

TRAVEL TRADE TOOLKIT

A practical guide to the best walking experiences in Wales

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Newborough Beach

About the Toolkit

Welcome to this travel trade toolkit featuring the three National Trails in Wales – Offa's Dyke Path, Glyndŵr's Way and the Pembrokeshire Coast Path - plus the Wales Coast Path. It is designed to be easy to use, giving you the ability to access a wide range of material and information, when planning holiday itineraries.

These trails provide huge scope for a wide variety of holidays and visits, including the creation of long-distance walking holidays and destination breaks to some of Wales' most attractive towns and villages, whether as part of a fully organised holiday or independent travel.

To help you plan, this toolkit provides details on where to stay, and top tips on walking itineraries from those who look after the trails, coach parking facilities, attractions, things to do, information on the food and drink of Wales and where to eat out, plus much more.

Wales, with its own distinctive language, may be a small country, but it is big on things to do. Although the Coast Path and National Trails are top attractions for walkers, the surrounding areas offer much more for the visitor than just walking – everything from blue flag beaches, to unspoilt countryside, bustling market towns and culture and history galore.

This Toolkit you will help you put together a range of holiday ideas, marketing and promotional plans and ideas. It is designed to save you time when planning breaks and getaways, by bringing together a wealth of useful information all in one easily accessible document. Hyper-links make it easy for you to access a wide range of web sites and resources and if you are not already offering holidays in Wales, on these pages you will find links to existing providers with whom you can work.

The National Trails in Wales and the Wales Coast Path in facts & figures

The three National Trails in Wales together with the Wales Coast Path offer walkers of all abilities a wide range of walks. From cliff top walks and secluded beaches through to exploring market towns and villages the trails give visitors unparalleled choice.

Running alongside the border between England and Wales Offa's Dyke Path is a beautiful 177-mile National Trail. Traveling south to north, starting by the Severn Estuary at Sedbury, near Chepstow, and finishing at Prestatyn on the north coast. The walk will take an average walker roughly 12 days to complete. Lonely Planet names Offa's Dyke among the world's greatest walks.

In the 8th Century, King Offa of Mercia erected a wide border rampart to separate Wales and England: Offa's Dyke. Much later, in 1971, the path was placed alongside it and passes through eight counties, offers an array of pretty market towns along its route, with a choice of accommodation.

Glyndŵr's Way will take you off the beaten track. Its nine-day route visits many of the sites connected with Wales' historic past — towns like Welshpool, Knighton and Machynlleth. The trail can be enjoyed as a series of one day walks. Approximately 60 percent of Glyndwr's Way is available for cyclists & horse riders.

On the complete route, you will walk through rolling farmland, open moor and heather-clad hills, and discover exhilarating views of Cadair Idris and Plynlimon mountains. There are overnight stops in small towns like Llanidloes or lovely villages like Meifod, but you can travel for miles and only see the occasional farmer. What you will see, however, are red kites, peregrine falcons and buzzards.

The Pembrokeshire Coast Path covers 186 miles, passes 58 beaches and 14 harbours, and tracks every cliff and cove between St Dogmaels and Amroth. It is almost entirely within the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park and takes in rugged cliff tops, sheltered coves, wide beaches and winding estuaries.

Wales is one of a few countries in the world to have a continuous coastal path stretching its entire length. The Wales Coast Path starts in Flintshire in the north and runs for 870 miles to Chepstow in the south. Along its route it passes by Blue Flag beaches and market towns, circles the Isle of Anglesey, runs through I I national nature reserves, and follows the coastline of the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park and Gower Peninsula. In the capital city, Cardiff, the path runs along the Cardiff Bay Barrage, offering unparalleled views of the city and its skyline.

The Wales Coast Path was officially launched on 5 May 2012. <u>Lonely Planet</u> rated the coast of Wales first in its top 10 regions for 2012 and the same year National Geographic magazine named Pembrokeshire the world's second-best coastal destination.

The whole path is accessible to walkers, with some sections suitable for cyclists, families with pushchairs, people with restricted mobility, and horse riders.

From cliff top walks and secluded beaches through to exploring the exciting Cardiff Bay redevelopment - the 870-miles long Wales Coast Path offers visitors a wide range of scenic views.

To enjoy the Coast Path and the National Trails you don't even need to be an ardent walker as there are short easy stretches for a quick and easy walk as well as longer, more challenging hikes.



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Pembrokeshire Coast Path

Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty



Moel Famau, Offa's Dyke Path

DID YOU KNOW? Offa's Dyke Path

- Offa's Dyke Path is a 177 mile (285 Km) long walking trail. It is named after, and often follows, the spectacular Dyke King Offa ordered to be constructed in the 8th Century. The longest Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM) in Britain.
- Offa's Dyke Path passes through eight different counties and crosses the Welsh/English border over 20 times.
- It links three Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and a National Park – the Wye Valley, the Shropshire Hills and the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley, plus the Brecon Beacons National Park.
- The Path passes through or near to many historic towns, including Chepstow, Monmouth, Hay-on-Wye, Kington, Presteigne, Knighton, Bishop's Castle, Montgomery, Welshpool, Oswestry, Llangollen, Mold, Ruthin, Denbigh, and Prestatyn.
- Hay-on-Wye is known world-wide as "the town of books". This pretty market town lies on the east bank of the River Wye just inside the Brecon Beacons National Park and is home to the annual international Hay Festival.

- Chepstow Castle is regarded as the oldest surviving stone castle in Britain and boasts the oldest castle doors in Europe – some 800 years old. Until 1962 these doors hung in the main gateway, but are now in safe keeping in the on-site exhibition.
- Monnow Bridge crosses the River Monnow in the Welsh border market town of Monmouth, best known as the birthplace of Henry V. It is the sole remaining medieval fortified river bridge in Britain
- Pontcysyllte Aqueduct is the longest and highest aqueduct in Britain and is often called 'the stream in the sky.' It is a Scheduled Ancient Monument, a World Heritage Site, and a Grade I Listed structure.
- White Castle, alongside the Offa's Dyke Path, is one of a group of three castles, linked by the Three Castles Trail, the others being Skenfrith and Grosmont. All three were under the control of a single lord, Hubert de Burgh, early in the 13th Century.
- The Offa's Dyke Path runs close to Llanthony Priory, a partly ruined Augustinian priory at the foot of Black Mountains on the Hatterrall Ridge above the Llanthony Valley and marks the Wales-England border.



Lake Vyrnwy, Glyndwr's Way

DID YOU KNOW?

Glyndŵr's Way

- Glyndŵr's Way is 135 miles long (217km) and named after Owain Glyndŵr', Prince of Wales and Medieval Welsh nationalist leader who organised a rebellion against the English king, Henry IV in 1400.
- It's well worth making the effort to take the short detour from Glyndŵr's Way up to the trig point on the top of Foel Fadian (1530ft/510m) from which on a clear day views stretch out along the majestic Dulas valley to Machynlleth and the sea.
- Glyndŵr's Way takes you to some of the finest landscape features in Wales including the tranquil Radnorshire Hills, the shores of the Clywedog Reservoir and the heather clad Plynlimon range.
- The trail passes Llyn Clywedog a man-made reservoir formed by the construction of the Clywedog Dam. The lake has a surface area of 615 acres (230 football pitches), is 216 ft deep at its maximum depth and stretches in all a distance of some six miles. Above the dam is a viewing platform offering a panoramic view of the surrounding countryside.

- At Lake Vyrnwy you can see pied flycatchers and redstarts, dippers and great crested grebes and goosanders. Look carefully and you might see a peregrine falcon soar in the skies.
- The Owain Glyndŵr Centre is built on the site of the famous parliament held in 1404 at which Owain was crowned Prince of Wales. This Grade I listed building was given to the town of Machynlleth by Lord Davies of Llandinam in February 1912.
- Take a short one-mile detour and view the medieval Powis Castle with its celebrated, world-famous gardens. Laid out under the influence of Italian and French styles, it houses a range of rare plants.
- In July & August make a special effort to visit Glaslyn Wildlife Trust Reserve when it turns purple with the flowering heather and look out for the lake's speciality, quillwort, which often washes up on the lake shore after bad weather.
- High above Dylife the Trail passes along an old Roman Road and the remains of the Penycrocben Roman fort.



Whitesands, Ramsey Island and Carn Llidi

DID YOU KNOW?Pembrokeshire Coast Path

- Opened in 1970, the Pembrokeshire Coast Path was the first National Trail in Wales
- It runs for 186 miles (299 km) from St Dogmaels to Amroth
- It passes 58 beaches and 14 harbours
- The Pembrokeshire coastal bus service covers the entire path
- Total rise and fall over entire length of path is approx 35,000 feet - that's as high as Everest!
- The Pembrokeshire Coast Path is part of the Wales Coast Path which stretches 870 miles right around Wales.
- At Castell Henllys, Crymych, you can step back in time. It is a unique Iron Age hill fort recreated with fantastic replica Iron Age roundhouses, built right on top of the excavated remains of an existing hill fort, dating back 2,400 years.

- A little inland at the magnificent Carew Castle you can see an impressive I Ith century Celtic cross, the only restored tidal mill in Wales, and a medieval bridge, all linked by a one-mile circular walk.
- Throughout the length of the Trail small quays, lime kilns and warehouses, and sites like the brickworks at Porthgain, are reminders of an industrial tradition. The Milford Haven waterway, whose natural harbour once so impressed Nelson, is still an industrial hub.
- Completing the Coast Path in one go, taking on average between 10 to 15 days.
- St David's, on the Coast Path, is Britain's smallest city with a population of under 2,000.
 It was given city status in the 12th Century, but lost it in 1886. It was restored in 1995 by Royal Charter.



Three Cliffs Bay

DID YOU KNOW?Wales Coast Path

- Over 43 million visits have been made to the Welsh coastline during 2014 which included walking as an activity.
- Walkers along the Coast Path are estimated to spend nearly £550 million a year
- Wales has more Blue Flag beaches per mile than anywhere else in the UK
- 40 beaches in Wales were awarded Blue Flag status in 2019
- There are more than 100 beaches dotted along the Coast Path
- The Cardiff Bay Barrage is part of the Wales Coast Path
- The Coast Path offers glimpses of blue whales, dolphins, puffins, and Atlantic seals
- There are over 30 shipwrecks in Llandudno Bay
- You can walk dogs on a lead on the Coast Path & some sections are open to horse riders

- It would take about two & a half weeks to walk the 186 miles of Pembrokeshire coastline
- Rhossili Bay in the Gower has been voted among the top 10 beaches in the world
- Merthyr Mawr, near Porthcawl, has some of the largest sand dunes in Europe
- Playing Nefyn's headland golf course has been likened to teeing off the deck of an aircraft carrier
- Alice Liddell, born in 1852, who often visited Llandudno with her family, was the inspiration for Lewis Carroll's Alice in Wonderland
- There are 30 RNLI lifeboat stations in Wales / 40 RNLI lifeguarded beaches in Wales
- South East Wales has the second highest tidal range in the world
- The Wales Coast Path is 870 miles long (1,400km) with start and end points in Flintshire in the north and in Chepstow in the south.





Glyndwr's Way

Walking itineraries

Offa's Dyke Path

Offa's Dyke Path, 177 mile (285 Km) long, opened in the summer of 1971 and links Sedbury Cliffs near Chepstow in the south with the holiday resort of Prestatyn on the north Wales coast.

It passes through no less than eight different counties and crosses the border between England and Wales over 20 times. The Trail explores the tranquil Marches (as the border region is known) and passes through the Brecon Beacons National Park on the spectacular Hatterrall Ridge. In addition, it links no less than three Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty – the Wye Valley, the Shropshire Hills and the Clwydian Range/Dee Valley.

Here is just one example of the walks your customers can do on Offa's Dyke Path:

Chirk and River Ceiriog Circular Walk This 6.5 mile / 10.5 km route starts near Chirk Railway Station (grid reference SJ 285 378) and links the town with Chirk castle, Offa's Dyke National Trail and the River Ceiriog.

It takes you through many areas of scenic beauty, making the walk worthwhile and enjoyable in all seasons.

There is limited on-street parking near Chirk Railway Station and regular bus services to the start of the walk - call 01978 266166 for information or go to online bus timetables.

Ordnance Survey Explorer Maps 255 & 256 cover the area.

View the full details of the Chirk and River Ceiriog Circular Walk

For those who like to mix a bit of sightseeing with their walking, here's an example of the variety of things to see and do in just two relaxing days on **Offa's Dyke Path**

Day I Morning

Start your day in Chepstow with a visit to its awesome Castle, built in a strategic position high above the River Wye. Its Great Tower keep was commissioned by William the Conqueror barely a year after the Battle of Hastings, making Chepstow Castle Britain's oldest surviving post-Roman stone castle.

After your visit, indulge in a bit of shopping in Chepstow's independent boutiques amid the handsome Georgian and Victorian buildings in the centre of town, before finding somewhere for a spot of lunch.

Afternoon

Pick up Offa's Dyke Path which passes to the east of Chepstow and it's a 6 mile / 9 km walk to Tintern on the eastern side of the River Wye, high on the tree lined escarpment with a number of classic viewpoints - one of the most iconic being the view of Tintern Abbey from Devil's Pulpit.

Enjoy an evening meal and overnight stay in Tintern.

Day 2

Morning

A visit to <u>Tintern Abbey</u> is a must in the morning, which you can follow with an early lunch at the <u>Old Station</u>, originally built as a Victorian country railway station and now a popular café.

Afternoon

With your energy restored, rejoin the Path and walk the 9 miles / 14 km to Monmouth over the afternoon, crossing the border into Wales at Redbrook and taking in the viewpoint at The Kymin, with its 17thcentury banqueting hall and naval temple.

Enjoy the late afternoon and an evening meal in Monmouth, a Welsh border town sitting on the confluence of the Rivers Wye, Monnow and Trothy and perhaps best known as the birthplace of Henry V. One of the town's best-known landmarks is the 13th century Monnow Bridge, the only remaining Medieval fortified bridge in Great Britain, which the Trail passes under.

For more inspiration:

Check out these websites for details on the trails and individual walking itineraries:

The National Trails

Visit Wales

The Long Distance Walkers Association

Offa's Dyke Association





Lake Vyrnwy, Glyndwr's Way

Walking itineraries

Glyndŵr's Way

Glyndŵr's Way is 135 miles (217 Km) long. This National Trail enables visitors to experience wild, open moorland, rolling farmland, and the woodland and forests of mid-Wales. The trail starts in Knighton and ends in Welshpool, and is named after Owain Glyndŵr, the Prince of Wales and Welsh nationalist leader who organised a rebellion against the English king, Henry IV in 1400.

Here is just one example of the walks your customers can do on Glyndŵr's Way:

Cemmaes Road to Machynlleth

Park in Machynlleth and take the T12 bus to Glantwymyn/Cemmaes Road. Walk the nine miles back to Machynlleth, over high pasture and along a fine ridge, enjoying wonderful views down the Dyfi valley. The walk ends at the Owain Glyndŵr Centre in Machynlleth.

The centre is built on the site of the famous parliament held in 1404 at which Owain was crowned Prince of Wales. It hosts a new interactive and informative exhibition on the life, times and vision of Owain Glyndŵr - rebel leader, national hero and the last Welshman in history to claim the title - Prince of Wales - at the beginning of the 15 Century.

Find out more about the walk.

For those who like to mix a bit of sightseeing with their walking, here's an example of the variety of things to see and do in just two relaxing days on **Glyndŵr's Way**

Day I

Morning

Begin your day in the charming village of Abbeycwmhir, just north of Llandrindod Wells, with its beautiful Parish Church of St Marys.

Take a look round the Abbeycwmhir ruins and Cadw Exhibition Room which can be found through Home Farm, the red brick farm in the centre of the village. It's an ideal spot for a picnic, and everyone comments on the peacefulness of the place with the Clywedog Brook running beyond the fish pool at the bottom of the field.

Afternoon

You may wish to fortify yourself at the Happy Union Inn in the village before heading off on Glyndŵr's Way and enjoying the stunning views on the 11 mile / 17 km walk to Llanidloes for an overnight stay.

Day 2

Morning

Relax for a few hours in Llanidloes with its art gallery, museum, coffee shops and boutique shopping. Stock up with something for a picnic and continue on Glyndŵr's Way for a gentle 3 mile / 4 km walk to the Clywedog Reservoir.

Afternoon

Settle in for the rest of the day, enjoying sweeping views with your picnic, and looking out for the buzzards or red kites you might see riding the thermals, and visit Bryntail Lead Mine Buildings.

Sitting in the shadow of the dam at the southern end of the Reservoir, Bryntail's buildings are a glimpse back to the 19th century when this tranquil spot was a bustling site for extracting and processing lead. It closed in 1884 but the remains that still stand include crushing houses, ore bins, roasting ovens, smithy and the mine manager's office.



Bryntail Lead Mine Buildings

For more inspiration:

Check out these websites for details on the trails and individual walking itineraries:

The National Trails

Visit Mid Wales

The Long Distance Walkers Association

Ramblers





Strumble Head Lighthouse, Pembrokeshire

Walking itineraries

Pembrokeshire Coast Path

Hugging the west Wales coastline for 186 miles (299km) the Pembrokeshire Coast Path passes through some of Britain's most breath-taking scenery. From the quaint riverside village of St Dogmaels in the north to Amroth, with its long, flat sandy beach, in the south, the trail covers almost every kind of maritime landscape from steep limestone cliffs, undulating red sandstone bays, volcanic headlands, beaches, estuaries and flooded glacial valleys.

Here is just one example of the walks your customers can do on the Pembrokeshire Coast Path:

Dale to Martin's Haven

This 10.5 mile /17km section of Coast Path is moderately strenuous and shows off Pembrokeshire's wild and exposed headlands and some of its finest beaches. It takes you to the mouth of the Milford Haven estuary at St Ann's

Head past <u>Watwick Bay</u> and Mill Bay, famous as the landing point of Henry VII in 1485 as he made his way to the Battle of Bosworth.

As you pass the disused airfield at Dale, you round Hooper's Point to the magnificent view of Marloes Sands stretching out before you. The beach starred in the 2012 Hollywood film Snow White and the Huntsman.

The finale, the most westerly point on the Marloes peninsula, overlooks the turbulent tide race of Jack Sound and <u>Skomer Island</u> and is where the wide sweep of St Bride's Bay reveals itself.

For a shorter walk, you can miss out St Anne's Head peninsula and walk the 4.5 miles between Dale and Martin's Haven.

Find out more about the walk from Dale to Martin's Haven

For those who like to mix a bit of sightseeing with their walking, here's an example of the variety of things to see and do in just two relaxing days on the **Pembrokeshire**Coast Path

Day I

Morning

Your day begins in Saundersfoot, a charming small seaside town with a beautiful sweeping bay. Try one of the local cafés for early morning coffee or a late breakfast, and take in the boutique shops or a stroll along the beach and round the harbour.

From Saundersfoot, it's a 3.5 mile / 6 km walk along the Coast Path to Tenby – where you'll find plenty to do for the rest of the day!

Afternoon

Tenby is full of places for a nice lunch, after which you can stroll around the town with its Georgian facades, try your hand at mackerel fishing, sit on the beach, or take a boat trip to the famous monks' island, Caldey Island, just offshore.

And there is no shortage of hotels and B&Bs for a comfortable overnight stay.

Day 2

Morning

Start off with a short 4 mile / 6.5 km walk along with path from Tenby to Lydstep Haven, a picturesque village with a sand and shingle beach. It is very popular with swimmers and water sports enthusiasts and there is a great view of Caldey Island from the beach.

From there carry on another 2 miles / 3 km to Manorbier. Perched upon the cliffs, in the heart of the village, you can't really miss its Norman Castle, occupying a commanding position overlooking the beautiful Manorbier Beach with the village nestled behind. Steeped in history and folklore this Norman gem has many secrets to discover with its fairytale turrets, great hall, chapel and landscaped gardens designed by Daphne Shackleton, one of Ireland's foremost plants women.

After repeated descents between sea level and 60 metre high cliffs you'll welcome a break at the castle's cafe.

Afternoon

Your lunch will set you up for the final walk of the day – the 3.5 miles to Freshwater East, with its wide expanse of beach, rock pools for crabbing and its link to Harry Potter and Robin Hood movies.

For more inspiration:

Check out these websites for details on the trails and individual walking itineraries:

The National Trails
The Pembrokeshire Coast
Visit Wales
The Long Distance Walkers Association





Llanddwyn Island, Anglesey

Walking itineraries

Wales Coast Path

Stretching from Flintshire in the north to Chepstow in the south the Wales Coast Path passes by 40 Blue Flag beaches – the largest concentration anywhere in the UK. In its first year of opening, 2012, it is estimated nearly three million people walked the path. It continues to attract visitors worldwide.

Here is just one example of the walks your customers can do on the Wales Coast Path:

Ynys Llanddwyn and Newborough Forest, Isle of Anglesey

This easy 4 mile / 6 km walk takes you to one of Wales' most romantic historic sites, with plenty of wildlife on the way.

Starting from Llyn Rhos Ddu car park you can either walk out along the beach or through Newborough Forest, an important habitat for red squirrels and large numbers of roosting ravens.

You'll emerge from the forest close to Llanddwyn Island, home to the remains of St Dwynwen's Church, named for the Celtic princess known as the Welsh patron saint of lovers.

Close to the church is a holy well, populated by eels said to be able to predict your romantic future. If they're jumping when you visit, you're sure to be lucky in love.

You can also see reminders of two 19th-century lighthouses at the island's tip, alongside two restored pilot's cottages. The men who lived here would row out to help ships negotiate the treacherous sandbars between Caernarfon and Abermenai point, as well as manning the local lifeboat.

Retrace your steps back to your start point.

Find out more about the <u>Ynys Llanddwyn and Newborough Forest walk</u>. Find more short walks and longer walks on the <u>Wales Coast Path</u> website.

For those who like to mix a bit of sightseeing with their walking, here's an example of the variety of things to see and do in just two relaxing days on the **Wales Coast Path**

Day I

Morning

Begin this couple of days with a visit to <u>Criccieth Castle</u> sitting on its own rocky headland between two beaches with commanding views over the town and across the wide sweep of Cardigan Bay.

Get walking again after your visit with a 5 mile / 8 km journey along with coast past the sweeping sands of Morfa Bychan to the atmospheric village of Borth y Gest. Hugging the side of the beautiful estuary of the Afon Glaslyn river, there are some welcoming cafes and shops here to dip into.

A few minutes further along the path and you are in Porthmadog – ready for lunch.

Afternoon

Spend the afternoon exploring the shops and attraction of Porthmadog.

Perhaps take a trip on the Welsh Highland Heritage Railway, which is based in the town. Your train may include the carriage that the Prime Minister William Ewart Gladstone rode in when he visited the railway in 1892!

Day 2

Morning

After an overnight stop in Porthmadog, follow the Path across the causeway you crossed yesterday on the train to the unique Italianate village of Portmeirion, just 2 miles / 3 km away. This unusual Mediterranean inspired village, designed by Sir Clough Williams Ellis, famously used as a location for the 60s cult series, The Prisoner.

Afternoon

After some lunchtime refreshment in Portmeirion, rejoin the Coast Path for the 5 mile / 8 km walk to another stunning castle - <u>Harlech Castle</u> – for an impressive conclusion to your two days in Pembrokeshire.

This towering fortress crowns a sheer rocky crag overlooking the dunes far below and the rugged peaks of Snowdonia are its backdrop. It's one of the most spectacular settings of any castle anywhere, and along with the castles of Conwy, Caernarfon and Beaumaris – all of which are on the northern section of the Coast Path - is designated as a World Heritage Site.

For more inspiration:

The Wales Coast Path is divided into eight sections:

North Wales Coast & Dee Estuary
Isle of Anglesey
Llŷn & Snowdonia Coast
Ceredigion
Pembrokeshire Coast Path
Carmarthenshire
Gower & Swansea Bay
South Wales Coast & Severn Estuary

You can download individual leaflets on each of the sections <u>here</u>

Each leaflet has a <u>passport</u> section where the whole region is divided into a list of four or five mile smaller walks, mainly between towns and villages.

Other useful links

Wales Coast Path
Visit Wales
The Long Distance W

The Long Distance Walkers Association
The National Trust

Ramblers Cymru





Ceredigion, Mid Wales

Where to Stay

Bunkhouses, outdoor pursuit centres, self-catering units, camp sites, B&Bs, hotels... Wales has every conceivable type of accommodation to appeal to group travel organisers and holiday companies.

Whether hotel or bunkhouse, many are oozing with character and history and more often than not located in stunning environments which make the most of countryside or sea views.

Dotted all along the routes of Wales' walking trails, all are well used to accommodating walkers, and many will offer facilities such as drying rooms, luggage forwarding and packed lunches to enable your clients to get the best out of their stay.

There is no better starting place to identify places to stay along the routes of the trails than Visit Wales' comprehensive searchable <u>database</u>

All accommodation businesses listed here are accredited through either Visit Wales or the AA. Visit Wales Grading stars are a recognised sign of quality so you can be assured that the business has been fully inspected.

Use search terms such as "groups", "group accommodation" or "hotels for groups" and apply any additional filters to narrow down your selection. The "Map view" option is an excellent way to check easily whether the location of the accommodation is suitable for your needs.

These searchable databases from North Wales Tourism, Go North Wales and Visit Mid Wales are a further resource if you're looking for accommodation ideas.

Take a look at these websites which have additional details on accommodation.

Offa's Dyke Path

Glyndŵr's Way

Getting About

Wales is easily accessible from the rest of the UK by road – via the A55 from Chester and the North of England, the A458 from Shrewsbury and the Midlands, and the M4 from Bristol, the South West and South East.

There are a range of public transport options for those visiting the trails and the towns and villages along the routes.

The main railway line in South and West Wales connects Chepstow, Newport, Cardiff, Swansea, Carmarthen and Pembrokeshire. Branch lines from Newport, Cardiff and Bridgend serve the Valleys, the Wye Valley and the Vale of Usk.

In North Wales, a main line runs right along the north coast through Prestatyn, Rhyl, Colwyn Bay, Llandudno, Conwy and Bangor to Holyhead.

There are also several scenic railway lines in Mid and North Wales. The <u>Heart of Wales Line</u> from Shrewsbury to Llanelli and Swansea cuts diagonally across Mid Wales. The <u>Cambrian Line</u> runs west from Shrewsbury to Machynlleth, where it meets the <u>Cambrian Coast Line</u>, which connects Aberystwyth and Pwllheli on the Llŷn Peninsula. The <u>Conwy Valley Line</u> runs from Llandudno through Snowdonia to Blaenau Ffestiniog.

Useful train links:

National Rail

Traveline Cymru

Travel for Wales

Great Western

Virgin Trains

Conwy Valley Line

There are also a number of bus routes linking key towns giving access to some of the trails. National Express operate long-distance intercity coach services along the south coast from Cardiff and Swansea to Pembrokeshire; from Newtown to Aberystwyth on the west coast; and along the north coast from Prestatyn, Rhyl, Colwyn Bay and Llandudno to Bangor.

Megabus runs a low-cost coach service between Newport, Cardiff, Swansea, Carmarthen and Pembroke Dock.

National Express

<u>Megabus</u>

Traws Cymru

Fflecsi Bus

Pembrokeshire Coast

Exploring Cardigan Bay

Llŷn Coastal Bus

Unlimited access to Wales' mainline train services and many bus routes is available with an **Explore** Wales Pass, which also offers discounted entry to many tourist attractions.

A <u>Railcard</u> offers 33 percent off adult fares and 60 percent off children's fares on mainline rail services, and a <u>Great Little Trains of Wales</u> discount card gets you 20 percent off the adult fare on several narrow gauge steam railways in Wales.

Explore Wales

Railcard

Great Little Trains of Wales

Public Transport in Wales



Llantwit Major, South Wales

Coach parking

As a nation geared to tourism, you will find good provision for coach parking in many towns and at attractions in Wales.

We may have more than our fair share of towns and villages, and less our share of motorways than other parts of the UK, but nonetheless the main road arteries criss-crossing Wales offer trouble-free coach travel.

And once you get to your destination, town centres and attractions make sure that your coach will be welcome, with designated parking areas and facilities for drivers. Forearmed is forewarned, and you'll naturally want to do as much planning as possible in advance so that your coaches know exactly where they are heading. The <u>Coach Buddy</u> website has a comprehensive listing of coach facilities in Wales town by town.

Many local authorities also publish helpful information about coach parking which can be invaluable if you are planning excursions:

Glyndŵr's Way

Coaches Visit Welshpool – Ewch i Y Trallwng

Offa's Dyke Path

Coach Parking in the Wye Valley & Vale of Usk

Coaches

Visit Welshpool –

Ewch i Y Trallwng

Coach Parking

Groups North Wales

Coach Parking

Wrexham County

Borough Council

Coach parking - Rhyl

Denbighshire County Council

Pembrokeshire Coast Path

Coach -

Pembrokeshire County Council

Wales Coast Path

Coach Parking

Groups North Wales

Coach Parking

Wrexham County Borough

<u>Council</u>

Coach parking - Rhyl

Denbighshire County Council

Coach Parking

Conwy County Borough

Council

Coach -

Pembrokeshire County Council

Coach Parking -

Tourism SwanseaBay

Coastal Car Parking Charges

Vale of Glamorgan Council

Coach parking - Cardiff Council

Coach Parking in the Wye

Valley & Vale of Usk

Coaches

<u>Visit Welshpool –</u>

Ewch i Y Trallwng

Cruise port facilities

Wales has a sophisticated and growing infrastructure when it comes to welcoming cruise ships to its shores.

By definition, all its ports are ideal starting points for accessing the Wales Coast Path and Pembrokeshire Coast Path, as well as the North and South starting points of the Offa's Dyke Path. Six Welsh ports regularly receive visits from cruise ships and between them can accommodate a wide range of vessel size.

All are specifically geared to the transfer and welcome of cruise ship passengers. They are experienced and understand the needs of disembarking passengers and well as visiting crew, and will gladly work with tour operators to plan a ship's arrival and help with the organisation of excursions and onward transport. All will lay on a reception to welcome passengers, often with entertainment, food, drink and crafts, and a welcoming team which can give local information and guidance on the attractions of the port and hinterland.

Cardiff

Serving the Capital of Wales, the Port of Cardiff is suitable for small to medium size cruise ships and is able to provide tailor made services to meet the individual requirements of each cruise call. The Port of Cardiff is fully compliant with the ISPS Code and during a cruise call the entire berth is fenced and patrolled to meet the current security requirements. Passenger, crew, visitor and baggage screening can be also undertaken upon entry into the restricted area. Full pilotage and towage services are available and whilst the vessel is in port it can also use the opportunity to take bunkers, water, stores and dispose of waste. Cruise Port of Cardiff

Fishguard

A natural gateway to the Pembrokeshire Coast Path, the city of St Davids and to many other attractions, the historic town and modern ferry port of Fishguard is in the north of Pembrokeshire. Its tender berth allows for larger cruise ships to moor within the port, in addition to the existing sheltered alongside berth for expedition size cruise vessels. Fishguard Port is fully covered by digital CCTV. Two berths are fully fenced in a manner approved by UK Department for Transport with a further two similarly fenced temporarily during the cruise season.

Cruise Port of Fishguard

Holyhead

Located on the Isle of Anglesey, the Port of Holyhead is the gateway to North Wales and Snowdonia. Holyhead is a 24 hour, deep water, lock-free port and security complies entirely with the ISPS code. The Port is covered by a sophisticated digitally recorded CCTV system and is regularly inspected by Government Maritime Security Inspectors. There is an anchorage point available for vessels over 300 metres with tender action through the Marina. Cruise Port of Holyhead

Milford Haven

The Port of Milford Haven in West Wales is one of the deepest natural harbours in the world, set within Britain's only coastal National Park and ideal for access to the Pembrokeshire Coast Path. Vessels up to 160m LOA can lie alongside at Pembroke Port, only ten minutes from historic Pembroke Castle, while larger vessels up to 220m LOA are safely anchored on Milford Shelf, from where it is a short tender trip to the old docks and the bustling marina and restaurants of Milford Haven. Cruise Port of Milford Haven

Newport

On the south-east coast of Wales, Newport brings passengers ashore within a stone's throw from the Wales Coast Path, and a short journey to the start of the Offa's dyke Path.

The port can provide facilities for vessels wishing to operate turnaround cruises from South Wales and is well connected to the motorway and national rail network. While the vessel is in port at an alongside berth, it can also take the opportunity to take bunkers, water, stores and

dispose of waste. Cruise Port of Newport

Swansea

Swansea is Wales' second city and the most central gateway to the entire south coast. Passengers disembark through a marquee, and staff will provide visitor information and itinerary planning. There is coach parking at the quayside and shuttle buses can be provided. Whilst the vessel is in port it can also use the opportunity to take bunkers, water, stores and dispose of waste. Cruise Port of Swansea

Baggage forwarding services

Many companies in Wales and further afield offer baggage forwarding services which you can take advantage of to make life easy for your walking holiday customers. The links below give suggestions of companies you can approach – please note we make no representations or warranties about the suitability, reliability or availability of any of the services.

Wales Coast Path

Glyndŵr's Way

Offa's Dyke Path

Pembrokeshire Coast Path



Ogmore-by-Sea, Ogmore

Things to do

One of the advantages of Wales' compact size is that we pack a lot in, so just a short walk, drive or coach journey from any point on the trail will take you to a place or attraction to spend a fulfilling few hours – adding interest and richness to a walking holiday.

Your customers can dive into activities from the gentle to the adrenalin-fuelled, immerse themselves in historic towns, visit ancient castles and fascinating museums, relax on some of Europe's best beaches, take in a festival or get up close and personal with Wales' wildlife.

And there are a huge number of events all year round, not just in the summer. Activities are on offer through all the season, from Christmas and New Year sea swims, to traditional St David's Day celebrations in March and food and drink fairs and festivals into the autumn and winter.

Along with walking festivals, local farmers' markets, village fetes and food & drink festivals, there's always something happening on the Paths.

Walking festivals

It's quite a treat for your walking holiday customers to experience some of the most stunning coast and countryside Britain has to offer at any point of the four trails. They can also come to Wales and take part in one of the many festivals to celebrate the joy of walking.

Check out these links to find out about festivals specifically geared to walking:

Walks in Chepstow
Kington walks
Bishops Castle walking festival
Montgomery walking festival
Llangollen walking festival
Prestatyn walking festival

Events calendars

Check out these events calendars for each trail to see what's on...

Wales Coast Path / Events
Offa's Dyke Path - National Trail
Glyndŵr's Way - National Trail
Pembrokeshire Coast Path - National Trail

Activities and attractions databases

Another great place to start building ideas for itineraries and excursions is the Visit Wales website, which includes a searchable database of activities and attractions.

Things To Do In Wales & Places to go

Many attractions participate in the <u>Visitor</u> <u>Attraction Quality Scheme</u>, so you can be assured that your clients' experiences will be of the highest quality.

The database is easily searchable using the helpful sub sections, or you can use the free text and use the filters to explore options by area or specific town.

Check out the Hay Literature Festival in the summer half-term holidays, the Llangollen International Eisteddfod in July - or how about the Machynlleth Comedy Festival in early May, on the half way point of Glyndŵr's Way?

Annual events and festivals in Wales
Travel Trade Wales

What's On | UK Events & Things to Do in Wales

Use the helpful sub-section searches as a starting point, or use the free text search to look for events in a particular part of Wales.

These web pages also provide great general information on the best things to see and do in the key regions along the trails.....

Visit Cardiff

Visit Pembrokeshire

Visit Snowdonia

Discover Flintshire

Mid Wales my way

Visit Newport

Group Attractions | Groups North Wales
Cadw



Ramsay Island Boat Trips, Pembrokeshire



Snowdon, Snowdonia National Park



Adventure Parc, Snowdonia



Wales Coast Path, Beaumaris, Anglesey

Things to do by town along each trail

If you are looking at a very specific section of one of the trails, check out these websites as well for further inspiration:

Offa's Dyke Path

Chepstow

Must do in Chepstow,
Monmouthshire | Visit Wales

Chepstow Castle | Cadw

Monmouth

Things To Do in Monmouthshire

Hay on Wye

An insider's guide to Hay-on-Wye | Visit Wales

Knighton

Things to Do - Visit Knighton

Montgomery

Things to Do - at a glance • Visit Montgomery

Llangollen

Things to do in the Vale of Llangollen

Rhyl and Prestatyn

<u>Days out and attractions | Rhyl and Prestatyn |</u> <u>Visit Wales</u>



Montgomery Castle



Valle Crucis Abbey, Denbighshire

Glyndŵr's Way

Welshpool

Things to do in and around Welshpool | Visit Wales

Machynlleth

Must do in and around
Machynlleth | Visit Wales

Llanidloes

What to do - Llanidloes Mid Wales UK

Knighton

Things to Do - Visit Knighton



Powis Castle Garden, Welshpool



Kayakers, Porthclais Habour, St Nons Bay, Pembrokeshire

Wales Coast Path

Rhyl and Prestatyn

<u>Days out and attractions | Rhyl and Prestatyn |</u> Visit Wales

Llandudno

Family days out in Llandudno | Visit Wales

Beaumaris

Beaumaris Castle | Cadw

Caernarfon

Attractions in Caernarfon Caernarfon Castle | Cadw

Criccieth

Criccieth Castle | Cadw

Porthmadog

Porthmadog | Visit Snowdonia

Harlech

Harlech Castle | Cadw

Aberystwyth

Guide to Aberystwyth | Town Centre & Culture | Visit Wales

Aberaeron

Must do in Aberaeron | Visit Wales

Cardigan

Things to do in Cardigan | Visit Wales

St Davids

Five things to do in St Davids | Visit Wales Welcome | St Davids Cathedral St Davids Bishop's Palace | Cadw



Point of Ayr Lighthouse, Talacre



Abergavenny Town Centre, Monmouthshire



Coasteering, Porthclais Habour, St Nons Bay, Pembrokeshire

Milford Haven

Milford Haven Hotels, Attractions & Places to Stay

Pembroke

48 Hours in Pembroke - Visit Pembrokeshire

Tenby

Things to do in Tenby | Tenby Harbour | Visit Wales

Saundersfoot

Saundersfoot, Hotels, Campsites, Restaurants & Caravan Parks

Kidwelly

Kidwelly Castle | Cadw

Laugharne

<u>Laugharne - Discover Carmarthenshire</u>

Mumbles

Top 5 Things to Do in Mumbles- Visit Swansea
Bay

Swansea

Things to see and do in Swansea | Visit Wales

Cardiff

Things to do in Cardiff • Find the Best Places to Visit in Cardiff

Tintern Abbey

Tintern Abbey | Cadw



Ogmore-by-Sea, Ogmore, South Wales



Cycling on Coast Path at Blackpill, Mumbles



Porthclais Habour, St Nons Bay, Pembrokeshire

Pembrokeshire Coast Path

Cardigan

Things to do in Cardigan | Visit Wales

St Davids

Five things to do in St Davids | Visit Wales Welcome | St Davids Cathedral St Davids Bishop's Palace | Cadw

Milford Haven

Milford Haven Hotels, Attractions & Places to Stay

Pembroke

48 Hours in Pembroke - Visit Pembrokeshire

Tenby

Things to do in Tenby | Tenby Harbour | Visit Wales

Saundersfoot

Saundersfoot, Hotels, Campsites, Restaurants & Caravan Parks



St Davids, Pembrokeshire



Dolphin Spotting, Ramsey Island Boat Trips, Pembrokeshire



Millennium Coast Path, Llanelli

Life's a beach

Whatever time of year you are bringing people to Wales, we have some of the best sandy beaches in Europe for them to enjoy, whether for a relaxing summer's day dip or a bracing autumn walk.

From secluded coves to bustling beaches backed by shops and entertainment venues, walkers on the Wales Coast Path and Pembrokeshire Coast Path are never far from one.

Here's a selection of the best family beaches in Wales:

Family beach holidays In Wales | Top beaches | Visit Wales

Some of the most visually stunning of our beaches are in the care of the National Trust:

Best beaches in Wales | National Trust

Everyone has their own list of top spots – and you won't go far wrong with this one from Rough Guides

21 most beautiful beaches in Wales | Rough Guides

Where to shop

One of the great attractions of walking the four Trails is that you pass through or near some of the many very attractive and unique market towns around Wales. Just a sample of our gems includes:

- The fine Victorian seaside resort of Llandudno with its independent shops and Victorian shopping arcade
- Aberaeron, which retains its Georgian character with elegant brightly painted town houses, offers independent shops in a delightful harbourside location
- Promenade-style shopping in Mumbles, outside Swansea, with its eclectic mix of shops and atmospheric setting backing on to the stunning sweep of Swansea Bay
- Hay on Wye for books of course but much, much, more, all in charming, traditional streets
- Shop by the river in Llangollen with its range of fashion boutiques, jewellery and gift shops, quality craft and book shops
- Knighton with its traditional shops, art galleries and crafts, and plenty of refreshments
- Machynlleth where the weekly Wednesday market and biannual fair are still hugely popular despite dating back to a Royal Charter issued in 1291

Making these towns stopping off points on your itineraries will add an enriching dimension to any holiday, not least the opportunities for a bit of retail therapy in high streets which retain much of their traditional charm and independent retailers.

The links below showcase the best of retail in towns along the various routes to help you design a tour which offers your customers the maximum R&R to break up their day's walking.



Hay on Wye, Powis

Offa's Dyke Path

Chepstow

Shopping - Chepstow Town Council

Monmouth

Monmouth | Wye Valley market town & birthplace of Henry V.

Hay on Wye

visithay

Knighton

businesses in knighton

Montgomery

Shopping • Visit Montgomery

Llangollen

Shopping in Llangollen

Prestatyn

Shopping in Prestatyn

Glyndŵr's Way

Welshpool

Shopping | Visit Welshpool – Ewch i Y Trallwng

Machynlleth

Machynlleth | Town | Machynlleth | Powys

Llanidloes

Local Llani - Llanidloes mid Wales UK

Knighton

businesses in knighton

Wales Coast Path

Llandudno

Llandudno | A Guide to Llandudno

Caernarfon

Shops Caernarfon Gwynedd

Porthmadog

Shopping in Porthmadog

Aberystwyth

Guide to Aberystwyth | Town Centre & Culture | Visit Wales

Aberaeron

Aberaeron Guide and Tourist Information
Cardigan Bay

Cardigan

Shopping | Visit Cardigan

Milford Marina

Shops, Restaurants & Things To Do in Milford Haven, Pembrokeshire

Pembroke

Shop | VisitPembroke.com | Birthplace of a Dynasty

Tenby

Welcome to Visit Tenby - The Tenby Experience

Saundersfoot

<u>Shopping - Visit Saundersfoot - Saundersfoot</u>
Chamber for Tourism

Laugharne

36 Hours in Laugharne - Discover Carmarthenshire

The Mumbles

Shopping in Mumbles

Swansea

Shopping - Swansea City Centre

Cardiff

Shopping in Cardiff • Visit Cardiff

Pembrokeshire Coast Path

Cardigan

Shopping | Visit Cardigan

Milford Marina

Shops, Restaurants & Things To Do in Milford Haven, Pembrokeshire

Pembroke

Shop | VisitPembroke.com | Birthplace of a Dynasty

Tenby

Welcome to Visit Tenby - The Tenby Experience

Saundersfoot

<u>Shopping - Visit Saundersfoot - Saundersfoot</u> <u>Chamber for Tourism</u>

Where to eat and drink

Wales is blessed with an abundance of the best fresh ingredients and artisan food and drink producers who delight in making the best of them.

No visit here is complete for your customers if they do not experience what's on offer at first hand as part of their experience.

As well as the traditional Welsh favourites such as Welsh cakes, bara brith, laverbread and cawl, ingredients from Wales' larder find their way into some of the finest cuisine in our top restaurants, and into artisan foods and drinks served in cafes and bars.

Specialities not to be missed include:

- Gower Cottage Brownies the best you'll ever have
- Honey ice cream at the Hive, Aberaeron
- Cheeses from Caws Teifi, near Cardigan the most highly awarded cheesemakers in Britain
- Top Welsh award winning cider, Gwynt Y Ddraig
- Stunning wines from <u>Ancre Hill Estates</u> outside Monmouth
- Handcrafted gins from Gower Gin Company

The links here offer you shortcuts to identifying some of the best eating places and food and drink experiences that you can build into your itineraries for your clients.

Wales Food & Drink

Offa's Dyke Path

Chepstow and Monmouth

Food and Drink in Monmouthshire

Hay on Wye

visithay

Knighton

Where to Eat - Visit Knighton

Montgomery

Eat and Drink in Montgomery • Visit Montgomery

Llangollen

Where to eat and drink in Llangollen

Glyndŵr's Way

Welshpool and Machynlleth

Eating and Drinking in Mid Wales

Llanidloes

Find something to eat or drink - Llanidloes mid Wales UK

Knighton

Where to Eat - Visit Knighton



New Quay and Cwmtydu, Ceredigion

Wales Coast Path

Food and Drink | Groups North Wales

Llandudno

Eat & Drink in Llandudno, Restaurant, Cafe, Bar, Pub, Dining

Beaumaris

Food and Drink

Caernarfon

Eating Caernarfon Gwynedd

Aberystwyth

Food & Drink | Advancing Aberystwyth

Cardigan

Cafés Pubs and Restaurants | Cardigan Bay

St Davids

Our Favourite Places to eat in Pembrokeshire - St Davids Escapes

Milford Marina

<u>Latest News from the Cafes & Restaurants in Milford Haven</u>

Pembroke

Restaurants & Places to Eat in Pembrokeshire - Food and Drink in Wales

Tenby

Food and Drink in Tenby from the Tenby Visitor Guide

Saundersfoot

Food & Drink - Visit Saundersfoot - Saundersfoot Chamber for Tourism

Laugharne

36 Hours in Laugharne - Discover Carmarthenshire

The Mumbles

Places to eat out in Swansea, Mumbles & Gower

Swansea

Places to eat out in Swansea, Mumbles & Gower

Porthcawl

<u>Dinner | Experience Porthcawl | Porthcawl | Tourism</u>

Cardiff

Places to Eat & Drink in Cardiff • Visit Cardiff

Caldicot

Food and Drink in Monmouthshire



Pembrokeshire Coast Path

Pembrokeshire Coast Path

Cardigan

Cafés Pubs and Restaurants | Cardigan Bay

St Davids

Our Favourite Places to eat in Pembrokeshire - St Davids Escapes

Milford Marina

<u>Latest News from the Cafes & Restaurants in Milford Haven</u>

Pembroke

Restaurants & Places to Eat in Pembrokeshire -Food and Drink in Wales

Tenby

Food and Drink in Tenby from the Tenby Visitor Guide

Saundersfoot

Food & Drink - Visit Saundersfoot - Saundersfoot Chamber for Tourism

