



Funded by
UK Government



Blaenau Gwent

Blaenavon

Bridgend

Caerphilly

Cardiff

Merthyr Tydfil

Monmouthshire

Newport

Rhondda Cynon Taf

Vale of Glamorgan

Monmouthshire is the Food Capital of Wales

and we have a smorgasbord of award-winning food and drink attractions and culinary courses.



Afternoon Tea at The Angel Hotel Abergavenny, NP7 5EN

High Tea from the holder of The British Tea Guild Council's Top City and Country Afternoon Tea Award, freshly made each afternoon.

www.angelabergavenny.com/afternoon-tea
info@angelabergavenny.com

Apple County Cider Co. Near Skenfrith, NP25 5NS

Taste award winning ciders with Ben & buy homemade jams, cordials, local ales, honey & ice creams.

Offers: Tastings, shop, catering.

www.applecountycider.co.uk
hello@applecountycider.co.uk

Kingstone Brewery, Tintern Near Chepstow, NP16 7NX

Real ale that is unfiltered, uncompromised & unashamedly real.

Offers: Tastings, Brewery Tours, Meals in Tintern Taproom.

www.kingstonebrewery.co.uk
info@kingstonebrewery.com

Parva Farm Vineyard, Tintern Near Chepstow, NP16 6SQ

Visit Wales' oldest vineyard, overlooking historic Tintern in the Wye Valley.

Offers: Vineyard Tours, Gift Shop, Tastings.
www.parvafarm.com
parvafarm@hotmail.com

Sugarloaf Vineyards Abergavenny, NP7 7LA

This picturesque vineyard nestles amongst the rolling Welsh hills above Abergavenny.

Offers: Accommodation, Vineyard Tours, Gift Shop, Tastings.

www.sugarloafvineyard.co.uk
sugarloafvineyards@gmail.com

The Dell Vineyard Raglan, NP15 2AA

We look forward to welcoming you to our new vineyard planted on our family farm. Come for a tour and taste award winning wine. Group size 25 people max.

Offers: Tours

www.thedellvineyard.co.uk
hello@thedellvineyard.co.uk

White Castle Vineyard Abergavenny, NP7 8RA

Enjoy world class wines at this Decanter World Wine Award winning vineyard. Visit & experience the beauty & tranquillity of our rural settings

Offers: Vineyard Tours, Gift Shop, Tastings.

www.whitecastlevineyard.com
info@whitecastlevineyard.com

Courses for groups

Crafty Pickle

Caldicot, NP26 5UT

We are two nutritionists specialising in fermentation education sharing the skills of food fermentation through interactive workshops on sauerkraut, kimchi, fermented drinks and more. We regularly host classes at our accessible fermentation kitchen where we can comfortably host up to 10.

www.thecraftypickle.co.uk
hello@thecraftypickle.co.uk

Gourmet Gatherings

Join Chloe in a Monmouthshire foraging trip where she will teach you how to find and identify notable edibles, show you recipes you can use them in and discover the amazing flavours on our doorstep.

www.gourmetgatherings.co.uk
chloe.gourmetgatherings@gmail.com

Hive Mind Mead & Brew Co. Caldicot, NP26 5PR

We take pride in crafting the very best mead. From the hive to your hand, we care for it tenderly until we release it into the world. Learn how to make mead / how to keep bees or visit our taproom

www.wyevalleymeadery.co.uk
hey@hivemindmead.com

Silver Circle Distillery Near Monmouth, NP25 4RP

A craft spirits producer in the beautiful village of Penallt, deep in the Wye Valley National Landscape. Offers gin tasting & distillery tours, make your own gin, and foraging & gin making experiences. Coach parking available.

<https://silvercircledistillery.com>
hello@silvercircledistillery.com

The Abergavenny Baker Abergavenny, NP7 5PE

In her one day and half day classes, baker Rachael Watson shares her knowledge, skill & enthusiasm for baking beautiful breads from around the world.

www.abergavennybaker.co.uk
abergavennybaker@gmail.com

The Preservation Society Chepstow, NP16 5QW

Learn how to make delicious jams, chutneys, pickles and sirops packed with flavour in the heart of the Wye Valley.

www.thepreservationsociety.co.uk
angharad@thepreservationsociety.co.uk

White Hare Distillery Usk, NP15 1BQ

Visit an award winning gin distillery in the heart of Usk and enjoy tastings or create your own gin in our masterclasses.

Offers: Tastings, Masterclasses, Gift Shop
<https://whiteharedistillery.co.uk/>
hello@whiteharedistillery.co.uk

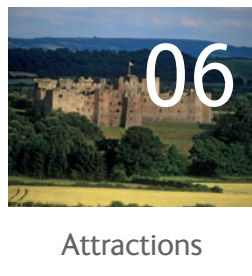
For more producers, pubs, restaurants and foodie events such as the Abergavenny Food Festival, go to

www.visitmonmouthshire.com/food-and-drink

Contents



Regional Overview



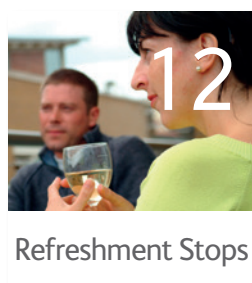
Attractions



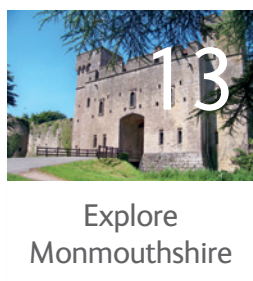
Activities



Accommodation



Refreshment Stops



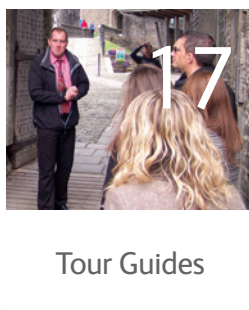
Explore
Monmouthshire



Event Highlights



Coach Parking



Tour Guides



Maps & Travel
Information

*Hello... Shwmae.... Bonjour.....
Guten Tag.... Hallo... Dia duit*

Welcome (or Croeso as we prefer to say) to Southern Wales

You may already have an idea what to expect from a trip to Southern Wales.

We are split into ten distinctive areas, each with their own character and charm. The areas of Blaenau Gwent, Blaenavon, Caerphilly, Merthyr and Rhondda Cynon Taf are well known for their history and heritage, whilst nearby Monmouthshire is more rural and famed for its fabulous food and drink. Newport and Cardiff are thriving cities with some world class attractions whilst along Bridgend and the Vale of Glamorgan is a mix of coastal resorts, market towns and fabulous countryside.

We have plenty of castles and museums but we also have the Bannau Brycheiniog / Brecon Beacons National Park, the start of the Wales Coast Path and the Wye Valley National Landscape.

We also have some things you may not associate with us. There are the remains of a Roman amphitheatre and barracks, vineyards producing award winning wine and a great big sculpture, soaring 20 metres into the sky and standing guard over the Valleys below.

Each of our areas has its own guide. So have a flick through this one and then take a look at the companion brochures and before long you'll be planning your trip to Southern Wales.



For more information visit our website
www.southernwales.com



or contact the tourism team:

tel - **+44 (0)1633 644842**

email - **tourism@monmouthshire.gov.uk**





Discover Monmouthshire

Nestled between the Wye Valley National Landscape, Bannau Brycheiniog (Brecon Beacons) National Park, Blaenavon World Heritage Site and the low-lying cultural landscape of the Gwent Levels, welcome to Wales' food capital!

Situated on the Wales / England border, this area was once fiercely contested. Thankfully the area's more peaceful today, though reminders of the past turmoil remain with nine castles dotted across its rolling countryside.

Castles aren't the only historic buildings on offer. There's the romantic ruins of Tintern Abbey in the heart of the Wye Valley, Llanthony Priory in the secluded Vale of Ewyas and the restored Shire Hall in Monmouth, scene of the infamous Chartist trial of 1840.

You can't visit the area without tasting some of Wales' best food and drink. Widely known as the food capital of

Wales, Monmouthshire has four vineyards (all offering tours and tastings) as well as gin distilleries, micro-breweries, cider orchards and a wide range of high quality eating places – including traditional country pubs and cafes as well as hotels offering award winning high teas.

With such great food on offer it's no surprise that we have our own internationally recognised food festival in Abergavenny, held annually in September.

Look out for some hidden gems including St Mary's Priory Church in Abergavenny with its historic monuments and medieval carvings, Wales Perfumery in Monmouth (the only fragrance house in Wales) and Rockfield Studios where Queen famously recorded 'Bohemian Rhapsody'.

Attractions

There's lots to see and do in this corner of Southern Wales. Castles, abbeys, museums and delightful country parks set in some truly breathtaking scenery.

Caerwent Roman Town

Tribal capital of the Silures (Venta Silurum) in Roman times, enclosed by impressive 17ft 4th century walls. Excavated houses, forum-basilica & Romano-British temple also remain. Car parking, level access to toilet facilities & interpretation panels.



tel: +44 (0)3000 256000

email: cadw@gov.wales

web: cadw.gov.wales/visit/places-to-visit/caerwent-roman-town

Caldicot Castle

Travel through time from a medieval castle to a Victorian mansion. Set in 55 acres of beautiful parkland with a packed events programme and tea room.



tel: +44 (0)1291 420241

email: caldicotcastle@monmouthshire.gov.uk

web: www.caldicotcastle.co.uk

Chepstow Racecourse

Enjoy a fantastic day out at Wales' premier racecourse, home of the annual Coral Welsh Grand National. With a packed calendar of both racing and other events, there is always something to see and do.



tel: +44 (0)1291 622260

email: info@chepstow-racecourse.co.uk

web: www.chepstow-racecourse.co.uk

Llanthony Priory

Nestled within the beautiful and secluded Ewyas Valley, Llanthony Priory is an inspirational site for all who discover it. The Priory Hotel in the grounds offers food and drink to enjoy within this fantastic setting.



tel: +44 (0)3000 256000

email: cadw@gov.wales

web: cadw.gov.wales/visit/places-to-visit/llanthy-priory

MonLife Heritage Museums

Visit our museums at Abergavenny, Chepstow and Monmouth where the stories of their towns are brought to life through art, displays, costume, artifacts, models & a varied range of exhibitions.



tel: +44 (0)1873 854282

email: abergavennymuseum@monmouthshire.gov.uk

web: www.visitmonmouthshire.com/museums

Monmouthshire Castles

Monmouthshire's history has resulted in plenty of great castles to explore and discover. Here are some of our best: Abergavenny, Caldicot, Chepstow, Grosmont, Monmouth, Raglan, Skenfrith, Usk and White Castle.



email: tourism@monmouthshire.gov.uk

web: www.visitmonmouthshire.com/castles



Nant-Y-Bedd, Abergavenny

10 acre organic garden and woodland located at 1200 feet in the Black Mountains. 2022 RHS Partner Garden of the Year.



email: garden@nantybedd.com
web: www.nantybedd.com

Old Station, Tintern

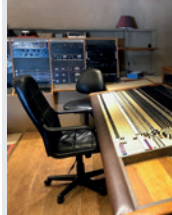
Drop in for tea and cake at this idyllic 10 acre site on the banks of the River Wye. Set in a Victorian railway station, the Old Station offers walks, exhibitions, events and the perfect Wye Valley pit stop.



tel: +44 (0)1291 689566
email: oldstationintern@monmouthshire.gov.uk
web: www.visitmonmouthshire.com/oldstationintern

Rockfield Studios

Visit the famous recording studio where Queen recorded 'Bohemian Rhapsody'. Group tours - booking essential.



tel: +44 (0)1600 712449
email: helen@rockfieldmusicgroup.com
web: www.rockfieldmusicgroup.com

Shire Hall Museum, Monmouth

From Chartist trials to supernatural tours, Shire Hall offers a range of activities in a listed Georgian building. Also, discover the history of Monmouth and its unique Monnow Bridge and Gatehouse with tours starting at Shire Hall.



tel: +44 (0)1600 775257
email: shirehall@monmouthshire.gov.uk
web: www.visitmonmouthshire.com/shirehallmonmouth

Tintern Abbey

An inspiration for artists and poets throughout the centuries, Tintern Abbey is the centrepiece of the Wye Valley. It is a fantastically preserved medieval monument set within an area of outstanding natural beauty.



tel: +44 (0)1291 689251
email: tinternabbey@gov.wales
web: cadw.gov.wales/visit/places-to-visit/tintern-abbey

Wales Perfumery, Monmouth

Create your own bespoke fragrance at a two hour perfume session. Learn about the history of perfumery, discover how scent works then create and take away your own bottle of perfume. Maximum group size 10, suitable for minibuses.



email: info@walesperfumery.com
web: www.walesperfumery.com

Activities

Get out and enjoy the great outdoors in this beautiful corner of Southern Wales. There are countless options including walks, golf, canal boating, watersports & climbing.

Beacon Park Boats

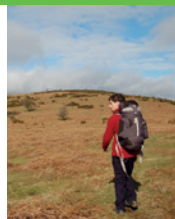
Luxury narrowboat holidays on the scenic Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal in the Bannau Brycheiniog (Brecon Beacons) National Park. Their canal boat trips offer spectacular views across Monmouthshire, through pretty market towns and peaceful countryside.



tel: +44 (0)1873 858277
email: enquiries@beaconparkboats.com
web: www.beaconparkboats.com

Borderlands Outdoor

Choose from rock climbing, abseiling, caving, bushcraft, archery and more. Half day, full day and multi-day adventures suitable for groups.



tel: +44 (0)7850 135869
email: info@borderlandsoutdoor.com
web: www.borderlandsoutdoor.com

Celtic Trails

Celtic Trails organise the highest quality walking and hiking holidays. Set your own pace guided by our easy-to-follow route notes and maps. Enjoy the complete sense of freedom that travelling on foot brings.



tel: +44 (0)1291 689774
email: info@celtic-trails.com
web: www.celtictrailswalkingholidays.co.uk

Forest Retreats

Experience the restorative benefits of forest bathing in the ancient woodlands of the Wye Valley as well as Guardian recommended yoga and wellbeing retreats, yoga classes and corporate wellness days.



tel: 07826 557211
email: info@forestretreats.co.uk
web: www.forestretreats.co.uk

Goytre Wharf

Activity hub on the Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal. Hire a canal boat for the day, take a scenic walk or cycle ride along the canal or take some time out for fishing. Refresh at our onsite café & coffee bar.



tel: +44 (0)1873 880516
email: abclg@goytrewharf.com
web: www.goytrewharf.com

Inspire2Adventure

Perfectly located for visitors to Abergavenny, Monmouth & the Wye Valley, we cater for families, youth groups, hen & stag groups, team building events, college/school & adult groups.



tel: +44 (0)1600 891515
email: info@inspire2adventure.com
web: www.inspire2adventure.com



Llandegfedd Lake & Watersport Centre

Escape the bustle of modern life at the 434 acre Llandegfedd reservoir. Enjoy kayaking, sailing and other water sports, walk the 2 miles of footpaths or enjoy the views with cake at our new visitor centre.



tel: +44 (0)1633 373401
email: llandegfedd@dwrwymru.com
web: www.llandegfedd.co.uk

MonLife Outdoor Adventure

Try canoeing, archery, climbing, caving, hiking & more at our outdoor centre in the Monmouthshire countryside. We're ideally placed to access the Wye Valley & Brecon Beacons with accommodation on site.



tel: +44 (0)1873 735485
email: info@gwentoutdoorcentres.org.uk
web: www.monlife.co.uk/outdoor/outdoor-adventure

Monmouth Canoe & Activity Centre

Take in the stunning sights of the Wye Valley from the water, with our modern range of canoes and kayaks. Paddle up to 100 miles through Hay-on-Wye, Hereford, Monmouth & Tintern.



tel: +44 (0)1600 716083
email: monmouthcanoe@hotmail.com
web: www.monmouthcanoe.co.uk

Monmouthshire Golf Courses

Enjoy 'golf as it should be' in Monmouthshire with six legendary courses. A mix of courses, lengths & difficulties across the county, from the hills of Abergavenny to the Gwent levels near Chepstow.



web: www.visitmonmouthshire.com/golf

Way2Go Adventures

Based in the beautiful Wye Valley, we offer guided trips, canoe, kayak and sea kayaking catering for families, groups, individuals and parties.



tel: +44 (0)1594 800908
email: active@way2goadventures.co.uk
web: www.way2goadventures.co.uk

Start/Finish of Wales Coast Path, Chepstow

Monmouthshire

Accommodation

Grand country houses, cosy rural retreats and high quality independent hotels mean that there is plenty of choice for you.

The Beaufort Hotel

We warmly welcome coach parties - 25 bedrooms. We can offer refreshments/ meal stops for groups of up to 90 people.

Free lunch / overnight accommodation for the coach driver.



tel: +44 (0)1600 715577
email: info@thebeauforthotel.co.uk
web: www.beauforthotelchepstow.com

Tŷ Magor

This newly-built hotel is a convenient base, located just off the M4 in the charming town of Magor. Just a short drive from Newport city centre and within 25 miles of Cardiff. The hotel has bar and restaurant facilities, including a fitness room.



tel: +44 (0)1633 749999
Email: tyhotelbookings@celtic-manor.com
web: www.celtic-manor.com/hotels-lodges/ty-hotel

Cwrt Bleddyn Hotel

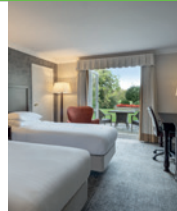
Looking after guests expertly since the 16th century. Over 45 en-suite rooms with magnificent views over surrounding countryside. Experience a delicious afternoon tea in the Tea Room.



tel: +44 (0)1633 450521
email: bookings@cwrtbleddyn.co.uk
web: www.cwrtbleddyn.co.uk

Delta Hotels by Marriott St Pierre Country Club

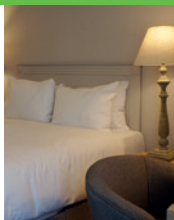
Nestled in 400 acres of countryside, the hotel was once a 14th century manor house. Ideally located in Chepstow, the hotel is perfectly placed for exploring the Wye Valley, Monmouthshire, and the rest of Southern Wales.



tel: +44 (0)1291 625261
email: stpierre.events@deltahotels.co.uk
web: www.marriott.com/en-gb/hotels/brssp-delta-hotels-st-pierre-country-club

The Abergavenny Hotel

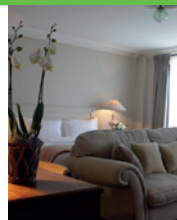
The Abergavenny Hotel is a charming Victorian building set close to the centre of the historic market town of Abergavenny. The hotel houses 20 guestrooms, and an eclectically-styled bar where continental breakfast is served.



tel: +44 (0)1873 859050
email: info@abergavennyhotel.com
web: www.abergavennyhotel.com

The Angel Hotel

Historic coaching inn and serviced cottage with stylish restaurant. Close to Abergavenny castle, market and independent shops. Won the Tea Guild's 'Top City and Country Hotel Award' for Afternoon Tea. Near Shaun Hill's Michelin-starred Walnut Tree.



tel: +44 (0)1873 857121
email: info@angelabergavenny.com
web: www.angelabergavenny.com

Monmouthshire's lucky to have so many wonderful gardens to visit, excellent opportunities to buy plants, and places with beautiful gardens to stay.

Gardens to Visit

Highfield Farm

Highfield Farm is a garden defined by its plants. Over 1200 cultivars, many rarities, densely planted over 3 acres to generate an exuberant display across seasons. Open By Arrangement May to September for groups between 5 and 50.

jenny.plants@btinternet.com
<https://highfieldfarmgarden.co.uk/>

High Glanau, Lydart, Near Monmouth

The second of Monmouthshire's Arts and Crafts gardens laid out by H Avray Tipping in 1922. Original features include impressive stone terraces with far reaching views over the Vale of Usk to the Bloreng, Skirrid, Sugarloaf and Brecon Beacons.

+44 (0)1600 860005

Llanover Garden

Eight generations have lived at Llanover, caring for the garden & plants since 1792 when it was created by Benjamin Waddington, the father of Lady Llanover (who championed Welsh traditions, language, music, literature and livestock).

+44 (0)7753423635
elizabeth@llanover.com
www.llanovergarden.co.uk

Nant-Y-Bedd, Abergavenny

10 acre organic garden and woodland located at 1200 feet in the Black Mountains, 2022 RHS Partner Garden of the Year.

garden@nantybedd.com
www.nantybedd.com

The Nelson Garden

Hidden away in the centre of Monmouth is a small walled town garden which was visited by Lord Nelson in 1802.

www.visitmonmouthshire.com/gardens

Usk in Bloom

Winner of Wales in Bloom for 40 consecutive years. In 2018 Usk beat global competition to win the Communities in Bloom international competition. Winner of the Wales in Bloom Large Village 2019. Discover a town bursting with flowers & greenery.

www.uskinbloom.org.uk

Usk Open Gardens Weekend

Usually held on the last weekend in June, Usk Open Gardens Weekend allows visitors to view over 20 private gardens. Usk in Bloom volunteers have won their Wales in Bloom category for over 30 years. One of the most spectacular gardens surrounds the medieval Usk Castle - an absolute must to visit at any time of year.

www.uskopengardens.com

Veddw House, Devauden, Near Chepstow

This modern romantic garden has been created by garden writer Anne Wareham and photographer Charles Hawes and has been featured in many gardening magazines. A favourite part with visitors is the dramatic reflecting pool.

+44 (0)1291 650836
anne@veddw.co.uk
www.veddw.co.uk

Wye Valley Sculpture Garden, Tintern, Near Chepstow.

Enjoy a series of sculptures positioned harmoniously around this tranquil garden, nestled on a sunny slope in the Lower Wye Valley. Abundant herbaceous borders, a pond, woodland area, orchard & meadows provide a rich habitat for wildlife.

+44 (0)1291 689253
www.wyevalleysculpturegarden.co.uk

Gwent NGS

Numerous gardens across Monmouthshire open for groups by arrangement as part of the National Garden Scheme.

<https://ngs.org.uk/gwent>

Garden Centres and Nurseries

Abergavenny Garden Centre
www.abergavennygardencentre.com

Usk Garden Centre
www.uskgardencentre.co.uk
(on site restaurant)

Border Nurseries
www.bordernurseries.com

Raglan Garden Centre
www.raglangardencentre.co.uk
(Sugarloaf restaurant on site)

Nantyerry Garden Centre
www.nantyerrygc.co.uk

Chepstow Garden Centre
www.chepstowgardencentre.co.uk
(The Garden Restaurant & Café on site)

Crown Hill Nursery & Floral Workshop
www.crownhillnursery.co.uk

Secret Garden
www.thesecretgardenwales.co.uk
(Sally's Tea Rooms)

The Willows Garden Centre
www.willowsgardencentre.co.uk

Garden Schools and Courses

Growing in the Border

Group visits plus practical horticultural courses and talks in the Monnow Valley.
www.growingintheborder.co.uk



For further information including dates and times of opening, please visit www.visitmonmouthshire.com/gardens

Refreshment Stops

Take time out from your tour to enjoy a spot of lunch or a refreshing tea or coffee at one of the many cafés, pubs or restaurants throughout the region.

Abbey Mill Restaurant, Tintern



Enjoy home baked cakes & Tintern's Infamous Dragon Pie® (made from locally grown dragons) on the banks of the river Wye, at Tintern Abbey's original mill site.

Tintern, NP16 6SE
www.abbeymill.com

Caldicot Castle Tea Room



A great place to relax with tea & coffee as well as hot chocolate, wine, beer & more. Relax, chat to our friendly staff and maybe pick up a memento.

Caldicot, NP26 4HU
www.caldicotcastle.co.uk

Chepstow Garden Centre Café



Take the weight off your feet and relax over a cappuccino and cake in our café or enjoy a meal in our restaurant overlooking the garden.

Chepstow, NP16 6LF
www.chepstowgardencentre.co.uk/restaurant-cafe-bar

Chepstow Tourist Information Centre



Pop in to our upcycled café for cake and coffee and to buy local produce. Group tastings – booking essential.

Chepstow, NP16 5EY
www.visitmonmouthshire.com/visitor-information

Craft Renaissance Café



Situated in converted barn buildings we have a stunning oak framed gallery, shop, and café.

Usk, NP15 1JU
www.craftrenaissance.co.uk

Morris' Restaurant at Usk Garden Centre



Restaurant set in the garden centre using local and Welsh products wherever possible. Offers indoor or outdoor seating with disabled access.

Usk, NP15 1TG
www.uskgardencentre.co.uk

Old Station Tintern Tearoom



Enjoy breakfast, jacket potatoes, sandwiches, cake, sweet treats, tea and coffee in an old Victorian railway station in the Wye Valley.

Tintern, NP16 7NX
www.visitmonmouthshire.com/oldstationtintern

Penelope's Café at Goytre Wharf



Sat alongside the Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal at Goytre Wharf, Penelope's Café is an ideal stop for tasty food and refreshing drinks with both indoor and outdoor seating.

Abergavenny, NP7 9EW
www.goytrewharf.com/cafe

Sugarloaf Café at Raglan Garden Centre



Restaurant offering home cooked foods using the finest local produce. Enjoy panoramic views, whether seated on our terrace or within our refurbished dining area.

Raglan, NP15 2BH
www.raglangardencentre.co.uk

Explore Monmouthshire

1 Day Itinerary

There's much to see and do in Monmouthshire. Whether you prefer the great outdoors, uncovering history or a little bit of luxury, we've got it all covered with this one day itinerary.



Stop 1 – Caldicot Castle

Start the day at Caldicot Castle. Built by the Normans, the castle later became a Victorian era family home. The castle is surrounded by 55 acres of idyllic country park.

www.caldicotcastle.co.uk



Stop 2 – Old Station, Tintern

The Old Station, Tintern is a beautiful, award-winning country park in the Wye Valley. Take in the scenery with delicious cakes, sandwiches and icecreams in the café, a former Victorian railway station ticket office.

www.visitmonmouthshire.com/oldstationtintern



Stop 3 – Shire Hall Museum, Monmouth

Shire Hall is an historic Grade I listed building, and was the scene of the infamous Chartist trials of 1840. View the courtroom and descend to the cells to see where the defendants were kept.

www.visitmonmouthshire.com/shirehallmonmouth



Stop 4 – White Castle Vineyard, Abergavenny

Enjoy a tour and tasting of world-class wines in the beauty and tranquillity of the Monnow Valley.

www.whitecastlevineyard.com



Stop 5 – Afternoon tea at the Angel Hotel

Treat yourself to a sumptuous afternoon tea at Abergavenny's Angel Hotel, winners of numerous awards over the years. Indulge with a wide selection of teas, sandwiches, pastries and cakes.

www.angelabergavenny.com

Explore the Region - 2 Day Itinerary

With so much to do it can be challenging to know where to start. We've put together a sample two day itinerary for you, giving you the opportunity to visit some of the very best attractions in the region.

Day 1



Stop 1 – Caerphilly Castle

Construction started on the biggest castle in Wales in 1268 and it covers over 30 acres with massive walls, towers and gatehouses. After being attacked during the Civil War, it now has its own Leaning Tower which is even wonkier than the Tower of Pisa.

www.cadw.gov.wales/visit/places-to-visit/caerphilly-castle



Stop 2 – Cyfarthfa Park, Castle Museum & Art Gallery, Merthyr Tydfil

Constructed in 1824-25 for Ironmaster William Crawshay II, Cyfarthfa Castle is now home to a popular Museum and Art Gallery. Enjoy walks and exhibitions or explore the Museum, which is a testament to the spirit of the 'working man', and Merthyr Tydfil's important part in the history of Wales.

www.visitmerthyr.co.uk/attractions/cyfarthfa-park-museum.aspx



Stop 3 – Tredegar – Home of the NHS

Aneurin Bevan MP was brought up in the industrial town of Tredegar surrounded by miners and a local health system. This inspired the creation of the NHS in 1948 when Nye was the Minister for Health. You can explore buildings that were important to him, with a local guide to bring them to life.

www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/en/visitors/home-of-the-nhs



Stop 4 – Blaenavon World Heritage Site

Discover the story of the iron and coal industry in South Wales by exploring this UNESCO World Heritage Site – visit Big Pit National Coal Museum, Blaenavon Ironworks, the Heritage Railway, the Workman's Hall and explore this historic town.

www.visitblaenavon.co.uk



Stop 5 – Raglan Castle, Monmouthshire

This Welsh fortress-palace was built to impress as well as intimidate. Its unmistakable silhouette sits on a ridge overlooking the glorious countryside of Monmouthshire and some describe it as the grandest castle ever built by Welshmen.

www.cadw.gov.wales/visit/places-to-visit/raglan-castle

Day 2



Stop 1 – Tredegar House, Newport

Set in 90 acres of beautiful parkland on the outskirts of Newport is this 17th century house. Now in the care of the National Trust, visitors can hear about the house's history and its eccentric former owners and view the art collection.

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/tredegar-house



Stop 2 – Cardiff Bay, Cardiff

The former coal port is now a hub of adventure and entertainment – with the Wales Millennium Centre, the Senedd, boat trips around the Bay and lots of events. Bring the history of the area to life with an official tour guide.

www.visitcardiffbay.info

Day 2 (Continued)



Stop 3 – Hensol Castle Distillery and Llanerch Vineyard, Hensol, Vale of Glamorgan
Discover the story of Hensol Gin and make your own unique blend. You can combine with a visit to Llanerch Vineyard next door, where you can see the grapes growing and taste the award-winning wine.

www.hensolcastledistillery.com, www.llanerch.co.uk



Stop 4 – McArthurGlen Designer Outlet, Bridgend

Situated right on junction 36 of the M4 Motorway, the undercover mall has over 90 shops selling high street and designer brand names at discounted prices.

www.bridgenddesigneroutlet.com



Stop 5 – The Royal Mint Visitor Experience, Rhondda Cynon Taf

Take a look behind the scenes at Britain's oldest manufacturing organisation. See for yourself the people and processes that put the pounds and pennies in your pockets.

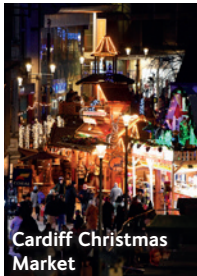
www.royalmint.com/en/the-royal-mint-experience

For more itinerary ideas visit www.southernwales.com/en/groups/itineraries

Discover the Vibrancy of Southern Wales

Timing your visit perfectly means not only relishing top-notch accommodation, savouring great cuisine, and exploring captivating attractions but also immersing yourself in an array of fantastic events.

Here are some suggestions, but the events list is regularly updated. Have a look at www.southernwales.com/en/events or www.visitmonmouthshire.com/whats-on for up to date ideas.



Cardiff Christmas Market



Nos Galan Road Races, Mountain Ash



Steelhouse Festival, Blaenau Gwent



Barry Island Food Festival



Abergavenny Food Festival



Porthcawl Elvis Festival



The Big Splash, Newport



Merthyr Rising



The Big Cheese, Caerphilly



Blaenavon World Heritage Day, Blaenavon

Coach Parking

Find out where to drop off your passengers, park your coach or get further information about our main towns.

Abergavenny

Surrounded by 7 mountains, Abergavenny is set amongst some beautiful countryside. Highlights in the town include Abergavenny Castle & Museum, St Mary's Priory and Tithe Barn, and the historic Market Hall.

Coach Drop Off and Parking

Abergavenny Bus Station, Monmouth Road, NP7 5HF

Chepstow

Home to one of the first castles to be built in Wales and historic bridge which marks the border between Wales and England.

Coach Drop Off

Stand 5, Bus Station, Thomas Street, NP16 5DH

Coach Parking

Castle Car Park, Bridge Street, NP16 5EY

Monmouth

Historic border town with highlights that include Shire Hall, the famous Monnow bridge and streets lined with dozens of independent retailers.

Coach Drop Off and Parking

Blestium Street, NP25 3EQ



Tour Guides

Make sure you get the most out of your visit to the region by hiring the services of a tour guide. Members of The Wales Official Tour Guide Association are the only guides officially recognised to be able to guide in Wales. They can provide highly trained, professional and experienced Blue Badge Guides, who will help bring your journey to life.

There are dozens of guides, each with their own specialisms, interests and language skills. Blue Badge Guides can take you all over the region, whilst Green Badge Guides offer a more specialist and localised expertise.



To find a guide to suit your needs please visit www.walesbestguides.com



Abergavenny Tourist Information Centre

Discover everything you need to know about Abergavenny and the Black Mountains at Abergavenny TIC, located within Market Hall on Cross Street.

Tel: +44 (0)1873 853254

Email: abergavennytic@breconbeacons.org

Postcode: NP7 5HD



Chepstow Tourist Information Centre

Located next to coach parking opposite Chepstow Castle, our friendly staff are happy to help with itinerary planning and other visitor information enquiries.

Tel: +44 (0)1291 623772

Email: Chepstow.tic@monmouthshire.gov.uk

Postcode: NP16 5EY



Maps and Travel Information

Easy to get to

We're a different country with our own language and culture, yet we're surprisingly easy to get to. We're only around two hours down the M4 from London whilst Birmingham and the West Midlands are only an hour or so from our borders.

So in next to no time you could be here, immersing yourself in our culture and traditions and who knows maybe even trying to get your tongue around our language. Croeso - or welcome in English.

We're not very big, but we certainly fit a lot in – and getting around the region couldn't be easier. A comprehensive road system links all the major towns, while many towns and villages are well served by the local train network which connects with the mainline stations.



SOUTHERN WALES





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The Picturesque Wye Tour

It's more than 250 years since William Gilpin took a boat tour down the River Wye in 1770. It was an event which heralded the birthplace of British tourism, making the Wye Tour one of the first 'package holidays'.

Gilpin was a pioneer of the 'Picturesque' and his ideas led to the concepts of landscape appreciation and conservation, culminating in the designation of protected landscapes. These included our National Parks and Landscapes, one of which is the Wye Valley National Landscape (formerly known as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) which was designated in 1971.

Explore the landscape that inspired William Gilpin, J M W Turner and William Wordsworth (among many others) and learn about the Picturesque.

Highlights include:

- Ross on Wye
- Goodrich Castle
- Symonds Yat
- Monmouth
- Tintern Abbey
- Chepstow Castle



For full tour details, visit

www.visitmonmouthshire.com/groupitineraries