

# Llyn.info Beach Guide

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## **Borth-y-Gest, nr. Porthmadog**

**Borth-y-Gest is a harbour side village situated on the side of the Glaslyn estuary, and however that may sound, there are some very pretty coves along the side of the estuary towards Black Rock that you can walk to from Borth-y-Gest - access isn't too good though and the village can get congested as the car park isn't massive. The village has toilets and a shop.**



**Borth-y-Gest**

## **Black Rock Sands, Morfa Bychan, nr. Porthmadog**

**Probably the most famous beach on Llyn, with masses of sand at low tide. You can take your car on this beach (at a cost), which is ideal for families and people with lots equipment. Sometimes there can be a big enough wave here to surf on, but care should be taken in the sea at the south-east end of the beach, where the flow of the river at low tide could sweep people out to sea. There are usually ice cream vans on the beach and there are toilets in the sand dunes at the back of the beach towards the Criccieth end. Good views across south Llŷn and across to Harlech.**

## **Criccieth**

### **EAST BEACH**

**This beach is the western extremity of Black Rock Sands and you can walk over this far at low tide. The top of the beach is mainly pebbles and there is a bit more sand at low tide. Criccieth town centre is near by with lots of services and car parking is found along the top of the beach. The castle is located at the western end of the beach and it is possible to walk around the headland around it.**

### **WEST BEACH**

**The top part of the beach here has the most sand with lots of large rocks exposed at low tide. The beach is backed by a mainly residential promenade, however Criccieth's High Street and shops are not far away. There is some parking along the beach.**

## **Glan-y-Don, Pwllheli and Abererch Bay**

**The sheltered shores of Glan-y-Don are protected by the Gimblet Rock peninsula and the marina end of the beach may have some accumulations of sea weed as a result. However, just a little way along the beach towards Abererch the beach is generally much cleaner, but does get a little steeper. The beach is made up of good sand along the top and towards the marina, mud at low tide as the river estuary flows out right next to the beach, there is no mud further along.**

## **South Beach, Pwllheli**

**South Beach is about three miles long and is made up of mostly sand and bits of shingle, apart from the Carreg-y-Defaid end, which joins Llanbedrog beach at low tide, where there are more rocks. The beach is fairly steep and on rough days waves from the southwest boom onto the shore, so it's not really suitable for surfing! The recently improved promenade offers good access to the beach via board walks over the sand dunes that back the beach.**

## **Llanbedrog**

**Llanbedrog Beach is one of the calmest in Wales, sheltered by the huge headland of Mynydd Tir-y-Cwmwd. The beach stretches about a miles towards Pwllheli from this headland to Carreg-y-Defaid. The beach is a mixture of sand and shale at the top and there is increasing amounts of sand lower down. Further along the beach (towards Carreg-y-Defaid) there are increasing amounts of rocks at low tide - boaters beware! Access to the beach is from the lower part of Llanbedrog village.**



### **The Warren/The Quarry Beach**

The Quarry Beach is on the southern side of Tir-y-Cwmwd and there is very little of it at high tide, but lots more at low tide. The car park at the back of the beach may get full up quite early on in the day during the main summer holidays. The beach is made up of good sand for its length and breadth up until the rocky area on the tip of Trwyn Llanbedrog (the headland). The beach stretches across the front of the Warren Holiday Village until the cliffs nearer Abersoch.

### **Abersoch Harbour Beach**

The Harbour Beach at Abersoch straddles both sides of the Afon Soch, one of the longest rivers in western Llyn. The small harbour wall on the southern side of the river is popular with children (young and otherwise) looking for crabs. The southern side of the river has a dog ban, but dogs are allowed on a section of the beach to the north of the river. There is very little car parking around either side of the river. On the south shore of the river is the village centre so amenities are close by, if your on the northern shore you either paddle through the river or take the 5 minute walk around the inner harbour.

### **Abersoch Main Beach**

Abersoch main beach is very popular with water sports enthusiasts like wake boarders and water-skiers, and over recent years this had become a problem, so now part of the beach has a "boat ban". Dogs are also only allowed on the part of the beach south of the slipway. There is a shop and cafe at the top of the beach. The car park is set back from the beach a little but still gives good access, but you will have to pay during the main holiday periods. The beach is made up of good sand.

### **Porth Ceiriad**

Porth Ceiriad is out of the shelter that St Tudwal's Islands offer to the beaches around Abersoch, and gets a good deal of swell from the south west, ideal for surfers, especially at the eastern end of the beach, where waves refract off the cliffs forming powerful "pyramidal" waves. First timers may want to start further along the beach. The car park is on the cliffs above the beach and accessible via Nant-y-Big farm (at a cost). You have to walk down a long series of steps to reach the beach, where large pebbles line the very top. The rest of the beach is good sand.

### **Porth Neigwl "Hell's Mouth"**

Porth Neigwl or Hell's Mouth as it is also known gets the brunt of any south westerly swells coming up from the Atlantic between Cornwall and southeast Ireland. The beach attracts thousands of surfers every year, but with this has come problems, there can sometimes be litter all over the place, some of which comes off ferries, but visitors often contribute to the problem, so please, take your litter home. The car park is about a 500m walk from the beach across sand dunes.

### **Porth Ysgo, nr. Y Rhiw**

**Porth Ysgo is accessed by a long light of steps leading down the cliff face at the beach of the beach. There is not much of the beach showing at high tide but a large expanse of sand is revealed at low tide. Sometimes the beach is suitable for surfers as it is exposed to the south-westerly swell. The difficult access is probably what puts most surfers off coming to this beach. There is a small charge to use the car park at the top of the path, which is located in a fairly derelict farmyard.**

### **Aberdaron**

**The beach at Aberdaron is mainly sand with the odd large rock around. The village is situated right on the back of the beach so local services are not far away. Dogs are allowed on the part of the beach to the left of the slipway that runs down to the beach next to the Ty Newydd Hotel. The beach is good for surfers if the conditions are right. Around the bay to the right of the sea front is Porth Meudwy where the boat sets off for Bardsey Island from. You need to book your place at the Bardsey shop in Aberdaron. There is a good sized car park in the village.**

### **Porth Oer "Whistling Sands"**

**Whistling Sands has to be one of the most famous beaches on Llyn as the sand here does actually "squeek" under your feet! This is due to the shape of the sand particles and only one other beach in Europe has this same quality. You notice the "squeek" best on the dry sand at the top of the beach. There is a small cafe/shop on the top of the beach and the car park is located up a steep little hill. Dogs are not allowed on the beach in the summer months. This beach is also popular with surfers if conditions are right.**



### **Traeth Penllech & Porth Colmon**

This beach is very "out of the way" and the car parking is set back about 500m from the beach and there is then a short walk, following a stream to the beach. On high tides there is not much beach left so care should be taken to ensure you are not cut off. There are masses of sand here, with just one or two rocks jutting out every so often. This beach can be good for surfing if the conditions are right. Porth Colmon is at the western end of the bay and has a small slipway. There are small car parks at both entrances to the beach and slipway.

### **Porth Towyn**

Porth Towyn is near Tudweiliog, which lies on the Aberdaron - Nefyn road about a mile inland. The beach at Porth Towyn is very sandy, with the odd rock towards each end of the beach. The sand on this beach also "squeaks" when you tread on it, rather like it's more famous neighbour. As with Traeth Penllech, surfers can be accommodated on this beach if the conditions are right.

### **Morfa Nefyn & Porth Dinllaen**

The beach at Porth Dinllaen is probably best known for its pub, the Tŷ Coch. The pub is just one of a handful of houses that line the top of the beach, nestled behind a steep little headland. The beach sweeps all the way around to Morfa Nefyn from Porth Dinllaen, though at high tide you may have to walk across paths at the back of the beach rather than the beach itself. There is ample car parking and a shop near the Morfa Nefyn entrance.

### **Nefyn**

Nefyn's beach, displays some of the same characteristics as it's neighbour (Morfa Nefyn & Porth Dinllaen). There is a small collection of houses at the western end of Porth Nefyn and an entrance from Nefyn with a shop and car parking, though there is not as much car parking as at Morfa Nefyn here. Like the beach at Morfa Nefyn there is lots of sand and on the odd occasion there is a big enough wave for surfers.

### **Trefor**

Trefor lies at the foot of Yr Eifl, the highest hills on the peninsula and is relatively quiet, with it's small harbour and old pier, popular with fishermen. The beaches here do have some sand, especially in the harbour, though apart from that they are many pebbles. There are not many services in the village but there is car parking down by the harbour.

### **Dinas Dinlle**

The beach at Dinas Dinlle is sandy at low tide with large pebbles making up the top area of the beach, though even here there is some sand to be found. The long promenade offers large amounts of parking and there are a couple of shops in the village that backs onto the beach. Follow the signs for Dinas Dinlle from the A499 about 6 miles out of Caernarfon. The beach is exposed to westerly swells and offers good views along the mountains of north-eastern Llyn, Snowdonia and Anglesey to Holyhead Mountain.