pwll, producing surfer-friendly swells at Porth Neigwl and cooling the bathers at Barmouth. All those bracing sea breezes seem to have blown any shreds of stuffiness or British reserve from the local populace. In many ways, this slice of the country distills the very essence of Welshness – just don't mention that to the folks in Cardiff!

## When to Go

April to July are the driest months, while July and August are the warmest. The very best months to hit the mountains are June and July for their combination of higher temperatures and lower wind and rain.

In June the Three Peaks Yacht Race hits Barmouth and the national Catholic pilgrimage descends on Holywell. In July Llangollen holds its International Musical Eisteddfod and Fringe Festival, while Wakestock rocks the Llŷn.

September is the big month for events, with Bala's triathlon, Barmouth's arts and walking festivals, Portmeirion's Festival No 6 and Abersoch's Jazz Festival. Snow starts to fall in the mountains in October and lingers on the paths until May.



## Snowdonia & the Llŷn Highlights

- 1 Climbing **Snowdon** (p244), Wales' highest peak... or cheating by taking the rack-and-pinion train to the top
- 2 Floating through the air across **Pontcysyllte**

- Aqueduct** (p215), Britain's latest World Heritage Site
- 3 Disappearing underground into the slate caverns of **Blaenau Ffestiniog** (p234)

- 4 Taking an unforgettable coast-to-coast journey on the narrow-gauge **Welsh Highland Railway** (p250)
- 5 Gazing towards the magical island of Bardsey from