Weatherman Walking

Beaumaris to Red Wharf Bay
The Weatherman Walking maps are intended as a guide to help you walk the route. We recommend using an OS map of the area in conjunction with this guide. Routes and conditions may have changed since this guide was written.

The BBC takes no responsibility for any accident or injury that may occur while following the route. Always wear appropriate clothing and footwear and check weather conditions before heading out.

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For this walk we’ve included OS grid references should you wish to use them.
A linear walk along the Wales Coast Path, heading east past **Penmon Priory** and along a private toll road towards **Trwyn Du** – which translates as Black Nose, and its iconic lighthouse. Then there’s a section inland before joining a new stretch of coast path, opened in 2018, dropping down to **Llanddona Beach** before circling the expansive **Red Wharf Bay or Traeth Coch**.

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**Start:**
Beaumaris

**Starting Ref:**
SH 60896 76196

**Grade:**
Moderate (follow Wales Coast Path waymarks).

**Distance:**
12 miles to Llanddona Beach or 14 miles to The Ship Inn.

**Walk time:**
Approximately 6-7 hours for the full walk. This is a linear route so you will need to plan your return journey in advance.

**Parking:**
Pay and display car parks at Beaumaris, Llanddona Beach and Red Wharf Bay.

**Travel information:**
There isn’t an easy bus link between Red Wharf Bay and Beaumaris but it is possible to catch the 62 from the village of Red Wharf Bay to Menai Bridge Bus Station and then get onto the 53 to Beaumaris. Check local timetables.

**Further information:**
Visit the 'latest news' section of the official Wales Coast Path website for more information and path diversions - www.walescoastpath.gov.uk
Beaumaris Castle dates back to 1295 and was built by Edward 1 of England to stamp his authority on the Welsh but he ran out of money and supplies so it was never finished. It’s still an awesome sight though and is seen by many as the finest of all of Edward’s great castles in Wales. It was certainly his most ambitious and was considered state of the art at the time. There’s a beautiful chapel which has recently been restored and is well worth a visit plus great views from the battlements of Puffin Island to your left and Snowdonia to the right.

Directions
The walk begins from the seafront at Beaumaris, where you can spend some time in the great coffee shops, on the pier or visit the imposing castle run by Cadw - there’s a charge to get in.
Anyone interested in geology will enjoy the stones. This wide mix of rocks was brought to Anglesey by glaciers during the Ice Age 25,000 years ago, and originally came from as far as Scotland, Ireland and the Lake District.

Along this section are the remains of ancient wooden posts for mooring small fishing boats along the foreshore and at low tide you can also see the remains of fishing traps along the coast. These were mainly stone walls which would have had a wattle fence made out of woven, small branches, which would have closed off the opening when the tide went out, trapping the fish. Traps like these were banned in Britain in 1861.
Celtic Longboat Rowing

Sallyann Williams and members of the Beaumaris Rowing Club took me out in a Celtic longboat, similar in design to boats used along this coast centuries ago. They are really stable boats, which reduced my risk of falling in! It was great fun, and I really liked being able to get close to the mountains and have a different perspective of the coastline.

The boat was named Mabli, after the patron saint of rowing and perseverance. The story goes that Mabli was the daughter of a poor herring fisherman. She fell in love with a handsome young hermit monk who lived on Puffin Island. Despite her feelings being unrequited, each week she’d row across with provisions for him. One day, with a storm brewing, she ignored warnings and set off, only to be thrown into the sea in a maelstrom, never to return.
Directions
From the beach the path goes slightly inland to the site of a 6th century monastery and later priory.

Penmon Priory (SH 63054 80726)
Penmon Priory is the site of St Seiriol's well, which is believed to have healing qualities. St Seiriol, son of King Owain Danwyn of Rhos, was an early 6th century saint, who lived in a cell on the site and later moved to Ynys Lannog, which became known as Ynys Seiriol, before being re-named Puffin Island in the 19th century.
Trwyn Du (SH 64095 81399)
This point is punctuated by an iconic lighthouse, built following a major disaster in 1831 when a steamship, the Rothesay Castle, ran aground and 123 of the 150 people on board perished.

In 1922 it became unmanned and since 1996 it’s been run by solar power. It’s a really popular site for walkers and sight-seers and there’s also a café for those in need of some sustenance.

From here there’s a great view of Puffin Island, which is uninhabited and privately owned. Its name came from the Atlantic puffins which bred here until they were largely wiped out by rats in the late 19th century. These have now been eradicated and the puffins’ numbers are growing again. The summer months are the best time to spot them.

Directions
From Penmon Priory there is a toll road for cars leading towards Trwyn Du or Black Nose but you can walk it for free - it’s about a mile long and the path is tarmacked.

There’s car parking and a cafe here (check the opening hours before you visit) so it’s a good place to finish if you want to do a shorter walk with a planned lift back – or you could take a rest and then turn round and do the return walk back to Beaumaris.
New section of coastal path between Fedw Fawr and Bryn Offa, Llanddona (SH 60437 81917)

There’s an aim to get as much of the Wales Coast Path as near the sea as possible and you reach a section where this ambition has been realised. In 2018 a new 3.3 km or two mile stretch of the pathway was officially opened and celebrated by walkers.

It took about four years of negotiations with the landowners concerned, Baron Hill Estates and the National Trust, but the hard work has really paid off. The new section has fantastic views from the headland, stretching for miles. Puffin Island still looms large off to the right and Llanddona Beach, the first part of Red Wharf Bay, gradually comes into sight from the left.

The new stretch of the Wales Coast Path is well marked so it’s easy to see the re-routing. It’s a bit further way from Bwrdd Arthur fort than it used to be, but the landmark still towers over the landscape.
Directions
The route drops down over Llanddona Hill and there’s a section on a concrete path, or an option to walk along the beach.

Llanddona Beach (SH 57182 80840)
The walk opens up into a massive expanse of white sand and in summer it can be packed with holidaymakers and day trippers building sandcastles and flying kites.

There are boardwalks linking the car park and the beach. Next to the car park and toilets is a real ‘beach club’ style café.

Saul, who has lived in the village for 15 years, started working at the café when he was just 12 and when it became available he took it over. He relishes chatting to both the locals and visitors who stop by for a coffee or ice-cream.
You could end your walk here if you have left a car in the car park, but continuing on along the beach past the surfers and picnickers, you reach the start of Red Wharf Bay or Traeth Coch.

**Start of Red Wharf Bay or Traeth Coch** (SH 55861 80723)

A designated nature reserve which attracts an abundance of wildlife. The first section is bordered by salt marshes where large numbers of waterfowl and wading birds can be seen, including oystercatchers, shelduck, purple sandpipers, curlew and dunlin.

A section of the coastal pathway here runs along a raised wall built by Italian prisoners of war and there are also sand dunes rich in shell fragments that support the flora common to lime-rich areas, including the pyramidal orchid.
When I visited, part of the raised wall was overgrown with foliage, but it was being cut back by a volunteer group known as the ‘Silver Slashers’. The group gave themselves the name “because we are all old” – the average age of members is about 70.

Every Friday they are out for five hours clearing a section of pathway for other walkers to enjoy. With my silver hair I was made an honorary member and got stuck in, lending a hand. But hats off to them, the work wasn’t easy. They are keen to encourage more volunteers as they have found it difficult to sign-up people willing to make the commitment.
Directions
At low tide almost 10 square miles of sand is uncovered. If the tide is out you can walk along the shoreline but the whole beach disappears beneath the waves twice a day, so at high tide you will need to follow the pathway which skirts the bay.

Red Wharf Bay or Traeth Coch (SH 53592 80063)
Red Wharf Bay or Traeth Coch (Red Beach in English) – is said to have got its name from a Viking attack which left the beach covered in blood. Hard to think of that when you walk along it and it’s serene and restful.

There are normally a number of small boats tethered in the bay but this was once an important port, particularly in the 18th century when small ships brought cargoes from all over the world.

The shallow waters and quickly changing tides didn’t make it an easy port to navigate, so experienced sailors were needed to steer the vessels through to the natural shelter at the end of the bay.
Directions
Continuing around the bay there are three watering holes which once must have served hordes of thirsty seamen and merchants, plus there’s also a large car park so an ideal finish or pick up point.

The Ship Inn  LL75 8RJ (SH 52589 80555)
The Ship Inn, originally known as Cei Bach or Little Quay makes a welcome refuge after a long but stunning walk.