

Weatherman Walking

Morfa Nefyn

Approximate distance: 6 miles

For this walk we've included OS grid references should you wish to use them.

Caernarfon Bay / Bae Caernarfon



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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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Start: Porth Ysgaden, LL53 8NB

Starting ref: SH 21951 37502

Distance: Approximately 6 miles

Grade: Moderate

Walk time : 3 hours, allow time to get back to the start

Parking : There is space here for around 10 cars. This is a linear route so you will need to plan your return journey back in advance.

Travel Information:

There are buses running between the start and end points although you may have a short walk either side either to/from the bus stops. All year round there are bus services between the locations (locally the numbers 8 and 14). Traveline Cymru's website is extremely useful for route planning and bus stop finding: <https://www.traveline.cymru/bus-stop-finder>. Seasonally, the Llyn Coastal Bus operates too and was implemented for people who walk linear routes on the Llyn. Call them for up to date travel information: 01758 721 777 or 07974517943 <http://www.bwsarfordirlyn.co.uk>.

You may prefer to park at the end of the route and get a bus back to the start so you know you don't have to worry about your journey home. If that is the case, you can park above Porthdinllaen at the National Trust Car Park in Morfa Nefyn for a small fee. The postcode is: LL53 6DA (SH 281406). Use the information above to find a bus to take you to the start.

This linear walk is in an area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. It takes in a 6 mile section of the Llyn Coastal Path from Porth Ysgaden to Porthdinllaen. You will be able to explore the area's once bustling shipping ports, hopefully spot grey seals and end in one of the 'world's best beach bars'.

This section of the coastal path can be very muddy, slippery & boggy in parts so sensible footwear is essential, especially in the winter months.

Directions

Go through the kissing gate at Porth Ysgaden, immediately to your left are the remains of a lime kiln. You are going to head around the cove bearing left towards the remains of a customs house building.



Kissing gate at Porth Ysgaden

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Porth Ysgaden (SH 21951 37502)

In the 18th century, the local people relied heavily on ships to bring in goods such as sugar, tea and clothes. This was an important and busy harbour and at the start of the winter it wouldn't be uncommon to see up to 50 carts queuing up for coal. The building you see before you was home to the customs officer. He would patrol the beach on his horse to look for smugglers. Salt was often smuggled back then as it was used to keep fish fresh. Sgaden is an old Welsh word for herring and this whole coastline was the herring capital of Wales for centuries and was heavily exported from here. The industry ceased around the time of World War One, partly due to the number of fishermen who were called up to fight.



Customs house remains

From these remains you will be able to spot another small building along the cliff to your right. It's characterised by a little chimney, make your way to it.

This was a bathing hut used by the local gentry (SH 22066 37571). Turn right and then bear left to follow the coastal path which continues above and behind Porth Y Cychod with its tin fishing huts. Continue along the path, keeping the sea to your left and looking out for the Llyn Coastal Path markers. Near Porth Llydan you will cross a wooden bridge over a small waterfall. You will also head past a small caravan site (SH 22751 37468) at Porth Ysglaig.



Wooden bridge over waterfall



Caravan site with Llyn coastal path signpost

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Keep heading in the same direction on the safest path and you will soon spot Porth Towyn, a much larger expanse of beach than the ones you have already seen on the route. The coastal path stays above the beach (do not attempt to get down to the beach from this path) and on your right is Towyn caravan & camping site. When you reach the end of the caravan site bear right. You will see ahead of you to your left a large building which is home to a café and shop called Cwt Tatws. It was named after the small stone building to the right of it.



Porth Towyn



Jules and Derek walking towards Cwt Tatws

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2 Potato Shed / Cwt Tatws (SH 23252 37471)

This little building is known to be 400 years old and was used to store potatoes. It also has a more exciting past. The Welsh Methodist Evangelist Howell Harris visited Tudweiliog several times and would carry out sermons for interested locals from this tiny building. The rumour is that he would hide from the authorities in the nearby Towyn farm and would make his way to the shed when it was safe for him to preach.



A 400 year old potato shed

Head back the way you came, towards the sea. To your left is a path that leads down to Porth Towyn, a beautiful beach, said to have squeaky sands similar to nearby Whistling Sands. We are heading right up the coastal path towards the direction of Nefyn. Go through the wooden gate sign posted Wales Coastal path, and follow the route along and through any gates as you go.



Signpost for Llyn coastal path

Keep following the coastal path route, there will be the occasional wooden bridge to cross, steps to navigate and gates to make your way through. Keep an eye out for the Llyn Coastal Path signs and follow the direction they take.



Wooden bridge

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Continue on and eventually you will meet a little headland where the coastal path seems to end before branching off sharply to the right. This is just before the headland around Cwmistir. From this vantage point you can look down to the beach below and if you are lucky you may well be able to spot some seals! Be careful not to venture too close to the edge as there is a steep drop from here. Keep going along the path which eventually leads down steep steps and onto the beach. If you have been lucky enough to spot the seals, and you'd like a closer look at them then keep bearing left, to go down a ramp onto the beach. There are a few small coves here which are often home to grey seals. You may have to venture onto the rocks to the left of you to see them. The best way to observe seals is to stay still and keep your distance; they are naturally inquisitive so will more than likely resurface if you initially scare them off.



View of seals from the clifftop

3 Grey Seals (SH 24536 39443)

Over half of the world's seal population can be found on the coast of the British Isles. The Llyn is an important refuge for grey seals, with around 5000 of them living in the water around west Wales. They are bigger than their common cousins with different shaped heads and facial features. They can usually be spotted at all times of the year. If you are lucky enough to see them the advice is to not disturb them.



A grey seal

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Once you've had a look at the seals, head back towards the direction you came from and you'll see some steps going up a hill ahead of you. Go up the steps and continue following the coastal path all the way along. If it's a clear day you will have a great view of the headland where the route will come to an end. Eventually you'll reach a point with a black metal gate on the right, and to the left what looks like a wooden style. Go through the black gate here, and again, stay on the coastal path.



Black gated bridge

The path takes you down to a wooden bridge across a stream on a beach with a pipe running into the sea. Cross over the bridge here. Follow the path to the left, and head up the steep steps onto Nefyn golf course. The coastal path runs right the way across the golf course. Be careful of flying balls and stick to the path. It's marked all the way with signposts and the grass is of a slightly different length. Nefyn Golf Club is one of Ian Woosnam's favourite courses and has also been used in the Visit Wales adverts. (SH 26590 40590)



Nefyn golf course sign

As you make your way across the course you will see that there is another pathway now to your right. Eventually you'll see a green information sign ahead of you just off that road. The sign tells you about the Iron Age promontory fort that used to be here. (SH 27506 41625) There is a road leading to the right but we are continuing up the hill for a lovely view of Porthdinlleaen to your right as you get to the top.



Derek and Jules make their way to the headland of Porthdinlleaen



View from the top of the beautiful cove of Porthdinlleaen

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From this hilltop continue on and you'll see a path leading down on the right. Follow it down and around. You'll pass Porthdinllaens' lifeboat station on your left (SH 27778 41923). Follow the little path along the sea here, it ventures up and down small steps. You will reach some cottages on your left and behind these you can walk onto the beach and right up to the Ty Coch Inn which is your final stop.



Lifeboat station



Porthdinllaen cove

4 Ty Coch Inn (SH 27573 41582)

The pub was originally built as a vicarage in 1823 before rebranding nearly 20 years later to serve the areas thirsty shipbuilders. It has been voted as one of the best beach bars in the world and can only be reached by boat or on foot.



Derek and Jules at the Ty Coch Inn