

ISN'T IT TIME TO GET AWAY AGAIN?
YOUR HONEYMOON IS THE PERFECT TIME TO SPLURGE ON A
ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME VACATION WITH THE PERSON YOU LOVE.

Before planning
a honeymoon,
be sure to check on
up-to-date rules
and restrictions about
travel in your area.

North Wales Welcome

WIND THROUGH THE UNITED KINGDOM'S BEST-KEPT SECRET TO FIND ROMANTIC SEASIDE PIERS, HISTORIC RUINS, COUNTRY COMFORT AND PLENTY OF FRESH AIR.

Along the dashing northern coastline, through the island of Anglesey and into the mountains of Snowdonia, North Wales is an endless stream of stunning seclusion, farm-to-table food and unstuffy fun all wrapped up in a cozy blanket of warm hospitality. Make one of these top country estates your honeymoon home base – or make it a road trip and hit all five.



Photography: Doug Wallace



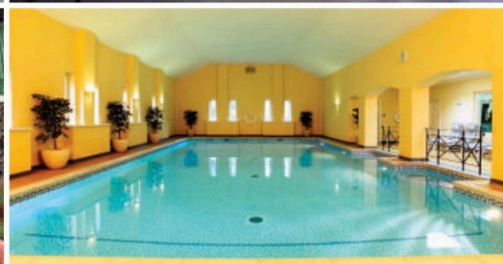
Llandudno BODYSGALLEN HALL

THE SCENE: Dating back to the 17th century, this restored retreat on Pydew Mountain about three kilometres from Llandudno yields conventional comfort.

THE CHARACTER: Traditional country style rules here – all rose bushes and fish ponds, with oak-covered walls, coats of arms over the fireplaces, flouncy trimmings, hearty meals – with 15 suites in the main house and 16 cottage suites. The manicured formal gardens are beyond beautiful. Try to spend at least a half a day at the spa.

NEARBY: Wander the pier in the Victorian seaside village of Llandudno before heading over to the walled town of Conwy. The castle ruins there tell a good story, and deliver an incredible view of the surrounding countryside and the River Conwy.

COST: From \$425
bodysgallen.com



Photography courtesy of Bodysgallen Hall



River Dwyryd PORTMEIRION

THE SCENE: Built in 1925 in the style of an Italian town and loaded with architectural oddities, this tourist village on the River Dwyryd sports luxury rooms, a spa, restaurants and cafés, exotic gardens, even an ice-cream parlour.
THE CHARACTER: The architectural folly that is Portmeirion photographs like a postcard, with over-the-top Mediterranean ornamentation at every turn. Seventy rooms are spread out over a hotel, a castle, self-contained cottages and village suites. A favourite of the famous and the curious, Portmeirion gained cult status as the set of *The Prisoner*, a British spy series from 1967.

NEARBY: Take a ride on the Highland Heritage Railway line, running from nearby Porthmadog. Cricceith Castle and Harlech Castle are both 25 minutes away, each with its own beach.

COST: From \$250

portmeirion.wales



Menai Bridge CHÂTEAU RHIANFA

THE SCENE: An open fireplace greets you in the lobby of this stately home on three acres overlooking the Menai Strait. The island of Anglesey is also home to the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge.

THE CHARACTER: A French style lends a fairytale feel. With designs borrowing from the chateaux of the Loire Valley, this sprawling 1850s family mansion is sumptuous and snug, with 16 rooms and three cottages. Glassed-in balconies, hand-painted ceilings, tufted-leather sofas and hidden stairwells will keep you comfortably occupied. Romantic bonus: The turrets in corner rooms have been converted into showers.

NEARBY: Enjoy the seafood restaurants of Menai Bridge, hikes in Snowdonia park, and outdoor adventure like kayaking, fishing, jet skiing and coasteering: a combo of cave-exploring, cliff-jumping and swell-riding. Beaumaris Castle is just down the road.

COST: From \$200

chateaurhianfa.com



Photography courtesy of Menai Bridge

Photography courtesy of Chateau Rhianfa, Portmeirion



Bala PALÉ HALL

THE SCENE: Dripping with opulence, this independently owned, Relais & Châteaux-designated Victorian mansion sits on 50 acres within the Dee Valley at the edge of Snowdonia National Park.

THE CHARACTER: Built in 1871, well-preserved Palé Hall sports 18 elegant rooms replete with vaulted ceilings, stained-glass windows, copper bateau baths and wood panelling for days. Make room in your schedule for afternoon tea, but save room for the five-course tasting menu. Famous overnight guests have included Winston Churchill and Queen Victoria.

NEARBY: When you tire of wandering the lush grounds, trip through the market town of Bala. Guests also go white-water rafting on the River Tryweryn, kayaking on Bala Lake or fishing for trout in the River Dee. Chirk Castle is a 45-minute drive east.

COST: From \$375
palehall.co.uk



Photography courtesy of Palé Hall, Ynyshir, Doug Wallace

Eglwys Fach YNYSHIR RESTAURANT AND ROOMS

THE SCENE: This Michelin-starred destination restaurant, set among the bird sanctuaries of the Dyfi Estuary, consistently makes the top-10 lists. Parts of the building date back to the 15th century.

THE CHARACTER: Chef Gareth Ward chalks up continuous kudos with a meat-forward, four-hour, 20-course set menu. Spring for the chef's table bespoke experience. Scandinavian style keeps things simple but sumptuous throughout, including the 10 luxurious bedrooms. A young staff is friendly and unstuffy.

NEARBY: The town of Machynlleth has been holding a street market since 1291, chartered by Edward I. It is also home to a permanent collection of works by contemporary Welsh artists in its Museum of Modern Art, housed in a former chapel.

COST: From \$500 per person, including dinner
ynyshir.co.uk

