



Mynydd Mawr to Aberdaron, Llŷn Peninsula

A spectacular walk around the tip of the Llŷn to St Hywyn's church, a historic church on the shores of the Irish Sea.

"Early summer is an amazing time for the wildflowers along this stretch of coast, with thrift, rock rose, sea squill, campion and much more, it is truly a great display."

RHYS GWYN ROBERTS, WALES COAST PATH OFFICER

Start and Finish:

Mynydd Mawr to St Hywyn's church, Aberdaron.

Distance:

Mynydd Mawr to Aberdaron 4.5 miles or 7 km one way

Shorter walk option: Porthmeudwy to Aberdaron 1.5 miles or 2.5 km one way. There is a small National Trust car park at Porth Meudwy.



St Hywyn's church, Aberdaron



Aberdaron village

Along the way...

Begin your journey at the summit of the National Trust's Mynydd Mawr, a Site of Special Scientific Interest and home to some of the best views on Llŷn. Gaze out across the waves to spot emerald-coloured Bardsey Island, the Island of 20,000 Saints. On a clear day you can even see the peaks of Ireland's Wicklow Mountains on the other side of the Irish Sea.

Look north and you'll see Llŷn's rugged coastline, dotted with small peaks, while to the south towards Aberdaron is the five-mile span of Porth Neigwl beach.

From Mynydd Mawr, follow the coast path around the tip of Llŷn through some of the most remote and exciting coastal landscape the Llŷn has to offer. You'll discover a host of hidden bays and inlets alive with seabirds: walk along the steep cliffs of Parwyd and climb up 303 feet or 92 metres to Pen y Cil for widescreen breath-taking vistas of Aberdaron bay.

Carry on along the coast to the pretty fishing port of Porth Meudwy (a great alternative start point if you prefer a shorter walk) and on past Porth Simdde to Aberdaron and St Hywyn's church overlooking the bay, before retracing your steps back to the beginning of your walk.

About the Sacred Heritage Place:

Established in 516AD by the saint whose name it bears, St Hywyn's church is a vital part of Llŷn's spiritual landscape with deep links to holy Bardsey Island (Hywyn's cousin Cadfan built the monastery there).

The stone church that stands today, just metres from the shore, was raised in the 11th century. It served as a final resting point for pilgrims on their way to Bardsey, before they made the treacherous final leg of their journey over the swirling waters of Bardsey Sound to the island.

Inside, the church is spacious and airy, with light reflecting off the sea to illuminate a wonderful 16th century timber roof. You'll also see gravestones of Roman Presbyters who brought Christianity to this remote part of Wales.

Dating back to the 6th century, these ancient memorials possibly predate the monastery on Bardsey Island. More recently, St Hywyn's was the final parish of the late writer and priest R.S. Thomas, one of Wales' greatest English language poets.

Need to know:

There are parking spaces in Mynydd Mawr, Porth Meudwy and Aberdaron. There's also the option of using the seasonal Llŷn Coastal Bus website. For details www.bwsarfordirllyn.co.uk You'll find public toilets, shops, cafés and pubs in Aberdaron.