



## **WALES IN A WEEK: CASTLES, COAST & CULTURE**

(7 nights/8 days)

*Guaranteed Scheduled Small  
Group Departures*

May to September departures available with  
maximum of 18 people.

### **KEY HIGHLIGHTS**

*Experience the very best of Wales on this immersive eight-day small-group tour, blending rich history, stunning landscapes, and authentic Welsh traditions. From the vibrant capital of Cardiff to the breathtaking peaks of (Eryri) Snowdonia, explore UNESCO-listed castles, ride a historic steam train, and visit the colorful coastal towns of Tenby, Aberaeron, Aberystwyth and Llandudno. Discover the charm of Portmeirion, learn about Welsh love spoon carving, and savor local flavors with Penderyn Whisky and Halen Môn Sea Salt. With a mix of guided experiences and free time to soak in the beauty of Wales, this tour promises an unforgettable journey through Celtic heritage, dramatic coastlines, and warm Welsh hospitality.*



### **ITINERARY**

#### **Croeso i Gymru! Welcome to Wales! (Sunday)**

The Wales in a Week small group journey begins in the vibrant city of Cardiff, the capital of Wales. After settling into our hotel take some time to rest and relax before meeting your fellow travellers and tour leader for a welcome briefing. Get acquainted with the group over a delicious dinner at our hotel, sharing your excitement for the adventures ahead.

**Overnight:** Cardiff



## Day Two: Cardiff & South Wales History (Monday)



Today's itinerary is a fascinating journey through Wales' industrial past and vibrant culture. We begin at the Royal Mint Experience, where you'll have the chance to explore the fascinating world of coin-making. Discover the process behind the creation of British coins and the history of currency in Wales.

Next, we make our way to the Rhondda Heritage Coal Mining Experience, where you'll experience a unique insight into Wales' coal mining history. With a guided tour, you'll explore the region's industrial heritage, and enjoy a traditional Welsh lunch amidst the stunning landscapes of the Valleys.

After our lunch and exploration, we head back to Cardiff, taking a scenic route via Cardiff Bay. You'll have time to admire the vibrant waterfront area, and for those interested in Welsh politics, a visit to the Senedd, the home of the Welsh Parliament, will be available.

Once back in Cardiff, you'll have free time to visit Cardiff Castle (ticket included) and explore the fascinating history of this medieval fortress at your own pace. Afterward, enjoy some free time in the city centre—whether you choose to shop, explore, or simply relax.

We'll end the day with a free evening for you to enjoy Cardiff at your leisure. Take time to explore more of the city or relax before we meet again for our next adventure.

**Overnight:** Cardiff

## Traditional Love Spoons & Spectacular Cathedral (Tuesday)

Today we depart for Pembrokeshire, where we'll visit a traditional Lovespoon workshop, where skilled artisans will share the secrets of this cherished Welsh craft. After a morning steeped in heritage, we'll make our way to the charming seaside town of Tenby, where we'll indulge in a leisurely lunch amidst its colorful streets and scenic coastal views. We'll conclude our day with a visit to the historic city of St Davids, home to its iconic cathedral, a testament to centuries of spiritual significance and architectural grandeur. As the day draws to a close, we'll settle in for a restful night, reflecting on the enriching experiences that have filled our Welsh adventure thus far. Evening at leisure in St David's - Dinner at the hotel restaurant or local pub is suggested.

**Overnight:** St David's



## Coastal Road & Steam Train Adventure (Wednesday)



Today promises to be a day of picturesque coastal vistas and nostalgic journeys through Wales's stunning landscapes. We'll begin our adventure by traveling along the scenic coastal route to Aberaeron, a charming seaside town renowned for its colorful harbor and quaint architecture. Here, we'll have ample time to wander the harbour area, soaking in the maritime atmosphere and perhaps indulging in a delicious lunch at one of the town's inviting cafes/fish & chips restaurants.

Afterward, we'll embark on a truly nostalgic experience aboard the Vale of Rheidol Steam Train, a historic railway that winds its way through the breathtaking Welsh countryside.

**Overnight:** Aberystwyth/Mid-Wales

**Please note:** Due to the limited availability of 4\* hotels in the Aberystwyth/Mid-Wales region, there is a possibility a good 3\* hotel will be used in this region or the tour will move to an alternative destination (closer to the activities of the following day)

### A Journey Through Timeless Beauty: Portmeirion & Snowdonia (Thursday)

Today, we'll journey to the enchanting village of Portmeirion, a whimsical masterpiece of Italianate architecture set against a stunning coastal backdrop. Stroll through its vibrant piazzas, peaceful gardens, and charming boutiques, soaking in the serene ambiance of this truly unique destination. You'll have plenty of free time to explore at your leisure before we continue our adventure.

Our journey then takes us through the breathtaking landscapes of Eryri (Snowdonia) National Park, where rugged mountain peaks, lush valleys, and sparkling lakes create an unforgettable panorama. As we wind through this dramatic scenery, take a moment to absorb the raw beauty of one of Wales' most treasured landscapes.



In the afternoon, we'll stop in Betws-y-Coed, the "Gateway to Snowdonia", a picturesque alpine-style village surrounded by ancient woodlands and flowing rivers. Enjoy some free time to wander its charming streets, browse local artisan shops, or relax in a cosy café with a warm drink and a Welsh cake.

From here, we continue to Llandudno, where you'll have the evening at leisure. Take a sunset stroll along the elegant Victorian promenade, explore the lively town centre, or enjoy a delicious meal at one of Llandudno's renowned restaurants.

**Overnight:** Llandudno

### Anglesey, Castles & Coastal Charms: A Taste of North Wales (Friday)



Embark on a captivating journey along the stunning North Wales coast to Anglesey—known in Welsh as Ynys Môn, Mam Cymru (*Anglesey, Mother of Wales*), a name that reflects its rich agricultural heritage and deep cultural roots.

Our first stop is the charming village of Llanfair PG (*Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwlllantysiliogogoch*), famous for boasting one of the longest place names in the world. Take a moment to snap a photo at the iconic railway station sign and explore the village.

Next, we'll visit Halen Môn Sea Salt, where you'll join their 11 AM public tour, learning about the unique harvesting process behind this world-renowned salt.

From there, we head to Caernarfon, a historic town crowned by its magnificent medieval castle. Enjoy a traditional pub lunch, included in your tour, while soaking in the town's lively atmosphere.

In the afternoon, we return to Llandudno, where you'll visit the Penderyn Whisky Distillery for their 4 PM public tour, discovering the craft behind Wales' finest whisky. If whisky isn't your thing, you may opt for a relaxing afternoon tea at the hotel or take a scenic cable car ride up the Great Orme for breathtaking coastal views (*optional, not included*).

After a day filled with exploration, the evening is yours to enjoy at leisure—stroll along Llandudno's charming promenade, unwind at a local bar, or gather for a delicious dinner at a nearby restaurant.

**Overnight:** Llandudno

### Day Seven: Stunning Gardens & One More UNESCO Castle (Saturday)

Today, we'll spend a morning immersed in the natural beauty and history of North Wales. We begin with a visit to the stunning Bodnant Garden, one of the most celebrated gardens in Wales. Wander through its lush landscapes, serene ponds, and breathtaking views of Snowdonia. The garden is a true oasis, offering a chance to unwind and take in the beauty of the surrounding countryside.

Next, we head to the charming town of Conwy, where you'll have free time to explore at your own pace. Enjoy lunch at one of the town's cozy cafes or restaurants, and make sure to take in the picturesque harbour views or browse the quaint shops lining the streets. After lunch, we'll visit the Conwy Castle, another of Edward I UNESCO World Heritage castles (*Officially: Castles and Town Walls of King Edward in Gwynedd*). This magnificent 13th-century fortress offers impressive views of the town and surrounding countryside, and its rich history will transport you back in time.

In the afternoon, you'll have more free time to explore Llandudno at your leisure. Stroll along the Victorian pier, wander through the elegant streets or take in the views from the Great Orme.

Tonight, we'll gather in the evening for a final farewell meal at a local restaurant, where we can reflect on the memories made during our time together in this beautiful Wales.

**Overnight:** Llandudno

### Day Eight: Hwyl Fawr i Gymru (Sunday)

It's time to bid 'hwyl fawr' (farewell) to Wales as we depart the Wales in a Week tour, carrying with us cherished memories of our time exploring this remarkable country together. Safe travels, and until we meet again!

**Please note:** We offer a complimentary transfer to Chester, Liverpool or Manchester (including Liverpool/Manchester Airports). Drop-off times are dependent on transfers for all guests upon departure. Private departures are also available from Wrexham to the above destinations as well as Cardiff/London

