About The Area

Walking

As well as some gorgeous woodland walks from the cottage door and a number of walks from various stations on the railway there are numerous other places locally for walkers to enjoy.

The Wales costal path is well signposted from Tywyn and there are gorgeous views both South towards Aberdyfi or North towards Faribourne.

Cadair Idris is the highest 'mountain' in the area and can be climbed. There is a walkers' route called the Mynfordd Path - a five hour walk which involves the immediate ascent of the mountain skirting Llyn Cau, a lake which is supposed to be bottomless.

For an easier stroll Ynysymaengwyn Caravan Park is a good place to go, where there is public access to explore the woodland. The short walks here run through the ruins of an old mansion and reach the river Dysynni which can be followed to the sea!

Snowdon is only 1 hour 20 minutes away too. If you fancy climbing this please do your homework to keep safe, and remember there is the railway option too!

Corris Craft Centre

There are a number of unique Craft Workshops here including pottery painting (for adults and children), candle making, the opportunity to watch glass blowing, wood carving and a wooden toy shop amongst others.

This is a good place to spend a wet day and buy unusual gifts. The café here does a good trade too!

Waterfalls

The falls at Dolgoch are famous throughout North Wales, and many people travel here just to see them.

From the Dolgoch Holidays properties, the lower falls are just a few minutes walk along the stream and under the viaduct. From there a walk of about a mile (but involving some fairly steep climbs) takes you up through the woods to a hillside meadow, passing the middle and upper falls as you go.

If you like waterfalls, at the eastern terminus of the Talyllyn Railway, Nant Gwernol, the path up to the old quarry also runs alongside the cascading falls, finishing at the top of the incline once used to lower slate to the railway.

Castles

Wales is famous for its castles – many of which are managed by CADW (Welsh Heritage) there are two in close proximity to the cottage with the possibility of others such as Caernarfon and Conwy if you want to go further afield.

Castell - y - Bere is an old ruined castle just outside the village of Abergynolwyn. You can walk here from Abergynolwyn or alternatively drive. This is a great place to explore, see the well and read the information boards about days gone by.

Harlech is approximately 1 hour from Dolgoch, it has a very well preserved castle with the opportunity to climb the tower and see brilliant views from the top! There's also a fantastic beach here too.

Beaches

There are many gorgeous beaches in the area, the closest is Tywyn Beach approx. 15 minutes drive away (or a short walk from the Talylln Railway station). This is mainly sandy, although stonier than Aberdyfi (Aberdovey) and is covered when the tide is in. There are bigger waves (making it popular with surfers), rocks to climb and the possibility of seeing dolphins out at sea! There's also the really really old remains of a forest (6,000 years old) that can be seen at low tide. This was only discovered in Winter 2014 when the storms washed away a layer of Peat and revealed it underneath.

Aberdyfi beach is only about 5 minutes further south from Tywyn and accessible regardless of the tide and is sandy, with a playground, donkey rides and a lifeboat station. This is in the estuary and looks across to Borth beach. Parking can be tricky here on busy days so the mainline train might be worth considering.

Fairbourne beach (30 minutes drive) is sandy at low tide, but there are only stones at high tide.

Barmouth beach (45 minutes drive) has great sand dunes to enjoy.

Harlech Beach (1 hours drive) is large and sandy and a great idea to combine with a trip to the castle!

Caves and Caverns

There are a number of interesting underground venues to explore in the area - great for a wet day! Walking around the Dolgoch area there are small caves which can be explored (you will need a torch and waterproof footwear), but more excitingly King Arthur's Labyrinth (situated at the Corris Craft Centre) involves an underground river trip! Also nearby Corris Mine Explorers gives you the chance to explore an abandoned Slate Mine.

Further afield, the Llechwedd Slate Caverns**,** near Blaenau Ffestiniog (1 hour's drive), details the history of slate quarrying in the town and specifically the Llechwedd quarry in which it is located. It has an interpretive centre which shows how slate was extracted and processed, a reconstructed village which shows how miners lived, and a funicular railway which takes visitors

into abandoned sections of the quarry. The attraction also incorporates Mountain biking tracks, Zip-lines and giant underground trampolines!

Birdwatching

This is a fantastic area for birdwatching starting with Siskins, Treecreepers, Nuthatches and Goldcrests regularly seen in the garden, Dippers and Grey Wagtails in the stream, Pied Flycatchers nesting in the woods and Red Kites and Buzzards often flying overhead in the valley.

From the cottage you can also walk to bird rock - this is a 5 mile walk. Alternatively you can drive here and spend time watching many different species of birds, including Choughs and the only inland nesting colony of Cormorants in the UK.

Since 2011, Cors Dyfi has played host to a breeding pair of Ospreys, one of Wales' rarest and most enigmatic birds. The Dyfi Osprey Project is about 30 minutes drive from the cottage and there are great opportunities to view the birds with the help of wardens and learn more about them.

A few minutes drive from Cors Dyfi is the RSPB Ynys-hir reserve which offers woodland walks and pond-dipping for the children, as well as many species of birds.

Local Art

Our cottages are decorated with a pictures and photographs, many of which have been sourced from local artists, via the Artworks Aberdyfi gallery - which is a not-for-profit organisation that aims to support local professional artists by displaying and selling their work through their shops, website and other exhibitions, and is well worth a visit.

More local art can be found at the Museum of Modern Art in Machynlleth, along with other exhibits.

Steam Railways

This area of North Wales is a paradise for Steam Railway enthusiasts, or just those who like a good ride on a traditional steam train!

The **Talyllyn Railway**'s Dolgoch Falls station is just a couple of minutes walk from our garden gate, and from there you can catch a train east to Nant Gwernol, or west down to Tywyn. The Talyllyn was the first railway to be taken over and saved by volunteers, and boasts continuous operation for over 150 years. The railway runs a regular passenger service along its seven and a quarter miles of track, from the coast into the hills.

The railway still owns and operates its two original steam locomotives and its original carriages, and regularly runs trains comprising only the original Victorian rolling stock - and even when one of the newer locomotives pulls the train, all its regular service trains are steam hauled (subject only to rare unexpected issues).

For details, fares and timetables see www.talyllyn.co.uk.

Also close by (20 minutes drive) is the Corris Railway and the Fairbourne Railway.

Corris is a much smaller railway with about a mile of track, again built to serve the local slate industry. Whilst the trip is much shorter, at the far end you are greeted by volunteers who will tell you about the history of the railway and show you around their workshops whilst explaining the expansion plans they have. See www.corris.co.uk for more details.

The Fairbourne railway runs from the town of Fairbourne to the mouth of the Mawddach Estuary where it connects with the Barmouth ferry, giving you an alternative route to this seaside town which doesn't involve a longish trip inland! There is even the possibility of using the mainline train to complete a circuit back to Fairbourne if the steam railway timetable doesn't work out for you. See www.fairbournerailway.com for timetables and more information.

Further afield is the Ffestiniog railway, with its double headed Fairlie locos, running from Blaenau Ffestiniog to Porthmadog (about an hour's drive to either end), where it meets the Welsh Highland Railway (details of both these can be found at www.festrail.co.uk).

Porthmadog is also home to the Welsh Highland Heritage Railway. A 90 minute drive also takes you to the Llanberis Lake railway (www.lake-railway.co.uk) at the foot of Snowdon itself, and of course the iconic Snowdon Mountain Railway (www.snowdonrailway.co.uk).

In the other direction (towards Aberystwyth) is the Vale of Rheidol Railway (www.rheidolrailway.co.uk), and depending on your route to or from the cottage you may pass close to the Bala Lake Railway (bala-lake-railway.co.uk) or the Welshpool and Llanfair Light Railway (www.wllr.org.uk).

Although they share much in terms of history, each of these railways offers a unique experience, showcasing different landscapes as well as a variety of locomotives and rolling stock. To find out more you can visit the individual railways, or see the Great Little Trains of Wales.