

## ***Snowdonia Loops***

Trefriw is right on the edge of Snowdonia national park (the road at the front of Crafnant House is the boundary!) so you don't have to travel very far to reach it!

There are three main roads that pass through the northern half of the national park and each one will give you fantastic views along with places to stop on the way. By driving along one and returning a different way you create a fantastic... ***loop!!!***

Each one has plenty of laybys to stop at along the way to take in the views, along with small towns and villages to stretch your legs, grab a bite to eat or buy a souvenir to take home. Places worth stopping at are **in bold**.

To start all the loops below: 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 (you will also come back to Trefriw this same way through Betws). Now you have a choice of routes:

### ***Loop 1 - Ogwen Valley - Conwy***

Continue on the A5 towards Bangor, through the Ogwen Valley past **Llyn (Lake) Ogwen** and **Llyn Idwal** - both good stopping points.

Stop at **Zip World** in Bethesda if you fancy trying a zip-line! On reaching the A55 at Bangor you might want to carry on to **Anglesey** (*see our separate guide!*).

Or to loop back, follow signs to **Conwy** via the A55. Stop in Conwy to browse the independent shops, get a spot of lunch, enjoy views from the quay across to Deganwy, walk the town walls and visit the impressive castle.

From here simply follow the B5106 back to Trefriw.

*Driving times:*

*Trefriw to Bangor 45 minutes; Bangor to Trefriw via Conwy 45 minutes*

### ***Loop 2 - Ogwen Valley - Caernarfon - Beddgelert***

Follow Loop 1 directions to **Caernarfon** via Bangor (the A5 then A487). Stop in Caernarfon to wander the narrow streets, do a spot of shopping, enjoy views across to Anglesey and take in the magnificent castle.

From Caernarfon take the A4085 past the start of the Rhyd Ddu path up Snowdon and carry on to **Beddgelert**. Stop for a treat at Glaslyn Ice Creams (they also offer vegan and GF options). Take a while to explore this pretty village, have a short walk along the river and visit Gelert's Grave.

Pick up the A498 towards Capel Curig, and at **Nant Gwynant** call into **Caffi Gwynant** (an old church on the left hand side). A great stop for lunch with a twist or just coffee and cake.

Admire the views of Snowdon as you drive up past **Llyn Gwynant** towards the Pen-y-Pass turning (lots of places to stop on the left hand side).

Then carry on to **Capel Curig** (park behind Joe Brown's climbing shop if you fancy a quick leg stretch and more views) and **Betws-y-Coed**.

The Alpine Cafe in the Betws station building is well worth a visit - an extensive menu (everything is good!) and fabulous cakes and meringues. Plenty of veggie, vegan and GF options.

*Driving times:*

*Trefriw to Caernarfon 50 minutes; Caernarfon to Beddgelert 30 minutes; Beddgelert to Pen-y-Pass turn 20 minutes; Pen-y-Pass turn to Trefriw 30 minutes*

### **Loop 3 - Llanberis - Caernarfon**

After Betws-y-Coed, turn left off the A5 at **Capel Curig** to take the A4086 towards Llanberis. After the Plas-y-Brenin outdoors centre the landscape opens up - there are several places to pull over to admire the views.

At the PYG hotel turn right (the turn for Pen-y-Pass) to keep on the A4086 towards Llanberis / Caernarfon - at the top of the hill **Snowdon** is on your left!

Continue on down the dramatic pass to **Llanberis**, where you will find a number of attractions including the National Slate Museum (free entry), Llyn Padarn lake and the start of the Snowdon Mountain Railway (advance booking very strongly recommended, especially in peak season and at weekends).

Carry on the A4086 to **Caernarfon** - stop here to wander the narrow streets, do a spot of shopping, enjoy views across to Anglesey and take in the magnificent castle.

*Options for returning from Caernarfon:*

If you don't want to simply go back the way you came, you now have several choices:

- ❖ take the A4085 from Caernarfon to Beddgelert and **pick up loop 2** from there
- ❖ take the A487 to Bangor and then either:
  - ❖ **pick up loop 1**, taking the A55 to Conwy and stop there to visit its castle, town walls, independent shops and cafes
  - ❖ take the A5 towards **Betws-y-Coed** to return via the Ogwen Valley
  - ❖ carry on to **Anglesey** (see our separate guide!)

*Driving times:*

*Trefriw to Caernarfon via Llanberis 50 minutes*

*Caernarfon to Beddgelert 30 minutes*

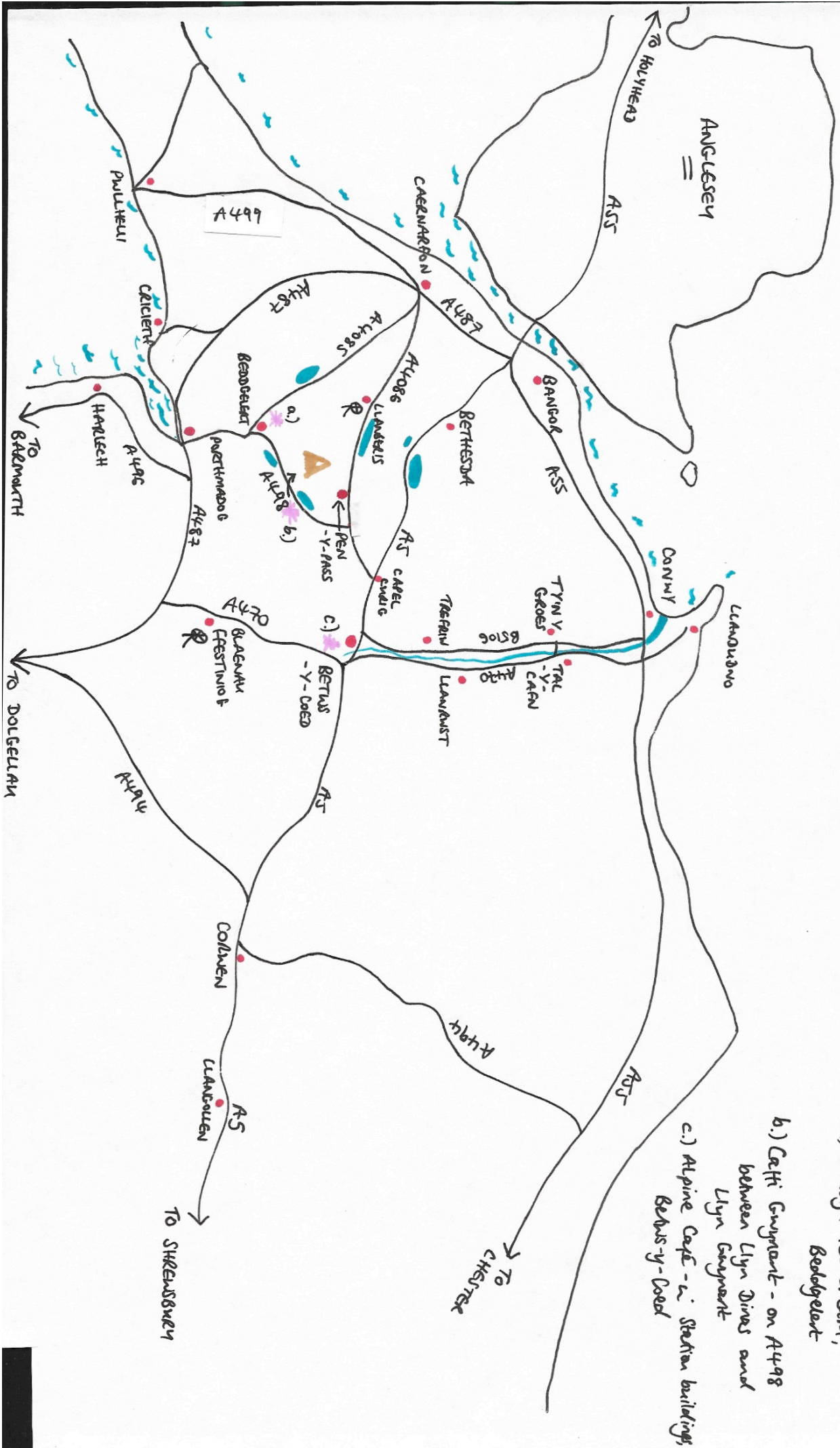
*Beddgelert to Trefriw via (A498/A5) 50 minutes*

*Caernarfon to Bangor 20 minutes*

*Bangor to Trefriw via Conwy 45 minutes*

*Bangor to Trefriw via A5/Betws-y-Coed 45 minutes*

# SNOWDONIA LOOKS



## CAFÉ STOPS:-

- a.) Glaslyn Ice Cream, Betsford
- b.) Catti Gwynant - on A498 between Llyn Dinas and Llyn Gwynant
- c.) Alpine Cafe - in Station buildings, Bets-y-Coed