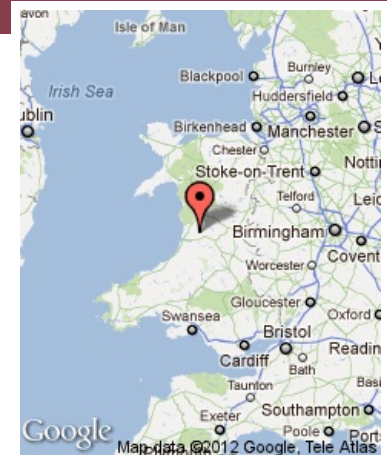


Historic Tours of Wales



Highlights

Discovering ancient sites, exploring medieval castles and seeing the source of the Stonehenge bluestones are just a few of the things you can do on these 3 day historic tours of Wales. Comfy accommodation and a knowledgeable, qualified guide are all part of the package too.

You needn't jet off to Athens for a holiday loaded with history and ancient sites – there's plenty to see on these shores too. Medieval castles, ancient burial sites and underground caves can all be seen much closer to home - in Wales. And with some of the UK's most spectacular scenery – like the Brecon Beacons – forming the backdrop, the location's rather pleasing on the eye too. A qualified guide will help you discover the best historical sights west Wales has to offer, and comfy hotel or guesthouse accommodation will make sure you've got a cosy base to relax in for your two overnight stays.

Three days might not seem like much, but with the expertise of qualified guides, you'll soon be immersed in all things ancient. Perched on a limestone crag on the edge of the Brecon Beacons, Carreg Cennan castle makes for an impressive starting point on day one. Then there's the likes of Garn Fawr – a prehistoric hill-top fort where views stretch out across the Irish Sea to the Wicklow mountains. And you'll be left wondering how on earth they managed it when you see the jagged outcrops of Carn Meini – the source of the Stonehenge Bluestones.

Is it for me?

Historic tours of Wales are definitely for history buffs - you'll be out exploring castles, churches and burial chambers to name a few, so an interest in history and culture is a must for this one. You should be happy getting out in all weathers – after all, this is a tour of Wales so it's unlikely you'll be running out of sun cream!

Accommodation

You can choose from six places to stay – including hotels, guesthouses and cottages – so there should be something you feel at home in. As for food, your first day's lunch will be provided – a picnic hamper of crusty bread, cheeses, cooked meat or smoked salmon, salad, fruit and cake, and wine, juice, water and tea and coffee to drink. Other lunches can be bought at pubs, or if you'd rather, at sandwich shops en route. Depending on where you stay, you can choose to have your evening meals at your hotel or guesthouse or out in a local pub or restaurant.

Itinerary

A typical itinerary for the three-day tour of Wales goes a little like this –

Day 1: You'll be picked up from Neath at 10am from where you'll head on to Carreg Cennan castle – set on the edge of the Brecon Beacons. Then it's on to Dryslwyn castle where you'll tuck into your picnic hamper lunch beside the river Twyi. After refueling, you'll climb up to the 13th century castle and also explore the ruins of a medieval town that serviced the castle. Later on you've got a choice of stops – either the small seaside town of Laugharne, where Dylan Thomas was inspired to write *Under Milkwood* – or Llawhaden to see another splendid castle. Then it's on to a hotel or guest house for your first night's stop-over.

Day 2: The day's exploring starts after breakfast at 9.45am. Your first stop is a small village overlooking

Prices from

275 GBP (3 days) per person

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Strumble Head where you'll see the Garn Wnda Neolithic burial chamber. You'll also see an old medieval well on the village green which proved an important feature to pilgrims who passed on their way to St Davids. The village also has a Celtic-style church that lies on an early Christian site – inside, we see evidence of the last invasion of Britain in 1797.

Your next stop is Garn Fawr – a prehistoric hill fort with original dry-stone walls. On a clear day it's possible to see across to Snowdon to the Llyn Peninsula and across the Irish Sea to the Wicklow mountains.

Next up is Tregwynt Woollen Mill and then lunch at the hill-top village of Mathry. Afterwards, you'll set off to Carreg Samson Abercastle – a Neolithic Cromlech overlooking the cliffs of Abercastle harbour. Lastly, you'll take the coastal route to St Davids where you'll explore Britain's smallest city. Then it's back to your hotel or guest house for the second night's stay.

Day 3: Today it's up the Preseli hills to visit the Pentre Ifan burial chamber – Pembrokeshire's flagship ancient site. Nevern is the next stop where you'll visit the church with its famous bleeding Yew tree and Celtic cross. Footprints left by pilgrims will be seen near the Pilgrims Cross at Nevern and then it's on to Nevern castle. There's a pause in proceedings for lunch – either pub or snack-style – and then it's on to Newport to see the Carreg Coetan Arthur burial chamber. It's then time to travel eastwards to the stone circle at Gors Fawr on the side of the Preseli hills. This spot is overlooked by the jagged outcrops of Carn Meini – the place where the Stonehenge bluestones were sourced. If there's time you may be able to visit Neath Abbey before heading back to the drop-off point.

Details

Getting there

You can be picked up from a convenient bus or train station – Neath and Port Talbot are recommended ones. If you're coming by car, get in touch and alternative arrangements can be made.

Price includes

Transport, accommodation, tea and coffee, a picnic hamper lunch on the first day and a fully-qualified guide. Food (other than your picnic hamper lunch on the first day) is not included.

Price details

A single supplement of £15 applies.

Available

Jan—Dec

Typical Duration

3 days

Comfort level

Reasonably comfortable (Inns, B&Bs, luxury camping etc.)

Experience required

A reasonable interest is all that is needed