

This is Wales



Wales

In 2019 the travel editor of *The Times* and *Sunday Times* selected Wales for his 'Travel Editor's Award'. "It's small but perfectly formed, accessible and welcoming – Wales continues to go from strength to strength as a destination," he says.

He's not alone in his praise. *National Geographic* and *Lonely Planet* also tell their readers to put Wales on their global bucket list of "must-visit" places. Here's why we're hitting the headlines:

We have three National Parks, three World Heritage Sites and five Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, on par with some of the best protected, pristine places in Britain. There are over 600 castles (one of the largest concentration in Europe) and an epic 870-mile/1,400km seashore with one of the world's first continuous coastal paths.

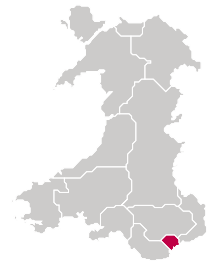
Wales is an engaging mix of country life and urban cool, tradition and sophistication. You can stay in a comfy farmhouse or eco lodge, visit country fairs that celebrate our rural heritage or festivals dedicated to food, literature, comedy, music and art.

You'll hear one of Europe's oldest living languages on your travels and sense a Celtic pride and passion that gives the country an identity all of its own.

We have a suitcase full of quirky corners and unexpected experiences, like super-fast ziplines, Dark Skies, dolphins, an Italianate village, a "town of books", and an inland surfing lagoon. Not forgetting Impressionist art, big beaches and steam railways.

This is Wales. Check in.

Wales' capital is one of Europe's most vibrant and surprising cities. It's a unique mix of historic city centre, cosmopolitan waterfront, generous green spaces, cutting-edge arts and culture, sport and sophistication, all driven by a youthful, 21st-century attitude. What's more, it's a compact, walkable, visitor-friendly city. **This is Cardiff.**



Sport

Lifestyle

Culture

Cardiff

Cardiff

An insider's guide.

Take a waterfront walk across the 0.7-mile/1.1km Cardiff Bay Barrage to the pretty marina at Penarth.

Cardiff is a leader in sustainability, with a fleet of eco-friendly Nextbikes for hire.

Get wet at Cardiff International White Water, an innovative aquatic hotspot where you can go rafting, surfing and kayaking.

The past is present. Standing tall just a stone's throw from the shops and cafés, Cardiff Castle dominates the centre of town. Built on the site of a Roman fort, its Norman fortifications and lavishly decorated Victorian interiors reflect 2,000 years of history. Nearby, the dazzling neo-classical Civic Centre, a Washington in miniature, is home to the National Museum of Wales, packed with extraordinary exhibits ranging from mighty dinosaur skeletons to an Impressionist art collection ranked amongst the finest in Europe.

Fashion and food. We prescribe some retail therapy. Explore the maze of Victorian arcades – a Cardiff speciality – to discover tempting independent boutiques brimming with one-of-a-kind items. For the biggest brand names head to our shopping precincts. When you've built up an appetite, take your pick from a culinary scene featuring funky street food and the finest in fine dining – and everything in between, including Cardiff's fabulous fresh-foods market.

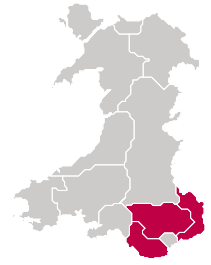
A sporting legend. Perched above the River Taff in the heart of the city, the Principality Stadium is a state-of-the-art venue for international rugby matches, concerts and major sporting events like the UEFA Champions League final and Rugby World Cup. Take a tour.

Park city. It's easy to escape into one of the multitude of parks and gardens that dot the city. Start at beautiful Bute Park in Cardiff's centre, then explore Roath Park a little further out, complete with a botanic garden and boating lake.

On the waterfront. Cardiff Bay is just a short hop away from the centre, with convenient transport links including a popular water taxi service. Bayside you'll find a lively, trendy water's edge development – our historic dockland reinvented – buzzing with bars, cafés and restaurants. It's also home to the iconic Wales Millennium Centre, a stunning theatre and arts venue with a domed roof of gleaming bronze, and the National Assembly for Wales' home, the Senedd.



South Wales is defined by the valleys that etch its landscape, each with its own unique personality. The historic industrial valleys, green again with country parks and forests, form the centrepiece of this welcoming region. They're flanked on one side by the leafy Wye Valley, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. On the other you'll find the pristine farmlands of the Vale of Glamorgan, fringed by the spectacular cliff-backed Glamorgan Heritage Coast. **This is South Wales.**



Adventure

Landscape

Culture

South Wales

South Wales



Iron, coal ... and mountain biking.

Merthyr Tydfil, once the "iron capital of the world", has reinvented itself as a mountain biking mecca. Bike Park Wales, "built by riders for riders", lays on the full downhill experience with uplifts, bike hire, tuition and a cool café. There's more stellar cycling at Afan Forest Park a few valleys away, where six world-class trails have been carved out of hillsides once surrounded by coalmines.

Don't forget your clubs. Test yourself against the best golfers in the world with a round on the challenging Twenty Ten course at Celtic Manor Resort, Newport, built specially for the 2010 Ryder Cup. Or take on the blustery links at Royal Porthcawl, host of multiple Senior Open Championships.

Water ways. Climb aboard a canoe on the Usk or Wye, rivers which wind their way through idyllic, tree-lined valleys. Experienced paddlers can tackle white-water rapids, while those who prefer to stay dry can take it easy on long stretches of still, glassy water and drink in the views.

Going green. Once dominated by industry, the South Wales Valleys have returned to their natural colours. Take a stroll in Aberdare's Dare Valley Country Park, where lakes, waterfalls and walking trails now occupy the site of former collieries.

Coast and country. It's two for the price of one in the Vale of Glamorgan. Explore lush countryside dotted with pretty villages and country towns. Or taste fresh salty air with a walk on the breathtaking Glamorgan Heritage Coast, 14 miles/23km of rugged cliffs and secluded coves with long-range sea views.



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A work of art. The Wye Valley's riversides and prolific woodlands have been inspiring artists and poets for centuries (William Wordsworth and JWM Turner were both big fans). See what all the fuss is about with a walk up to Devil's Pulpit, a towering outcrop that offers stirring views over the romantic ruins of Tintern Abbey.

Made of stone. Castles are a Welsh speciality. In the south you'll find Caerphilly, the second largest castle in the UK. There's also elaborate Raglan Castle – built more for show than defence – and Chepstow Castle. Perched on a cliff above the River Wye, it's the first of a breed, the oldest surviving masonry fortress in Wales.

The word is out. Hay-on-Wye is world-famous as the "town of books" and host of the Hay Festival, a global celebration of literature that attracts a stellar line-up of celebrities.

Wales at work. Explore our rich industrial heritage with a visit to Big Pit National Coal Museum, Blaenavon, a working mine turned interactive historic attraction and part of the UNESCO World Heritage Site. Strap on a miner's helmet and take a rattling lift to "pit bottom" 300ft/91m below the ground to experience life at the inky black coalface. Or stay on the surface at Merthyr Tydfil's Cyfarthfa Castle, a grand mansion built by riches from the iron trade that now houses a museum and art gallery.



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An insider's guide.

The best fest. Abergavenny Food Festival, held every September, is reckoned to be the finest foodie celebration in the UK.

Welsh whisky. Penderyn in the foothills of the Brecon Beacons produces award-winning single malt whiskies. Taste it on a distillery tour.

Catch the narrow-gauge Brecon Mountain Railway from Merthyr Tydfil for grandstand views of the Brecon Beacons National Park.

Relive ancient history at Caerleon near Newport, one of Britain's largest and best-preserved Roman towns.

Immerse yourself in Welsh life at St Fagans National Museum of History near Cardiff, an astonishing collection of historic buildings from across the country.

Money makes the world go round. Find out how it's made with a tour of the Royal Mint Experience at Llantrisant.



West Wales

All at sea. Catch the waves at Llangennith on Gower, one of the birthplaces of British surfing. Pembrokeshire is another pioneer. Its rugged cliffs provide the perfect conditions for coasteering, the adrenaline-fuelled activity that sees you clambering over rocks and leaping into the crashing waves below. If you want to explore the coastline up close, Pembrokeshire also offers superb sea-kayaking.

Rolling on. The scenic, traffic-free paths in Llanelli's Millennium Coastal Park are perfect for two-wheeled exploration. Follow National Cycle Route 4 along the coast for views of Carmarthen Bay and Gower, plus the bird-packed World Wildlife Trust Wetland Centre at Llanelli, the golden sands at Machynys Bay and the pretty marina at Burry Port.

Set sail. Take a seafaring adventure to the islands of Ramsey and Skomer off the Pembrokeshire coast. Look out for a rich and diverse marine wildlife, including dolphins, porpoises, seals and puffins (plus a host of other seabirds).

Park life. As the UK's only coastal national park, it's no surprise that Pembrokeshire still lives up to its medieval description as the "land of magic and enchantment". Alongside islands, rugged cliffs, secluded coves and award-winning sandy beaches, you'll find picturesque coastal towns like Saundersfoot and Tenby with its collection of candy-coloured harbourside houses.

Green and gold. Known as the "garden of Wales", Carmarthenshire is watered by the River Tywi as it threads its way to the sea. It's a landscape encompassing green spaces like the National Botanic Garden and Aberglasney (the centuries-spanning "garden lost in time") as well as Carmarthen Bay's sandy beaches, some of the longest in Wales.

Town and country. Explore Swansea, our city by the sea, before making the short hop on to the glorious Gower Peninsula. The UK's first designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, its diverse coastline of jagged limestone cliffs, shifting dunes, beaches and briny saltmarsh are spectacular.

The south-west's heady mix of rolling, lush farmlands, pure seas and miles of untamed coastline has exerted a magnetic pull for centuries. Painters and poets have drawn inspiration from its landscapes, while pilgrims have been attracted to its sacred sites. It's home to the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park, Gower Peninsula (an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty), picture-perfect seaside towns, world-class watersports and wildlife, and some of the best beaches in the UK. **This is West Wales.**



Adventure

Landscape

Culture


West Wales

The fabric of life. As one of our most widespread and important industries, wool is knitted into Welsh history. Discover its story at the National Wool Museum in the beautiful Teifi Valley. The tradition continues, with a contemporary twist, at Melin Tregwynt near Fishguard, which sells Welsh woollens to the world.

A saintly city. Thanks to its soaring cathedral (dedicated to our patron saint) St Davids is officially the smallest city in the UK. It's still one of the most important holy sites in Britain, attracting pilgrims from across the globe. St Davids' stunning peninsula setting, relaxed café culture and arty ambience are a big draw too.

Heavyweight heritage. Start at the prehistoric burial chamber of Pentre Ifan, made from the same Pembrokeshire "bluestones" used at Stonehenge. Then dip into one of our many castles – places like romantic Carreg Cennen, perched on a rocky crag in Carmarthenshire, and monumental Pembroke Castle, birthplace of Henry VII, the Welshman who became the first of the Tudor monarchs.

Local hero. Dylan Thomas was born and bred in Swansea, where you'll find a visitor centre dedicated to his memory as well as his family home, now a museum. Then travel on to the sleepy seatown of Laugharne and call into the Boathouse where he wrote many of his most celebrated works.

 **An insider's guide.**

Feel the heat. Temperatures are tropical beneath the giant, teardrop-shaped glasshouse, the high-tech centrepiece of Wales' National Botanic Garden near Carmarthen.

An Oscar-winning beach. Rhossili, on the tip of Gower, has won almost every "best beach" award you can think of. Gower's other beaches are pretty good too.

Don't miss these three show-stopping features, all close by on Pembrokeshire's south coast – Bosherton Lakes, the sea-sculpted "Green Bridge of Wales" and Stack Rocks.

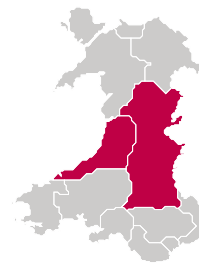
Journey through 300 years of industry and innovation at the National Waterfront Museum in Swansea's stylish Maritime Quarter.

Get to know Narberth. With its independent boutiques and funky, foodie atmosphere, this once-sleepy Pembrokeshire market town is now a cosmopolitan shoppers' paradise.

Mid Wales



It's a region of Dark Skies and big skies. The National Parks of Snowdonia and the Brecon Beacons are at opposite ends. Filling the space in between is the farming country of central Wales, where traditional market towns are content to tick along in time with the seasons. You'll see red kites in the sky – and dolphins in the sea along the great, horseshoe-shaped arc of Cardigan Bay, a coastline studded with salty harbours, perfectly formed sandy bays and small seaside resorts. **This is Mid Wales.**



Adventure

Landscape

Culture

Mid Wales

Ride and seek. On two wheels you can ride classic mountain biking routes across the Brecon Beacons and Cambrian Mountains. Or thread through forests on purpose-built singletracks. Sitting high in the mountains just inland from Aberystwyth, Bwlch Nant yr Arian boasts long purpose-built single-tracks designed to test experienced riders. Challenging rides like the 22-mile Syfydrin trail serve up spectacular scenery alongside cycling thrills, with dizzying views of the Cambrian Mountains and Cardigan Bay.

Wild walking. Get lost (in the nicest possible way) in the Elan Valley. Explore the boundless Beacons or the gorges of "Waterfall Country". Or follow the Offa's Dyke Path, which shadows the first official border, created back in the 8th century, between Wales and England. On the coast, there's nothing more inspiring than walking the path to Ynys Lochtyn, a dramatic promontory that spears into the sea beneath an Iron Age hillfort.

Star trekking. Our night skies, free from light pollution, are inky black. The Brecon Beacons are an International Dark Skies Reserve – perfect for stargazing space explorers, along with Dark Sky Discovery Sites like the Cambrian Mountains (check out the 50-mile/80km Astro Tourism Trail).

The Beacons and beyond. The Brecon Beacons National Park flows across the landscape in wave after wave of green mountains from the Wales/England border to the outskirts of Swansea. Wide, open – and untamed – countryside like this characterises much of Mid Wales.

Further north the Cambrian Mountains – the wild "backbone of Wales" – roll on into the Snowdonia National Park, meeting the mythical peak of Cader Idris, the "Chair of Idris", high above Dolgellau.

Our border country is calmer, dotted with charming country and market towns like Knighton and Welshpool (soak up the scenery from the narrow-gauge Welshpool and Llanfair Light Railway).

Baywatch. Cardigan Bay's 180 miles/290km take in everything from mountain-backed estuaries to sandy beaches, seaside resorts to fishing harbours – all blessed with that unhurried Mid Wales ambience.

Art works. Call into the Museum of Modern Art in Machynlleth for the best in contemporary Welsh art. At Aberystwyth there's Wales' largest arts centre, while you can create your own artistic journey on the Ceredigion Art Trail, taking in exhibitions and events, studios and workshops.

The past is present. Visit castles, churches and abbeys. Harlech Castle, a World Heritage fortress, is a stirring site, perched on its rocky crag overlooking Snowdonia's mountains and coast. At Pontrhydfendigaid, serene Strata Florida Abbey played a hugely influential role in Welsh medieval life, attracting poets and princes as well as priests.

An insider's guide.

Dolphins love it. The crystal waters of Cardigan Bay are home to Europe's largest dolphin population. Go dolphin (and porpoise and seal) spotting from New Quay.

Take a cruise along the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal, a leafy, lovely waterway through the Brecon Beacons National Park.

Wales is famous for its links golf. Aberdyfi and Harlech's Royal St David's are two of the best.

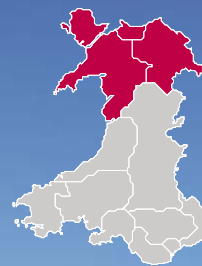
Palatial Powis. It's difficult to believe that the sumptuous National Trust mansion of Powis Castle near Welshpool began life as a rough-and-ready border fortress.

Welcome to Llanwrtyd Wells. Britain's most eccentric small town stages kooky events like bog snorkelling plus "man versus horse" and chariot racing.

Aberystwyth is home to the National Library of Wales, a treasure chest of culture and heritage.



Mix the highest mountain range in Wales and England with a sandy coastline. Stir in characterful market towns and picturesque seaside resorts. Throw in green border country, lakes, forests, World Heritage Sites and a lovely island. Add all the outdoor activities you can think of plus monumental castles and heritage railways. **This is North Wales.**



Adventure

Landscape

Culture

North Wales

North Wales

The A-list. North Wales is an A-Team kind of place. It's the adventure, activities and adrenaline capital of the UK.

Up in the air and down below. Slate quarries have been transformed into new adventure centres. How about riding the world's fastest zipline (we're talking 100mph/160kph)? Or "bouncing below" on a giant trampoline in an underground cavern? Or tearing down mountain biking trails carved into a jagged slate mountain?

On the water. Splash around in our rivers, seas and lakes. We're big on sailing and stand-up paddleboarding, kayaking and surfing. We've even got the guaranteed perfect wave. You'll have to travel inland to find it – to Adventure Parc Snowdonia in the lush Conwy Valley, home to the world's first inland surfing lagoon.

Mountain high. Snowdon is the alpha-mountain in this rocky landscape. But it's got serious competition from its 13 neighbouring peaks that dominate North-west Wales' landscape.

Snowdon gives its name to the Snowdonia National Park. It's a vast swathe of countryside (823 square miles/2,176 square kilometres) with deep gorges like the Aberglaslyn Pass, and valleys clothed in ancient oakwoods (see them from narrow-gauge railways). Idyllic mountain lakes like Llynau Mymbyr look too good to be true. Waterfalls don't come any wetter or better than the Aber Falls near Llanfairfechan.

Highs and lows. Further east, the landscape is a little lower but no less spectacular. The Denbigh Moors are so beguiling that they are known in Welsh as Mynydd Hiraethog ("The Hills of Longing"). The Welsh border is guarded by the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley, a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Climb to the smooth summit of Moel Famau for far-reaching views across Wales and England.


Coasting along. We have hundreds of miles of coastline. The Isle of Anglesey (connected to the mainland by road and rail bridges) and wild Llyn Peninsula are both Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The north coast is dotted with seaside resorts, the most celebrated of which is Llandudno.



Rock stars. Wales is a “land of castles”, nowhere more so than in the north. History and heritage are etched across the landscape in the form of medieval fortresses built by native Welsh princes and English invaders. The most famous – the mighty trio of Beaumaris, Caernarfon and Conwy – share World Heritage Site status. Travel inland to discover ruins like Dolbadarn and Dolwyddelan, mountain strongholds of the Princes of Gwynedd.

The story of slate. Penrhyn Castle, Bangor, is a relative newcomer. This fabulous 19th-century mock-fortress was built with the wealth generated by North Wales’ slate industry. For an insight into the life and times of the quarrymen take a tour of Blaenau Ffestiniog’s slate mines, or visit the National Slate Museum at Llanberis.

A language lesson. The Welsh language is at its strongest in some of these parts. One of Europe’s oldest living languages, it underpins a rich culture and heritage. Learn more at Nant Gwrtheyrn’s Welsh Language and Heritage Centre, spectacularly located on Llŷn’s cliff-backed north coast.

 **An insider’s guide.**

Are we in Italy? Or Wales? You’ll get a taste of both at Portmeirion, the unique Italianate village.

“The canal in the sky.” That’s Pontcysyllte Aqueduct, a dizzying World Heritage Site that carries the Llangollen Canal high above the Dee Valley.

See Anglesey at its best from its rugged – and romantic – coastal path. Walk the big beach to Llanddwyn Island, home of Santes Dwynwen, Wales’ patron saint of lovers.

Bodnant Garden is a green jewel, where formal flowerbeds lead down to the wild and wonderful Dingle.

Taste North Wales’ bountiful larder of farm- and sea-fresh produce. Head to Gwelld Conwy Feast, held every October.

Travelling Light



Eco travel, green travel, sustainable travel.... whatever you want to call it, it comes naturally here in Wales. Whether you're looking for new experiences, an unusual place to stay or locally sourced food, you'll always have an eco-friendly option. **This is Sustainable Wales.**



Adventure	Sustainability	Innovation
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Natural adventures. One fifth of Wales is covered by National Parks. And that's without factoring in our protected Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (we have five), hundreds of miles of Heritage Coast and countless nature reserves. It's an environment of dramatic mountain peaks, rolling hills, dense forests, green river valleys and nearly 900 miles/1,500km of sea-washed shorelines, brimming with outdoor activities that don't cost the earth.

Sustainable stays. Get back to nature with a night (or two) in accommodation with the lightest of environmental footprints. A good example is Denmark Farm in the foothills of the Cambrian Mountains near Lampeter, which provides courses in crafts and cooking alongside comfy beds in yurts and eco-lodges. Or tuck yourself into a cosy caban (cabin) or shepherd's hut at Hide in St Donat's near the Glamorgan Heritage Coast.

Fforest, close to Cardigan, offers unusual hideaways – think space-age domes, canvas-topped cabins and rustic wooden shacks – scattered amongst peaceful woodland. You'll also find an excellent choice of campsites, often in spectacular locations.

Innovation nation. We've been working to preserve our environment for a long time. The National Trust's first site in 1895 was Dinas Oleu in Wales. The pioneering Centre for Alternative Technology near Machynlleth, founded in 1970, has spent decades researching renewable energy and sustainable building techniques. Your visit begins with a ride on its water-powered funicular railway.

True tastes. Our fertile fields, sparkling seas and rushing rivers produce a bounty of fabulous food and drink. You can find Welsh specialities like saltmarsh lamb and Black beef at farmers' markets and farm shops up and down the country, while independent food companies use locally sourced ingredients to create products prized across the world.


There's Halen Môn sea salt, for example, extracted from Anglesey's waters, Tŷ Nant mineral water from deep beneath the Cambrian Mountains and award-winning gin made with foraged botanicals by Dyfi Distillery. And that's just a taster, there's much more on the menu.

A natural choice. Covering 324 square miles/840 sq km of land and sea, the Dyfi Biosphere in Mid Wales has been recognised by UNESCO for its natural diversity and abundant wildlife. Laid out around the green Dyfi Valley, it's home to important nature and conservation reserves. But the landscape is only part of its UNESCO status. It's also a place where thriving communities exist in harmony with nature, preserving heritage, culture and language alongside the environment.

Green shoots. Pembrokeshire's green scene is blossoming. St Davids, Britain's smallest city, is big on eco-friendly initiatives. Follow the St Davids Eco Trail, eat at "field to fork" bistros, go foraging to learn about wild produce, or coasteering with an award-winning adventure company dedicated to sustainability. Llammas Eco Village near Crymch combines traditional farming techniques with the latest in environmental design.

And throughout the county you can travel with a light environmental footprint on handy hop-on, hop-off coastal bus services like the Poppit Rocket.

Reuse, refill. Here in Wales we're committed to keeping the use of plastics and single-use items to an absolute minimum. We're working towards becoming the world's first refill nation through initiatives like the Refill Cymru scheme, which initially will focus on providing free drinking water along the 870-mile/1,400km Wales Coast Path. The Refill app shows you where you can refill your water bottles – for more details go to refill.org.uk/refill-wales

 **Green for go.**

Anglesey is the UK's first county to be awarded plastic-free community status.

Conservation efforts have brought the iconic red kite back from near extinction in Wales. See hundreds at daily feeding sessions in Rhayader and Bwlch Nant yr Arian, Ponterwyd.

Get up close and personal to the outdoors at the Down to Earth project on Gower, where you can try activities like coasteering, abseiling and tree climbing.

The Principality Stadium in Cardiff has become the UK's first sustainable stadium thanks to its innovative power and water saving technologies.



New Quay, Ceredigion

Looking for a road trip to remember? Then you've come to the right place. The Wales Way is a collection of three national touring routes that criss-cross the country, passing through breathtaking scenery as they go. Showcasing the diversity of our landscape, you'll see jagged cliffs, sandy beaches, mist-shrouded mountains, leafy lanes and green valleys.

But the views are just part of the journey. Rather than itineraries set in stone, each Way has been designed as a fluid experience with plenty of diversions off the main route, taking in attractions and places to visit that let you explore further. **This is The Wales Way.**



The North Wales Way

Stretching from the border with England to the western edge of the Isle of Anglesey, The North Wales Way traces a trade route that's been in use since Roman times. A few highlights from this 75-mile/121km journey include the historic tramway that climbs, San Franciscan-style, to the Great Orme summit above Llandudno, and a trio of mighty World Heritage castles at Beaumaris, Caernarfon and Conwy. There's natural splendour too, starting at the smooth green hills of the Clwydian Range at one end of the route and finishing at the rugged sea-cliffs of Anglesey's South Stack, alive with nesting seabirds, at the other.

The Coastal Way

Travelling through two National Parks and an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty as it traces the sweeping 180-mile/290km curve of Cardigan Bay, The Coastal Way serves up an abundance of spectacular sights. Alongside seemingly endless sea views of the Llŷn Peninsula and Pembrokeshire, you'll see stunning inland scenery amid the skyscraping peaks of Snowdonia. Look out for dolphins and porpoises in the sea, and man-made wonders like the magical Italianate village of Portmeirion and purple-stoned St Davids Cathedral, founded by Wales' patron saint.

The Cambrian Way

The coast-to-coast Cambrian Way links Wales' north and south. It's a 185-mile/298km journey that cuts through our rural heartlands and mountainous spine. You'll pass rocky summits, deep valleys and infinite starry night skies as you travel through the Snowdonia and Brecon Beacons National Parks. Along the way there are world-class attractions like Bodnant Garden's manicured lawns and wild woods, and the wildlife-rich Elan Valley. You'll also visit traditional market towns like Dolgellau and Brecon, and delve into fascinating industrial heritage in the warm-hearted South Wales Valleys.

A winning way.

National Geographic has named The Wales Way as one of the world's most exciting trips to take in its 2020 awards. The magazine says: "Three new, fully mapped national touring routes, collectively called The Wales Way, showcase the best of this legend-filled land."

Well-connected Wales is easy to get to. And when you arrive, it's pure pleasure to explore this scenic country by road, rail, bus or bike. **This is Wales.**

Air	Sea	Rail	Road
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Access All Areas

Getting here

By air

There are direct flights to Cardiff Airport (cardiff-airport.com) from a choice of international destinations, including France, Spain, the Netherlands and Qatar. Located 12 miles/19km south-west of Cardiff, the airport is linked to the city by regular train and bus services. Wales also has excellent road and rail links with other airports including Liverpool, Birmingham, Bristol, London and Manchester.

By sea

Irish Ferries (irishferries.com) operate services from Dublin to Holyhead in North Wales and Rosslare to Pembroke in the south, while Stena Line's services (stenaline.co.uk) run from Dublin to Holyhead and Rosslare to Fishguard. Ferries also run from Europe to other parts of the UK, with convenient onward travel to Wales. Brittany Ferries (brittany-ferries.co.uk) offers services from France and Spain, DFDS (dfds.com) run from France and the Netherlands, while P&O (poferries.com) operate routes from France, Belgium, the Netherlands and the Republic of Ireland.

By rail

Eurostar trains (eurostar.com) run to London St Pancras from European cities like Paris, Brussels and Amsterdam, with services from London Paddington providing onward connections to Cardiff, Swansea and West Wales. You can also travel from London Euston, Manchester, Birmingham, Southampton and Portsmouth to destinations across Wales from north to south. Visit nationalrail.co.uk for full details of routes and timetables.

By road

The UK's road and motorway network provides easy access to destinations across Wales, usually with journey times of just a few hours. If you are travelling without a car both National Express (nationalexpress.com) and Megabus (uk.megabus.com) run a wide selection of coach services.

Getting around

By road

For inspiration on road trips along our Wales Way family of touring routes, see the previous page. You can also help to reduce traffic in our National Parks by using local bus services like the Snowdon Sherpa and Pembrokeshire's extensive selection of coastal bus routes. See visitsnowdonia.info and snowdonia.gov.wales for details.

By rail

Rail services run throughout Wales, often on extremely scenic routes like the Cambrian Coast, Conwy Valley and Heart of Wales lines. See nationalrail.co.uk for timetables and tickets. To add some romance and nostalgia to your rail travel, take a ride on one of our historic narrow-gauge steam railways, many of which are members of Great Little Trains of Wales (greatlittletrainsofwales.co.uk).

By bike

We're an extremely bike-friendly country, with a National Cycle Network of nearly 1,700 miles/2,735km, and lots of long-distance themed cycling routes like the North Wales Coaster and north-south Lôn Las Cymru. Many sections of route are completely traffic-free, though one of the joys of cycling in Wales are the back roads, which are very traffic-light in rural areas. Cycle hire is widely available. (along with great coffee stops). Go to sustrans.org.uk and visitwales.com

Explore for less

The Explore Wales Pass offers discounted travel on our train and bus network. You can choose from the South Wales Pass, the North & Mid Wales Pass or the all-Wales Pass, which provides four days of unlimited train travel within an eight-day period on all trains and selected bus services. For shorter visits, there's a wide selection of Rover and Ranger tickets that cover a day's travel on specific areas of the train network. Passes and tickets can be bought at stations or online at tfwrail.wales/ticket-types/rovers-and-rangers

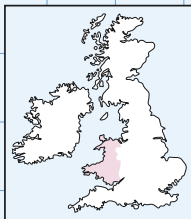
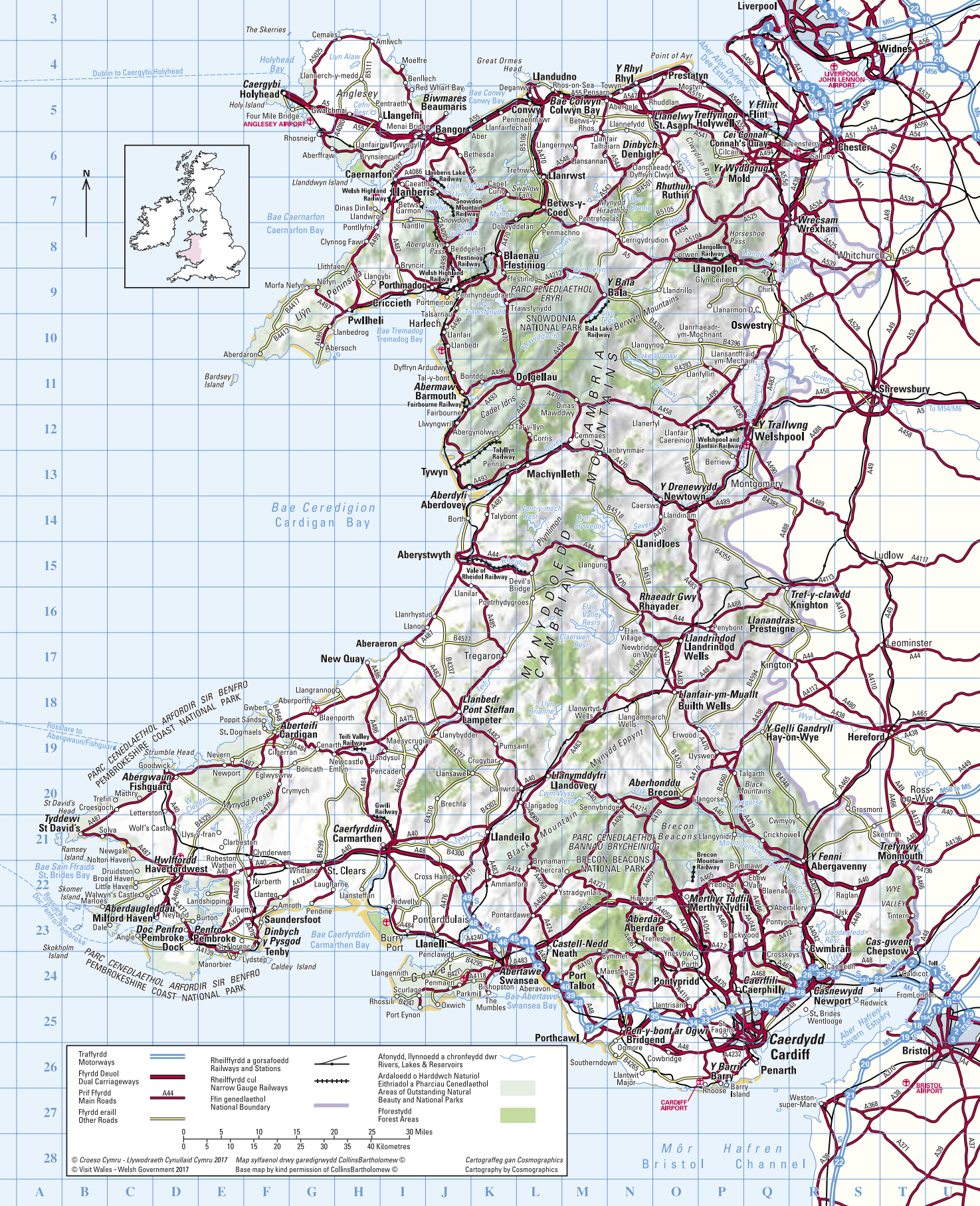
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Traflydd Motorways		Rheilffyrdd a gorsafoedd Railways and Stations		Atynnydd, llynnoedd a chronffydd dwr Rivers, Lakes & Reservoirs	
Ffyrdd Deul Dual Carriageways		Rheilffyrdd cul Narrow Gauge Railways		Ardaloedd o Harddwch Naturiol Eithriadol a Pharciau Cenedlaethol Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and National Parks	
Prif Ffyrdd Main Roads		Ffin genedlaethol National Boundary		Fforestydd Forest Areas	
Ffyrdd eraill Other Roads					

0 5 10 15 20 25 30 35 40 Miles

0 5 10 15 20 25 30 35 40 Kilometres

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