

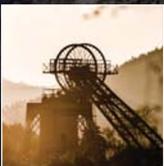
DISCOVER THE WARMEST WELCOME IN WALES

# visit

## Rhondda Cynon Taf



[WWW.VISITRCT.WALES](http://WWW.VISITRCT.WALES)



RHONDDA CYNON TAF

GREAT DAYS OUT | EPIC WALKS

UNIQUE ACTIVITIES | AWARD WINNING FOOD

# How would you spend a weekend in Wales?

Enjoying bracing walks through a stunning variety of landscapes? Sampling delicious food and drink that's inspired by menus from all over the world, but prepared with a unique Valleys twist?

Undertaking outdoor adventures on bike, on foot, in vehicles or on horseback? Or perhaps just marvelling at the sky at night in one of the top stargazing locations in Wales?

Perhaps you prefer a weekend of luxury and pampering, shopping and exploring or maybe you want to immerse yourself in rich, fascinating history and culture.

**Welcome to Rhondda Cynon Taf, your weekend (and more) in Wales.**



Photograph by Tony Smith

# an epic International Tale

**Coal mining shaped our landscape, our communities and our culture.**

It sparked the global Industrial Revolution and inspired the great minds of George Stephenson and Isambard Kingdom Brunel.

Discover this fascinating story at **The Welsh Mining Experience, Rhondda Heritage Park.**

Opened on the footprint of the former Lewis Merthyr Colliery, visitors to this unique former south Wales coal mine enjoy the underground tour and interactive Black Gold Experience, expertly guided by the men who once worked at the pithead themselves.

They share their memories, experiences and stories to offer an authentic insight into the industry. As well as interactive tours and seasonal special events, the Welsh Mining Experience also has an adventure playground for the little ones and a gift shop packed with Welsh treasures.

In another echo to the legacy of mining, the onsite Caffè Bracchi is a tribute to the many cafes, coffee shops and ice cream parlours that were opened across Rhondda Cynon Taf by migrants who flocked here from northern Italy during the coal rush.



# Walking in a Welsh wonderland!



did you know...

The "rocking stone" on Pontypridd Common has been used for centuries as a meeting place for bards and druids. It is actually a glacial boulder.

Welcome to the rollercoaster landscape of Rhondda Cynon Taf, where you can trek to the top of mountains formed over millions of years of nature and industry and enjoy breathtaking views and vistas.

Adventure behind epic waterfalls and explore landscapes and forests where legends and myths such as King Arthur and Merlin run deep.

Stroll under avenues of trees on the riverside Taff Trail and make sure you take a break in the great range of shops, cafes, bars and restaurants.

Find your perfect walking routes at [www.visitrct.wales/walking](http://www.visitrct.wales/walking)



The Rocking Stone, Pontypridd

# Falls of Snow

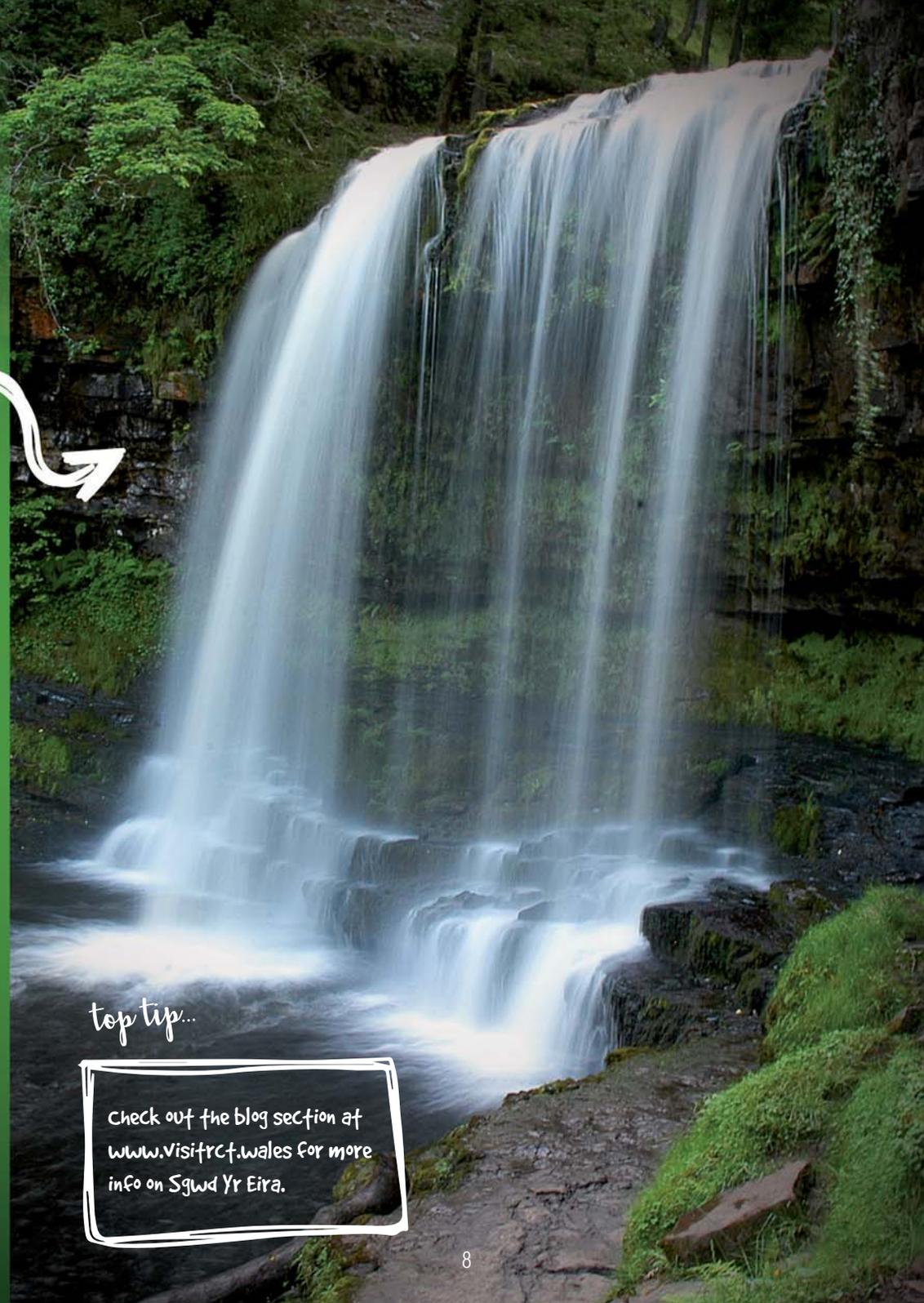
People say "it always rains in Wales", like it's a bad thing...

But thanks to the showers, we have the greenest open spaces, Game of Thrones style forestry, magnificent waterfalls and award-winning whisky and ales.

One of our most famous waterfalls is Sgwd Yr Eira (which means falls of snow). This stunning waterfall can be explored from the nearby village of Penderyn, nestled in the foothills of the Brecon Beacons. There are various routes to the waterfall but whichever route you take, don't forget to walk behind the waterfall for a magical experience! You can make your way back to the village or continue on to Craig Yr Dinas, an iron age site which, legend has it, is guarded by the sleeping knights of King Arthur.

Treat yourself after all that walking with a visit to the acclaimed Penderyn Whisky Distillery, which is hugely popular on TripAdvisor.

Penderyn Whisky is enjoyed the world over and is made from the fresh spring water from nearby mountains (told you that rain came in handy!). Tours and tastings are available.



top tip...

Check out the blog section at [www.visitrct.wales](http://www.visitrct.wales) for more info on Sgwd Yr Eira.

# Stargazing

**Rhondda Cynon Taf is just as beautiful by moonlight as it is during the day. Did you know it has more exceptional stargazing sites than any other part of Wales?**

We were the first to pioneer Dark Sky Wales and now have a number of locations - from mountain tops and country parks to pubs - that offer incredible opportunities to enjoy the sky at night.

Why not visit us and spot the stars and the constellations and possibly even catch a glimpse of a stunning meteor shower?

**No more words needed - the pictures say it all.**

**Find the full list of Dark Sky Wales sites at [www.visitrct.wales/stargazing](http://www.visitrct.wales/stargazing)**



Photograph by Keith Jones



Photograph by Keith Jones

# Castles and Coins



The Royal Mint Experience, Llantrisant



**Perched on a hilltop enjoying views over to Cardiff on a clear day is the ancient town of Llantrisant.**

Shops, boutiques, cafes and pubs are scattered around the edge of what was once the town bullring and overlooking the square is a statue honouring the eccentric Dr William Price - the pioneer of modern cremation.

Just a quick walk behind the shops and eateries is Llantrisant Castle, built to take advantage of the town's altitude and clear views.

Perfect for browsing and relaxing with a delicious drink and homemade meal, snack or cake, Llantrisant is also surrounded by lovely walks, including a walk over the common.

Keeping with history and protection, Llantrisant is also home to The Royal Mint and its unique visitor experience that is drawing visitors from all over the world. This is your chance to see how coins and medals are made and explore currencies of the world. You can even strike your own coin.

# Top Family Adventures

**1. The Royal Mint Experience.** A completely unique and fantastic day out. Take the tour and visit the entertaining interactive exhibition. You can see how coins and Olympic medals are made and even strike your own coin. Since opening in 2016, The Royal Mint Experience has welcomed coach loads of visitors from all over the world. There truly is no other tourist attraction like it!

**2. The National Lido of Wales, Lido Ponty.** Wales' premier outdoor water attraction has something for everyone. The three open air pools are heated and the activity pools plays host to giant inflatables, paddle boats and water zorbs. Set in the heart of the beautiful Ynysangharad War Memorial Park and next door to the huge Lido Play adventure play area, there's lots to do all year round.

**The National Lido of Wales is open seasonally. Please check before visiting. Ynysangharad War Memorial Park and Lido Play are open all year.**

**3. The Welsh Mining Experience at Rhondda Heritage Park.** Take the guided, underground Black Gold tour, eat at Caffe Bracchi, play in the Energy Zone play area, or buy a Welsh souvenir in the gift shop. If you're visiting at Christmas time, you might see Santa underground as he visits his magical toy mine. Whatever the season, this is a great day out for all ages.

**4. Dare Valley Country Park.** Acres of former colliery land has been reclaimed by nature and this country park is packed with wildlife to discover. It has its own troll bridge, adventure playground, sandpit, visitor centre, cafe and ice cream parlour. If you want to stay, you can choose between the campsite or Dare Valley Country Park Hotel which has rooms for single or group bookings. Both the campsite and hotel are within the grounds of the country park.

**5. Mountain View Ranch.** Follow the Gruffalo Trail, discover a magical fairy forest, go on a segway trek through the woods or have a high ropes adventure - there's lots to choose from at Mountain View Ranch!

**6. Barry Sidings Countryside Park.** Bring your bike, or hire one onsite via the Bike Doctor at this beautiful location. With two bike pump tracks, mountain trails to explore, a lake and an adventure playground, this is an outdoor oasis that deserves exploration. The on-site cafe sells amazing food and milkshakes the kids will love.

**7. Aberdare Park.** With paddle boats on the lake, cafe, playground and acres to explore, Aberdare Park is a hidden gem which also hosts the annual Aberdare Festival and Aberdare Park Motorcycle Races. It's a short walk from Aberdare Town Centre if you fancy exploring the shops for a bit too.

**8. We have too many to list!  
Go to [www.visitrct.wales](http://www.visitrct.wales) for more!**



# What's On

## Theatre shows, amazing walks, unique day trips... there's something for everyone in Rhondda Cynon Taf!

In addition to all this, spring heralds the start of our outdoor events calendar with the first major event of the year taking place in May when Aberdare Festival takes over Aberdare Park. With live music, a funfair and lots more family fun it's a great day out. Entry to Aberdare Festival is free.

If you're visiting in August, indulge yourself at the Big Welsh Bite Food Festival which is a highlight of our annual events calendar. Held in the beautiful Ynysangharad War Memorial Park in Pontypridd and showcasing delicious produce from the most passionate food producers in Wales, alongside free family entertainment, it's not hard to see why thousands of visitors come along to this free event.

The Nos Galan Road Races is another event that draws people from all over the world. Held in Mountain Ash on New Year's Eve, the 5k fun run and elite races are over 60 years old and more popular than ever. Crowds turn out to discover the identity of the celebrity mystery runner, watch the spectacular fireworks and cheer on the runners.

**Find more information on family events, walking festivals, and even a magical Christmas time hunt for Santa in his very own toy mine at [www.visitrct.wales](http://www.visitrct.wales)**

top tip...

We have award winning and innovative places to eat all year round - try The Bunch of Grapes in Pontypridd or High Street Social in Treorchy.



Let us entertain you...

**Why not include a visit to the theatre during your stay?**

We have two beautiful theatres here in Rhondda Cynon Taf. The iconic Coliseum Theatre in Aberdare has been entertaining the public for over 80 years. The impressive Park and Dare Theatre dominates the skyline of Treorchy. Both play host to a full programme of music, comedy, drama, community events and a spectacular Pantomime rounds off the year. Digital 3D cinema screenings are also an essential part of the programme.

**Tee off in Rhondda Cynon Taf**

There are 5 golf courses in Rhondda Cynon Taf. Some are 1000 feet above sea level so you play across the tops of the mountains. One is over 100 years old. All offer breathtaking scenery while you play and a very warm welcome.

[www.visitrct.wales/golf](http://www.visitrct.wales/golf)

**Looking for adventure?**

If you feel the need for an adrenaline rush, Taff Valley Quad Bike and Activity Centre just outside Pontypridd offers archery, laser shooting, clay pigeon shooting, gorge walking and more. You can also enjoy stunning scenery while quad biking along the cross country nature trail.

[www.visitrct.wales/adventure](http://www.visitrct.wales/adventure)



Where to stay...  
From budget to luxury, families to groups -  
there's something for all!



Llechwen Hall



Miskin Manor



Lanelay Hall

**On a budget?** Try Dare Valley Country Park Hotel and Campsite in Aberdare.

**What about a B&B?** We have lots - many with unique little twists to make your stay memorable. Try Beili Helyg Guesthouse in Penderyn or go for self catering at 266 Heart of the Valleys Cottage in Aberdare.

**Luxury break?** Treat yourself at Lanelay Hall, Llechwen Hall, Miskin Manor Hotel or the Blueberry Inn.

**Find lots more at [www.visitrct.wales/accommodation](http://www.visitrct.wales/accommodation)**

**Win a mini break**

for two people including:

- 2 nights accommodation at Lanelay Hall;
- Entry & tour at the The Royal Mint Experience;
- Underground guided tour at The Welsh Mining Experience, Rhondda Heritage Park.

**To enter visit [www.visitrct.wales/competition](http://www.visitrct.wales/competition) and complete our short survey to be entered into the draw.**

**Quote brochure code: visitrct18**

Terms & Conditions apply, see website for details.

# Ymweld â'r lle Visiting and Getting Around



## Car

Mae'n hawdd cyrraedd Rhondda Cynon Taf o'r M4 (cyffordd 32, 34 a 35), a'r A470 a'r A465 (Ffordd Blaenau'r Cymoedd).

## Cludiant Cyhoeddus

Traveline Cymru yw'r arbenigwr ar wybodaeth am drafnidiaeth gyhoeddus yng Nghymru

[www.cymraeg.traveline.cymru/](http://www.cymraeg.traveline.cymru/)

## By Car

Rhondda Cynon Taf is easily accessible from the M4 motorway (Junction 32, 34 & 35), and the A470 and A465 (Heads of the Valleys Road).

## By Public Transport

Traveline Cymru is the public transport information service in Wales

[www.traveline.cymru](http://www.traveline.cymru)

- 1 Profiad y Bathdy Brenhinol  
The Royal Mint Experience
- 2 Taith Pyllau Glo Cymru ym Mharc Treftadaeth Cwm Rhondda  
The Welsh Mining Experience, Rhondda Heritage Park
- 3 Wisgi Penderyn  
Penderyn Distillery Visitor Centre
- 4 Parc Aberdâr  
Aberdare park
- 5 Lido Ponty – Lido Cenedlaethol Cymru  
The National Lido of Wales, Lido Ponty
- 6 Parc Gwledig Barry Sidings  
Barry Sidings Countryside Park
- 7 Parc Gwledig Cwm Dâr  
Dare Valley Countryside Park

*i Gaerdydd | to Cardiff*  
20 munud | minutes