Welcome to Wales – Croeso i Gymru

Discover Wales 2013 – Food & Countryside

Guide: Sandi Gosden
Transport: Edwards Coaches

Friday 4 October

09:00  Depart Marriott Hotel

10:00  Arrive **Penderyn Welsh Whisky Company** for a private tour
       [www.welsh-whisky.co.uk](http://www.welsh-whisky.co.uk)

Penderyn Single Malt Welsh Whisky was first launched on St David’s Day, 1st March 2004, in the presence of HRH Prince Charles, to huge critical acclaim from both acknowledged whisky experts and consumers. Indeed, The Welsh Whisky Company has already won a number of prestigious international awards for the quality and taste of the whisky and for its distinctive and stylish packaging.

11:15  Depart

12:15  Lunch - **Nantyffin Cider Mill** including short tour
       [www.cidermill.co.uk](http://www.cidermill.co.uk)

A cracking foodie pub offering a warm Welsh welcome. They use the best ingredients, from the freshest, local sources and always cooked in the simplest, least pretentious way possible.
14:00  **Black Mountain Gold Chocolate** – a watch the Master Chocolatier at work and sample some chocolate.

www.blackmountainchocolate.co.uk

A must for all chocolate lovers! Black Mountain Gold is a hand made chocolate maker based in Crickhowell South Wales, Powys creating quality chocolate truffles, chocolate bars and novelty treats.

15:00  Free time in Crickhowell to look around the quirky shops

15:30  Depart for Abergavenny, home to the well-known annual Food Festival which takes place in September.

16:00  Afternoon high tea at **Angel Hotel, Abergavenny**

www.angelabergavenny.com

The Angel Hotel is a member of the prestigious UK Tea Guild having previously held an ‘Award of Excellence’ since 2008. Only nine hotels outside of London have achieved this. In 2011 The Angel Hotel were proud recipients of The Tea Guild’s top national award, the Oscar of the tea world.

**Overnight accommodation:**
The Angel Hotel, Abergavenny (B&B) – 3 star hotel with 35 rooms

19:10  Depart for dinner

19:30  Arrive **Llansantffraed Court Country House Hotel & Restaurant**

(4-star hotel with 21 rooms and part of the Welsh Rarebits Group).

www.llch.co.uk

www.rarebits.co.uk

Mike Morgan, owner of hotel and part owner of Welsh Rarebits, will meet you on arrival for a short show-around and pre-dinner drink

20:15  Dinner in private dining room. Mike will join you for dinner.

**Saturday 5 October**

08:45  Depart

09:30  Arrive **Brecon Beacons National Park Visitor Centre**

www.breconbeacons.org
Visit the exhibition to find out more about the Brecon Beacons National Park, admire the views and take a short walk on the moorland. Tea/coffee and Welsh Cakes will be provided.

10:30  **Brecon Beacons Food Festival** (free admission) – Brecon Market Hall

A feast of delights will be on offer from over 70 exhibitors eager to market their local products, including Salt Marsh Lamb, bread, pancakes, pasta, curries, chocolate, jams, honey, fish, home grown vegetables, cider, beer, spirits and much more. There will also be a host of live cooking demonstrations with local chefs.

Andrew Powell, organiser of the event is aware that you are visiting.

12:00  Depart for Talgarth

12:30  Arrive **Talgarth Mill** for a 30 minute tour  
www.talgarthmill.com

Talgarth Mill is primarily a volunteer organisation and relies on the goodwill of many local people to help run the mill. You may want to leave a small donation.

It’s a fully restored, 18th century flour mill. On site they give guided tours by a dedicated team of volunteers. The cafe offers a range of seasonal foods and produce from locally sourced award winning suppliers. The ladies in the cafe are wonderful bakers, offering something delicious for everyone!

13:00  **Lunch at The baker’s table café** at Talgarth Mill  
Helen Jones, Tourism Partnership Mid Wales will be joining you for lunch.

14:00  Depart for **Hay-on-Wye** – free time to explore

Hay-on-Wye is often described as "the town of books". Since 1988 it has been home to the world famous Hay Literary Festival.  www.hay-on-wye.co.uk

18:50  Depart for dinner

19:15  Dinner at **Gliffaes Country House Hotel**, Crickhowell  
www.gliffaeshotel.com

The 4star Gliffaes Country House Hotel, offering 23 rooms, has been awarded a Gold Award for 2012-13 by Visit Wales.


**Sunday 6 October**

09:00  The **Blaenafon Cheddar Company** in Blaenafon - tasting and talk with Terence

[www.chunkofcheese.co.uk](http://www.chunkofcheese.co.uk)

Blaenafon Cheddar is a family run business producing speciality award winning hand made Welsh Cheddar cheeses and soft Welsh goats’ cheeses. Their Pwll Mawr cheddar is actually matured at the bottom of the mine shaft at Bif Pit Mining Museum. Some of their cheeses are flavoured with Penderyn Welsh whisky, Welsh white wine, Reveren James ale and other local ingredients.

09:45  Depart

10:00  Arrive **Big Pit National Coal Museum**, Blaenafon

[www.museumwales.ac.uk/en/bigpit/](http://www.museumwales.ac.uk/en/bigpit/)

10:15  Underground tour of Big Pit National Coal Museum.

Big Pit is a real coal mine and one of Britain’s leading mining museums. It became part of the National Museum of Wales on 1 February 2001. After major redevelopment, it re-opened in 2004 and went straight on to win the prestigious Gulbenkian Prize for Museum of the Year.

12:30  Lunch at **The Rafters, Celtic Manor Resort**

[www.celtic-manor.com](http://www.celtic-manor.com)

Venue of The 2010 Ryder Cup, the Resort is a truly unique destination offering exceptional facilities including a five star 330 room Resort Hotel and a 19th century Manor House with 70 rooms, a state of the art convention centre and exhibition hall, 32 function rooms, three championship golf courses, a golf academy, two health clubs, two luxurious spas and five restaurants.  [www.celtic-manor.com/rafters](http://www.celtic-manor.com/rafters)

Mike Evans, Tourism Team Leader at Bridgend Council will be joining you for lunch.

**Depart Newport** station. You may want to book tickets for the 14:35 First Great Western Service arriving London Paddington 17:51 - direct train.

Please note this service will take longer than the usual 2 hours due to engineering works.

FGW is offering a 75% discount on ‘Any Time’ rail tickets (premium, fully flexible tickets). Please contact [David.A.Gardner@firstgroup.com](mailto:David.A.Gardner@firstgroup.com) for a booking code.

*Please be advised that we will not be purchasing tickets on your behalf and you need to ensure you have booked and paid for your own tickets*