



ANGLESEY

'Mother of Wales'

Monday 16 - Friday 20 October 2017

In 1188 when touring Anglesey with the Archbishop of Canterbury on a recruitment campaign for the Third Crusade, Gerald of Wales, one of the most powerful Anglo-Norman barons in Wales, and a distinguished scholar and historian, cited Anglesey as 'the Mother of Wales' in reference to the richness of its soil and its abundant produce. A relatively low-lying island with low hills, the island's entire rural coastline has been designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Geologists come to Anglesey to study rocks spewed from primeval volcanoes 600,000,000 years ago; archaeologists come to investigate the largest concentration of intact prehistoric monuments in Wales; medievalists come to explore its many sites as the former centre of Celtic druidism, the seat of the princes of Gwynedd, and the homeland of the Tudors; and engineering historians come to marvel at Thomas Telford's iron suspension bridge and Robert Stephenson's prototype box girder, called the Menai Bridges, connecting Wales to Anglesey. Our autumn tour to North Wales encompasses all of these unique facets of Anglesey's distinct character.

Our daily excursions include the largest Neolithic site in Wales at Llanfaethlu, mysterious Mesolithic chambered cairns and tombs, and the finest of Edward I's Welsh castles, Beaumaris, described as the 'most technically perfect' castle in Britain, certainly one of the great masterpieces of the time of Giotto. Travelling through tiny villages studded with Nonconformist chapels, we stop at exquisite stone 12c churches perched on the coastal headlands. At Plas Newydd, seat of the Marquesses of Anglesey, on the Menai Strait facing Snowdonia, we enjoy two of James Wyatt's most outstanding light-filled interiors, and the dining room covered in mystical Rex Whistler murals.

We stay in the turreted Chateau Rhianfa, now a Grade II listed building, built in 1849 by Sir John Hay Williams, Baronet of Bodolwyddan as a gift for his wife Lady Sarah. We revel in the light of Anglesey and come to understand why the Anglesey landscape painter, Kyffin Williams, wrote of his birthplace: 'the light was more pearly than that of the mainland, the cottages whiter and more welcoming.'

MONDAY 16 OCTOBER

- 09.10 Train leaves Euston
- 12.16 Train arrives Bangor for minibus to lunch
- 12.45 Welcoming Group Lunch in The Boatyard Inn, Bangor
- 2.30 Arrive at STORIEL (Bangor Museum) for Thomas Telford material
- 3.45 Arrive in Menai Bridge town centre for short walk to base of the Menai Suspension Bridge
- 4.30 Leave Menai Bridges for hotel
- 4.45 Arrive Chateau Rhianfa for check-in and rest
- 7.00 Group Dinner in Chateau Rhianfa

TUESDAY 17 OCTOBER

- 10.00 Leave for Din Lligwy
- 10.30 Arrive Din Lligwy Iron Age hut circle
- 11.30 Leave for Amlych via Capel Lligwy 12c chapel ruin
- 11.45 Arrive Amlych for visit Our Lady Star of the Sea Church
- 12.30 Lunch in Moelfre at Ann's Pantry
- 2.00 Leave for Llaneilian Church of St Eilian
- 3.00 Leave for Oriel Ynys Mon Gallery
- 3.30 Visit Oriel Ynys Mon Gallery
- 4.30 Oriel Ynys Mon Gallery
- 5.00 Arrive Hotel
- 7.30 Group dinner in Chateau Rhianfa

WEDNESDAY 18 OCTOBER

- 09.30 Leave for Llanfaethlu (33 mins)
- 10.10 Arrive Llanfaethlu for church, 12c hall house and Neolithic site
- 11.15 Leave for Holyhead and Holy Island
- 11.45 St Cybi's Church, Holyhead
- 12.15 Lunch in Holyhead Harbour Front Bistro
- 2.30 Leave for South Stack Lighthouse, geological formations, and auk (puffins) breeding grounds
- 2.45 South Stack and Ty Mawr hut circles
- 3.45 Leave for Barclodiad (30 mins)
- 4.15 Arrive Barclodiad burial chamber
- 4.45 Leave Barclodiad
- 5.30 Arrive Chateau Rhianfa
- 7.30 Group Dinner

THURSDAY 19 OCTOBER

- 10.00 Leave for Bryn Celli Ddu (15 mins)
- 10.30 Arrive Bryn Celli Ddu burial chamber and inscribed stones
- 11.30 Leave for Plas Newydd (7 mins)
- 11.45 Visit Plas Newydd, ancestral home of the Marquess of Anglesey,
- 1.00 Lunch at Plas Newydd
- 2.30 Free time in Plas Newydd gardens
- 3.30 Short architectural walk in Plas Newydd village
- 4.30 Return to Chateau Rhianfa
- 5.00 Arrive hotel
- 7.30 Group Dinner in Hotel

FRIDAY 20 OCTOBER

CHECK OUT

- 09.30 Leave for Penmon 12c church and priory
- 09.45 Arrive Penmon
- 10.30 Leave for Beaumaris
- 10.45 Arrive Beaumaris Castle
- 11.30 Leave Beaumaris Castle for architectural walk in Beaumaris
- 12.00 Leave for Chateau Rhianfa for lunch and luggage
- 12.15 Lunch in Chateau Rhianfa
- 1.45 Leave Chateau Rhianfa
- 2.00 Arrive Bangor station
- 2.25 Train leaves Bangor
- 5.39 Train arrives London Euston



Château Rhianfa

Beaumaris Road

Menai Bridge

LL59 5NS

01422 323200

Set in one of the most beautiful parts of Wales, Château Rhianfa stands proudly amidst spectacular gardens on the isle of Anglesey, with views over the Menai Strait and the towering peaks of Snowdonia. Construction of the House of Rhianfa began in early spring 1849 by Sir John Hay William Baronet of Bodelwyddan and his wife Lady Sarah Hay Williams. Originally, Plas Rhianfa was built as a dower house for Lady Sarah and was intended to provide both Lady Sarah and the couple's two daughters with a comfortable residence in the event of Sir John's death. Having no male heir of his own, Sir John's title, along with his many properties and ancestral estate at Bodelwyddan, were to be inherited by his younger brother.

Despite many changes over time Plas Rhianfa has retained much of its original character. Now a four-star hotel, renowned for the comfort of its 22 bedrooms and its food, Welsh with a French twist, it will be a most unusual place to centre our Anglesey adventures.

COST £1655 Members, £1705 non-members, Single Room Supplement £200, includes four nights' accommodation at Chateau Rhianfa with breakfast, all lunches with wine, all dinners in Chateau Rhianfa with wine, all lectures and visits and all coach travel during the tour. Excludes travel to and from Bangor.

We are very sorry to say that this tour is not suitable for those with mobility issues as the terrain around the prehistoric monuments is quite rough and uneven.