

# THE CAMBRIAN COAST LINE



## Trefeddian

HOTEL • ABERDOVEY



Machynlleth • Tywyn • Barmouth • Harlech • Pwllheli

# The Cambrian Coast Line

One of the most scenic railway lines in the whole of Britain, the Cambrian Coast Line is a superb way to explore the beautiful and varied Gwynedd Coastline. Discover busy seaside resorts, tiny coastal villages, steam railways, vast sandy beaches and no end of views along the way.



## Service

Trains run approximately every 2 hours (Monday - Saturday) but infrequently on a Sunday. The full timetable is available from most staffed stations across the network or a copy can be collected from Reception.



## Tickets and Fares

If you board the train at a staffed station, tickets must be purchased from the ticket office. Failure to do so, could result in a fine.

If you board the train at a station without a ticket office, tickets can be purchased from the Guard on the train. Cash, Debit and Credit Cards are accepted.

Good Value **Anytime Day Return** tickets are available.

Groups of 3 to 9 adults travelling together should ask the Guard for information on the **Small Group Day Ticket**. This entitles you to a 25% discount on off peak fares.

An **Explore Cambrian** Ticket offers unlimited travel along the entire Cambrian Coast Line after 9am on a weekday and all day on Saturday and Sunday.

Also available for purchase is the **North Wales Rover**. This ticket is also valid on buses as well as trains and the price varies depending on how far you wish to travel.



## Discounts

Local Attractions and many Steam Railways along the route offer customers a discount if a valid mainline railway ticket is presented.

Please see the leaflets in the Games Room for full details.



## Disabled Access



See [www.nationalrail.co.uk/stations](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk/stations) for full details

## Track Your Train



Call the automated Train Tracker Service on **0345 748 4950**



Text 'Dep' then a Station Name to 84950 (25p/SMS)



For live Arrivals/ Departures visit [www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk)



## Request Stop

Most of the smaller stations are request stops. These are indicated in this booklet. To board the train at a request stop please signal to the driver in plenty of time. To leave the train at a request stop please speak to the guard in plenty of time.



Aberystwyth, locally known as 'Aber' is a long established seaside town and an important administrative centre at the heart of Cardigan Bay.

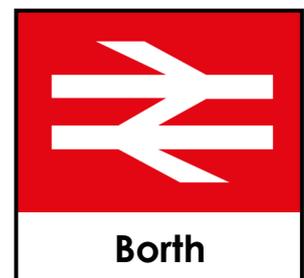
The town features a mix of unusual attractions such as the electric cliff railway, a Victorian Camera Obscura, National Library of Wales as well as the sweeping promenade and beach. Although the town is relatively modern, there are a number of historic buildings, including the remains of the castle and the Old College of Aberystwyth University nearby. The Old College was originally built and opened in 1865 as a hotel, but after the owner's bankruptcy the shell of the building was sold to the university in 1867. The new university campus overlooks Aberystwyth from Penglais Hill to the east of the town centre.



Alight here to join the Vale of Rheidol Steam Railway to Devil's Bridge



Alight here to start Walks No 12 and 28 from the Hotel Walk Book. You will find this in the Lounge.



Borth comes to life in the summertime.

The sand and shingle beaches are popular with families and are just a five minute walk away from the station. At low tide you may also see the remains of an ancient submerged forest, which some like to say are all that's left of Cantre'r Gwaelod, a legendary Welsh land lost to the sea through the carelessness of its night watchman.

The railway station itself features its own free museum full of items related to local railway history. More recently, it also featured in the S4C/BBC drama series



Alight here to start Walk No 16 and 32 from the Hotel Walk Book. You will find this in the Lounge.

'Hinterland'. Within Borth, you will find the Wild Animal Kingdom, a small zoo with a mixture of exotic and domestic species.



Once equipped with a signal box and a station buffet, this windswept station is now little more than a platform in the middle of a field!

Should you fancy hopping off the train here for novelty value, comparative civilisation can be reached using the path from the far end of the platform.

A twenty minute walk from the station takes you to the village of Eglwysfach where you will find the Ynyshir Nature Reserve or, a little further in the picturesque Dyfi Furnace. The furnace built around 1755 was only used for about fifty years to smelt iron ore. By 1810 it had been abandoned.



Alight here to start Walk No 23 from the Hotel Walk Book. You will find this in the Lounge.

**Dovey Junction is very remote. Occasionally timings mean you have to change trains here. However if there is a long gap between trains, we recommend changing at Machynlleth.**



The ancient capital of Wales, Machynlleth is a typical Welsh market town that has managed to hold to its own individual character. The town centre bristles with small town shops, pubs and cafes, with no chain stores in sight. Traditional butchers and household stores stand side by side to the more traditional shops selling crafts, souvenirs and antiques.

Places to explore include the MOMA art gallery, housed in a former chapel and the home of Owain Glyndwr's 15th century parliament. A short bus ride north can take you to the Centre for Alternative Technology, a pioneering project that's been promoting more environmentally sensitive living since the 70s. It is now a leading tourist attraction, with its own water powered cliff railway.



Alight here to join the Corris Railway, Wales' oldest narrow gauge railway!



Alight here to start Walk No 9 and 10 from the Hotel Walk Book. You will find this in the Lounge.



Penhelig railway station (also spelt *Penhelyg*) serves the eastern outskirts of the seaside resort of Aberdyfi. Its situation is unusual, being located on a short length of sharply curved single track between two tunnels.

Throughout the first half of 2018, Penhelig underwent a major redevelopment to improve access by replacing the timber platform and upgrading the lighting.

Alight here to join the Roman Road which leads to Picnic Island. Although known as the 'Roman Road' it was in fact built for horse and carriage in 1808. The sea has now eroded much of this old road but it rarely floods, even at high tide it's safe for a stroll any time of the day – just make sure you wear good shoes as it can get quite slippery when wet. Derek Brockway completed this route as part of the Weatherman Walking series.



The village of Aberdovey (Aberdyfi), which is the home of the Trefeddiann was founded around the harbour and shipbuilding industry, but is now best known as a seaside resort with a high quality beach. The village centre is on the Dyfi Estuary, around the original harbour, jetty and beach but it stretches back from the coast and up the steep hillside in the midst of typical Welsh coastal scenery of steep green hills and sheep farms.

The large sandy beach and dunes enjoy superb views across the Dovey Estuary to Ynnyslas and backs onto the Links 18 Hole Golf Course. Aberdyfi is closely linked to the legend of the submerged lost kingdom of Cantre'r Gwaelod beneath Cardigan Bay, and bells which, it is said, can be heard ringing beneath the water at the beach. The Bells of Aberdovey (Clychau Aberdyfi) is a well known song referring to this legend.



Alight here to start Walk No 1, 18 and 32 from the Hotel Walk Book. You will find this in the Lounge.



One of the largest settlements along the coast, Tywyn is another resort with a busy high street with many small independent shops. The sea front boasting a stretch of flat sandy beach, leisure park and amusement arcades is only a few hundred metres away from the station. Tywyn is also the starting point for the Talylyn Railway, the worlds first preserved narrow gauge railway that steams its way across the hillside towards Abergynolwyn calling at the popular Dolgoch Falls along the way.

The Tywyn coastal defence scheme was a £7.6m civil engineering project to provide a new rock breakwater above the low-tide level. Rock groynes, and rock revetment to protect 80 sea-front properties was officially unveiled in 2011.



Alight here to join the Talylyn Railway to Abergynolwyn, the first preserved railway in the world!



Alight here to start Walks No 2, 3 and 4 from the Hotel Walk Book. You will find this in the Lounge.



One of a handful of stations that came close to being shut down in the 1990's, Tonfanau is still fairly quiet. However, it offers peace, a pleasant view and a good starting point for an easy walk south to Tywyn over the River Dysynni.



In 1938 during the Second World War, an army base was created near the hamlet. Around 600 men were stationed at the camp, which specialised in training personnel in anti-aircraft artillery. In 1972 eight years after the site was closed it was reopened as refugee centre housing over 3000 Ugandans fleeing from persecution. They stayed at the site for 6 months before settling elsewhere. Dotted around you'll see the crumbling remains of the army base that was demolished in the mid 1980's. Part of the army base is now a well renowned motorcycling circuit where competitions are held four times a year.



Another of Gwynedd's small coastal villages with many houses, a shop and a pub. A climb up onto the hill behind the village offers a wonderful view out to sea, with the mountains of North Wales stretching into the distance. The village is in the parish of Llangelynnin, which has two churches, both dedicated to Saint Celynnin. The original parish church is at Llangelynnin and the more modern one is in the centre of Llwyngwrl. Saint Celynnin is a medieval saint that is traditionally thought to be a son of Helig ap Glannog. Another notable building in the village is the Salem Chapel. It is painted blue and is sometimes known as the Blue Chapel, The interior is an elaborate mixture of Gothic-style features including simulated stone staircases, wood carvings, ornate ceilings, arched windows, marble fire places and an organ gallery complete with a plywood organ. Yarn bombing has become an annual event which sees the village covered in knitted creations. Sheets can be collected from the shop to follow a trail around the village, ensure you see them all!



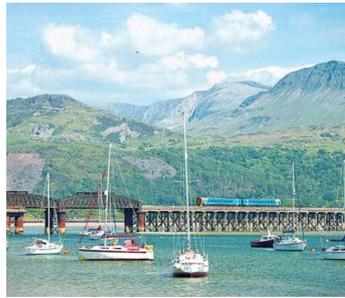
The quieter neighbour to Barmouth, with a vast stretch of sandy beach. To the south of the village, the beach is still edged with concrete wartime fortifications. Rising sea levels have made it increasingly difficult to defend from the waves. The Blue Flag beach at Fairbourne is a two-mile stretch of golden beach, backed by steep pebble banks, which exposes a vast amount of golden sandy beaches from mid-tide level. At the northern end, the beach joins the Mawddach Estuary, while at the southern end of the beach is squeezed between sheer cliffs and the sea. Fairbourne is also the terminus of the miniature Fairbourne Steam Railway which runs from the mainline station, along the sea front and then along a pier out into the Mawddach Estuary. From the point, there's a summertime ferry you can catch across the water to Barmouth.



Alight here to start Walk No 20 from the Hotel Walk Book. You will find this in the Lounge.



Alight here to join the Fairbourne Miniature Railway, a 2 mile trip into the Mawddach Estuary.



Once a railway junction with a route inland to Wrexham, Morfa Mawddach has been reduced to a small request stop. The old railway line has been converted into a cycle path and it's possible to follow the Mawddach Trail along the estuary to Dolgellau. The almost exclusively traffic-free route, which is owned by the

Snowdonia National Park, is clearly marked, and can be easily followed. It is essentially flat, has a fairly even surface and for most of its length is at least 3 metres wide, and as such it is suitable for walkers, cyclists and wheelchair users.

You can also walk across the toll bridge shared with the railway line as an alternative way to arrive into Barmouth.

Views inland along the estuary are excellent on a clear day and walking gives you a bit more time to take in all of the views.



Alight here to start Walk No 11 from the Hotel Walk Book. You will find this in the Lounge.



Barmouth is one of the more popular destinations on the Cambrian Coast and during the holiday season it is very busy with tourists. It's not a huge resort but it boasts all the usual attractions of a sea side town such as a sandy beach, lots of food and ice cream outlets and amusement arcades. There are also interesting shops to browse. With several cafes, restaurants and pubs, Barmouth is a good place to stop off for a meal or drink during the day.

Away from the bustling seafront, the town seems to be built almost vertically up the rocky hillside and there are lots of paths that lead to viewpoints high up above the town. The open hillside of Dinas Olau was the first piece of land to be owned by the National Trust.

A trip to Bendi-gedig, an indoor soft play centre is a must if you have children in tow.



Alight here to start Walk No 14 from the Hotel Walk Book. You will find this in the Lounge.



Llanaber is just past the northern end of Barmouth. This is further than most of the tourists get, but is within walking distance along the sea wall and beach. It's not a great beach for exploring as it's all huge rocks - no good for stretching out on, but perhaps a nice quiet alternative to Barmouth for enjoying the sea and sun.

Within the village is a 13th-century parish church and Grade I listed building, St Mary and St Bodfan Church. The church was built in the early 13th century by Hywel ap Gruffudd ap Cynan who was a great grandson of Owain Gwynedd. It has a flagstone floor and a 16th-century timber roof. It has since undergone a major restoration. The second restoration happened in 1969. The wood in roof was treated or replaced. The seating of the church was also renewed with spare pews given to St Mary's church from the nearby St John's Church, Barmouth. A Compton Two Manual and Pedal Organ was also given to the church by the Bishop of Bangor.

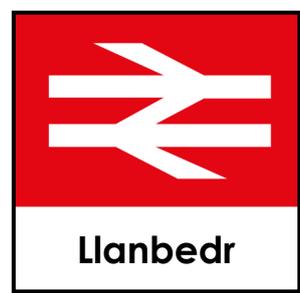


A small request stop, Talybont is a small village north of Barmouth that has many caravan sites, a hairdresser, a pub and a restaurant. It is also the home to the Dyffryn and Talybont annual fun day. Held annually on the last Sunday in July it is now firmly established on the social calendar. When it was first held no one could have anticipated quite how successfully it would take hold and blossom thanks to the dedication and hard work of the Funday sub committee, the volunteers and of course the support of the main Regeneration Group itself.





Inland lies the village of the same name, which is home to some well preserved burial chambers dating from around 3500BC. A mile to the west lies Morfa Dyffryn, a sandy, dune backed beach that stretches several miles along the coast. The beach is well known for its long established and now officially recognised kilometre long naturist beach. There are a number of pre historic cromlechs in and around the village, and they are some of the earliest tombs erected on these islands. Dating from around 4000 BC, the cairn at Dyffryn Ardudwy has two separate burial chambers. One of these is a type known as a portal dolmen. A flat slab on the mountainside was used as a base, this was flanked by several other slabs, side stones and back stones. A capstone was placed on top and a small ovoid cairn of stones built around three sides. The fourth side was the portal and had a small forecourt. Here a pit was dug and in it were formally arranged several flat stones, various shards of pottery from at least four pots, charcoal and soil. The pit was then filled with the cairn material and the mound completed.



Llanbedr is a tiny station on the Cambrian Line, but is the closest to the very popular Shell Island, about a two mile journey away. This little peninsula is noted for its variety of shells and wildlife, as well as its campsite. Public vehicle access to the island is only possible via a causeway across the estuary of the River Artro when the tide is out. Access on foot is always possible from the adjacent Morfa Dyffryn beach, which extends for several kilometres south of Shell Island. Also nearby is the site of RAF Llanbedr an airfield constructed during World War II and used in more recent times for testing on unmanned aircraft. Closed since 2004 the Welsh Assembly Government is seeking a commercial use for the site. Opposite the airfield is one of two NACATC units (National Air Cadets Adventure Training Centres) in the UK (the other being in the village of Windermere in the Lake District). The airfield was included in the Snowdonia Enterprise Zone by the Welsh Government in January 2013.





This small halt lies alongside the estuary. Being only about a mile from the adjacent stations at Llandanwg, it is a good end point for a short walk along the Wales Coast Path. The station opened as Pensarn and in 1885 it changed to Llanbedr and Pensarn. On 8 May 1978 it reverted to its original name of Pensarn and most trains now only call on request. Pensarn Wharf is a stone-built wharf with a slipway. The date of the wharf's construction is not clear, but it is not positively identified on the Llanfair tithe map of 1840 but is referred to explicitly in the sale documents of 1858. The better quality of the stone-work to the north-west of the slipway suggest that it was built in two phases. Now consisting of one platform on the east side of the track and no buildings or shelter, but which formerly involved a passing loop, signal box or ground frame and a longer goods loop and siding giving access to the buildings on the quay. All that remains is a loading gauge bracket of GWR pattern. The platform is built of rubble in its lower section, increased in height with bricks and has been extended to the north in concrete blocks. The buildings are believed to have been demolished in 1987.



Two miles south of Harlech, Llandanwg station provides easy access to the village with a popular little beach as well as a small 13th century church. Originally it was a small collection of farms to the north of the river Artro, close to where it enters the sea. Later developments expanded the size of the village. There is an easily accessible, shelving beach at the end of the road through the village in the heart of Snowdonia National Park. The parish church of Saint Tanwg at Llandanwg is situated just behind the beach in the sand dunes just 66 ft above the high tide mark. The church is medieval and a Grade II listed, probably dating from the 13th century, however there are three fifth to sixth century inscribed stones and two stones with inscribed crosses inside the building which indicates much earlier activity. It has probably been a place of worship since the Age of the Saints. Much of the churchyard is buried in sand but contains the graves of World War I servicemen.





Harlech is well known for its castle, a magnificent landmark that is perched high up on the hillside looking out to sea. It was built next to the sea, but changes in the coastline mean it now lies on a cliff face, about half a mile (800 m) inland. The town has developed housing estates in the low town area and hillside properties in the high town around the shopping street, church, and castle. If you wish, you can pay to go inside and explore the remains as well as admiring the exterior from outside. If you've made the steep climb up to the castle, you can also explore the village where you will find a few shops as well as a viewpoint looking out over the Irish Sea that is mentioned in the Welsh Mabinogion Legends. The exact derivation of the name "Harlech" is unclear. Some mostly older sources claim that it derives from Arddlech, (i.e. ardd (high) + llech (rock)), referring to the prominent crag on which the castle stands. More recent sources tend to go for a simpler derivation from the two Welsh words hardd (fair/fine) & llech (slate/rock).



Tygwyn (translating to White House in English) is a particularly quiet station that is located on a level crossing on the A496 between Harlech and Talsarnau. It is within walking distance of Talsarnau either along the main road or through nearby fields. A mile along the main road will take you to Llanfihangel y Traethau which translates



to Church of St Michael. It used to be surrounded by water at high tide and was a port and ship building centre. A rare inscribed stone to the west of the building dates the building, it is believed that the church predates Harlech Castle. The church along with the graveyard reflect the history of the area with 14 sailors and 26 sea captains named on gravestones and modern stained glass. The most notable is the graves of Lord Harlech who was one time ambassador to the US and author Richard Hughes. The church is still open every day and a weekly service held on Sunday at 11.30am.



Talsarnau serves the little village of the same name and is the ideal location to start a hill walk with various walks across the hillside behind the village. Take the path in the opposite direction to the village to the estuary for a view of Portmeirion village, clinging to the hillside across the water. It's also possible to walk across to Ynys

Giffan, an uninhabited island in the estuary although be aware that the tides can make this dangerous and even impossible at times. The island has been uninhabited since the mid-1960s and the island's single cottage is in a state of disrepair. It is one of 43 (unbridged) tidal islands which may be reached on foot from the mainland of Great Britain.



Ynys Giffan



Llandecwyn is a small station overlooking a sandy estuary of the Afon Dwyryd in the heart of Gwynedd. It is just across the road bridge from Penrhyndeudraeth and is also in walking distance of Talsarnau in the opposite direction. The station was completely reconstructed during summer 2014, as part of the scheme of works to replace nearby Pont Briwet and now consists of a small glass shelter and a short concrete platform capable of accommodating two carriages.



British Rail requested the permission of the Secretary of State for Transport to close Llandecwyn and three other Cambrian Coast station (namely Abererch, Tygwyn and Tonfanau) during the mid-1990s. Their winter 1995/96 timetable featured only two northbound and three southbound trains Mondays to Saturdays, with a note that the service may be withdrawn before 1 June 1996. The station was retained and service levels have since increased.



Penrhyn-deudraeth (pronounced Pen-rynn-day-dryth) serves a large, though not especially touristy village uphill from the station with a few local shops. The sandy estuary here is rather spectacularly punctuated by the electricity pylons which march off in the direction of Trawsfynydd. The former explosives works which closed in 1997 has now become a nature reserve noted for nightjars. An older settlement of a few cottages at Upper Penrhyn was originally called *Cefn Coch* ('Red Ridge') and that name is perpetuated by the Penrhyn-deudraeth primary school, which is known as Ysgol Cefn Coch but the town is comparatively modern. The ground on which it stands was a malarial swamp encircling a huge stagnant pool. The present town owes its existence as a commercial centre to a local landowner, David Williams of Castell Deudraeth near Minffordd, who in the mid 19th century drained the swamp and dried the pool and constructed many streets. Adapting a scheme of his Italian craftsmen, Williams used the idea of broad streets and wide open spaces.



Minffordd station has an interchange with the Ffestiniog Railway from Porthmadog to Blaenau Ffestiniog although most visitors would board at Porthmadog. Close to the station is Garth quarry, which has existed since 1870 and still today supplies stone for roads and railways. This is also the closest station to the colourful, dream like village of Portmeirion, which is just a mile away. Built by Sir Clough Williams Ellis between 1925 and 1975, this truly delightful Italianate village is a glorious jumble of attractive colourful buildings arranged around a central piazza. Portmeirion is well worth the admission charge for a day visit, with buildings and gardens to explore, as well as shops and places to eat. During peak season (Late March to Late October), you can learn more about this unique village with free walking and train tours. The Visitor Centre is open all year and can help with more information, books and maps.



Portmeirion is a moderate walk from Minffordd Station. We advise getting a taxi from the station. We recommend **Duke's Taxis on 01766 514799**



Porthmadog is a small but busy little town with a marina and harbour along with a thriving Welsh Community. The town was founded following William Maddock's building of the cob, a sea wall used to reclaim land from the sea. The town is also a hub for two well known narrow gauge railways: the Ffestiniog Railway and the Welsh Highland Railway, where you can travel through the mountains to Blaenau Ffestiniog or in the opposite direction to Caernarfon. Porthmadog is rich in maritime history and is an excellent base for touring the surrounding area. It has a number of craft shops and restaurants. In times gone by, it was a vital, busy shipping port for the international slate trade, brought down from Blaenau Ffestiniog. The maritime history depicts its proud past. The town's Maritime Museum tells the story of the town's rapid 19th-century growth into a thriving slate exporting and shipbuilding port for handsome three-masted schooners known as Western Ocean Yachts.



Alight here to join the Ffestiniog or Welsh Highland Railway to experience over 40 miles of Snowdonia scenery.



Criccieth is a large and pleasant village neighbouring Porthmadog. Favourite past times include a walk along the sea front and picking up an Ice Cream from locally famous Cadwallader's. Criccieth Castle is perched on a hill above the beach and although somewhat smaller than Harlech Castle it is still nice and picturesque. The area around Criccieth was settled during the Bronze Age, and a chambered tomb, *Cae Dyni*, survives on the coast to the east of the town; it consists of seven upright stones, and there are 13 cup marks, arranged in several groups. Evidence from other sites on the Llŷn Peninsula suggests that the area was colonised by a wave of Celtic settlers, who explored the Irish Sea, probably around the 4th century BC.

The town is noted for its fairs, held on 23 May and 29 June every year, when large numbers of people visit the fairground and the market which spreads through many of the streets of the town.



This station formally known as Butlin's Penychain Station once served a large Butlin's holiday camp. Now, it serves a caravan park and the smaller Haven park. The station opened on 31 July 1933 as a halt to serve Butlin's holiday camp which was under construction. During World War 2 the holiday camp was requisitioned as a Naval Training Base. It was upgraded to a station on 3 April 1947 when the holiday camp reopened for civilian use. The station was particularly busy in the 1950s and early 1960s when most holidaymakers arrived at the camp either by train or coach. Following the closure of the railway line from Caernarfon to Afonwen Junction (about 2 miles east) and the growing popularity of the motor car, fewer campers arrived by train from the 1960s onwards. Meanwhile, Butlin's had their own road-going 'Puffing Billy' train to ferry Campers to/from the main railway station on Saturdays. This was also used for trips around the camp on other days. The holiday camp was divided into two halves by the railway. Although much reduced in size, and now with only a single platform, it is still open



Abererch (Welsh for "Mouth of the Erch") is a small village and former civil parish on the Llŷn Peninsula in the Welsh county of Gwynedd. The village lies approximately 1 mile (1.6 km) east of Pwllheli. A river, the Afon Erch runs through the village. The parish was abolished in 1934 and incorporated into that of Llannor. It is a mostly Welsh-speaking village. The station is situated close to the village's sandy beach. There is a primary school, playschool, and a church which is a grade I listed building. The beach which is between Pwllheli and Penychain (Haven Holiday Park). From the beach you have a view of Harlech Castle in the east all the way down to Tywyn (and on a clearer day even further south) and to the west Pwllheli and the St Tudwals. Access to the beach is through a footpath next to the caravan and camp site. This beach is ideal for days when the wind is from the north or north west due to the sheltered bay.

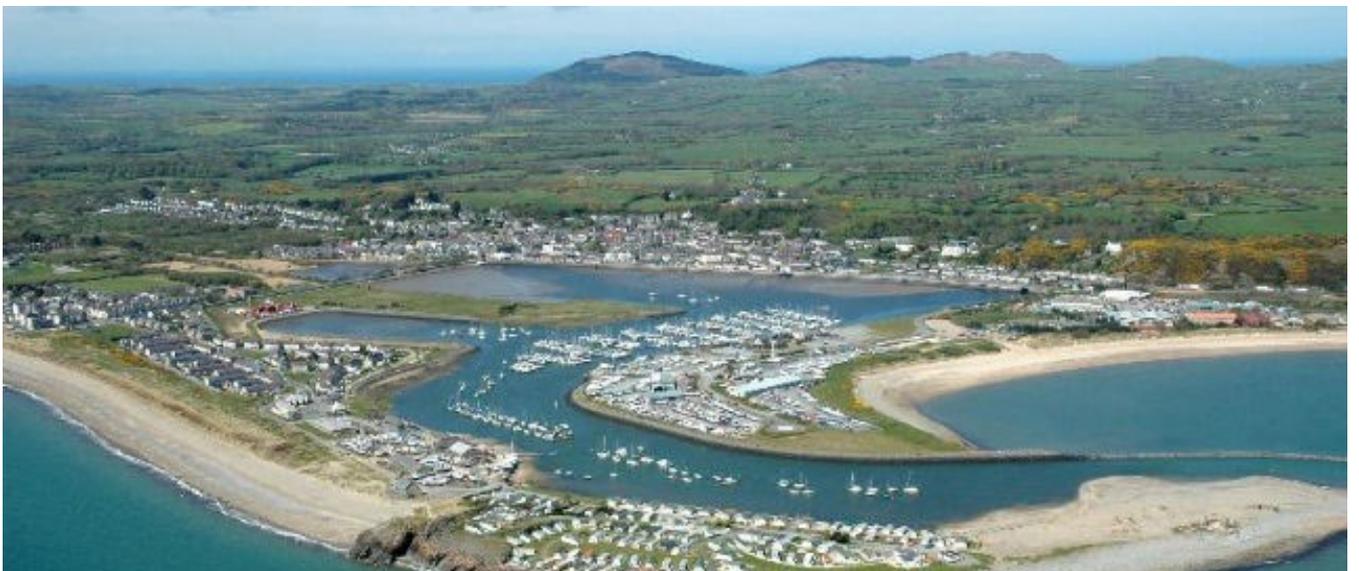




Pwllheli, the terminus of the Cambrian Coast Line is a busy and strongly Welsh speaking market town on the Llyn Peninsula. The town has the usual collection of shops and a market which is still held on a weekly basis each Wednesday.

The town grew around the ship building and fishing industry along with the granite quarry behind the town. This bustling coastal town is located at the entrance to the peninsula, which is itself protected as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Pwllheli is the ideal location from which to explore this northwest corner of Wales. The Llyn's Coastal Path is 91 miles long, extending from nearby Porthmadog to Caernarfon on the north coast of the peninsula. This path forms part of the new Wales Coastal Path, 870 miles which runs round the entire Welsh coast. Pwllheli's beaches are mainly south facing and have been awarded the prestigious European Blue Flag Award. Glan y Mor beach is sandy and sheltered near the marina. South beach is mainly shingle and pebble and stretches the length of the attractive promenade with a play area and skate park nearby.







# Trefeddian

---

HOTEL • ABERDOVEY

Aberdovey

Gwynedd

LL35 0SB

01654 767213