

Caernarfon and South (OS sheet 115) – Gentle ride – 29 miles

This reasonably flat ride follows cycle paths and quiet lanes south towards the World Heritage site of Caernarfon - a walled town with a magnificent Castle – and the coast beyond.

Starting from the 'front' gate of the campsite the ride goes right for about half a mile to join the cycle path. (Care needed to cross the road and ride this section). After passing the Vaynol Estate / Stad Y Faenol there is an option to use the cycle path with one difficult gate or the B road directly through Y Felinheli. (Details on route sheet) The traffic conditions may affect this decision. Dropping down to Lon Las Menai the ride follows the Straits into Caernarfon with its shops, cafes and other facilities. After enjoying the town the route continues along Lon Las Eifion following the line of the Welsh Highland Railway. At Dinas Station (the railway depot) there is an optional shortcut down to Y Foryd leading back to Caernarfon – and the way back to the site. The longer route continues south along the cycle path, crossing the A487 until Y Pennionyn (The Onion Head – named after a recent landlord!) Groeslon. Quiet lanes and cycle path then lead to Parc Glynllifon with its craft shops, a small cafe, toilets and a playground. The route then returns around Y Foryd, a stunning bay, and into Caernarfon before returning up one hill (which can be safely pushed) to the campsite.

Caernarfon and South (OS sheet 115) – Touring ride – 41 miles

This very varied touring ride follows cycle paths and quiet lanes south then runs inland through the mountains, swoops down to the coast and back via the World Heritage site of Caernarfon.

Starting from the 'front' gate of the campsite the ride goes right for about half a mile to join the cycle path. (Care needed to cross the road and ride this section). After passing the Vaynol Estate / Stad Y Faenol there is an optional cycle path (details on the route sheet) or the B road directly through to Y Felinheli. The route turns inland along quiet lanes to the village of Bethel and through Llanrug (good bacon butties at the butchers here 100 yards off the route!), It continues towards the A4085 then through Waunfawr to Rhyd Ddu (Ty Mawr cafe, public toilets at the Welsh Highland Railway Station. Right, just before the Cwellyn Arms, a reasonably graded climb takes the ride over Drws y Coed and down to the slate villages of Nantlle and Talysarn. The route follows through Penygroes (shops and bakery plus cafe), passes Parc Glynllifon (craft shops, a small cafe and public toilets) and continues through Llandwrog (The Harp - good pub) to the coast at Y Foryd with its stunning views back to Yr Eifl and across to Ynys Môn / Anglesey. From here a footbridge leads into the walled town of Caernarfon with its magnificent Castle. Completed in 1295 the Castle dominates the town as it was intended to dominate the Welsh people. The Maes, (place) adjacent to the modern entrance has most facilities. From Caernarfon the ride continues along the Straits, mostly on Lon Las Menai, up a hill and back to the campsite.

Caernarfon and South (OS sheets 115, 123) – Touring ride – 58 miles

This very varied touring ride follows cycle paths and quiet lanes south then runs inland through the mountains, swoops down to the coast, just onto the Pen Llŷn / Llyn peninsula and back via the World Heritage site of Caernarfon.

Starting from the 'front' gate of the campsite the ride goes right for about half a mile to join the cycle path. (Care needed to cross the road and ride this section). After passing the Vaynol Estate / Stad Y Faenol there is an optional cycle path (details on the route sheet) or the B road directly through to Y Felinheli. The route turns inland along quiet lanes to the village of Bethel and through Llanrug. It continues towards the A4085 then through Waunfawr to Rhyd Ddu (Ty Mawr cafe, public toilets at the Welsh Highland Railway Station). Right, just before the Cwellyn Arms, a reasonably graded climb takes the ride over Drws y Coed and down to the slate villages of Nantlle and Talysarn and Penygroes. From here the route follows quiet lanes to Llanaelhaearn with a cafe, bar, shop and toilets all in one small building! Turning back north along the cycle path the route passes the large church at Clynnog Fawr which is reputed to be the site of a Celtic Monastery and is still an important stop for pilgrims going to Ynys Enlli / Bardsey Island. It then continues to Parc Glynllifon Park (craft shops, a small cafe and public toilets) and then through Llandwrog (The Harp - good pub) to the coast at Y Foryd with its stunning views back to Yr Eifl and across to Ynys Môn / Anglesey. From here a footbridge leads into the walled town of Caernarfon with its magnificent Castle. Completed in 1295 the Castle dominates the town as it was intended by Edward 1 to dominate the Welsh people. The Maes, (place) adjacent to the modern entrance has most facilities. From Caernarfon the ride continues along the Menai Straits, mostly on cycle paths, up a hill and back to the campsite.