

30 Denbighshire Adventures

2016 is officially Wales's Year of Adventure – and to celebrate we've made a list of 30 adventurous things to do here in Denbighshire. We weren't too short of ideas. Not when most of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty lies in Denbighshire. Together with a good part of the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal World Heritage Site.

But this isn't all about our great outdoors. It's not necessarily about stretching your body to the limit. Adventure means taking yourself outside your comfort zone, doing something different, surprising yourself. So everyone should find something in this list to tempt them.



1



Climb a rampart and proclaim yourself King or Queen of the Castle. Explore some of the most atmospheric fortresses in Wales at Denbigh, Rhuddlan and Castell Dinas Brân above Llangollen.

cadw.gov.wales

2

Build a sandcastle. You should find plenty of room on the seven miles of golden sands between Rhyl and Prestatyn.

loverhyl.co.uk atprestatyn.co.uk

3

Be inspired by Ruthin Craft Centre, the leading applied arts gallery in Wales, or do it yourself at one of their regular workshops.

ruthincraftcentre.org.uk



4



Join the paranormal team at Bodelwyddan Castle for a Ghost Hunt until 3am... or until your nerves give out.

bodelwyddan-castle.co.uk

5

Go for a walk. We do scenic little strolls – and we do long-distance epics. The Wales Coast Path runs right through Denbighshire on its 870-mile journey and Offa's Dyke Path National Trail, a mere 177 miles, starts in Prestatyn.

nationaltrail.co.uk



6

Unlock one of Wales's best-kept secrets with your very own key to the ancient walls of Denbigh. Ask at the library or the castle visitor centre.

visitdenbigh.co.uk



7

Climb to the top of the limestone cliffs at Loggerheads Country Park for an unbeatable view of Moel Famau, highest point of the Clwydian Range.

clwydianrangeanddeevalleyaonb.org.uk

8

Cross the iconic Pont y Ddraig Bridge between Rhyl promenade and the new harbour hub, where you can have a coffee or even hire a bike – you're on the North Wales Coast Cycle Route from Chester to Holyhead.

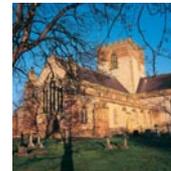
sustrans.org.uk



9

Experience the magnificent acoustics of St Asaph Cathedral, Britain's smallest ancient cathedral. World-class musicians come to the North Wales International Music Festival every September.

nwimf.com



10 Take a voyage of discovery by walking one of our town trails. Choose from Ruthin, Llangollen, Rhyl, Prestatyn, Denbigh, Corwen, St Asaph or Rhuddlan – that's one for every day of the week and one for luck.

discoverdenbighshire.co.uk

11 Explore the creepy nooks and crannies of Ruthin Gaol – and take a peek inside the condemned man's cell if you're brave enough.

ruthingaol.co.uk



12

Huff and puff for 10 glorious miles on the extended Llangollen-Corwen

Heritage Railway, hugging the banks of the River Dee as you go.

llangollen-railway.co.uk



13 Tackle the national standard BMX race track in Rhyl with its thrilling jumps, berms and Bensink start gate, just like the one at the 2012 Olympics.

marshtracks.co.uk

14 Experience the "Seven Ages" of Nantclwyd y Dre in Ruthin, the oldest timbered town house in Wales. No napping in the sumptuous Jacobean bedchamber, please.

denbighshire.gov.uk/heritage



15

Ride the four miles along the canal towpath from Llangollen to stunning Pontcysyllte Aqueduct – every inch is part of a World Heritage Site. Or peddle west for a family picnic at Llantysilio.

clwydianrangeanddeevalleyaonb.org.uk



16 Come face to face with Wales's greatest hero Owain Glyndŵr – or at least his life-size bronze statue – on the square in Corwen. Walk up the steep hillside of Pen y Pigyn to see the spot where he flung his dagger away in a rage.

discoverdenbighshire.gov.uk



17 Catch a fish. Whether you love coarse or game fishing, rivers or stillwaters, we offer tight lines in some of the loveliest landscapes in Wales.

valeofclwydanglingclub.org
rhylandstasaphanglers.org

18 Stroll the gardens and explore the romantic Gothic cottage of the Ladies of Llangollen – Regency runaways Lady Eleanor Butler and Miss Sarah Ponsonby.

plasnewyddllangollen.co.uk



19

Ride right round the only saltwater lake in North Wales on the vintage steam locomotives of Rhyl Miniature Railway – the oldest in Britain.

rhylminiaturerailway.co.uk



20

One of Wales's most beautiful landscapes also produces some of its tastiest food. Follow the Clwydian Range Food Trail to find out more – and finish with a bottle of Moel Famau Ale at Caffi Florence in Loggerheads Country Park. foodtrail.co.uk



21

Stretch your legs, see the countryside and make lots of new friends at one of our walking festivals. This year Llangollen is 30 April-2 May and Prestatyn 20-22 May. llangollenwalkingfestival.co.uk prestatynwalkingfestival.co.uk corwenwalkingfestival.co.uk

22

Horsepower has never been so relaxing. See fish flitting through the clear waters of Llangollen Canal as you glide along on a horse-drawn boat from Llangollen wharf to Thomas Telford's Horseshoe Falls. horsedrawnboats.co.uk



23

Walk on water with the increasingly trendy sport of stand-up paddle boarding. Try anything from an evening social paddle to a white water adrenalin ride. You can even paddle with your dog. standuppaddleboarduk.com

24

Get on your bike, and off the road, for some mud-spattered excitement. Explore Denbighshire's network of natural mountain bike trails with routes for all abilities. ridenorthwales.co.uk.



25

Climb to the top of a hillfort. The chain of Iron Age fortresses stretching from Moel Hiraddug in the north to Caer Drewyn near Corwen is one of the most important historic landscapes in Wales. clwydianrangeanddeevalleyaonb.org.uk



26

Hire a bike from the visitor centre at Llyn Brenig and cycle round one of the largest and loveliest reservoirs in Wales. Not all the way round, necessarily. Family-friendly routes start at just two miles long. llyn-brenig.co.uk

27

Power walk around Brickfields Pond local nature reserve in Rhyl – or just feed the ducks if you prefer. denbighshirecountryside.org.uk



28

Spot a little tern at the Gronant Dunes nature reserve – the only place this rare bird breeds in the whole of Wales. You might just catch a glimpse of a natterjack toad too.



denbighshirecountryside.org.uk



29

Walk to the top of Moel Famau for a closer look at the ruined Jubilee Tower. Built to celebrate the golden jubilee of King George III in 1810, the tower collapsed in a storm in 1862. But it remains an icon in the landscape.

clwydianrangeanddeevalleyaonb.org.uk

30

Sometimes you just have to be there. See a show at the Pavilion Theatre or hear a concert at Llangollen Pavilion, which hosts the world-famous Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod every July.

rhylpavilion.co.uk

llangollenpavilion.co.uk



For more adventurous ideas visit:

discoverdenbighshire.co.uk northeastwales.co.uk

clwydianrangeanddeevalleyaonb.org.uk