

The Wales Way

Recommended trip length: 6-7 days per route

Delve into Wales's awe-inspiring coastline, mountains and castles on these three journeys.

One incredible adventure, along three breathtaking routes – that's **The Wales Way**. Together, the Coastal Way, Cambrian Way and North Wales Way reveal the wild wonders and ancient treasures of this small but mighty nation, their stop-offs as epic as the journeys themselves.

Each one is delightfully igam ogam (that's Welsh for 'zig-zag'), with endless opportunities for hill hiking, wildlife spotting, beach hopping and mountain biking along the route. To get hands-on with Medieval history, follow the North Wales Way: it is home to the world's highest concentration of castles, which together form a UNESCO World Heritage site.



Getting around

- The Wales Way covers around 420 miles (675km).
- While having your own vehicle gives the greatest flexibility, all of the routes can also be completed by public transport.
- These itineraries can be completed in either direction; the durations detailed below are a guide – consider taking longer for a more in-depth experience.
- With limited time, choose one or two journeys instead of all three; they are not designed to be rushed, and each one stands alone.

Route highlights

- Harlech Castle
- Portmeirion
- Castle Coch
- Bounce Below
- Penderyn Distillery
- Snowdonia Slate Trail
- Welsh Coal Mining Experience
- Rhuddlan Castle



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The Coastal Way

Discover clifftop hikes, island wildlife and glorious beaches on this Cardigan Bay adventure.
At a glance: 290km (180 miles) between St Davids and Aberdaron, following the coast.

• St Davids • Cardigan • Aberaeron • Aberystwyth • Aberdyfi • Portmeirion • Abersoch • Aberdaron

- Day 1** **St Davids to Cardigan:** Marvel at St Davids' ancient **cathedral** and Bishop's Palace, Welsh artworks at **Oriel y Parc gallery**, and **Pentre Ifan** – a 5,000-year old burial chamber.
- Day 2** **Cardigan to Aberaeron:** Enjoy breakfast at Cardigan Castle's **1176 Kitchen**, then try a craft masterclass at **Stiwidio 3**, go dolphin spotting from New Quay or relax on Mwnt beach.
- Day 3** **Aberaeron to Aberystwyth:** Today's coastal road is one to relish: stop for lots of photos on the journey to **Aberystwyth's museums**, **watersports** and spectacular **cliff railway**.
- Day 4** **Aberystwyth to Aberdyfi:** Welcome to the **Dyfi Biosphere**, a protected area of sand dunes, woodlands and riverside – look out for otters, wild orchids, red kites and more.
- Day 5** **Aberdyfi to Portmeirion:** Stroll on Barmouth Beach, explore **Harlech's imposing castle** or play a round on the traditional links course at Royal St David's Golf Club.
- Day 6** **Portmeirion to Abersoch:** Step into the quirky Italian-style village of **Portmeirion**, grab an ice cream on Criccieth's beaches, and discover Medieval life at Penarth Fawr.
- Day 7** **Abersoch to Aberdaron:** The Llŷn Peninsula's coastline is sublime; whether snorkelling, sailing, hiking, or kayaking, it's worth spending at least a day basking in its natural beauty.

The Cambrian Way

Venture between the north and south coasts, following Wales's mighty mountainous 'spine'.
At a glance: 300km (185 miles) between Cardiff in the south and Llandudno in the north.

• Cardiff • Merthyr • Brecon • Builth Wells • Llanidloes • Ffestiniog • Betws y Coed • Llandudno

- Day 1** **Cardiff to Merthyr Tydfil:** After exploring the capital, tour the fairytale-style turrets of **Castell Coch** and learn all about 'black gold' at the **Welsh Coal Mining Experience**.
- Day 2** **Merthyr Tydfil to Brecon:** Discover this mountainous region on its many hiking and cycling trails – or try horse riding, rock climbing, canoeing and more!
- Day 3** **Brecon to Builth Wells:** Shop for Welsh delicacies in Brecon, before hiking or kayaking in the Wye Valley, or revelling in the fragrant Welsh Lavender fields (summer).
- Day 4** **Builth Wells to Llanidloes:** Catch red kites in flight at **Gilpin Farm's daily feeding experience**, then follow the Elan Valley's many spectacular hiking and cycling trails.
- Day 5** **Llanidloes to Ffestiniog:** Delve into Welsh culture at the **Llanidloes Museum**, brave wild mountain biking at Coed-y-Brenin, or drive the B4581's scenic twists and turns.
- Day 6** **Ffestiniog to Betws-y-Coed:** Let loose on zip lines, biking trails and **Bounce Below's** cave trampolines – or explore Snowdonia (Eryri) on the Ffestiniog & Welsh Highland railway.
- Day 7** **Betws-y-Coed to Llandudno:** Hike to thundering waterfalls and stroll the beautiful **Bodnant Garden**, before ending the journey in the Victorian seaside town of Llandudno.

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The North Wales Way

Follow this ancient trading route along the north coast, exploring epic castles and wild peaks.
At a glance: 120km (75 miles) between Mold near the England-Wales border and Holyhead.

• Mold • Rhuddlan • Llandudno • Conwy • Beaumaris • Holyhead

- Day 1** **Mold to Rhuddlan:** Stock up with Welsh delicacies in the market town of Mold, before touring **Flint Castle's** riverside ruins – the first of this route's mighty strongholds.
- Day 2** **Rhuddlan to Llandudno:** Venture to **Rhuddlan Castle** and **St Asaph Cathedral**, then spot seals in the Kinnel Dunes.
- Day 3** **Llandudno:** Stroll on the Victorian pier, tuck into fish and chips at the beach, catch the tram up the Great Orme headland and go gin tasting at **Penderyn Llandudno Lloyd Street Distillery**.
- Day 4** **Llandudno to Conwy:** Discover one of Britain's best-preserved Medieval **castles**, built by Edward I in the 1200s – then hike up Conwy Mountain for panoramic sea views.
- Day 5** **Conwy to Beaumaris:** Walk Bangor's pier, or the first 10km (six miles) of the **Snowdonia Slate Trail** – before driving across the Menai Strait to Anglesey.
- Day 6** **Beaumaris to Holyhead:** Take a thrilling **speedboat tour** from the Menai Bridge, enjoy the elegant gardens of **Plas Newydd**, or savour Halen Môn's locally harvested sea salt.

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