



Pembrokeshire & South Wales

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Best Places to Eat

- » Cwtch (p683)
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- » The Bell at Skenfrith (p663)
- » Joe's Ice Cream Parlour (p668)

Best Places to Stay

- » Fronlas (p672)
- » Manor Town House (p685)
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- » Fairyhill (p671)
- » St Davids YHA (p683)

Why Go?

Stretching from historic border town Chepstow, via the industrial heritage of the valleys, through to the jagged Pembrokeshire coast in the west, South Wales really packs it in. Hugging the border, the Wye Valley is the birthplace of British tourism. For more than 200 years people have come to explore this tranquil waterway and its winding, wooded vale, where the majestic ruins of Tintern Abbey have inspired generations of poets and artists. In contrast, Blaenavon provides a stark reminder of Wales' contribution to the Industrial Revolution. Reborn Swansea offers something approaching big city sophistication; the Gower Peninsula revels in its coastal beauty; while the fecund heartland of rural Cardiganshire offers country comfort in abundance. The biggest draw in the south, however, remains Pembrokeshire, where almost 200 miles of magical shoreline has been declared a national park, delineated by craggy cliffs, golden sands, chocolate-box villages and seaside resorts.

When to Go

Average daily temperatures scrape above 10°C in March – spend St David's Day in the saint's city and look out for early daffodils. If you're planning some coastal walking, April to July are the driest months. In late May/early June, Fishguard serenades summer with folk music. Chepstow has a festival in June. July and August are the only months with average highs over 20°C, making them the best for a beach holiday. Swansea Bay's Summer Festival continues right through to September.

South Wales Highlights

- 1 Exploring **St Davids** (p681), Wales' most beguiling little city
- 2 Watching the surf break against the great dragon at **Rhossili Bay** (p670)
- 3 Strolling among romantic ruins on the banks of the Wye at **Tintern Abbey** (p662)
- 4 Using whiz-bang interactive displays to trace Wales' industrial heritage

- 5 Experiencing World Heritage industrial sites and world-class cheese at **Blaenavon** (p663)
- 6 Viewing Norman Foster's intriguing dome, signalling a monumental garden in the making at the **National Botanic Garden of Wales** (p672)

- 7 Unearthing some of Britain's most significant Roman remains at **Caerleon** (p664)

