

Wales



Gower Peninsula

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Snowdonia, Anglesey & Puffin Island Cruise



Anglesey

Discover the spectacular scenery of the Snowdonia National Park, a heritage rail journey and the wonderful coastline of Anglesey.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Caernarfon for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Head to **Anglesey** and explore the quaint, historic streets of Beaumaris, with its 17th century Courthouse and 13th century moated castle, as well as enjoy a 90 minute cruise via the Menai Straits to **Puffin Island**, a bird sanctuary home to a wide variety of wildlife. If time allows, visit Llanfair PG or the hidden gardens at Plas Cadnant. Alternatively, enjoy a **full day guided tour of Anglesey**, wrapped around by 125 miles of sandy beaches and soaring rocky cliffs. Renowned for its wildlife and maritime history, there are sleepy fishing villages, hidden coves, stately homes, picturesque gardens, ancient religious places of worship and megalithic monuments to behold on this island of wonders.

Day 3: Enjoy an excursion into the **heart of Snowdonia to the lovely village of Llanberis**, where you could visit the National Slate Museum and step back in time to uncover the secrets of slate. This afternoon, enjoy either a narrow gauge steam train ride on the **Llanberis Lake Railway** or head to the summit of Snowdon, weather permitting, on the **Snowdon Mountain Railway**.

Day 4: Explore the medieval walled town of **Caernarfon** with its mighty 13th century castle or you could board a train for a single journey on the Welsh Highland Railway through the spectacular Snowdonia National Park to Porthmadog. Alternatively, visit the historic town of Conwy and wander 'around the world in 80 acres' at Bodnant Garden.

Day 5: Time for home.

Please see page 23 for a 'Winter Warmer' tour at this hotel.



Celtic Royal Hotel ★★ ★

Historic hotel within walking distance of Caernarfon's walled town and impressive castle.

- 110 Bedrooms • Lift
- Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB ➤ Puffin Island/Menai Straits Cruise or Guided Tour of Anglesey ➤ Llanberis Lake Railway or Snowdon Mountain Railway
- Entertainment on 2 nights ➤ Leisure facilities

Apr & Oct: Prices from: £256
May to Sep: Prices from: £306

Great Little Trains of North Wales



Welsh Highland Railway

Enjoy memorable journeys on the Welsh Highland and Ffestiniog Railways through Snowdonia's stunning scenery.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Caernarfon for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Explore the **medieval walled town of Caernarfon**, with its mighty 13th century Castle, and enjoy a single journey on the **Welsh Highland Railway** through the spectacular **Snowdonia National Park** scenery to the historic harbour town of **Porthmadog**, which has no less than three narrow gauge railway stations.

Day 3: Excursion into the very heart of Snowdonia to **Llanberis**, which is home to the fascinating National Slate Museum and two narrow gauge railways, one which could take you on a relaxing trip around the lake and one which could take you to the very summit of Snowdon. Continue through the 'Pass of Llanberis' to the delightful village of **Betws-y-Coed**, which literally means 'sanctuary in the wood'.

Day 4: Marvel at the wonderful scenery on a memorable nostalgic rail trip on the famous **Ffestiniog Railway**, which offers a magical combination of spectacular landscape and historic railway. Explore the harbour town of Porthmadog or the resort of Criccieth, with its two beaches separated by a spectacular headland castle or alternatively, why not visit the unique Italianate village of Portmeirion, where the cult 1960's TV series 'The Prisoner' was filmed.

Day 5: Time to reluctantly head for home.

Please see page 23 for a 'Winter Warmer' tour at this hotel.



Celtic Royal Hotel ★★ ★

Historic hotel within walking distance of Caernarfon's walled town and impressive castle.

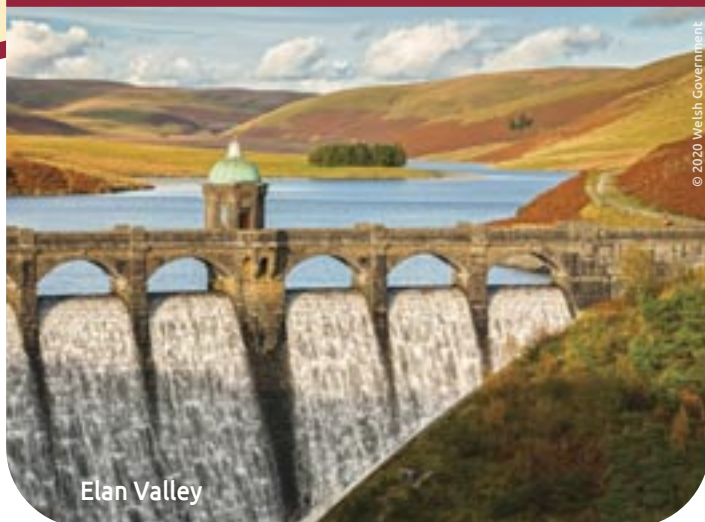
- 110 Bedrooms • Lift
- Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB ➤ Ffestiniog Railway
- Welsh Highland Railway
- Entertainment on 2 nights ➤ Leisure facilities

Apr & Oct: Prices from: £279
May to Sep: Prices from: £329

Heart of Wales Steam & Cruise



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Experience an elegant Victorian spa town, a scenic train journey, a relaxing canal cruise and the beautiful and unspoilt Elan Valley.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Llandrindod Wells for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Escape to **Elan Valley and its visitor centre**, a world away from normal life, for a **coach guided tour** of this beautiful and unspoilt area made even more compelling by the dams and reservoirs which together create a wonderful living landscape. Home to the National Cycle Collection, explore **Llandrindod Wells**, whose towers and ornate ironwork reflect its heyday as a Victorian spa town.

Day 3: Head to the Ceredigion Heritage Coast and the **Victorian seaside resort of Aberystwyth**, which is home to beaches, a lovely Promenade, a funicular railway, castle ruins and the National Library of Wales, and enjoy an unforgettable and nostalgic journey through some wonderful scenery on the **Vale of Rheidol narrow gauge steam railway**.

Day 4: Experience the beautiful and diverse scenery of the **Brecon Beacons National Park**, including **Brecon**, with its medieval cathedral and narrow streets full of craft and antique shops, and a **relaxing cruise through a lock and over an aqueduct on the historical Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal**, a fantastic feat of engineering which was built before roads and railways. A buffet lunch or cream tea can be included, if required. Alternatively, you could visit **Hay-on-Wye**, which has become a world famous second-hand book centre.

Day 5: Homeward bound.



The Metropole Hotel

★★★★

In the heart of Llandrindod Wells, it has been owned by the same family for over 100 years.

- 120 Bedrooms • Lift
- Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB ➤ Vale of Rheidol Railway ➤ Brecon Canal Cruise
- Elan Valley Visitor Centre & coach guided tour
- Entertainment on 1 night ➤ Leisure facilities

Apr & Oct: Prices from: £282
May to Sep: Prices from: £299

Monmouthshire, Cardiff & the Brecon Beacons



Chepstow Castle

Explore the Monmouthshire & Wye Valley borderlands, the cultural capital city of Wales and the scenic beauty of the Brecon Beacons.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Chepstow for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Head to the cultural capital city of Wales, **Cardiff**, for an enjoyable and informative **two hour coach guided tour** of the city, the vibrant bay area, the Barrage and Penarth seafront, before returning to the city, when you will be able to explore the city, the imposing Castle, heritage and historic local attractions for yourself.

Day 3: Visit the **historic walled town of Chepstow** on the banks of the River Wye, which is dominated by the oldest surviving stone castle in Britain. Follow the twists and turns of the wonderful Wye Valley past the magnificent ruins of Tintern Abbey, before continuing to the **Georgian market town of Monmouth**, famous for its unique 13th century Monnow Bridge.

Day 4: The choice is yours today! Head into the awe-inspiring Brecon Beacons for a spectacular scenic journey on the **Brecon Mountain Railway** or alternatively, see the heads and hear the tales, at the **Royal Mint Experience**. Go behind the scenes and see the processes that put the pounds and pennies in our pockets. Discover some surprising stories and fascinating facts about the craftsmanship that goes into each miniature work of art, and follow the journey of a coin, from a blank to a bank.

Day 5: Head for home.



St Pierre Marriott Hotel & Country Club ★★★★★

Housed within a historic 14th-century manor home, near Chepstow, it is surrounded by 400 acres of parkland.

- 148 Bedrooms
- Ground floor bedrooms
- Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB ➤ Two hour coach-guided tour of Cardiff
- Brecon Mountain Railway or the Royal Mint Experience
- Leisure facilities

Apr to Oct: Prices from: £298

Gower Peninsula & Tenby



Tenby

Discover Britain's first 'Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty', the resort of Tenby, a wonderful garden or a nostalgic train journey.

Suggested Itinerary:

Day 1: Travel to Llanelli or Carmarthen for a 4 night stay.

Day 2: Experience the sheer beauty of the Gower today with a visit to the **Gower Heritage Centre**, which offers crafts, a watermill and a museum, but most of all enjoy a **coach guided tour of the Gower Peninsula**. Ensure you visit the **picturesque Victorian seaside village of Mumbles**, with its boutiques, galleries and potteries, and if time allows call in to the regenerated Swansea Bay and Maritime Quarter, home to the National Waterfront Museum.

Day 3: Excursion into Pembrokeshire to the **historic seaside resort of Tenby**, with its natural charm, narrow streets, harbour and beautiful beaches. Alternatively, you could try something completely different and head into the southern foothills of the Brecon Beacons to Penderyn Distillery, home of the one and only single malt Welsh Whisky or enjoy spectacular scenery on the Brecon Mountain Railway.

Day 4: Explore **Carmarthen, the oldest town in Wales**, with its popular Wednesday outdoor market, medieval lanes and Georgian buildings. This afternoon the choice is yours, as you could enjoy a nostalgic heritage train journey on the **Gwili Steam Railway** or visit the **National Botanic Garden of Wales**, which has been voted 'No 1 garden to visit in Wales' by BBC Gardeners' World, with its stunning range of themed gardens and the world's largest single-span glasshouse.

Day 5: Head for home.

Best Western Diplomat Hotel & Spa ★★

A family-run hotel, it combines warm hospitality, with style and sophistication.

- 50 Bedrooms • Lift
- Coach parking

Ivy Bush Royal Hotel ★★

Set in the heart of Carmarthen, it combines old world charm with modern facilities.

- 70 Bedrooms • Lift
- Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB ➤ Gower Heritage Centre and Guided Tour
- National Botanic Garden of Wales or Gwili Steam Railway
- Entertainment on 2 nights ➤ Leisure facilities (Diplomat Hotel)

May to Sep: Prices from: £279

Snowdonian Winter Warmer



Snowdonia

Spectacular Snowdonia scenery awaits on this Winter Warmer package based at the excellent Celtic Royal Hotel in Caernarfon. Visit the elegant Victorian seaside resort of Llandudno and enjoy the Snowdonian towns and villages.

Highlights include:

- Punch or mulled wine reception on arrival day
- Tea/coffee and mince pies on one afternoon
- Christmas dinner on one evening
- Indoor Treasure Hunt
- Entertainment on three nights

Celtic Royal Hotel ★★

Historic hotel within walking distance of Caernarfon's walled town and impressive castle.

- 110 Bedrooms • Lift
- Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB ➤ Inclusions as above ➤ Leisure facilities

Nov & Dec: Prices from: £180

Pembrokeshire Coastlines Turkey & Tinsel



Wonderful sea views await at the Cliff Hotel, close to the historic town of Cardigan where the counties of Pembrokeshire and Ceredigion meet. Visit Cardigan, the seaside resort of Tenby and St David's, the smallest cathedral city in Britain.

Highlights include:

- Mulled wine and mince pies
- One hours free use of the spa facilities per person per day
- 50% discount on selected drinks between 6pm and 9pm each evening
- Christmas and New Year themed dinners
- Nightly entertainment

The Cliff Hotel & Spa

★★

This lovely hotel near Cardigan, has stunning sea views and cliff-top walks.

- 73 Bedrooms • Lift
- Coach parking

Tour Includes:

- 4 nights DBB ➤ Inclusions as above ➤ Leisure facilities

Nov & Dec: Prices from: £219