



PORTHMADOG	●
MINFFORDD	○
PENRHYNDEUDRAETH	○
LLANEDCWYN	○
TALSARNAU	○
TYGWYN	○
HARLECH	○
LLANDANWG	○
PENSARN	○
LLANBEDR	○
DYFFRYN ARDUDWY	○
TALYBONT	○
LLANABER	○
BARMOUTH	○
MORFA MAWDDACH	○
FAIRBOURNE	○
LLWYNGWRIL	○
TONFANAU	○
TYWYN	●
TYWYN WHARF	●
BRYNGLAS	○
DOLGOCH	○
ABERGYNOLWYN	○
NANT GWERNOL	●

DESTINATION HIGHLIGHTS

ride on Talyllyn narrow-gauge steam railway; Dolgoch Falls; forest walks from Nant Gwernol to Bryn Eglws quarries; Narrow Gauge Railway Museum (Tywyn)

FREQUENCY OF TRAINS

Porthmadog to Tywyn:
1 every 2 hours (Mon-Sat)
3 per day (Sun)
Tywyn to Nant Gwernol:
2-6 per day (Mar-Oct)

38½ MILES
80 + 53 MINUTES

Our day trip to discover the delights of Britain's first preserved railway, the narrow-gauge Talyllyn Railway, starts at Porthmadog's national rail network station (now home to a pub). From here, Cambrian Line trains from Pwllheli head east across the reclaimed Traeth Mawr to Minffordd, the interchange station for the Ffestiniog Railway (see page 127). En route, the standard-gauge line crosses the narrow-gauge Welsh Highland Railway on the level, the only such place that this occurs in the UK. From Minffordd, the Cambrian Line heads up the Vale of Ffestiniog to Penrhyndeudraeth before crossing the Afon Dwyryd on a curving timber bridge shared with a toll road. Now heading south, the railway serves halts at Llanedcwyn, Talsarnau and Tygwyn before reaching Harlech where Edward I's mighty 13th-century castle dominates the town. Continuing southwards, the railway reaches the coast at Llandanwg before heading inland to serve halts at Pensarn, Llanbedr, Dyffryn Ardudwy, and Talybont. Rejoining the coast at Llanaber, it soon reaches the seaside resort of Barmouth, once a popular destination for holidaymakers from the West Midlands.

After slowly crossing the 121-span Barmouth Bridge across the Mawddach Estuary, trains call at Morffa Mawddach (for the Mawddach Trail to Dolgellau) then hug the coastline from Fairbourne (for the miniature railway) to Llwyngwrl and Tonfanau before arriving at Tywyn station. Here, passengers must alight and make their way on foot to nearby Wharf station. Saved from closure by the world's first group of preservationists in 1951, the Talyllyn Railway follows a 7½-mile scenic route up the Fathew Valley to the terminus at Nant Gwernol. Vintage steam trains call at Brynglas, Dolgoch (for nearby Dolgoch Falls) and Abergynolwyn en route. From Nant Gwernol, visitors can explore the tracks and footpaths that weave their way through the surrounding woodland and the old slate workings at Bryn Eglws.

