



2



8



20



40



46



54

Contents

2 Dylan Thomas

Actor Matthew Rhys on Wales's best-known literary figure, kicking off a year of centenary celebrations in 2014.

6 Wales on film

Visit the beauty spots that drew Johnny Depp, Keira Knightley and Dobby the House Elf to Wales.

8 Coast & country

BBC television presenter Chris Packham celebrates the wildlife of Wales, alongside your guide to its great gardens, beaches, islands and waterfalls.

20 A tale of two cities

International wheelchair athlete and television presenter Liam Holt explores the visitor attractions of Cardiff and Swansea.

26 On the town

A celebration of the historic market towns of Wales.

28 Events diary

Why not book your Welsh break around one of the exciting events taking place here in 2014?

40 The castles of Wales

An appetising guide to a selection of the 641 historic castles we have in Wales.

42 Myths & legends

Magical stories from all over Wales, featuring an assortment of dragons, water monsters and fairies.

44 Royal connections

Follow in the footsteps of royals down the centuries and you'll end up in Anglesey, former home of Prince William and Kate.

46 Mountain biking

Discover why Wales has become a leading destination for mountain bikers from all over the world.

50 Adrenaline Wales

Wales View's youngest contributor tells us what it's like to fly 500 feet (152 metres) in the air along the longest zip wire in Europe.

54 Food & drink

Whether you're foraging or feasting, the natural produce grown in Wales is unrivalled for freshness and flavour.

60 In the lap of luxury

Go on, spoil yourself...

62 Essential information

Travel information, area guides to Wales and FAQs.

68 Wales map

Visit Wales cannot guarantee the accuracy or reliability of the information in this publication and hereby disclaim any responsibility for any error, omission or misrepresentation. To the fullest extent permitted by law all liability for loss, disappointment, negligence or other damage caused by reliance on the information contained in this guide is excluded. You are advised to check all details and information with the business concerned before confirming a reservation. All rights reserved. Material in this publication must not be reproduced in any form without permission from the copyright owners – please contact Visit Wales. Opinions expressed in Wales View are not necessarily those of Visit Wales.

Wales View is published by Visit Wales, the Tourism and Marketing division of the Welsh Government ©2014.

Visit Wales, Welsh Government, OED Centre, Main Avenue, Treforest Industrial Estate, Treforest, Pontypridd CF37 5YR (WG18041)

Managing Editors Iestyn George and Charles Williams. Printed by Westdale Press.

Print ISBN: 978 1 4734 0418 2
Digital ISBN: 978 1 4734 0409 0

Crown copyright (2013) Visit Wales

Design & photography: Visit Wales Creative Services.

Other photography: Bodnant Welsh Food Centre, Celtic Manor Resort, Grace Elliott, David Frost, Getty Image, Steve Hartley/CBMWC, Charles Hawes, Gweldd Conwy Feast, Ian Jones, Rainy Day Films, Steve Read, Kiran Ridley, Lee Miller Archives, S4C, Nick Trehame, Universal Studios, Wales Screen Commission, Wright's Independent Food Emporium and Ynys-Hir RSPB.

Back cover quotation: from *Idyll of Unforgetfulness* by Dylan Thomas – © The Trustees for the copyright of Dylan Thomas, 1929.

This publication is also available in Braille, large-format print, and/or audio from Visit Wales.

info@visitwales.co.uk



Printed on recycled paper

