

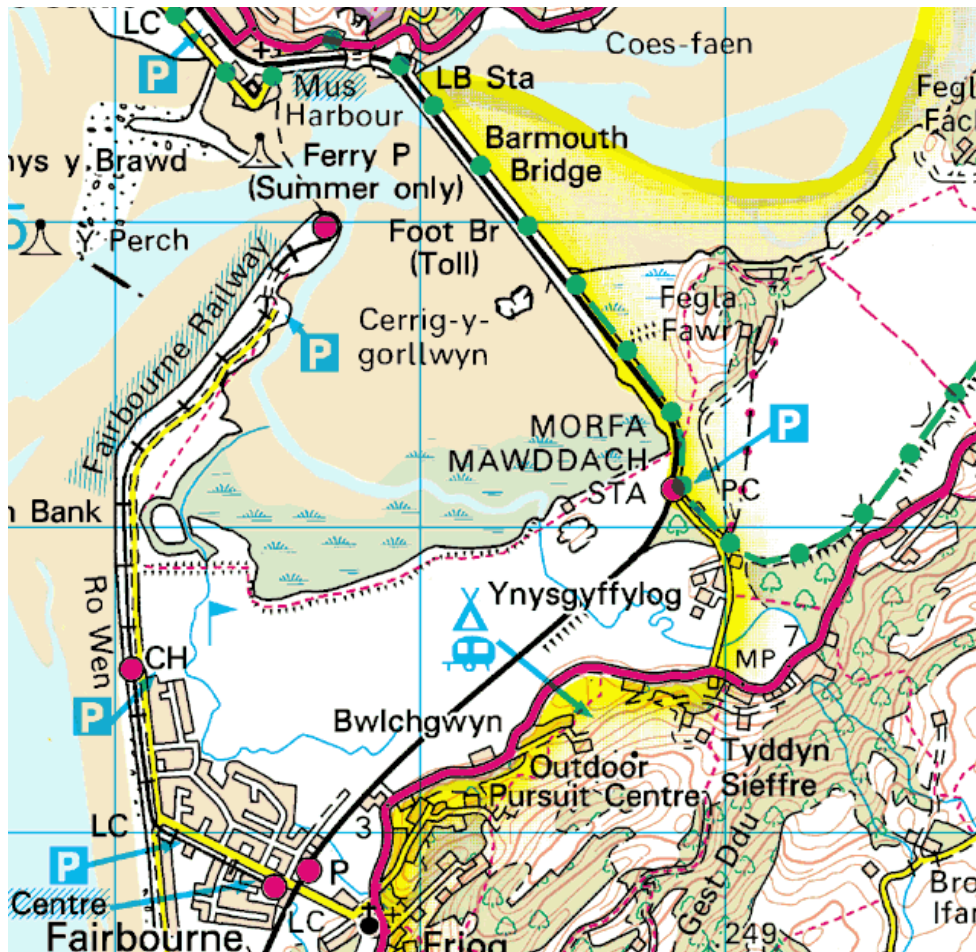
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A WALK WITH A DIFFERENCE FAIRBOURNE - BARMOUTH LOOP Easter - October Only

Start at Fairbourne.

To get to Fairbourne, turn right out of Hotel towards Tywyn. Drive through Tywyn and through Brynchrug. Follow this road (A493) for 15 miles until you reach Fairbourne. Alternatively you could catch the mainline train to Fairbourne. On reaching Fairbourne cross the mainline railway and park in the car park opposite Fairbourne Railway.



For Timetables of trains see leaflets in Games Room or ask at Reception.

Should you not wish to take the little train you can drive through Fairbourne and park towards the end of the point.

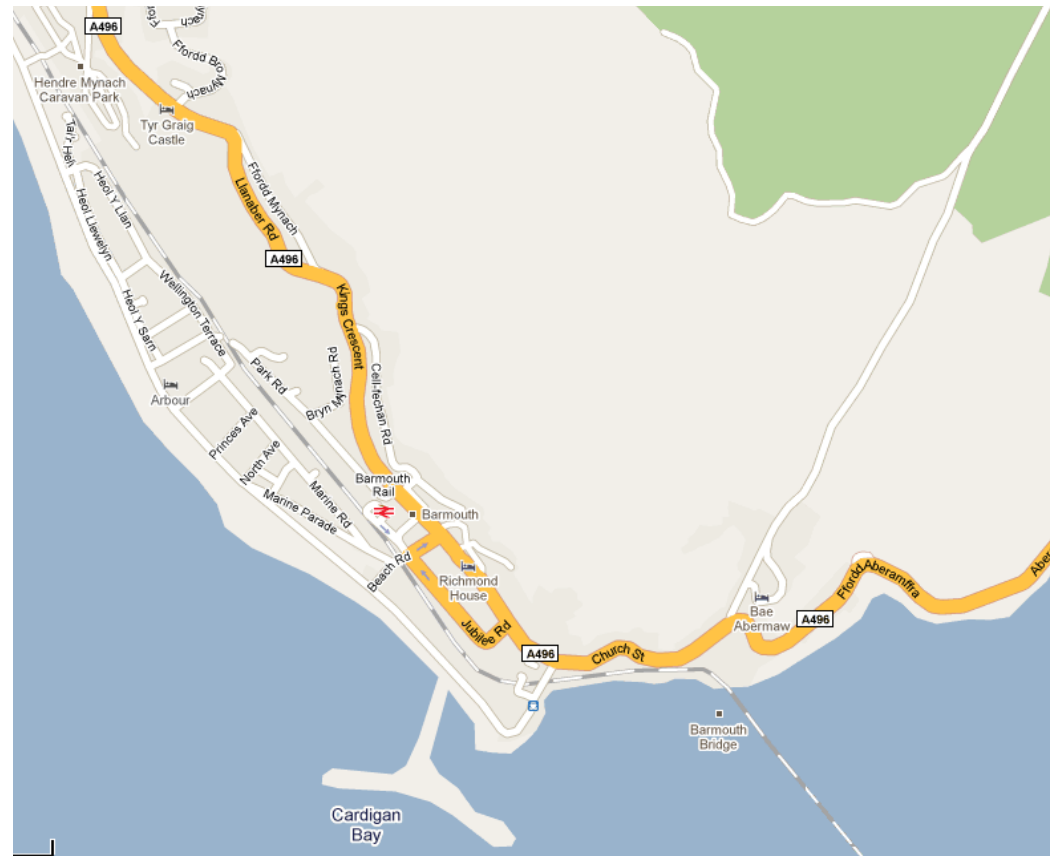
From here you can catch the Ferry to Barmouth. Please note that this Ferry only runs from Easter to October and may not run in bad weather. The Ferry does take dogs. Should you be a little wobbly on your legs, you may have trouble getting aboard however the Ferry Men are very helpful.

From an early time this Ferry has been very important to the area. Before Henry VIII it was operated by monks and thereafter fishermen. It provided a constant flow of goods and livestock to Barmouth. In the 1800's it was used by Royal Mail until 1867 when the railway bridge opened. Famous Ferry Passengers include Wordsworth, Darwin and the Archbishop of Canterbury in 1188.

On reaching Barmouth, take time to explore this lovely harbour town or carry on your walk. Turn right after getting off the ferry, walk under the railway bridge and turn right, you will walk past a garage on your left. You will start walking up a slight incline out of the town, you will then see the entrance to Barmouth Bridge.

Don't forget you will need some money for the toll bridge. Price 70p for adults, 35p for children (as of 2010).

The railway bridge spanning the Estuary of the Mawddach Estuary is half a mile in length, it is more than 125 years old. Once on the other side of the bridge follow the path until you see the mainline railway come into sight. Cross the railway where the sign dictates and follow the path along the embankment until you reach Fairbourne. On reaching the road turn left to walk back to your car.



Barmouth Bridge was built by the Aberystwyth and Welsh Coast Railway and opened in 1867. It included a lifting drawbridge section to permit the passage of tall ships, was constructed entirely of wood. The drawbridge section, at the northern end of the bridge, was rebuilt in 1901 as a swing bridge with two steel spans.

Passenger train services over the bridge declined significantly during the 1960s, when the Ruabon to Barmouth line via Llangollen and Dolgellau was closed causing all traffic to take the longer and slower route from Shrewsbury via Machynlleth and Dovey Junction. The old track bed from Morfa Mawddach railway station to Dolgellau now forms the Mawddach Trail, a walk and cycle trail.

Serious doubts in 1980 concerning the safety of the ageing wooden structure (thanks to an attack by the toredo marine worm) under the weight of modern locomotives led to a ban on locomotive-hauled trains. The ban brought the immediate cessation of the diminishing freight traffic north of Tywyn, including explosives traffic to and from the factory at Penrhyndeudraeth.