

fascinating  
**towns**



the most Southerly point in Wales

Sand, sea, sky and... surprises! That's the Glamorgan Heritage Coast & Countryside. In the east is the stunning Vale of Glamorgan with its lush green farmlands and tiny villages, while the western area heralds smooth sandy beaches, wild dunes and dramatic mountain views and passes. There is no better way to start your visit than to explore the fascinating historic towns. Spend time in beach resorts or buy goods at knock down prices and eat your way around the world at chic, specialist restaurants from Italian to Indian. Stay in quality hotels and guesthouses or try your very own mobile home with all entertainment included.

The M4 Motorway (European Expressway) goes right through the centre of the area giving it superb access from no less than five junctions, All the beauty-spots are close at hand, while the dramatic Heritage Coast, with its spectacular cliffs or its award winning and European Blue flag beaches, is only minutes away from wherever you are.

The Glamorgan Heritage Coast and surrounding countryside is full of great places to visit; traditional seaside fun, ancient castles, picture postcard villages, heritage attractions, craft centres, country parks and a whole lot more! It's a magical area full of surprises just waiting to be explored -

Come and share the magic!





## Bridgend

Sitting equidistant between Wales' capital city of Cardiff and its second city of Swansea, Bridgend is a bustling shopper's paradise. Its reputation as a market town dates back as far as the early 16th century and through the ages, there have been tanneries, a woollen factory and local potteries in the area. A county town, rich in **Heritage and History** where zealous pilgrims, waded the fast flowing river en route to the shrine of St. David in Pembrokeshire.

Dominated by its hilltop **Castle**, the original medieval settlement grew up around the pilgrims crossing point on the banks of the river Ogmore which flows down the valley of the same name, on through Bridgend and down to the dramatic **Heritage Coast** at Merthyr Mawr. Being its largest town, it is the seat of Bridgend



Continental Market

County Borough, and the commercial hub of the area.

Some believe that the town took its name from the 1425 **Old Bridge** built across the river at a spot where the pilgrim ford used to be. It was partly demolished by a flood in 1775 then



Newcastle

rebuilt to its present style, linking the north and south banks of the river. There is historic evidence dating back to 1447, that suggests the name derived from the ancient Welsh '**Bryggen Eynde**', the meaning of which has been lost in time.

The name of the river Ogmore is said to come from two old Welsh words. Eog, meaning Salmon and Mor meaning sea. Nowadays this word refers to an expanse of water such as a river or lake.

The **Old Town Hall** in what is now Dunraven Place, was the location of a provisions market up to 1836. Cattle and other livestock was held here and in the streets around the area and worse still, were slaughtered right there on the spot!

The oldest and most historic part of the town is in the **Newcastle Hill Conservation**

**Area** grouped around the church and medieval fortress of **Newcastle**. Gazing down over the bridge from the top of the hill is the remains of this Norman Castle with its cluster of tiny cottages and houses, and surrounded by terrific views. Halfway up the hill is the Church House known locally as St. John's Hospice.

At the foot of Newcastle hill,



The Rhiw Shopping Centre



The Courthouse Café Bar

bearing names that reflect their religious connections, were three inns where the more affluent pilgrims would stay. The Cross Keys, The Angel, and the Lamb and Flag. Of them all, only the **Angel** has survived.

The main pedestrian centre of **Bridgend** lies on the north bank of the river and is a shopper's paradise of old and new. Small local specialist businesses blend with large national chain stores, happily winding their way through narrow streets, co-existing side by side to make the town a perfect day out. The old Victorian market hall has since gone, but the original 18th century **Market Bell** still hangs in the **Rhiw shopping centre**, near to the entrance of the new **Covered Market**.

Close to the **Brewery Fields** Rugby Ground is the **Riverside Tavern** in Brewery Lane built as a house in the mid 1790's for the manager of the new woollen mill. Not too far away is **Bridgend Recreation Centre**, the largest sports and leisure complex in the area.

To the north of the town lies the M4 motorway (European Expressway) with the hills and valleys of the former iron and mining areas of **Llynfi, Garw** and **Ogmore** beyond. Here you will find the giant **Bridgend Designer Outlet Village**. There's also the **Odeon Entertainment Complex** on the same site, as well as Bridgend's **Tourist Information Centre**.



Bridgend Designer Outlet



## Porthcawl

At the western tip of the **Heritage Coast** is Porthcawl, a favourite with generations of holiday-makers and a perfect place for the great traditional seaside holiday - deckchairs on the sand, icecream cones, candy floss, sticks of rock, fish and chips on the prom or take in a seaside show at Porthcawl's popular seafront theatre. The **Pedestrianised Town Centre** with its varied range of good restaurants, hotels and shops is an absolute joy.

Enjoy a stroll along the promenade or for fun and excitement, **Coney Beach Pleasure Park** has a variety of rides and amusements including "The Megablitz" - an impressive 'whiteknuckle' roller-coaster. Nearby



Coney Beach Pleasure Park



Rest Bay

**Trecco Bay Holiday Park** is home to Europe's largest caravan resort with a host of entertainment and attractions for everyone.

In complete contrast, the award-winning, blue flag clean sandy beaches of **Rest Bay** and **Trecco Bay**, known locally as 'Southern Wales' **Golden Coast**' are ideal for water sports and **Rest Bay** is a

surfers' paradise popular with locals and visitors alike. The surfer's restaurant near the car park is an ideal stop, while this stretch of coast also attracts sailors, water skiers and fishing enthusiasts.

Why not enjoy a ride on the "**Promenade Princess**" This delightful attraction offers both a means of getting around Porthcawl, and a great fun-ride, which will appeal to all ages. The new train, named following a competition for local primary school children, runs from **Eastern promenade**. Starting outside Coney Beach Fun Fair, the train passes the working **Harbour** where the **RNLI** have a base before travelling along the Esplanade with its new promenade and on to Rest Bay. You could get off the train here and spend your day watching the surfers or wander along the golden sands, relax on grassy **Locks Common** or explore the secluded sand and rock

pools. The headlands above Rest Bay are the home of the famous **Royal Porthcawl Golf Club**. On your return, stop at the **Grand Pavilion's** seafront café where you can enjoy a refreshment break while you find out about the current shows being staged.

There is also such a variety of different **Shops and Stores** that it's wise to make a full day of it. Take a



Royal Porthcawl



Grand Pavilion

stroll along pedestrianised **John Street** and enjoy a hassle-free experience for shopping or visit the **Heritage Coast Tourist Information Centre** then take lunch in one of the many top quality **Cafes** or **Restaurants**. There are **Pubs** with traditional bar meals; Pubs with exotic bar meals; Cafes with traditional fish and chips or restaurants with high quality Mediterranean menus. There's also takeaway sandwiches and rolls, or **Hotels** with 'a la carte' service. **Ice Cream Parlours** or traditional **Coffee Bars** or maybe a leisurely ice cream on the esplanade, overlooking the sea!

That's not all Porthcawl has to offer. Today's resort has a legacy of fascinating **Heritage** and history, some of which is displayed at the town's **Museum** in John Street.

The construction of the old town began in the early 19th century when the harbour was built to service the expanding coal and iron industries in the valleys north of Bridgend.

A group of local landowners and businessmen established the horse drawn **Duffryn, Llynfi and Porthcawl Railway Company**. The group included the Earl of Dunraven, and their proposed route went from Maesteg in the Llynfi Valley, through the countryside and down to the sea at Porthcawl. In 1845, it took six hours to reach the port, which exported over 35,000 tons of coal and 21,000 tons of iron.

At the Harbour entrance, there is a large building constructed between 1830 and 1832, now used as a Skating Centre, but still known locally as '**The Jennings Building**'. From 1911 onwards, it was used as a timber warehouse and is believed to be one of the very few surviving dock buildings of its period anywhere in South Wales, and is a Grade II listed building.

Close to the Jennings Building, and at the end of the main breakwater, is the white painted, cast-iron **Lighthouse**. It was built in 1866 but was modified in 1911, after the original was damaged in a storm. It was fuelled by coal gas but was converted to North Sea gas in 1974 and electricity as late as 1997.



In 1840 the docks were authorised to enlarge by extending northwards and in 1847 the **Llynfi Railway Company** was formed and immediately took over the Duffryn, Llynfi and Porthcawl tramroad railway.

In 1864, the dock was improved with alterations to the original entrance to the outer basin and lock gates for the inner basin, to retain a high level of water in the 7½ acre lake area allowing larger vessels to visit the port resulting in increased activity. In 1865 Porthcawl dock was eventually connected to the Llynfi and Ogmore Valleys by a steam railway mainly due to the **Brogden** family, from Manchester. They had iron interests at **Tondu** and coal interests in the **Ogmore Valley**. By 1871 the port exported 165,000 tons of coal compared with just over 17,000 seven years earlier.

By 1878, port trade was halved due to the decline of the iron industry but was supported briefly by an upsurge in the use of coal. In 1889 the port handled more than 800 vessels with ¾ of them loaded with coal. The future looked rosy until the new docks were



opened at Barry in 1889 and in Port Talbot in 1898. They were larger, deeper and far more modern and in 1903 Porthcawl only handled 2767 tons. The inner harbour was closed in 1906 and ships used the outer harbour till 1911. The inner harbour remained as a recreational area with bathing and boating until it was eventually filled in during the Second World War and is now a car park known locally as Salt Lake, but the entrance to the old harbour can still be seen in the outer harbour area.

During the summer months the historic ship, **Balmoral** leaves Porthcawl Harbour for cruises along the Bristol Channel.

The coastline around Porthcawl is fringed with **Delightful Towns**, **Small Villages** and miles of foot and **Cycle Paths**. For avid walkers and cyclists, the comparatively flat coastal plain and hinterland is ideal. It's easily accessible from the M4 junction 37, via newly completed A4229. Collect the separate 'Legendary Villages' booklet or the Cycle and Walking track leaflets, from the **Heritage Coast Tourist Information Centre** in John Street.

Just north of Porthcawl is **Kenfig National Nature Reserve**, one of the most important sites in Britain for nature conservation. It is home to thousands of species of animals and plants including the rare Fen Orchid. The reserve is well worth a visit as it is managed with the aims of both conservation and visitor enjoyment in mind.

Then there is the historic Norman church at **Newton** founded by the Knights of St. John, with **St. John's Well** on the green, where weary pilgrims would take refreshment from the healing waters. The patron Saint of Wales is closely associated with the well at **Nottage** in fact it bears his name. St. David's Well in Moor Lane is on the edge of this ancient village in an area called 'Dewiscumbe' or David's Valley.



## Maesteg

Rising dramatically from the coastal plain, are the mountains and valleys of the **Heritage Hills** and at their heart, dominated by its spectacular Town Hall, is the ancient market town of **Maesteg** standing at the head of the Llynfi valley. The historic **Town Hall** has been re-furbished and now provides a cultural platform for arts and entertainment.

Maesteg's origins can be traced back to the establishment of iron making in the late 1820's. Along with the building of the Maesteg Ironworks, the **Duffryn Llynfi** and **Porthcawl** horse drawn railway was constructed between the town and the docks at Porthcawl. Remnants of the track can still be seen on the harbour side at Porthcawl. The Cambrian Iron and Spelter Company set up a second ironworks at Maesteg ten years later, which later became known as **Llynfi Works**. They gathered the necessary coal and ironstone from the hills surrounding the town.

The most important benefactor to the town was Dr. John Bowring (1792-1872) who was well known nationally for his skills as a linguist and for his radical political views. He was elected to Parliament as MP for Bolton in 1841 and became associated with the iron industry in Maesteg in 1843.

As a measure of the influence of the MP, part of the Maesteg district was known as Bowrington for a number of years in the middle of the nineteenth century. The name has been revived today in the **Bowrington Arcade** at the corner of Neath Road and Llynfi Road. In

1844 Bowring invested heavily in the Cambrian iron and Spelter Works, which he renamed the Llynfi Iron Works. Despite fluctuating prosperity and periods of inactivity, iron remained the staple local industry for fifty years.

By 1847, Bowring and the company were in financial difficulty. The works made a loss on the years accounts, and wages were cut by 10% which in turn led to a strike, and closure of the forges. By 1848, Bowring's five-year adventure in the iron trade led to a financial disaster.

Fortunately Bowring was offered the consulship at Canton, China, by the Foreign Secretary, Lord Palmeston and by January 1849 he sailed for China. He was knighted in 1854 and went on to become Governor of Hong Kong (1854 – 1859)



Maesteg Clock Tower



Maesteg Town Centre

During his period as Governor, he enlarged the colony and established important commercial links with the Kingdom of Siam. Bowring left behind a larger iron works, a larger settlement and a collection of street and place names in the Valley. Today only **John Street** in Nantyffyllon (named after Bowring) and **Charles Row** in Maesteg (named after his brother) remain to recall his days in the district. The name

**Bowrington** had given way to Maesteg by the 1870's. **Bowrington Street** became **Commercial Street** and Upper Bowrington became part of Nantyffyllon.

The long years of depression after 1875, and other factors, brought about the demise of the iron making at Maesteg, the last furnace being blown out in 1886. Iron eventually gave way to '**Black Gold**' and the Llynfi Valley has a justly proud heritage of supplying quality coal to industries that helped create and expand the vast British Empire.

One of the former ironworks of Maesteg has been carefully transformed into a superb **Modern Sports Centre**, while renovation

works are being carried out to other blast furnaces situated on the old corn stores and elsewhere to retain the valley's heritage.

Its geographical situation means that the town was an attraction well back into the last century and today Maesteg has developed into one of the most important shopping areas in the county.

Due to modern transport, today thousands of people from surrounding valleys and towns buy their wares from the modern and attractive shops that line the spacious streets, thus continuing a link with the habits of their ancestors.

Maesteg is not an industrial wasteland as one might expect, but a pleasant, interesting place to visit. The town has an attractive **public park**, with a **bowling green**, **tennis courts** and **playing fields**. There are playing facilities at the **children's play area of Welfare Park** and motorists can take advantage of a large and well-surfaced **free car park**.

Maesteg is set in spectacular natural surroundings and has a great deal to offer lovers of mountains, scenery and antiquities. The growth of forestation due to work undertaken by the Forestry Commission has been one of the changing and very welcome features of the Llynfi Valley. Great areas of forest provide **pleasurable walking** with **magnificent views** in every direction.

Maesteg is a shopping experience with a daily **indoor & outdoor market** and a regular **rail connection** through beautiful scenery to the Great Western main line at Bridgend. Its no wonder the English translation of Maesteg is 'The fair field'



Ogwr Ridgeway Walk



Maesteg Sports Centre



## Barry

Barry takes its name from St. Baruc who drowned in the Bristol Channel, and was buried in 'Baruc's Island' now called Barry Island. The ruins of the chapel that was dedicated to him, can be seen in Friars Road. Long before Baruc however, people had already been living in this area of Wales. There are Bronze Age burial mounds at Cold Knap and in Friars Road. Barry's early years were troubled ones, with constant Viking raids. In 1087, raiders even set up their own base on Barry Island itself!

Later the Normans came and divided the lands into manors and parishes. Barry became a sub-parish of Penmark and by the 12th and 13th century, had grown into a village and port with its own church, watermill and castle. Fragments of the castle, dating back to the 13th century can be seen on the hill above Romily Park. By the end of the 19th century, Cardiff had reached its coal exporting capacity and so Lord Bute levied an extra penny per ton for handling coal. Incensed by this, in 1889, a rival group of colliery and railway owners set up their own docks at Barry, leading to the saying that 'Barry was built for a penny'.

The newly-found wealth of the town, created a fascinating jumble of architectural styles, from mock-Tudor to 1930's modernist buildings and wherever you look, balconies overlooking the sea. In time Barry grew to become the largest town in the Vale of Glamorgan.

It has no less than two main shopping areas. **High Street** is well known for shops and boutiques of individual character while **Holton**

**Road** is the home of most of the well known multiple retailers. It's worth visiting on Tuesday for the weekly **Open-air Market**. Barry is also the administrative centre for the Vale of Glamorgan and has numerous industrial concerns in and around the dock area.

Barry is a modern progressive town. The **Waterfront** development is an ambitious multi-million pound regeneration programme, restoring key buildings as well as sympathetically adding modern homes and commercial buildings to create a high quality waterfront environment. It is one of the UK's most exciting urban redevelopment schemes and includes a **Waterfront Promenade, Footpaths** and **Cycleways**.

The coal industry came and went, but Barry continued and found a new lease of life in Tourism based around **Barry Island**, closely connected to Barry Town, both emotionally and physically. The south-facing beach of **Whitmore Bay** is a stunning, sweeping crescent of perfect golden sand, flanked by a wide promenade where children can walk and play in safety away from the traffic making it a perfect day out for all ages.

There's fun for all the family at **Barry Island Pleasure Park**, with its fairground rides and stalls and traditional candyfloss. Barry Island is heavily featured in the award winning BBC TV comedy 'Gavin and Stacey' which was filmed both in the resort and the surrounding area. For a quieter, more relaxed atmosphere, try the **Knap**, lying to the west beyond the old harbour and offering a pleasant alternative with its gardens and lake while in complete contrast is **Porthkerry Country Park** - 220 acres of green countryside.

When most of Britain's railways were closed in the 1960's, many of the old steam engines were brought to Barry sidings to await destruction. This was not to be, however, and enthusiasts from all over the world came to look, examine and eventually buy. Steam engines from Barry are now back thundering along tracks in all four continents. Barry's connections with steam have been retained. Exciting future developments planned include a railway heritage attraction to entertain the whole family and a railway engineering facility.

Just off the coast of Barry, the vikings made their camp on the Islands of **Flatholm** and **Steepholm**. From there they attacked and pillaged the coast of Wales and Devon. The two headlands **Nell's Point** and **Friars Point** offer vantage points across the Bristol channel.





## Penarth

At the eastern end of the coast is the stunning town of Penarth. The town has been a magnet for holiday makers and day visitors for more than a century. Its **Victorian** and **Edwardian** founders created a resort of immense beauty and elegance and the town centre retains an air of old world style, with elegant buildings bordering wide tree-lined avenues, retaining some of the finest examples of Victorian architecture in South Wales. Churches, public and commercial buildings and ornate houses that were once the homes of ship owners, coal magnets and master mariners has left the legacy of an attractive, bustling town of charm and character.

This legacy means that the busy town centre is an absolute joy to wander around as shoppers can browse among a myriad of unique, family owned **Shops** that make a refreshing alternative to many of the brightly lit malls and chain stores of today's modern shopping centres. Eating out is also a treat as the town boasts a range of superb **Restaurants**, **Bistros** and **Cafes** catering for all tastes, and like all past ports, the international range is extensive.

The beauty of Penarth has inspired many artists including J.M.W. Turner who is commemorated by the Turner House **Gallery** in the centre of the town, while a former cinema known as **Washington Gallery** is of unique Art Deco design.

Linking the town and the **Seafront** are superb **Parks and Gardens**, while since 1926, the graceful **Esplanade** has been overlooked by impressive **Italian Gardens**, making it the perfect place for a gentle stroll or to just sit and breathe the clean fresh air.

There are many vantage-points that provide panoramic views across the Bristol Channel to the islands of Flat Holm and **Steep Holm** and still further to Somerset. It's no wonder that Penarth is justifiably known as, the 'Garden by the Sea'.

From the Esplanade, a spectacular coastal path leads out to **Lavernock Point**, which has played an important part in the history of modern communication. It was from here in 1897 that Guglielmo Marconi sent the very first radio transmission over water to the offshore island of Flat Holm. A plaque recording the historic event is set in the boundary wall of nearby **Lavernock Church**.

At the eastern end of the Esplanade is **Penarth Pier**, built in 1894. The famous Victorian pier, stretches 658 feet out into the channel and is a regular berthing point during summer months for the cruise ships **Balmoral** and the **Waverley** - the last sea-going paddle steamer in the world.

Naturally, being situated on the coast, Penarth is a haven for sea sports. There is an excellent range available including water skiing, sailing and deep-sea fishing, and the occasional tall mastered sailing ship!

Nestled at the base of imposing Penarth Head is the former Port, built between 1859 and 1865, now a modern **Marina** with attractive waterfront homes, smart yachts and cruisers. From the Marina, it's possible to view the huge workings of the Cardiff Bay Barrage which has created an inland lake providing leisure facilities for the populace of Penarth and Cardiff. The **Waterbus** sails daily from Penarth Marina across to Cardiff Bay.

Just outside of town, on the road leading to Sully and Barry, is stunning **Cosmeston Lakes Country Park**. More than 200 acres of lakes, woodland walks and beauty beckon visitors to explore the natural elements of the area. Situated inside the park is **Cosmeston Medieval Village**, one of the most exciting heritage projects in South Wales which provides an enthralling glimpse of 14th century life. Visitors can wander among the authentically reconstructed buildings and gardens and see livestock breeds from the Middle Ages roaming the paddocks while costumed villagers work the land.





## Llantwit Major

Llantwit Major, close to the **Glamorgan Heritage Coast** is steeped in Welsh history and was an ancient seat of learning for the Welsh saints. The first Christian settlements were established by missionaries, who travelled through the Celtic fringes of Wales, Ireland, Cornwall and Brittany. The most important of these settlements was at Llantwit Major where St. Illtud founded a church and religious school around the year 500AD. This is one of the oldest seats of learning in Britain and has some illustrious 'old boys'



Old Swan Inn

including St. David, the patron saint of Wales and St. Patrick, patron saint of Ireland, who were taught by St. Illtud. He also established a monastery and mission centre and from here the missionaries travelled through the Celtic world spreading Christianity.

This was considered to be a sacred place and became the burial place of the Kings of Glywysing. The imposing church of St Illtud now stands on this site and contains a collection of Celtic crosses and carved stones.

Almost every period in history has left its mark in Llantwit Major - Iron Age hill forts, a Roman villa just outside the town, Celtic crosses, a medieval grange or farm, and fine Tudor buildings especially the Town Hall, Old School, Great House and the pubs in the Town Square. The town still retains its air of antiquity with its maze of little lanes and old-world shops, narrow streets, quaint stone cottages and old inns.

Approximately a mile from the town is the Colhugh Valley leading down to the coast and a small beach. This is a wonderful starting point for a number of walks along the Glamorgan Heritage Coast.

The coastal walk will lead you to **St Donats Arts Centre** a few miles along from Llantwit Major. It is the Vale's largest arts venue offering exhibitions, cinema, dance, theatre, music events and more. The centre is housed in **St Donats Castle** once owned by American newspaper magnate, William Randolph Hearst. It was during his time that some of Hollywood's most glittering idols in movie history spent their summers at the castle as guests.



Llantwit Major



## Cowbridge

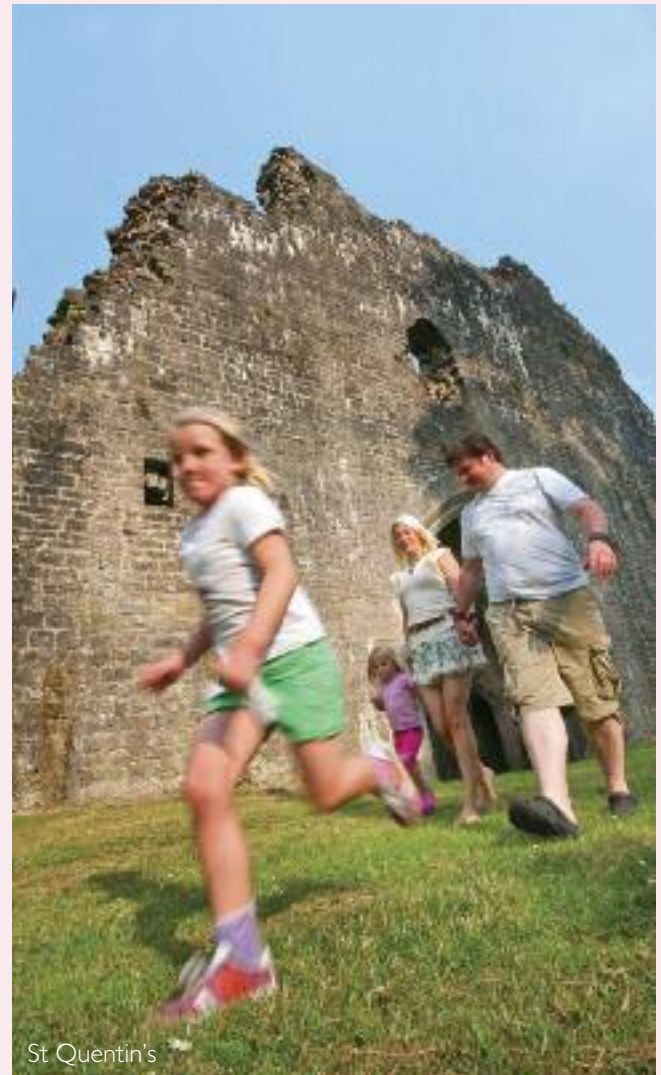
Set in a beautiful and secluded area of countryside, is this elegant market town, known as the 'Capital' of the rural Vale. Its busy main street is lined with fashionable **Shops** and delightful **Inns, Wine bars** and **Restaurants**. Quite apart from the multitude of chic boutiques etc., it's the atmosphere, which makes Cowbridge so appealing. The town has a wealth of historic buildings and has a prosperous unhurried feel to it. **Cowbridge Physic Garden** creates awareness of the curative properties of plants and of the great debt owed by modern pharmaceutical medicine to the plant world. Good old-fashioned values and service are what makes Cowbridge tick, yet with all modern facilities, it belies the town's long history stretching back to **Roman** times.

The Romans ruled Britain for 400 years. They established numerous settlements in South Wales, including houses and roads in Cowbridge itself. The Roman road to the west goes right through the town. They abandoned the area in the 5th century to return to defend their shrinking empire from the Germanic tribes.

In the Town Hall are two blocks of cells, the remaining evidence of the building's early life as a House of Correction. There is also a medieval castle at **Llanbethian**, close by, with town walls, large church and old inns. On the hill behind the church are the remains of the old **Iron Age Fort** of Caer Dynnaf, where evidence of Roman occupation has been found. Don't forget a visit to the newly opened gatehouse of **St. Quentin's Castle**. Close by is the Grade I listed Edwardian **Dyffryn Garden** one of the finest landscaped gardens in

Wales. The grounds include formal lawns, fountains and pools. The gardens are open all year and are ablaze with colour making Dyffryn a garden for all seasons.

The Vale of Glamorgan is ideal for those who prefer to explore on foot. The Millennium Heritage Trail is a 72 mile circular route meandering along country footpaths linking towns, villages and hamlets.



St Quentin's

There's a whole world of things to see and do for visitors to the Glamorgan Heritage Coast & Countryside, a compact, beautiful area of a spectacular country. This may surprise the many who still feel it is dominated by industry. On the contrary, it is an area of dramatic cliffs and award winning sandy beaches.

It's an environmentalist's dream come true with specially designated walking and cycling paths through areas that are abundant with natural interest. Every turn of a corner produces yet more fascinating scenes. Old industrial sites have been taken back by nature, and now beautifully blend in with the countryside, while still maintaining their historical interest.

The Glamorgan Heritage Coast & Countryside is full of hidden delights. If you would like to discover even more of them, then call in at one of the Heritage Coast Tourist Information Centres listed on the back cover. There the knowledgeable and friendly staff will be pleased to welcome you to the area with a host of other informative brochures and leaflets. Cycle and walking routes, maps etc., in fact all the information you will need to make your visit to our area the best ever! You can even book your holiday accommodation with them, either in advance or on your arrival.

Other booklets that are available to assist your enjoyment are:

### 'Days Out'

listing all the local attractions in the vicinity.

### 'Legendary Villages'

listing dozens of smaller fascinating communities.

### 'Country Parks'

listing many parklands and gardens to visit.

### 'Get Active'

listing activities to enjoy.



Or visit our website:

[www.glamorganheritagecoast.com](http://www.glamorganheritagecoast.com)

The area is easy to get to and only a few hours driving time on the motorway from London. It's even quicker by train - just 2½ hours from London to Bridgend.

For all public transport information Traveline Cymru 0871 200 2233 (National call rates apply)  
National Rail Enquiries Tel: 08457 484950



Map not to scale

Map produced by PC Graphics -  
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## TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRES



The expert and welcoming staff at Tourist Information Centres around the area are there to ensure that you get the most from your visit. They offer independent assistance with the planning of routes and the booking of accommodation. You will find information on places to visit and events as well as unusual mementoes of Wales.

All centres offer an independent, local and national accommodation booking service, for which a small charge is made - indeed, any Tourist Information Centre in England or Scotland is also able to book accommodation in Wales for you.

Look out for this sign, the sign of a warm Welsh welcome and a quality information service.

Tourist Information Centres are usually open daily between 10.00 and 17.30 - please telephone to check.

### Open All Year

**Tourist Information Centre at**  
Bridgend Designer Outlet,  
The Derwen, Bridgend CF32 9SU  
Tel: +44 (0) 1656 654906  
Fax: +44 (0) 1656 646523  
Email: [bridgendtic@bridgend.gov.uk](mailto:bridgendtic@bridgend.gov.uk)

### Cardiff International Airport

(Self service) Arrivals Hall  
Tel: +44 (0) 1446 709325

### Llantwit Major Visitor Centre

Town Hall, Llantwit Major CF6 1SD  
Tel: +44 (0) 1446 796086

### Porthcawl

Old Police Station,  
John Street, Porthcawl, CF36 3DT  
Tel: +44 (0) 1656 786639  
Fax: +44 (0) 1656 782387  
Email: [porthcawltic@bridgend.gov.uk](mailto:porthcawltic@bridgend.gov.uk)

### Seasonal

(In winter telephone calls only)

### Barry Island

The promenade,  
The Triangle, Barry Island, CF62 5TQ  
Tel: +44 (0) 1446 747171  
Fax: +44 (0) 1446 747171  
Email: [barrytic@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](mailto:barrytic@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk)

### Penarth

Penarth Pier,  
The Esplanade, Penarth, CF64 3AU  
Tel: +44 (0) 29 2070 8849  
Email: [penarthtic@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk](mailto:penarthtic@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk)

### London

For visitors in London wanting to go to Wales, the Britain and London Visitor Centre will be happy to help.

1 Regent Street, London. SW1Y 4XT  
Tel: +44 (0) 8702 250930

### Bridgend County Borough Council



Tourism Unit,  
Innovation Centre,  
Bridgend Science Park,  
Bridgend.  
CF31 3NA

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Email: [tourism@bridgend.gov.uk](mailto:tourism@bridgend.gov.uk)  
Website: [www.visitbridgend.com](http://www.visitbridgend.com)

### Vale of Glamorgan



Tourism Unit,  
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