

YNYS LLANDDWYN WALES

Distance: 7 km (4.4 miles)

Difficulty: Easy

Terrain: Steep sand dunes and easy rock paths; beach and boardwalks

Height gain: 154 metres

Map: OS Explorer 263

Starting point: Newborough Forest car park. Lat/Long 53.1444, -4.3849; GR SH 406 634

Highlights

- Incredible views of forest, beach, and mountains
- The romance of visiting on St Dwynwen's Day
- Discovering the secret divining well on the west coast
- Fabulous wild swims in several secluded coves

Pubs and cafes near the route

- Refreshment van in Newborough carpark

Dogs

- Dogs are not allowed on part of Newborough from 1 May to 30 September. Ynys Llanddwyn Island: dogs are only allowed on the public right of way and must be kept on a short lead. Newborough Forest: dogs are allowed on the trails all year round

Ynys Llanddwyn Circular walk

A magical place for lovers and adventurers with miles of beautiful beaches, this is a stunning island in all seasons. The walk starts along the well-marked 'Saint, Sand and Sea Trail', passing through tall pine forest and the magnificent coastal dune system of Newborough Warren before reaching the northern tip of Ynys Llanddwyn. Once on the island, the delightful shell paths are accessed via elaborately carved wooden gates decorated with swirling Celtic designs. Edged with sea-holly and thrift, the route winds down to secluded sand and shingle coves, with short deviations inland to explore sites linked to the rich history and legends of the island. Stunning beaches and views of majestic Snowdonia accompany the walk throughout.



Directions

1. From the coast end of the car park follow the blue markers of the 'Saint, Sand and Sea Trail' west along the gravel track through the trees and parallel to the beach. After 1km turn left to follow the track into the second car park then after a few metres turn right along the track for a short distance before descending the dunes onto the beach.
2. Walk towards the strand of large, pillow-shaped rocks that stretch from the mainland to the island and after 800m reach the steep steps at the north tip of the island. Follow the blue markers south west along the island's west coast.
3. After 600m pass through the ornate gate and take the right fork or drop down onto the sandy beach to explore pools and rock inlets. At the end of the wooden walkway, almost parallel with the church ruins, turn towards the coast to locate St Dwynwen's spring-fed well (marked Ffynnon Dafaden). Further south along the coast reach a sheltered gravel beach that is good for swimming and rock pooling.
4. Continue south west along the coast path to the old lighthouse, the view of the cormorants on Ynys yr Adar and the geological wonders of Porth Twr Bach. Continue around the south tip, then across the cob to reach the old lifeboat building and an excellent beach for a swim.
5. Walk north towards Pilots Cottages then take the right fork to follow the coast north east through the dunes and along the E coast to reach two good swimming beaches. Continue north along the small sandy paths closest to the coast.
6. Leave the island, pass the information board, and return to the rock strand to walk 1km back along the beach to the car park or return via the forest trail.

Special notes: Accessible at all but high tides. No access to beach at the side of the lighthouse in nesting season. No dogs allowed on beach from May to September. There are circular routes around 50 islands of Britain featured in our book "Islandeering: adventures around the edge of Britain's hidden islands".

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