

## Activities and Attractions in the Area

### Outdoor and Active

**Taff Trail** - <http://mytafftrail.co.uk/index.php>

Dedicated to the most beautiful 55 miles in Wales (Cardiff to Brecon). The Taff Trail Bunkhouse accommodation is perfectly situated directly on the Taff Trail.

**BikePark Wales** - <https://www.bikeparkwales.com/>

BikePark Wales is the UK's first full scale mountain bike park in the heart of the South Wales valleys, built by riders for riders. We believe in making mountain biking accessible to everyone from extreme to serene.

**Black Desert Off-Road Motorcycle Training** - <http://www.blackdeserttraining.com/>

We have bikes to suit any level and height. From riding for the first time, improving your technique, enduro, rally and adventure bike riding we can provide training for you.

**Brecon Beacons National Park** - <http://www.breconbeacons.org/>

One of Britain's breathing spaces. Come for the day, but stay for the night. Our National Park is an International Dark Sky Reserve.

**Parc Taf Bargoed** - <http://www.visitmerthyr.co.uk/attractions/parc-taf-bargoed.aspx>

Parc Taf Bargoed is a Green Flag Park situated in the Taff Bargoed Valley between Trelewis, Treharris and Bedlinog. The former colliery site has been regenerated as a haven for wildlife and a centre for community activities.

**Parc Penallta** - <http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/Things-To-Do/Country-parks/Country-parks/Parc-Penallta>

Carved from a former coal tip, Penallta offers the visitor spectacular views from the High Point Observatory and provides three waymarked trails to guide visitors through a variety of woodland and grasslands. Also home to 'Sultan' the pit pony, one of the UK's largest figurative earth sculptures.

**Garwnant Visitor Centre** - <http://www.visitwales.com/attraction-search/attraction-search-results/attraction-search-details?id=1843321&latitude=1&longitude=1>

Situated in the heart of a beautiful forest, a starting point for walking trails, mountain biking routes for junior riders and offers a fully accessible trail for wheelchair users and buggies.

**Trevithick Trail** - <http://trevithicktrail.co.uk/>

Commemorating the first journey by a steam locomotive to pull a load on rails in 1804, the shared-use heritage trail is appropriate for walking, cycling (all abilities), wheelchairs and horses at sections.

**Rock UK Summit Centre** - <https://rockuk.org/centres/summit-centre/>

The Summit Centre is located south of Merthyr Tydfil and is overlooked by beautiful hills and woodland. The residential centre boasts stunning indoor climbing walls, bouldering, group accommodation, a cafe, outdoor play area, gym and fitness studio, a man-made caving system, aerial adventure course and over 20 instructed activities.

**Storey Arms** - <https://www.storeyarms.com/>

The outdoor education centre in the heart of the Brecon Beacons offers residential and day visits for schools, youth groups and families as well as corporate days out, teambuilding and days out with a difference.

**Wales Activity Breaks** - <http://www.walesactivitybreaks.co.uk/>

Provides Quad Biking, Clay Shooting, Archery, Ultimate Woodland Assault Course, Laser Shooting, Gorge Walking and also package days and activity breaks within South Wales. Experienced in stag/hen weekend activities and youth groups.

**Merthyr Tydfil Angling Association** - <http://www.mtaa.co.uk/>

Offer a superb range of salmon, trout and coarse fishing in beautiful surroundings, on rivers, reservoirs and ponds for a very reasonable fee.

**Cynon Trail** -

<https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/Tourism/Thingstodo/WalkingandCyclingTrails/CyclingandWalkingTrails/CynonTrail.aspx>

The Cynon Trail follows the River Cynon from Hirwaun in the north to Abercynon in the south and is part of the South Wales Cycle network (NCN no 478).

**The Welsh Three Peaks Challenge** - <https://www.threepeakschallenge.uk/welsh-three-peaks-challenge/>

The Challenge includes the three peaks of Wales: Snowdon in the North, Cadair Idris in mid-Wales, and Pen y Fan in the South.

**Gorge Walking Walks** - [www.gorgewalkingwales.com](http://www.gorgewalkingwales.com)

The best gorge walking that Wales and the Brecon Beacons has to offer, with adventure and excitement suitable for all ages and abilities.

**Useful Links**

<http://gethinmtb.com/>

<http://www.merthyrramblers.org.uk/index.html>

<http://www.parkrun.org.uk/merthyr/>

<https://www.sustrans.org.uk/ncn/map/route/taff-trail-cardiff-to-brecon>

[http://www.routes2ride.org.uk/wales/routes2ride/merthyr\\_tydfil\\_to\\_brecon/](http://www.routes2ride.org.uk/wales/routes2ride/merthyr_tydfil_to_brecon/)

<https://www.cycle-route.com/>

<http://www.gps-routes.co.uk/>

<http://www.merthircycling.club/>

[http://www.routes2ride.org.uk/wales/routes2ride/merthyr\\_tydfil\\_to\\_brecon/](http://www.routes2ride.org.uk/wales/routes2ride/merthyr_tydfil_to_brecon/)

<https://www.mudandroutes.com/category/walks-by-area/>

<https://www.britishcycling.org.uk/wales>

<http://www.cyclingweekly.com/>

## Golfing

**Morlais Castle Golf Club** - <http://www.morlaisgolf.com/>

A challenging moorland golf course set in the surroundings of the foothills of the Brecon Beacons with some magnificent scenic views. Enjoyable for both low and high handicapped golfers.

**Merthyr Tydfil Golf Club** - <http://mtgc.co.uk/>

A Mountain Top course with fantastic views all around. The course straddles the Brecon Beacons National Park with 13 of the holes within the park boundary and the other 5 holes and clubhouse within Merthyr Tydfil.

**Whitehall Golf Club** - <http://whitehallgolfclub1922.co.uk/>

One of the finest and most popular courses in South Wales. A hilltop course nestled between the Rhymney and Cynon Valleys here you will experience a genuine test of golf coupled with a very friendly and relaxed atmosphere in our Clubhouse.

## Activities for all the Family

**Cyfartha Castle Park & Museum** - <http://www.visitmerthyr.co.uk/attractions/cyfarthfa-park-museum.aspx>

Built in 1824, Cyfarthfa Castle Museum and Art Gallery was once home to Ironmaster William Crawshay II and his family. It serves as a reminder to the Ironmaster's dominance over the town and the wealth the iron industry brought to the area.

**Joseph Parry's Cottage** - <http://www.visitmerthyr.co.uk/attractions/joseph-parry's-cottage.aspx>

Built in the 1820's for the workers of the Cyfarthfa Ironworks, the cottage was the birthplace in 1841 of Joseph Parry, Wales best known composer.

**Brecon Mountain Railway** - <https://bmr.wales/>

A heritage railway, running through the Brecon Beacons, which opened originally in 1859 and closed in 1964. The dramatic South Wales landscape and impressively restored steam locomotives offer a great day out for families and especially children.

**Wales Ape & Monkey Sanctuary** - <http://www.ape-monkey-rescue.org.uk/>

Located in the lovely Brecon Beacons National Park area of South Wales, the sanctuary rescues and provides a home for many types of unwanted animals, especially primates, such as chimpanzees, baboons, mandrills, spider monkeys, vervets, capuchins, mangabeys and marmosets.

**Pontypridd Park and Lido -**

<https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/Resident/SportsandLeisure/Lido/Home.aspx>

This historic family attraction is the only one of its kind in Wales and is Wales' premier outdoor heated pool attraction and adventure play park. Booking is recommended.

**Caerphilly Castle -** <http://cadw.gov.wales/daysout/caerphilly-castle/?lang=en>

The fortress sprawls over a huge area making it the largest castle in Wales.

**Llancaiach Fawr Manor -** <http://your.caerphilly.gov.uk/llancaiachfawr/content/welcome-llancaiach-fawr>

The Manor was designed to be easily defended during the turbulent reigns of Tudor kings and queens and is one of the finest examples of a semi-fortified manor in Wales today. Visit to find out more and meet costumed characters to tell you their job and story.

**Mountain View Ranch -** <https://mountainviewranch.co.uk/>

Over one hundred acres of fresh air fuelled fun for all the family! The Ranch also hosts Wales' only licensed **Gruffalo Trail**.

**Central Mably Farm Park –** <http://cefnmablyfarmpark.com>

The all weather family farm and soft play in one. The park is designed for families with toddlers to teens.

**Big Pit: National Coal Museum -** <https://museum.wales/bigpit/>

Big Pit is a real coal mine and one of Britain's leading mining museums. With facilities to educate and entertain all ages, Big Pit is an exciting and informative day out.

**Royal Mint -** <https://www.royalmint.com/>

The Royal Mint Experience is the only place in the world where you can watch the United Kingdom's coins being made. Go behind the scenes to follow the journey of a coin from a blank to a bank in our 45 minute Guide Factory Experience followed by our self-guided interactive exhibition.

**Castell Coch -** <http://cadw.gov.wales/daysout/castell-coch/?lang=en>

While resting on ancient foundations, Castell Coch (Red Castle) is relatively modern, the by-product of a vivid Victorian imagination, assisted by untold wealth.

**Principality Stadium -** <http://www.principalitystadium.wales/>

Come and explore the magnificent facets and features that make the Principality Stadium one of the most impressive icons of modern Wales. Join one of our experienced tour guides and visit the Press Conference Suite where the worlds of rugby and journalism meet.

**Cardiff Castle -** <https://www.cardiffcastle.com/>

Cardiff Castle is one of Wales' leading heritage attractions and a site of international significance. Located within beautiful parklands at the heart of the capital, Cardiff Castle's walls and fairytale towers conceal 2,000 years of history.

**St Fagans: National History Museum** - <https://museum.wales/stfagans/>

A walk around Wales – from Celtic times to the present day. St Fagans is one of Europe's leading open-air museums and Wales's most popular heritage attraction.

**Dan-yr-Ogof National Showcaves Centre for Wales** - <http://www.showcaves.co.uk/>

There are ten attractions all included in the one National Showcaves Centre entry ticket, and there is plenty to see and do for all ages. The 3 different caves Dan-yr-Ogof, Cathedral Cave and Bone Cave each offer a unique underground experience.

**National Botanic Garden of Wales** - <https://botanicgarden.wales/>

Set in the beautiful Carmarthenshire countryside, the Garden is a fascinating blend of the modern and historic.

**Cadw** – <http://cadw.gov.wales/?lang=en>

Looking for a family day out with a difference? Cadw offers a range of exciting places to explore near you. Cadw is the Welsh Government's historic environment service working for an accessible and well-protected historic environment for Wales.

## Nearest beaches

**Porthcawl** is a town and community on the South Coast of Wales, consisting of Rest Bay, Trecco Bay and Porthcawl Marina. Also hosts the **Porthcawl Elvis Festival** every September.

**Barry Island** is a district, peninsula and seaside resort with promenade, forming part of the town of Barry in the Vale of Glamorgan. Also one of the filming locations of the hit TV show **Gavin and Stacey**.

## Other Activities

**Penderyn Distillery** - <http://penderyn.wales/>

Learn about the founding of Penderyn, how our award-winning whisky is made and what makes it so unique. See our mill, our mash tun, our innovative single copper-pot Penderyn stills and our latest addition – a pair of pot stills. At the end of your tour sample some of our products in our Tasting Bar.

## Shopping and Eating Out

**Cyfarthfa Shopping Park Merthyr Tydfil** - <http://www.cyfarthfashopping.com/>

**Trago Merthyr Tydfil** - <https://www.trago.co.uk/>

**Merthyr Tydfil Town Centre** - <http://www.merthyrttydfil.org.uk/shopping>

**Cardiff City Centre** - <http://www.visitwales.com/things-to-do/attractions/shopping/cardiff-shopping>

**Eating Out** (see Trip Advisor reviews)