

Six of the best North Wales National Trust Locations to visit once lockdown eases.

From its myriad of mountains, marshes, woodlands and waterfalls, to its working farmlands and stone-steeped villages, North Wales provides one of the most atmospheric landscapes in the UK.

Tucked away between dramatic scenery are incredible places waiting to be explored. With the uncertainty of overseas travel in the current environment, North Wales should be your go-to for a scenic stay-cation.

But, in an area bursting with beautiful discoveries for you to make, where do you begin?

With everything from adventure, culture and history, and with Covid restrictions easing, here are six great North Wales National Trust locations to visit this spring and summer.

For The Garden-lovers: Bodnant Garden, Conwy

With 150 years plus of careful curation, Bodnant Garden is one of the most stunningly scenic gardens in Wales. Wide terraces open out onto eighty acres of unusual plant species, lakes, and woodland. Tops of trees trace the outline of the Snowdonia Mountain range.

In this Grade 1 listed garden, there is year-round colour. However, late spring and early summer has become its peak times. Not only for visitors to enjoy walks in the warmer weather, but for them to see the incredible Laburnum Arch. This arch is a 55m long tunnel laced with golden flowers. It is an attraction that draws visitors from both the UK and abroad.

Recently Bodnant Garden has even become famous with exposure on BBC's Antiques Roadshow and Sky's original film, The Secret Garden.

For The Museum Moochers: Erddigs, Wrexham

Nestled in rural Wrexham, Erddigs' rich and regal history makes it the perfect, cultural day trip. In its very own accredited museum, guests can discover the second largest collection of items across the National Trust locations. With a team of conservators on hand to help with history, visitors can learn about the families that have lived in the establishment and their accompanying fortunes and failures.

Surrounding the house is a peaceful, 18th century garden lined with fruit trees and littered with colourful flower beds. There are plenty of places for quiet reflection, either on the riverside or beside the lakes.

Between lush exteriors and luxury interiors, at Erddigs there's something to interest everyone.

For The Wildlife Watchers: Chirk Castle, Chirk

Balancing above the meeting point between the River Dee and the River Ceiriog, Chirk Castle looms. Behind it sits 480 acres of land, home to fungi, wildflowers, bats, and rare invertebrates. The grounds are not only an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, but a Site of Special Scientific Interest as well. So, when planning a trip to this location, visitors are encouraged to bring their binoculars!

In the acres closest to the castle, there are plenty of paths to lose yourself in. Wander around the rose gardens, through the woodlands or out onto the terrace that gives over to views of rolling lawn.

Despite it being the only remaining occupied castle from its time, Chirk Castle's interior is still accessible. Inside, there is an interesting and assorted collection of items to view.

For The Interactive Learners: Penrhyn Castle, Bangor.

With the racial equality movements of summer 2020, Penrhyn Castle is an important place to visit to understand colonisation and the Transatlantic slave trade. The Pennant family built the estate using wealth acquired from Jamaican sugar plantations that were worked by slaves. Now, this castle has become a great educational resource to learn about the UK's dark past and troubling acquisition of riches.

The Pennant family went on to open the Penrhyn Slate Quarry and build Port Penrhyn. The history of these ventures and what it meant for the local area can also be explored on site.

Penrhyn Castle is not just a place to learn, but also a place to play. Visitors can roam the wooded and open parkland, meander the walled garden or go behind the scenes and see the restoration of the fuchsia walkway.

For The Happy Ramblers: Plas Newydd, Anglesey

Located at the gateway to Anglesey, on the beautiful shores of the Menai Straits, Plas Newydd is a popular 18th century mansion and gardens.

The mansion itself is extremely grand. Large windows look out onto the estuary and into the mountains. The house once belonged to Lord and Lady Anglesey, the bedrooms of whom you can still visit today. Taking pride of place in the dining hall is a mural painted by the British artist, Rex Whistler. It is one of the largest murals in the UK!

With gardens that explode into colour during late spring and summer, visitors can stroll through rhododendrons, wildflowers, and woodlands. The estate is also home to over 100 hundred red squirrels, a protected UK species.

For The Budding Historians: Tŷ Mawr Wybrnant, Betws-y-Coed

At the edge of Snowdonia National Park sits Tŷ Mawr Wybrnant, a traditional 16th century farmhouse draped in nature. Whilst this quaint, small stone farmhouse may not seem like

much from the outside, its interesting history puts in on-par with some of the grander National Trust locations.

Tŷ Mawr Wybrnant is the birthplace of Bishop William Morgan, the man responsible for allowing the welsh to access biblical teachings. How? He translated the bible into the welsh language. Now, visitors can view an original copy of the translation that was first published in 1588.

Those mentioned are just six of the amazing North Wales National Trust locations to whet your appetite for adventure this spring and summer.

As lockdown eases, restrictions lift and we start to venture further from home, we can't wait to welcome you back to our National Trust Locations.

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