

This walk takes in a charming Victorian seaside village, a wooded nature reserve, stunning views over Cardigan Bay, the historic Georgian village of Tremadog, and the busy harbour town of Porthmadog, with its narrow gauge railways and famous cob crossing.

Walk details

Approx. Distance: 10km/6.3 miles.

Approx Time: 3hrs.

OS Map: 1:25 000 scale Explorer Map 254.

Start/Finish: Borth-y-Gest sea front car park, SH565 373.

Access and amenities

Parking: at Borth-y-Gest car park, 50 spaces, LL49 9TS.

Bus: The Express Motors 99 service.

Public Toilets: at the car park.

Refreshments: There are a number of establishments at Borth-y-Gest. The main town of Porthmadog is a mile away.

Please note

- There is a gradual climb along the slopes of Moel Y Gest.
- Parts of the route either cross or follow some main roads - please be aware of traffic. This walk crosses a **railway line** four times, please be very careful every time you cross.
- This map is a rough guide only. We recommend you use the above **OS map**.
- Remember to adhere to the Countryside Code: **Respect, Protect, Enjoy**
naturalresources.wales/media/3598/cod-cefn-gwlad.pdf

15 Porthmadog Circular walk



Points of interest

① **Borth-y-Gest** was where travellers attempted the crossing of the dangerous Glaslyn estuary that linked the counties of Caernarfonshire and Meirionethshire. Guides led travellers across the sands of the estuary to Harlech. The village also had a flourishing boat-building industry, supplying schooners for use in the slate trade. There are wonderful views across the estuary to the Rhinog Mountains to the south, and the Moelwyn Mountains to the east.

Parc y Borth nature reserve ② covers 15 hectares of oak woodland and wildflower meadows. Tawny Owls, Great Spotted Woodpeckers and Pied Flycatchers can be seen here.



Tremadog ③ was built on land reclaimed from Traeth Mawr (large beach) in 1805. The main streets were named Dublin Street and London Street in anticipation

of the main route from London to Dublin passing through to Porth Dinllaen (see walk no 7), which didn't happen. William Alexander Madocks, an MP who built the town and subsequently the cob at Porthmadog, built a Gothic revival style church ④ - one of the first in Wales - and a classical chapel, resembling a Greek temple, quite unlike most Welsh chapels of the time ⑤. **T. E. Lawrence**, also known as "Lawrence of Arabia", was born on 16 August, 1888, in a house named 'Gorphwysfa' in Tremadog, now known as 'Snowdon Lodge' ⑥.

The **Welsh Highland Heritage Railway** visitor center ⑦ is child-friendly and an award-winning attraction.

When **the Cob** ⑧ was built by Madocks in 1811 it reclaimed some 70,000 acres of land and cost him £60,000, the equivalent of £43,000,000 today. The diversion of the Afon Glaslyn required to build the Cob resulted in the creation of a new natural **harbour** ⑨ which had a deep enough draught for small ocean-going sailing ships. Porthmadog subsequently developed in the 19th century as a busy port exporting slate from Blaenau Ffestiniog to the whole world.

The Italianate village of **Portmeirion** ⑩ is a few miles drive from Porthmadog at Penrhyndeudraeth. **Llechwedd Slate Caverns** ⑪ are located nearby in Blaenau Ffestiniog.



Walk directions

From the car park at Borth-y-Gest head in the direction of Porthmadog, you will see a sign to the nature reserve which leads up the steps to access the woodland. When you exit the nature reserve take care as you cross the Porthmadog to Morfa Bychan road. Head past the hotel and through the caravan park at Tyddyn Llwyn, climbing up the slope of Moel y Gest and down the opposite side to the outskirts of Porthmadog. On exiting the woodland turn left along the A497, crossing the road just after the last building in the Penamser Industrial Estate and crossing the railway. Turn left at Pensyflog until you reach Tremadog. Through Nursery Wood, a slight detour out towards Pen-y-Mount station, and from here continue to Porthmadog in the direction of the harbour. A riverside lane from the harbour leads back past the boatyards to the start point at Borth-y-Gest.

