

*Y Felin, Maes y Pandy farm, Abergynolwyn, Tywyn LL36 9AQ*

*Distinctly Yours...Doorstep Discoveries No 2.*



*falls at Dolgoch*

Enjoy a day out –as a family, solo, just a couple or in groups

**Suggestions for a day out within a ten mile radius of ‘Y Felin’**

Please check the times and details prior to visiting the locations, as there are seasonal and even daily variations. The Talyllyn railway in Tywyn often holds special event days, look out for these.

Making ‘Y Felin’ the base, find history, heritage, fun, variety and activity, all within a few miles.

Head for the coast and Talyllyn Railway!

At only just over nine miles away, visit the world’s first preserved railway and a recent recipient of the 67<sup>th</sup> Engineering Heritage award 2011. Also famous as the railway that inspired The Rev. Awdry’s ‘Thomas the Tank Engine’ series.



Photo courtesy of Tallyllyn Railway Co.

A little over 7 miles along the Fathew valley, the return journey through unspoilt Snowdonia as far as Nant Gwernol takes up to 2 ½ hours.

It is possible to hop off and back on the train later in the day giving the opportunity to take in some walks and waterfalls which can be spectacular, especially after a good ‘down pour’ of rain! Stop at Dolgoch and see the three sets of falls within a beautiful wooded ravine. Some of the walks in the area around Nant Gwernol and up into the Bryn Eglwys quarries give context to the origins of the railway that was built in 1865.

A series of walks leaflets are available in the railway shop including those produced by the Forestry Commission with starting points at various stations along the Fathew valley.

A picnic lunch might appeal, however, refreshments and lite bites can be obtained in the King’s licensed cafe at Tywyn wharf. Why not couple this with a visit to the free museum? Sandwiches and refreshments may also be obtained in the Quarryman’s Caban in Abergynolwyn.

Fares are dependent on destination, make up of group, child/senior person to name but a few permutations.

For those in wheelchairs and requiring assistance, it is advisable to contact the railway staff in advance.

**Talylyn Railway Company**  
**Wharf Station**  
**Tywyn**  
**Gwynedd**  
**LL36 9EY**  
**Wales**

<b>Wharf Station (Main Office)</b>	01654 710472	From overseas+44 1654 710472
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**Email:** [Enquiries@talylyn.co.uk](mailto:Enquiries@talylyn.co.uk) for general enquiries (and matters not covered by any other more specific address)

<http://www.talylyn.co.uk/things-to-do>

The Wharf station terminus is only a short distance from the beach. For an ozone filled walk in the spring/autumn/winter or armed with buckets and spades in the summer, take note of the Daily Telegraph's ringing endorsement: 'Tywyn has one of Wales's finest beaches, a 'magnificent golden strand stretching five miles'.

<http://www.visitsnowdonia.info/Content/Resources/Beach%20Chart%202010.pdf>

Has the day been filled already or are there a few more hours left?

If so, take the road out of Tywyn towards Llanfihangel y Pennant near Abergynolwyn. Surrounded by an air of undisturbed rural serenity with an area comprised mainly of farms and animals, its past has never the less seen excitement, activity and heroism. Step back in time!

At the foothills of Cadair Idris, discover the Dysynni valley by first visiting a real Welsh castle; Castell y Bere. Dating back to 13<sup>th</sup> C it was built by Llewelyn the Great and although now a ruin, its remains can still fire the imagination back to a time when it was a 'lavish and embellished fortress' ([www.castleswales.com](http://www.castleswales.com)).

Directions. From Tywyn, take the B4405 for 6 1/2 miles (10.5 km) to Abergynolwyn: Turn right onto Llanegryn Street. Continue through the village, then uphill and bear left, travel down the narrow country lane into the Dysynni Valley. At T junction turn right signposted to Castell y Bere. The rocky outcrop upon which sits the castle is visible in the field on your left.

Cadw

The castle is in the care of Cadw, the national body set up to conserve ancient monuments in Wales.

Plas Carew  
Unit 5/7 Cefn Coed  
Parc Nantgarw  
Cardiff  
CF15 7QQ

Tel: 01443 336000  
Fax: 01443 336001

E-mail: [cadw@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:cadw@wales.gsi.gov.uk)  
<http://cadw.wales.gov.uk/daysout/castellybere/?lang=en>

In the shadow of the castle, lies St. Michael's, a small attractive church, with possibly original connections to its mighty neighbour. Reputation has it that the font has travelled but a few yards from its original home. Inside, view the exhibition and fabric model displaying the Dysynni Valley, crafted by local people within which is woven a sequence on the life of Mary Jones. Stepping out, notice a small window that is slightly offset, known as the 'Leper window'. It is said that through this aperture, members of a local leper colony were allowed to view services without entering inside.

So, who was Mary Jones? Take a short walk from the church to Ty'n y ddol, where a memorial is erected in her memory and near to the cottage where she lived. Not known today – in 1800 her name was on everyone's lips and by 1804 became synonymous with the establishment of the British and Foreign Bible Society. Famous home and abroad!

Her fame was secured through the act of walking bare foot, from her home over the mountains to Bala, some 26 miles away in search of a copy of the Welsh bible from Rev. Thomas Charles BA. Her story has been re-told and translated into over 40 languages.

<http://www.anngriffiths.cardiff.ac.uk/bible.html>



Craig yr Aderyn/Bird Rock

Within the vicinity of the castle, church and memorial is the striking and prominent outcrop, Craig yr Aderyn or Bird Rock. At one time the sea lapped its craggy base, but by now has retreated five miles inland, leaving behind descendants of its inhabitants – the birds.

Although at 846 ft/257m, it falls short of being a classed a mountain by British standards it scales the heights in importance as the only remaining inland nesting site for cormorants in Wales and for its rare chough colony, its designation as a Special Protection area and a member of the European Union's Natura 2000 network is secured.

The presence of choughs restricts year round climbing potential; however there is still plenty of opportunity to gain stunning views of the lowland valley and views of the Cadair Idris range. There were people climbing up there in the Iron Age: note the fort on the summit!

<http://www.summitpost.org/craig-yr-aderyn/484222>

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/travel/2011/apr/09/10-best-woods-forests-views>

<http://www.eryri-npa.gov.uk/>

At any time during the day, both appetite and thirst can be satisfied with visits to either the Peniarth Arms in Brynecrug, the Railway Inn or Caffi'r Ceunant (the Community Cafe) in Abergynolwyn.



Railway Inn – booking for evening meals advisable  
on 08714 329005 Main Street, Abergynolwyn LL36 9YW

Caffi'r Ceunant (community cafe) Abergynolwyn LL36 9UU Tel: 01654 782372

Hopefully the information above and the experiences from seeking out the corners and crevices of this intriguing and beautiful valley have sparked a further curiosity to find out more about the surrounding area.

If you discover anywhere of particular that you think should be included in future itineraries, please let us know.

