



South Stack Lighthouse

Isle of Anglesey

I am consistently stunned at how beautiful the landscape is - wild, beautiful, majestic views alternate with lush pastoral landscapes and geological wonders that astound – I never tire of exploring this area of Wales."

GRUFF OWEN, Wales Coast Path Officer.

From Valley to Four Mile Bridge

Explore Holy Island, an island off an island on the north west coast of Anglesey. Separated from the Isle of Anglesey by a narrow channel, it's only 15 square miles but has open heathland rich with wildlife and a spectacular rocky coastline to explore.

Enjoy this 3-day adventure by basing yourself at Holyhead, alternatively stay en route near the settlement at the end of each day.

Getting there

Train

Direct trains to Holyhead leave from London, Cardiff, Chester, Shrewsbury and Birmingham New Street.

Bus

There are some direct coaches to Holyhead from around the country, check the National Express website for details:

nationalexpress.com/en

Suggested base

Perhaps best known as a ferry port, Holyhead has a whole host of attractions which make it an ideal place from which to explore the coast of Anglesey. Shops, the cinema and great places to eat out, base yourself in Holyhead and you'll have plenty to keep you entertained.

Accommodation

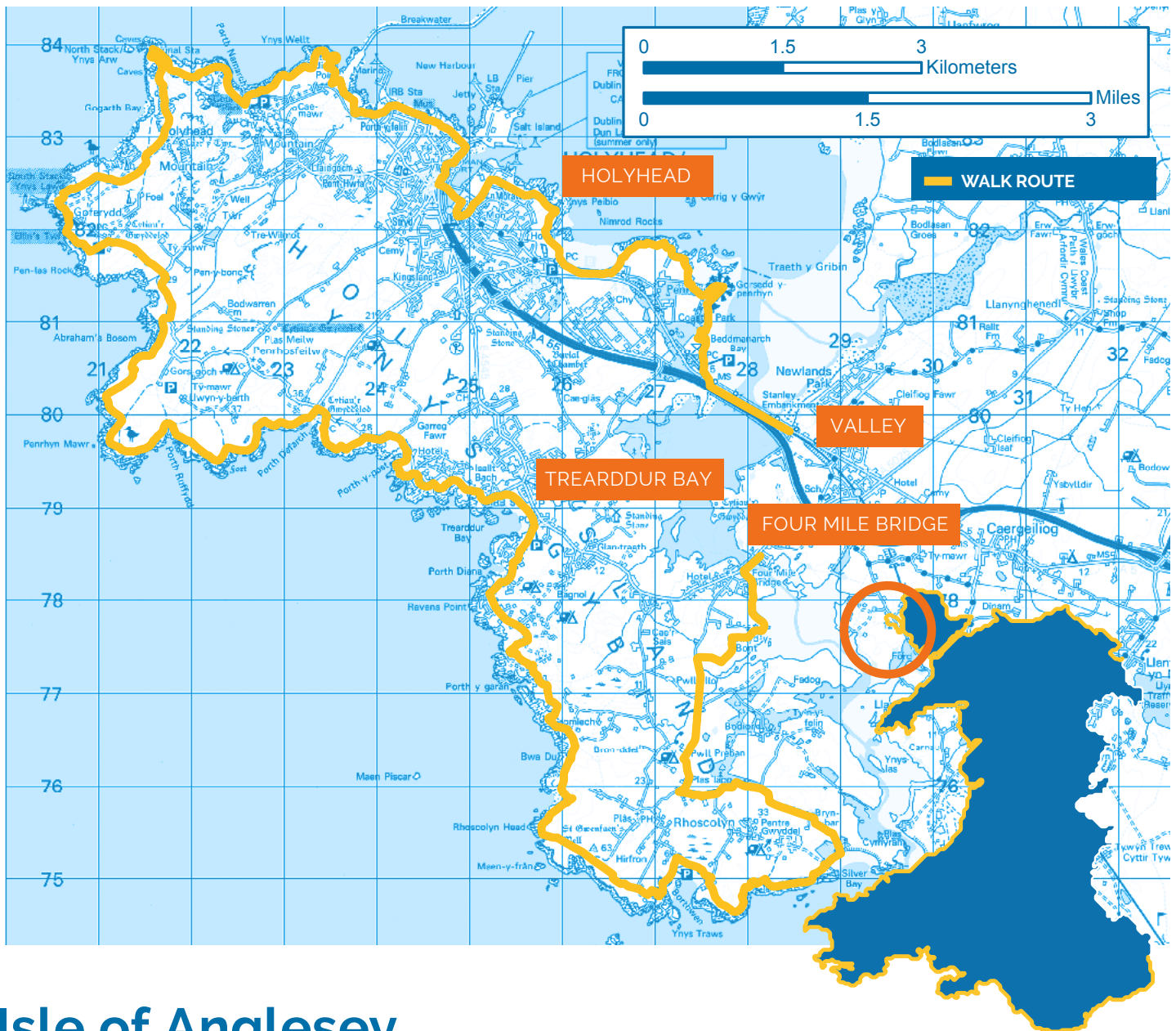
Accommodation for every type of stay can be found here:

visitwales.com/accommodation-search

Eating Out

Holyhead has a good selection of cafes, restaurants and takeaways:

tripadvisor.co.uk/Restaurants-g186443-Holyhead_Anglesey_North_Wales_Wales.html



Isle of Anglesey

Terrain

As the Wales Coast Path closely follows the coastline inevitably you will encounter erosion, steep cliffs and rocky paths. Please take care and we advise that you choose footwear and clothing appropriate to these conditions and to suit the predicted weather.

Difficulty

Day 1 and 3 do not have any challenging sections and only require a good level of fitness. Day 2 is a longer walk and involves some strenuous uphill sections on a rough terrain. A good level of fitness and confidence is required.

Public Transport

Details of transport are with each walk, but please check for times on Travel Line Cymru traveline.cymru or National Rail nationalrail.co.uk or Transport for Wales tfwrail.wales

Baggage Handlers

For those wanting to stay en route, take the strain out of the journey by using luggage handlers to transfer your luggage to your next stop.

walescoastpath.gov.uk/plan-your-visit/planning-carrying-help/?lang=en



Valley to Holyhead Marina 5.5 miles

From the village of Valley make the crossing to Holy Island by foot then venture through nature reserves rich with wildlife and beautiful woodland to arrive back at base in the historic port of Holyhead.

Start

Start the walk in Valley, the village at the beginning of the embankment to Holy Island. To join the Wales Coast Path, make your way to the start of the bridge that crosses the estuary, with views to the open sea on your right.

Continue across the bridge and at the other side take the immediate turn to your right. The path will lead you through the much loved Penrhos Country Park, there is a little tearoom and toilet facilities near the main carpark and plenty of lovely places to picnic.

This area is a nature reserve, the wooded area was planted in the 19th Century and has a wealth of woodland: mixed woodland; plants and wildlife including bluebell beds; meadow butterflies, fresh water habitats and if you're lucky, you might even see some of the shy red squirrels known to frequent the woods.

On leaving the park the path takes you to the raised headland of Gorsedd-y-Penrhyn; which gives amazing panoramic views of the North West Anglesey coastline, Beddmanarch Bay, Holyhead Mountain and the Snowdonia Mountain Range are all in view. Gorsedd-y-Penrhyn has been designated a site of regional geological and geomorphological importance and you'll see why. The rocks are known to date back to the Precambrian Eon (over 542 million years ago) they are among the oldest known in Britain.

Follow the headland around to the wide, sand and shingle Penrhos Beach. As you walk along this stretch look out for the ferries setting off to Dublin. At this point you'll see the port of Holyhead ahead.



The next bit of walk leaves behind the greenery of the coast and explores the urban heritage of the port town.

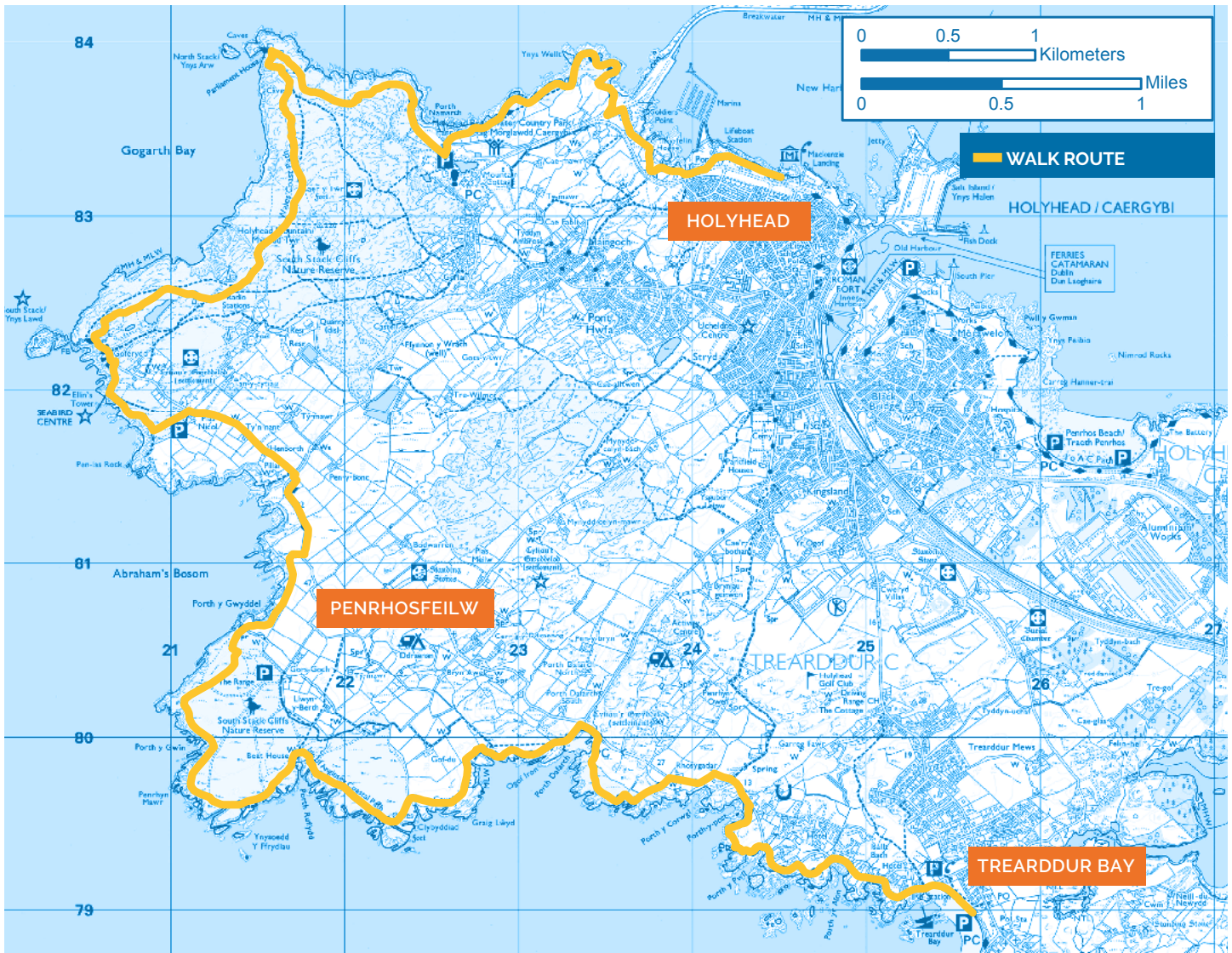
The path leads through residential streets: along Ffordd Beibio which leads Ffordd Tudur to the main road of Turkey Shore Road. Here turn right at the end, continue a short way until you reach the roundabout. At the roundabout turn right walking towards the port itself. On the left you will find access to the Celtic Gateway Footbridge which takes you across the inner harbour.

On the other side of the bridge turn right along the high street and through St Cybi's Church. Continue on this road and turn right into a car park near the playground. The Wales Coast Path leaves the main road on the right, to the end the walk at the Lifeboat Station where you'll find Holyhead Maritime Museum.

Situated above pretty Newry Beach, the museum is a fascinating experience. It's the oldest lifeboat station in Wales and is packed to the rafters with maritime artefacts; learn about shipwrecks, rescues and local pirates!

Transport to the start Bus

There are many regular buses from Summer Hill in Holyhead to Valley Crossroads in Valley. The buses leave approximately every 10-15 minutes. The journey takes approximately 10 minutes. Please check times before you set off.



Holyhead to Trearddur 12 miles

Enjoy panoramic views from Holyhead mountain and dare to take the 400 steps down the steep cliff face to visit the iconic and elegant South Stack lighthouse.

Start

Join the Wales Coast Path at the Holyhead Maritime Museum. With the museum on your right continue on to the Trinity Marina and straight ahead on to Beach Road which descends and winds until you come a small junction. Turn left then immediately right to an opening on a rough track and down to the quiet white pebbled beach. At the far end of the beach take some narrow steps up; before you, lies the adventure ahead, the rugged landscape of Holyhead Mountain.

Continue on the path through the hidden gem of Holyhead Breakwater Country Park where the heathland nurtures many different species of moth including the ruby tiger, cinnabar and buff tip. Look out for different varieties of orchids too. There is a café here. The path meanders along the grassy headland close the sea edge with a low rocky shoreline to your right. Eventually you leave the crashing of waves behind as you start to gently climb to meet a larger track.

Once on the track turn right and continue on a winding path towards the cliff edge to enjoy an expansive view of Holyhead Bay.

The next stretch of the walk undulates along a narrow stony path climbing dramatically up above the sea. You will eventually come to the forking of the path. The Wales Coast Path takes the lower route to your right which will take you along the headland to reach the fog signal station at North Stack.

Holyhead to Trearddur (continued) 12 miles

The warning station has served boats off the coast of Anglesey for around 200 years. In earlier days a large canon was deployed on the cliff - not the most subtle way to warn passing ships but most certainly effective! You will see the ornate stone Victorian outhouse where the gunpowder was kept. The cliff edge is close here so do take care.

Leaving North Stack continue right, up the hill, climbing a steep slope along a stony track. Eventually reaching a junction, turn right as the path continues to climb. The climb up Holyhead Mountain is quite long and steep so be sure take a breather; you may catch sight of the Holyhead/Dublin ferry sailing by.

At this stage you might be relieved to hear that you ignore the path that leads to the mountain top but instead continue where you will pass an old Iron age fort, giving a glimpse of times gone by on the mountain. The path begins to descend.

Follow the path across a heather covered rocky ridge descending to South Stack; the elegant white lighthouse sits on a small island below you. Originally built in 1809 it reopened, refurbished in 2017. Visitors are welcome but to reach it you must venture down 400 steps built into the steep cliff. It is well worth the effort but in your enthusiasm remember that you face the same 400 steps on the way back up!

This area is a perfect place for a bit of bird watching as feathered visitors include razorbills, puffins and guillemots. Follow the path around past the RSPB centre, Ellin's Tower, where there is a shop and café.

On leaving Ellin's Tower make your way along the cliff edge path for about 400 metres and then left along a path arriving at the RSPB car park. Take the right turning here down the tarmac road to the T-junction at the bottom of the hill, cross the road and turn right on a field edge path and until you see a Wales Coast Path signpost, then across a field to bring you to the cliff top again. You're now in an area known as The Range which delights with amazing views back to South Stack. This open section provides spectacular panoramas and amazing rock formations.

All the hard work and Holyhead mountain are now behind you, so enjoy this gentle push to lovely blue flag Porth Dafarch beach nestling beneath a ragged headland. This is the beach from which divers search for gold reputedly from wrecked ships sent by Louis XV.

Follow the signed path along the coastline which will lead you up to a road for a little road walking. At the next cove the path takes you back along the coastline, then dips back up to the road for a short time before you eventually arrive at Trearddur Bay at the Sea Shanty café and car park. With its long sandy beach and cafes, you'll have no difficulty recharging your energy levels before your journey home!

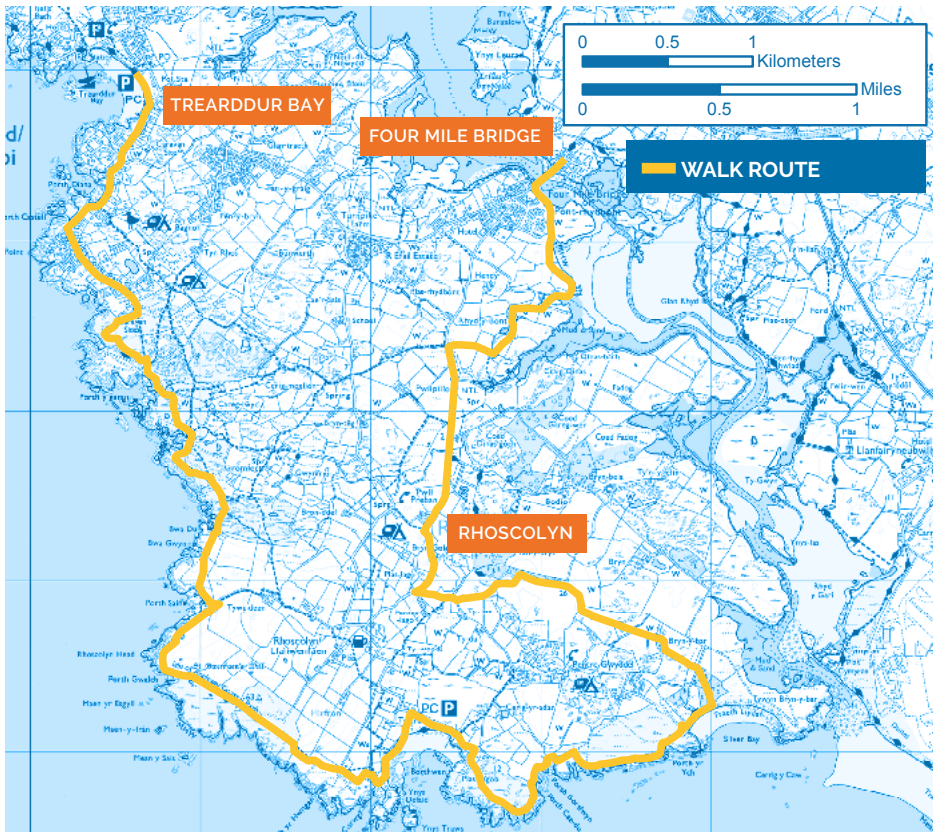
Return to base

Bus

Take the number 23, 4 or 4R bus from the beach car park at Trearddur Bay to Holyhead. The buses are regular, at least one per hour, but vary throughout the day. The journey takes 10-12 minutes. Please check times before you set off.



Enjoy the geological wonders of this rugged coastline before moving inland through lush fields and wild flower paths.



Start

Join the Wales Coast Path at the end of the beautiful beach at Trearddur Bay. Difficult as it is to leave the rockpools and golden sands, with the beach on your right continue along the main road out of Trearddur. This may seem like a long road but soon it forks, and you follow the track to the right and right again, towards the fresh and breezy cliff tops.

In doing so you'll skirt the edge of a caravan park before crossing one of its roads; here you leave tarmac behind and venture along the well-defined path into a landscape of flowering thrift and dramatic coastal arches.

The area of Rhoscolyn lies ahead. This stretch of the walk is renowned for its rocky coastline. You will pass above numerous tiny coves and off shore islands. The islands include Seagulls Island, where you might make out Rhoscolyn Beacon, which warns ships off the dangerous rocks.

There are two dramatic natural arches along this stretch, Bwa Du (the black arch) and Bwa Gwyn (the white arch) Bwa Gwyn, is a stunning vivid white, with, if you look closely, patches of bright pink rock appearing in lower strata.

The rock formations along this stretch are intricate and folding. There's a monument close by to Dennis Stephenson Wood, a geologist noted for his research into the Precambrian rocks of the Rhoscolyn coast, apparently one of the best places in Britain to study the cleavage and folding of older rocks – it's not difficult to see why!

At Rhoscolyn Head the path climbs past St Gwenfaen's Well whose waters it is claimed cure mental health conditions. Tempting though it is we advise you not to taste it!

The path follows the cliff top with a long wide-open stretch before it narrows to a walled path as you approach Borthwen

beach, here you'll find toilets should you need them. Follow the Path around the sweeping bay and along a small section of bracken and conifer trees before the familiar heathland returns.

Continue until you reach the beautifully isolated Traeth Llydan (Silver Bay). This is the point where you say goodbye to the sea as the path turns left and leaves the coast to head inland. A narrow path leads you through a small section of conifers and bracken before open landscape then guides you through farmland. Continue along a gravelled track to reach a single-track road. Turn right at the junction.

Further along the road on the right you'll see a Wales Coast Path signpost, follow the narrow path through a secluded tree lined area surrounded by wildflowers and grasses.

Eventually the path brings you back to the road at Four Mile Bridge where you turn right. Further along look out again for a Wales Coast Path sign on your right which is your next escape from the road. The path ambles along grassy fields until you reach a flat marshland area which is the start of the village of Four Mile Bridge. Hard to imagine the little bridge here was once the only link to the main island of Anglesey. Cross the bridge to venture into the village where you'll find a small café for a cuppa before your short bus journey back to Holyhead.

Transport to the start

Take the number 23, 4 or 4R bus from Summer Hill, Holyhead to Trearddur Bay Beach Car Park. The buses are regular, at least one per hour, but vary throughout the day. The journey takes 10-12 minutes. Please check times before you set off.

Return to base

Take the number 4, 4R or 23 bus from Capel Sardis, B4545 at Four Mile Bridge to Holyhead. The buses run at least once an hour and the journey takes between 10-20 minutes depending on the service you choose. Please check times before you set off.



Kayaking at Anglesey



Carmel Head



Rhoscolyn

Anglesey Additional Attractions for your stay

South Stack Lighthouse

The historic South Stack Lighthouse is located on a small island reached via a descent of 400 steps down the steep mainland cliffs. Visitors can tour the former lighthouse engine room before climbing to the top of the lighthouse. South Stack is a wonderful place to watch thousands of breeding seabirds including guillemots, razorbills and puffins.

trinityhouse.co.uk/lighthouse-visitor-centres/south-stack-lighthouse-visitor-centre

RSPB Nature Reserve

Also at South Stack you will find the RSPB Nature Reserve
rspb.org.uk/reserves-and-events/reserves-a-z/south-stack-cliffs/

anglesey.gov.uk/en/Residents/Countryside/Holyhead-Breakwater-Country-Park.aspx

Maritime Museum

The museum is a fascinating experience for the whole family. Step back in time at the oldest lifeboat station in Wales (circa. 1858), which houses a wonderful collection of exhibits telling the enthralling maritime history of Holyhead. Situated alongside the Maritime Museum is a Second World War Air Raid Shelter, part of the informative permanent exhibition "Holyhead at War".

holyheadmaritimemuseum.co.uk

Nature Bites

Sharing their passion for the natural world, Nature Bites, run guided tours to show the best Anglesey wildlife. The tours are designed for you to get the most of out of them; whether it is to improve existing skills in bird identification or to 'tick' species you don't get on your local patch. Experienced birders are offered an introduction to Anglesey and beginners the skills and confidence they need to get more from their wildlife-watching. Aside from birds (the company's main area of expertise), they give a rounded view of Anglesey bringing in all aspects of wildlife; from flowering plants through to elusive mammals.

naturebites.co.uk

Sea Kayaking

Being an island there is always somewhere to kayak in Anglesey, whatever the weather. From sheltered bays ideally suited to beginners, to more challenging waters around famous headlands more suited to the advanced paddler you'll get to see Holy Island from a different perspective.

stevemillesseakayaking.co.uk

Other information sites:

Blue Flag Beach.
keepwalestidy.cymru/our-beaches

Anglesey Coastal Path
(part of the WCP):
visitanglesey.co.uk/en/about-anglesey/isle-of-anglesey-coastal-path/

Anglesey AONB:
visitanglesey.co.uk/en/about-anglesey/aonb/