



Brecon Beacons & Mid-Wales

Includes ➔

Brecon Beacons National Park	698
Hay-on-Wye	698
Black Mountains	701
Brecon	703
Powys	707
Rhayader	709
Welshpool	712
Machynlleth	713
Ceredigion	715
Aberystwyth	715
Cardigan	719

Best Places to Eat

- Ynyshir Hall (p715)
- Carlton Riverside (p708)
- Checkers (p711)
- St John's Place (p700)
- Tomatitos Tapas Bar (p698)

Best Places to Sleep

- Harbour Master (p719)
- The Bear (p698)
- Celyn Farm (p701)
- Beudy Banc (p714)
- Peterstone Court (p704)

Why Go?

The big draw here is the magnificent upland scenery of Brecon Beacons National Park, where high mountain roads dip down to remote hamlets and whitewashed ancient churches. The hiking and mountain-biking terrain here is superb, while the book-loving town of Hay-on-Wye caters to those with more cerebral interests.

By contrast the Powys countryside is Wales at its most rural – a landscape of lustrous green fields, wooded river valleys and small market towns; it's the part that the Industrial Revolution missed. Isolated, sea-battered Ceredigion is home to some of country's most unspoiled beaches, as well as the exuberant hot spot of Aberystwyth. Thrills can be found outside urban areas along lonely trails in the hills and valleys, and on two wheels down narrow country lanes.

Central Wales is thoroughly Welsh, with around 40% of people speaking the mother tongue – and more than 50% in Ceredigion.

When to Go

- If you're planning on walking, you'll get the most rain-free days between April and July; July and August are generally the warmest months.
- In May and June, the world's intelligentsia heads to Hay for its literary festival and for philosophy and music at HowTheLightGetsIn.
- In August, cap off the Green Man and Brecon Fringe Festival with a spot of bog snorkelling.
- Face the chill to earn your laurel wreath in Llanwrtyd Wells' mountain-bike chariot race in January.



Brecon Beacons & Mid-Wales Highlights

1 Black Mountains (p701)

Taking a spectacular drive through the Vale of Ewyas.

2 Hay-on-Wye (p698)

Soaking up the literary vibe of an elegant rural town.

3 Pen-y-Fan (p706) Avoiding the crowds on the tracks to the top of the region's highest mountain.

4 Powis Castle (p712)

Discovering the magnificent gardens and ornate interiors of this castle near Welshpool.

5 Carreg Cennen (p706)

Gazing up at Wales' most dramatically positioned ruined fortress.

6 Aberystwyth (p715)

Experiencing a collision of high culture and student high-jinks.

7 Cardigan Bay (p721)

Kayaking with dolphins and seals along this gloriously rugged stretch of coast.

8 Cambrian Mountains (p711) Enjoying the splendid isolation of the deserted Cambrian moorlands.