

## **Tour of Wales, 1; “All round Wales”. 4 to 8 days.**

Usual start points; Cardiff, or London (Heathrow).

Itinerary can be reversed if coming from Manchester, Scotland or the Lake District.

This tour gives an introductory ‘over-view’ of the tremendous variety of landscapes, regional characteristics, historical sites, heritage and culture, food and drink, in Wales. There are so many options, feel free to do your own research and let us know what you would like to do. We will work closely with you to create an itinerary for your interests, perhaps with good and bad weather options, it is always possible to adapt during the trip itself.

### **Day 1. South East Wales**

Explore the south Wales Valleys and the Brecon Beacons.

As with all parts of Wales, the Geology underpins the character of the Landscape and the lives of those who lived there in the past.

We can tour the Brecon Beacons national Park, traversing the highest road in Wales to Hay on Wye, the town of books.

Visits could include, Caerleon Roman remains, Chepstow castle, Tintern Abbey in the Wye Valley, Raglan castle, The National Show-caves centre of Wales, The Rhondda Heritage park or the Big Pit coal mine.

1 or 2 nights in or near Cardiff.

### **Day 1a Cardiff.**

Visiting the National Museum of Welsh life at St Fagans and Cardiff Castle would be an excellent introduction to Wales. There is also the possibility of a foodie tour of Cardiff. This could work well as your first day.

### **Day 2 South West Wales**

Heading west, the Gower peninsular near Swansea offers opportunities to walk the coast path, visit ancient remains, local heritage attractions.

Further west we explore the Pembrokeshire coast National Park, with many small coves, harbour side villages and open cliff tops.

Tenby is a delightful historic seaside town, with its old harbour and the Tudor merchants house.

Pembroke castle is the birthplace of King Henry VII and a very impressive fortress.

1 or 2 nights near Pembroke

**Day 2a**, 2 nights in Pembrokeshire is an option.

It’s possible to take one of several boat trips to see seabirds on the cliffs and Dolphins and seals.

We can visit an ancient burial chamber, or even walk to the location of the source of the Stonehenge ‘Bluestones’.

There are always more locations along the coast to explore, a chapel on the cliffs, the green bridge of Wales, there’s a love spoon workshop and other traditional crafts.

### **Day 3. West Wales**

Visit St David's Cathedral before travelling east along the coast of Pembrokeshire which has a more rugged character, passing the Preseli mountains, we move into the little-known county of Ceredigion. New Quay, Aberaeron, Llanerchaeron (Georgian Mansion gardens and home farm), Dolaucothi Gold Mine. The Teifi Valley.

2 nights in or near Aberystwyth

### **Day 4 The Cambrian Mountains**

Cambrian Safaris home territory. A relaxing day enjoying peace and tranquillity touring the beautiful landscape of north Ceredigion and the Cambrian Mountains.

A Ride on the narrow-gauge Vale of Rheidol steam railway, visit Devils Bridge Waterfalls and the 3 bridges, the secret Hafod Estate, the Elan Valley Reservoirs, the lead mining, farming, forestry and wildlife of the sparsely populated country of mid Wales. Our local patch, where there's a different view and a different story around every corner. Horse riding can be arranged.

### **Day 5. Southern Snowdonia**

Heading north into the southern part of Snowdonia National Park. Visit Corris Craft centre and King Arthurs Labyrinth, or discover the old slate mines with Corris Mine explorers. Follow the coast to Towyn and Ride on the Tal-y-Llyn Railway – the line which inspired the Thomas the Tank engine' stories. Visit the remote fortress of Castell y Bere below Cadair Idris, before traversing 'Bomber Lane' high above the seaside town of Barmouth.

Finish the day by continuing north through Snowdonia National Park to Caernarfon, Betws y coed or Llandudno for the night

2, 3 or more nights in north Snowdonia.

### **Days 6 onwards. Snowdonia, Anglesey and North Wales.**

The Snowdonia National Park is named after Mount Snowdon, which is the highest point in Wales, England, and Southern Scotland, It is possible to take a train to the top! – Snowdon Mountain Railway. The whole region is more mountainous, rocky, and rugged. We like to visit some of the following; Caernarfon Castle, Conwy Castle, Bodnant Gardens, Llechwedd Slate mines or the National Museum of slate mining, Portmeirion. Perhaps a trip on the Ffestinog Railway or the Welsh Highland railway.

A short walk to dramatic and historic Cwm Idwal, a location which was greatly inspiring to Darwin and where training for the first successful climb of Everest was done.

A day could easily be spent on the Island of Anglesey, with its ancient historic sites and beautiful varied coastline. A Walk to Ynys Llanddwyn (lovers Island) along the beach at Newborough Warren.

### **Final Day.**

Heading east out of North Wales it's possible to visit Llangollen, where a canal boat trip can be arranged.

We can then transfer you to Manchester Airport, the Lake District or anywhere.