

Southern Wales Fact Sheet

Coach Tourism Association 22/23 May 2022



Walking and Nature

Across Southern Wales there are numerous country parks and nature reserves – here are a few but contact Southern Wales for more ideas.

Newport Wetlands - www.rspb.org.uk/reserves-and-events/reserves-a-z/newport-wetlands

Cwmcarn Forest - www.cwmcarnforest.co.uk

Dare Valley Country Park -

www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/Tourism/DareValleyCountryPark/DareValleyCountryPark.aspx

Bryngarw Country Park - www.bryngarwcountrypark.co.uk

Parc Slip - www.welshwildlife.org/visitor-centres/parc-slip-visitor-centre

The Country Parks are great for walks and we have longer routes such as the Wales Coast Path

(www.walescoastpath.gov.uk) that starts outside Chepstow Castle, and the Taff Trail

(www.sustrans.org.uk/find-a-route-on-the-national-cycle-network/taff-trail-cardiff-to-brecon)

that joins Cardiff with Brecon. Other well know walk routes include the Sugar Loaf, Abergavenny and Twmbarlwm.



Adventures

Southern Wales has great facilities for lots of adventure sports – including the recently opened Zip World Tower

www.zipworld.co.uk/location/tower

Mountain Biking at Cwmcarn Forest, Bike Park Wales and Dare Valley Country Park.

Water sports on inland lakes such as Parc Bryn Bach and Llandegfedd Lake.

Some of the best surfing at Rest Bay, Porthcawl.

Adventures like caving and paragliding with expert companies.

Contact Southern Wales for details and contacts.



Gardens

Across the region there are public and private gardens that are a delight to explore – here are a few ideas:

The Physic Garden, Cowbridge - www.cowbridgephysicgarden.org.uk

Wye Valley Sculpture Garden - www.wyevalleysculpturegarden.co.uk

Veddw House Garden - www.veddw.com

Llanover Garden - www.llanovergarden.co.uk

Champion Tree walk around Bute Park, Cardiff www.bute-park.com/attraction/champion-tree-trail

Tredegar House and Park, Duffryn Gardens and St Fagans all have fascinating gardens to explore.

Tour Guides

The area has a strong network of trained, knowledgeable guides to bring any tour to life. Find your perfect guide at www.walesbestguides.com

Southern Wales Tourism is a partnership of tourism destinations across SE Wales - from the Wye Valley to Porthcawl - Hirwaun to the Glamorgan Coastline - who work together to promote the Cardiff Capital of Wales region. Partners are Blaenau Gwent CBC, Bridgend CBC, Caerphilly CBC, Cardiff City Council (Visit Cardiff), Monmouthshire CC, Newport City Council, Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC, Torfaen Tourism Association and Vale of Glamorgan Council.

Photographs provide by partner organisations, Wales Government/Visit Wales, Over the Bridge to Wales and Mercure Hotel Newport.

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Southern Wales Tourism welcomes the Coach Tourism Association to the region for your AGM. We are delighted to take this opportunity to show you around.

Your Hotel – Mercure Hotel Newport

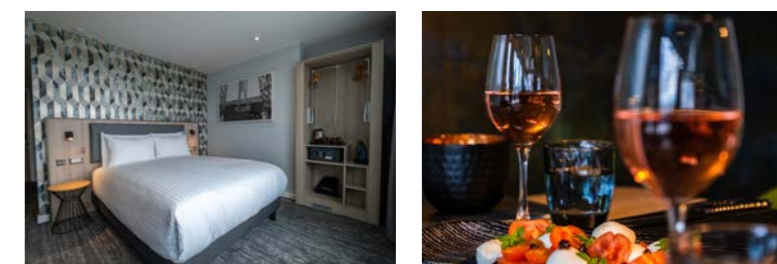
The newest hotel in south Wales, the Mercure opened at the beginning of May. In the centre of the city, the design is inspired by the iconic Newport Transport Bridge and the restaurant menus feature local produce.

Mercure Hotel Newport, Chartist Tower, Upper Dock St, Newport NP20 1DW

Group Contact - Amanda Kirikmaa

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www.all.accor.com/united-kingdom/index.en.shtml • Tel:01633 83 77 00



Sunday 22 May – Familiarisation Trip around Southern Wales

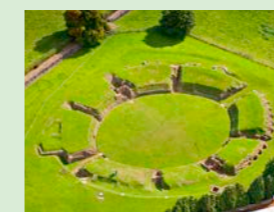
Leaving Newport at 13.30, this whistlestop tour will show that Newport is a great base for exploring.



Raglan Castle

Said to be the Grandest Castle ever built by a Welshman – it sits on a ridge overlooking beautiful countryside.

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



Roman Town of Isca – Caerleon

Explore the life of the Roman legionary in this compact Fortresses – visit the Baths, Amphitheatre, Barracks and the museum where intriguing finds are displayed.

Operated by Cadw and National Museums Wales.

www.cadw.gov.wales/visit/places-to-visit/caerleon-roman-fortress-and-baths
www.museum.wales/roman/



Usk – Town of Flowers

Annual flower festival, a private castle, gin making, gallery, museum and great food stops – just some of the reasons to stop in Usk.

www.usktown.org

www.visitmonmouthshire.com



Tredegar House and Park

Operated by the National Trust, house tours contrast the Gilt Room with below stairs, whilst the gardens take in the Orangery and the Orchards.

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/tredegar-house

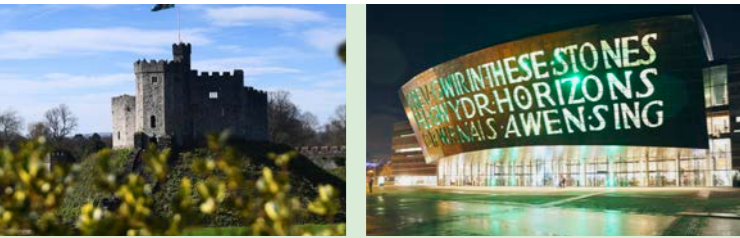


Newport Transporter Bridge

Built in 1906 and dominating the Newport skyline, this innovative design linked the industry of Newport whilst allowing the ships to travel along the River Usk. A new visitor centre opens 2024.

www.newport.gov.uk/heritage/en/Transporter-Bridge/Transporter-Bridge.aspx

Southern Wales has loads to offer – we have 2 cities (Cardiff and Newport), over 30 castles to visit, numerous country parks and nature reserves, great food producers, unique attractions like the Royal Mint Experience and much more.



Cardiff – the Capital of Wales

Visit the impressive Cardiff Castle, the National Museum Cardiff or St Fagans National Museum of History. The city centre has great shopping and you can explore the story of the city at the Museum of Cardiff. Cardiff Bay offers great walking tours, boat trips, and attractions like the Senedd and Pierhead Building, as well as Techniquest. Entertainment centres include The Millennium Centre, St David's Hall and the Principality Stadium.



For information on all Cadw sites www.cadw.gov.wales

Cadw operates a Tour Operator Scheme – contact cadwcommercial@gov.wales for details.

Cardiff Castle - www.cardiffcastle.com

Fonmon Castle - www.fonmoncastle.com

St Donat's Castle - www.uwcatlanticexperience.com

Usk Castle - www.uskcastle.com

Caldicot Castle and Country Park - www.caldicotcastle.co.uk



Unique Attractions

The Royal Mint Experience is one of the most visited sites across the region.

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

Here are some other one off attractions:

Techniquest - www.techniquest.org

Penderyn Whisky - www.penderyn.wales

Nantgarw China Works and Museum - www.nantgarwchinaworksmuseum.co.uk

City of Newport

At the heart of the city is the Transporter Bridge which will be reopening in 2023 with new group facilities. Attractions include The Newport Museum and Art Gallery, the Newport Medieval Ship, the Roman Legionary town of Isca (Caerleon), the Newport Wetlands and Tredegar House and Park which is a National Trust property.

Castles

There are over 30 castles that you can visit across Southern Wales – some big and palatial, others quiet ruins.

The largest castle in Wales is Caerphilly Castle. Also in the Cadw collection are Raglan Castle, Castell Coch, Chepstow Castle, Ogmores Castle and many smaller sites like Coity, Skenfrith, White and Grosmont.

Unique Attractions

The Royal Mint Experience is one of the most visited sites across the region.

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

Here are some other one off attractions:



Industrial Stories

Blaenavon World Heritage Landscape explores the iron and coal industries – sites include:

World Heritage Centre - www.visitblaenavon.co.uk/en/VisitBlaenavon/ThingsToDo/BlaenavonWorldHeritageCentre.aspx

Big Pit National Coal Museum - www.museum.wales/bigpit

Blaenavon Ironworks - www.cadw.gov.wales/visit/places-to-visit/blaenavon-ironworks

Blaenavon's Heritage Railway - www.bhrailway.co.uk

You can also explore what it was like to be a miner at The Welsh Coal Mining Experience, Rhondda Heritage Park

www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/Tourism/RhonddaHeritagePark/Home.aspx.

You can explore the town that inspired the creation of the NHS starting at the Aneurin Bevan Stones

www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/en/visitors/attractions/aneurin-bevan-memorial-stones and the recently restored No 10 The Circle.

Life was hard in the industrial areas and you can find out about some of the terrible disasters at Guardian, Six Bells (www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/en/visitors/attractions/guardian) and Welsh National Universal Mining Memorial & Garden (www.abervalleyheritage.co.uk/welsh-national-universal-mining-memorial-garden).

Local stories are told at museums around the area such as The Winding House, Cyfarthfa Castle and Pontypridd Museum – contact Southern Wales Tourism for more information.

Other Historic Attractions

The area has a rich history to explore – here are some of the highlights.

Caerleon (www.cadw.gov.wales/visit/places-to-visit/caerleon-roman-fortress-and-baths) and

Caerwent (www.cadw.gov.wales/visit/places-to-visit/caerwent-roman-town) – Roman Wales

Llancaiach Fawr Manor - www.llancaiachfawr.co.uk

Tintern Abbey (www.cadw.gov.wales/visit/places-to-visit/tintern-abbey) and Llanthony Priory

(www.cadw.gov.wales/visit/places-to-visit/llanthony-priory)

Tredegar House and Park - www.nationaltrust.org.uk/tredegar-house

Duffryn Gardens - www.nationaltrust.org.uk/dyffryn-gardens

Chepstow Museum (www.monlife.co.uk/heritage/chepstow-museum) – the story of the Wye Valley.

There are many local museums that can enhance your itinerary – contact Southern Wales for more ideas.