

Southern Wales Fact Sheet

Coal, Coins and Cheers



Coal, Coins and Cheers is an exciting new group experience in an area with lots of great visit options for groups. This fact sheet gives you some more ideas of what's available and if you need any more suggestions or to plan a familiarisation visit to the area then Southern Wales Tourism are here to help you. Do check out the website or get in touch for any assistance with your group plans.

www.southernwales.com • contact@southernwales.com • 07852 210106

Southern Wales has loads to offer – we have 2 cities (Cardiff and Newport), over 30 castles to visit, numerous country parks and nature reserves, great food producers, unique attractions like the Royal Mint Experience and much more.



Cardiff – the Capital of Wales

Visits can include the impressive Cardiff Castle, the National Museum Cardiff or St Fagans National Museum of History. The city centre has great shopping options and you can explore the story of the city at the Museum of Cardiff. Cardiff Bay offers great walking tours, boat trips, and attractions like the Senedd and Pierhead Building, as well as Techniquest. Entertainment centres across the city include The Millennium Centre, St David's Hall and the Principality Stadium.

City of Newport

At the heart of the city is the Transporter Bridge which will be reopening in 2023 with new group facilities. Attractions include The Newport Museum and Art Gallery, the Newport Medieval Ship, the Roman Legionary town of Isca (Caerleon), the Newport Wetlands and Tredegar House and Park which is a National Trust property.

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Castles

There are over 30 castles that you can visit across Southern Wales – some big and palatial, others quiet ruins.

The largest castle in Wales is Caerphilly Castle. Also in the Cadw collection are Raglan Castle, Castell Coch, Chepstow Castle, Ogmore Castle and many smaller sites like Coity, Skenfrith, White and Grosmont.

For information on all Cadw sites www.cadw.gov.wales

Cadw operates a Tour Operator Scheme – contact cadwcommercial@gov.wales for details.

Cardiff Castle - www.cardiffcastle.com

Fonmon Castle - www.fonmoncastle.com

St Donat's Castle - www.uwcatlanticexperience.com

Usk Castle – www.uskcastle.com

Caldicot Castle and Country Park - www.caldicotcastle.co.uk



Unique Attractions

The Royal Mint Experience is one the most visited sites across the region. www.royalmint.com/the-royal-mint-experience Here are some other one off attractions:

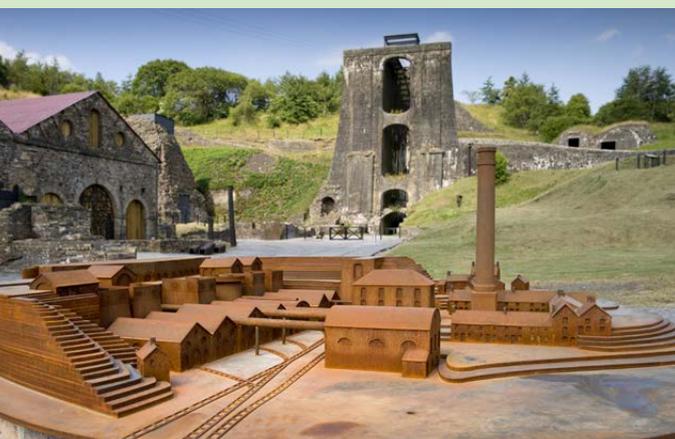
Technquest - www.technquest.org

Penderyn Whisky - www.penderyn.wales

Nantgarw China Works and Museum - www.nantgarwchinaworksmuseum.co.uk

As well as Hensol Castle Distillery www.hensolcastledistillery.com,

we have a number of gin distilleries and vineyards offering tours and tastings – contact Southern Wales for information.



Industrial Stories

South Wales has a unique industrial story that you can explore today. The Welsh Coal Mining Experience, Rhondda Heritage Park www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/Tourism/RhonddaHeritagePark/Home.aspx is part of the Coal, Coins and Cheers Tour and is a great introduction to the coal industry.

Blaenavon World Heritage Landscape explores the iron and coal industries – sites include:

World Heritage Centre - www.visitblaenavon.co.uk/en/VisitBlaenavon/ThingsToDo/BlaenavonWorldHeritageCentre.aspx

Big Pit National Coal Museum - www.museum.wales/bigpit

Blaenavon Ironworks - www.cadw.gov.wales/visit/places-to-visit/blaenavon-ironworks

Blaenavon's Heritage Railway - www.bhrailway.co.uk



You can explore the town that inspired the creation of the NHS starting at the Aneurin Bevan Stones

www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/en/visitors/attractions/aneurin-bevan-memorial-stones and the recently restored No 10 The Circle.

Life was hard in the industrial areas and you can find out about some of the terrible disasters at Guardian, Six Bells (www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/en/visitors/attractions/guardian) and Welsh National Universal Mining Memorial & Garden (www.abervalleyheritage.co.uk/welsh-national-universal-mining-memorial-garden).

Local stories are told at museums around the area such as The Winding House, Cyfarthfa Castle and Pontypridd Museum – contact Southern Wales Tourism for more information.

Other Historic Attractions

The area has a rich history to explore – here are some of the highlights.

Caerleon (www.cadw.gov.wales/visit/places-to-visit/caerleon-roman-fortress-and-baths) and Caerwent (www.cadw.gov.wales/visit/places-to-visit/caerwent-roman-town) – Roman Wales Llancaiach Fawr Manor - www.llancaiachfawr.co.uk

Tintern Abbey (www.cadw.gov.wales/visit/places-to-visit/tintern-abbey) and Llanthony Priory (www.cadw.gov.wales/visit/places-to-visit/llanthony-priory)

Tredegar House and Park - www.nationaltrust.org.uk/tredegar-house

Duffryn Gardens - www.nationaltrust.org.uk/dyffryn-gardens

Chepstow Museum (www.monlife.co.uk/heritage/chepstow-museum) – the story of the Wye Valley.

There are many local museums that can enhance your itinerary – contact Southern Wales for more ideas.



Walking and Nature

Across Southern Wales there are numerous country parks and nature reserves – here are a few but contact Southern Wales for more ideas.

Newport Wetlands - www.rspb.org.uk/reserves-and-events/reserves-a-z/newport-wetlands

Cwmcarn Forest - www.cwmcarnforest.co.uk

Dare Valley Country Park -

www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/Tourism/DareValleyCountryPark/DareValleyCountryPark.aspx

Bryngarw Country Park - www.bryngarwcountrypark.co.uk

Parc Slip - www.welshwildlife.org/visitor-centres/parc-slip-visitor-centre

The Country Parks are great for walks and we have longer routes such as the Wales Coast Path

(www.walescoastpath.gov.uk) that starts outside Chepstow Castle, and the Taff Trail

(www.sustrans.org.uk/find-a-route-on-the-national-cycle-network/taff-trail-cardiff-to-brecon)

that joins Cardiff with Brecon. Other well know walk routes include the Sugar Loaf, Abergavenny and Twmbarlwm.

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Adventures

Southern Wales has great facilities for lots of adventure sports – including the recently opened Zip World Tower

www.zipworld.co.uk/location/tower

Mountain Biking at Cwmcarn Forest, Bike Park Wales and Dare Valley Country Park.

Water sports on inland lakes such as Parc Bryn Bach and Llandegfedd Lake.

Some of the best surfing at Rest Bay, Porthcawl.

Adventures like caving and paragliding with expert companies.

Contact Southern Wales for details and contacts.



Gardens

Across the region there are public and private gardens that are a delight to explore – here are a few ideas:

The Physic Garden, Cowbridge - www.cowbridgephysicgarden.org.uk

Wye Valley Sculpture Garden - www.wyevalleysculpturegarden.co.uk

Veddw House Garden - www.veddw.com

Llanover Garden - www.llanovergarden.co.uk

Champion Tree walk around Bute Park, Cardiff www.bute-park.com/attraction/champion-tree-trail

Tredegar House and Park, Duffryn Gardens and St Fagans all have fascinating gardens to explore.

Tour Guides

The area has a strong network of trained, knowledgeable guides to bring any tour to life. Find your perfect guide at www.walesbestguides.com



Hotels

Southern Wales has a wide variety of hotels, from great group hotels to boutique establishments that are perfect for smaller groups. Take a look at www.southernwales.com/en/groups/where-to-stay for ideas or contact Southern Wales Tourism for help finding your perfect hotel.

Contact Southern Wales Tourism for any help with planning your tour. We would be delighted to show you around the area and to answer any queries.

Southern Wales Tourism is a collective of Blaenau Gwent CBC, Bridgend CBC, Caerphilly CBC, Cardiff City Council, Monmouthshire County Council, Newport City County, Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC, Torfaen Tourism Association and Vale of Glamorgan Council.

Photographs provide by partner organisations, Wales Government/Visit Wales and Over the Bridge to Wales.