

Holyhead to Chester North Wales

Distance 105 miles
Classification Challenging
Start Holyhead railway station
Finish Chester railway station
Duration 3 days
Route NCN route 5
Maps OS Landranger 114-117

Route notes

A comfortable three-day ride of roughly 35 miles each day, stopping overnight at Bangor and Rhyl, this journey is best tackled west to east to make the most of prevailing winds. It's reasonably hilly across Anglesey, but a backdrop of Snowdonia mountains and beautiful views across the Menai bridge will spur you on. At Llandudno Junction follow the route to Deganwy and Llandudno to stay closest to the sea, and be sure to ride the Victorian promenade at Llandudno while you're there. The two-mile steep climb out of Gronant, east of Prestatyn, is a challenge and there are further climbs along the top, but the views across the Dee estuary to Wirral and Liverpool are marvellous. As you drop down



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into Flint you can enjoy flat riding all the way from Connah's Quay into Chester.

Terrain and gradients

Traffic-free paths and quiet lanes, undulating throughout, with one tough climb just after Prestatyn.

How to get there/away

There are train stations at either end - Holyhead and Chester - plus others dispersed along the route, for those breaking the trip. Get to Holyhead by road on the A55.

What to see

Stunning coast views and mountainous backdrops are regularly punctuated with fine castles, including Conwy, Flint and Chester. The seaside stretch from Llanfairfechan to Prestatyn is heavenly and the vast sandy beaches at Rhyl demand a paddle.

Watering holes and accommodation

Ice-cream from Cadwaladers parlour in Llandudno is particularly good, while generous

portions of homecooked food are served at the Queen's Head (bit.ly/16PFnNi) in nearby Glanwydden. Get a good, no-nonsense feed at Yvonne's Cafe on Dock Road in Connah's Quay or try the Albion, Chester (bit.ly/15SyDdC), a first world war-themed inn serving pease pudding, corned beef hash and other tastes of the trenches. Agar House, Llandudno (bit.ly/14in7X2) is at 50 miles and Pantasaph Farm B&B (bit.ly/102pg9K) is near mile 80, on the inland leg of route 5.

