

# Short Walking Holiday in Anglesey



## Highlights

Explore the Isle of Anglesey coastal path on this five-day self-guided walking holiday. Walks are gentle and never go over the eight-mile point, so there's plenty of time for sightseeing and relaxation, too. Breakfasts, comfy accommodation and luggage transfer are all included in the package.

Over the narrow stretch of water called the Menai Strait lies the small Isle of Anglesey – an island once holy to the Celts and a place where the Welsh language is still flourishing. It's a goldmine of ancient sites, beautiful coastal paths and picturesque seaside villages. And it wasn't until 1826, when Thomas Telford built the Menai Straits Bridge, that the Isle of Anglesey had a permanent anchorage to the mainland. In comparison to Snowdonia which looms in the distance, the Isle of Anglesey is easygoing underfoot and offers an abundance of gentle coastal walks with sweeping sea views.

Anglesey may well be small, but it's got the biggest concentration of historical sites in all of Wales – about 20 in total, including the remains of the Iron Age village 'Din Silwy'. But the most striking has to be Beaumaris Castle. It was started in 1295 and, even though unfinished, it's still impressive enough for UNESCO to have designated it a World Heritage Site. Anglesey has more than just manmade assets though. Take the beach at Ynys Llanddwyn for instance. This glorious curve of sand on Llanddwyn Island is dotted with rocks and marked by a stark-white lighthouse at one end. With 4 days of walking ahead of you, you'll see much of what this little island has to offer.

## Is it for me?

You don't need to be a long-distance hiker to enjoy this five-day walking holiday, but it'll help if you've got a decent pair of walking shoes. Walks never cross the eight-mile point so even young kids could enjoy this – perhaps with the occasional piggy-back en-route. Lastly, it's self-guided so although you'll be picked up from your accommodation and taken back at the end of the day, you'll have the rest of the day to yourself – so it's great if you'd rather spend time alone or in the company of family and friends.

## Accommodation

The team that organises this walking holiday make sure they tailor everything to you. So, with that in mind, it's best to be honest about what sort of accommodation you'd like. Accommodation is usually in good B&Bs and guesthouses with en-suite bedrooms, although hotels and inns are also used sometimes. Alternatively, if you'd rather go self-catering or stay at a campsite this can also be arranged – just let the team know.

In terms of food, continental or cooked breakfasts are included, but you'll have to budget extra for lunches and evening meals.

## Itinerary

### Day 1: Arrival day

You'll be picked up from the local bus or train station, or for a fee - Anglesey airport and then transferred to your accommodation in the Beaumaris area.

Prices from

**390** GBP (5 days) per person

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#### Day 2: Romantic Walk - seven miles.

Your first stop today is Llanfairpwll (the village with the longest name). After a stroll around, you'll be taken to Llanddwyn Beach on the west coast, with views over to Snowdonia and the Llyn Peninsula. Walk the beach onto Ynys Llanddwyn (Llanddwyn Island) which is dedicated to the Welsh patron saint of lovers, Dwynwen - the Welsh equivalent to St. Valentine's. This island was also the main location for the feature film "Half Light" with Demi Moore. Photocall: lighthouse, pilots' cottages and Dwynwen's well before making your way back through the forest.

Cross the Braint stepping-stones, and follow the path to Tal-y-Foel, where you'll have great views of the Menai Straits and Caernarfon Castle. You'll be picked up at the Anglesey Sea Zoo near Brynsiencyn and taken back to your accommodation in Beaumaris. Packed lunches provided today.

#### Day 3: The Bridges Walk – four miles.

You'll be picked up from your accommodation and taken to Llanfairpwll where you'll join the coastal path. Follow it past the secluded home of the late Sir Kyffin Williams (renowned Welsh artist who died in 2006). The Isle of Anglesey is linked to the mainland by two bridges (The Menai Suspension Bridge built by Telford, and the Britannia Road and Railway Bridge built by Stephenson). This walk will take you close to both bridges to view their different structures. You'll also get up close to see the two stone lions hiding below the Britannia Bridge. Take the path along the shoreline to the pretty village of Menai Bridge itself. Enjoy lunch at one of the many pubs in the village.

In the afternoon, you'll visit Plas Newydd, home of the Marquess of Anglesey, an elegant house on the banks of the Menai Strait. This stately home is now owned and run by the National Trust. \*\*Admission to Plas Newydd not included in package price.

#### Day 4: Historic Walk - six miles

Today starts with a look around the World Heritage Site of Beaumaris Castle built by King Edward I in Wales. It is possibly the most sophisticated example of Medieval military architecture in Britain. Enjoy lunch in Beaumaris before heading off along the shoreline, passing Llanfaes, to the eastern tip of Anglesey at Penmon. Visit the remains of Penmon Priory, a monastery dating back to the time of St. Seiriol (6th century) and visit the Dovecote and make a wish at the holy well.

Later on, follow the road from the priory to Trwyn Du (Penmon Point) and its lighthouse where you'll be picked up and taken back to Beaumaris.

#### Day 5: East Coast Walk - eight miles.

You'll be picked up from your accommodation and taken to Llanddona Beach, where you can choose whether to follow the shoreline or take a path through the forest (a conservation area for red squirrels). This route follows the wide sandy bay and Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty to Traeth Coch (Red Wharf Bay). Enjoy lunch at the quaint Ship Inn pub or Boathouse Restaurant, before continuing along the path to Benllech, a Blue Flag Beach.

From Benllech the path rises and takes you to Moelfre, a picturesque fishing village steeped in history, with a working lifeboat and tales of piracy and disaster at sea. The famous Royal Charter sank off the coast of Moelfre in 1859 when Charles Dickens was sent to Anglesey to report the disaster. Visit The SeaWatch Centre and Lifeboat Museum before being picked up at the Lifeboat car park and taken back to your accommodation.

#### Day 6: Departure

### Details

#### Getting there

If you're coming by car, take the M6 and then join the A55 which takes you right over to the Isle of Anglesey. Alternatively, catch the train to Bangor or to Llanfairpwllgwyngyll on Anglesey.

#### Price includes

Price quoted is per person based on shared accommodation or £415 per person on single accommodation.

5 nights accommodation, breakfasts, baggage transfer and information packs. Entrance to Beaumaris Castle is also included in the price of this tour.

#### Available

Jan—Dec

#### Typical Duration

4 days

#### Comfort level

Reasonably comfortable (Inns, B&Bs, luxury camping etc.)

#### Experience required

A reasonable level of fitness and interest is all that is needed