



A Journey through the Wonderful Heritage of Wales

June 17 to 29, 2025 ♦ From \$7,800 per person

Meandering from the South of glorious *Cymru* to the North, our exciting journey through Welsh heritage encompasses the highlights of this rugged and beautiful country. We discover the 'Land of Castles' with visits to five magnificent fortresses, step back in time aboard the preserved Welsh Highland Railway and delve into the nation's mining past at the Rhondda Heritage Park, where we are also treated to a private Welsh choir performance. In a country where sheep outnumber people at a ratio of three to one, no visit here is complete without a trip to a working farm, and famous agriculturalist Gareth Wyn Jones welcomes us to his rural idyll for an unforgettable afternoon to round off our tour.

What's Included

- ♦ Return airport transfers from London Heathrow*
- ♦ 1 night at the Sofitel London Heathrow Hotel
- ♦ 3 nights at the Parkgate Hotel & Spa
- ♦ 4 nights at Bodysgallen Hall & Spa
- ♦ 2 nights at the Rookery Hall Hotel & Spa
- ♦ 1 night at the Macdonald Windsor Hotel
- ♦ Welcome drink & canapés
- ♦ Full English/Continental breakfast each day
- ♦ 3-course *table d'hôte* dinner on 10 nights at the hotels (with after-dinner tea & coffee)
- ♦ 1 dinner at at Ty'n Llwyfan Farm
- ♦ Services of a tour director throughout your stay
- ♦ Travel to & from all excursions
- ♦ All excursion costs
- ♦ Porterage where available

*Supplement applies for transfers from all other airports and all other locations, including central London.



Itinerary

June 17: Depart your home city and arrive the next day in London

June 18: Arrival

On arrival at Heathrow Airport, a private transfer will take you to our overnight hotel, the Sofitel London Heathrow Hotel. In the evening, join the group for a welcome drink and canapés, followed by dinner.

Meals: Dinner

June 19: Tintern Abbey & Chepstow Castle

We head first to Tintern Abbey in the beautiful Wye Valley, located on the border between England and Wales. There's time to enjoy some lunch here (not included) before we continue to Chepstow Castle, which again sits on the border between Wales and Gloucestershire. The castle was built in 1067 by Earl William FitzOsbern, a friend of William the Conqueror, to defend the Welsh Marches and was once known as Striguil (from the Welsh *ystraigl* for river bend).

Afterward, we enjoy a photo stop at the England/Wales sign on the border before continuing to Cardiff. Here we check into the Parkgate Hotel, where we stay for the next three nights.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

June 20: Cardiff, The Royal Mint & Rhondda Heritage Park

Today begins with a coach and walking tour of Cardiff, the capital of Wales since 1955, but with a fascinating history stretching back through the centuries.

Afterward, we visit The Royal Mint Experience on the outskirts of Cardiff, an interactive exhibition on coin production. During our guided tour, we watch as workers mint coins and discover fascinating facts about British coins, giving us a wonderful insight into one of the UK's oldest institutions. We are treated to a private talk from the curator while we enjoy lunch.

A memorable experience awaits at the Rhondda Heritage Park, where we follow in the footsteps of the coal miners who once worked in the valley and learn about the area's mining heritage. After our guided tour with a retired miner we are treated to a traditional male Welsh choir performance, complete with Welsh cakes and refreshments.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

June 21: Newton House at Dinewr Park & Craig y Nos

We start the day with a visit to Newton House, a beautiful Grade II listed mansion with a fairytale castellated structure in the heart of the Dinewr estate. Afterward we head to Craig Y Nos Castle on the southeastern edge of the Black Mountain, the former home of the famous Italian 19th-century opera singer, Adelina Patti.

We are treated to lunch and a guided tour, learning all about the history of the property, Patti's time here and the Grade I listed opera house, built to be her private auditorium, as well as the castle's transformation into a tuberculosis hospital.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

June 22: Elan Valley Visitor Center

This morning we head to Elan Valley Visitor Center, set against a magnificent Victorian stone dam. The exhibition and audio-visual show provide an insight into the history and wildlife of the area, and we learn more during our Ranger coach tour.

Later we check in to Bodysgallen Hall & Spa, where we stay for the next four nights.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner



June 23: Plas Newydd House & Plas Cadnant Hidden Gardens

Today we cross the 19th-century Menai Bridge to spend the day on the Isle of Anglesey, where our first visit is to the fine country house of Plas Newydd. The elegant interior reflects the 1930s, thanks to its associations with the artist, socialite and fallen WWII soldier Rex Whistler.



We continue on to Plas Cadnant Hidden Gardens, a series of historic gardens which are gradually being restored to their former glory, where we enjoy a guided tour and lunch.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner



June 24: Welsh Highland Railway & Portmeirion

We head to Beddgelert and board the Welsh Highland Railway for a picturesque trip to the quaint coastal town of Porthmadog, admiring the awe-inspiring scenery of the Snowdonia National Park along the way.

We then continue to Portmeirion, an Italianate village created by Sir Clough Williams-Ellis, inspired by his visits to the Mediterranean. Its unique atmosphere has been featured on camera many times, most famously in the iconic 1960s British TV series, *The Prisoner*. After a guided tour, we are treated to afternoon tea here.

Meals: Breakfast, Afternoon Tea, Dinner

June 25: Great Orme Victorian Tramway, Conwy Castle, The Smallest House in Great Britain & Ty'n Llwyfan Farm

This morning takes us to the traditional seaside resort of Llandudno, where we enjoy a trip on the Great Orme Victorian tramway. Delighting passengers since 1902, this is Britain's only cable-hauled tramway that travels on public roads and the tramcars have been carefully restored to provide a nostalgic experience.

From here, we head to the medieval walled town of Conwy to visit the imposing Conwy Castle. Classified as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, this imposing castle was built by Edward I during his conquest of Wales in the late 13th century and is considered to be among the finest surviving medieval fortifications in Britain with soaring curtain walls, round towers and fortified gateways.

We also visit another of Conwy's highlights, The Smallest House in Great Britain. Standing at just 72 inches wide and 122 inches tall, this extraordinary house was lived in until May 1900 (the last occupant was a 6 foot 3 fisherman!) and has since become a popular national treasure.

This afternoon we visit Ty'n Llwyfan Farm for a truly immersive experience. Celebrity farmer Gareth Wyn Jones and his wife Rhian love sharing their passion and vision for sustainable farming with guests and they invite us to take a peek into their way of life. We also enjoy a tractor pull, sheep shearing and sheepdog demonstrations as well as a local Welsh lamb dinner and a private Welsh harpist performance.

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

June 26: Bodnant Gardens & Pontcysyllte Aqueduct

We begin our day with a visit Bodnant Garden, nestled in the Snowdonian foothills. Created over 150 years, this world-famous garden is home to National Collections and Champion Trees and boasts sweeping lawns, grand terraces and verdant woodland.

Next we enjoy a slice of traditional Bara Brith as part of our unique canal journey, which features a trip along the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct, a World Heritage Site. Translated in English as 'the bridge that connects,' this incredible feat of Victorian engineering carries the Llangollen Canal across the River Dee and offers stunning views of the surrounding countryside.

Later we check in to the Rookery Hall Hotel & Spa, where we stay for the next two nights.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

June 27: Chirk Castle & Erddig Hall

The day starts with a guided tour of Chirk Castle, the last of Edward Longshanks' magnificent fortresses still inhabited today and boasting over 700 years of history contained within its walls.

Next stop is Erddig Hall, an atmospheric early 18th-century house that reflects the 'upstairs, downstairs' life of a gentry family, and offers a fascinating insight into the lives of the family and their servants. Outside, don't miss the superb walled garden, now restored to its former 18th-century formal design.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner



June 28: Charlecote Park

Today we head further south of England. While nearby Stratford is synonymous with Shakespeare's theatrical success, there lurks in nearby Charlecote Park's history a far less respectable connection; the famous playwright is rumoured to have been caught poaching deer here. Home to the Lucy family for 900 years, this lovely Tudor manor is a real treasure, and there's time for lunch here (not included).

Later, we check into the Macdonald Windsor Hotel, where we enjoy a farewell dinner together.

Meals: Breakfast, Dinner

June 29: Departure

A private transfer will take you back to Heathrow Airport for your return flight home.

Meals: Breakfast

Please note: the order of excursions is subject to change and guided tours are subject to restrictions.

Tour Highlights

- ♦ Guided tour & lunch at The Royal Mint
- ♦ Guided tour, Welsh choir performance, Welsh cakes & refreshments at Rhondda Heritage Park
- ♦ Guided tour & lunch at Craig Y Nos
- ♦ Ranger coach tour at Elan Valley
- ♦ Guided tour & lunch at Plas Cadnant Hidden Gardens
- ♦ Heritage train journey on the Welsh Highland Railway
- ♦ Guided tour & afternoon tea in Portmeirion
- ♦ Journey on the Great Orme Victorian Tramway
- ♦ Sheep shearing and sheepdog demonstrations, tractor pull, dinner & Welsh harpist performance at Ty'n Llwyfan Farm
- ♦ Canal cruise on the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct with refreshments
- ♦ Themed evening talk by a guest speaker