

Anglesey

Anglesey can feel a world away from the rest of North Wales - it's a laid back island of rolling farmland, small fishing villages, craggy coves and some beautiful beaches.

There are also grand country houses, castles and gardens to explore and you can take to the sea with a rib ride down the Menai Strait, or enjoy a more sedate trip to Puffin Island.

You can easily spend a whole day meandering around - here are some suggestions to get you started!

Getting there and back:

Menai Bridge is approximately 45-50 minutes' drive from Trefriw.

Turn left out of the house and stay on the B5106 until you reach a right hand turn for **Betws-y-Coed** (also the B5106). After crossing the narrow stone bridge in Betws, turn right taking the A5 towards **Bangor**. Continue on until you reach the A55 and follow **Holyhead**. This will take you over the Britannia Bridge across the Menai Strait - look right and you'll see the older Menai Suspension Bridge further up.

For a picture postcard view exit the A55 to take the A5 towards Menai Bridge - there is a great viewpoint on the right hand (water) side of the road.

To return to Trefriw you can either go back via the A5 to Betws, or to follow the coast and take the A55 towards Conwy then the B5106 or A470 back down the valley.

1. Menai Bridge

A small town with some lovely independent shops and cafes. **& Caws** is a lovely deli and cheese shop. Try **Dylan's** on the waterfront for great seafood or **Harri's Portuguese Kitchen** for good lunches and custard tarts!

Menai Bridge is also the starting point for **Rib Rides** along the Strait - check online for times/availability.

2. Beaumaris

An old harbour town with pastel painted Georgian architecture facing the Strait. Famous for its castle (which was never finished due to funding issues...!), Beaumaris also has some quirky independent shops.

You can also take **Puffin Island boat trips** from here - check online for times/availability. **The Pier House** cafe has a sunny outside terrace with views across the water and on to Snowdonia.

3. Penmon / Red Wharf Bay

Coastal walking away from the relative hubbub of Beaumaris. Penmon has an old priory and views of a famous lighthouse (very photogenic). There is a cafe and pub at Red Wharf Bay.

4. Moelfre

A cute small fishing village where they still land lobster in the bay. Free parking in the village - follow signs for public toilets (the parking signs seem to have blown away!). There is a nice (short) walk along the cliffs between the old and new lifeboat stations, with wonderful views across the sea to Llandudno.

Do make time to stop at **Ann's Pantry** (look out for the blue painted walls!) - a nice spot for lunch or just tea and cake in the garden or one of their cosy summerhouses.

5. Llangefni

The county town of Anglesey is notable for its art gallery showcasing in Welsh artists such as Kyffin Williams - Oriel Mon (follow the brown road signs). There is a good cafe and shop at the gallery.

6. South Stack

Lighthouse and RSPB (bird) reserve on a rugged coastline - lots of steps!! Nearby Holyhead is a functional port town and is not really worth exploring...

7. Treaddur / Rhosneigr / Aberffraw

Three tiny villages with pretty bays, beaches (sandy at low tide, otherwise rocky) and coves - and usually waves crashing in from the Irish Sea! Can be very atmospheric!

There is a good food scene in this area - check out our latest recommendations in the 'eating out' section of our website!

8. Newborough Beach

Well known for its wide sandy (at low tide) beach, what makes Newborough unusual is that the beach is backed by forests. It's a justifiably popular spot!

Ynys Llanddwyn is a nearby island which you can reach on foot when the tide is out (check times!) - it is now also VERY popular due to social media and it's use as a filming location.

9. Halen Mon - Anglesey Sea Salt

Follow signs off the A4080 for the Anglesey Sea Zoo - Halen Mon is right next door. Anglesey sea salt is used world wide and is well regarded for its purity. This small visitors centre has a shop and offers tours - check online or phone in advance for availability. The other big draw is the fantastic views across the Menai Strait to Caernarfon on the mainland.

10. Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwlllantysiliogogogoch (shortened to Llanfair PG on most road signs!)

This tiny place has the longest name of any town or village in the UK. The name was made up by the Victorians who - rightly - thought that such a long and unusual name would draw tourists in. And their tactic is still working!! There is nothing much to keep you in the village itself - it is a tourist trap - so just take your photo next to the iconic old station sign and then move on!