

Head North Itinerary

This itinerary will take you on a tour of the North Wales Way and spectacular North Wales coast, taking in the amazing wildlife this area attracts along the way.

When: April – October

Time: 5-7 days

Sea
Wales



Morfa Harlech Nature Reserve, Gwynedd

Start your Head North getaway with a visit to Morfa Harlech Nature Reserve. If golden sand dunes are your thing then you will not be disappointed. Take your time on this stunning coastal walk through this dramatic and spectacular nature reserve. Morfa Harlech is a great place for birdwatching, especially in winter when you might see Whooper Swans and large flocks of Wigeon and Mallard. Hundreds of Curlew and Oystercatcher also congregate on the mudflats to the north. Also keep an eye out for Dolphins. For a panoramic overview of the area, why not visit Harlech Castle and look down from the walls on what was clearly sea in the not too distant past. For further information visit:

<http://www.visitsiowales.com/attraction-search/attraction-search-results/attraction-search-details?id=1834694&latitude=1&longitude=1>

Gwaith Powdwr Nature Reserve, Gwynedd

The next stop on the Head North tour takes you to Gwaith Powdwr Nature Reserve. Believe it or not but Gwaith Powdwr was once the biggest explosives works in Europe! It was donated to the North Wales Wildlife Trust by ICI in 1998 and is now managed as a nature reserve. The reserve offers fabulous views of Snowdonia and the Dwyryd Estuary, and there are many paths throughout the site with excellent access. There is a bird hide to view the wildlife up close. Keep a look out for Lesser Horseshoe Bat, Nightjar, Pied Flycatcher and Adder. For further visitor information visit:

<http://www.northwaleswildlifetrust.org.uk/reserves/gwaith-powdwr>

Uwchmynydd, Gwynedd

Uwchmynydd sits right at the south west tip of the Llyn Peninsula, just beyond the charming village of Aberdaron. It is a beautiful and calm place, and one where the pace of life seems that bit slower. Aberdaron makes a good starting point for the route. Spectacular coastal scenery. Keep an eye out for Chough, Porpoise, Dolphins and Seals. There is a car park in the centre of Aberdaron. For further visitor information visit:

<http://outdoornorthwales.com/en/list/detail/uwchmynydd>

Porthdinllaen, Gwynedd

Continue to Head North approx. 14 miles to Porthdinllaen and don't forget your binoculars and beach towel! This picture perfect fishing village is located on a stunning stretch of sandy beach which the whole family will enjoy. The area is well known for Sand Martins, Cormorants, Oystercatchers and other coastal birds. The beautiful headland is also a popular spot with local Atlantic Grey Seals. Why not snorkel for views of fantastic Seagrass or try your hand at paddle boarding! For further visitor information visit:

<https://www.visitsnowdenia.info/porthdinllaen-143.aspx>

Ynys Llanddwyn, Anglesey

The next stop on the Head North tour takes you to the magical island of Llanddwyn! Big and little kids will love to explore this quirky island. Visit during low tide for excellent views of Snowdonia and the Llyn Peninsula. Check out its famous lighthouse and ancient church ruins dedicated to the Welsh Saint Valentine; Saint Dwynwen. Together with the dunes and beach, the island of Ynys Llanddwyn is part of a National Nature Reserve which also includes large areas of saltmarsh and coastal sand flats. Why not go rock-pooling, watch the rich bird-life or try to count all the various types of wildflowers? For further information visit:

<https://natureresourceswales.org/days-out/places-to-visit/north-west-wales/newborough-revised/where-you-can-visit/ynys-llanddwyn/?lang=en>



Cemlyn Nature Reserve, Anglesey

Welcome to the "jewel in the crown" of Anglesey's Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Cemlyn Nature Reserve is valued for both its scenic qualities and its unique range of wildlife. The area is as popular with general visitors as it is with birdwatchers and naturalists. It includes a large lagoon, separated from the sea by a spectacular, naturally created shingle ridge. During the summer months it is home to one of the most important tern colonies in Wales, including Sandwich, Common and Arctic Terns. Also keep an eye out for Bottlenose Dolphins, Porpoises, Grey Seals and Oystercatcher. For further visitor information visit:

<http://www.northwaleswildlifetrust.org.uk/reserves/cemlyn>

Bull Bay, North Anglesey

The small village of Bull Bay lies on Anglesey's north coast and is a great family stop on the Head North tour. Rock pooling is a firm favourite with locals and visitors to Bull Bay! The rugged coastline is made up of some of the oldest rocks on the planet - cliffs and slabs that are a staggering 570 million years old. As well as its fascinating geology Bull Bay offers some brilliant and challenging coastal walks. The area is also home to Wales' most northerly golf club and is a great fishing spot. When exploring keep an eye out for Harbour Porpoises, Seals, Seabirds, Risso and Bottlenose Dolphins! For further information visit:

<http://www.gonorthwales.co.uk/things-to-do/bull-bay-beach-p376831>

Garth Pier, Bangor

The next stop on the Head North tour will take you to the prettiest pier in Wales; Garth Pier! On a beautiful day visitors can see for miles over the woodland by Beaumaris and beautiful town of Bangor. No visit to the Pier is complete without a traditional cream tea at the Pavilion tea room! Keep an eye out for wading birds and Seals as you stroll down the Pier. For further visitor information visit:

<https://www.walesdirectory.co.uk/Piers/bangor-pier-9467.htm>

Great Orme, Llandudno

Welcome to Llandudno's mini-mountain, rich in natural and man-made history! The Great Orme Country Park and Nature Reserve is one stop on the Head North tour that you won't forget! Keep an eye out for a variety of wildlife including Guillemots, Kittiwakes and Razorbills, Ravens, Little Owls, Peregrine Falcons, Seals, Porpoise, Dolphins and the silver-studded blue butterfly. Visitors also have no problem in spotting the Great Orme's most famous residents...the wild Kashmir Goats with their awesome shaggy white coats and fearsome horns. Don't forget to check out Llandudno Pier (the longest in Wales), go on a pleasure boat trip or have some family fun on North shore beach. For further information visit:

<http://www.visitllandudno.org.uk>

Prestatyn & Gronant Dunes, Denbighshire

The final stop on the Head North Trail takes you to the three glorious golden beaches of Prestatyn and Gronant Dunes. Prestatyn is situated on the coast in the county of Denbighshire. The town is nestled between beautiful beaches and a spectacular hillside; it's the perfect finish to the Head North tour.

The promenade links the three beaches together to make a straight path, perfect for walkers and cyclists. After you've had fun at the beach there's plenty more to see and do in and around the area.

Keep an eye for Wales' only remaining colony of breeding Little Terns at Gronant Dunes. If you're looking for a lesson in history then check out the Roman Bath House or Offa's Dyke Path. For further information visit:

<https://www.rhyl-prestatyn.co.uk/>

