

# 7 Night Brecon Beacons Discovery Tour

**Destinations:** Brecon Beacons, United Kingdom & Wales  
**Trip code:** BRHCR-7



## HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

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Explore the best of the Brecon Beacons (Bannau Brycheiniog) with a seven-night discovery tour. Dig deep into the region's mining past in UNESCO-listed Blaenavon, visit St Fagan's National Museum of History, and find out what medieval life was like at Tretower Court and Castle. And alongside ample time to browse the bookshops of Hay-on-Wye, there's a ride on the Brecon Mountain Railway, and a fascinating riverboat cruise along the River Tawe aboard the community-run Copper Jack.

## WHAT'S INCLUDED

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- The Royal Mint Experience, Brobury House and Gardens and the Copper Jack river cruise (2024 only)
- Comfortable en-suite accommodation in our country house
- Cream tea on arrival day
- Cooked or continental breakfast every morning
- Daily packed lunches
- Three-course evening meals, plus tea & coffee
- Guided sightseeing with an experienced HF Holidays Leader
- All transport to and from sites of interest

- Easy-to-follow routes, maps, and information in our Discovery Point if you want to explore independently

**Please note** - Entrance fees are not included.

## HOLIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

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- Visiting St Fagans National Museum of History
- Discovering the mining heritage of Wales at UNESCO-listed Blaenavon
- Riding the Brecon Mountain Railway steam train
- Browsing the book shops of Hay-on-Wye
- Cruising the River Tawe on the Copper Jack
- Relaxing in the comfort of our country house in Brecon

## TRIP SUITABILITY

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### Trip suitability

Our Discovery holidays give you the opportunity to immerse yourself in the culture of the local area through **active sightseeing**.

On each Discovery day, you will be walking throughout the course of the day as you explore the venues and locations we visit. You'll also be hopping on and off the coach throughout - you should expect to spend the majority of the day on your feet. Most of this walking will be at attractions but some may be across country tracks or footpaths so be sure to **bring sturdy shoes**. There will also be stairs to climb in the majority of the venues you visit, though other more accessible options may be available. At some venues, there may also be uneven surfaces, such as cobbles or rocky paths.

## ITINERARY

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### Day 1: Arrival Day

You're welcome to check in from 4pm onwards. Enjoy a complimentary afternoon tea on arrival.

### Day 2: Talgarth Mill And Tretower Court And Castle

This morning we'll see Talgarth Mill in action, an intricate 18<sup>th</sup> century watermill producing award-winning stoneground flour.

Then we'll travel to Tretower Court and Castle. Take a peek inside this medieval fortified manor house, whose walls are testament to 900 years of fascinating history.

### Day 3: The Royal Mint Experience And St Fagans National Museum Of History

Today we'll visit The Royal Mint Experience – one of the top tourist attractions in Wales. We'll journey through more than 1,100 years of history and learn all about how UK coins are made. It's one experience not to be missed.

We'll also discover St Fagans National Museum of History where we'll find out more about the story of Wales and its people. Set in 100-acres of parkland, this fascinating museum has over forty original buildings from different historical periods and an extensive collection of artefacts to admire.

## Day 4: Free Day

You'll have the day to yourself to explore more of the Brecon Beacons at your own pace. Discover more about [Nythfa House](#) for ideas in how to fill your free day.

## Day 5: Blaenavon And Brecon Mountain Railway

We'll delve into Wales' mining past at Blaenavon World Heritage Site. You'll have the option of visiting Blaenavon Ironworks or the award-winning Big Pit National Coal Museum where you can gain an insight into what life was like for miners and ironworkers.

The afternoon takes on a slightly more relaxed pace as we ride the Brecon Mountain Railway. Sit back and watch the film-like scenery above the Pontsticill Reservoir pass you by.

## Day 6: Border Country

If you're a book lover, then you're in for a treat on this morning's amble as we head to Hay-on-Wye, which is renowned for its books and bookshops. You'll have free time to explore, so take your time to find some more holiday reading.

Afterwards, we'll travel to the Victorian era at Brobury House and Gardens with its delightful setting on the banks of the River Wye. Exuberant formal planting and panoramic views over the rolling countryside unravel as we wander around its peaceful surroundings.

Then it's over to the village of Weobley to admire its famous 'black and white' timber framed buildings.

## Day 7: Swansea

With so much to see and do, we've devoted a full day to exploring the coastal city of Swansea.

You choose how you spend your time here, but some of our favourite places to visit are The National Waterfront Museum, The Dylan Thomas Centre, or The Glynn Vivian Art Gallery.

We'll all meet up again in the afternoon for a cruise on the Copper Jack, run by the Swansea Community Boat Trust. You'll uncover some of the city's forgotten heritage as we trundle up the River Tawe.

## Day 8: Departure Day

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before making your way home.

## ACCOMMODATION

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### Nythfa House

Not many places in the UK outshine Brecon Beacons (Bannau Brycheiniog) National Park when it comes to wide open spaces and soul-stirring views. So it's easy to see the appeal of this charming property that plays a harmonious host to those seeking respite in the Welsh market town of Brecon. You'll also be within easy distance of some of the area's show-stealing spots, including the Black Mountains, the Mellte Valley, and Pen y Fan - the highest point in the national park at 886 metres. Equally visit-worthy is the Big Pit National Coal Museum in Blaenavon, the National Showcaves Centre for Wales in Abercrave, and the bibliophile's paradise that is Hay-on-Wye. Should time allow, Hereford and Cardiff are both an hour's drive away.

## Country House Accommodation

### Rooms

Designed with your comfort in mind, Nythfa House has 31 well-appointed guest rooms available in three categories: Classic, Premium, and Superior.

**Classic rooms** are comfortable en-suite guest rooms, ideal for a peaceful night's sleep. Amenities include free Wi-Fi, tea and coffee-making facilities, toiletries (hand wash, shampoo, and shower gel), and a TV.

**Premium rooms** are more spacious en-suite guest rooms. Amenities include free Wi-Fi, tea and coffee-making facilities, toiletries (hand wash, shampoo, body lotion, shower gel), and a 32-inch TV. Extras include bathrobes, slippers, and comfortable mattresses.

**Superior rooms** are even more spacious en-suite guest rooms offering upgraded views of the surrounds. Amenities include free Wi-Fi, tea and coffee-making facilities, toiletries (hand wash, shampoo, body lotion, shower gel), and a 32-inch TV. Extras include bathrobes, slippers, and comfortable mattresses.

**We love:** Rooms 6 and 7 in the main house both have gorgeous views across the garden and the Brecon Beacons. Room 21 is up in the eaves and has a separate seating area (please be mindful of the low ceilings). The garden guest rooms are very pretty and have their own small deck.

The **Choose Your Room** service is available at our UK country houses, allowing you the option of choosing and confirming a specific room for an extra charge of £30 per room. This is subject to availability. Upgrade supplements apply.

### Check in & check out

You are welcome to check in from **4:00pm at the earliest**. On arrival, you'll enjoy a complimentary cream tea and get to meet your fellow guests, our HF Holidays Leaders, and the rest of the friendly team.

On the day of departure, we kindly ask all guests to check out by **10:00am**. You'll be asked to settle your bill prior to leaving. You may, of course, make a charitable donation to our HF Holidays Pathways Fund if you wish. Please note that we only accept card payments.

### Room supplements

Superior	Premium single	Premium double/twin	Choose your room
£25 pppn	£20 pppn	£20 pppn	£30 per room

## About Your Stay

### A warm welcome

We want you to feel comfortable from the moment you arrive. You'll find a welcome pack in your room with guest registration forms, menus, order forms for dinners and picnic lunches, the Wi-Fi password, and the front door code. Our houses are locked at night, so we recommend noting the Duty Manager's number on arrival in case of an emergency (or getting locked out).

### Evening entertainment

While evening entertainment varies from house to house, the HF Holidays Big Pub Quiz held after dinner on Wednesdays is a weekly staple. Your HF Holidays Leader may be around for tips on guided and self-guided walking routes as well as visit-worthy local attractions.

### Walks talks

Our HF Holidays Leaders host guided walking information briefings before dinner on arrival days. This is followed by a group Walks Talk for information on the following day's walking delights (held before dinner every

evening). Self-guided walking guests are, of course, welcome.

### **The walking day**

Prior to setting off on walks, your HF Holidays Leader will run you through a short safety briefing. There's also an up-to-date weather forecast on display at the house to ensure you have appropriate clothing and footwear. If you choose to do your own walks or are on a self-guided walking holiday, we ask that you please complete an Independent Walker Card each day. These can be found near the Discovery Point in the house.

### **Food & Drink**

Led by experienced chefs, we serve a wide range of dishes made with fresh and seasonal ingredients. We always aim to source the best produce available and use home-grown herbs and vegetables from our own gardens whenever possible. Additionally, we have a licensed bar with beers, soft drinks, and a superb selection of spirits. Full-board comes as standard and includes a cream tea on arrival and a hearty breakfast on departure day.

HF Holidays understands the importance of managing allergens effectively to ensure food is safe for guests with food allergies. Whilst we are always able to confidently inform guests which allergens are present in our ingredients and dishes, we are unable to guarantee absolute freedom from the 14 main allergens in our kitchens. Vegetarian and vegan menu choices are available. If you have allergies, food intolerances, or any special dietary requirements, please inform our reservation team at the time of booking.

### **Accessibility**

For accessibility and assistance information, please contact our expert team on [020 3974 8865](tel:02039748865) or view the accessibility information online for [Nythfa House](#)

## **TRAVEL DETAILS**

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### **Address**

Nythfa House  
Brecon  
Powys LD3 7NN

Tel: [+44 \(0\)1874 624287](tel:+44(0)1874624287)

### **By Train**

The nearest station is Abergavenny, from here you can take a bus or taxi to Brecon (see details below).

Check National Rail for train times and routes.

### **By Taxi**

The 21-mile journey from Abergavenny railway station takes 40 minutes to one hour.

For pricing, please contact A&A Cabs directly.

### **A&A Cabs**

You can pre-book a taxi from our recommended company, A&A Cabs\*. We recommend booking your taxi at least seven days in advance by contacting:

Tel: [+44 \(0\)1874 622288](tel:+44(0)1874622288)

Email: [aandabrecon@yahoo.ie](mailto:aandabrecon@yahoo.ie)

A return journey can be arranged on your behalf by the HF Holidays House Manager at Nythfa House.

\*A&A Cabs is not owned or managed by HF Holidays.

## By Bus

The X43 bus operates from Abergavenny station to Brecon and takes about an hour. The most convenient bus stop for Nythfa House is the bus interchange in Brecon.

For bus times check Traveline.

## By Car

The A40 from Abergavenny and the A470 from the northwest converge at a roundabout on the Brecon bypass.

At the roundabout, follow the B4601 into Brecon. Turn right at the second mini roundabout, then go straight on at the traffic lights. Turn right into Mount Street, then take the second left into Belle View Road. At the top of the road, go straight ahead up the drive to Nythfa House.

## By Air

The nearest airport is Cardiff.

Catch the 905 bus service to Rhoose Railway Station bus stop. Take the train from Rhoose Cardiff International Airport to Cathays Station and walk 10 mins to Merthyr Tydfil Bus Station. From here take the T14 bus to Brecon. You'll need to allow up to 3.5 hours.

An alternate option is to fly to Heathrow airport. Take a train to London Paddington Station, where there are trains to Abergavenny (with one change at Newport). Here you can take a bus or taxi to Brecon.

## LOCAL AREA

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Whether you're enjoying a guided or self-guided walking holiday, there's always the opportunity to linger for longer. Here's our pick of the very best things to see and do within easy travelling distance of Nythfa House.

### Brecon

Located at the top edge of Brecon Beacons (Bannau Brycheiniog) National Park, this market town is most famous for its military connections, magnificent cathedral, and jazz festival. If time allows, take a scenic cruise from Brecon along the Monmouthshire and Brecon canal.

### Langorse Lake

Just east of Brecon between the Central Beacons and the Black Mountains, this is the largest natural lake in Wales. It's also a popular wildlife-watching spot so keep your eyes peeled for otters, water voles, warblers, swifts, and large flocks of Canada geese.

### Big Pit National Coal Museum

Set in the Blaenafon Industrial Landscape and designated UNESCO World Heritage Site, this former working coal mine once employed up to 1,300 workers. Nowadays it has award-winning interactive exhibits as well as an underground tour. It's only a 45-minute drive away.

## Hay-on-Wye

A 30-minute drive away, this literary-loving Welsh town on the banks of the River Wye charms with second-hand bookshops, medieval ruins, and stunning surrounding scenery. The annual Hay Festival takes place for 10 days from the end of May to the start of June.

## Hereford

An hour's drive away, this attractive cathedral city is home to the famous Mappa Mundi, a medieval map of the world dating from the 1300s. Further highlights include the Chained Library, the Black and White House Museum, and the life-sized Hereford Bull Statue.

## National Showcaves Centre For Wales

Home to a series of impressive show-caves, this top-rated attraction is a 30-minute drive away. Highlights include exploring the Dan-yr-Ogof cave, walking behind the 40-foot waterfall in the Cathedral Cave, and discovering how the Bone Cave got its name.

## Tretower Court & Castle

This two-in-one architectural wonder located near the village of Crickhowell is a 20-minute drive away. Highlights include strolling around the recreated 15th century garden complete with white roses that symbolised creator Sir Roger Vaughan's Yorkist sympathies.

## Cardiff

An hour's drive away, the Welsh capital of Cardiff warrants a visit for its cultural and historical thrills. Highlights include St. Fagan's National Museum of History, Castell Coch, Cardiff Castle, and Cardiff Bay.

## Brecon Mountain Railway

This heritage line follows part of the route of the original Brecon & Merthyr Railway which closed in 1964. The 90-minute journey heads north from near Merthyr Tydfil into Brecon Beacons (Bannau Brycheiniog) National Park, passing a large reservoir as it climbs up to Torpantau station.

## USEFUL HOLIDAY INFORMATION

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### Essential Information

The UK has a famously unpredictable climate so it's best to be prepared for weather that's sunny one minute and raining the next. To make it easier, here's a list of items you should consider packing.

#### Essentials

- Suitable, sturdy footwear with a good grip. You'll be on your feet for much of the day
- Waterproof jacket
- Waterproof overtrousers
- Sunhat
- Rucksack
- Water bottle (at least 1 litre capacity)
- Sunscreen
- Mobile phone
- UV sunglasses

#### Recommended

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- First aid kit, including plasters
- Sit mat
- Waterproof pouch for valuables
- Rubbish bag (remember to always leave no trace)
- Wallet/purse

### Optional extras

- Walking poles,
- Flask for hot drinks
- Durable lunch box
- Waterproof rucksack liner

## Admission Information

### Please note

Admission fees are payable locally and aren't included in your holiday price, apart from what is stated in the what's included section. This gives you greater choice, freedom, and flexibility to only pay the entrance fees for the attractions that interest you most. Should you choose to visit all the highlighted attractions during your holiday in 2024 please see the table below for the approximate totals. If you have Cadw (C) membership, please be sure to bring your membership identification with you.

Approx. cost of entrance fees	3 night holiday	4 night holiday	7 night holiday
<b>C members</b>	£5	£22	£27
<b>No memberships</b>	£15	£29	£44

## TRIP NOTE VALIDITY

These Trip Notes are valid based on the date printed at the bottom of the page. They will occasionally be updated post booking and pre-departure. We will send you the latest trip notes prior to departure through a link in your pre departure documents or we can send you a copy in the post if preferred.

In booking this trip you should be confident in your ability to participate in all activities described in these Trip Notes. If you have any doubt about your suitability you should call HF Holidays and ask to speak to one of the team about this itinerary.

The information in these Trip Notes is given in good faith. Where differences exist between the Trip Notes and our current brochure, the Trip Notes supersede the brochure. All holidays can be subject to unexpected changes; so please be prepared to be flexible where necessary. At times, it may not be possible to follow the itinerary as planned due to weather conditions, political, physical or other factors. In these circumstances we will make the best possible alternative arrangements to maintain the integrity of the original itinerary.

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