

# Things to Do in Chester

Chester, the county town of Cheshire, is noted for its vast array of historic monuments, including its magnificent medieval city walls. Chester's roots date back to Roman times, and the Vikings, Danes, Saxons, Scots, and Normans also occupied the settlement at various times. By far the greatest influence on the city, however, was its maritime trade along the River Dee from the 12th to 14th centuries, which brought with it commercial and cultural prosperity.

The Old City has been a conservation area for more than 50 years and retains numerous well-preserved half-timbered houses, as well as the **Rows**, its magnificent two-tier medieval arcades. Add to this mix its attractive bridges, parks, and riverside walks, as well as the city's many musical festivals, excellent shopping, and one of the world's top zoos, and it's little wonder Chester ranks so highly on England's most popular places to visit.

## Chester City Walls



Built mostly of red sandstone, Chester's City Walls follow the even older Roman walls, except where they extend to the river to include Chester **Castle**. The complete circuit - the best preserved of its kind in Britain - is a nearly **two-mile walk** taking in the four main gates: Northgate, Eastgate, Bridgegate, and Watergate.

At **Eastgate**, you'll see a clock erected in 1897 to mark Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, while at Northgate, traces of Roman foundations can still be seen. Another must-see while walking the walls is **King Charles' Tower**. It was here in 1645 that Charles I is said to have witnessed the defeat of his troops at Rowton Moor during the English Civil War. The tower houses a small civil war museum, and evidence of the conflict can still be seen at places along the wall.

Other City Wall highlights include Morgan's Mount, an impressive watchtower; Pemberton's Parlor, a semicircular tower with great views of the river area; and Bonewaldesthorpe's Tower, a solid sandstone Water Tower built in 1325. You'll also pass Grosvenor Bridge, adjacent to the Rodee, an ancient horse racing track.

Finally, be sure to visit the famous **Wishing Steps**. It's said that anyone capable of running up and down twice without drawing breath will supposedly see their wishes fulfilled.

### **Chester Rows, Watergate and Lower Bridge Street**



Among Chester's most distinctive features are its galleried walkways, with their many shops running the length of the old stone and half-timbered buildings. Dating from the 14th century, the Chester Rows evolved from houses and shops built partly in front of (and partly on top of) piles of rubble left from the Roman ruins.

These rows are found in all four of the town's main streets which, following the Roman town plan, meet at right angles at the market cross. In Eastgate, Bridge, and Watergate Streets, the galleries are at first floor level, while in Northgate Street they're mostly at ground level.

Watergate Street has several exceptional half-timbered houses, including God's Providence House, built in 1652 and so named as its inhabitants were spared the plague. It's also home to Bishop Lloyd's House, with its beautiful carvings.

Leche House (1579) also has elaborate half-timbering, as does richly-decorated Stanley Palace (1591). Watergate street is also where you'll find the oldest building in Chester, the Blue Bell Inn, which dates back to the late 14th century.

Lower Bridge Street is also well-known for its beautiful half-timbered houses, in particular Falcon House. Also worth seeing is Tudor House, built in 1603 and one of the oldest dwellings in the city. The Old King's Head Hotel and the Bear and Billet, a four storied half-timbered inn, are also worth checking out and make for great photos.



## Chester Cathedral



Chester Cathedral is built on the site of a much older church dating from AD 958 and a later Benedictine abbey (part of the old Norman church survives in the north transept). The abbey in turn became a cathedral when, following the Dissolution, a new diocese was created by Henry VIII in 1541.

The Lady Chapel and Chapter House are Early Gothic (post 1240), while most of the choir is High Gothic (1280-1315). The tower, west front, and upper part of the nave are Late Gothic (1485-90).

While the splendid three-aisle pillared nave of the Gothic basilica is undoubtedly one of this elegant structure's most striking features, the west end is also notable for several features. These include the baptistery, another relic of the Norman church, which contains a 6th-century Venetian font, and the Consistory Court, which, though less visually impressive, is nevertheless unique in England.

The finest part of Chester Cathedral, its Early Decorated Choir, certainly deserves to be visited – even if it's all you see of this magnificent building. Its 14th-century stalls are superbly carved, with 48 droll misericords and an old abbot's seat inscribed with the Tree of Jesse, and part of a 14th-century shrine to St. Werburgh can be seen in the **Lady Chapel**.

On a musical note, **Handel's Messiah** was first rehearsed here and is often performed during the Christmas season. Visitors are also often thrilled to have the opportunity to hear the country's oldest volunteer choir in action, along with regular organ recitals.

## Chester Roman Amphitheatre



The largest such attraction in Britain – and one of the top free things to do in the city – Chester Roman Amphitheatre remains the subject of continual excavation and discovery. As recently as 2005, excavations revealed two successive stone-built amphitheatres with wooden seating, one of them similar to that found in Pompeii.

In Roman times, the site was used for entertainment and military training by the famed 20th Legion, a fact that is especially impressive as you stand on the very spot where such activities took place some 2,000 years ago.



## The River Dee and The Groves



Set alongside the pretty River Dee not far from Grosvenor Park (you can access the park from here), The Grove is fast becoming one of the top free things to do in Chester. This charming riverside promenade is a delightful place for a stroll at any time of year and offers some unique vistas of the city.

Start your stroll at the city walls on Lower Bridge Street on the Dee's north bank and simply follow the path all the way to Grosvenor Park. Along the way, you'll catch some great photo opportunities, including everything from the elegant homes of Queen's Park on the other bank, as well as of the swans that call the area home.

You'll also stroll past some very attractive old Georgian homes and plenty of pretty, tree-lined green space with ample park benches to stop and contemplate. Other top sights here include the Edwardian bandstand (seasonal concerts are offered), as well as the Queen's Park Suspension Bridge. A number of restaurants, tearooms, and cafés are also found here.



## Chester Zoo and the Blue Planet Aquarium



In Upton, just over a mile north of Chester city center, Chester Zoo is one of the UK's largest and most popular zoological parks. Home to more than 11,000 animals representing some 400 different species, this 125-acre site also features prizewinning landscaped gardens and its very own monorail system. Animal attractions include Chimpanzee Island, a penguin pool, and Europe's largest tropical house.

Another great wildlife-themed tourist attraction is **Blue Planet Aquarium**, home to more than 50 displays of fish and marine species. The largest section, the stunning Caribbean Reef exhibit, houses more than 700 fish, including southern stingrays and moray eels, as well as Europe's largest collection of sharks.

If your budget allows, book one of the attraction's popular shark dive experiences.

Address: Cedar House, Caughall Road, Chester

Official site: [www.chesterzoo.org](http://www.chesterzoo.org)

[www.blueplanetaquarium.com](http://www.blueplanetaquarium.com)

## Deva Roman Experience and Roman Gardens



Be sure to visit the Deva Roman Experience, a fascinating interactive reconstruction of the sights, sounds, and smells of life inside the 2,000-year-old Roman fortress buried beneath modern-day Chester.

The adventure begins aboard a Roman galley, before moving into reconstructions of the granary, barracks, a bathhouse, and market stalls that would have formed part of the fortress that was home to the 5,000-strong 20th Legion.

Time it right, and you might be recruited for a fun Roman soldier patrol through the city. Guided city tours of Chester's Roman past are also available and are suitable for all ages. Afterwards, shop for souvenirs in the on-site gift shop.

Official site: [www.dewaromanexperience.co.uk](http://www.dewaromanexperience.co.uk)

Located close to the Roman Amphitheatre and easily accessible from the magnificent city walls, the Roman Gardens should be on your list of places to visit in Chester. Established in 1949 as a place to display larger building remnants from the Roman fortress at Deva and other sites across the city, it's a delight to explore.

Set lining the garden paths, and perhaps the most notable remains, are the substantial columns that once supported the roof of the old Roman bathhouse and the fortresses' assembly hall. Also worth seeing are the gardens' three modern mosaics, along with a hypocaust, a stone building used by the Romans as a heating system.

While strolling through the gardens, look for the large section of the city wall that looks like it has been repaired. This was where, during the Civil War of 1645, Parliamentarian forces used cannons to create a breach large enough for troops to pass through. Access to the River Dee is also possible from the gardens.

Address: Pepper Street, Chester



## Grosvenor Museum and Chester Castle Military Museum



The Grosvenor Museum boasts a fine collection of Roman antiquities, along with special displays illustrating the life of the Roman legionary and the Roman fortification of Britain. Exhibits deal with matters of life and death during Roman times, including medicinal remedies and instruments, as well as impressive collections of modern artworks. There are also numerous paintings and sculptures dating back some five centuries.

At the rear of the museum is 20 Castle Street, the museum's Period House. Built around 1680, it's displayed as a sequence of nine period rooms dating from 1680 to 1925.

Other notable attractions close to Chester that are run by West Cheshire Museums include **Weaver Hall Museum and Workhouse**, a local history museum housed in what was once a schoolroom in a workhouse; the still-operating 19th-century **Stretton Watermill**; and the restored **Lion Salt Works** near Northwich, with displays related to a once-important local industry.

Address: 27 Grosvenor Street, Chester

Chester Castle, home of the Cheshire Military Museum

Located in Chester Castle, the Cheshire Military Museum tells the story of the four famous regiments connected with the area from 1685 to the present day. Among the groups and individuals featured in the display are Lord Baden Powell, founder of the scouting movement, and The Cheshire Yeomanry, the last horsed regiment in action during WWII.

Highlights include displays following the exploits of the Regiments of Cheshire, their travels across the world, and the wars in which they fought, including a fascinating exhibit focusing on life in the trenches during WWI. The museum also houses the archive of the Cheshire Regiment, providing information on people who have served with the regiment.

Location: The Castle, Chester

Official site: [www.cheshiremilitarymuseum.co.uk](http://www.cheshiremilitarymuseum.co.uk)



## Beeston and Peckforton Castles



Peckforton Castle

The history of **Beeston Castle** stretches back more than 4,000 years to its origins as a Bronze Age hill fort. Perched high atop a rocky crag, the castle ruins are fun to explore and offer incredible views of the surrounding countryside, all the way to the Pennines and Wales. An interesting museum is located in the visitor center, and a café is located on the grounds.

A much newer fortress to check out is nearby **Peckforton Castle**. This attractive medieval-style castle was built in 1850 and made famous as the set for Patrick Bergin's 1991 film, *Robin Hood*. ([Peckforton Castle](#) now serves as a 4-star luxury hotel.)

Address: Chapel Lane, Beeston

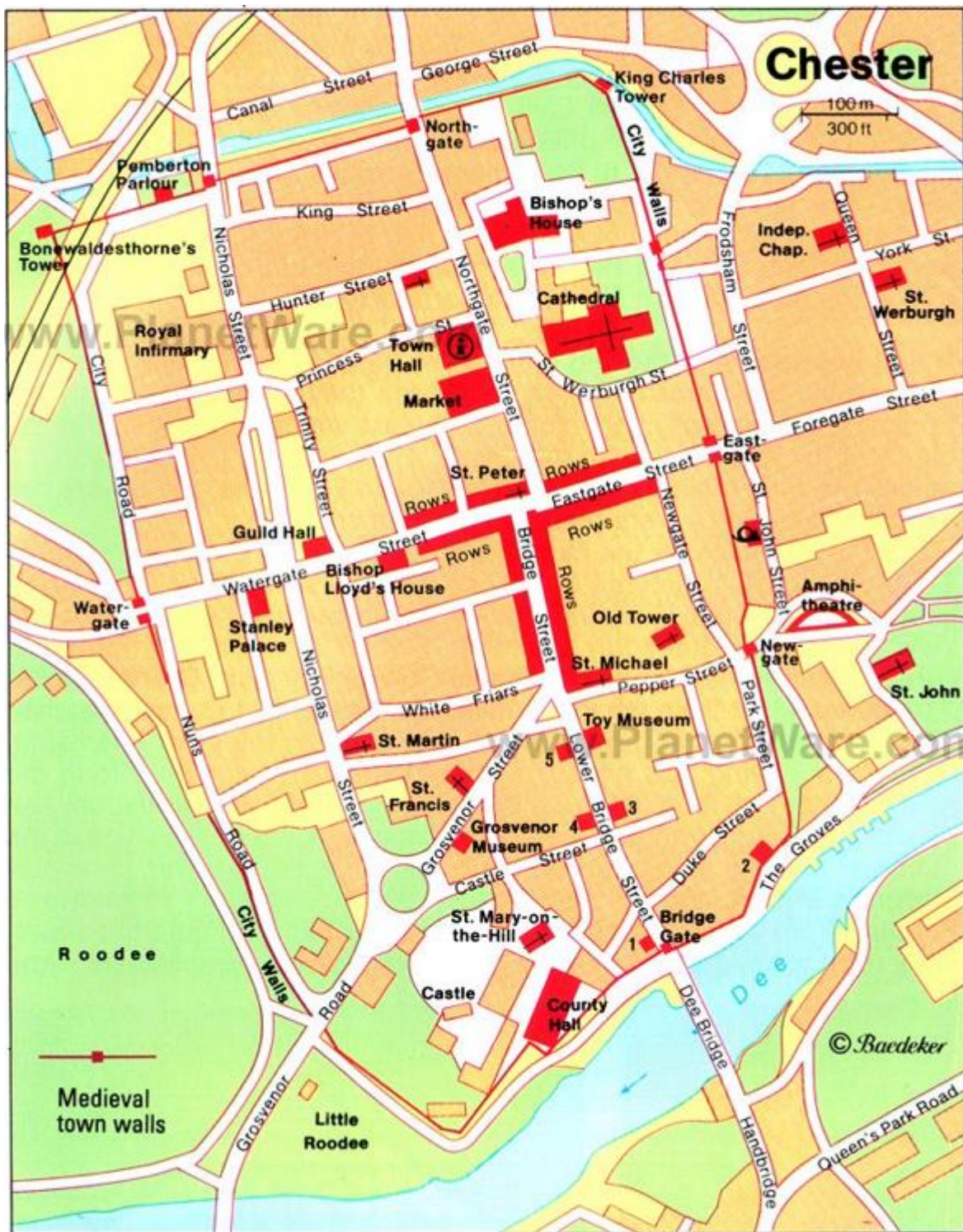
## Cheshire Workshops

The Craftsmen and women of the Cheshire Workshop not only demonstrate their hand-carved candle-making skills, they encourage visitors to participate in the art, too. The facility also offers glass, pottery, and jewelry displays, as well as a café and gift shop.

The attraction is particularly popular for parents, as the site includes a playground and numerous fun activities for kids.

Address: Barracks Lane, Higher Burwardsley, Tattenhall, Chester

Official site: [www.cheshireworkshops.co.uk](http://www.cheshireworkshops.co.uk)





## Things To Do on The Wirral

Visiting Wirral's beautiful peninsula is a real treat, whether you're an outdoor adventurer or a history buff, a sports fanatic or a lover of culture.

You can spend your fun-packed days exploring quiet, sandy beaches or walking to off-shore islands inhabited with rare marine wildlife, including regular visits by a grey seal colony. You're never going to be short of things to do in Wirral.

Thanks to our peninsula location, Wirral is perfect for those that love the great outdoors. Our numerous beaches and coastal pathways make it a great location for [walkers](#), [cyclists](#) and those who enjoy the thrill of water sports. Alternatively head inland and take advantage of the close proximity to lush country parks such as our world-famous [Birkenhead Park](#) – the inspiration for New York's Central Park. You will also find enchanting woodland and family-friendly farm attractions.

To view all the fantastic things to do in one place, you can do so on this [interactive map](#).

If you're looking for culture and heritage, there are plenty of historic attractions and activities when it comes to things to do in Wirral. [Birkenhead Priory](#) is the oldest building on Merseyside, originally built back in 1150, the Benedictine monastery has been restored to its former glory and is open for the public to view.

Another historic highlight not to be missed is [Port Sunlight Village](#). This unique 19th century garden village was the vision of Lord Leverhulme, and is home to approximately 900 listed buildings, originally built to house his soap factory workers. Step aboard the world famous [Mersey Ferries](#), which offer both commuter services and leisure services on the River Mersey to Liverpool, while fascinating cruises of the Manchester Ship Canal also operate regularly. Each ferry terminal has its own attraction to entertain or occupy the whole family.

The [Floral Pavilion Theatre](#) in New Brighton hosts regular shows and concerts, and while in town why not stroll along the promenade, taking in Marine Point's cafés, restaurants and attractions such as the fun-filled [Championship Adventure Golf](#) and the Light Cinema?

Elsewhere across the borough, there are plenty of other things to do in Wirral waiting to be explored. [Ness Botanic Gardens](#), [Burton Mere](#), [Lady Lever Art Gallery](#) and [Williamson Art Gallery](#) to name but a few.

Wirral also played an important part in the history of one of the world's most famous bands, [The Beatles](#). As host to the biggest ever live audience the group played in front of in the UK, be sure to check out their connection with the peninsula.

Of course, Wirral wouldn't be quite the same without its extensive selection of fine [golf courses](#) for players to play on, including the Royal Liverpool Golf Club, host venue of the Open Championship on several occasions.

There is a great range of retail attractions in Wirral as well, including Brimstage Hall Courtyard, Birkenhead Market and the town of West Kirby.

## Things To Do in North Wales

North Wales, one of Britain's oldest and most established tourist regions, offers an abundance of excellent holiday attractions within a relatively small area. Road signs proclaiming "Croeso i Gymru" (Welcome to Wales) greet visitors as they enter the country and bear witness to the warm, inviting hospitality of the Welsh.

The elegant little town of **Llandudno** is one of Britain's oldest and most popular seaside resort towns, and the North Wales coast roads offer a tremendous variety of scenery. Add to this its numerous large open stretches of sandy beaches and lively resorts, scenic rugged cliffs, quaint fishing villages, and countless secluded bays, and it's not difficult to understand why North Wales is among the most popular places to visit in the UK.

Perhaps the best-known attraction here is spectacular **Snowdonia National Park**. Here, Wales' highest mountain, Snowdon, stands 1,085 meters tall and has for centuries attracted climbers and walkers, while the Llyn Peninsula and the Clwydian Range are also designated as areas of outstanding natural beauty.

The area also boasts many historical sites and charming little towns, deep ravines and picturesque valleys, which turn any outing into a voyage of discovery. Learn about the best places to visit with our list of the top tourist attractions in North Wales.

### Snowdonia National Park



Snowdonia National Park covers a great deal of North Wales, extending inland from the coast between Penmaenmawr and Caernarfon by way of Bethesda, all the way to Bala Lake and Llanfairfechan. Visitor access to the most beautiful part of this area, including the summit of Snowdon itself, is made easier by the wonderful Snowdon Mountain Railway, which starts in Llanberis.

This beautiful park is one of the best places to visit in Britain for hiking and climbing adventures, and offers plenty of extremely rugged (and scenic) mountain vistas along the way. But there's [more to explore in Snowdonia](#) than just stunning mountain



scenery. The park also boasts many lovely sandy beaches and dunes, countless picture-perfect Welsh valleys, as well as over 50 lakes and smaller pools of water.

Fans of British history are attracted, too. Here, you'll find evidence of a rich cultural heritage that includes everything from Roman ruins, prehistoric circles, ancient stonewalls, and traditional Welsh farms.

## Caernarfon Castle



Caernarfon Castle was begun by Edward I in 1283 as a seat for his eldest son, Edward of Caernarfon, the first Prince of Wales. The structure took almost 37 years to complete, and the power and might of the English throne is symbolized by the great stone eagles on the Eagle Tower and the layout of the castle's walls and towers.

With its 13 towers and two gates, this massive building is one of the most impressive and best-preserved medieval fortresses in Europe. As you'll learn during one of the castle's highly-recommended tours, it occupies the site of an earlier Norman castle that once stood here protecting the waters of the River Seiont and the Menai Strait.

The castle has had an eventful history and has withstood many sieges. More recently, it was the scene of Prince Charles's investiture as Prince of Wales in 1969, an event marked by a special exhibition. While you're here, be sure to explore the magnificent Queen's Tower, home of the **Royal**

### **Welch Fusiliers Regimental Museum.**

If you are traveling with kids be sure to spend time at the newest addition to this top attraction: **Legends of the Sky**. This fun 3D experience allows you to take control of a "virtual dragon" and swoop, dive, and even breathe fire over the castle. Afterwards, be sure to visit the on-site gift shop.

Address: Castle Ditch, Caernarfon, Gwynedd

Official site: <https://cadw.gov.wales/visit/places-to-visit/caernarfon-castle>

## Llandudno



Lovely Llandudno is one of the most popular seaside resorts in all of Wales, in part due to its two sandy beaches (one on either side of the town) and picture-perfect promenade. With the advent of tourism in the last century, this Victorian town became a gathering place for the new middle class, who came here from the nearby industrial regions of Liverpool and Manchester.

The more easterly of the two beaches, North Shore, is bounded by another headland, Little Orme. One of the most popular things to do here is hopping aboard the **Great Orme Tramway** – the only cable-hauled tramline in Britain – which has been taking visitors on a lovely journey to the top of the Great Orme, with its superb views over the Irish Channel, since 1902.

Alternative means of getting to the top of Great Orme include hiking along any one of the scenic trails available or aboard the mile-long Llandudno Cable Car.

The town's **magnificent late Victorian pier** has been mercifully spared the modern fairground influences so typical of many resorts on the south coast and is a popular hangout for anglers (fishing gear is available for rent at the pier entrance). It's also a great place to simply sit and enjoy the sea air, especially if accompanied by a hot drink or snack from one of the food outlets here.

A must-do if traveling with kids is stopping and watching one of the fun "Punch and Judy" puppet shows, performed frequently along the promenade.

Mostyn Street, with its superb shopping arcades, is well worth a visit and is home to a wide range of cultural events and entertainments.



## Portmeirion



Located in Tremadog Bay on a wooded peninsula between Porthmadog and Harlech, Portmeirion is famous the world over for being a replica in miniature of a picturesque Italian village.

Portmeirion was the brainchild of Sir Clough Williams-Ellis (1884-1978), who dreamed of recreating an Italian village in Wales and had it built on his own private promontory, together with a mansion (now a hotel) and **beautiful Gwylt Gardens**.

Also on-site are a number of boutique shops, plus dining options in the tearoom, café, and restaurant. The village was also where the famous **Portmeirion pottery** line originated. Now made in Stoke-on-Trent in England, these Portmeirion-inspired products adorn tables and shelves the world over.

This unique property is best visited as part of an overnight stay; when the gates close for the evening, guests get the whole place to themselves to explore, from its beautiful gardens, fountains, and church, to the coastal paths of the lower village.

The location for numerous films and TV programs, including the cult show *The Prisoner*, Portmeirion is a must for any sightseeing visit to North Wales.

Address: Minffordd, Penrhyndeudraeth, Gwynedd

Official site: <https://portmeirion.wales>



## Conwy Castle



Conwy Castle, located only a short distance from Manchester, is a masterpiece of medieval architecture that took an estimated 2,000 workers to build between 1283 and 1289. And it was completed just in time, as in 1290 Edward I was besieged behind its 3.6- to 4.5-meter-thick walls and eight towers by the Welsh.

While the 38-meter-long Great Hall is now roofless, one of the eight original arches that supported it has been rebuilt and demonstrates the original magnificence of the structure. It's now considered one of Wales' most picturesque fortresses, and is in fact one of the best preserved 13th-century fortresses in Europe.

Along with fine examples of medieval royal chambers, Conwy Castle features an excellent exhibition on the history of Edward I and his numerous Welsh castles.

Afterwards, be sure to explore the old town itself. Conwy's other highlights include its well-preserved 13th-century town walls, which offer superb views of the surrounding area, and Aberconwy House. This 14th-century merchant's house was one of the first buildings to be built within the town walls.

Also worth seeing are the superbly preserved Elizabethan home, **Plas Mawr**, and what is reputedly the **Smallest House in Great Britain**.

Address: Rose Hill Street, Conwy

Official site: <https://cadw.gov.wales/visit/places-to-visit/conwy-castle>



## Pontcysyllte Aqueduct



One of the most recognizable landmarks of the industrialization that took place across Great Britain in the early 19th century, the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct is a spectacular 18-arched stone and cast iron aqueduct built to carry coal barges across the Vale of Llangollen.

Designed by engineer Thomas Telford and finished in 1805 after 10 years of construction, the aptly nicknamed "stream in the sky" has been classified as the world's highest navigable aqueduct, and at 336 yards is the longest such structure in the country. Today, the structure is used only by pleasure craft, canal boats, and pedestrians.

Part of the Llangollen Canal, it is perhaps unsurprisingly one of the most popular stretches of inland waterway thanks to its magnificent scenery, and, of course, the chance to boat across the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct. Now a World Heritage Site, this spectacular edifice is also open to pedestrian traffic and makes for a fun outing.

Pleasant boat rides are available that cross the aqueduct regularly. Better still, go whole hog and rent a canal barge for a few days to explore this magnificent part of Wales at a very leisurely pace (canal barges have average speeds of approximately eight kilometers per hour).

Address: Station Road, Trevor Basin, Wrexham

Official site: [www.pontcysyllte-aqueduct.co.uk](http://www.pontcysyllte-aqueduct.co.uk)

## 8. Porthmadog & Ffestiniog & Welsh Highland Railways



At the mouth of the River Glaslyn are the twin towns of Porthmadog (often referred to simply as "Port") and Tremadog, tiny industrial centers that attained international importance for the shipping of slate. Today, they have developed into pleasant seaside resorts with a number of great sandy beaches.

From Ynys Tywyn, near the harbor, there are wide views of the surrounding area where the poet Shelley lived for some time, as did Lawrence of Arabia, who was born here. The Coed Tremadog woods, a designated nature reserve, are worth visiting and offer many great walking and hiking trails.

Porthmadog is perhaps best known as the terminus for the **oldest narrow-gauge railroad** in the world, built in 1836 to transport slate from the mines at Blaenau Ffestiniog. Today, the wonderful Ffestiniog and Welsh Highland Railways offer visitors a chance to explore this beautiful area on more than 64 kilometers of narrow-gauge railway.

Address: Harbour Station, Porthmadog

Official site: [www.festrail.co.uk](http://www.festrail.co.uk)



## Bodnant Garden



Gardeners shouldn't pass up the opportunity to pay a visit to Bodnant Garden, one of the oldest and most visited formal gardens in Wales. Now a National Trust location, Bodnant is situated on a hillside overlooking the Conwy Valley near the small village of Tal-y-Cafn.

In addition to its many fine floral displays, it offers superb views over the surrounding Carneddau peaks. Covering an impressive 80 acres, Bodnant was established in 1874 and retains to this day many facets of the original explorer collections that were deposited here. These include its fine Italianate terraces, a gorge garden, collections of trees and shrubs, plus an attractive waterfall. Newer additions include a winter garden and a very pleasant riverside garden.

The big draw, though, is the garden's magnificent 55-meter-long laburnum arch. Planted in 1880 and flowering each May and June, it continues to draw large crowds who travel here to enjoy its splendid display.

Other notable highlights include its two restaurants, two tearooms, guided walks and talks, along with fun workshops. Those traveling with dogs are welcome to visit with their canine friends on select days.

Address: Bodnant Rd, Tal-y-cafn, Colwyn Bay

Official site: [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/bodnant-garden](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/bodnant-garden)



## Llechwedd Slate Caverns



One of the region's most visited tourist attractions, Llechwedd Slate Caverns – often referred to simply as "Llechwedd" – is located in the quaint town of Blaenau Ffestiniog. This fascinating attraction paints a very vivid picture of the history and importance of slate mining to the region, and focuses around the Llechwedd quarry.

A highlight of a visit is the Llechwedd Deep Mine Tour. This thrilling experience involves taking the country's steepest narrow gauge railway some 152 meters down to some of the property's most spectacular slate caverns. Also fun is the Quarry Explorer, a 4x4 vehicle experience that carries guests on a fascinating tour around the vast mine area.

The inclusion of other notable features, such as mountain biking trails, underground ziplining, and an underground trampoline experience make this one attraction in Wales the kids are definitely going to love.

Address: Llechwedd, Blaenau Ffestiniog

Official site: [www.llechwedd-slate-caverns.co.uk](http://www.llechwedd-slate-caverns.co.uk)



## Erdigg Hall, Wrexham



Erdigg Hall near Wrexham is another charming National Trust property worthy of being added to your North Wales itinerary. Constructed in 1687, it's considered to be one of the best-preserved stately homes in Britain.

A great way to enjoy Erdigg is via a guided tour, which will lead you through the servants' quarters, as well as the rather more opulent living areas occupied by the owners themselves. Along the way, you'll enjoy a wide variety of historic furnishings and artwork, and learn a great deal about life on the estate throughout the centuries.

Exterior highlights include an exquisite walled garden laid out in the 18th century (one of the oldest in the UK), and a number of outbuildings worth visiting, including a blacksmith's shop, a joiners, and the stables.

Of special note, too, is the unique cascade referred to as "Erdigg's cup and saucer." There's also a fine collection of historic cars and bicycles.

Address: Erdigg Hall, Wrexham

Official site: [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/erddig](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/erddig)