

# Ynys Môn

THE ISLE OF

# Anglesey



ANGLESEY FROM  
ALL ANGLES

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## ALLWEDD / KEY

- Atyniad Naturiol
- Gwyllo Adar
- Cylchdeithiau
- Chwaraeon Dŵr
- Pysgota Môr
- Pysgota Dŵr Croyw

- Natural Attractions
- Bird Watching
- Circular Walks
- Water Sports
- Sea Fishing
- Freshwater Fishing

- Ardal Bicinic
- Maes Awyr
- Maes Glanio
- Gwobr Glan y Môr
- Gwobr Baner Las Ewrop a Gwobr Glan y Môr
- Cyfleusterau Cyhoeddus

- Picnic Area
- Airport
- Airfield
- Seaside Award
- European Blue Flag & Seaside Award
- Public Conveniences

# Ynys Môn THE ISLE OF Anglesey

## Croeso i Ynys Môn

Lle i'r enaid gael llonydd yw Ynys Môn. Ymlaciwch, mwynhewch y croeso cynnes ac ymgollwch yn lonydd bach troellog neu arfordir ysbennnydd yr ynys. Mae yma hefyd ddigon i'r holl deulu ei wneud gyda digwyddiadau, a tyniadau a gweithgareddau awyr agored mewn ardal brydferth.

Mae'r map yma i'ch helpu chi ddod o hyd i'ch ffordd o gwmpas yr ynys, os hoffech gael ychwaneg o wybodaeth, ewch i'n gwefan, [croesomon.co.uk](http://croesomon.co.uk)

## Welcome to the Isle of Anglesey

Anglesey is a place where you can get away from it all. Relax, enjoy the hospitality and lose yourself in the islands winding lanes or on its spectacular coast. There's also plenty to do for all the family with events, attractions and outdoor activities all set in beautiful scenery.

The map is here to help you find your way around the island if you would like any more information log on to [visitanglesey.co.uk](http://visitanglesey.co.uk)

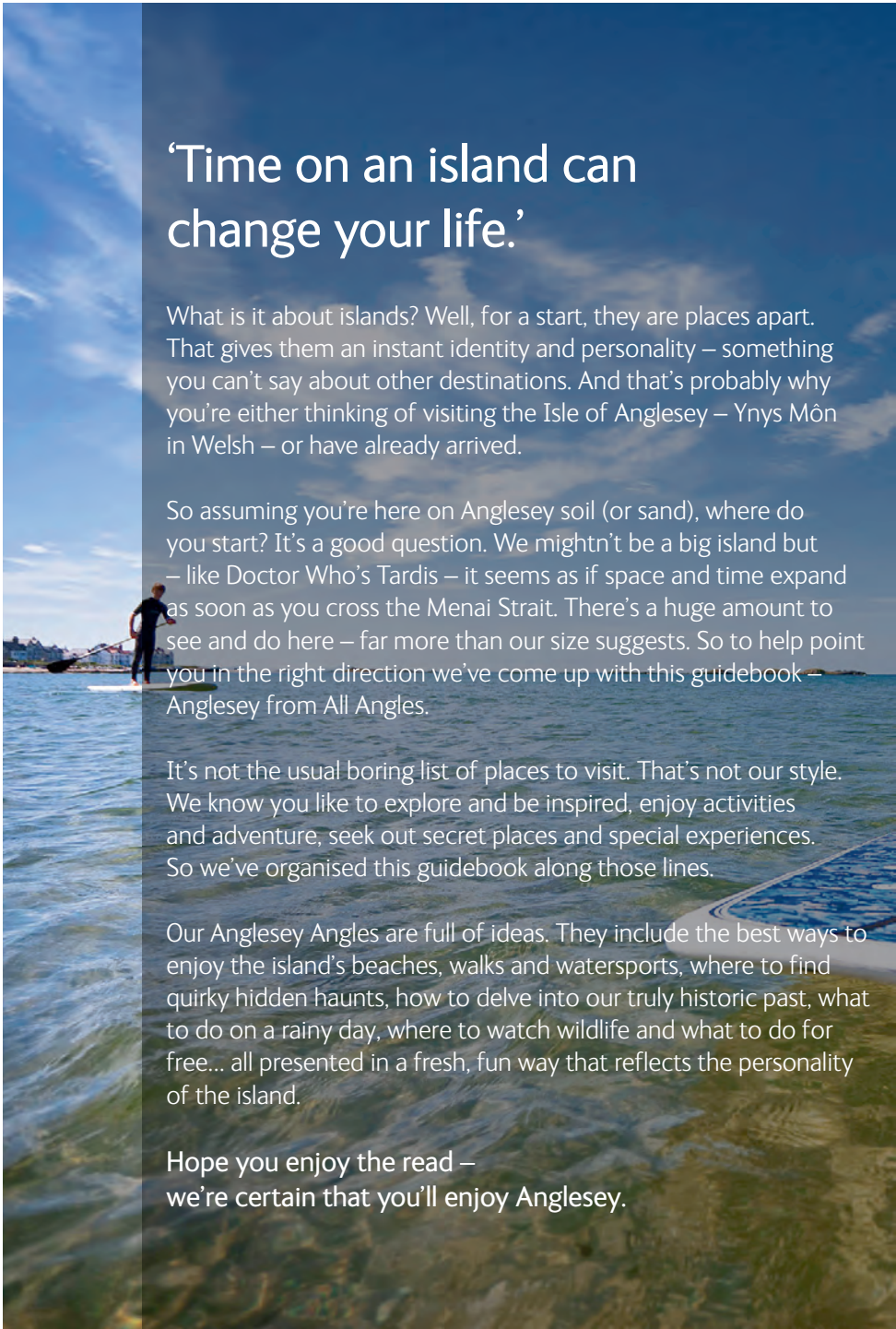


- Traeth
- Maes Parcio
- Lithrfa
- Gorsaf Bad Achub
- Canolfan Groeso
- Henebion

- Beach
- Car Park
- Slipway
- Lifoat Station
- Tourist Information Centre
- Ancient Monuments

- Llwybr Beicio Gwledig
- Llwybr Beicio Cenedlaethol
- Ardal o Harddwch Naturiol Eithriadol
- Gorsaf Drenau
- Atyniadau

- Rural Cycle Route
- National Cycle Route
- Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- Train Station
- Attractions

A person is standing on a surfboard in the sea, holding a surfboard. In the background, a coastal town is visible under a blue sky with scattered clouds. The water is a deep blue-green color.

# ‘Time on an island can change your life.’

What is it about islands? Well, for a start, they are places apart. That gives them an instant identity and personality – something you can’t say about other destinations. And that’s probably why you’re either thinking of visiting the Isle of Anglesey – Ynys Môn in Welsh – or have already arrived.

So assuming you’re here on Anglesey soil (or sand), where do you start? It’s a good question. We mightn’t be a big island but – like Doctor Who’s Tardis – it seems as if space and time expand as soon as you cross the Menai Strait. There’s a huge amount to see and do here – far more than our size suggests. So to help point you in the right direction we’ve come up with this guidebook – Anglesey from All Angles.

It’s not the usual boring list of places to visit. That’s not our style. We know you like to explore and be inspired, enjoy activities and adventure, seek out secret places and special experiences. So we’ve organised this guidebook along those lines.

Our Anglesey Angles are full of ideas. They include the best ways to enjoy the island’s beaches, walks and watersports, where to find quirky hidden haunts, how to delve into our truly historic past, what to do on a rainy day, where to watch wildlife and what to do for free... all presented in a fresh, fun way that reflects the personality of the island.

Hope you enjoy the read –  
we’re certain that you’ll enjoy Anglesey.



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# FIGURE IT OUT



Anglesey by numbers – it all adds up to an island full of things to see and do.

With **143** scheduled monuments on an island measuring just **276** square miles, you're always close to history here on Anglesey. Peer thousands of years into the past at our ancient and atmospheric burial chambers, standing stones and Celtic hillforts.

**Two** for the price of one. You either crossed the **417m** Menai Suspension Bridge on your way here (opened in **1826**) or the more recent **461m** Britannia Bridge.

You'll need to navigate **400** steps to reach stunning South Stack Lighthouse. The reward for your efforts? Out-of-this-world views of our craggy coastline, plus countless numbers of swooping seabirds.

There are **58 letters** in the name of tongue-twisting village Llanfairpwllgwyngyll-gogery-chwyrn-drobwll-lan-tysilio-gogoch. It's the longest placename in Europe, but you can call it Llanfair PG for short.

Lace up your boots for a walk on the **125-mile** Anglesey Coast Path. You don't have to tackle it all in one go – we've helpfully broken it down in to **12** bite-sized chunks for you in this guide.

You'll find **1,800 million** years of history locked up in the rugged rocks of our coast and countryside. Anglesey's geological rock stars are some of the oldest in the country.

At their narrowest point, the waters of the Menai Strait separate Anglesey from the mainland by just **400m**. It may be a short distance, but our little island still feels like a world apart.

There are **seven** golf clubs spread across the island, offering a grand total of **99** holes just waiting to be played. Hope you remembered to bring your clubs.

You'll find delicious Halen Môn Anglesey Sea Salt on tables in more than **22** countries. Call in at the new **£1.25 million** Ty Halen Môn visitor centre, Brynsiencyn, for a taste of how it's made.

There are around **700** red squirrels living in parks, gardens and woodlands across the island, the largest single population anywhere in Wales.

It may not be the biggest peak in the world, but **220m** Holyhead Mountain is more than tall enough to provide some spectacular **360-degree** views from its summit.

More than **1,000** pairs of sandwich terns nest each summer on islands in Cemlyn Bay lagoon. That's about **10 percent** of the entire UK breeding population.

Intrepid underwater explorers can find an estimated **1,200** shipwrecks in our coastal waters. Dive beneath the waves to investigate everything from **17th-century** yachts to World War Two U-boats.

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# THE WISH LIST

On the next few pages we've come up with ideas on where to go in Anglesey if you're a day visitor, spending the weekend or mid-week here, or coming for a full week's holiday. It's only intended as a taster of what we have to offer – we can't, of course, cover everything in just four pages. For the full menu on where to go and what to see and do in Anglesey, please see the detailed listings beginning on page 10.

## DAY TRIPPER

It's an early start to make the most of the day. First port of call is the handsome seatown of Beaumaris. Have a coffee along Castle Street before visiting one of Wales's most famous medieval fortresses, Beaumaris Castle, protected by cleverly designed water and stone defences.

Then it's off to **Benllech** and **Red Wharf Bay** for some sand between your toes. Anglesey is ringed with a coastline designated an 'Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty'. It's a case of quality and quantity, as you'll see at Benllech – a family favourite – and the vast stretch of wildlife-rich sands at Red Wharf Bay. Bring buckets, spades and binoculars.

Early afternoon, call into **Oriel Ynys Môn**, Llangefni. Although you haven't time to see all of Anglesey, this attractive museum and gallery gives you an instant tour of the island's history, heritage, geology, wildlife and art. There's a good café too.

You've got time to do what everyone does when they visit us – get your picture taken next to the sign at **Llanfair PG** (no, we're not going to spell it in full here), one of the



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world's longest placenames. And then squeeze some shopping in at James Pringle Weavers, one of Wales's largest craft and clothing stores.

### **A WEEKEND OR MID-WEEK BREAK**

Let's assume you're staying for two nights. Then take a look at our 'day tripper' suggestions and add the following. Because you're here for a few days we won't be recommending any particular order to your itinerary – that all depends on where you're based on the island and your travel plans. So in addition to the day trips list you'll have time for these:

**Anglesey Sea Zoo**, Brynsiencyn, peers into our watery world and the rich marine life that inhabits it. **Cemaes**, our most northerly

coastal village with a sandy beach and stone quayside framed by rugged headlands.

**Plas Newydd House and Gardens** near Llanfair PG, is an elegant National Trust property brimming with treasures like Rex Whistler's giant wall painting.

**Newborough's** vast, forest-backed beach where you'll have all the space – and sand – you'll ever need.

**South Stack Lighthouse**, a wow-factor spot and island icon.

## A WEEK'S VISIT

Add these places to our previous suggestions for day trips and weekend / mid-week breaks and you'll become a true island explorer. Again, we'll leave it to you to plan your own daily itinerary:

**Amlwch**, a picturesque little port that was once – almost unbelievably – the copper exporting capital of the world. See where the copper came from by visiting nearby Parys Mountain, an unearthly place that looks as though it's part of a sci-fi movie.

**The Anglesey Coastal Path**, all 125 miles of it, is spectacular wherever you walk. The waymarked route highlights almost every mile of the way, including Holyhead Mountain, Llanddwyn Island, Cemlyn Nature Reserve and Penmon Priory.

**Barcolliad y Gawres**, near Rhosneigr, one of the island's many prehistoric monuments, a spectacularly sited tomb containing ancient rock carvings.

**Dingle Local Nature Reserve**, Llangefni, is delightful. Its paths take you through woodland and along riverbanks full of interest and beauty at all seasons.

**Foel Farm**, Brynsiencyn, a popular family attraction. All things farming have never been so much fun.

**Halen Môn Anglesey Sea Salt** is famous the world over. Discover the secret of its success at its new visitor centre, Brynsiencyn.

**Holyhead**, our busy port and largest town, is a place full of history.

**Lligwy Beach**, one of the '10 Best Picnic Spots by the Sea in Britain'. Pack some

goodies and find out why.

**Llyn Alaw**, our largest lake, is popular with walkers, picnickers, birdwatchers and fishing enthusiasts. We're not just a coastal destination, you know.

**Llynnon Mill**, Llanddeusant, the last surviving working windmill on the island, a reminder of the times when Anglesey was known as the 'breadbasket of Wales'.

**Menai Bridge**, the town named after the world's first iron suspension bridge. Find out more about it and the neighbouring Britannia Bridge at the Thomas Telford Centre.

**The Menai Strait**, where you can see Anglesey and North Wales from a different perspective as you speed across the water on a RIB ride. Newborough Warren National Nature Reserve is a haunting mix of sand dunes, tidal island, saltmarsh and freshwater lake. It's one of many places on Anglesey where you can see wildlife throughout the year,

**Pili Palas**, Menai Bridge, a colourful island attraction that's home to butterflies, birds and lots of other animals.

**Plas Cadnant**, a gorgeous hidden garden above the Menai Strait that is being lovingly brought back to its full glory.

**Porth Wen** on the north coast, a quirky abandoned harbour and brickworks with a strange beauty. It's one of our many hidden haunts – so get exploring.

**Rhosneigr**, a pretty, small-scale seaside resort that perfectly sums up our unhurried coastal character.

**West-coast watersports** like kitesurfing and stand-up paddleboarding can be enjoyed from places like Rhosneigr and Trearddur Bay.

### BE YOUR OWN EXPLORER

We'd like to emphasise that the places mentioned here are just a few of the multitude of locations on Anglesey that are

full of fascination and beauty. With the help of the more detailed information on the following pages you can put together itineraries and 'wish lists' that come with your own personal stamp and preferences.

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# FOR BEACH BOYS (AND GIRLS)

## Benllech

The perfect example of the classic British beach, Benllech is one of Anglesey's family favourites. Generous expanses of inviting sand provide plenty of room for busy beach games, while the gently sloping shore is perfect for paddlers of all ages. There's a shop and café too, so you'll never be that far from a refreshing ice cream. Don't forget your bucket and spade.

## Cemaes Bay

It's two for the price of one here. The pretty harbour village of Cemaes Bay boasts a pair of beautiful beaches, Traeth Mawr and Traeth Bach (Big Beach and Little Beach), separated by a rocky headland. As you've probably guessed, Traeth Mawr is the larger of the two. Its combination of soft sand, rugged rockpools and even a cave to explore makes it a popular spot with families. Traeth Bach is worth your time too, offering a bit more seclusion than its busier big brother.

## Llanddona

Located at the eastern edge of Red Wharf Bay, Llanddona feels delightfully off the beaten track. Unless you're arriving on foot via the Coastal Path, you'll need to

navigate some steep and narrow lanes to reach it. It's worth the effort. The long sandy beach is ideal for bathers, paddlers, beachcombers and walkers. It's also a popular spot for sea fishing, while the offshore breezes make it a haven for windsurfers.

## Llanddwyn

Lovely Llanddwyn ticks a lot of beach boxes. Backed by tumbling dunes, the soft sand awaits castle-builders, sunbathers and beach-gamers, while out past the shoreline, wind- and kite-surfers will find a blustery playground. There's also the option to explore Llanddwyn Island, a rugged outcrop usually accessible on foot that's home to a picturesque lighthouse and the ruins of St Dwynwen's Church. It's part of the Newborough Nature Reserve and offers some spectacular views across the mouth of the Menai Strait towards Snowdonia.

## Lligwy

Part of sweeping Dulas Bay on the east of the island, blue is the predominant colour at beautiful Lligwy. You'll find big sky and seascapes all over Anglesey, but they are on an epic scale here. Water and sky merge into a seemingly infinite blue expanse as they stretch off towards the

You don't have to travel far to find brilliant beaches here on Anglesey. Whether you're looking for miles of golden sand, rockpools to explore, big surf breaks to ride or secluded spots to relax and get away from it all, we've got it covered.

horizon. It's just as good on land. Fringed by tantalising rockpools to explore and backed by rolling dunes, this big sandy beach never feels crowded.

### Red Wharf Bay

Sometimes bigger is better. At low tide the sandy surface of Red Wharf Bay measures a whopping 10 square miles. The entire bay is a designated nature reserve and attracts a dazzling array of winged wildlife. Keep your eyes peeled for birds like oyster catchers, grey plover, purple sandpipers, curlew and dunlin, all attracted by the plentiful shellfish that thrive in the bay's clear blue water.

### Trearddur Bay

Situated just a few miles from Holyhead, Trearddur Bay is undoubtedly one of Anglesey's premier beaches. Its seemingly endless sandy expanse guarantees plenty of room, even on the busiest of sunny days, while the wide sweep of sea is a mecca for watersports like kayaking, water skiing and surfing. You'll also find a good range of accommodation here, from large hotels to welcoming bed and breakfasts, making it the ideal base for your Anglesey beach holiday.

### The beach goes on

We obviously can't cover every one of our coastal beauty spots here – after all, there are over 200 bays, coves & beaches here. For further information on beaches go to the Visit Anglesey website, but here are a few more to whet your appetite.

### Get away from it all

It's easy to lose yourself among the Saharan sands of Aberffraw. Venture into the extensive dunes of this wide curving bay and you'll only have the local rabbits for company. Horseshoe-shaped Silver Bay feels wonderfully remote, with plenty of rockpools to explore. Porth Dafarch is another secluded blend of sand and stone. More adventurous beachgoers can take the path that leads to a rocky headland. Measuring just a few hundred metres, little Church Bay is a hidden gem. Fringed by tall cliffs, you'll need to navigate a steep path to reach the sandy shore. You'll be glad that you did.

### Be active

The shingle of Moelfre is really more harbour than beach. Little wonder it's a popular place for sailing and boating. Another nautical hotspot is the sand and shingle beach at Beaumaris, a major centre for yachting. For landlubbers, there's



also the historic pier and big views of Snowdonia. Rocky little Cable Bay is the ideal place for sea fishermen to cast a few lines. You can catch waves as well as fish, thanks to the big surfing swell from the south-west. There are more watersports at sandy Porth Nobla, with kayaking, fishing, sailing, swimming and scuba diving on the menu.

### Take in the view

You'll find buckets (and spades) of space on the long sandy span of dune-backed Porth Tywyn Mawr. There are some equally expansive views towards the bustling port of Holyhead and the Skerries out in the Irish Sea. Lleiniog's sand and rockpools are augmented by impressive panoramas of Snowdonia and Llandudno's Great Orme headland on the mainland. Head a short way from the beach and you can get a close look at atmospheric Aberlleiniog Castle.

### Live a wild life

Head to Porth Eilian at Anglesey's north-east tip for some serious nature spotting. You could catch a glimpse of birds like oystercatchers, coughts, ravens and gannets. Nearby Point Lynas is also a great place to see dolphins, porpoises and seals. The pebbly ridge of Cemlyn Bay

protects a large saltwater lagoon, a nature reserve and important habitat for seabirds.

### And the winner is...

We know our beaches are world-beaters, but you don't have to take our word for it. Travel around our coast and you'll find beautiful bays wherever you go. Our beaches attract a range of accolades, from Green Coast and Seaside Awards to prestigious Blue Flag Awards only handed out to the greenest and cleanest sandy superstars. For an up-to-date list of our award-winning beaches visit [www.keepwalestidy.org](http://www.keepwalestidy.org).

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FOR ADVENTURERS



On land, sea or somewhere  
in between, our exciting  
island has lots to offer for  
explorers and thrill seekers.

### Take a space walk

You don't need a rocket ship to go walking on the moon. At Parys Mountain near Amlwch, thousands of years of copper mining have created a bizarre lunar landscape, stained a rusty red by centuries of ore. A walk here is simply out of this world. Little wonder that the mountain is regularly used as a stand-in for alien planets by film and TV crews. Once you've explored the surface, you can even arrange to head down into the disused tunnels for a subterranean view.

### Splashdown

If you don't mind getting your feet (and the rest of you) wet, coasteering is the perfect way to get to grips with our stunning shoreline. Join a trip with Anglesey Adventures, for example, and you'll soon be clambering up cliffs, leaping into the waves below and swimming in our crystal clear sea. It's not for the faint-hearted, but you'd be hard pushed to get a closer, more complete look at our coast.

### The seal deal

Have a really wild time seal spotting at North Stack. Edge along the cliffs in late summer and you can catch glimpses of seals and their pups in their breeding cave.

Don't forget to bring your binoculars. Along with the seals, you may also spot birds like choughs, gannets and Manx shearwaters. Keep a look out too for porpoises and dolphins.

### Take a boat ride

Take to the seas in a RIB (that's rigid inflatable boat to you and me), for a white-knuckle ride over the waves. Zip under the Menai Suspension Bridge and navigate the infamous Swellies, spot puffins and cormorants on Ynys Seiriol (Puffin Island) and get an offshore view of mighty Caernarfon Castle. It can be a bumpy trip, so be sure to bring your sea legs.

### Best foot forward

Walk one of the most spectacular stretches of our 125-mile coastal path. The section north from Trearddur Bay takes you past South Stack's jagged cliffs and iconic lighthouse, perched on its vantage point overlooking the Irish Sea. Even though you're only a few miles from bustling Holyhead, this Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty feels gloriously remote.



### Ready, set, go

Indulge your need for speed with some high-octane racing at Cartio Môn, the go karting track near Holyhead. Offering slick, intermediate or wet-weather tyres for an authentic racing experience, the outdoor circuit keeps the pedal to the metal all year round. You can even drive at night under the glow of floodlights. It's a thrilling day out for petrolheads aged eight to 80. You'll also find regular motorsport events and track days at Anglesey Circuit near Aberffraw.

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### Horseplay

Hit the beach on horseback for a sandy gallop. At Anglesey Riding Centre, confident riders can enjoy a dramatic waterside run along the Menai Strait. Those less experienced in the saddle can get involved too – the centre has five miles of tranquil bridleways to explore at a gentle trot or a brisk canter.

We don't have space to cover the entire activity scene here, so head to the Visit Anglesey website or pop into one of our Tourist Information Points for more information.

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FOR GETTING  
WET (WELL,  
SOMETIMES)



Whether you're on, in or  
under the sea, our coastline  
is a wonderland for  
watersports.

### On board

Have a swell time riding the waves with some surfing, stand-up paddleboarding or kitesurfing. You'll find perfect conditions for these activities at bays and beaches around the island, but an excellent starting point is Rhosneigr on Anglesey's western side. It's home to Gecko Surf and Stand Up Paddle Board School, where you can hire equipment and pick up tips from sea sport experts.

### Deep impact

There's fun to be had beneath the waves too. Underwater, our terrain is just as captivating as on dry land, with a treasure chest of reefs, pinnacles and drop-offs to explore. And for experienced divers there are more than 100 atmospheric wrecks in deeper water to investigate. Our sea is a lively place, so you can expect to come face to face with lots of marine life on your journey. There are launch sites for boats at Trearddur Bay, Bull Bay, Holyhead, Porth Eilian and Traeth Bychan, plus plenty of suitable spots for shore diving. For advice, equipment and dive training courses, try Anglesey Divers in Holyhead.

### Paddle power

There can be few better ways to explore the nooks and crannies of our coastline

than by kayak. Take to the water under your own steam and you'll find secluded coves and hidden caves, and get up close to rugged rock formations, seabirds and other aquatic wildlife. BActive@Rhoscolyn offers a range of kayaking trips, from beginners' taster sessions in sheltered bays to more challenging journeys into deeper and wilder water.

### All decked out

For those who like their boats a little bigger, our island is paradise for sailing enthusiasts. There are harbours and marinas dotted all around our coastline and you'll find sailing clubs at Beaumaris, Holyhead, Red Wharf Bay, Rhosneigr and Trearddur Bay. We're also home to some big sailing events, including the annual Round Anglesey Race and the Menai Strait Regattas, two weeks of races held on the narrow stretch of water separating us from the mainland.

### Cast away

Anglers love Anglesey. Cast your line into our bountiful waters and you could feel a bite from a diverse range of sea fish including cod, conger, bass, whiting and mackerel. You won't have to travel too far offshore either. Our fishing grounds are relatively close to the coast, so you'll be



hauling in the Big One in no time. The many shipwrecks lying offshore also provide artificial reef environments bursting with marine life. Landlubbers are well catered for too. The beaches, piers, rocky outcrops and jetties which stud our 125-mile coastline are ideal for shore fishing, while inland you'll find plenty of freshwater lakes and reservoirs.

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Want more? Turn to pages 10 –13 for more coastal activities at our brilliant beaches. Or visit our website for information on local businesses and activity providers.

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# FOR LANDLUBBERS



Horses, golf courses, mountain bikes and motor racing. You don't have to get your feet wet to have fun on Anglesey.

### The perfect drive

Our golfing scene leaves other places green with envy. Make a day of it at one of our 18-hole courses, such as at Bull Bay, the most northerly club in Wales. Sample the fast-draining heathland of Anglesey Golf Club and the tree-lined parkland of Henllys, both of which come with eye-catching views over Snowdonia. Or test yourself against the best at Holyhead, designed by legendary course architect James Braid. If you're pushed for time, we've also got some great nine-hole tracks like Baron Hill and Storws Wen.

### The wheel thing

Get on your bike for a street-level view of our beautiful island. Anglesey isn't a particularly hilly place, so cyclists of all levels can enjoy getting about on two wheels. The 11-mile Lôn Las Cefni route takes you on quiet roads and dedicated cycle tracks through some of our most picturesque scenery, including Dingle Nature Reserve and wildlife-packed Malltraeth Marsh. Or head north and tackle Trwydd Copr (the Copper Trail), a 34-mile loop through some spectacular Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty landscapes. Find out more about the cycling scene with our Anglesey by Bike brochure, available online and in Tourist

Information Points. Don't worry if you haven't brought your wheels. Hire shops like Cybi Bikes in Holyhead can quickly get you riding.

### Hot to trot

Don't feel like pedalling? Saddle up for a horse ride and let someone else do the hard work. Trot along the banks of the Menai Strait at Anglesey Riding Centre, which offers fun on horseback for novices and experts alike. Or head to Porth y Post Riding Stables near Holyhead, which runs lessons in everything from show jumping to cross-country riding.

### Hit the gas

If you're more into petrol than ponies, get revved up at Anglesey Circuit. The purpose-built track near Aberffraw on the island's west coast hosts a range of high-octane motorbike and car racing events throughout the year. You can become part of the action too. Get behind the wheel (or handlebars) on a track day to indulge your need for speed. There are more rubber-burning adventures on offer at Cartio Môn near Holyhead. Racers of all ages can take to the track in zippy go-karts for their own mini-Grand Prix experience.



### Get hooked

While our sparkling seas make many of the fishing headlines, you'll also find some great Anglesey angling inland. The reservoirs of Llyn Alaw and Llyn Cefni are fertile hunting grounds for brown and rainbow trout, or you can try your luck at fisheries like Llyn y Gors, Parc Newydd or Tyddyn Sargent. If you fancy tackling some prey on land, head to Anglesey Hunting and Fishing at Presaddfed Hall near Holyhead for some mixed game shooting featuring pheasant, goose, woodcock and snipe.

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If you want to explore our coast and countryside on foot, head to pages 38-41 for the lowdown on where to walk. Alternatively, make your way to the Visit Anglesey website for more exciting land-based activities.

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FOR FAMILIES



**Animal magic, aquatic adventures and horrible history. Anglesey's got something for kids (and grown-ups) of all ages.**

### **Packed to the gills**

Get a fish's eye view of life beneath the waves at Anglesey Sea Zoo, Brynisiencyn, the biggest aquarium in Wales. Recreating the underwater habitats of Anglesey's bountiful coastline, it's an immersive peek into our diverse marine life. Alongside huge tanks teeming with fish of all shapes and sizes, budding undersea explorers can come face to face with an octopus in the invertebrates-only No Bone Zone and see playtime in the Seahorse Nursery.

### **A bug's life**

It's tropical whatever the weather at Pili Palas in Menai Bridge. The humid Butterfly House is a steamy world of lush vegetation, tumbling waterfalls and colourful, free-flying butterflies. You'll also find creepy crawlies like hissing cockroaches, millipedes and hairy tarantulas in the Bug Zone, and slithering serpents in the Snake House. If you prefer your animals a little more cute and cuddly, watch out for the meerkats, pygmy goats and Kunekune pigs.

### **Down on the farm**

Experience agricultural Anglesey at Foel Farm near Brynisiencyn. Young farmers can get eye level with massive shire horses on a tractor and trailer tour, help to feed the

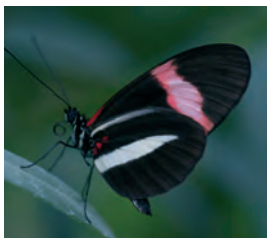
animals and work off some energy in the outdoor play area. It's a fun-filled family day out stuffed with the sights, sounds and (strong) smells of life on a working farm.

### **Talon show**

See the feathers fly and become a falconer for the day with Anglesey Hawking, near Rhosgoch. You'll get the closest possible look at some mighty birds of prey on hawk walks through more than 1200 acres of unspoilt Anglesey countryside. For something really different, head out at dusk to see owls in night-time flight or saddle up for some horseback falconry.

### **Size matters**

Make the kids feel really big with a trip to Anglesey Model Village and Gardens in Newborough. They'll have a huge amount of fun wandering the tiny town, with its scaled-down replicas of Anglesey landmarks like Beaumaris Castle, the Marquess of Anglesey's Column and the train station at Llanfair PG. Little ones can also hop aboard the village's miniature train (Ivor to his friends) for a ride through the grounds. Trust exercises Visit the National Trust's family-friendly Plas Newydd House and Gardens, perched on the banks of the



Menai Strait. While younger visitors may not fully appreciate the care and attention that has been lavished on the acres of beautifully kept grounds, they're sure to enjoy clambering over the adventure playground and playing a round of Frisbee golf.

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### Horrid heritage

Bring history to life with a trip on the Anglesey Family Trail. This collection of the Island's 'stinky old bits' frames the past in a way that's sure to appeal any fan of Horrible Histories. Learn about gruesome discoveries at spooky Bryn Celli Ddu burial chamber, the medieval toilets in Beaumaris Castle and shipwrecks off South Stack.

Turn to pages 42–45 or head to the Visit Anglesey website for more ideas for things to do with the kids.



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# FOR TIME TRAVELLERS

## Grave encounters

Peek into Anglesey's distant past at Barclodiad y Gawres. This partially reconstructed Neolithic burial chamber occupies a spectacular spot overlooking the sea on the headland between Porth Tre Castell and Porth Nobla. It's worth visiting for the views alone, but the tomb's dark interior offers the biggest highlights, where stones decorated with spirals, zigzags and chevrons by Anglesey's ancient people can be seen. On the other side of the island you'll find Lligwy Burial Chamber. Dating back to the third millennium BC and topped by a massive capstone weighing about 25 tons, it's a mighty monument to Anglesey's early architects.

## Historic Holyhead

Our bustling port town of Holyhead has lots to offer history hunters. St Cybi's Church, on the site of a Roman fort, is still encircled by the walls built by our former occupiers. Things are a little more recent at Anglesey Maritime Museum, which explores our long relationship with the sea. Based in the former lifeboat station (the oldest in Wales), its collection tells a seafaring story of shipwrecks, sailors and submarines. There's even the jawbone of a 30,000-year-old woolly mammoth, discovered in Holyhead's harbour in 1864.

## Back to your roots

Does your family have a past on Anglesey? Trace your own island connections at Anglesey Archives in Llangefni. Amateur genealogists and history buffs can delve into a fascinating collection of maps, newspapers, pictures and census records that tell the story of Anglesey's inhabitants over the centuries.

## Castles and criminals

Beautiful Beaumaris is a real historical heavyweight. The concentric walls and sturdy towers of Beaumaris Castle – a UNESCO World Heritage Site – dominate the town. Constructed towards the end of Edward I's medieval campaign of Welsh castle building, it's one of the most advanced fortresses of its age. You can also experience some classic crime and punishment at the Courthouse and Gaol. See where criminals were sentenced for more than 400 years before getting a taste of life behind bars in a haunting Victorian prison.

## New for old

Plas Newydd ('The New Mansion') near Llanfair PG is no newcomer. This magnificent National Trust historic house dates from the 18th century. Standing in lovely grounds on the shores of the Menai Strait, it's one of Wales's most elegant

We're at home with history. You'll find reminders of thousands of years of heritage all over our island, from prehistoric sites and fabulous fortresses to working windmills and classic cars.

architectural treasures – with treasure-filled interiors too, the epitome of country house living from a bygone age. For more on the house and its many features please see the 'families', 'green', 'rainy days', 'explorers' and 'romantics' sections of this guide.

### **Bright spark**

Perched on its rocky islet amid the surging sea, South Stack Lighthouse is an Anglesey icon. Built to keep unwary ships from straying too close to a treacherous coastline, it's been shining since 1809. It's a striking sight when viewed from the mainland, but for the full experience you'll need to cross the bridge and navigate a lung-busting 400 steps for a closer look. As you make the journey, spare a thought for the lighthouse's builders. They had to make their way across in baskets, suspended by ropes above the crashing waves. Suddenly, the stairs don't seem like such a bad option.

### **The daily grind**

Feel the breeze at Llynnon Windmill at Llanddeusant on the north-west of the island. Anglesey's combination of stiff sea winds and gentle rolling countryside with fertile soils meant that mills like this were once a common sight here in the '

breadbasket of Wales'. Today, Llynnon is the last working windmill in Wales. Its massive canvas sails and wooden gears still produce wholemeal flour, which can be sampled in cakes and bread from the mill's Blas Llynnon tearoom.

### **Holy water**

Reputedly founded by Anglesey's own St Seiriol in the 6th century, Penmon Priory on the north-east of the island has been through some big changes in its long lifetime. Destroyed by Viking raiders in AD971, the atmospheric remains that stand today largely date from the 12th century. The oldest remnant is St Seiriol's Well. Housed in a small stone building, this holy well has drawn pilgrims seeking its healing qualities since pre-Christian times.

### **A tale of two bridges**

Explore the history of the Menai Suspension Bridge and the Britannia Bridge. See the exhibition at the Thomas Telford Centre in Menai Bridge to find out about how these links to mainland Wales were constructed. You can even use your new knowledge to have a go at building your own bridge, albeit on a slightly smaller scale.



### Saints alive

Perched on the headland overlooking Cemaes Bay, Llanbadrig Church owes its name to a famous visitor. Legend has it that St Patrick was shipwrecked near here in AD440. He survived his ordeal by sheltering in a nearby cave with its own freshwater spring, before founding the church to express his gratitude (Llanbadrig literally translates as 'Church of St Patrick'). More adventurous visitors can even tackle the rocky descent to Patrick's former shelter, now known as Ogof Padrig.

### Top gear

There's history with horsepower at Tŷ Taid Transport and Agriculture Museum near Newborough. This collection of classic cars, bikes, trucks, tanks and tractors is a petrolhead's playground. Among its 100-plus vehicles you'll see the unmistakable shape of an early Land Rover. This world-famous wheeled workhorse is something of a local hero – it was dreamt-up and designed on a farm just a short distance from the museum.

### Open house

Get a real feel for Anglesey life in days gone by at Swtan Heritage Museum in Church Bay. This 17th-century thatched cottage and outbuildings have been re-

stored to how they were at the beginning of the last century, when their occupants lived off the land. Venture inside and you'll find a compact space where the family once ate, cooked and slept in close proximity.

There's much more history and heritage on Anglesey than we have room for here. Turn to pages 50–53 or head to the Visit Anglesey website for more past masters.

### What's in a name?

We have the Vikings to thank for our island's English name. In Old Norse, an -ey ending indicates an island named after a particular person, meaning that Anglesey probably derives from a long forgotten visitor called Ongl or Ongli. We don't know who he was, but he definitely left his mark. The Welsh name Ynys Môn ('The Isle of Môn') is equally mysterious. Some say it comes from an ancient princess called Mona, but the truth is lost in the mists of history.

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# FOR GREEN DAYS



Okay, we know that Anglesey is famous for its salty, sandy coastline. But there are many green and grassy places to visit too, including parks, gardens and nature reserves.

### The 'hidden gardens'

Plas Cadnant is the past reborn. This captivating historic garden, on a secluded hillside above the Menai Strait between Menai Bridge and Beaumaris, is being brought back to life thanks to a loving restoration project. The present owner bought the 200-acre Plas Cadnant Estate in 1996. Since then large parts of the gardens have been spectacularly returned to their former glory. You're treated to three gardens in one – an unusual walled garden with curved walls and pool, a secret valley garden with a river and waterfalls, and an upper woodland garden with stone outcrops and the remains of a 19th-century folly. It's an ongoing project that captures the imagination of all who visit it. And that's an increasing number, for this secret place is swiftly being discovered. There's also a tea room and you can stay in one of Plas Cadnant's holiday cottages, beautifully converted from old estate buildings.

### House and garden

Plas Newydd at Llanfair PG is more than an historic house. It stands on the shores of the Menai Strait in a glorious setting. Its extensive gardens and grounds, resplendent in all seasons, include a spring garden, Australasian arboretum,

Italianate-style summer terrace, rhododendron garden, massed hydrangeas that give autumn colour and an idyllic woodland walk.

### It's a small world

Anglesey Model Village, Newborough, creates a miniature world of one-twelfth size buildings, many copied from famous Anglesey landmarks. But it's not just about Lilliputian landscapes. The village is set in an acre of landscaped gardens with water features, plants and trees.

### The forest by the sea

Newborough Forest is a strange place. It's a conifer woodland that, on the face of it, seems to have an incongruous location next to dunelands and one of our largest beaches. But that's the reason for its existence. It was planted between 1947 and 1965, originally to protect the village of Newborough from wind-blown sand as well as for commercial reasons. Nowadays, it's a cool green space with waymarked trails and picnic sites, popular with walkers, cyclists, horse riders – and red squirrels (it's one of their most important conservation areas in the UK).



### It's second nature

Nature and wildlife reserves are scattered across the island. Go inland to discover some of these special places. Cors Goch National Nature Reserve west of Benllech, for example, is a low-lying, fen-like landscape that's a refuge for plants more often seen in East Anglia. Nearby Cors Erddreiniog is another extensive area of fenland. You'd be hard pressed to beat Coed Cynrol Local Nature Reserve, Menai Bridge, for a more charming little woodland walk. For more on our reserves and wildlife please see pages 46–49.

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### Open gardens

Around 10 gardens on the island are members of the National Gardens Scheme. They are 'open for charity' to the public at various times of the year (either regularly or by appointment). For more information go to [ngs.org.uk](http://ngs.org.uk)

### Go green

There are lots of ways that you can go green. Explore Anglesey on foot (see pages 38–41 for information and inspiration). Or by bike (see pages 22–25). Or ditch the car and use our buses to get around (see pages 80–83 for more on this option).



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# FOR WALKERS

## A 12-step guide to the Isle of Anglesey Coastal Path and some of its many highlights

### 1 Holyhead – Porth Trwyn (14 miles)

Beginning at St Cybi's Church in the centre of Holyhead (the Coastal Path's official start point), the route takes you from Holy Island to the sheltered banks of Afon Alaw. Rejoining the coast as you head north, look back to see the ferries making their way in and out of Holyhead's busy port.

### 2 Porth Trwyn – Cemaes (10½ miles)

This section's visual highlight is the remote and unspoilt landscape around Carmel Head at the north-west tip of the island. Along the way you'll pass picturesque Ynys y Fydlyn, a rocky outcrop with a distinctive, sea-carved stone arch and get great views of The Skerries out in the Irish Sea.

### 3 Cemaes – Amlwch Port (7½ miles)

Head through some of Anglesey's most striking and rugged coastline and you'll pass Porth Badrig. According to legend, St Patrick founded a church here after

being shipwrecked on nearby Ynys Badrig around AD440, making it one of the oldest Christian sites in Wales. Also keep an eye out for atmospheric views of the abandoned brickworks at Porth Wen.

### 4 Amlwch Port – Moelfre (12½ miles)

Some real beach beauties here. Only accessible on foot or by boat, secluded Traeth yr Ora is one of Anglesey's best-kept secrets, while picture-perfect Lligwy is a glorious combination of golden sand and deep blue sea. At journey's end, the little village of Moelfre is one of the prettiest on the island.

### 5 Moelfre – Pentraeth (6 miles)

This short stretch of the Coastal Path packs in plenty of variety. Watch out for distinctive rock formations between Traeth Brychan and Benllech, a series of platforms carved from the shoreline by millennia of waves. At Red Wharf Bay the wooded slopes of Mynydd Llwydiarth add a touch of green to the big blue sea views.

Boot yourself up for an unforgettable Anglesey walk. Our Coastal Path takes you on a 125-mile journey through the island's shifting landscapes, from dunes, beaches and craggy cliffs to rolling farmland and expansive salt marshes. You'll also climb an impressive 13,695ft/4,174m. Not bad for an island that's supposed to be flat.

### 6 Pentraeth – Beaumaris (12½ miles)

Eyes peeled for some heavyweight heritage. The remains of an Iron Age settlement sit atop the flat summit of the hill known as Bwrdd Arthur (Arthur's Table), while you'll spy the ruins of a 12th-century church offshore on Puffin Island. Also dating from the 12th century, you'll pass Penmon Priory next, before finishing up at the walls of mighty Beaumaris Castle (A UNESCO World Heritage Site).

### 7 Beaumaris – Moel y Don (6¾ miles)

Travelling along the narrowest section of the Menai Strait, you'll pass beneath both the Menai Suspension Bridge and the Britannia Bridge. It's the perfect opportunity to examine these impressive structures close up. Another eye-catching construction is the 90ft/27m Marquess of Anglesey column.

### 8 Moel y Don – Llyn Rhos-ddu (11½ miles)

While this is one of the flattest sections of the Coastal Path, it doesn't lack for drama. Walk along the banks of the Menai Strait and look across the water for widescreen views of Caernarfon Castle on the far shore, before turning

inland and crossing Afon Braint on a series of huge stepping-stones.

### 9 Llyn Rhos-ddu – Aberffraw (12 miles)

The path travels past Newborough Nature Reserve and Newborough Forest, with walkers sandwiched between dunes and trees. Be sure to take a romantic stop at Llanddwyn Island. This narrow finger of land (only really an island at the highest of tides) is home to the ruined church of St Dwynwen, the Welsh patron saint of lovers and Anglesey's own answer to St Valentine.

### 10 Aberffraw – Four Mile Bridge (13 miles)

A lovely sandy stretch of path takes you north towards Four Mile Bridge. Also known as Pontrhydbont (or 'bridge on the ford'), there has been a crossing to Holy Island here for centuries. Watch out for the tiny Porth Cwyfan Church, set on its own island just offshore. You'll also see (and hear) the jets flying out of RAF Valley, which lies to the right as you walk up the coast from Rhosneigr.



### 11 Four Mile Bridge – Trearddur (8¾ miles)

Things take a turn for the rugged on this rocky stretch. As you wind around the nooks and crannies of the coastline the cliffs get steadily higher, reaching their peak at Rhoscolyn Head. Head to the old coastguard lookout point for expansive views across Anglesey's west coast and Holy Island.

### 12 Trearddur – Holyhead (11½ miles)

This final stretch is also one of the most dramatic. You'll pass the iconic lighthouse at South Stack, perched on a rocky outcrop projecting into the Irish Sea. If you want to add a bit of height to your journey, a detour to the summit of Holyhead Mountain (Anglesey's highest point) provides awesome 360-degree views.

For detailed route descriptions and maps of the entire Coastal Path, head to [www.visitanglesey.co.uk](http://www.visitanglesey.co.uk)

### Step on

The Coastal Path is just part of Anglesey's walking wonderland

### Round and round

Get the best of both worlds with a circular walk taking in both coast and countryside. You'll find easy-to-follow loops across the island at places like Rhosneigr, Cemaes, Bull Bay and Holyhead Mountain. Check the Visit Anglesey website for route maps and detailed descriptions.

### Get fresh

The sea is a big feature here, but our in-land waters are also worth exploring. In addition to supplying drinking water to the island, the reservoirs of Llyn Cefni and Llyn Alaw offer gentle, easily accessible routes suitable for walkers of all levels.

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FOR RAINY DAYS



We're not the Sahara Desert and, yes, it sometimes rains here. Not to worry. There's plenty to keep everyone occupied and very happy without getting wet. Here we reveal all on undercover Anglesey.

### You're underwater and dry as a bone

Anglesey Sea Zoo at Brynsiencyn is one of our most popular visitor attractions, famous for the way it presents all things fishy in a stimulating, exciting and novel way. You can walk through carefully created underwater habitats and get up close and personal to an amazing array of marine life that includes everything from seahorses to sharks, octopuses to lobsters. Features include a Seven Sisters Shipwreck, Shark Pool, No Bone Zone and examples of the zoo's important conservation work at its lobster hatchery and seahorse nursery. And when the sun comes out there's a big choice of outdoor child-friendly activity too.

### Tropical times

Here's another top family favourite. Pili Palas Nature World at Menai Bridge is an exotic tropical jungle full of butterflies, birds, snakes, iguanas, tarantulas and much more. It's a complete day out, with lots to see and do. There's also an undercover Play Barn and, outside, you'll find farm animals, manic meerkats, an adventure playground, nature trail and big bouncy castle.

### The Empire strikes back

Holyhead's Empire Complex is more than a cinema. Take part in your own Star Wars at Laser Tag, a fun laser game for the over-fives. Or let the kids loose in the Play Centre, one of the biggest indoor centres in North Wales for children young and old. There's a huge, three-tier structure for older kids to explore and a dedicated play area for toddlers. And afterwards, you can all put your feet up and go to the cinema.

### An Italianate masterpiece

No, we're not talking about the architecture at Plas Newydd, Llanfair PG, which is a handsome mélange of Classical and Gothic styles. We're referring here to what you'll find inside this sumptuous National Trust mansion – specifically the stunning mural painted by Rex Whistler in the 1930s. This colossal canvas, all 58ft/18m of it, covers the entire wall of the Dining Room. Considered to be the artist's masterpiece, it depicts an imagined, romantic world of mountains and sea bathed in the warmth of an Italianate summer. Who cares if it's raining outside. And when you've taken it all in there's the entire house left to explore, filled with fascinating treasures.



### At your leisure

We have well-equipped leisure centres at Amlwch, Beaumaris, Holyhead, Llangefni and Menai Bridge. All have sports/fitness facilities. In addition, Amlwch, Holyhead and Llangefni have indoor swimming pools.

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### That's not all ...

See our information on family attractions (pages 26–29), historic sites (pages 54–54) and arts, crafts and shopping.

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# FOR VIEWFINDERS



Extraordinary sights are commonplace here on Anglesey. You'll find surprising and spectacular panoramas at every point of the compass.

### It's only natural

Anglesey is quite a looker. Roughly a third of the island (including nearly all of our 125-mile coastline) is a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Measuring more than 85 square miles, it's the biggest AONB in Wales and covers a stunning range of coastal landscapes and habitats. Basically, wherever you are on Anglesey, you're never far away from the next eye-catching panorama. Hope you packed your camera. Or charged up your smartphone.

### On the waterfront

Take a stroll along the historic promenade and pier in Beaumaris, the town affectionately known as the 'Anglesey Riviera'. Jutting into the Menai Strait, the 570ft/174m pier is the perfect vantage point for views of the town's varied architecture – a charming mix of medieval, Georgian, Victorian and Edwardian – and across the water to mainland Wales.

### Really wild

Make your way to Point Lynas near Amlwch on the island's rugged northern coast. An unusual, almost castle-like lighthouse stands at the end of this rocky headland, which is the perfect

spot for some wildlife spotting. Watch out for seabirds wheeling above and seals, porpoises and even the occasional dolphin out at sea.

### Reach your peak

The tallest mountain on mainland Anglesey, Mynydd Bodafon stands at 578ft/178m (Holyhead Mountain on Holy Island is taller – it's mentioned later). While that height is hardly alpine, it's more than enough to offer some expansive views across the island. Once you've taken in the landscape, take a breather next to Llyn Bodafon, a glacial lake close to the mountain's summit.

### Look north

The Dinas Gynfor headland, sandwiched between the bays of Porth Llanlleiana and Porth Cynfor, is the most northerly point in Wales (keep going and the next time you'll hit a substantial stretch of dry land is the Isle of Man). Stand at this gloriously remote spot for seemingly boundless views across the sea, only broken by the little island of Ynys Badrig lying just over half a mile offshore.

### Away with the birds

There's plenty to grab your attention on the headland at Penmon at Anglesey's



eastern edge. In the distance, the rocky bulk of Snowdonia dominates the skyline like a location from Lord of the Rings. Closer to home, Puffin Island (or Ynys Seiriol to give it its Welsh name) is just as magical. Fringed with steep cliffs, this uninhabited island is an important breeding ground for cormorants, guillemots, kittiwakes and (you've guessed it) puffins.

### Summit special

At 720ft/220m, Holyhead Mountain is the highest point on Anglesey. Sloping down to the Irish Sea, it's a lofty perch over some of the island's most striking scenery. Make the ascent for a bird's-eye view of Holy Island's twisting, craggy coastline. While you're up there, be sure to explore the remains of the Iron Age hillfort and Roman watchtower near the summit.

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# FOR EXPLORERS

## Lost in space

Have an out-of-this world experience at Parys Mountain near Amlwch, where centuries of copper mining have transformed the land into a bizarre rust-coloured moonscape. Become a lunar explorer on a maze of trails that wind through the old mine site and investigate the remains of long-abandoned buildings like the 19th-century beam house and the windmill once used to pump out the workings. You can continue your journey at the Copper Kingdom Centre in Amlwch Port. This award-winning heritage centre is packed with interactive exhibits that tell the story of the area's copper mining history.

## Ghostly graves

Test your nerve with a spooky trip inside Bryn Celli Ddu near Brynsiencyn. Built around 4,000 years ago, this Neolithic burial chamber is one of the oldest graves in Wales. Although its former inhabitants are long gone, you can still feel their presence in the tomb's shadowy interior. If you want to add a little light to proceedings, time your visit for midsummer's day when – thanks to some clever design from Bryn Celli Ddu's ancient architects – the sun shines directly through the entrance.

## Locked up

You'll also feel the ghosts of the past at Beaumaris Gaol, reputedly one of the most haunted places on the island. This former prison has been preserved almost exactly as it was in its Victorian heyday, though now visitors are able to come and go as they please. Explore in the company of the disembodied voices of former inmates on a ghostly audio tour and see what life was like for the unfortunate inhabitants. Watch out for the treadmill (one of the last of its kind in Britain) where prisoners would be made to walk for hours pumping water around the building.

## Wonderwalls

Predating the more famous fortress at Beaumaris by two centuries, Aberlleiniog Castle is one of Anglesey's historical hidden gems. Nestled amid woodland overlooking the eastern mouth of the Menai Strait, the castle has a colourful past that includes Vikings, pirates and Norman invaders. It was originally built as a wooden motte and bailey (one of the earliest in Wales) by Robert of Rhuddlan, though what we see today are the stone remains of a later structure.

Get off the beaten track and discover hidden Anglesey. With ancient tombs, ghostly gaols and a famous false leg, our island is packed with unusual things to see and do.

### A legendary leg

When Henry William Paget, later the Marquess of Anglesey, was hit by cannon fire at the Battle of Waterloo, his reaction was pure British stiff upper lip. 'By God sir, I've lost my leg!' he is reputed to have said, to which the nearby Duke of Wellington responded, 'By God sir, so you have!' Following his return from the war, the Marquess was fitted with a wooden replacement. Hinged at the knee and ankle, it was the most sophisticated prosthetic of its time and came to be known as the 'Anglesey leg'. This famous limb is now on display at the National Trust's Plas Newydd, former home of the Marquess.

### Regal remains

Walk in the footsteps of Welsh kings at Llys Rhosyr near Newborough. One of around 20 courts maintained by Llywellyn the Great during the early part of the 13th century, this is the only one that has ever been found. Llywellyn ruled the Kingdom of Gwynedd that covered most of Wales until the arrival of Edward I in 1282. The conquerors destroyed the courts, all but erasing a huge part of Welsh history. Exploring these remains is a true one-of-a-kind Anglesey experience that no time-traveller should miss.

### Stone age

See some real old-timers on the craggy coastline of South Stack. The rocks here date back about 600 million years, making them among the oldest in the country. Thought to have formed in the Precambrian period, these stony superstars are twisted into a series of spectacular folds. You can get a great look at these fantastic formations as you negotiate the 400 steps down to the famous lighthouse that sits at South Stack's highest point.

### A pop pilgrimage

South Stack is a rock star in its own right, but it really hit the charts when it was featured on the cover of Roxy Music's 1975 album Sirens. The iconic image of model Jerry Hall was taken directly beneath the bridge linking South stack to Holy Island. The location was picked by the band's lead singer Bryan Ferry after he saw a TV documentary about Anglesey's geology. It seems that music wasn't the only rock he was interested in. Visit yourself and you'll quickly see why the place caught his eye.



### Power play

Feel the energy at Wylfa Power Station near Cemaes. Going nuclear is definitely the unusual option on an island as green and unspoilt as Anglesey, but the station's visitor centre offers a fascinating exploration of atomic power. Interactive exhibits detail the development of power stations and highlight the environmental credentials of nuclear generation. Once you've investigated the visitor centre, you can enjoy a wildlife-spotting walk on the station's countryside trail for evidence that nature and nuclear can mix.

### One fine bay

There are countless hidden coves around Anglesey, but Porth Wen on the north coast may be the most unusual. Find your way down an unmarked, little-travelled path and you'll discover a ruined harbour and the remains of a 19th-century brickworks. Long abandoned to nature, the sounds of industry have been replaced by the lap of the waves and the wind whipping past the crumbling chimneystacks and furnaces, giving this once-bustling site an eerie solitude. If all that gets too much, you can distract yourself with some spectacular sea views from the dazzling white shingle beach.

Want to explore further? Turn to pages 14–17 or head to the Visit Anglesey website for more on our history and heritage.

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# FOR ARTS, CRAFTS AND SHOPPING



Peruse paintings, catch a play or indulge in some retail therapy. There's a packed programme on Anglesey for culture vultures and shopaholics alike.

### Gorgeous galleries

You'll find plenty of awesome arts and crafts at Oriol Ynys Môn in Llangefni. Alongside permanent exhibitions from Anglesey artists Sir Kyffin Williams and Charles Tunnicliffe (see 'The full picture' for more on them) there's a shifting programme of temporary shows covering everything from watercolours to ceramics. While you're there, why not pick up some crafty souvenirs in the Jac Do gift shop, or recharge your batteries with home-cooked food in Café Blas Mwy?

There's more arty goodness at Oriol Tegfryn in Menai Bridge. Established in 1963, it's one of the oldest galleries in Wales and features exhibitions from a who's-who of North Wales artists including William Selwyn, Gwilym Pritchard and (of course) the late, Sir Kyffin Williams.

### Centre stage

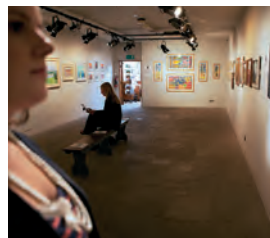
If you're interested in the performing arts, look no further than the Ucheldre Centre in Holyhead, which offers a varied bill of live music, theatre and literary events. There's also Theatr Fach in Llangefni, an intimate little venue staging a regular programme of pantomimes, local drama productions and plays by up-and-coming Welsh writers.

### Hot shops

There are plenty of options for some retail therapy on our little island. The towns of Beaumaris, Holyhead and Llangefni are all home to plenty of big high street names, plus a huge range of independent stores and boutiques. And no shopper's visit to Anglesey would be complete without a trip to James Pringle Weavers in Llanfair PG. Bursting with top brands and one-of-a-kind Welsh souvenirs, it's the ideal place to pick up some gifts (or just treat yourself). While you're there, grab a free memento with a pic of the mighty 58-letter sign at Llanfair PG station.

### The full picture

For an artistic view of Anglesey, check out the work of Sir Kyffin Williams. Born in Llangefni in 1918, Williams spent a lifetime drawing inspiration from the island's spectacular landscapes, creating striking images of the place and its people. His works are instantly recognisable, with bold canvasses of oils thickly applied with a pallet knife depicting vivid and unmistakably Welsh scenes. Little wonder he was hailed as one of the defining artists of Wales during the 20th century. See for yourself by visiting Oriol Ynys Môn, which houses a permanent exhibition of his work.



Though he was born in Macclesfield in 1901, Charles Tunnicliffe's artistic connections with Anglesey run as deep as any native's. Growing up on a farm, the young Tunnicliffe developed a passion for nature that informed all of his work. He specialised in naturalistic portrayals of birds and other wildlife, finding a lifetime of inspiration in Anglesey's unspoilt spaces. Tunnicliffe so loved the island that he moved to Malltraeth in 1947 and remained there until his death in 1979. In recognition of Anglesey's role in his career, Tunnicliffe bequeathed much of his personal collection to the island. It can now be viewed at Oriel Ynys Môn.

[www.visitanglesey.co.uk](http://www.visitanglesey.co.uk)  
[www.discoveranglesey.com](http://www.discoveranglesey.com)

For more information on our arts, crafts and shopping scene, head to the Visit Anglesey website.

[www.visitanglesey.co.uk](http://www.visitanglesey.co.uk)



FOR FOODIES



Fine dining and farmers' markets, bistros and beach cafés, delicious delis and tasty food festivals... they're all on a plate in our famously foodie island.

### We've got history

In the Middle Ages the Isle of Anglesey, or Ynys Môn, was known as 'Môn Mam Cymru', the 'Mother of Wales', since its fertile fields served as the 'breadbasket' or 'granary' of North Wales. Once, over 50 windmills processed grain into flour. Melin Llynnon at Llanddeusant is the sole survivor. It's the oldest working windmill in Wales, still producing its own stone-ground flour (there's a nice little café here too).

### Think local, act global

Our seas, shores and farmlands are brimming with great produce. Halen Môn Anglesey Sea Salt is very local – it's drawn from the crystal clear waters of the Menai Strait. It's also about as international as they come. Ask top chefs from London to Los Angeles and they'll sing the praises of this special salt, sold in over 20 countries around the world (and down the road in Menai Bridge). Find out more at the new visitor centre at Brynsiencyn, which offers behind-the-scenes tours.

### The art of cheesemaking

Y Cwt Caws is an artisan goat's cheese made with milk produced from free-range goats. Cheese-oholics should also look out for Caws Rhyd y Delyn, a brand of cheeses

made on the family dairy farm ranging from camembert-style to cheddars and blue cheeses. They'll even share their secrets with you on cheesemaking courses.

### Anglesey allsorts

You'll find talented people across the island passionate about good food. They produce everything from ice cream to honey, welshcakes to wines, smoked salmon to fruit pickles, jams to artisan chocolates.

### What's on the menu?

It's all very well having this fabulous local produce to hand. But it's what happens to it in the kitchen that really counts. You'll find quality throughout the food chain in Anglesey, from friendly family-run cafés to award-winning restaurants, historic inns to trendy gastropubs. Some serve traditional, time-honoured dishes like Welsh Black beef, others specialise in local seafood, some cook in a classical style, others major on the innovative, contemporary approach. The choice is yours.



### Shop around

Again, you're spoilt for choice. Some handmade chocolates or homemade cakes perhaps? Or produce fresh from the fields for sale at one of our farm shops? Or a top-quality butcher selling prized Welsh Black beef and lamb direct from the farm? Or the Crab Shop in Benllech, selling... guess what?

[www.visitanglesey.co.uk](http://www.visitanglesey.co.uk)  
[www.discoveranglesey.com](http://www.discoveranglesey.com)

### Make a date (or two)

If you're here on the third Saturday of each month don't miss Anglesey Farmers' Market at Menai Bridge. Meet the producers, soak up the local atmosphere – and bring a big shopping bag. And for seafood fans the Menai Seafood Festival at Menai Bridge in late August and the Anglesey Oyster and Welsh Produce Festival at Trearddur Bay in October are must-visits.

### Foodie follow-up

For more information on local produce, places to eat and shop go to our website or visit [bestofanglesey.com](http://bestofanglesey.com)



[www.visitanglesey.co.uk](http://www.visitanglesey.co.uk)

# FOR WILDLIFE

## If you go down to the woods today

Wander the woodland of Dingle Local Nature Reserve near Llangefni for a colourful experience. The green leaves of sessile oak, ash and wild cherry trees are complemented by bright butterflies and wildflowers, including dazzling carpets of bluebells in spring. You might also be lucky enough to glimpse the red squirrels who call Dingle home. Driven from much of Britain by their aggressive grey cousins, these charismatic forest dwellers are staging a comeback on Anglesey. Thanks to recent conservation efforts, the island now boasts the largest red squirrel population in Wales (Newborough Forest, for example, is another good place to spot them).

## On the fens

It's the wetter the better at Cors Erddreiniog near Benllech. This marshy fenland, the largest on the island, has an orchid-rich vegetation found nowhere else in Britain other than a few sites on Anglesey and the Llyn Peninsula. Keep your eyes peeled and you might spot fly, fen and northern marsh orchids. In recognition of its exceptional flora, Cors Erddreiniog is designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and a

RAMSAR wetland of international importance.

## Tern up

Protected from the open sea by a natural barrier of shingle, the lagoon at Cemlyn Bay on the north coast is one of the most singular habitats in the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty that rings our coastline. Islands in the lagoon provide nesting spots for huge numbers of seabirds, including one of the largest breeding populations of rare sandwich terns in the UK. From the viewing point on the shingle ridge you can see the birds' spectacular courtship displays at close range. If you're visiting in spring, climb aboard a sea kayak and paddle out to the Skerries off Anglesey's north-western tip. At this time of year, they're home to thousands of breeding Arctic terns. If you're lucky, you'll witness the phenomenon known as 'dreading', when terns leave their nests in massive flocks and make huge squawking circles above the sea.

Nature comes naturally to us. Our coast is one big Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty rich in wildlife, while the entire island is studded with nature reserves large and small, some of international significance.

### Desert island

Get lost among the Saharan sands of Aberffraw Dunes. This vast expanse of wind-shifted sands is one of the most extensive examples of a mobile dune habitat anywhere in the UK. Along with the adjacent Traeth Mawr beach, the dunes are a designated Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) due to the variety of unusual plant and animal species found here.

### Park life

Despite its proximity to bustling Holyhead, Penrhos Coastal Park's combination of coast, wood and meadow offers unspoilt nature in abundance. Resident wading birds like ringed plovers, oystercatchers and curlews patrol the fertile mudflats in search of food, while ducks, geese and grebe visit over the winter months. Woodpeckers, treecreepers and the occasional tawny owl can be spotted amongst the trees and wildflower-specked grass provides habitats for butterflies and bees. Another natural oasis close to Holyhead is Breakwater Country Park. Nature lovers can take their pick here. Watch grey herons patiently fishing in lakes, see peregrine falcons hunting from their nests in old quarries and spot porpoises, dolphins and seals frolicking

in the waves. There's flora as well as fauna, with a variety of orchids to be seen alongside eye-catching displays of pink thrift that bloom in spring along the coastal heathland.

### Living on the edge

The craggy cliffsides of South Stack are an ornithologist's paradise. Huge colonies of guillemots, puffins and razorbills nest on these seemingly sheer rock walls in the spring and summer months, creating a vertical city of squawking and swooping seabirds. You'll get an excellent view at Ellin's Tower RSPB Seabird Centre. Borrow binoculars and telescopes for a closer look or watch live television feeds that take you right inside the birds' nests.

### A flying visit

No prizes for guessing one of the birds you might spot on Puffin Island, just off Penmon Point on Anglesey's eastern side. But puffins are just one of the feathered residents of this steep-sided, uninhabited island. Take a boat ride to get a closer look and you might also see guillemots and razorbills nesting on the jagged cliffs, plus terns and cormorants diving into the waves in search of fish.



### Marvellous marshland

Close to Llangefni, Malltraeth Marsh (another SSSI) covers 675 acres of reedbeds, marsh, wet grassland and small lakes. A popular spot with wintering wildfowl, its most interesting winged visitor is the bittern. This secretive bird's booming call was once a commonplace sound on Anglesey. Now Malltraeth is at the heart of ongoing efforts to bring the bittern back, in the hope that those who currently spend the winter here can be encouraged to stay and breed. Should you fail to spot one, there are many other birds to look out for, including snipe, black-tailed godwit and at least four species of warbler.

### Make a reservation

For a real showcase of our varied wild habitats, see the six North Wales Wildlife Trust Nature Reserves found across the island. With grass and heathland at Cors Goch, Caeau Pen y Clip, Mariandyrys and Porth Diana, limestone woodland at Coed Porthamel and the spectacular coastal spaces of Cemlyn, each reserve has its own unique atmosphere. Whether you're looking for birds, blooms, bats or butterflies, you're sure to find something to tickle your nature-loving tastebuds.

### Hop to it

As the name suggests, you'll probably see the odd rabbit at Newborough Warren National Nature Reserve, located at the western mouth of the Menai Strait. For centuries, their grazing on this huge dune system helped to maintain a diverse and species-rich habitat, until disease drastically reduced their numbers in the 1950s. The rabbits are now making a comeback, sharing grazing duties with free-roaming cattle and sturdy Welsh ponies. If you're visiting in early July, look out for colourful carpets of marsh helleborines, one of our most beautiful wild orchid species.

For more on our natural environment, head to the Visit Anglesey website. Or turn to pages 46–49 for an artistic view of our wonderful wildlife.

[www.visitanglesey.co.uk](http://www.visitanglesey.co.uk)  
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FOR QUIETER  
TIMES



We're not just a summer destination. Anglesey comes into its own 365 days of the year. Here are just a few of the many ways you can enjoy the island in autumn, winter and spring.

## AUTUMN

**Go seawatching.** The rugged headland of Pont Lynas on our north-east coast is one of the best seawatching sites in Wales during migration time, noted for its Manx shearwaters, skuas, gannets, razorbills, puffins and guillemots. Seals can regularly be spotted in many places around the island. In autumn, pups are born in locations like North Stack near Holyhead.

**Become king of the castle.** When summer's crowds have gone you'll have Beaumaris Castle all to yourself. This World Heritage Site is reckoned to be one of the best-designed medieval fortresses in Britain with ring after impenetrable ring of defences.

## WINTER

**Take a walk on the wild side.** Here's one to blow the cobwebs away. Wrap up well and stride across the beach at Newborough. It's a massive stretch of sand that's guaranteed to be empty at this time of year, so nothing will interrupt that sweeping sense of solitude.

**Watch waterfowl.** Head inland to Llyn Alaw, our largest lake. It's rich in wildlife, and in winter its waterfowl populations are at their most impressive. Tuck yourself

away in one of the nature reserve's hides and tick off the various species.

## SPRING / EARLY SUMMER

**Get the blues.** But not in a depressing way. Is anything more uplifting than the sight and smell of a sea of bluebells? The Dingle Local Nature Reserve near Llangefni puts on a fabulous show.

**Think pink.** You'll know that spring has arrived along our coast when you see splashes of pink everywhere. Wave goodbye to winter when thrift, or sea pink, starts to bloom.

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# FOR FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

## SPRING

### Anglesey Half-Marathon

It's billed as 'the most beautiful half-marathon in the UK'. Take a look at the undulating yet quick route and you'll see why. Starting at the iconic Menai Suspension Bridge it's set against a stunning Snowdonia backdrop. Generates a great atmosphere, with children's and junior races too.

### Anglesey Open Studios

Spread over the Easter weeks, this engaging arts initiative is your chance to meet painters, sculptors, photographers, film-makers, craftworkers and installation artists in their own studios, homes or participating galleries. All artists are waiting to welcome you, so don't be shy to knock on the door – it's open house.

## SPRING/SUMMER

### Anglesey Walking and Outdoor Festival

Want to enjoy the best of Anglesey on foot or by bike? Then this is the festival for you. There's an innovative programme of guided walks for all-comers (themes include wildlife, art, marine treasures and island heritage) plus a wheely good choice of cycle rides. Coasteering, kayaking and foodie events are some of the other things on the hearty festival menu.

## SUMMER

### Anglesey Show, Gwalchmai, near Llangefni

This colourful country jamboree attracts not only the farming community. It's a great day out for all the family, with craft and food stalls, hundreds of trade stands, Shire horse and falconry displays, vintage machinery and children's entertainment.

### Lifeboat Days, Moelfre and Trearddur Bay

Moelfre's big event, which attracts thousands of visitors, isn't just about the village's famous lifeboat station, remarkable though its history is. It involves hundreds of crafts and boats, an RAF Valley rescue helicopter display, music and entertainment. Trearddur Bay's lifeboat station also organises an open day.

### Menai Seafood Festival, Menai Bridge

A tasty festival celebrating North Wales's coastal heritage and Anglesey's wealth of seafood. So expect cooking demonstrations, a local produce market, art, craft, music and seashore activities for the kids.

**‘All the world’s a stage’ wrote Shakespeare. That certainly applies to us. Anglesey puts on a great performance throughout the year, staging all kinds of festivals and events. Here’s sample. For the full picture and information on specific dates go to: [visitanglesey.co.uk](http://visitanglesey.co.uk)**

### **Menai Strait Regattas, Beaumaris**

A fortnight of competition, laced with a great party atmosphere. Races are open to a variety of boats, the majority of which are classic. Although largely based at Beaumaris this event – which comes with a big social and well as sailing reputation – also uses other venues along the Strait.

### **Round Anglesey Race**

A non-stop sailing race, first held in 1966, that has become a legend. With fabulous coastal views throughout and sometimes demanding sea conditions, it’s a magnet for all self-respecting sea dogs. But can you beat the record time of 9 hours 11 minutes and 35 seconds?

### **AUTUMN**

**Menai Bridge Fair**

All the fun of the fair at Menai Bridge. It’s a long-standing tradition, with a host of rides and stalls, flashing lights and dodgems – not forgetting the hot dogs and candyfloss.

### **Sandman Triathlon, Newborough**

What a fabulous location for a triathlon! The route makes the most of Newborough Forest and the vast Llanddwyn Beach. You don’t have to be an ironman (or woman). This triathlon

offers challenges for everyone, with various distance options.

### **Tour de Môn, Holyhead**

The jersey might not be yellow but we have our very own Tour. This highly rated – and very popular – cycle sportive has a choice of scenic routes (including a family ride). It’s not all flat – we don’t have any Alps but you’ll still find challenges whatever your level of fitness.

### **AND AT ANY TIME OF THE YEAR...**

#### **Anglesey Circuit, Ty Croes, near Aberffraw**

Ever wonder where that breathtaking motorsports circuit, with its dips, brows and sensational sea and mountain views, is located? You see it regularly on TV when they’re testing cars to the limit. It’s right here, on our west coast. The circuit runs a full programme of events, including track days, car and motorcycle racing and rallying. Come along and see why it was voted ‘motor racing circuit of the year’ in 2015.

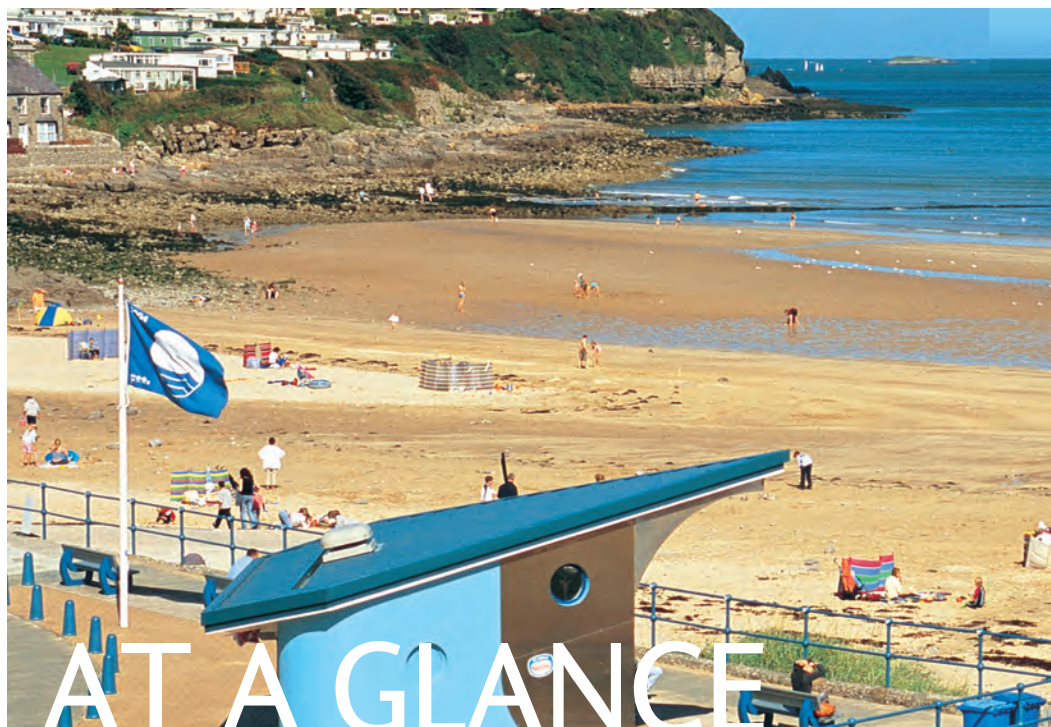
### **Cruise Excursions**

The historic ferry port of Holyhead is busy welcoming new arrivals. Cruise ships are using the harbour in increasing numbers to give passengers a taste of



Anglesey on excursions and day trips. Holyhead welcomes visitors with free bus services and live music. It's the ideal gateway not just for visits to the town but to the entire island and North Wales, with tours ranging from wildlife excursions to spa experiences and trips to Snowdonia.

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### Aberffraw

It's difficult to believe that this unassuming village was once the 'capital' of North Wales, home to the Princes of Gwynedd. Medieval St Beuno's Church has a beautiful Norman arch, possibly from the long-lost royal palace. Attractive beach, dunes, rugged coast and wildlife-rich Mallaeth Sandsand Marsh all close by. Anglesey Motorsports Circuit also nearby.

### Amlwch

Pretty north-coast port with a remarkable history. Vast quantities of copper ore from nearby Parys Mountain were shipped out from here in the 18th century – a feat that seems unlikely when you see the size of Amlwch's snug little harbour. It's all explained at the award-winning Copper Kingdom and Sail Loft heritage centres.

Our Lady Star of the Sea Roman Catholic church is an arresting sight, an uncompromising 1930s design built to resemble the upturned hull of a boat. Leisure centre with pool in the town, golf club at Bull Bay.

### Beaumaris

Attractive, classy seaview town and sailing centre, a handsome mix of Georgian, Victorian and Edwardian influences. It's full of interest – good choice of shops, inns and accommodation, plus bags of history. Moated Beaumaris Castle, possibly the finest of all North Wales's 13th-century fortresses, is a World Heritage Site. Also visit Beaumaris Gaol and Courthouse. Fine views across the Menai Strait to Snowdonia from seafront and pier. Local facilities include leisure centre and choice of golf courses.



### Benllech

Popular east-coast holiday centre with beautiful, golden-sanded beach backed by cliffs. That's not all – around the headland there's Red Wharf Bay (Traeth Coch), a massive 10 square miles in all at low tide, with waders and wildfowl in residence throughout the year.

### Brynsiencyn

Village in heritage- and attractions-rich part of the island. Ancient sites include Neolithic Bodowyr Burial Chamber and earthworks of Caer Léb and Castell Bryn Gwyn. But the biggest magnets are the modern ones. Brynsiencyn is home to two major attractions – Anglesey Sea Zoo and Foel Farm. Halen Môn Anglesey Sea Salt also based here – new visitor centre offers behind-the-scene tours.

### Cemaes

The most northerly village in Wales – and one of the prettiest, with a perfect crescent of sand and old stone quay. The wild, rocky coast around Cemaes Bay (much of it National Trust) leads to neighbouring Cemlyn Bay with its nature reserve, lagoon-like lake and long spit of sand. The headland church at Llanbadrig, dedicated to St Patrick, is one of the oldest Christian sites in Wales. Nearby Wylfa Power Station's visitor centre has an exhibition on nuclear power and nature trail. Refurbished Cemaes Heritage Centre is scheduled to reopen 2015.

### Holyhead

Major Irish Sea port located on Holy Island, connected by an embankment. It's at one end of the cross-country A5 – look out for the mini version of London's Marble Arch at

the entrance to the harbour. Town's long links with the sea are recalled at the Maritime Museum – but it has even deeper roots. Well-preserved Caer Gybi is a Roman fort, while St Cybi's Church was founded in AD550. Beautiful walks in Penrhos Coastal Park and Breakwater Country Park, but for the most spectacular sea-cliff and seabird displays go to South Stack Lighthouse and Ellin's Tower RSPB Centre, where rugged Holyhead Mountain meets the sea. Ucheldre, a leading arts centre, is a popular venue, along with the town's leisure centre and pool.

### Llanfair PG

Yes, you've all heard about it, but not possibly in the abbreviated version used by exhausted locals. So take a deep breath and test your dexterity with this, the UK's (and the world's?) longest placename: Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwilllantysiliogogogoch, which means 'St Mary's (Church) by the white aspen over the whirlpool, and St Tysilio's (Church) by the red cave.' Afterwards, you'll deserve a bit of R&R, so go shopping at James Pringle Weavers (one of the biggest craft retail complexes in North Wales), visit the National Trust's magnificent Plas Newydd and – if you have the energy – climb the Marquess of Anglesey Column for sensational views of the island and Snowdonia.

### Llangefni

County town and administrative centre suitably located smack in the middle of Anglesey. It's a busy crossroads destination with a good range of shops. Open-air markets on Thursdays and Saturdays are popular. It's culturally busy too – the superb Oriel Ynys Môn museum and gallery sums up the essential qualities of the island with displays of art, wildlife, history and heritage,

while Theatre Fach is an intimate venue for various productions. Swimming at the leisure centre, golf at a nine-hole course, walks and wildlife at the Dingle Nature Reserve and Llyn Cefni Reservoir.

### Menai Bridge

They don't build them like that anymore. Thomas Telford's Menai Suspension Bridge is a magnificent sight. This harmonious, elegant structure looks as if it has been part of the scenery forever (actually, it was built in 1820s for the London to Holyhead route). The world's first iron suspension bridge takes you directly to the eponymous little town prettily located alongside. Place to visit include a well-known, long-established art gallery and Pili Palas Nature World, a popular family attraction. Walk along the shore for close-up views of the remarkable bridge (you'll also catch sight of the more modern Britannia Bridge) and Church Island, linked by causeway. The town also has a leisure centre.

### Moelfre

Attractive coastal village close to two fine beaches, Traeth Bychan and Traeth Lligwy. Anglesey's rocky east coast has claimed many ships – a monument recalls the wrecking of the Royal Charter in 1859 with the loss of over 400. Moelfre's Lifeboat Station is still active and the small Seawatch Centre contains lifeboat, shipwreck and maritime heritage displays. There's heritage on dry land too, in the shape of some of the island's most fascinating ancient sites – Lligwy Burial Chamber, Din Lligwy Hut Group and Capel Lligwy.

### Newborough

The 'new borough' established by English King Edward I is quite unlike the rest of Anglesey. Beyond the village lies a strange mix of dune, sand, saltmarsh and conifer

forest. Woodland and warren lead to an enormous sandy beach and Llanddwyn Island (usually accessible at low tide) and the ruins of St Dwywnwen's Church, the patron saint of lovers. The views and sense of solitude are overpowering – and there's exceptional wildlife too, in the dunes and saltmarshes. Anglesey Transport and Agricultural Museum and Anglesey Model Village are two local attractions.

### Penmon

The priory here, probably founded in the 6th century by St Seiriol, is a site of great antiquity. As it now stands it dates mainly from medieval times as the home of Augustinian monks. There's also an ancient holy well. Go to the viewpoint on the headland for views across to Puffin Island.

### Rhosneigr

Seaside village with two splendid sandy beaches separated by a headland. An ideal spot for family holidays, wildlife-watching, walking and golf. There's history too. Barclodiad y Gawres is a spectacularly sited

Neolithic tomb containing rare examples of prehistoric rock art. Reed-fringed Llyn Maelog attracts a rich birdlife.

### Trearddur Bay

Another attractive west-coast seaside village with a sheltered, sandy bay. This charming spot, just a few miles from Holyhead, has an excellent choice of hotels, guest houses, inns and shops. Local activities include golf, fishing, sailing, diving and other watersports. It's a good walking centre too, with pleasant stretches of the coast path along low cliffs in either direction. Many other pretty beaches and coves close by, including Porth Dafarch.

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Cymru  
Wales

Gwesty  
Hotel



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# WHERE TO STAY

Or should it be: Where to begin?

Our choice of holiday and short-break accommodation has everything for all tastes and budgets, for families and couples, groups of friends and solo travellers.

You can stay in so many different ways on our small island – at luxury coastal and country house hotels, great-value B&Bs and guest houses, self-catering properties, friendly farmhouses, and scenic caravan parks and campsites.

## Sleep tight

Take a look at Discover Anglesey ([discoveranglesey.com](http://discoveranglesey.com)) if you need convincing. The Anglesey Tourism Association's website lists a tempting range of places to stay, divided into hotels, B&Bs, self-catering and caravans/camping.

The website showcases the best Anglesey has to offer. You'll find a superb spa hotel and luxury garden cottages, gorgeous B&Bs and Georgian townhouses, award-winning holiday home caravan parks and campsites. And whatever you choose, you'll receive a warm, friendly Welsh welcome and true Anglesey hospitality.

## Visit us with Visit Wales

Wales's official tourism website, [visitwales.com](http://visitwales.com), also lists an excellent choice of holiday accommodation on the island. All properties on the site have been graded for quality and given a star rating ranging from one to five. The accommodation grades are based on a set of common quality standards agreed by Visit Wales, Visit England, Visit Scotland, Northern Ireland and the AA. In Anglesey's case, many of these properties are also listed on [discoveranglesey.com](http://discoveranglesey.com)

[www.visitanglesey.co.uk](http://www.visitanglesey.co.uk)

[www.discoveranglesey.com](http://www.discoveranglesey.com)



On the next few pages you'll find a mix of advice and contact details covering the things you might need to know when visiting the island – public transport, car hire, internet access, health, helpful websites/telephone numbers, etc.

### Exploring the island by bus

Anglesey's towns, villages, attractions and activities are highly accessible by bus thanks to a comprehensive network of routes covering all of the island. Many of these routes are also very scenic – service 61 along the north coast between Amlwch and Holyhead, for example, or services 53/56/57/58 that run along the shores of the Menai Strait to Beaumaris. There are yet more stunning views of the Strait and Snowdonia from service 42, which takes

in Llangefni, Aberffraw, Newborough, Plas Newydd and Llanfair PG.

While many of the services start and finish on the island, there are also convenient direct bus routes from Bangor and Caernarfon if you want to visit Anglesey for the day from mainland North Wales. Service 42 between Bangor and Llangefni (mentioned earlier) is one. There are also services 4/4A/X4 from Bangor to Holyhead via Llangefni, for example, or the 46 service from Caernarfon to Llangefni.

It's fun travelling by bus too. You may get chatting to the locals, and you'll certainly discover parts of the island – small villages and pretty country roads – that you might otherwise have missed. And you won't be doing the driving, which means that you can



sit back, relax and enjoy the views. We can't, of course, go into all of the detail here. For more information on all services, routes, timetables, etc go to [anglesey.gov.uk](http://anglesey.gov.uk) or [traveline-cymru.info](http://traveline-cymru.info) (0871 200 22 33).

### And by rail

The mainline service to Holyhead calls in at Llanfair PG, Bodorgan, Ty Croes, Rhosneigr and Valley. As with buses, it's handy if you want to visit Anglesey for the day from places like Bangor and Llandudno. Again, go to [anglesey.gov.uk](http://anglesey.gov.uk) or [travelinecymru.info](http://travelinecymru.info) for more details.

### Get yourself a guide

Our Public Transport Information guide is available at libraries, heritage centres and other attractions. It gives full details of all bus routes and timetables, handy town

maps showing you exactly where to alight, or catch an onward service, plus a list of attractions and which buses reach them. Rail services are also featured.

### Pick up a pass

Ask about the Arriva Trains Wales Explorer Passes that offer unlimited travel on trains and many bus routes. The Explore Wales Pass gives you unlimited access to all of Wales's mainline train services and almost every bus service, allowing four days' train and eight days' bus travel within a period of eight consecutive days. There's also a North and Mid Wales Pass that gives the same benefits, but on a regional basis. Ask too about the great-value North Wales Rover ticket gives you one day train and one day bus travel. Other Rover and Ranger tickets are also available, but limited to bus or train

travel only. For more details go to [arrivatrainswales.co.uk](http://arrivatrainswales.co.uk)

### Car hire

Enterprise, Gaerwen: 0800 954 2915, [enterprise.co.uk](http://enterprise.co.uk)  
Europcar, Anglesey Airport, Valley: 0871 384 0004, [europcar.co.uk](http://europcar.co.uk)  
Hertz. Two locations, Holyhead and Anglesey Airport, Valley: 01407 761800 (Holyhead), 01407 763818 (Anglesey Airport), [hertz.co.uk](http://hertz.co.uk)  
Practical Car and Van Rental, Gaerwen: 01248 421674, [practical.co.uk](http://practical.co.uk)  
Quayside Self Drive, Two locations, Gaerwen and Holyhead: 01248 421133, [quaysideselfdrive.co.uk](http://quaysideselfdrive.co.uk)  
Stermat Car Hire, Valley: 01407 741852

## FOR THE RECORD

### Where to stay

Holiday accommodation is listed on the Anglesey Tourism Association's website, [discoveranglesey.com](http://discoveranglesey.com). Visit Wales ([visitwales.com](http://visitwales.com)) also lists places to stay on the island, many of which you can book direct online. See page 78 for more information.

### For North Wales Tourism's central

reservations booking line, call 08705 168 767.  
Or visit [gonorthwales.co.uk](http://gonorthwales.co.uk)

### Ambulance, coastguard, fire service, police

Dial 999 in an emergency (112 from a mobile phone)  
Anglesey Police Division: 01248 722222

### Health and hospitals

For information on doctors, dentists, chemists or opticians on Anglesey, and

opening times, please telephone NHS Direct Wales on 0845 46 47 or go to the websites [nhsdirect.wales.nhs.uk](http://nhsdirect.wales.nhs.uk) or [publichealthwales.wales.nhs.uk](http://publichealthwales.wales.nhs.uk)

Ysbyty Gwynedd Hospital, Bangor  
01248 384384 (accident and emergency)

Ysbyty Penrhos Stanley Hospital, Holyhead  
01407 766000 (minor accidents)

### Information for people with disabilities

Go to [accessiblecountryside.org.uk](http://accessiblecountryside.org.uk) or [disabledholidayinfo.org.uk](http://disabledholidayinfo.org.uk)

### Weather

[bbc.co.uk/weather](http://bbc.co.uk/weather)

### Tide information

[bbc.co.uk/weather/coast\\_and\\_sea/tide\\_tables](http://bbc.co.uk/weather/coast_and_sea/tide_tables)

Or call the Coastguard Operational Centre on 01407 762051.

### Local radio stations

BBC Radio Wales broadcasts in English; news, current affairs, light entertainment and music (94.8FM / 657AM).

BBC Radio Cymru broadcasts in the Welsh language; news, current affairs, light entertainment, Welsh traditional and contemporary music (92.0 – 96.0FM).

Capital 103 FM (Anglesey and North Wales) provides Top 40 contemporary pop and rock music in Welsh and English (103.0FM).

Môn FM 102.5 FM.  
Anglesey community radio station

### Public internet access

There's free WiFi at many locations throughout the island. All of Anglesey's libraries offer free access to the internet plus WiFi. They are located at: Amlwch (01407 830145), Beaumaris (01248 810659), Benllech (01248 852348), Cemaes (01407 711025), Holyhead (01407 762917), Llangefni (01248 752095), Menai Bridge (01248 712706), Moelfre (01248 410331), Newborough (01248 440770) and Rhosneigr (01407 811293).

### Key websites

[visitanglesey.co.uk](http://visitanglesey.co.uk)  
Official tourism website for the island. Lots of information on activities, attractions, accommodation, events, wildlife and nature reserves.

[anglesey.gov.uk](http://anglesey.gov.uk)  
Official Isle of Anglesey County Council site, including community information and local services (including public transport timetables).

[discoveranglesey.com](http://discoveranglesey.com)  
Anglesey Tourism Association's website, with accommodation and other information, including activities, food and shopping.

[bestofanglesey.com](http://bestofanglesey.com)  
Lists quality restaurants, food shops and producers.

[geomon.co.uk](http://geomon.co.uk)  
Features Anglesey's unique geological heritage and how to access it.

[angleseyheritage.com](http://angleseyheritage.com)  
An excellent gateway into the island's rich history and heritage with timelines and key places to visit.

[anglesey-history.co.uk](http://anglesey-history.co.uk)  
Features windmills, bridges, churches and other historic sites, together with information on the island through the ages.

[gonorthwales.co.uk](http://gonorthwales.co.uk)  
The North Wales Tourism site, with comprehensive information on travel and tourism in the region.

[angleseynature.co.uk](http://angleseynature.co.uk)  
Wildlife and natural history website

[visitwales.com](http://visitwales.com)  
The official Visit Wales site, with a vast amount of tourist information on Wales including pages on walking, cycling, golf and fishing. Links are provided to special interest sites.

[gonorthwales.co.uk](http://gonorthwales.co.uk)  
The North Wales Tourism site, with comprehensive information on travel and tourism in the region.

[www.visitanglesey.co.uk](http://www.visitanglesey.co.uk)  
[www.discoveranglesey.com](http://www.discoveranglesey.com)

Whether you just want a short stroll,  
Or a full day of walking in stunning countryside.  
We have a selection of excellent walks to enable  
you to fully experience our unique island.

Download all or just the trail you need.

It's small and works without the web once downloaded.



#### **Dylunio/Design -**

Cyngor Sir Ynys Môn / Isle of Anglesey County Council

#### **Cefnogwyd gan/Endorsed by -**

Destination Anglesey Partnership (DAP)

Anglesey Tourism Association (ATA)

#### **Ysgrifen/Editorial -**

Writerog Ltd, Crickhowell (writerog.co.uk)

#### **Ffotograffiaeth/Photography -**

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