

CONNECTION

This English Section appears bi-weekly
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Profile

Journey into Holyhead, Wales



An experienced traveler knows that when getting to know a particular destination, there is more to it than meets the eye. In Holyhead, strolling through the streets is just scratching the surface. To truly get to know Holyhead, the best way to go about it is by stepping into locals' proverbial shoes – and with some research before arriving in Holyhead, I could do just that.

Holyhead is situated on the island of Anglesey. Even at the time of the Romans, this harbor was important because of its proximity to Ireland. With direct ties to Dublin and other Irish cities, some people like to take ferry from Holyhead to Ireland. Holyhead also serves as a port of access to northern Wales.

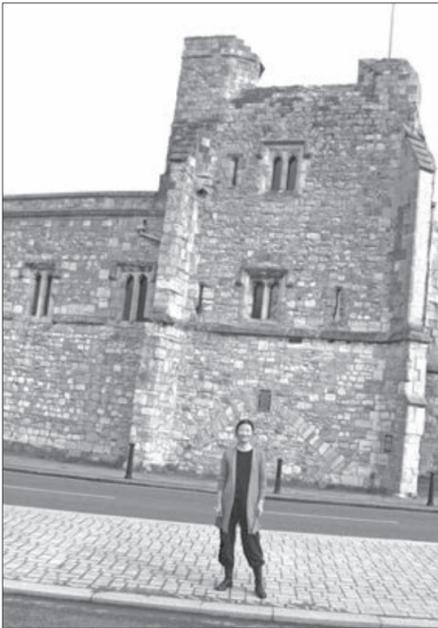
The Welsh people are Celtic, as are the Scots and the Irish. Like them their long struggle with the Roman Empire ended in a truce.

The Romans admitted that Celts were the finest horsemen they had encountered. In fact they hired Welsh cavalymen whenever they could. Welsh archers were also terrifying foes. The English longbow actually came from Wales.

Although most people never make the connection, the English campaign in Wales marked the end of feudalism. King Edward I demonstrated that excellent foot soldiers could defeat mounted knights, and that protected settlements could pacify the country more effectively. Humane treatment of the conquered was the first step toward a working partnership with them, which went a long way toward avoiding future rebellions.

It was a delight for me to visit Holyhead's castles, caverns, and old railroads. Some of the ancient castles in Holyhead are completely intact. King Edward I was called "the Lord of All Castles" because he had built 12 castles during his lifetime. The cliff is absolutely breathtakingly beautiful. I saw lots of sea birds, flowers, and trees.

The people of Wales continue to be intensely proud of their Celtic roots. Their art, music, poetry, and folk wisdom demonstrate that they work hard to cultivate the fruits of their culture. A local tour guide told me, "People want to be with friendly, honest, real, down-to-earth people that they trust and don't feel like they are being taken advantage of. And that is how the people in Holyhead are. Hospitality is in our blood, and we are kind at heart."



▲ the people of Wales work hard to cultivate the fruits of their culture

Whenever I travel to a new place, I love to meet up with a knowledgeable local tour guide

for a unique perspective. I can't shake my feelings of curiosity. I like to ask lots of questions. My hope is that if I am somewhere new I should get to know the place through a trusted resource. My tour guide must have sensed a density of expectation hangs in the air. During my Holyhead trip, I was fortunate enough to not only get valuable information about the place from my tour guide



▲ visiting Holyhead's ancient castles was a delight



▲ my knowledgeable local tour guide is a trusted resource



▲ taking in the tranquility of the age-old church in Holyhead

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週一至週五 9:00am-6:00pm
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