



## Further information

### Free brochures

Find out more about Wales by choosing some of the **FREE** guides available. Check them out, and order or download them from [visitwales.com/brochures](http://visitwales.com/brochures)

### Our other websites

There are a number of really useful Visit Wales websites to get information on the different types of activities you can try on your holiday in Wales. Whether you want to hurtle down a mountain with your rear brakes burned out, throw yourself off rugged wave-lashed cliffs, fish for grayling on the River Wye, or play one of our championship golf courses – we have a website for you. So what are you waiting for?

**Adventure:**

[visitwales.com/things-to-do/activities](http://visitwales.com/things-to-do/activities)

**Fishing:** [fishing.visitwales.com](http://fishing.visitwales.com)

**Mountain biking:** [mbwales.com](http://mbwales.com)

**Walking:** [walking.visitwales.com](http://walking.visitwales.com)

**Golf:** [golfasitshouldbe.com](http://golfasitshouldbe.com)

For up-to-date information on short breaks and proper holidays in Wales, go to the official website: [visitwales.com](http://visitwales.com)

### FAQs

#### How do I know I'm booking good quality accommodation?

When choosing your holiday accommodation, look for the Cymru/ Wales quality mark of Wales's official, nationwide quality assessment scheme. Visit Wales and the AA are the only checking agents in Wales, checking out over 5,000 properties. Both assess holiday accommodation to the same criteria and award one to five stars, based on the facilities and overall quality of the experience. Also look out for that extra-special property that has been awarded Visit Wales's Gold Award,

given for exceptional standards of hospitality, comfort and food in serviced accommodation.

For more information on accommodation in Wales, the Cymru/ Wales Quality Assessment scheme, general grading information and star ratings go to: [visitwales.com/holiday-accommodation](http://visitwales.com/holiday-accommodation)

#### Where can I find holiday information for people with special needs?

Tourism for All is a free specialist information service promoting accessible tourism. It offers free guidance on travel planning, transport, accommodation and booking [tourismforall.org.uk](http://tourismforall.org.uk)

#### I'd like to learn some Welsh before my visit – where do I start?

Take a look at the following websites to pick up some basics:  
[bbc.co.uk/learnwelsh](http://bbc.co.uk/learnwelsh)  
[s4c.co.uk/dysgwyr/](http://s4c.co.uk/dysgwyr/)

If you'd like to learn Welsh in Wales, the Nant Gwrtheyrn Welsh Language & Heritage Centre specialises in residential courses for adults learning Welsh. [nantgwrtheyrn.org](http://nantgwrtheyrn.org)

#### Where can I get local tourist information?

One of the simplest and quickest ways of getting local information is by calling in to one of our Tourist Information Centres. The staff are highly trained, have an excellent knowledge of the area and will be delighted to help you with booking your accommodation, finding places to eat, things to do, routes to take, national and local events and obtaining maps, guides and books. Normally, offices are open between 10.00 and 17.00. For a list of Tourist Information Centres see: [visitwales.com/contact/tourist-information-centres](http://visitwales.com/contact/tourist-information-centres)

### Travel agents and tour operators in the UK and Ireland

To make it really easy to book your holiday or short break in Wales you could use a tour operator. There are a number of UK and Irish companies who offer Wales-based holidays. They often have specialist knowledge of particular products and will be happy to help you find the right holiday to suit your needs.

For companies go to: [traveltrade visitwales.com/en/touroperators/](http://traveltrade.visitwales.com/en/touroperators/)

### Selling Wales to your clients

If you work in the leisure travel trade or business tourism sectors, we have a dedicated website to help you sell Wales to your clients and enhance existing tours to Wales or help introduce Wales into UK programmes for the first time.

There's everything from great places to visit, how to get here, inspiring itinerary ideas, operator and venue searches and the latest product news where you can sign up to receive regular product updates. [traveltrade.visitwales.com](http://traveltrade.visitwales.com)

Whilst every effort has been made to ensure accuracy in this publication, Visit Wales can accept no liability for any errors, inaccuracies or omissions or for any matter in anyway arising out of the publication of the information. All websites listed are checked at the time of going to press. However, Visit Wales cannot be held accountable for any change in the content of these websites.



## Mother tongue

When the Romans arrived in Britain, every person in what is now England and Wales spoke the same language: Welsh (or at least, British, the Celtic language from which modern Welsh is descended). Successive invasions from mainland Europe drove the British language to the western edges of Britain, where it evolved into Welsh, Cornish and the now-extinct Cumbric. The language also hopped across to north-west France, where the Breton language is still partly intelligible to Welsh speakers.

Nowadays Welsh is spoken by around a fifth of the population, especially in the north and west of Wales, where it is many people's everyday working language. You'll also hear quite a bit of Welsh in major towns and cities like Cardiff, where the government and all major public bodies are fully bilingual. So if you want to know what our ancient British ancestors sounded like, just find your nearest Welsh speaker and say *shwmae!*

## A sense of place

Place names tell a story in Wales. You'll see the same words appear time and again on our road signs, and they'll always tell you something of the local history or landscape. Two in particular appear very often: **Llan** indicates a church or parish, usually followed by the name of the saint to whom it's dedicated, as in Llandudno: the church of St Tudno. **Aber** means the mouth or confluence of a river, as in Aberaeron: the mouth of the river Aeron.

Here's a list of common names to look out for on your travels:

Aber	mouth/confluence of river
Afon	river
Betws	chapel
Blaen	source of a stream
Bryn	hill
Bwlch	a mountain pass
Caer	fort, fortified camp
Capel	chapel
Cas, castell	castle

Coed	forest
Cwm	valley
Din	hill fort
Dinas	city
Dyffryn	valley
Eglwys	church
Ffordd	road
Ffynnon	spring
Glyn	deep valley
Gwaun	moorland
Hafod	summer farmstead
Hendre	winter farmstead
Llan	church, sacred enclosure
Llyn	lake
Môr	sea
Mynydd	mountain
Nant	brook
Newydd	new
Plas	hall, mansion
Pont	bridge
Rhaeadr	waterfall
Traeth	beach
Tŷ	house
Ynys	island

## And the award goes to...

The National Tourism Awards for Wales showcase the very best that we've got to offer in the tourism industry. From luxurious hotels to cosy B&Bs, attractions to eateries, they all have the same things in common – great quality, a warm welcome and a truly professional approach to looking after visitors. These are our reigning champions, who were crowned at a big glittery ceremony in November 2013:

### Best Places to Stay

#### Hotel

St Brides Spa Hotel, Saundersfoot  
[stbridesspahotel.com](http://stbridesspahotel.com)

#### Guest Accommodation

Llwyn Helyg, near Carmarthen  
[llwynhelygcountrypark.co.uk](http://llwynhelygcountrypark.co.uk)

#### Self-Catering

Plas Cadnant Hidden Gardens and Cottages, Menai Bridge  
[plascadnant.co.uk](http://plascadnant.co.uk)

#### Holiday, Touring or Camping Park

The Plassey Leisure Park, Wrexham  
[plassey.com](http://plassey.com)

### Hostels, Bunkhouses and Alternative Accommodation

Cosy Under Canvas, Newchurch  
[cosyundercanvas.co.uk](http://cosyundercanvas.co.uk)

#### Best Event

Abergavenny Food Festival, Abergavenny  
[abergavennyfoodfestival.com](http://abergavennyfoodfestival.com)

#### Best Visitor Experience

Celtic Quest Coasteering, Haverfordwest  
[celticquestcoasteering.com](http://celticquestcoasteering.com)

#### Most Successful Tourism Team

Trecco Bay Holiday Park, Porthcawl  
[parkdeanholidays.co.uk](http://parkdeanholidays.co.uk)

#### Best Places to Eat (Public Vote)

##### Restaurant (Large)

Signatures Restaurant, Aberconwy  
[signaturesrestaurant.co.uk](http://signaturesrestaurant.co.uk)

##### Restaurant (Small)

Llansantffraed Court Country House Hotel & Restaurant, near Abergavenny  
[llch.co.uk](http://llch.co.uk)

##### Pub

The Bell at Skenfrith, Skenfrith  
[skenfrith.co.uk](http://skenfrith.co.uk)

##### Café

The Old Station, Tintern  
[Tinternvillage.co.uk/seedo/tintern-old-station/](http://Tinternvillage.co.uk/seedo/tintern-old-station/)

### Regional Tourism Award

#### Capital Region

Welsh Whisky Company, Penderyn  
[welsh-whisky.co.uk](http://welsh-whisky.co.uk)

#### South West Wales

Dan yr Ogof, The National Showcaves Centre for Wales, near Neath  
[showcaves.co.uk](http://showcaves.co.uk)

#### Mid Wales

Y Talbot, Tregaron  
[ytaalbot.com](http://ytaalbot.com)

#### North Wales

Ffestiniog and Welsh Highland Railways  
Porthmadog  
[festrail.co.uk](http://festrail.co.uk)

#### Business Tourism Operator Award

Radisson Blu Hotel, Cardiff  
[radissonblu.co.uk/Cardiff](http://radissonblu.co.uk/Cardiff)

#### Young Tourism Entrepreneur

Phil Scott and Tom Ashwell, RibRide Anglesey  
[ribride.co.uk](http://ribride.co.uk)

#### Technology in Tourism Award

Celtic Quest Coasteering, Haverfordwest  
[celticquestcoasteering.org](http://celticquestcoasteering.org)

#### Outstanding Achievement Award

Gordon Green / Green Events Ltd  
[green-events.co.uk](http://green-events.co.uk)