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EXPLORE

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Bodelwyddan Castle & North Wales

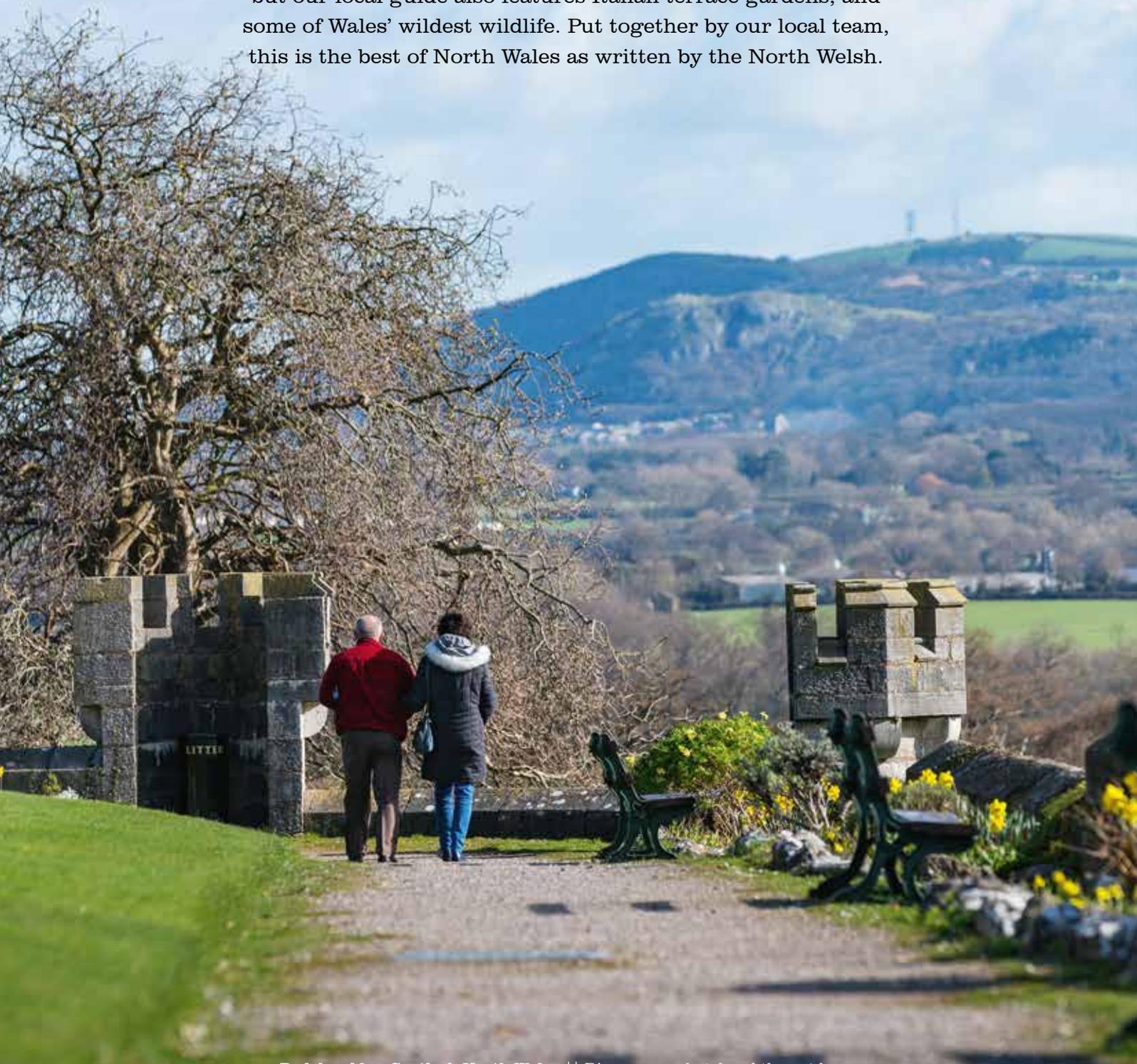
Discover our hotel and the outdoors

Places to visit

From classic seaside towns to the unique quirkiness of Portmeirion, there are so many interesting and unusual places to visit in North Wales that you might struggle to choose! Luckily, that's where our local team come in – we've asked them to recommend the best North Wales has to offer and they've come back with some corkers, ranging from expansive beaches to the forests of Snowdonia.

Things to do

There's more than one way to shoe a horse, and indeed there's more than one way to climb Snowdon as well – just one of our top things to do in North Wales is the famous mountain railway, but our local guide also features Italian terrace gardens, and some of Wales' wildest wildlife. Put together by our local team, this is the best of North Wales as written by the North Welsh.



THE BEST OF OUR GROUNDS AND GARDENS

You don't have to walk far to enjoy unspoilt views of the North Wales countryside – Bodelwyddan Castle looks out onto open fields with mountains and the Irish Sea also in view. Our gardens are home to their own little delights too, which you can discover on a tour with our grounds team or at your leisure.

Walled garden

Our walled garden here at Bodelwyddan is a little bit special – a wander around the perimeter will reveal holes where fires were once lit, heating the wall to provide an even warmer sheltered climate for the plants growing within, including a 400-year-old mulberry tree.



East Lawn castle view

Take a little wander around the edge of our grounds and down onto the East Lawn to be greeted by this picture-perfect view of Bodelwyddan Castle in all its glory standing against the North Wales skyline.

Wisteria Arch

In late spring and early summer, guests can catch our wisteria arch and wall in all their glory. It's a beautiful photo opportunity.



BEACHES AND THE OUTDOORS

North Wales is famous for its mountain ranges and fresh air, but look a little closer and you'll be amazed at what surprises it has in store. We asked our team to recommend some of the 'hidden gems' of North Wales, and this is what they came up with:

Isle of Anglesey – Llanddwyn Beach

Anglesey is home to a staggering 125 miles of coastline (including our personal favourite, Llanddwyn Beach) with a network of walking routes for all levels of fitness. Trekking between dense forest and the mountains of Snowdonia, this is a hiker's heaven, a walker's wonderland, and a pedestrian's paradise.



LL61 6SG
60-minute drive



Aber Falls

The postcode takes you to Aber Falls car park – from there it's a 6km walk to the falls, but with very little incline don't be put off by the distance, as you'll be rewarded with the sight of the iconic waterfall crashing down green-covered rocks into the river below.



LL33 0LP
35-minute drive



9am – 5pm



£5 per day

Moel Famau

The highest hill in the Clwydian Range, which also gives its name to the Moel Famau country park, has been classed as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty since 1985. Enjoy a number of walks to reach the summit of Jubilee Tower, the most moderate of which is 5.8km (approx 2 hours).



CH7 5SH
40-minute drive



£2 all day



Bodnant Garden

Bodnant Garden is famous for its five Italian terraces that feature two rose gardens, ornamental pools and pergola walkways. The gardens have undergone extensive conservation work over the last few years and the benefits are clear to see, a beautiful landscape that changes with the seasons.



LL28 5RE
23-minute drive



Free parking
Entry: Free for
National Trust
members



★ Warner Recommends ★



Snowdon Mountain Railway

Definitely the easiest way to climb Mount Snowdon, the mountain railway is also the most picturesque with panoramic views out over the national park. It is the only public 'rack and pinion' railway in the UK, allowing the trains to operate on the steep gradient of Snowdon.



LL55 4TT
50-minute drive



£32 return
Please check
the website for
opening times.



£4 for 4 hours

Chester Zoo

As seen on Channel 4's 'Secret Life Of The Zoo' - discover and explore one of the UK's best loved and biggest Zoos. Over 20,000 animals and 128 acres of zoo logical gardens to explore!



CH2 1LH
40-minute drive



10am – 4:30pm
Tickets booked
online in
advance.



Free Parking



CASTLES OF NORTH WALES

Caernarfon Castle

Built in the 1280 by Edward I, who together with his military architect Master James of St George erected a castle, town walls and a quay all at the same time. This gigantic building project eventually took 47 years and cost a staggering £25,000 – over £17,000,000 in today's money!



LL55 2AY
50-minute drive



10am – 4pm



Tickets on
Arrival £5.90
per adult



Conwy Castle

The entrance is truly impressive with two fortified gateways and made up of eight enormous towers. The great hall, private chambers and kitchen can still be seen on visiting which gives you a real sense of what it would have been like back in the day.



LL32 8AY
25-minute drive



10am – 4pm



Tickets on
Arrival £9.90
per adult

Beaumaris Castle

This was the last of Edward I's castles and he unfortunately never saw it complete. It is said to be one of the most beautiful of his castles. In terms of design and finish, the castle was super high-tech for its time with the 'walls within walls' features.



LL58 8AP
50-minute drive



10am-4pm until
February 28.
10am-5pm March
1 - June 30



Tickets on
Arrival £7.40
per adult



TOWNS AND VILLAGES

From seaside resorts to the adrenaline capital of Wales, shopping outlets and a trail through Wonderland, there are plenty of towns and villages to explore around Bodelwyddan Castle.

Llandudno

The largest seaside resort in Wales, Llandudno is famous for its nearly two-mile Parade, Grade II listed pier with all the classic holiday elements you'd expect, Happy Valley gardens and chairlift, and amusement arcades. Everything you'd want from a day at the beach.



LL30 1BB
24-minute drive



£3 for 4 hours



Conwy

Conwy's rich history is preserved within the walls and traditional structures of its buildings. In its heart is the mighty 13th-century castle, whose walls encapsulate this remarkable medieval town. Explore local beaches and visit the 'smallest house in Britain.'



LL32 8FZ
30-minute drive



£3.20 for
4 hours
£4.70 for over
4 hours

Betws-y-Coed

Surrounded by the thick Gwydyr Forest, Betws-y-Coed has an atmospheric alpine feel to it. The 'Gateway to Snowdonia' is surrounded by a network of hiking and cycling trails, some of North Wales' most picturesque castles and some unique adrenaline activities, including the world's fastest zip wire.



LL24 OBD
34-minute drive



£3 for 4 hours



Rhos-on-Sea / Colwyn Bay Beach

Nestled between Llandudno and Colwyn Bay, the harbour of Rhos-on-Sea is reminiscent of a traditional Welsh coastal village. The town is home to St Trillo's Chapel, the smallest church in Britain with a capacity of only six, and the Harlequin Puppet Theatre, the only venue designed and built for puppets.



LL29 8ED
12-minute drive



Pay & Display
parking



Portmeirion

Perhaps most famous as the location of 1960s TV show 'The Prisoner', Portmeirion was designed and built in the style of an Italian village between 1925 and 1975, and is now one of North Wales' premier tourist destinations, with several cafés, tea rooms, and an Italian-style homemade gelato shop.



LL48 6ER
1 hour 20-minute
drive



9.30 – 5.30
£11-13 per person
Tickets need to
be purchased in
advance



Free parking