

A guide to our corner of Wales

From mountains to market stalls, adventure sports to castle haunts, hotels to coffee shops: this is your complete guide to everything that is Wales.

Explore our home.





Hello you

A truly warm welcome, or croeso (said croy-saw) as we say in Wales. Visit us and that's exactly what you will get. We are told that our warmth of hospitality and breathtaking landscapes make our home somewhere really special. And we can't wait to share it with you.

Be prepared to experience everything from magnificent national parks and legendary historical sites to relaxed cities by the sea for sightseeing (and shopping). You'll see castles and coffee shops, museums and mountains, and yes, even the odd sheep.

It's no wonder we're referred to as 'a small clever country'. We look forward to giving you a glimpse of what we're about in this guide and we really do look forward to extending our warm welcome to you.

See you soon.

Start your journey

Begin your discovery to find your own prime spot with this handy map of our simply spectacular region. Explore each area to uncover its famous sights, best places to eat and sleep and many photo opportunities.



Newport

It may be a compact city but Newport packs an almighty punch. Venue for the 2010 Ryder Cup and 2014 NATO summit, Newport is also famous for its Grade 1 listed transporter bridge (of which you can climb to the top). There are 90 acres of gorgeous Tredegar House to explore, 100km of Wetlands RSPB Reserve (a must for twitchers and wildlife fans), and the very impressive National Roman Legion Museum at Caerleon, the furthest outpost of the mighty Roman Empire.

Cardiff

Cardiff, Wales' capital city, is a thriving metropolis of fantastic shopping, dining and entertainment. Easy to explore on foot, any sightseeing itinerary should include a visit to the National Museum, spectacular Cardiff Castle and the impressive Principality Stadium, home of Welsh rugby. Top class entertainment is on offer at Wales Millennium Centre in the heart of Cardiff Bay, with its many restaurants and bars boasting stunning waterside views.

Monmouthshire

Aside from the Wye Valley, an area of outstanding natural beauty, the two main centres are Chepstow, with its massive castle, and the old-fashioned town of Monmouth, upstream of the meandering River Wye. Follow in the footsteps of poets and painters such as Wordsworth and Turner who came to enjoy the picturesque beauty of Tintern Abbey over two hundred years ago, now a site of exceptional atmospheric ruins.

Caerphilly

Like its famous cheese, Caerphilly castle has long been synonymous with this town. It is the largest castle in Wales and one of the greatest surviving castles in the medieval Western world. This formidable fortress, surrounded by two huge lakes has over 30 acres to explore, including the famed leaning South Eastern Tower, dubbed 'the Welsh Tower of Pisa'.

Blaenau Gwent

The local landscape of this region has long been known for its varied natural beauty, from rolling hills, woodlands and lakes, all set in an immense area of outside space. Parc Bryn Bach is the ideal location to be at one with nature and throw yourself into some new activities from gorge walking, caving and learning basic bush craft skills.

Merthyr Tydfil

Delve into the heart and soul of the South Wales Valleys and journey through the great outdoors on a traditional steam train. Don't forget to pack your camera to capture the breath taking panoramas as you travel high up into the awe-inspiring Brecon Beacons.

Vale of Glamorgan

Sitting on Cardiff's doorstep are a host of ancient castle vestiges, beautiful bays and sweeping beaches, dramatic coastal cliffs, stunning gardens, country parks and quaint market towns all waiting to be discovered in Glamorgan's renowned heritage coastline and countryside.

Rhondda Cynon Taff

A famous distillery in the rural village of the Rhondda Valley is the first Welsh whisky producer since the 19th century and has won innumerable awards for its less-is-more approach to producing quality single malts. The visitors centre has tours, tasting sessions and masterclasses, as well as an exhibition of whisky-making in Wales.

Bridgend

Beaches are big business in Bridgend. Go surfing or take a siesta in the sun, picnic or paddle. There's an army of massive sand dunes at Merthyr Mawr – the second highest in Europe, no less, which provided the setting for parts of the classic film 'Lawrence of Arabia'. Step away from the coast and discover nature reserves, vast country parks, picturesque villages and cosy little pubs for a local ale.

Torfaen

This small Welsh borough has a unique history, being at the forefront of the Industrial Revolution. Its industrial heritage has left a profound legacy on the landscape, which can be seen at Blaenavon Ironworks, one of Europe's best preserved 18th century ironworks. Or step back in time and travel 300 feet underground at Big Pit National Coal Museum while accompanied by a real miner to understand what life was like for the thousands of men who worked at the coal face. Impressive, right?

Rain or Shine

From rain macs to Ray-Bans, wellies to teeny weeny polka dot bikinis, whatever the weather holds you'll find something fun to do. It really doesn't rain that much (honest), but if it does, don't let the weather sodden your spirit, we have activities and attractions to keep you story telling for some time.

Wales has it all for an action-packed family holiday, laid-back long weekend or romantic retreat and is perfect to explore at any time of year, just come and see for yourself.

Away from the cool metropolitan vibes of the cities, our seaside is a shore bet. Wales has countless beautiful beaches fit for surfers and sun worshippers, to golden sands perfect for bucket filling or barbecue grilling. There's family fun to be had in the resorts of Barry Island and Porthcawl or for something more energetic, blow the cobwebs away with a stroll along the rugged coastal cliffs of the Glamorgan Heritage coast.

Head to Llantwit Major beach in the Vale of Glamorgan, known to be one of the best spots to hunt for 90 million year old Jurassic fossils. Comb the boulders and slabs and you might just find some well-preserved corals, giant shells or even a dinosaur bone. So if you thought fossiling was just for palaeontologists, think again.

However, if your idea of something preserved is more along the lines of a cracking piccalilli, travel inland to the charming market town of Cowbridge, where you'll find a splendid high street packed with glorious eateries and delis (and lots of lovely boutique shops).

Not far from here, explore Llanerch vineyard where you can join a fun and informal tour, followed by a demonstration on how to sample the home-grown produce. The charming restaurant also serves scrumptious afternoon teas overlooking this working Welsh vineyard.

If sampling sweet treats is on your agenda, Hendrewennol fruit farm is a must. They grow the sweetest strawberries and ripest raspberries, which can also be enjoyed in their yummy home-made ice-cream. Kids can explore willow domes and jump around on Hay Bale Hill while the grown-ups enjoy some time out in the beautiful countryside.

If you're looking for a hangout with some heritage thrown in, St Fagans open air museum will take you on a walk around Wales from Celtic times to the present day. The surrounding area has plenty more ancient attractions, monuments and castles dotted around, each with an interesting story to tell.

Finally for the sport lovers. Golf enthusiasts should not miss a chance to play The Twenty Ten course at The Celtic Manor Resort, host venue of the first ever Ryder Cup to be held in Wales. Or you could throw yourself into something more extreme from white water rafting, go karting or mountain biking to exploring the natural beauty of the Brecon Beacons on horseback.

Wherever your adventure takes you, come and discover your own little piece of 'Welsh rarebit'.



Tor Bay View towards Oxwich Beach

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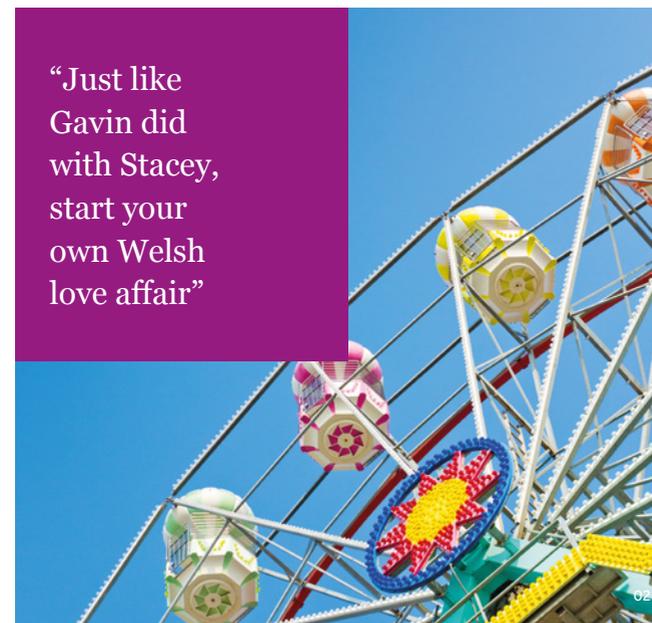


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“Just like Gavin did with Stacey, start your own Welsh love affair”



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01. Beach rules

Soak up the sun. Make a splash. Ride the waves. Build sandcastles. Relax and take a nap.

02. Family fun

Enjoy fish and chips, ice-cream, fairground rides and slot machines at Barry Island Pleasure Park.

03. Get into the swing of things

Experience 18 holes of championship golf on the famous Twenty Ten course at Celtic Manor.

04. Outdoor life at St Fagans

Take in decades of history with buildings and artefacts from across Wales.

Got the key, got the secret

South East Wales

Well it's not much of a secret really. Here's a snap shot of fabulous places to rest your weary head and refuel during your time with us.

The Vale Resort

Hensol, Vale of Glamorgan

For a four star hotel and leisure experience nothing short of special, the Vale Resort will not disappoint. This 143 bedroom hotel also encompasses two championship golf courses, Wales' largest spa, an award-winning restaurant and exceptional sporting facilities, making the Resort one of the UK's most desirable golf and leisure break destinations.

Call: 01443 667 800
www.vale-hotel.com

St Pierre Marriott Hotel & Country Club

Chepstow, Monmouthshire

Housed within a historic 14th century manor home, this remarkable 132 bedroom hotel is surrounded by 400 acres of parkland in the beautiful Wye Valley. Located only two miles from Chepstow, once you have finished exploring the splendour of South Wales, there's championship golf and a spa with heated pool to enjoy during your visit.

Call: 01291 625 261
www.marriott.co.uk

Park Plaza

Cardiff

Situated in the heart of Cardiff city centre the four star Park Plaza offers 129 stylish rooms and suites making it the ideal base for a city break in the Welsh capital. With its high ceiling and iconic wine wall the acclaimed Laguna restaurant and bar is famed for serving classic British cuisine with a twist of Welsh character.

Call: 02920 111 111
www.parkplazacardiff.com

St David's Hotel & Spa

Cardiff Bay

The global award winning St. David's Hotel & Spa is located on the stunning waterfront of Cardiff Bay and is Cardiff's only AA rated five star luxury hotel. One of the very finest hotels in South Wales, it has a fresh, modern style with 142 bedrooms and suites, most with private deck style balconies and views across the bay. With its award winning Marine Spa facilities and the Tempus at Tides restaurant and bar, the St David's Hotel rightly deserves its position as one of the leading hotels in Wales.

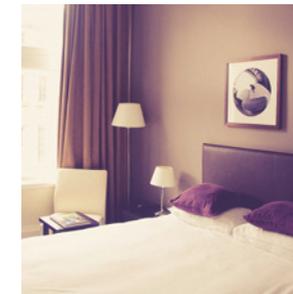
Call: 02920 454 045
www.thestdavidshotel.com

Radisson Blu

Cardiff

Being one of the tallest buildings in the Welsh capital, the Radisson Blu offers dazzling city views from the floor-to-ceiling windows in each of the 215 rooms, putting all of Cardiff literally at your feet. For a stylish stay with the best attractions on your doorstep you can enjoy countless shopping and dining options, all within easy walking distance of the hotel, as you explore the vibrant city.

Call: 02920 454 777
www.radissonblu.com



Did you know?

- 01 The Welsh village of Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwllllan-tysiliogogoch claims to hold the longest place name in Europe.
- 02 One of the greatest figures of 20th century literature, Roald Dahl, was born in Cardiff.
- 03 The population of sheep in Wales is four times as great as the population of people.
- 04 The wedding ring of the Duchess of Cambridge is made from Welsh gold originating from the Clogau gold mine in North Wales.
- 05 Our famous red dragon has been the ancient symbol of Wales for over 2,000 years.

Celtic Manor Collection

Experience a seriously stylish stay at one of the Celtic Manor Collection Hotels.

Choose from the traditional five star resort hotel, with restaurants, bars and spas, or the refurbished classic and contemporary Coldra Court Hotel.

The new additions to the collection include Celtic Newport and Coldra Woods Hotel, and all are within easy reach of castles, coffee shops and mountains of culture.

Call: 01633 413 000
www.celtic-manor.com



Bucket list

Wales may only measure 160 miles but it is packed with things to see and do.

Dip your toe in or take the whole plunge with a wild swim in Snowdonia. Get your groove on at the Brecon Jazz Festival. Or why not brave Hellfire Pass, one of Wales' highest (and steepest) roads...on two wheels or four.

Fancy a flutter on the Welsh National at Chepstow racecourse? Or scare yourself silly and ride a rollercoaster at Oakwood theme park. Take a trip to Llanerch Vineyard for wine tasting. Or visit Conwy for a tour (if you can call it that) of the smallest house in Britain.

With so much to tick off your bucket list, it's time to get involved. These are our favourite top ten things to do.

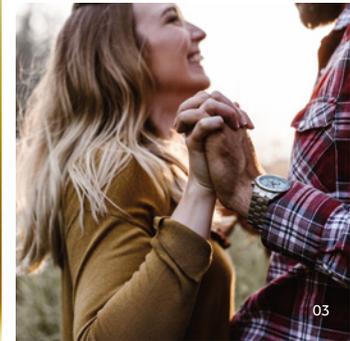
What will you choose?



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01. Get into the groove

Swing into some jazz, grab a drink, take in the toe tapping atmosphere all in the heart of a traditional Welsh town at the Brecon Jazz Festival.

02. Family Fun

In the heart of Pembrokeshire push back the years and channel child like joy. Rides, sights and memories are there for the taking and the kids will be talking about it for eons after! Oakwood here we come.

03. Swill or swallow?

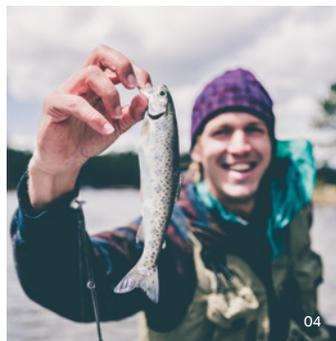
Come and experience the working Welsh Llanerch Vineyard. Swill some wine, venture round the vineyard and banquet yourself silly in the award winning bistro.



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01. A need for speed

Feel what it's like to fly through the sky at 100mph!

02. Green Man festival

Wales' biggest music event champions great music, good times and good causes.

03. The big cheese

Head to Caerphilly for a fun filled festival of entertainment and activities.

04. Catch your fish supper

Throw your ocean catch on a beach barbie and enjoy an alfresco fishy feast.

① Make waves in the city

Cardiff International White Water is the place for a white knuckle adventure. Activities include family rafting, kayaking, river boarding, stand up paddle boarding and even indoor surfing. However you choose to take on the thrills (and occasional spills) of the rapids, be prepared to get wet.

② Zip to it

Zip World in North Wales is a must for any adrenaline junkie with the need for speed. It has the fastest zip line in the world and the longest in Europe. Buckle up for this thrilling ride that can reach speeds of over 100mph.

③ Keep your spirits up

Visit Penderyn Distillery in the foothills of the magnificent Brecon Beacons, producers of internationally recognised single malt whiskies and spirits. Go on an insightful tour which includes a visit to the mill and of course, a sample of the award-winning spirits.

④ Go green

The Green Man festival is an annual music and arts festival in the Brecon Beacons. Who needs a Pyramid stage when you have the infamous Mountain stage? Apart from the incredible live music there are comedians, circus acts, hot tubs, holistic therapies, quirky bars and a dawn to dusk bonfire.

⑤ Caved crusader

Batman fans can explore Henrhyd Falls, the filming location for the blockbuster 'Batman: The Dark Knight Rises'. Experience a walk behind the tallest waterfall in Wales, which conceals the entrance to the superhero's hideout in the film.

⑥ Say a big cheese

Grab a slice of the Caerphilly Big Cheese festival, a weekend extravaganza of street entertainment, live music, food stalls, a funfair and fireworks, plus the Great Cheese Race. Set against the magnificent backdrop of one of Europe's largest castles, this free event may be cheesy but it will make you feel grate!

⑦ The reel deal

Jump aboard and join a local Pembrokeshire fishermen to catch and cook your own fish and chip supper. Just jiggle a line off the boat, wait for the mackerel to bite and whatever you catch you can keep.

⑧ Take the plunge

Coasteering, a wet and wild adventure consisting of cliff-jumping and rock-scrambling was pioneered in Wales and anyone aged eight or over can have a go. Get up close to the coastline as you ride the waves, explore coves and don't be surprised if you spot some local sea life.

⑨ Swim in a swamp

Spectator or competitor, this wacky weekend at the World Bog Snorkelling Championships is not your average sporting event. All you need is a mask, snorkel and some flipper power to race along two lengths of a very muddy and murky trench, cut through a peat bog.

⑩ Island life

For a fascinating spiritual experience, hop on a boat from Tenby to Caldey island, home to a monastery since the 6th century, which still houses a community of Cistercian monks who follow a vow of silence. This tranquil oasis has historic buildings, a museum and lighthouse to explore plus home-made chocolate and shortbread to sample.

“We have so much time and so little to do. Strike that, reverse it.”

Roald Dahl

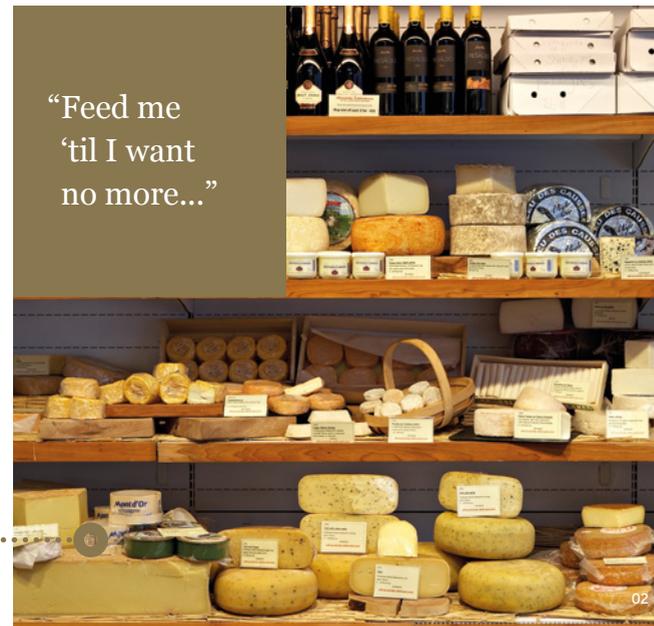
Foodie favourites

You can look forward to tasting some exceptional food during your time in Wales. From restaurants with rave reviews to top-notch pub grub and some fancy fine dining too, kitchens across the country are cooking up a storm.

The burgeoning food festival scene in Wales is the perfect showcase for our passion to food, being a celebration of everything that's tasty. Stroll through stalls at the popular events held in Abergavenny, Llangollen, Cowbridge or Cardiff (to name only a few) and experience the most delicious local produce and talent, with masterclasses and some celebrity chef demonstrations.

Wherever you choose to tempt your taste buds you'll be sure to sample the best locally sourced produce from the region and surrounding areas.

Here are some places we thought might fit the bill.



01 Abergavenny food & drink festival

Experience a whole weekend of foodie heaven with over 100 stalls to enjoy in this charming town.

02 Love local

Try and buy the best produce from the area at a local farmers market.

03 Hands up for the Hardwick

Make sure you book ahead. It's a popular place, and with good reason.

04 Sizzling steaks at Steak on Six

This unique restaurant serves up steaks that are as exceptional as its location.

Rafters

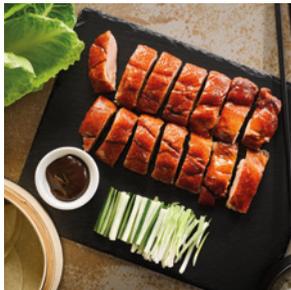
Newport

The cuisine here is simple and elegant with a true flavour of Wales. From locally reared beef and lamb to fresh fish and seafood, the award-winning food, Welsh wines and cocktails are complemented by a lovely atmosphere of laid-back luxury.

Set within the prestigious Twenty Ten Clubhouse at Celtic Manor Resort, diners will enjoy the stunning views over The Twenty Ten course and beautiful Usk Valley.

Call: 01633 410 262
celtic-manor.com/dining/restaurants/rafters-restaurant

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Pad

Newport

Discover fresh, unique and truly inspired Asian cuisine. Offering a deliciously different dining concept, this striking restaurant situated in the Manor House features an exciting menu of fresh, contemporary Asian cuisine.

From delicious fluffy steamed bao buns to spicy seafood laksa and crispy aromatic duck,

savour this sociable dining experience bursting with authentic pan-Asian flavours. Passionate. Asian. Dishes.

Call: 01633 410 262
celtic-manor.com/dining/restaurants/pad

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Steak on Six

Newport

Wow. This spectacular restaurant sits proudly on the sixth floor of the award-winning Celtic Manor Resort and serves up steaks that are as fine as its views. Whether you choose the sirloin, fillet, T-bone or rib-eye you are guaranteed to enjoy signature cuts of hand-picked steaks from across the British Isles.

The menus also boasts an array of other succulent meats and fresh fish, all grilled to perfection, making it a worthy recipient of its coveted accolade of two AA Rosettes.

Call: 01633 410 262
celtic-manor.com/dining/restaurants/steak-on-six

The Rib Smokehouse and Grill

Newport

For a mouth-watering meat feast with a blast of smokiness, this menu of traditional southern American influenced style cooking will tickle the taste buds of any serious carnivore. Prepared low and slow on a special timber smoked Redneck oven, dishes are intensely flavoured with a top secret house rub recipe. So if you are raving for ribs, are particular about pork or just love the thrill of the grill, let's hear a 'hell yeah'.

Call: 01633 410 262
celtic-manor.com/dining/restaurants/the-rib-smokehouse-grill



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Newbridge on Usk Tredunnoch

This 200 year old county inn, with quirky nooks and open fires, sits in an idyllic location with unspoilt views over the River Usk.

Reflecting the setting, the delicious seasonal menu of wholesome country classics is lovingly cooked using fresh, local, and home grown produce from its own kitchen garden.

Whether you are calling in for a light bite or dinner, a cream tea or Sunday jazz lunch or celebrating a special occasion in the private dining room, your experience is sure to be picture-perfect.

Call: 01633 410 262
celtic-manor.com/dining/restaurants/newbridge-on-usk

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The Hardwick Abergavenny

This friendly, laid-back restaurant is run by owner and Michelin starred chef, Stephen Terry, and it's safe to say this is simply the finest dining experience in and around Abergavenny.

The menu choice is almost ridiculous for the size of the restaurant, and incorporates as many locally sourced high-quality ingredients as possible ranging from Severn & Wye Valley salmon and Brecon lamb to local goats cheese and duck eggs. Voted the best in Wales for two consecutive years by the National Restaurant Awards.

Call: 01873 854 220
www.thehardwick.co.uk

Bar 44 Cardiff

This popular tapas bar brings the very best food, drink and hospitality from modern Spain to the heart of South Wales' capital city. A brilliantly bustling atmosphere exudes from this trendy-rustic restaurant, bettered only by the imaginative and innovative tapas on offer. There's also a large bar serving a great selection of Spanish wines and sherries making it a perfect all-round tapas experience.

Call: 03333 444 049
www.bar44.co.uk/cardiff



Top 5 to try

- 01 Welsh Rarebit**
 A bit like 'posh cheese on toast' this is a famous Welsh dish guaranteed to make a hearty lunch or supper.
- 02 Cawl**
 A traditional chunky Welsh stew made with succulent and tender lamb and one of Wales' most recognised symbols, the leek.
- 03 Laverbread**
 A Welsh delicacy and hugely nutritious, this edible seaweed is fondly known as 'Welshman's caviar'.
- 04 Welsh Cakes**
 A traditional tea-time treat containing dry fruit and a little spice, delicious hot from the griddle.
- 05 Glamorgan Sausage**
 This ultimate vegetarian sausage is made from Caerphilly cheese, leek and breadcrumbs.

Hoffi Coffi? Like coffee?

We certainly do. We pride ourselves on our cwtchy coffee culture (pronounced cootch and means cuddly) so whether you are in need of an intense, creamy or frothy cuppa, give one of our many friendly cafés and tearooms a shot (or is that a double shot?) and maybe we can tempt you with a little something sweet on the side too.



“If you’re in the mood for a mocha or want to linger over a latte, our cafés are a treat for any coffee lover... and don’t get us started on our Welsh cakes.”

Must visit coffee shops

- 01 Coffee Barker**
Located in the heart of Cardiff, the décor here is almost as much of a talking point as the menu. With experienced baristas, offbeat wall art and squishy armchairs, Barker is the ultimate coffee haven.
- 02 Parc Pantry**
While away the time at this wonderful cafe and deli in Newport, sampling some sweet treats, perusing a selection of unique gifts, or enjoying a leisurely coffee, afternoon tea, cake or patisserie.
- 03 Brød**
This cosy coffee shop and Danish bakery in Pontcanna introduces a little bit of Denmark to this corner of Wales, serving freshly baked sweet perfection in the form of Danish goods to eat in or take away.
- 04 Canna Deli**
Serving delicious artisan food in this leafy Cardiff suburb, the Welsh-speaking staff serve up the best local produce and organic brands alongside excellent coffee roasted in North Wales.
- 05 Penylan Pantry**
This is not your average cafe. Browse the shelves of this corner shop come deli that stocks the largest selection of British cheeses in Cardiff (all of them from the green, green, grass of home).

Have a Wales of a time

Within a stone's throw, a dog's whisker, a mole's breath... you don't need to venture far to discover everything this stunning county has to offer. Jaw dropping landscape, colourful coastlines, rich wildlife, castles and countryside, Wales is certainly the host with the most.

Ignite all your senses as you take in stunning vistas, sample incredible local produce, scale a mountain to feel the wind in your hair, smell the salt from the ocean and hear why Wales is known as the land of song.

Then there's the Welsh sixth sense...adventure! Our natural wonders are fast becoming a magnet for adrenaline-junkies, where you can experience the rush with an array of exhilarating pursuits from wreck diving, mountain biking, kite surfing, paddle boarding, cliff climbing or sky diving. If you travel to the wild, wild west or go forth up north, here are a few suggestions to help you plan your Welsh adventure.



01. Peak performance
Scale Snowdonia and soak in the scenery from its unmissable rocky peaks.

02. Find Flipper
Dolphin spotting in west Wales is a fabulous day out.

03. Welsh Riviera
Portmeirion is a unique coastal resort and popular tourist attraction.



National Waterfront Museum *Swansea*

Wales' vast industrial and maritime heritage is ready for you to explore via cutting-edge, interactive technology married with traditional displays. Located in an original and listed waterfront warehouse lose yourself in the rich and enthralling history of Welsh industry and innovation.

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Three Cliffs Bay *The Gower*

Gower was the first place in Britain to be named an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and it's easy to see why. The award-winning Three Cliffs beach is one of Gower's most picturesque beaches which is accessed through a valley that leads to a spectacular shoreline of sand dunes, salt marshes and the three cliffs themselves. It would be difficult to find a better picnic spot.



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Dylan Thomas Boathouse *Laugharne*

Overlooking the Taf estuary, this pretty village was the home of perhaps Wales' best-known writer, Dylan Thomas. Visit the boathouse and writing shed where he wrote many of his major pieces but don't leave without a walk along the estuary, a look around the magnificent castle, and a pit stop at one of the many cafés and restaurants.



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Barafundle Bay *Pembrokeshire*

Even if Pembrokeshire wasn't Britain's only coastal national park, it would take something very special to beat it. Barafundle is a pristine paradise that has been voted many, many times as one of the best beaches in Britain and the world, its claim to fame is it was used to film an advert for Bounty chocolate bars.

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Dolphin Watching *New Quay, Cardigan Bay*

Home to Britain's biggest resident population of bottlenose dolphins (reaching up to 300 mammals in the summer months), take to the seas in search of these impressive wild animals and you may also spot harbour porpoises and Atlantic grey seals.

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Narbeth

Pembrokeshire

This chic little market town has a big reputation as a shopper's heaven. The stylish high street is lined with gorgeous independent and boutique shops selling everything from vogueish fashion to fine art, while the many award-winning delis, cafés and restaurants provide a welcome time-out from your retail therapy.

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St David's

Pembrokeshire

It may be the smallest city in the UK but it has big appeal, and is a much-loved location of artists, travellers, pilgrims and surfers. The magnificent cathedral at St David's dates back to the 12th century and houses the shrine of Wales' patron saint in the heart of this great building. This pretty peninsula has heaps to explore so grab a map and lace up your walking boots.

Snowdon *North Wales*

To trek or get the train (up the 1,085 meter giant), that is the question. However you reach the top of the highest mountain in Wales, enjoy the sweeping panoramic views from the summit cafe. Snowdonia's national park is a spectacular site of mountains, lakes and waterfalls but there are many friendly seaside resorts and famous attractions in the surrounding area to visit too.



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Portmeirion

Porthmadog

This amazing Italianate village on the North Wales coast was founded in 1925 and remains one of Wales' most remarkable landmarks. Set on its own peaceful peninsula overlooking an estuary, Portmeirion Village is a fantastical collection of colourful heritage-listed buildings, a pretty plaza and ornamental gardens, surrounded by vast woodlands.

Caernarfon Castle *Caernarfon*

Built by King Edward I, this mighty brute of a fortress is a truly impressive sight. It dominates the small fishing town of Caernarfon, with the entire town wrapped within the castle's mighty stone walls. One of the most impressive castles in Wales, it's worthy of its World Heritage status.

Spend a day at this breathtaking landmark and enjoy bringing history to life as you explore the lofty wall walks, grand ten-sided towers and the two colossal gatehouses.



Exploring essentials

- 01 Camera**
To capture all the picture postcard memories you'll want to share.
- 02 An elasticated waistband**
From food festivals, farmers markets, award-winning eateries and delicious pub grub, enjoy a tantalising feast of flavours.
- 03 Sense of adventure**
It's a fact. Anything can happen. We guarantee you'll have fun.
- 04 An open ticket**
Enjoy city lights and hill top heights, historical dramas and amazing panoramas. With such a busy itinerary, one visit just won't be enough.
- 05 Be prepared**
To fall in love with Wales.

Venues

South East Wales has a number of exceptional venues perfect for hosting a variety of events looking to deliver the wow factor.

Principality Stadium *Cardiff*

This extraordinary Welsh landmark is a 74,000 capacity stadium located smack-bang in the middle of the city, making it a truly awesome sight. Regarded as one of the most atmospheric sporting venues in the world, Principality Stadium has all the buzz and excitement to make for a show-stopping experience.

Featuring the first fully-retractable roof in the UK, this ground-breaking venue is leading the way as a multi-purpose, multi-faceted event venue where anything is achievable. Just three minutes on foot from the train station, there are six large lounges and 113 hospitality suites plus a super friendly team to help execute your perfect event.

Call: 0844 249 1999
www.principalitystadium.wales

Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama *Cardiff*

Set in the grounds of Cardiff Castle, The Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama, the National Conservatoire of Wales, whose famous alumni include Anthony Hopkins and Rob Brydon, holds over 300 public performances every year including orchestral concerts, recitals, drama, opera and musical theatre.

The College's refurbished suite of modern facilities offer opportunities to host a wide range of events. When combined with its musicians, who are among the very best new talent in the UK, these artistically gifted performers and spectacular location are guaranteed to transform any special occasion.

Call: 02920 342 854
www.rwcmd.ac.uk

Wales Millennium Centre *Cardiff Bay*

Rising bold and proud from splendid Cardiff Bay, this iconic building has established its reputation as one of the world's elite arts and cultural destinations. Beyond the amazing slate and steel exterior, this cultural powerhouse (nicknamed the 'armadillo' for its unique copper-coloured dome) is a theatre for the very best blockbuster West End musicals, opera, ballet and stand-up comedy.

Remarkable both outside and in, the wow factor extends to the VIP treatment of all the centres' visitors, making any event held at in this innovative and vibrant space full of unforgettable memories.

Call: 02920 636 464
www.wmc.org.uk



Cardiff Castle *Cardiff*

Set in beautiful parklands within the city, Cardiff Castle's walls and enchanting towers conceal 2,000 years of history and a labyrinth of splendid interiors. Rooms feature unique architecture, resplendent décor and breathtaking elegance making it a highly prestigious venue.

Experience Welsh hospitality at its very best with a castle banquet in the amazing 15th century undercroft (that's a medieval cellar to you and me). This remarkable occasion begins with an optional castle tour on arrival, followed by mead-tasting and a three course feast fit for a king. With a selection of traditional and contemporary songs in both English and Welsh from your hosts, this enchanting experience is something truly special.

Call: 02920 878 100
www.cardiffcastle.com



Tredegar House *Newport*

Situated within 90 acres of beautiful gardens and parkland, this delightful red brick house provides an ideal setting to capture your imagination. With a history of dark arts and riotous parties Tredegar House has never been an ordinary household.

Visitors can discover what life was like for those who lived above and below stairs by touring the impressive state rooms and the intriguing servants' quarters or step outside to uncover plenty of surprises hiding along secretive paths in the orchard garden.

With a legacy of flamboyancy and freedom, this quirky and distinctive location provides an individual backdrop for an impressive event.

Call: 01633 815 880
www.nationaltrust.org.uk



Did you know?

- 01 Wales is said to have more castles per square mile than any other country (over 640 in total).
- 02 Captain Morgan Rum is named after the 17th century Welsh pirate and captain of the Royal Navy, Sir Henry Morgan.
- 03 The world's first radio message was transmitted in 1897, from Lavernock Point, south of Penarth to a mast in the Bristol channel.
- 04 Mount Everest was named after Welshman Sir George Everest.
- 05 The letters K, Q, V and Z do not appear in the Welsh language although LL, FF, NG and DD are letters in their own right.

We're well connected

Aside from our warm nature and willingness to keep our doors flung open to embrace new visitors, Wales happens to be incredibly well connected.

The transport links below show just how easy peasy it is to navigate your way to us. But if you get lost, don't panic, a friendly face will point you in the right direction.

Transport links

-  Bristol > Newport 35mins
-  Birmingham > Newport 1hr 45mins
-  Paddington > Newport 1hr 45mins*
-  Manchester > Newport 2hrs 50mins

-  Cardiff > Celtic Manor 23mins 14 miles
-  Bristol > Celtic Manor 40mins 31 miles
-  Birmingham > Celtic Manor 1hr 50mins 105 miles
-  London > Celtic Manor 2hrs 30mins 138 miles
-  Manchester > Celtic Manor 3hrs 170 miles

Driving distance from airport to Celtic Manor Resort:

-  Bristol > Celtic Manor 40mins
-  Cardiff > Celtic Manor 40mins
-  Birmingham > Celtic Manor 1hr 30mins
-  Heathrow > Celtic Manor 1hr 45mins
-  Manchester > Celtic Manor 3hrs 15mins

* Delegates attending a conference at Celtic Manor Resort can enjoy an exclusive rate when travelling by train with Great Western Railway between London Paddington and Newport. (Mileage and times supplied by www.theaa.com).



Venues and places to stay at a glance

South East Wales

The region has a host of outstanding venues ideal for holding a successful event and a wide range of accommodation options in either the cities or surrounding areas.

Hotel Name	* Rating	No. of Rooms	Distance from Celtic Manor (miles)	Time by car (mins)
Holiday Inn Newport	3	119	0.5	5
Hunter Lodges	5	40	0.8	5
Coldra Court Hotel	4	148	0.8	5
Coldra Woods Hotel	3	146	0.8	5
Celtic Newport	3	127	5	7
Premier Inn Coldra	3	60	0.8	5
The Priory	2	27	2	6
Ibis Budget Newport	3	103	5	8
Days Inn Magor	3	39	5	8
Holiday Inn Express J23	3	85	5	7
Parkway Cwmbran	4	80	7	12
Ramada Cwrt Bleddyn Hotel	3	46	7	15
Holiday Inn Express Newport	3	119	8	13
Newbridge on Usk	4	6	9	14
Premier Inn Cwmbran	3	48	9	14
St Mellons Hotel	3	20	11	18
St Pierre Marriott	4	148	11	19
Ibis Cardiff Gate	2	78	12	16
Premier Inn Cardiff North	3	147	13	17

Hotel Name	* Rating	No. of Rooms	Distance from Celtic Manor (miles)	Time by car (mins)
Two Rivers Hotel	3	23	13	17
Park Inn by Radisson A48	3	146	14	20
The Beaufort, Raglan	3	18	14	15
Village Hotel Cardiff	3	118	17	20
Holiday Inn Cardiff North J32	3	95	17	20
Mercure Holland House	4	165	17	30
Llansantffraed Court Hotel	4	17	18	23
Radisson Blu	4	215	18	30
Clayton Hotel	4	216	18	30
Park Inn by Radisson City Centre	3	132	18	30
Premier Inn Cardiff South	3	98	18	30
Premier Inn Cardiff City Centre	3	200	19	30
Ibis City Centre	2	102	19	30
Novotel Cardiff	4	138	19	30
Ibis Budget Cardiff	2	157	19	30
Holiday Inn Express Cardiff Bay	3	87	19	30
Jurys Cardiff	4	142	19	30
Park Plaza	4	129	19	30
Hilton Cardiff	4	197	19	30
Indigo Hotel Cardiff	4	122	19	30
Jolyon's at No 10	4	21	19	30
Holiday Inn Cardiff City	4	157	19	30
Angel Hotel Cardiff	3	103	19	30
Marriott Cardiff	4	184	19	30
The Exchange	4	205	20	35
The St David's Hotel & Spa	5	142	21	33
Miskin Manor	4	43	23	27
Vale Resort	4	143	24	28
Cophthorne Hotel	4	135	24	28

A list of Welsh words to get you in the mood.* (Feel the love, learn the lingo)

Bore Da Good morning

Noswaith Dda Good evening

Helo Hello

Hwyl Bye

Shwmae Alright / How's things?

Iechyd da Cheers / Good Health

Diolch Thanks

*Don't worry, it's not a test, we all speak English.



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