



The four ornamental lions on **Britannia Bridge**, each carved in limestone and weighing 30 tons, were created by John Thomas (1813–62), an eminent Victorian sculptor who also worked on Buckingham Palace and the Houses of Parliament. The bridge opened in 1850, initially as a railway bridge only. The road deck was added in 1980.

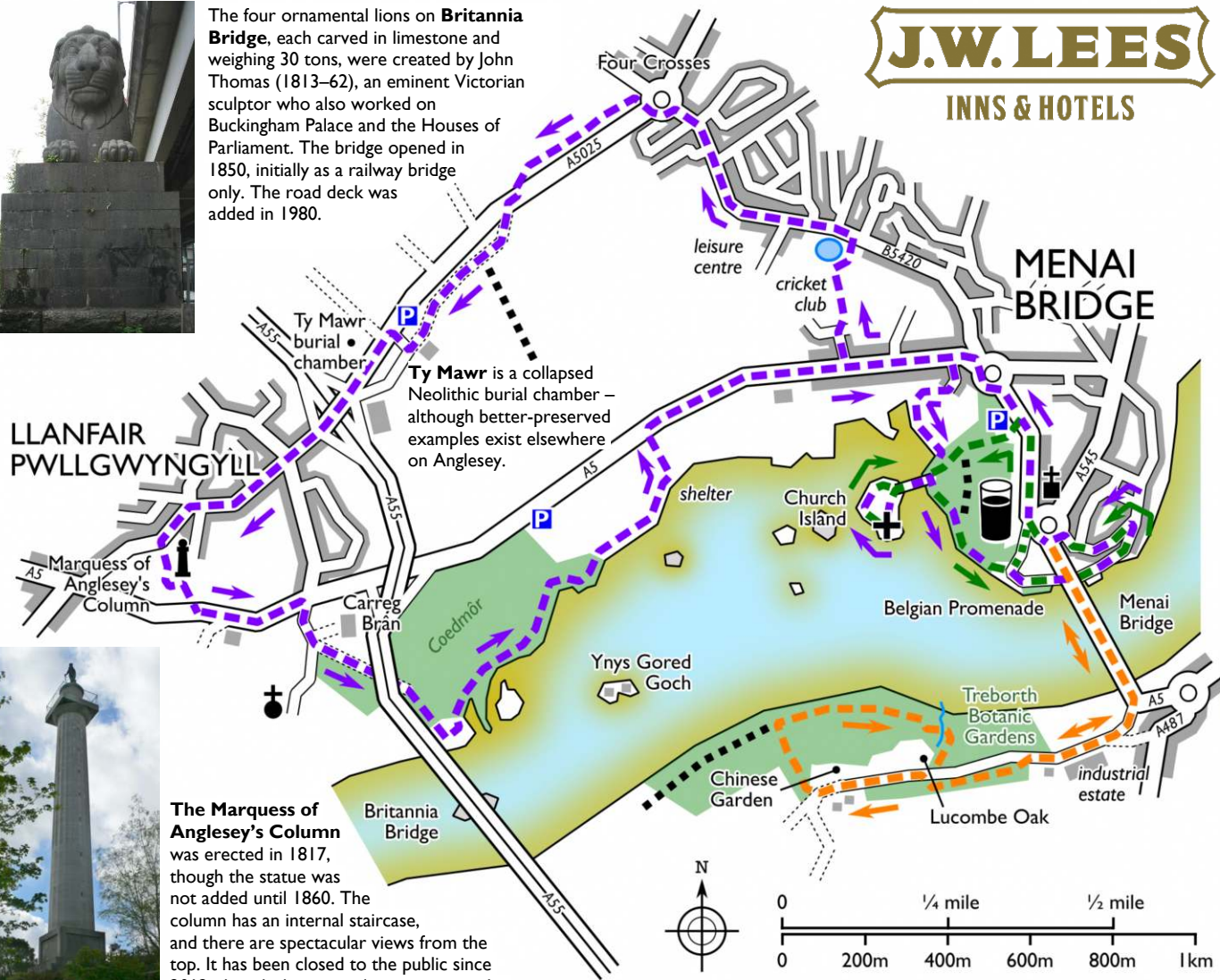
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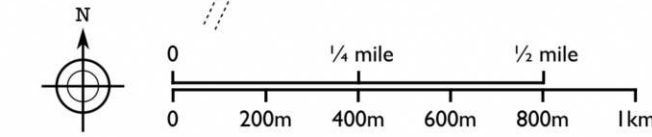
The Marquess of Anglesey's Column was erected in 1817, though the statue was not added until 1860. The column has an internal staircase, and there are spectacular views from the top. It has been closed to the public since 2012, though there are plans to reopen the attraction to visitors.

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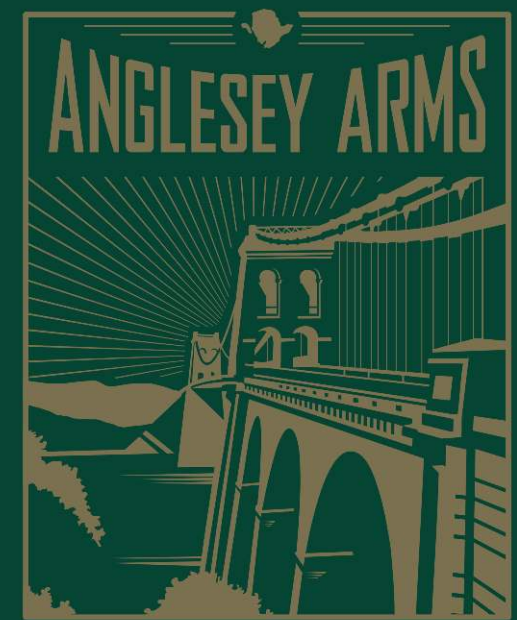
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Ty Mawr is a collapsed Neolithic burial chamber – although better-preserved examples exist elsewhere on Anglesey.



THREE WALKS FROM THE



PUB, DINING AND ROOMS

Church Island (1¼ miles: Easy)
An ancient island church, with stunning views of the Menai Strait and its two iconic bridges.

Treborth Botanic Garden
2 miles: Easy
Cross the Menai Bridge for a wooded stroll around Bangor University's botanic garden.

Two Bridges Walk (5¼ miles: Moderate)
Prehistoric remains, an aristocratic monument and an extended walk along the Menai Strait.

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The **Lucombe Oak** in Treborth Botanic Garden is a hybrid between a Turkey Oak and a Cork Oak. Unlike other oak trees, it tends to retain its leaves in winter.

The garden has associations with the gardener and architect Joseph Paxton, who proposed a hotel and pleasure grounds on the site (though the former never came to fruition).

Access to the grounds is free, though donations are welcome.



Church Island (1¼ miles: Easy)

Allow 45 minutes. One short descent and ascent, on well-surfaced paths and roads throughout. Can be shortened slightly for an early return.

1 From the front door of the pub, turn left and walk past Waitrose. **2** Just beyond the Jade Village restaurant, turn left into the car park. **3** At the rear left-hand corner, join a surfaced path beyond a gate that descends through the wooded Coed Cynrol nature reserve. Ignore a path off to the left and descend to the water's edge at the end of the causeway to Church Island. **4** Cross the causeway and turn left past the cedar tree towards the church. The ascent to the war memorial is worth it for the views of the Menai Strait and its two iconic bridges. **5** Follow the path to the church door and turn right to return to the causeway via the western side of the island. **6** Back on dry land, turn right along the Belgian Promenade, towards the Menai Bridge. Pass the former paddling pool, now a seating area with an information board about the Promenade. **7** When you approach the house at Carreg yr Halen, take the left fork and follow the path up to the road. For a shorter walk, turn left and walk directly back up the hill to the Anglesey Arms. **8** For the full walk, turn right along the road. **9** Beyond a driveway entrance on the right, turn right through a gap in the wall into the woods, passing the Gorsedd Stone Circle constructed for the Anglesey Eisteddfod of 1965. Follow the path through the trees to return to the road via another gap in the wall (ignore the path on the right by "Circumnavigation", a sculpture by Peter Randall-Page). **10** Turn right and follow the road under the Menai Bridge. **11** At the junction with Ffordd Cambria, turn sharp left and follow the narrow one-way street up to a junction. **12** Turn left past the no-entry signs and climb to emerge at the roundabout on the A5; cross at the end of the bridge and turn right to return to the Anglesey Arms.

Treborth Botanic Garden

2 miles: Easy

Allow 1–2 hours. The high crossing of the Menai Bridge may unsettle those with vertigo. Woodland paths could be slightly muddy.

1 From the front door, cross the narrow road immediately in front of the pub, and turn right along the A5 past the roundabout. **2** Cross the Menai Bridge via the right-hand footpath with spectacular views along the Strait over Church Island and towards Britannia Bridge. **3** At the far end of the bridge, turn right and follow the road past a brick lodge-house on the right. Continue over speed bumps and past some industrial units to a further lodge-house, this one in stone and on the left. **4** Pass between the gateposts, then shortly take a path on the left that runs between railway and road. When it rejoins the road, continue past the greenhouses and other buildings of the Botanic Garden on the left and the circular arch of the Chinese Garden on the right. **5** When the track forks at the entrance to Treborth Playing Fields, turn right onto a path with the open, grassed area of the gardens to your right. **6** Keep straight on at a junction of paths, heading downhill through the trees. When you reach the coast path above the Menai Strait, turn right; ignore any turnings into the wood

on your right. **7** Pass the Peace Statue then, above a bench by a small stream, follow the path as it curves right, away from the water, and up to the Lucombe Oak. **8** Beyond the tree, rejoin the entrance drive. Turn left and retrace your steps past the gatehouses and industrial units back to the A5, and turn left to cross the Menai Bridge again back to the Anglesey Arms.

Two Bridges Walk (5¼ miles: Moderate)

Allow 3 hours. Some road walking and moderate climbs. The path alongside the Menai Strait is uneven in places and may be muddy. Livestock may be encountered in one or two places, and there are a couple of stiles.

1 From the front door of the pub, turn left and walk past Waitrose. Continue past the Jade Village and adjacent car park to a roundabout beyond the Shell garage. **2** Cross the A5 and turn left along the pavement (Fford Caergybi/Holyhead Road), passing Rhyd Menai on the opposite side of the road. Cross the bottom of Lôn Gernant and continue to a turning signposted to Mynwent Cemetery, where you turn right. **3** Climb the hill to a junction where you take the path opposite, which leads up past a cricket pitch then bends right by a fenced-off reservoir. On reaching the B5420, turn left and follow the road for 600 metres, passing the Leisure Centre, to the Four Crosses roundabout. **4** Cross the A5025 and turn left onto a signposted footpath that follows the old road. When this rejoins the modern road, cross carefully and turn right along the pavement for a short distance, before turning left onto a similar section of the old road on the other side. Ignore a signposted footpath on the left, continuing past a large boulder on the old road. **5** By the Park & Ride car park, turn right to the modern road. Cross carefully and walk along the opposite verge – look over the gate into the field on your right for a view of the tumbled remains of Ty Mawr Burial Chamber. **6** Cross back over the road and follow the pavement to the bridge over the A55. Cross the slip roads and bridge and continue along Lôn Pant towards the distant Marquess of Anglesey's Column, crossing Lôn Refail and Parc Twr. At the junction of Lôn Dryll keep left, passing Bwthyn Pen Parc, a listed one-storey cottage, on the left. **7** After the last house on the left, turn left over a stepped stile by a footpath sign. The path leads into woods and passes below and to the right of the Marquess of Anglesey's Column (currently closed to the public) before leading via a hedged path to a main road. **8** Turn left and shortly pass White Lodge, another listed building, on the right. At the sign for Carreg Brân and Eglwys Y Santes Fair/St Mary's Church, cross carefully and follow the lane downhill. Just before the railway bridge, turn left onto a track to the right of the entrance to Carreg Brân, with an Anglesey Coastal Path sign. **9** Follow the track downhill and under the Britannia Bridge (look out for the lion sculpture, designed by the Victorian sculptor John Thomas, high to the right). Keep right at a path junction and pass below the lion sculpture on your way down to the Menai Strait. **10** Turn left over a low stile in a wall into the National Trust's Coedmôr property. Follow boardwalks to the left of some tidal pools and continue on a narrow path through woodland. Pass the island of Ynys Gored Goch ("Red Weir Island"), with its spectacularly sited house and former smokehouse and fish weir, on a

boardwalk, ignoring another boardwalk that leads off into the woods on the left. **11** Follow the path along the bottom of a field (past a log carved into a replica of Thomas's lion) to a wooden shelter. Here leave the waterside, passing through a kissing gate and climbing the field to another giving access to the main road. **12** Turn right and follow the pavement for half a mile, ignoring the turning to Mynwent Cemetery that you followed on the outward journey. **13** At the end of Rhyd Menai, turn right down a lane, following the Coastal Path signpost. **14** At the bottom, turn right through a gate and follow a path beside a rugby pitch. This runs alongside a tidal inlet to the causeway to Church Island.

Now follow steps 4–12 of the **Church Island** walk, above, taking either the longer or shorter route as desired, to return to the Anglesey Arms.

We hope these carefully chosen circular walks will help you appreciate our beautiful surroundings and we look forward to quenching your thirst and satisfying your appetite on your return to the Anglesey Arms.

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The classic view of the **Menai Suspension Bridge** and the house at Carreg yr Halen from the Belgian Promenade. The bridge was designed by Thomas Telford and opened in 1826. It was the world's first major suspension bridge and the largest bridge in Britain at the time of its opening. The 1800 Act of Union had increased traffic to Dublin via Holyhead, and the opening of the bridge cut travel times by 9 hours. Its 16 iron chains were replaced in steel during World War II and it still carries the A5 more than 100 feet above the swirling waters of the Menai Strait.



1st edition. Text, design, mapping and photography
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