



Cardiff, Pembrokeshire & South Wales

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Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Purple Poppadom (p669)
- ➔ Halen Môr (p695)
- ➔ Cors (p690)
- ➔ Food at Williams (p695)
- ➔ Coffee Barker (p668)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Grove (p691)
- ➔ Manor Town House (p702)
- ➔ Old School Hostel (p700)
- ➔ Old Rectory (p677)

Why Go?

Stretching from historic border town Chepstow through to the jagged Pembrokeshire Coast in the west, South Wales really packs in the sights.

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.

The nation's capital, Cardiff, flies the flag for big-city sophistication in the land of the red dragon. Just out of Swansea, Wales' second city, the Gower Peninsula revels in its coastal beauty. To the north, the fecund heartland of rural Carmarthenshire offers country comfort in abundance.

Beyond Cardiff, the biggest draw in South Wales 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

- ➔ Wales' home matches in the Six Nations Rugby Championship warm the spirits of locals and visitors alike during chilly February and March. Early daffodils pop out to celebrate St David's Day on 1 March – spend it in the saint's city, St Davids.
- ➔ If you're planning some coastal walking, April to July are the driest months.
- ➔ In July the summer-long Cardiff Festival kicks off, incorporating theatre, comedy, music and a food festival.
- ➔ In August, the warmest month, knights storm Cardiff Castle, classic cars converge and gay pride hits the streets. Swansea Bay's summer festival continues right through to September.

Cardiff, Pembrokeshire & South Wales Highlights

- 1 Diving into the attractions and nightlife of Wales' dynamic capital city, **Cardiff** (p659)
- 2 Watching the surf break at **Rhosili Bay** (p685) on the spectacular Gower Peninsula
- 3 Unwinding in **St Davids** (p696), Wales' most beguiling little city
- 4 Strolling among the ruins of **Tintern Abbey** (p678) in the glorious Wye Valley
- 5 Discovering gardens and around **Llandeilo** (p687)
- 6 Building sandcastles in the shadow of the real thing at **Tenby** (p692)
- 7 Tracing a breathtaking collision of rock and sea along the **Pembrokeshire Coast Path** (p692)
- 8 Crossing the moat at **Caerphilly Castle** (p674) and wandering into a fairy tale industrial sites and world-class cheese at **Blaenavon** (p679)

