

# COAST STORIES

It's all in the name. Snowdonia Mountains and Coast includes sand, sea, beaches and bays as well as rocky peaks, hills and forests. We're home to 200 miles of coast and more than 35 beaches, as well as one of the most spectacular stretches of the pioneering Wales Coast Path, a world's first.

Porth Oer, near Aberdaron

## Beside the seaside

Given the prominence of our mountains, it's not surprising that our coastline can sometimes fly under the radar. But take the time to investigate and you'll discover beguiling places like the Llŷn Peninsula's squeaky clean Porth Oer, also known as Whistling Sands. It's a geological oddity where the beach audibly squeaks beneath your feet, a phenomenon that occurs in only a handful of places worldwide.

Shell Island near Harlech is famous for ... guess what? For a sense of the Sahara go to endless Black Rock Sands near Porthmadog, Barmouth or Dinas Dinlle near Caernarfon. And if small and seductive resorts are your coastal cup of tea, you'll love places like Aberdyfi and Abersoch.



Penmaenmawr

## Walking tall

Threading its way along the entire coast, the 870-mile Wales Coast Path is the first of its kind anywhere in the world. It opened in 2012 to rave reviews (*Lonely Planet*, for example, placed it at number-one in its worldwide top 10, asking 'how better to truly appreciate the shape – and soul – of a nation?'). Almost a quarter of the path lies within Snowdonia Mountains and Coast. To get the most out of it see the coastal walking information overleaf.

## Hey good looking

Jutting into the sea like an outstretched arm, the Llŷn Peninsula is a sanctuary of Celtic culture, wildlife and pristine coastal beauty. In fact, it's a protected Area of Outstanding



Dinas Dinlle

Natural Beauty, a Heritage Coast that's home to 90 miles of hidden coves, rocky headlands and friendly little resorts. And the beauty goes on and on further south, along the Cambrian Coastline where mountains meet Cardigan Bay along big beaches and lovely estuaries that have inspired painters and poets.

## Just beachy

Here's a north-to-south rundown:

- **Penmaenmawr** – long, sandy beach with sailing club and refurbished promenade
- **Llanfairfechan** – fun, family-friendly resort with a large sandy beach
- **Dinas Dinlle**, near Caernarfon – enormous beach with widescreen views to match. Great for walkers, windsurfers and power kites
- **Nefyn** – two miles of sweeping sands, scooped out of the coastline in perfect crescents. The impossibly pretty National Trust village of Porthdinllaen is perfect too
- **Porth Oer**, near Aberdaron – a true one-of-a-kind, with 'Whistling Sands' that really do squeak underfoot
- **Aberdaron** – broad sandy beach on Llŷn's 'land's end', sheltered between two spectacular headlands

- **Abersoch** – one of our most popular resorts. A big hit with families, watersports enthusiasts, shoppers and people watchers
- **Pwllheli** South Beach (Marian-y-De) – a three-mile curve of sand and shingle, backed by rolling dunes
- **Morfa Bychan** (Black Rock Sands) – this big beach's golden sands, rock pools and dunes make it a popular spot for families
- **Harlech** – untouched sandy beach, backed by big dunes and theatrically overlooked by Harlech Castle
- **Shell Island**, Llanbedr – sand, dunes and, of course, shells
- **Barmouth/Abermaw** – bustling resort town that boasts a huge sandy beach, plus views over the mountains and Mawddach Estuary
- **Tywyn** – popular surfing beach with almost five miles of sand. Also a good place to spot dolphins and porpoises
- **Aberdyfi** – dramatically located at the mouth of the Dyfi Estuary, this big sandy beach is great for windsurfing and wildlife spotting



'Britain's seaside vacations are in fashion ... Our customers tell us there is a strong trend for British nostalgia...'

**Andrea Tarpey**

Holiday expert with LateRooms.com, who also said that many people are 'rediscovering' their love of the British seaside in a trend that was 'set to continue'

**Award-winning beaches**

For information on Blue Flag, Green Flag and Seaside Award-winning beaches go to [www.welshbeaches.org](http://www.welshbeaches.org)

**Paws for thought**

Dogs are allowed access to walk on the majority of our beaches. Sections of certain beaches have Dog Exclusion Zones to manage their use and keep them clean and safe. For the latest information, please contact one of our Tourist Information Centres (see back cover).

**Best of British**

In 2015, *The Sunday Times* listed two Llŷn beaches in their 'best of British':

- **Porth Oer** – 'Great surfing and bodyboarding ... and dramatic sunsets.'
- **Porthdinllaen** – 'An idyllic curve of shell-rich sands ... (with) great rock-pooling and a thriving seal colony.'



**On the beach**

Beach	Type	Surfing	Slipway	Parking	Toilets	Drinking Water	Emergency Phone	Disabled Access	Shop	Public Transport	Camp Site	Dog Restrictions	First Aid (*seasonal)	Craft Exclusion Zone	Blue Flag	Seaside Award	Green Coast Award
Aberdaron	P, S, C	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Aberdyfi	S, D, E	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Abererch	S, D			✓						✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓
Abersoch	S, D	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Barmouth	S, E		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		
Bennar	S, D	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓				✓	✓
Black Rock Sands	S, D	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Borth-y-Gest	S, E		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓							
Cricieth	S, P, RP	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Dinas Dinlle	P, S	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		
Fairbourne	P, S	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				✓	
Harlech	S, D	✓		✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓
Hell's Mouth	P, S, C	✓		✓			✓			✓	✓						✓
Llanbedrog	S			✓	✓				✓	✓	✓			✓			
Llandanwg	P, S, D	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓
Llanfairfechan	RP, S, P	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Nefyn	S, C, RP		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓		✓			
Penmaenmawr	RP, S, P	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Porthdinllaen	S		✓		✓			✓		✓		✓		✓			
Pwllheli	S, D, P	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Trefor	P, S		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓		✓					
Tywyn	P, S	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	
Whistling Sands	S, RP, C	✓		✓	✓				✓		✓	✓					

Beach-type key: RP – Rock Pools E – Estuary S – Sandy D – Dunes P – Pebble Beach C – Cliffs  
[www.blueflag.org](http://www.blueflag.org) / [www.keepwalestidy.org](http://www.keepwalestidy.org)