

Bridgend County Group Travel Guide





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Hello... Shwd Mae.... Bonjour..... Guten Tag.... Hallo... Dia duit

Welcome (or Croeso as we prefer to say) to Southern Wales

You may already have an idea what to expect from a trip to Southern Wales.

We are split into ten distinctive areas, each with their own character and charm. The areas of Blaenau Gwent, Blaenavon, Caerphilly, Merthyr and Rhondda Cynon Taf are well known for their history and heritage, whilst nearby Monmouthshire is more rural and famed for its fabulous food and drink. Newport and Cardiff are thriving cities with some world class attractions whilst along Bridgend and the Vale of Glamorgan is a mix of coastal resorts, market towns and fabulous countryside.

We have plenty of castles and museums but we also have a National Park, the start of the Wales Coast Path and an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

We also have some things you may not associate with us. There are the remains of a Roman amphitheatre and barracks, vineyards producing award winning wine and a great big sculpture, soaring 20 metres into the sky and standing guard over the Valleys below.

Each of our areas has its own guide. So have a flick through this one and then take a look at the companion brochures and before long you'll be planning your trip to Southern Wales.



For more information visit our website www.visitsouthernwales.org



or contact the tourism team: tel - +44 (0)1656 815332 email - tourism@bridgend.gov.uk

To order the brochures for the other areas of Southern Wales please contact +44 (0)845 6002639 or e-mail brochure@southernwales.com





Discover Bridgend County

Sitting serenely on the Southern Wales coast is the county of Bridgend.

The coastal strip around the town of Porthcawl has been attracting tourists for generations. Much of that appeal remains today with visitors enjoying the ambience of the seafront cafes and restaurants or taking in a show at the historic Grand Pavilion.

Inland, and right on junction 36 of the M4 motorway is the McArthur Glen Designer Outlet. The group friendly retail village is a haven for shopaholics, with over 90 designer shops selling the latest fashions at discounted prices.

Download the Dare to Discover app and see how modern technology is used to help you discover the history of Coity, Newcastle and Candleston Castles.

Elsewhere, explore the sprawling dunes and thatched cottages of Merthyr Mawr, get back to nature at

Kenfig National Nature Reserve or just enjoy the breathtaking scenery of the beautiful Garw Valley.

The region is home to a range of events throughout the year. Music festivals are prominent in Porthcawl. It plays host to the Cwlwm Celtaidd, Celtic Music Festival each March, the Porthcawl Jazz festival in April and the somewhat eccentric Elvis Festival each September. In Bridgend meanwhile, a popular food festival is held in the Autumn followed by the annual gathering of the Elves in the run up to Christmas.

Look out for the "Perfect Day" logo in this guide. This quality assurance demonstrates staff have undergone training to ensure they provide the very best in customer service.

Attractions

Get out and about and explore Bridgend. Afterall, where else can you hit the shops in the morning, explore a Nature Reserve in the afternoon and then take in a show in the evening.

Bryngarw Country Park

The Park opened to the public in 1986 and quickly became a favourite with South Wales residents and people further afield. The Park has 113 acres of beautiful walks and gardens that look spectacular at any time of the year.



tel: +44 (0)1656 725155 email: enquiries@awen-wales.com web: www.bryngarwhouse.co.uk

Ewenny Pottery

Ewenny Pottery is the smallest pottery in Wales. Visitors to the workshop can watch the pots being made and are able to view the finished ware in the showroom.



tel: +44 (0)1656 653020 email: alun.jenkins@ewennypottery.com web: www.ewennypottery.com

Grand Pavilion

Built in 1932, the Grand Pavilion is an Art-Deco multi purpose venue offering live shows, conference and wedding facilities and private parties. The Theatre is situated on the seafront with panoramic views of the Heritage Coast.



tel: +44 (0)1656 815995 email: enquiries@awen-wales.com web: www.grandpavilion.co.uk

McArthurGlen Designer Outlet Bridgend





tel: +44 (0)1656 665700 email: enquiries@bridgenddesigneroutlet.com web: www.bridgenddesigneroutlet.com

Parc Slip Nature Reserve

Parc Slip Nature Reserve is a beautiful 247 acre wildlife haven near Tondu, just outside Bridgend. With its brand new Wildlife Trust Visitor Centre and Coffee Shop, the Nature Reserve has something for everyone.



tel: +44 (0)1656 724100 email: info@welshwildlife.org web: www.welshwildlife.org

Porthcawl Museum

Porthcawl Museum is located in the town's Old Police Station. Collections include social, maritime and military history as well as an array of Victorian costumes. It also houses a large collection of local history photographs.



tel: +44 (0)1656 788853 email: porthcawlmuseum@hotmail.co.uk web: www.porthcawlmuseum.com

Your gateway to a fantastic Welsh break in the picturesque Vale of Glamorgan









75 En-suite Bedrooms
Crane Restaurant & Heron Room
Ewennys Bar & Grill
Herons Leisure Club
New Hotel Spa 10% discount for pre-booked treatments

Pretty Gardens & Decking Area
Private Function Rooms
Friendly & Professional Staff
Ample Complimentary Coach

Numerous local attractions many with free entry

Parkina

Heritage Coastline
appox. 6 minutes travelling distance

Cardiff & Swansea approx. 30 minutes travelling distance

Please view the Group Travel section of the website



Competitive rates throughout the year

Best Western Heronston Hotel & Spa, Ewenny Road, Bridgend CF35 5AW www.bw-heronstonhotel.co.uk Tel: 01656 668811



Activities

Bridgend is well known for its active lifestyle. Water sports are popular along the coast, whilst the golf courses are considered amongst the best in the country.

Adventures Outdoor Activity Centre 😸

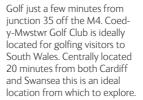


A dedicated activity centre in Porthcawl, only 20 minutes drive from Cardiff city centre, offering a range of activities and facilities; Accommodation, Quad Bike Tracks, Climbing Towers, Zip slides, Paintball arena and much more.



tel: +44 (0)1656 782300 email: enquiries@adventureswales.co.uk web: www.adventureswales.co.uk

Coed y Mwstwr Golf Club





tel: +44 (0)1656 864934 email: secretary@coed-v-mwstwr.co.uk web: www.coed-v-mwstwr.co.uk

Cressey's Surf Academy

Cressey's Surf Academy can offer surf coaching sessions for small and large groups of any ability, anytime during the day or week, subject to availability. Special rates are available for school and youth groups.



tel: +44 (0)7502 124030 email: hello@ingemarcressey.com web: www.cresseyssurfacademy.com

Grove Golf Club



Surrounding the Victorian seaside town of Porthcawl, the Grove Golf Club is established as one of the most popular courses within the area. The Grove Golf Club prides itself on its challenging course and warm welcome.



tel: +44 (0)1656 788771 email: enquiries@grovegolf.com web: www.grovegolf.com



Do, Eat, Stay, Events & Special Offers



Dare to Discover App Download the app now





Maesteg Golf Club

Visitors are welcome to play at Maesteg Golf Club, a fabulous golf course in Maesteg, Mid Glamorgan with available tee times. Located in the picturesque Llynfi valley in close proximity to the M4 and access able from both the west via Jtn 40 and from the East via Jtn 36.



tel: +44 (0)1656 734106 email: enquiries@maesteg-golf.co.uk web: www.maesteg-golf.co.uk

Ocean Quest

A specialist water sports company based in Porthcawl, Southern Wales' surfing mecca. Scuba Diving, Windsurfing and Kire Surfing, Surfing, Kayaking and Yachting, Jet Skiing, Wake Boarding.



tel: +44 (0)1656 783310 web: www.ocean-quest.co.uk

Porthcawl Surf School

Learn to surf with Porthcawl Surf School, Rest Bay. Fully qualified and fully insured with Association of Surfing Instructors Status. Beginner lessons include tuition, wetsuit and surfboard. Discounts apply to groups.



tel: +44 (0)7583 348013 email: hugh@porthcawlsurf.co.uk web: www.porthcawlsurf.co.uk

Pyle & Kenfig Golf Club

Ideally located just 5 mins from Jct 37 off the M4, the course is a great links course to play. Stunning golf holes running through the dunes, with some of the finest greens you will play in the British Isles.



tel: +44 (0)1656 783093 email: secretary@pandkgolfclub.co.uk web: www.pandkgolfclub.co.uk

Royal Porthcawl Golf Club

A very special 18 hole links course which has an enviable reputation as one of the leading courses in the world. It hugs the coast with great sea views and provides a real test of your golfing skills.



tel: +44 (0)1656 782251 email: office@royalporthcawl.com web: www.royalporthcawl.com

Wales Coast Path

With 870 miles to explore, the Wales Coast Path has something for everyone. The Bridgend section passes through two coastal nature reserves, the seaside resort of Porthcawl and the surfing centre of Rest Bay.



tel: +44 (0)1656 642553 email: rightsofway@bridgend.gov.uk web: www.bridgendbites.com/downloads.aspx

Accommodation

Grand country houses, cosy rural retreats and high quality independent hotels mean that there is plenty of choice for you.

Atlantic Hotel

The Atlantic Hotel is conveniently situated on the sea front within a few minutes walk of the town centre and the picturesque harbour, on the unspoilt coast of Porthcawl.



tel: +44 (0)1656 785011

email: enquiries@atlantichotelporthcawl.co.uk web: www.atlantichotelporthcawl.co.uk

Best Western Heronston Hotel

Located in a semi-rural area, but only half a mile from Bridgend town centre and minutes from Junction 35 of the M4. The hotel is within easy reach of the dramatic Heritage Coastline and equidistant from the capital city of Cardiff & the city of Swansea.



tel: +44 (0)1656 668811

email: reception@bestwesternheronstonhotel.co.uk web: www.bw-heronstonhotel.co.uk

Coed Y Mwstwr Hotel

Few settings are more tranquil than this secluded Victorian mansion, perched on a Welsh hillside and set in 17 acres of woodland. The perfect base for exploring the Heritage Coast.



tel: +44 (0)1656 860621

email: enquiries@coed-y-mwstwr.com web: www.coed-y-mwstwr.com

Court Colman Manor

Nestled at the foot of the Garw Valley, it's a peaceful retreat but easily accessible from the M4 or rail mainline. The 30 comfortable bedrooms are complimented by the award winning Bokhara Brasserie which was voted the best curry restaurant in Wales in 2011.



tel: +44 (0)1656 720212

email: experience@court-colman-manor.com web: www.court-colman-manor.com/

Fairways Hotel

This 18th century building now has some of the most up to date facilities in the area. With panaramic views of the Bristol Channel and Heritage Coast, the hotel can couple the luxury of a prestigious hotel with the natural beauty of the Welsh coastline.



tel: +44 (0)1656 782085

email: reception@thefairwayshotel.co.uk web: www.thefairwayshotel.co.uk

The Great House





tel: +44 (0)1656 657644

email: enquiries@great-house-laleston.co.uk web: www.great-house-laleston.co.uk

Open all year round.

Permanently based at Rest Bay Beach, Porthcawl, The premier Surf Beach in South Wales, right in between Cardiff and Swansea, Just over an hour run from Bristol, Just over 2 hours from London.

All equipment provided.
Changing rooms and showers available.

Discounts for Groups.

Trade Prices if you want to include Surfing in your packages.



No1 Adventure Activity South Wales



PORTHCAWL SURF SCHOOL www.porthcawlsurf.co.uk hugh@porthcawlsurf.co.uk 07583 348013

At Trecco Bay the bigger the group, the bigger the fun!



So bring the whole party!

Whether it's a football club getaway, a team building weekend with colleagues or an extended family break you're planning – come to Trecco Bay. Set on the gorgeous Glamorgan coastline, Trecco Bay is one of the UK's largest holiday parks. And with all you could need on park, plus a Blue Flag beach only a stone's throw away, whatever kind of getaway you're after – we've got it covered.

We're here to help you organise your perfect group visit, with:

- A dedicated group advisor to help plan your stay
- Simple booking process and one confirmation for the whole group
- Allocation together on park*
- Self-catering, breakfast or half board options
- Venue hire*
- You can even book the whole park!







For more information visit Parkdean.com/bridgendgroups or call 0344 809 9271 for your tailor-made quotation

Refreshment stops

Take time out from your tour to enjoy a spot of lunch or a refreshing tea or coffee at one of the many cafes, pubs or restaurants throughout the region.



Ideal stop for lunch, dinner or afternoon tea, just off the A48 on the outskirts of Bridgend. Choose from the Crane Restaurant or the Ewenny Bar & Grill.

Ewenny Road, CF35 5AW www.bw-heronstonhotel.co.uk



Located in the beautiful Bryngarw Country Park, Cedar's Team Rooms is an ideal spot for a refreshing tea or coffee stop.

Bryngarw Country Park, CF32 8UU www.bridgendbites.com



Seafront Grand Pavilion is an ideal spot for a relaxing tea or coffee stop whilst taking in the coastal views.

Porthcawl, CF36 3YW www.grandpavilion.co.uk



18 hole golf course on the outskirts of Porthcawl. Renowned restaurant caters for groups with ample parking for coaches

Porthcawl, CF33 4RP www.grovegolf.com

Hi Tide Inn



Seafront bar and function venue with panoramic views over one of Porthcawl's most popular beaches. A full range of dining options is available to your group.

Porthcawl, CF36 5BT www.hi-tide.co.uk

Parc Slip Nature Reserve



Beautiful setting amongst the flora and fauna at this acclaimed nature reserve. Café serves an excellent selection light snacks and homemade cakes.

Tondu, CF32 0EH www.welshwildlife.org

Prince of Wales Inn



Situated in the ancient borough of Kenfig. Historic pub renowned for its home cooked meals.

Kenfig, CF33 4PR www.princekenfig.co.uk

Pyle Garden Centre



Excellent café set in the surroundings of this popular garden centre. Just minutes from junction 37 of the M4 motorway.

Pyle, CF33 6NU www.thepylegardencentre.co.uk

The Angel Inn



Historic Inn near the Kenfig National Nature Reserve. Popular stop for traditional pub lunches.

Porthcawl, CF33 4PG http://theangelinn.wix.com/ theangelinn

Explore Bridgend

1 day Itinerary

There's much to see and do in and around Bridgend. Whether you prefer the great outdoors, a spot of shopping or a little bit of luxury, we've got it all covered with this one day itinerary.



Stop 1 – Bryngarw Country Park

The Park opened to the public in 1986 and quickly became a favourite with South Wales residents and people further afield. The Park has 113 acres of beautiful walks and gardens that look spectacular at any time of the year.

www.bridgendbites.com



Stop 2 – McArthurGlen Designer Outlet Bridgend

With more than 90 stores, cafés and restaurants, McArthurGlen Designer Outlet Bridgend is the leading Designer Outlet in Wales, where you can find your favourite labels with price reductions of up to 60%, all year round.

www.bridgenddesigneroutlet.com



Stop 3 – Grand Pavilion

Built in 1932, the Grand Pavilion is an Art-Deco multi purpose venue offering live shows, conference and wedding facilities and private parties. The Theatre is situated on the seafront with panoramic views of the Heritage Coast.

www.grandpavilion.co.uk



Stop 4 – Ewenny Pottery

Ewenny Pottery is the smallest pottery in Wales. Visitors to the workshop can watch the pots being made and are able to view the finished ware in the showroom.

www.ewennypottery.com



Stop 5 – Afternoon tea at the Great House Hotel

The beautiful grade II* listed Great House Hotel is the perfect setting for afternoon tea in Bridgend. Enjoy delicious scones, freshly baked cakes and sandwiches, and fair trade coffees or freshly brewed teas in our relaxing lounge.

www.great-house-laleston.co.uk/afternoon-tea

Explore the Region - 2 Day Itinerary

With so much to do it can be challenging to know where to start. We've put together a sample two day itinerary for you, giving you the opportunity to visit some of the very best attractions in the region.

Day 1



Stop 1 – Llancaiach Fawr Manor, Caerphilly

Llancaiach Fawr Manor near Caerphilly is a 17th century manor house. Take a tour of the house and meet the servants who will tell you tales of what life was like for them back in 1645.

www.llancaiachfawr.co.uk



Stop 2 - Cyfarthfa Park & Museum, Merthyr

Imposing 1824 castle housing a museum with a collection of fine art and social

www.visitmerthyr.co.uk/attractions/cyfarthfa-park-museum.aspx



Stop 3 – Guardian Mining Memorial, Six Bells

Towering above the village of Six Bells is the Guardian Mining Memorial. Commemorating the 1960 Six Bells mining disaster, the monument was unveiled in 2010.

www.guardianwales.info



Stop 4 – Blaenavon World Heritage Centre, Blaenavon

The Centre features an interactive Victorian school room, film and multi-media displays which not only provide visitors with a unique insight into the significance of Blaenavon's www.visitblaenavon.co.uk



Stop 5 - Shire Hall, Monmouthshire

Built in 1724, the elegant building has a remarkable past. Once a centre of commerce and governance for the town, it also served as a courthouse.

www.shirehallmonmouth.org.uk

Day 2



Stop 1 - Tredegar House, Newport

Set in 90 acres of beautiful parkland on the outskirts of Newport is this 17th century house. Now in the care of the National Trust, visitors can hear about the house's history and it's eccentric former owners and view the art collection.

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/tredegar-house



Stop 2 – Wales Millennium Centre, Cardiff

As part of a visit to the Centre, behind the scenes tours are offered where you can discover the secrets of the landmark building and find out what lies beneath the inscription. Special www.wmc.org

Day 2 (Continued)



Stop 3 – Dyffryn Gardens, The Vale of Glamorgan

Covering more than 55 acres, Dyffryn Gardens feature a stunning collection of intimate garden rooms including a rose garden, Pompeian garden and an extensive Arboretum featuring trees from all over the world.

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/dyffryn-gardens



Stop 4 - McArthurGlen Designer Outlet, Bridgend

Situated right on junction 36 of the M4 Motorway, the undercover mall has over 90 shops selling high street and designer brand names at discounted prices. www.bridgenddesigneroutlet.com



Stop 5 - The Royal Mint Visitor Experience, Rhondda Cynon Taf

Take a look behind the scenes at Britain's oldest manufacturing organisation. See for yourself the people and processes that put the pounds and pennies in your pockets. www.royalmint.com/en/the-royal-mint-experience

What's on in Southern Wales

Time your visit right and not only will you stay in some great accommodation, get to sample some great food and visit some top attractions, you'll also get to enjoy some fabulous events.

We've highlighted some of the most popular ones here, but there are hundreds more going on throughout the year.

For a full list of events in the region, please visit www.visitsouthernwales.org



Coach Parking

Find out where to drop off your passengers or park your coach in some of our main towns and attractions.

Porthcawl

Coaches are always welcome in Porthcawl. There is a drop off point near the Grand Pavilion on Esplanade Avenue. From there coaches can proceed to the rear of the fairground, off Mackworth Road, where there is ample coach parking. (Book in advance – Tel +44 (0)1656 788911)

Coach Drop Off

Esplanade Avenue, CF36 3YW

Coach Park

Fairground Car Park, Mackworth Road, CF36 5BY

Bridgend

Bridgend has coach parking facilities located at the Brewery Field Car Park, off Tondu Road. From here, it is just a short stroll to the town centre shops or the historic Newcastle quarter.

Coach Drop Off and Parking

Brewery Field, Tondu Road, CF31 4JE

McArthur Glen Designer Outlet

The McArthur Glen Designer Outlet on the outskirts of Bridgend has ample free coach parking, ideal when visiting the centre. (Book in advance – Tel +44 (0)1656 665700)



Tour Guides

Make sure you get the most out of your visit to the region by hiring the services of a tour guide. Members of The Wales Official Tour Guide Association are the only guides officially recognised to be able to guide in Wales. They can provide highly trained, professional and experienced Blue Badge Guides, who will help bring your journey to life.

There are dozens of guides, each with their own specialisms, interests and language skills. Blue Badge Guides can take you all over the region, whilst Green Badge Guides offer a more specialist and localised expertise.



To find a guide to suit your needs please visit **www.walesbestguides.com**





Maps and Travel Information

Easy to get to

We're a different country with our own language and culture, yet we're surprisingly easy to get to. We're only around two hours down the M4 from London whilst Birmingham and the West Midlands are only an hour or so from our borders.

So in next to no time you could be here, immersing yourself in our culture and traditions and who knows maybe even trying to get your tongue around our language. Croeso - or welcome in English.

We're not very big, but we certainly fit a lot in and getting around the region couldn't be easier. A comprehensive road system links all the major towns, while many towns and villages are well served by the local train network which connects with the mainline stations.

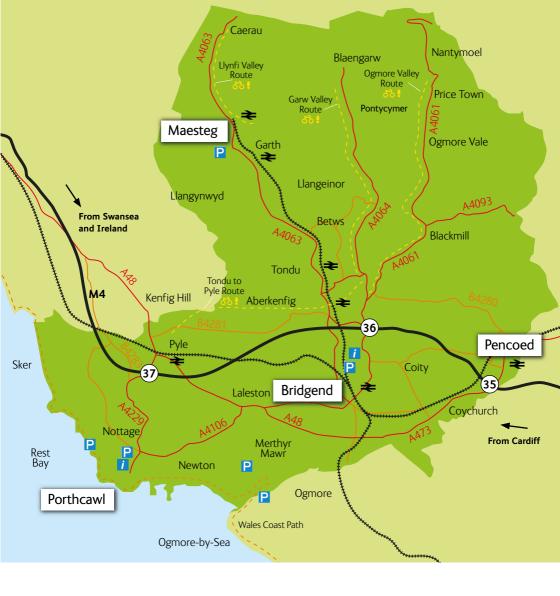


Manchester

Birmingham

England

Wales



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