

Henfaes Isaf Holiday Information

(v16 - August 2025)

Local Shops

Cynwyd Post Office (1 mile, 5 minutes)

The Post Office and Spar is the nearest shop for basic supplies.

Monday to Saturday 7am to 7pm

Sunday 10am to 5pm

Corwen (3 miles, 7 minutes)

There are a number of smaller shops in Corwen, including GR Evans butcher/delicatessen plus a Nisa Local for basics. There are also some interesting gift and vintage shops, plus cafes and takeaways including fish and chips.

Cashpoint

HSBC Bank plc (3 miles, 7 minutes)

CORWEN POST OFFICE

Bridge Street, Corwen, LL21 0DF

Supermarkets

BALA (10.9 miles, 21 minutes)

Co-operative

78-86 Stryd Fawr, Bala, LL23 7AD

LLANGOLLEN (12.8 miles, 23 minutes)

Co-operative

Regent Street, Llangollen, LL20 8HN

Aldi

Berwyn Street, Llangollen, LL20 8BF

RUTHIN (14.4 miles, 26 minutes)

Tesco

Lon Parcwr, Ruthin, LL15 1BB

Co-operative

Station Road, Ruthin, LL15 1BP

WREXHAM (22.8 miles, 42 minutes)

Sainsburys

Retail Park, Plas Coch Rd, Wrexham, LL11 2BA

Places to Eat - Local Pubs

The Blue Lion, Cynwyd (1 mile, 5 minutes)

Village pub, once run by Moyra and Janna's aunt! Pizza and burger menu.

Please check the website for current opening hours.

Cynwyd, LL21 0LD

01490 413656

<https://www.thebluelioncynwyd.co.uk/>

The Grouse Inn, Carrog (6 miles, 13 minutes)

Excellent location overlooking the Dee, good food menu and real ales. Open daily 12 to 9pm.

Carrog, LL21 9AT

01490 430272

<https://thegrouseinncarrog.co.uk/>

Places to eat - Restaurants and Cafes

LLANDRILLO (2.8 miles, 7 minutes)

The Berwyn

Our favourite for Sunday lunch and evening meals. Open Thursday to Saturday, 6 – 10pm, Sunday 12 – 6pm. ***Please note:*** *The Berwyn is a small restaurant and booking is strongly advised.*

Berwyn St, Llandrillo, LL21 0TH
01490 440550

<https://theberwynllandrillo.com/home/>

Tyddyn Llan

Fine dining for a special treat!

Llandrillo, LL21 0ST
<http://www.tyddynllan.co.uk/>

LLANDDERFEL (6.6 miles, 14 minutes)

Pale Hall

Enjoy an indulgent afternoon tea in splendid Victorian surroundings.

Palé Estate, Llandderfel, LL23 7PS
<https://www.palehall.co.uk/afternoon-tea/>

CORWEN (3 miles, 7 minutes)

Valley Spice

Indian restaurant and takeaway.

The Square, Corwen, LL21 0DE
Monday to Sunday, 4.30pm to 11pm, including bank holidays.
<https://valleyspice24.com/>

Rhug Estate Shop and Cafe (3.4 miles, 8 minutes)

This organic farm has a café, as well as a takeaway and a well-stocked farm shop. 9am to 5pm daily. Last food orders an hour before closing.

Corwen, LL21 0EH
<https://rhug.co.uk/>

BALA (11 miles, 21 minutes)

Old Wives' Tales

Portuguese bistro with acoustic musical evenings.

21 Tegid Street, Bala, LL23 7EH

07397 590966

<https://www.facebook.com/oldwivestalescorwen/>

LLANGOLLEN (13 miles, 23 minutes)

The Corn Mill

Beautiful location overlooking the Dee, excellent menu.

Dee Lane, Llangollen, LL20 8PN

<http://www.brunningandprice.co.uk/cornmill/homepage/>

Getting Around

Petrol stations

Texaco Thomas Petrol Station (3.6 miles, 11 minutes)

Glan-yr-afon, LL21 0HA

Open until 9 pm

Stans of Llangollen (12.8 miles, 23 minutes)

Petrol Station, EV charging point. Also has a small, well-stocked supermarket.

Berwyn St, Llangollen, LL20 8NF

Open until 9 pm

Taxis

Goddards Taxis, Cerrig-y-Druidion (20 mins away) - 01490 420458

Public Transport

The **T3 Trawscymru** bus route runs from Barmouth on the coast to Wrexham, stopping at Llandrillo, Bala and Dolgellau (en route to Barmouth) and Corwen and Llangollen (en route to Wrexham). The bus stops are in Cynwyd village, just past the Blue Lion pub. This is a good way of doing a point to point walk, so for example you could get the bus to Llandrillo and walk back over the Berwyns to Henfaes Isaf via the Moel Ty Uchaf stone circle.

Please check the Trawscymru website for up to date timetable information

<https://traws.cymru/en/services/LLCO/T3>

You can also get a bus to Snowdonia! Let the bus do the driving for you whilst you sit back and enjoy the views. **The T10 service** runs from Corwen via Betws-y-Coed to Bangor, passing through Capel Curig and the Ogwen Valley. You'll need to park in Corwen - the bus stop is in the car park too.

<https://traws.cymru/en/services/BARB/T10>

EV Charging

Fast EV charging points can be found at:

Rhug Farm Shop, Corwen LL21 0EH

On the A5 - turn left over the River Dee bridge before you get to Corwen.

<https://rhug.co.uk/electric-car-charging>

Green Lane car park, Corwen, LL21 0DR

Signposted from Corwen market square.

<https://www.denbighshire.gov.uk/en/parking-roads-and-travel/parking-and-permits/council-car-parks/corwen-green-lane.aspx>

Note: There are standard 13Amp 3-pin mains sockets in the garage which can be used to 'slow-charge' your car (usually at around 10 miles of range per hour).

Activities and Places to Visit

These are shown arranged by distance from Henfaes Isaf, with nearest activities/places listed first. Details correct as of October 2024.

CORWEN (3 miles, 7 minutes)

Corwen is our nearest town, with a variety of shops, plus an interesting town trail and a small museum where you can find out about local history including Owain Glyndwr, Wales' national hero.

<https://www.northeastwales.wales/booklets/corwen-town-trail/>

Corwen to Llangollen Heritage Railway

Llangollen Railway is a Heritage Railway Line running between Llangollen, following the River Dee through the Dee Valley for 10 miles, to Corwen. There are five stations along the line all with their own special charm and local walks. You can start your rail journey from Corwen Station. There are lots of special events throughout the year, ranging from real ale trains to rides with Santa.

<https://llangollen-railway.co.uk/corwen-station/>

Llangollen Railway, Abbey Road, Llangollen, LL20 8SN

<http://www.llangollen-railway.co.uk/>

Canolfan Hamdden Huw Jones Corwen (leisure centre)

Swimming pool, Fitness suite, squash court available here.

Carrog Road, Corwen , LL21 9RW

<https://denbighshireleisure.co.uk/leisurecentres/>

Llangar Church and Rug Chapel

Rug Chapel is a 17th century chapel with amazing carvings and decorations. Ancient Llangar church, situated on the way to Corwen, contains mediaeval wall paintings. At the moment both are unfortunately subject to very limited opening hours but you can still visit Llangar in its wonderful location by the river, even if you can't go inside.

<https://cadw.gov.wales/visit/places-to-visit/llangar-old-parish-church>

<https://cadw.gov.wales/visit/places-to-visit/rug-chapel>

BALA (11 miles)

Bala, with its beautiful lake (Llyn Tegid in Welsh) is definitely worth a visit. There is a lakeside miniature railway, plus an excellent ice cream shop on the High Street, complete with its own red dragon. The drive to Bala takes 30 minutes along the scenic B4401.

The lake can be accessed either from the main car park where the watersports centre is located or from Llangower where you can find a picnic spot and pebble beach. Follow the path across the wooden footbridge to find the hidden beach with rope swings!

The lakeside can get very busy at weekends especially in summer.

Bala Adventure and Watersports

Lake Bala foreshore, LL23 7SR

<http://balawatersports.com/index.php>

Bala Lake Railway

Events throughout the year at this lakeside miniature railway. Stop off at Llangower to access the lakeside

<http://bala-lake-railway.co.uk/>

National Whitewater Centre (14 miles, 25 minutes)

Situated on the River Tryweryn. Rafting, kayaking, cafe, kids' play area and visitor trail.

Frongoch, Bala, LL23 7NU

<https://www.nationalwhitewatercentre.co.uk/>

Bala Golf Club

10 hole course. Visitors welcome.

Penlan, Bala, LL23 7YD

<http://www.golffbala.co.uk>

Caerau Gardens, Sarnau (8.5 miles, 19 minutes)

On the way to Bala. North Wales' highest gardens open to the public. Small plant shop and cafe. Detailed directions on website.

<https://www.caerau-gardens.co.uk/garden/>

Fishing on the River Dee

There are day fishing permits available via Bala and District Angling Association.

<https://www.balaangling.co.uk/index.html>

LLANGOLLEN (13 miles, 23 minutes)

This popular town is well worth a day's visit, and can be visited by heritage train from Corwen railway station (see Corwen section for more information). There is white water rafting for the adventurous, a steep hill climb to see Castell Dinas Bran, which offers rewarding views across the Clwydian range and Offa's Dyke. You can also walk along the canal from Horseshoe Falls to Pontcysyllte to see Telford's aqueduct. This 11-mile stretch of the canal was awarded World Heritage site status in 2009. You can also take a trip in a horse-drawn boat.

There is also a promenade walk along the riverside, with access to stony outcrop islands in the river (great for kids), and you can feed the ducks. There is a children's play park and crazy golf with café.

Plas Newydd

Historic home to the famous Ladies of Llangollen.

Hill St, Llangollen, LL20 8AW

<https://www.denbighshire.gov.uk/en/leisure-and-tourism/museums-and-historic-houses/plas-newydd-llangollen.aspx>

Valle Crucis Abbey

Peaceful ruins of mediaeval abbey, just outside the town

Valle Crucis Abbey, Llangollen, LL20 8DD

<https://cadw.gov.wales/visit/places-to-visit/valle-crucis-abbey>

Castell Dinas Bran

Climb up to this ancient hill fort for great views and atmosphere.

Wern Road, Llangollen, LL20 8DU

<https://www.clwydianrangeanddeevalleyaonb.org.uk/projects/dinas-bran/>

Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod

Each July Llangollen hosts the international Eisteddfod music festival with artists from all over the world.

<https://international-eisteddfod.co.uk/>

Pontcysyllte Aqueduct & Canal World Heritage Site

This has to be seen to be believed! Cross “the stream in the sky” either by foot, narrow boat or canoe. UNESCO has described this world heritage site as ‘a masterpiece of creative genius’. Not for those afraid of heights!

Trevor Basin, Wrexham, LL20 7TY

<https://www.pontcysyllte-aqueduct.co.uk/>

Whitewater Active

This activity centre offers whitewater rafting, canoeing, gorge walking, climbing and mountain biking.

Chapel Street, Llangollen, LL20 8NW

<https://www.whitewateractive.co.uk/>

Llangollen Wharf

Famous for horse-drawn boat rides along the canal at Llangollen, great for kids. Book a 45 minute or 2 hour trip. You can also hire a narrowboat here. Nice flat walks along the canal too, plus a tea-shop! A motorised canal boat trip across the Pontcysyllte aqueduct also starts from here.

Llangollen Wharf, Wharf Hill, Llangollen, LL20 8TA

<http://www.horsedrawnboats.co.uk/>

LLYN BRENIG AND LLYN ALWEN (16 miles, 26 minutes)

Variety of attractions available - cafe, bike hire including e-bikes, boat and canoe hire, Splash waterfall swing, fishing. Good flat walking around the lake including a 2 mile archaeological trail. There is a nice but hillier 11 km walk/trail run around neighbouring Llyn Alwen - recommended!

Llyn Brenig Visitor Centre, Cerrigydruddion, LL21 9TT

<https://llynbrenig.com/>

Llyn Alwen walking trail

<https://llynbrenig.com/alwen-walking-trail/>

LAKE VYRNWY (20 miles, 47 minutes)

A lovely drive to a beautiful lake with walking, cycling, RSPB centre for birdwatching, sculpture park, gift shop and cafe. Bike and watersports hire.

Llanwddyn, Oswestry, SY10 0LZ

<https://www.hdcymru.co.uk/our-visitor-sites/lake-vyrnwy>

PISTYLL RHAYADER (24 miles, 49 minutes)

This is the highest single drop waterfall in the UK and well worth a visit. Nice walk through woods to the top of the falls. Cosy, rustic tea room. It is possible to walk here from Henfaes Isaf, but you might not have time to walk back the same day!

<http://pistyllrhaeadr.co.uk/visiting.html>

SWALLOW FALLS (21.5 miles, 40 minutes)

Picturesque Swallow Falls in Betws-y-Coed is a popular spot, where the river Llugwy flows through a narrow chasm creating a spectacular waterfall amongst a background of beech, conifer and birch trees. The easiest access is via the viewing platform for which a small fee applies.

<https://www.visitbetwsycoed.co.uk/Activities-Attractions/Swallow-Falls-Betws-y-Coed/>

LLANDEGLA (16 miles, 28 minutes)**Llandegla Laser Combat**

Outdoor laser tag centre, from age 7. See website for directions.

<https://llandeglalasercombat.co.uk/>

Coed Llandegla Forest

Mountain Bike Hire and Trail – Over 40km of carefully graded and way marked trail through Llandegla forest. Suitable for beginners to professionals.

Ruthin Rd, Llandegla, LL11 3AA

<http://www.oneplanetadventure.com/>

BETWS-Y-COED (21.5 miles, 40 minutes)

A lovely little village with an Alpine feel. Busy at weekends. Waterfalls, lots of outdoor equipment shops, and cafes. Also home to various activity centres. There are waymarked walks around the village, along the river and up to the lakes situated in Gwydir Forest.

Go Below Underground Adventures

Underground caving trips in a former slate mine. Great fun for all the family.

Betws-y-Coed, LL24 0PN

<http://www.go-below.co.uk/>

Zip World Fforest Coaster

“Rollercoaster” toboggan ride through the forest.

Zip World Fforest A470, Betws-y-Coed, LL24 0HX

<https://www.zipworld.co.uk/adventure/detail/fforest-coaster>

Gwydyr Stables Riding and Trekking Stables (26.5 miles, 50 minutes)

A variety of riding experiences offered here.

Ty Coch, Penmachno, LL25 0HJ

<http://horse-riding-wales.co.uk/>

RUTHIN (14.6 miles, 24 minutes)

Ruthin is a pretty town with lovely old buildings, including historic Nantclwyd y Dre (limited opening in summer), a crafts centre and interesting shops.

Ruthin Gaol

Find out about life in the Victorian prison system!

Clwyd Street, Ruthin, LL15 1HP

<https://www.denbighshire.gov.uk/en/leisure-and-tourism/museums-and-historic-houses/ruthin-gaol.aspx#>

Nantclwyd y Dre House

Interesting historic timber-framed house with lovely gardens, children's activities and garden games. Check website as opening times are limited.

<https://www.visitwales.com/attraction/historic-house/nantclwyd-y-dre-912764>

Ruthin Craft Centre

Fine art and craft centre, artists in residence with a programme of workshops. Popular cafe on site. Check opening times on website.

<https://ruthincraftcentre.org.uk/>

LOCAL NATIONAL TRUST PROPERTIES

Chirk Castle (19.5 miles, 36 minutes)

Magnificent mediaeval fortress with beautiful gardens. A day out with something for all ages.

Chirk, LL14 5AF

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/wales/chirk-castle>

Erddig Hall (22.6 miles, 44 minutes)

Of particular interest here is the story of the family and their servants, and the beautiful walled garden.

Wrexham, LL13 0YT

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/wales/erddig>

Bodnant Gardens (35.8 miles, 54 minutes)

Lovely extensive gardens full of interest all year round.

Tal-y-Cafn, Conwy, LL28 5RE

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/wales/bodnant-garden>

TOWARDS THE COAST

The A494 takes you on a scenic drive via Bala and Dolgellau to our nearest resort of Barmouth with the quieter Fairbourne beach on the other side of the beautiful Mawddach estuary.

Dolgellau/Penmaenpool (28.5 miles, 46 minutes.)

There is lots to do here – visit the Penmaenpool nature reserve next to the famous George III pub on the Mawddach estuary, or hire a bike along the former railway line featured in Julia Bradbury's "Railway Walks".

<https://georgethethird.pub/>

<https://www.visitsnowdonia.info/mawddach-trail-penmaenpool>

Precipice Walk

This is a fantastic circular route with great views towards the coast, starting from near Dolgellau. Steep drops.

<https://eryri.gov.wales/walk/precipice-walk/>

Fairbourne/Barmouth (38 miles, 1 hour)

Beaches, fish and chips, ice-cream - Barmouth is a traditional Victorian resort with lots of golden sands. Visit Penmaenpool on the way. Fairbourne is a large steeply sloping shingle beach (with lots of sand at low tide) with adjacent parking and toilets on the other side of the estuary. There is a miniature railway at Fairbourne which links to a small ferry boat across the estuary to Barmouth.

<https://www.barmouth-wales.co.uk/>

<https://www.visitsnowdonia.info/fairbourne-beach>

<http://www.fairbournerailway.com/>

Local Walks

Wayfarer's Memorial Stone/Pen Bwlch Llandrillo

Wayfarer was the name affectionately given to Walter McGregor Robinson, a cycling pioneer from Liverpool in the years immediately after the First World War. Walk up the lane into the Berwyn hills to reach the top of the pass where you'll find the plaque erected in his memory. Then rest and enjoy the views before returning!

This is the walk we do most often as it literally starts from the front gate and takes about 3 hours there and back. OS map available in the cottage.

This is also a classic mountain bike route and is part of Wayfarer's original "rough stuff" route across to the Ceiriog valley.

If you are still feeling energetic once you've reached the top of the pass, you can climb Cadair Bronwen and Cadair Berwyn, part of the Berwyn Ridge. Even bigger views!

Cynwyd Waterfall and Reservoir

Easy access across the fields on a public footpath, see OS map in cottage. Unfortunately the last part of the path towards the waterfall has been closed off recently by the landowner. However you can view some of the falls from the footbridge across the Afon Trystion. Then turn right up Waterfall Road, along the reservoir and into Cynwyd Forest for a circular walk.

Moel Ty Uchaf Prehistoric Stone Circle

Truly a magical spot with wonderful views, the cairn-circle of Moel Ty Uchaf stands high on a hill near Henfaes Isaf. It consists of 41 stones with a cist in the centre and an outlying stone to the north-north-east. Walkable from Henfaes Isaf, but not easy to navigate in places. It is a much shorter walk if you drive to Hendwr caravan site on the B4401 to Llandrillo and walk from there. See OS map for details.

<https://www.mythslegendsodditiesnorth-east-wales.co.uk/moel-ty-uchaf-stone-circle>

Llandrillo, Moel Ty Uchaf and Wayfarers

Another route into the Berwyns, this time on an old drover's road, passing over a packhorse bridge. A diversion to the stone circle is also possible. Free parking in Llandrillo.

https://downloads.bbc.co.uk/tv/weatherman-walking/walks/Llandrillo_Walk.pdf

Caer Drewyn

This is an early circular stone fort with a large site and high, very thick, walls. There is a well-marked walk to this little known but very significant historical site from an entrance a few yards uphill from **Corwen Leisure Centre**. The views are excellent and the situation of the camp is very memorable once you've walked around it and imagined how it used to be hundreds of years ago.

<https://www.clwydianrangeanddeevalleyaonb.org.uk/projects/hillfort-caer-drewyn/>

Corwen Giant Trail

Follow in the footsteps of Corwen's giant Drewyn! Nice kid-friendly walk from the centre of Corwen up to the Pen Y Pigyn viewpoint. See Derwyn's toothbrush, hammer and much more!

<https://www.alwaysonthego.co.uk/posts/coed-pen-y-pigyn/>

Liberty Hall

This is a great walk with fantastic views over the Upper Dee valley. You will climb up to the ruined shooting lodge of Liberty Hall, drop down to the Pen Y Pigyn viewpoint above Corwen, then walk back to Cynwyd via the disused railway line, passing old Llangar church on the way.

Follow the instructions for the Cynwyd Waterfall walk, then walk up Waterfall Road to access the trail as shown on the guide below. Once back in Cynwyd, complete the circular walk by walking up Route 2 access lane back to Henfaes Isaf.

<https://www.denbighshirecountryside.org.uk/files/1272296603-Walk%205%20-%20Liberty%20Hall.pdf>