

**2025
TOUR**

Gower Peninsula

GUIDE



Welcome to the 2025 NOPS Kit Kat Tour

The Gower Peninsula offers varied terrain from long, sandy beaches backed by vast dune systems, to salt and freshwater marshes meandering their way inland towards wooded valleys and farmland. Jutting out into the Bristol Channel, the Gower is located centrally on the South Wales coast, just a short distance from Swansea. It was the first area in the UK to be designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in 1956.

Photographs included are attainable compositions for all, not drone shots. Though this doesn't preclude you using a drone if you have one. You may also find large scale OS maps at 1:25000 useful to check out final locations: OS Map of Gower, Explorer 164 and 165.

Some locations are run by the RSPB or a national organisation. It would be worth holding a membership or going with a member so that the weekend can be enjoyed to the full. Prices listed are correct at time of publication.

Please take care and be respectful of the landscape around you. If you intend climbing or doing any other dangerous activities, please go in pairs (at least) and consider whether you have the appropriate clothing or equipment.

Date	High	Low	High	Low	High	Sunrise	Sunset
Fri 19	05:38	23:48	17:57			06:57	19:20
Sat 20		00:18	06:24	12:30	18:39	06:59	19:18
Sun 21	New moon	00:56	07:02	13:03	19:15	07:00	19:16
Mon 22		01:26	07:34	13:32	19:45	07:02	19:13
Tue 23		01:52	08:03	13:57	20:14	07:03	19:11

Accommodation

Premier Inn Swansea North, Upper Fforest Way, Llansamlet SA6 8WB [//orchestra.estate.bought](https://orchestra.estate.bought)

1.5 miles from Junction 45 of the M4 motorway and a 10 minute drive from Swansea city centre There's an on-site Taybarns restaurant and free parking. There is an Asda superstore and petrol station round the corner.



The Amazon Shipwreck

Map Ref 1 SA13 2NR

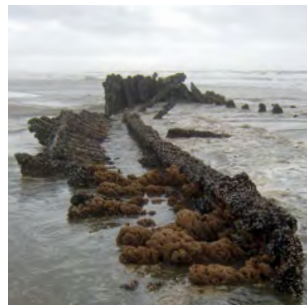
Low tide

18 minutes from the hotel to park but about 1 hour walk to the wreck.

The Amazon was built in 1886 by Barclay Curle & Co. Ltd. of Glasgow. She was 286ft in length, with a displacement of 2,062 tons.

On the morning of 1 September 1908 the four-masted barque Amazon, bound for Iquique in Chile full of Welsh coal, was towed from Port Talbot Docks to Mumbles Head where the order was given to drop anchor due to a rising south-westerly wind. The intensity of the gale increased overnight and, by the following morning, it was so severe that the ship's anchors started to drag and she was soon being buffeted helplessly across the bay. Finally driven ashore onto the Margam Sands by the raging storm, The Amazon was broken up by the pounding waves and, despite the heroic efforts of the Port Talbot L.S.A. rescue team, only 8 men out of a crew of 28 made it ashore alive.

The location of the wreck takes a while to get to. It lies on Morfa Beach which is by the steelworks so access is maybe restricted. Parking for Morfa Beach on Heolcae'r-Bont: drive past the BOC plant (Longlands Lane, Port Talbot SA13 2NR) down the single track road as far as the railway level crossing ///gentle.enhancement.redeeming. Park and from there it is 1.5km walk over the railway to the beach. Turn right once on the beach and it is another 3km across sand. Wreck location ///blunt.waddled.delighted. It is only visible at low tide.



Blue Pool Bay

Map Ref 2 SA3 1JL

Low tide

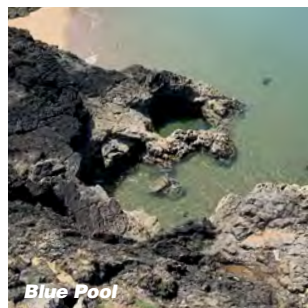
1 hour from the hotel.

Blue Pool Bay is a secluded but charming bay tucked away on the north west tip of the Gower. Its remoteness and lack of access make this one of the quietest beaches on the Peninsula.

The cliffs on the other side of the bay are home to the 'Three Chimneys', a naturally formed series of sea arches (two collapsed). The beach is only accessible around 2 hours either side of low tide so make sure you check the tide times before visiting.

The main feature and attraction of the bay is a large natural circular rock pool ///fees.racetrack.bashful at the western end of the beach. At 5m wide and up to 8m deep, its the perfect swimming pool.

Park at Broughton Farm Caravan Park at the large gravel car park next to the playground Llangennith, Swansea SA3 1JL ///kept.unicorns.dried. I cannot find any information on the cost of the car park but expect to pay a small amount. Turn left out of the car park and keep bearing left along the caravan park roads to the start of the the footpath ///mealtime.bashed.decorator. You will pass by Broughton Bay beach but keep going for about another kilometre. Turn right and venture down the cliff at ///sweetener.activism.sleeping and the Blue Pool will come into view.



Bwlch Hairpin

Map Ref 3 CF42 6LL

Sunrise, Daytime

40 minutes from the hotel.

Bwlch Hairpin is deep in the South Wales Valleys, a great place to stop for some photos. The Bwlch Hairpin is best captured on a wide angle lens to get the whole scene in, though if shooting at a mid range focal length you can always stitch photos together to create a panorama. This is a great location for sunrise as the valley and hairpin face east.

Once parked, climb the hill for a great vantage point. There is a small sheep path on the north side of the hairpin which can give you some guidance. There is sometimes a series of waterfalls at the top of the ridge after heavy rain which can be used as foreground interest. A great place to use the drone.

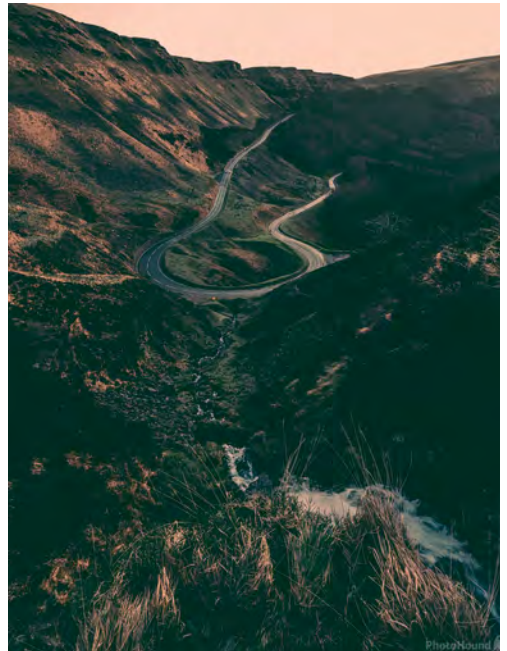
Location 51.640914341, -3.552156475

///ladders.ghosts.goofy

Park A4061, Treorchy CF42 6LL

51.640499932, -3.551726372

///fuse.piglets.steamed



Carreg Cennen

Map Ref 4 SA19 6UA

Daytime, Sunset

40 minutes from the hotel. <http://www.carregcennencastle.com/>

Perched on a great limestone crag nearly 90m above the River Cennen, the dramatic silhouette of the 13th century clifftop ruin, Carreg Cennen, dominates the skyline for miles around and commands stunning views over the Carmarthenshire countryside. Enter the elaborate barbican overlooked by twin towers. Explore the natural cave and vaulted passage cut into the cliff-face.

The castle and tea rooms are open every day from 09.30 to 17.30. Car park closed at 18.00. During quieter periods tickets must be purchased in the gift shop, otherwise tickets can be bought halfway up to the castle from the ticket hut. £7.00 (65+ £6.50). Admission to the car park, farm yard, tea room and gift shop is free.

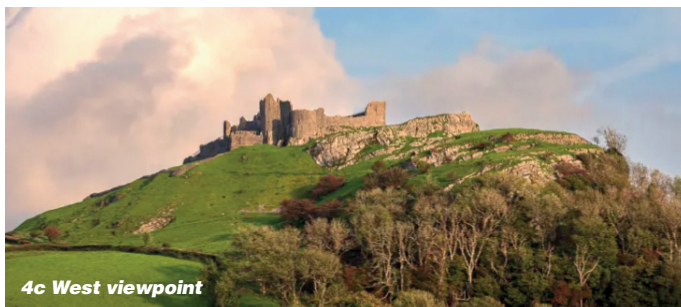
Park <http://partners.icons.establish> Trapp, Llandeilo SA19 6UA. Castle <http://reason.winners.routes>. You can see the castle from the car park; it is only a short walk but the ascent to the castle is a fairly steep grass bank. There are also several steps into the inner ward of the castle over the barbican.

The owners do not permit drone operation from any of the surrounding landscape or castle properties.

4a South viewpoint <http://minivans.shrub.conqueror>

4b North viewpoint <http://bookshelf.emailed.commit>

4c West viewpoint <http://feathers.screeches.undertook>



Caswell Bay & Langland Bay

Map Ref 5 Various

Sunrise, Daytime

Caswell Bay and Langland Bay are two sandy coves of the Gower Peninsula. The two bays are linked by a mile section of the coast path, which passes two minor promontories, Whiteshell Point and Snaple Point. The walk between the coves takes about half an hour and a loop can be made by returning along a parallel path higher up the cliffs, along the south of Langland Bay Golf Course.

5a Caswell Bay *///awaiting.vowel.gravest*

30 minutes from the hotel, Caswell Bay offers a wide expanse of dark golden sand interrupted by natural rock formations. The water comes right in at high tide then at low tide reveals rock pools filled with an array of marine creatures. Caswell Bay is also a hotspot for surfing, with reliable waves so great for sports photography with possibility for street shots with the The Surfside Cafe located right by the beach. Behind the beach is Bishop's Wood Nature Reserve, a rare example of a limestone woodland. The coastal path from Caswell Bay offers a stunning walking route with breathtaking cliffside views. Park Caswell Bay car park *///warrior.baking.makeup* Caswell Rd, Bishopston SA3 4RH.

5b Langland Bay *///fell.brochure.verb*

35 minutes from the hotel. Langland Bay is a popular choice for water sports enthusiasts, particularly surfers, who know the sea here for its varied breaks. The bay is relatively rocky in places and sandy in others. There are plenty of rock pools to explore, as well as a small but attractive promenade offering good access for all. At the back of the promenade is a long line of beach huts and the cafes and amenities mean there are plenty of opportunities for street photography. To the east, the beach stretches as far as Rotherlade Bay, although high tide separates the two. Park at Langland Bay Beach Car Park *///fell.brochure.verb* Brynfield Rd, Newton, Swansea SA3 4QZ.



Clyne Gardens

Map Ref 6 SA3 5AS

Daytime

25 minutes from the hotel.

A specialist botanical park of historical interest located to the west of Swansea. Landcape Features include small waterfalls and bog garden, home to giant elephant rhubarb and American skunk cabbage. The variety of landscapes ensures contrast, colour and interest all year round. There are also unusual features built throughout the Gardens in the 1920s, including the red Japanese Bridge, the Admiral's Tower, Joy Cottage and the Gazebo.

Park

Clyne Gardens Visitor Car Park ///sugars.sadly.twice 120 Mumbles Rd SA3 5AS

Blackpill car park ///shift.pasta.safely 266 Derwen Fawr Rd SA3 5AT

Pedestrian entrances at:

The Woodman ///next.monkey.groups 120 Mumbles Rd SA3 5AS

Mayals Road ///slide.drag.adults SA3 5DH

St Catwg Walk ///chats.swan.land SA3 5ED

6a Roman Bridge ///valid.cherry.nature SA3 5AX

So-called 'Roman Bridge' is believed to have been built in 1305 to enable people to cross the Pill.

6b Blackpill Bridge ///woke.send.layers SA3 5AS

Great place to shoot the river as it meanders down the beach.



Culver Hole

Map Ref 7 SA3 1NN

Low tide

45 minutes from the hotel.

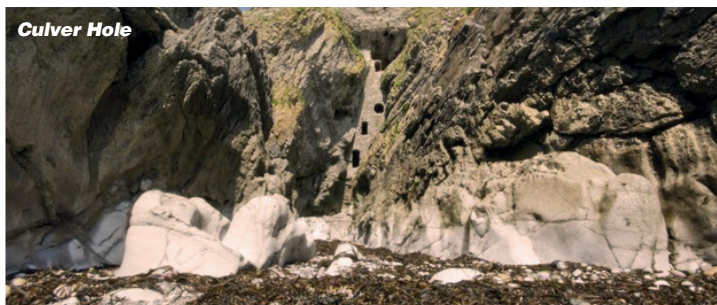
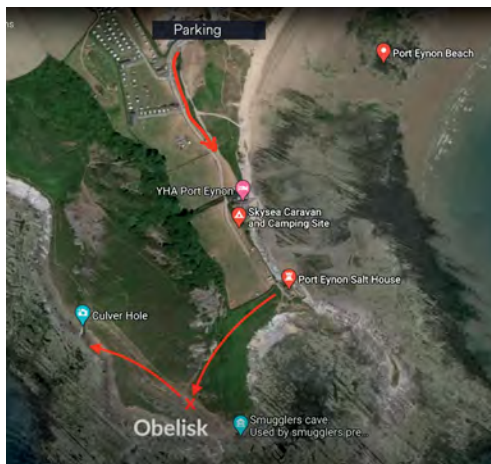
Situated on the Gower peninsula's south coast, Culver Hole is a large cave sealed behind a 30m stone wall lined with mismatched windows. Hidden away in a rocky cleft, the structure was believed to have been built in the 13th century and holds a bounty of smuggling stories. However, Culver Hole was originally used as a pigeon loft and the root of its name, comes from the old English word for pigeon, Kulverd. This is well worth visiting if you are on the peninsula and can easily be reached from the nearby Port Eynon beach. Also close by, at very low tide, is the shipwreck of Bluebell but I cannot find a precise location.

Park Port Eynon Terminus ///reissued.warriors.promote, Port Eynon, Swansea SA3 1NN.
£4 for 3 hours or £6 all-day.

How to reach Culver Hole

You can only access the hole between mid to low tide so check the tide times and aim to head down when the tide is on its way out. From the car park, pass through the Sky Sea Caravan Site and head towards the ruins of the Salt house ///kitchen.breeze.circular located beneath the headland. From the Salt house walk up to the Gower Society obelisk ///modifies.joyously.setting which sits on the headland and is clearly visible from the Salt House). Once at the obelisk follow the cliff top westwards, after 30m there is a faint path to your left which slants diagonally down to the rocky reef below, follow this path down onto the beach and Culver hole should come into view.

Culver Hole location ///dealings.drags.liked.
About 20 minutes to walk although longer if you linger taking shots at the Salt House.



Dunraven Bay & Rhoose Point

Map Ref 8 CF32 0RP & CF62 3LQ

Sunrise, Daytime, Sunset

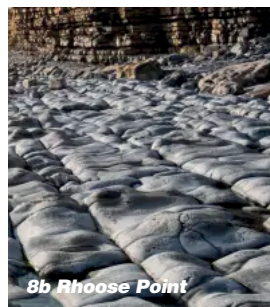
The beaches along this coast have remained largely unchanged for centuries, barring the occasional cliff fall. The geology is about 400 million years old. The area was a shallow sea and over millions of years the shells of sea creatures were compressed to form the limestone layers visible today. There are many examples of fossils to be found in the rocks here.

8a Dunraven Bay (Southerndown Beach) ///hung.pricier.assess

45 minutes from the hotel. Dunraven Bay is very popular it is also often referred to as Southerndown beach taking its name from the nearby village. The walled gardens and Dunraven Castle ruins are well worth a visit and set just back from the beach. This beach is a great place to fossil hunt and has some of the best rock pools along the coast. It has a great sandy beach, large car park and visitor facilities. Park and beach ///hung.pricier.assess 2 Beach Rd, Southerndown CF32 0RP.

8b Rhoose Point ///across.niece.wonderfully

1 hour from the hotel. This hidden gem in the Vale of Glamorgan is rich in wildlife and is the most southerly point of Wales. Rhoose point was quarried for many years for limestone leaving a hollow behind the cliffs, parts of which have filled with groundwater to form lagoons. The area has since been reclaimed for a nature reserve and Rhoose Point has been designated as a 'Site of Importance for Nature Conservation'. The scenic lakes, grassland areas and dramatic cliffs at Rhoose make it an important site for ecology and biodiversity. Rhoose Station Car Park ///width.burglars.inserted Heol Y Pentir, Rhoose CF62 3LQ. 12 minute walk to the beach.



Dylan Thomas

Map Ref 9 Various

Daytime

Dylan Marlais Thomas was a Welsh poet and writer. He became popular in his lifetime, and remained so after his death at the age of 39 in New York City. By then, he had acquired a reputation as a “roistering, drunken and doomed poet”.

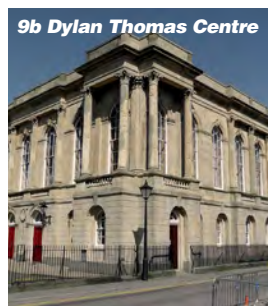
9a Birthplace ///casino.locate.submit SA2 0RA

16 minutes from hotel. Where Dylan was born, spent twenty three years of his life and wrote two-thirds of his work. 5 Cwmdonkin Drive, Uplands SA2 0RA. Wednesdays and Sundays only. Open 10:30 to 17:00, last entry 15:30. £9. Advance bookings only
<https://www.dylanthomasbirthplace.com/book/> Park on the roads around location.

9b Dylan Thomas Centre ///found.deaf.spine SA1 1RR

13 minutes from hotel. ‘Love the Words’ Exhibition explores Dylan Thomas’ life, work and cultural context. Follow a timeline of key dates and events, explore interactive displays, and discover original manuscripts and recordings that tell the story of one of the 20th century’s greatest writers. Dylan Thomas Centre ///found.deaf.spine Somerset Place SA1 1RR. 10:00 to 16:30, Wednesday to Sunday. Free. Park, East Burrows (same as Sail Bridge) ///feast.audio.agree just in front of the museum.

9c Boathouse ///steepest.events.quoted, **Writing Shed** ///consumed.uncouth.prevents SA33 4SY
38 minutes from hotel. He lived at the Boathouse for the last four years of his life during which time many major works werewritten including ‘Under Milk Wood’. Set in a cliff overlooking the Taf Estuary, the Boathouse offers memorabilia and tea room. Boathouse, Dylan’s Walk, Laugharne, Carmarthenshire, SA33 4SD. Thursday to Monday, 10:00 to 17:00. £6. Park Green Banks ///interacts.sneezing.trams SA33 4SY beside the marsh. Check tides as the car park gets flooded. Also location for Castell Talacharn/Laugharne Castle which is right next to the car park. Boathouse is 10 minutes walk from the car park and is signposted along the path beside the marsh and the castle.



Elidir Trail

Map Ref 10 SA11 5NR

Daytime

35 minutes from hotel. One of the finest walks in Wales, passing spectacular waterfalls, abandoned silica mines and ancient woodland. The Elidir Trail takes you between two car parks, but all the waterfalls are between Pont Melin-Fach and Sgwd Gwlady's ///reefs.look.walks (Lady Falls).

Starting at Pont Melin-Fach ///circles.undertone.sling is the shortest version of the walk (1.5 miles each way to Lady Falls) and showcases all of the waterfalls in quick succession. However, the car park often closes and is small. If it's closed there is room for four cars on the road outside the car park. The other starting point is to park at the village of Pontneddfechan ///inflates.stance.pairings. Although it's quicker to get to Lady Falls from here (1.2 miles), if you want to see all the waterfalls it will be a walk of 2.8 miles each way.

The Elidir Trail begins at a gate ///drag.sponge.depth behind the Angel pub (Pontneathvaughan Rd, Glynneath SA11 5NR) in Pontneddfechan. The trail (signposted by purple way markers) retraces the footsteps of local lad, Elidir, who discovered a cave that led to a secret fairy kingdom. Follow the tracks of trams that once transported silica from mines along the gorge, look out for 'Farewell Rock', a slice of sandstone above you on the left while the Nedd Fechan river rumbles below to the right. After arriving at a wooden footbridge, cross over and follow the right-hand bank of the Afon Pyrddin (green arrow signs) to **10a Sgwd Gladys** ///reefs.look.walks (Lady's Falls). To continue, double back to the bridge and bear left along the banks of the Nedd Fechan to reach **10b Sgwd-y-Bedol** ///premature.historic.qualified (Horseshoe Falls), shaped in several levels of semi-circular ledges. Further upstream the water cascades over **10c Sgwd Ddwli Isaf** ///pickles.excusing.playroom (Lower Gushing Falls) and **10d Sgwd Ddwli Uchaf** ///amaze.mastering.organ (Upper Gushing Falls). From here you can continue on to the picnic area at Pont Melin-Fach or retrace your steps back to Pontneddfechan. Distance 1.3 miles to Sgwd Gwlady's (lady falls), then a further 1.2 miles to Pont Melin-Fach (Picnic area at the other end/start).



Ferryside Cockle Boat

Map Ref 11 SA17 5RN

Daytime, Sunset

45 minutes from the hotel.

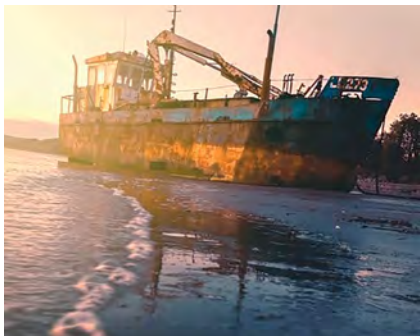
Ferryside is a village in Carmarthenshire, situated on the mouth of the river Towy/Tywi. Many seascape opportunities when the tide is out and with a rusted fishing boat on the beach. The village of Llansteffan and its hilltop castle can be photographed with a telephoto lens here also.

Park ///inhaler.pinging.pastime Eva Terrace, Ferryside SA17 5RN

Location of fishing boat rusty wreck ///rental.defenders.colleague

Ferryside to Llansteffan Ferry

The ferry crosses the River Tywi between the villages of Ferryside and Llansteffan. Journeys can begin in either village. The ferry operates daily during school holidays and weekends outside these times. The service is tidal. Sailings take place two hours either side of high tide between dawn and dusk, weather permitting.



Four Waterfalls Walk

Map Ref 12 Various

Daytime

30 minutes from the hotel. The Four Waterfalls Walk is a 6–9km trail in the Brecon Beacons National Park. The trail is well marked but includes muddy and steep descents.

12a Sgwd Clun-Gwyn [///geek.tiny.barrel](#)

The walk begins through the peaceful valley. The path then takes you through forest until you reach pebbled woodland path that leads to the waterfall, Sgwd Clun-Gwyn. With a short, steep ascent to the cliff edge, this stunning waterfall is the easy to access and is closest to the main forest trail.

12b Sgwd Isaf Clun-Gwyn [///help.typified.infants](#)

Back onto the woodland trail, there is a small path that leads to the second and third waterfalls. Be prepared to descend several steps before reaching the river nestled on a bed of black rock.

12c Sgwd y Pannwr [///head.plankton.scratches](#)

To get to Sgwd y Pannwr, you must follow a muddy trail over the river from Sgwd Isaf Clun-Gwyn. As the highest waterfall, the sounds of rushing water can be heard before the fall even becomes visible. After carefully climbing over some small rocks, you will reach the foot of Sgwd y Pannwr.

12d Sgwd yr Eira [///quietest.clues.broadens](#)

The final waterfall on the walk can be reached via a path off the main woodland trail. The descent to Sgwd yr Eira is the steepest. After reaching the river you will be presented with a narrow riverside, that is peppered with rocks you will need to climb over. For an even more unique experience, you can walk behind the curtain of cascading water.

Closest to the walk: Comin Y Rhos Car Park, Ystradfellte Road, Pontneddfechan SA11 5US [///commands.motivator.amending](#). Free.

Cwm Porth Car Park, Ystradfellte CF44 9JF [///hiring.awaited originals](#). £5 all-day.

Gwaun Hepste Car Park, Aberdare CF44 9JF [///regulates.clauses.binders](#). £5 all-day.



Green Bridge, Elegug Stacks & The Cauldron

Map Ref 13 SA71 5HS

Sunrise, Daytime, Sunset

1 hour 20 minutes from the hotel to the Stack Rocks Car Park ///smashes.push.ultra SA71 5HS.

The road to the Stack Rocks passes through an army tank range and is closed at certain times. Please call to check if the range is open to the public: Castlemartin Range 01646 662367. The car park is right next to these three fantastic coastal features. Take your pick of feature and find your composition and enjoy!

13a Green Bridge of Wales ///prettiest.lushly.grower

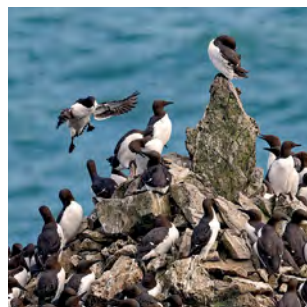
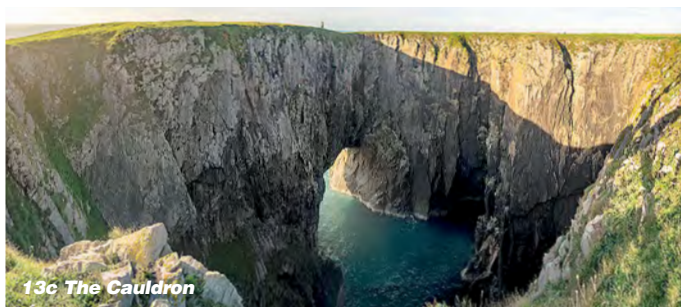
A dramatic natural rock arch and rock pillars on the southwest coast of Pembrokeshire.

13b Elegug Stacks ///foil.bravo.escorting

Stack Rocks (Elegug Stacks – elegug is the Welsh for guillemot) are two detached pillars of limestone.

13c The Cauldron ///shook.lunged.president

The Witches Cauldron is a large sink hole that doesn't appear much as you approach it from the car park but as you get nearer the geology becomes more visible. It is located around 50m from the main coast path. Take care as the drop into The Cauldron is sudden and sheer.



Henrhyd Falls

Map Ref 14 SA10 9PH

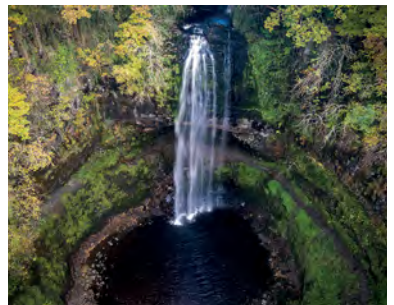
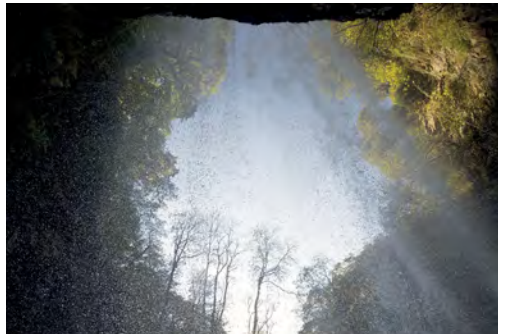
Daytime

30 minutes from the hotel.

Nestled in the heart of the Brecon Beacons National Park in Wales, Henrhyd Falls [///widest.pine.fond](#) is breathtaking. As the tallest waterfall in South Wales, Henrhyd Falls cascades dramatically from a height of 27m, creating a mesmerizing display of water and spray. The walk to the falls offers a delightful journey through ancient woodlands, rich with wildlife and vibrant flora.

Scenes from *The Dark Knight Rises* were filmed here. The falls became the location of the lair for the main character, Batman. The lead actor in the film was Christian Bale who disappeared behind the waterfall to enter the bat cave.

Park (National Trust) [///tuned.heaven.armed](#) Dol Henrhyd, Coelbren, Neath SA10 9PH



Kenfig Nature Reserve

Map Ref 15 CF33 4PT

Daytime, Sunset

25 minutes from the hotel.

Kenfig National Nature Reserve is an urban common, open to the public: a vast area of sand dunes, freshwater pools and lakes, grassland, scrub and woodland, supporting a huge range of plants and animals, making the reserve a popular venue for wildlife enthusiasts.

Kenfig Nature Reserve is one of Wales's top sand-dune reserves, with plants like wild fen orchids, birds and insects depending on this habitat for their survival. The reserve is one of the last remnants of a huge dune system that once stretched along the coastline of southern Wales from the Ogmore River to the Gower peninsular. Glamorgan's largest natural lake, Kenfig Pool, is set on the edge of the nature reserve with views across Swansea Bay to the Gower. Kenfig NNR is a favourite refuge for wildfowl all year round and is one of the few places in the UK where the bittern can be seen during the winter.

Plenty of parking on site Kenfig Nature Reserve, Ton Kenfig CF33 4PT. [//string.grins.appendix](#)
£1 for 90 minutes, £2 for 3 hours, £4 all-day.

Lone tree location [//spilled.sofas.ticket](#)

South hide [//fancy.mothering.shepherdess](#)

<https://kenfignaturereserve.co.uk/>



Kidwelly Castle – Castell Cydweli

Map Ref 16 SA17 5BQ

Daytime

40 minutes from the hotel.

A mighty and imposing monument of Norman power, this is the medieval fortress of everyone's dreams. That's probably why it appears in the very first scene of *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*.

Kidwelly began in the early 12th century as a Norman 'ringwork' castle made of wood and protected only by an earthen bank and ditch. After centuries of conflict between Norman invaders and native princes, Kidwelly was a match for any castle in Wales. A walk around the exterior of the castle is recommended, as its dominating position within the town is best appreciated from outside. Start at the back of the parking area next to the entrance [///warp.devotion.bookcases](http://warp.devotion.bookcases).

Kidwelly retains the street pattern of the medieval walled town, and though the walls themselves have disappeared, the early 14th-century South Gate of the town still stands on the main street opposite the castle. The line of town defences survive as hedge lines and the northern outworks are particularly well preserved.

Suggested viewpoint by the river [///elder.remit.exporters](http://elder.remit.exporters)

Alternative viewpoint of the whole castle [///tent.sidelined.hissing](http://tent.sidelined.hissing)

[///domain.jokers.kinds](http://domain.jokers.kinds) Castle Rd, Kidwelly SA17 5BQ.

£8.50 (65+ £7.60). 9:30–17:00.

Free (?) parking closest to the castle [///deodorant.spice.bulge](http://deodorant.spice.bulge)

Free (?) parking next to the castle [///watched.squashes.courier](http://watched.squashes.courier)

Free (?) parking 200m walk to castle [///treatable.prom.simple](http://treatable.prom.simple)



King Arthur's Stone

Map Ref 17 SA3 1HA

Sunrise, Daytime, Sunset

35 minutes from the hotel.

It's easy to miss from the road but walk just 10 minutes from the parking area and you'll come to a giant, balancing boulder, standing watch over the North Gower coastline and across the Loughor estuary to the 'mainland'. [enough.fault.cheat](#) Grid reference: SS 49141 90580. Perched upon a set of pointed supporting stones, it's a 25-tonne boulder, measuring 4m wide by 2m high.

Known as Arthur's Stone, or Maen Ceti in Welsh, legend has it that the king found the rock in his shoe and threw it all the way from Carmarthenshire. Touched by the hand of King Arthur, the stone grew in size. Gower is associated with mystic ley lines and full of Bronze Age ceremonial sites, so it's no surprise that myths abound about this landscape. Arthur's Stone is a good example of a 'glacial erratic' having travelled hundreds of miles across the country during the last ice age.

Keep an eye out for the pretty wild horses and foals grazing the common.

The stone is close to Reynoldston village on the B4271 from Cilibion to Reynoldston. Look beside the road for an unmarked craggy car park. Maen Ceti Car Park, [flotation.wept.warblers](#) Cefn Bryn, Gower SA3 1HA. From here follow the footpath to the stone.



Llanelli Wetland Centre

Map Ref 18 SA14 9SH

Daytime

22 minutes from the hotel.

Llanelli Wetland Centre is a mosaic of lakes, scrapes, streams and lagoons adjoining the salt marshes and shore of the scenic Burry Inlet. The wetland habitats act as a vital rest point for thousands of birds in autumn. Star species: greenshank, black-tailed godwit, great white egret, wigeon, teal, shoveler, kingfisher, curlew, departing swallows, peregrines, berries, fungi.

The lagoons nearest to the estuary are where birds gather in the greatest abundance. Fish are plentiful in the centre's deep-water lake, as otters and herons have discovered. The banks contain several burrows used by water voles and the islands provide nesting sites for lapwing.

Several scarce moths have been recorded, such as the scarlet tiger moth and rosy wave moth. The centre also boasts 20 or more species of dragonfly and damselfly including the small red-eyed damselfly.

Walk with a Warden – 20 September

Venture out onto the wetland nature reserve with friendly expert guidance on hand to help you spot some of the season's highlights. Get insider wildlife tips. You'll learn how to look for the subtle signs and tracks not noticed before and how to identify a broad range of different species. The Walks with a Warden are suitable for everyone. The route follows even, accessible paths and lasts about 90 minutes but you don't have to commit to the full walk – if you're short of time you can dip out along the way. No need to book, just be at the Info Desk for an 11:30 start. Included in admission.

///most.headless.rankings Llwynhendy, Llanelli SA14 9SH. Adult £10.13 (concession £9.09).

Book online in advance and save 10%.



Melincourt Waterfall

Map Ref 19 SA11 4AP

Daytime

25 minutes from the hotel.

The waterfall is easy to access from the car park. Simply cross the B4434 and follow the path alongside the eastern bank (right-hand side) of the river upstream for 500m, ignoring the steps that branch off to the right.

The route, which has a very gentle incline, takes you through a tranquil woodland. Although the path is well-maintained and flat, it can get muddy underfoot so choose your footwear wisely. Admire the 27m waterfall from the end of the trail. If there's been heavy rain there will also be a secondary fall to the right of the path.

Melincourt Waterfall Car Park [///pace.tickling.oasis](#) Neath SA11 4AP

Start of walk [///scrolled.notch.myths](#)

Melincourt Waterfall location [///code.wrist.wrist](#)



Mumbles Lighthouse & Bracelet Bay

Map Ref 20 SA3 4EN

Sunrise, Daytime, Sunset

25 minutes from hotel.

Mumbles Lighthouse ///amount.tent.tilts was built in 1794 to guide vessels along the coast and into Swansea Bay. It sits on the outermost of two islands off Mumbles Head and can be seen from anywhere along the 5 mile stretch of Swansea Bay. It was originally lit by two open coal fire lights but these were difficult to maintain and were replaced by an oil-powered light in a cast-iron lantern. The cast-iron lantern was replaced in 1987 and in 1995 the lighthouse was converted to solar-power.

At low tide you can visit the lighthouse but check on the tide. Walk past the pier amusements and down the steps to the small beach. The sand gives way to a tidal rock obstacle course covered in seaweed. Then ascend the steep path to the remains of the lighthouse keeper's cottage on your left as you go up the steps. The panoramic views from the lighthouse are said to be worth the effort.

Sunrise is ideal and compositions can be found all along Bracelet Bay with plenty of interesting sand patterns and rock pools to explore. Bracelet Bay Car Park SA3 4JT ///reception.value.defers, path to the beach at ///grief.newspaper.achieving. I suggest parking close to the path.

Another popular view point is from the small beach just beyond the Pier entrance at ///tabloid.smokers.concerned. Park just beyond Old Lifeboat House, Mumbles, Swansea SA3 4EN ///schooling.lecturing.mealtime and walk towards the Lighthouse or park by the Big Apple ///gladiator.cities.sailors and walk down the hill to the beach.

Also try compositions at low tide with the Pier framing the lighthouse. When we visit the sun sets over land for Mumbles lighthouse but in clear weather the rock can catch the light.



Mumbles & Mumbles Pier

Map Ref 21 SA3 4EN

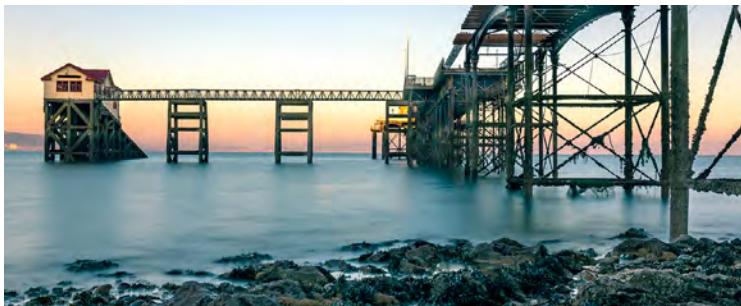
Sunrise, Daytime, Evening

Mumbles is located on Swansea Bay and marks the start of the Gower Peninsula. With a colourful history ranging from a battled-over castle through to the legendary 'Mumbles Mile', Mumbles today is all about good coffee, independent shops and a classic victorian pier and promenade full of seaside fun. A fantastic place for street photography any time of day.

The Mumbles Pier thrusters.shook.station was opened in 1898 and included a terminus for the famous Mumbles Train. Today the pier is a family run business and one of only a few privately owned piers left in Britain. It is Grade II listed and is home to the new Mumbles Lifeboat Station. Half way along the pier there is a bridge to the red roofed original Lifeboat Station. The pier is currently undergoing a renovation scheme but hopefully this doesn't affect our chances of good compositions. The ferris wheel is a 40m high recent addition and is illuminated at night offering blue hour opportunities in the evening.

For over 30 years Mumbles Pier has been the nesting site for a colony black legged kittiwakes. The pier provides the perfect environment for nests as many natural land predators can't access the eggs and Swansea Bay and the Bristol Channel provide generally good foraging grounds for the young birds. We may not see the birds at the time of KitKat in September but it is worth mentioning if you visit another time.

Access to the pier is free. There is local paid parking but there is refund scheme when you use the cafe and restaurant. Bracelet Bay Car Park SA3 4JT reception.value.defers. Pier parking schooling.lecturing.mealtime SA3 4EN or park by the Big Apple gladiator.cities.sailors. There is a large car park between Mumbles village and the pier at Knab Rock Car Park, Mumbles Rd, Mumbles SA3 4EL dummy.handicaps.routine



National Botanic Garden of Wales

Map Ref 22 SA32 8HN

Daytime

25 minutes from the hotel.

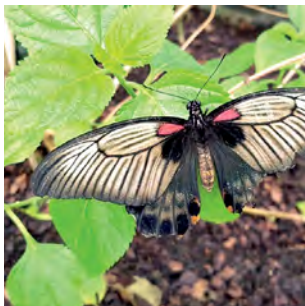
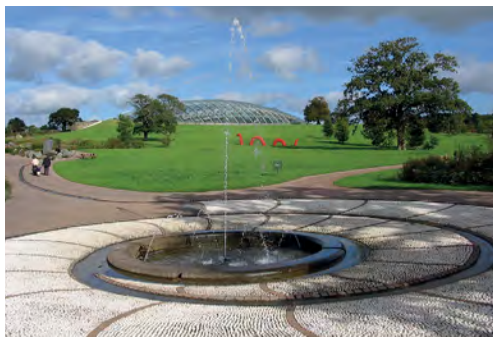
The National Botanic Garden of Wales opened in May 2000 and is recognised as the most influential landscape scheme in Wales. The National Botanic Garden of Wales is a charity dedicated to the advancement of knowledge in the science of plants and related subjects, and the conservation of plant species. It is a custodian of significant collections and heritage assets for Wales. With over 500 acres there is plenty to see and do.

The Great Glasshouse houses some of the most endangered plants on the planet which come from six areas of the world: California, Australia, the Canary Islands, Chile, South Africa, the Mediterranean Basin.

As a site of historic interest, there is also have a collection of old buildings and Regency landscape features. This complements the indoor collections of seeds, dried plants and fungi. Outdoors there are collections of art and sculpture and on the farm, Welsh breeds of livestock.

///munched.fattening.elect Middleton Hall, Llanarthne SA32 8HN

10:00 to 18:00. £16.85. Admission tickets are valid for the following seven days after your visit and permit free unlimited entry for this period.



Oystermouth Castle

Map Ref 23 Castle Avenue SA3 4BA

Daytime

20 minutes from the hotel ///fillers.reassured.exposing.

There are 600 castles in Wales, but there aren't many which come with a better view than this one. The views are magnificent over Swansea Bay. Over recent years the castle has undergone conservation work to ensure the castle structure is safe and sustainable for the foreseeable future. Now parts of the castle can be explored that have been hidden away for centuries. Features include ancient graffiti art from the 14th century, a medieval maze of deep vaults and secret staircases.

Open daily 11:00–17:00, £6 (£4 concession).

Park ///exposes.inventors.deflated 478–480 Mumbles Rd, Mumbles SA3 4BX.



Penllergare Valley Woods

Map Ref 24 SA4 9GS

Daytime

15 minutes from the hotel.

Penllergare Valley Woods boasts over 250 acres of ancient woodlands, wood pastures, open heathland, two lakes and the river Llan running through it. In Autumn the valley is ablaze with colour. The woods are alive with birdsong from migratory visitors such as willow warblers, whitethroats and black caps.

Our river and lakes are fished by kingfishers, dippers and otters who are passing through. The waters are home for the increasingly rare European eel.

The evening skies are full of bats on the wing including Daubenton bats fishing on the Upper Lake.

Water voles are native, semi-aquatic rodents, and important landscape engineers. Our water vole project aims to encourage the return of the water vole to the woodland by creating a secluded environment. Other species have been found inhabiting the area including field vole, wood mouse, woodcock, grey heron, toads, frogs, dragonflies and damselflies.

You can explore Penllergare Valley Woods whenever you want but the car park, toilets, visitor centre and coffee shop do have set opening times. The car park is open 09:00 to 17:00 daily and the car park gates are locked at 17:00.

Penllergare SA4 9GS [///looks.cargo.woof](http://looks.cargo.woof)



Porthcawl

Map Ref 25 Various

Daytime, Sunset

30 minutes from the hotel, the seaside town of Porthcawl developed as a coal port in the 19th century but because of developments at other larger ports this trade declined and in the Victorian era the town developed its tourist trade.

25a Coney Beach Pleasure Park ///outlined.locked.ourselves

Follow in the footsteps of Coney Island Photographer, Harold Feinstein, by trying some street photography at Wale's Pleasure Park at Coney Beach. Location and Park ///outlined.locked.ourselves Mackworth Road, CF36 5BY or Park ///worms.quits.kneeled 7 Eastern Promenade CF36 5TS. Open Friday to Sunday from midday. Alternative entrance ///stilted.influencing.regretted This amusement park is set to close in October so it a great time to record the end of an era.

25b Porthcawl Lighthouse ///topic.tipping.juggled

The classic view of a stormy sea. If the weather is bad, head down to Porthcawl Coastwatch ///tumblers.flicks.easy to shoot the lighthouse amongst the waves. Park ///worms.quits.kneeled 7 Eastern Promenade, Porthcawl CF36 5TS.

25c Rest Bay Surfing ///rehearsed.moisture.draining

Being on the south Wales coast, Porthcawl is perfectly situated to receive Atlantic swells. Under the shadow of the Port Talbot steelworks, Rest Bay attracts surfing enthusiasts all year round. Park Rest Bay ///rehearsed.moisture.draining CF36 3UP.

We miss the Elvis Festival by one week but if you are staying longer it runs 26 to 28 September.



25b Porthcawl Lighthouse
by Ray Andrews



25a Coney Beach Pleasure Park



25a Coney Beach Pleasure Park



25c Rest Bay

Rhossili, Worm's Head and Helvetia Shipwreck

Map Ref 26 SA3 1PP

Sunrise, Daytime, Sunset

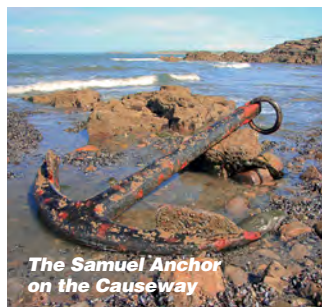
1 hour from the hotel. National Trust large car park SA3 1PP ///runways.destroyer.coasting

Rhossili Bay is the most westerly bay on the Gower peninsula and bears the full might of the Atlantic swells. It is the most consistent surfing beach on Gower, with the biggest waves at the north end at Llangennith. It is a dramatic environment with Rhossili Downs towering above the vast expanse of beach that stretches for miles. Heading west along the cliff path towards the end of the peninsula there is Worm's Head ///gravel.pacifist.armrests, a mile long serpent-like promontory jutting out into the ocean.

There is a steep but good path that leads down the side of the cliffs. For spectacular panoramic views over the bay walk up Rhossili Downs.

The high, open headland to the west of the Rhossili village leads to Worm's Head (from the Viking wurm, aptly meaning 'dragon'), two rocky islands joined to the mainland by a narrow causeway accessible only at low tide and to one another by Devil's Bridge ///ruin.singers.workbench, a narrow neck of rock. On the outer island a booming blow hole throws up water visible from the village nearly 2 miles away.

Rhossili Bay, the largest expanse of white sand on Gower, stretches for 3 miles to the islet of Burry Holms and is regarded as one of Europe's great beaches. It is broken only by the skeletal remains of wrecked ships, most notably Gower's best known wreck, the Norwegian barque Helvetia, which was driven onto the beach in a gale in 1887. You can be guaranteed to see a fair proportion of the ribs of this historical landmark, the Helvetia on the sands at Rhossili ///alley.custard.swatting. Also, at low tide, on the causeway linking Rhossili Bay to Worm's Head you can see the substantial anchor of The Samuel ///rests.starlight.cubed, nestled among the silt and the seaweed.



Scotts Pit

Map Ref 27 SA7 9DS

Sunrise, Daytime, Sunset

5 minutes from the hotel. [///waving.rectangular.sums](#) Gwernllwynchwyth Rd SA7 9DS.

Scott's Pit was sunk in 1817–19 by a London Solicitor, John Scott. However, it proved unremunerative and Scott and his partners sold it to a local landowner who worked it until about 1842. In 1872 the engine house was recommissioned but only for pumping and draining the newly-developed Cae Pridd colliery. It remained in use for this purpose, intermittently and with a succession of owners, until 1930.

The main surviving feature is the engine house which was restored in 1976-80 and taken into the possession of Swansea City Council.

Park in the layby opposite the location [///general.calendars.sandwich](#)



St Govan's Chapel & Huntsman Leap

Map Ref 28 SA71 5DR

Daytime

1 hour 15 minutes minutes from the hotel to the National Trust car park ///stood.instilled.goodness at St Govan's Head, Bosherton SA71 5DR.

This walk takes in St Govan's and Huntsman Leap but you could carry on to Bullslaughter Bay taking in the beautiful cliff top vistas along the way, 1km one way. The cliffs here are important for seabirds, including guillemots, razorbills and kittiwakes. The coastal heath and unimproved grassland provides an ideal habitat for the chough, and also supports many birds such as wheatears, skylarks, meadow pipits, stonechats and various species of warbler.

It follows the coastline alongside a large part of the Castlemartin Army Range. This range is not open to the general public but stick to the footpath and you will be safe. During firing times red flags are flown, red lights are visible and access to between St Govan's and Green Bridge may be restricted. Warning: Do not pick up anything on the Range; it may explode and kill you.

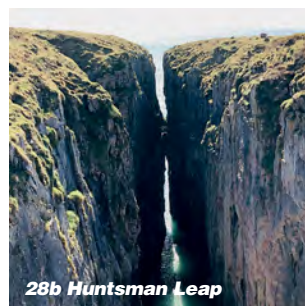
28a St Govan's Chapel ///meatball.dome.blessing

A tiny hermit's cell built into the cliff. Caution: Very steep steps down to chapel. Count the steps down and up again – legend has it that the number is never the same!

28b Huntsman Leap ///smaller.structure.nozzle

A deep, narrow and sheer-sided coastal chasm. The name derives from local folklore, a hunter on horseback, being chased by the devil is said to have jumped from one side of the chasm to the other. On looking back and seeing the gap that he had jumped, he died of shock.

28c Bullslaughter Bay ///hail.passion.scrub



Swansea Beach

Map Ref 29 Various

Sunrise, Daytime, Sunset

Only minutes away from the city centre, the beach stretches along Swansea Bay and is backed by a promenade and coastal road. To the east of the bay is the marina. Along the promenade you can see The Tower, Wales largest residential building, The Patti Pavilion in Victoria Park and the remains of the old slip bridge outside the sports ground.

29a Bridge to Nowhere [///circle.formed.wiser](#) and [///plank.dawn.dark](#)

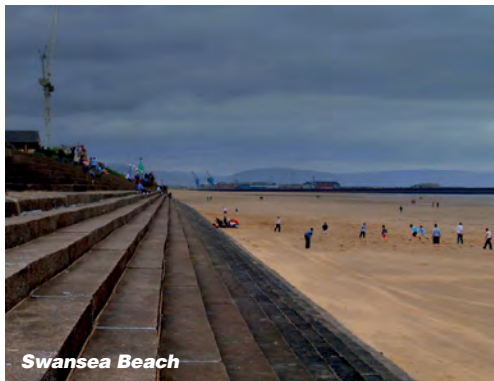
Once a Swansea landmark, synonymous with the city's heavy steel industry, the bridge was iconic – one of the few remnants from the Victorian/Edwardian era. The Swansea Slip Bridge and the adjacent Victoria Park were a focus for the regional railway stopping there but it fell into disrepair and the bridge was taken down leaving the steps either side of the road in place. The Baths Car Park, [///cotton.tuck.tour](#) Guildhall Rd SA1 3UP.

29b Patti Pavilion [///scan.duty.forgot](#) Victoria park, Mumbles Rd SA1 4PQ

A former Winter Garden pavilion was purchased in 1886 by Adelina Patti, the internationally renowned soprano. She gave the pavilion to the citizens of Swansea at her death and it was re-erected in its present position in 1920. Park same as location.

29c Maggie's Centre [///slide.artist.sheets](#) Sketty SA2 8QL

Built in 2011, the centre was designed by the world-renowned Japanese architect Kisho Kurokawa. The building joins East with West, and its cosmic whirlpool shape reminiscent of the Milky Way. Gardens wrap around the building and overlook into Swansea Bay. Park same as location.



So much to see and do in Swansea you may not know where to start. Use this list for inspiration, whether it's taking in some heritage and architecture, visiting attractions or exploring the wider area.

30a The Glynn Vivian Art Gallery ///joins.junior.sung

Set within the heart of the City, the gallery is a world class gallery for Wales. A new state-of-the-art extension now links the historic buildings, including the original grade two listed 1911 building, which has benefited from complete restoration. Park NCP ///stones.tilt.sudden Orchard St SA1 5AS.

30b Swansea Market ///given.herbs.scuba

The largest indoor market in Wales was crowned as Britain's Best Large Indoor Market 2024! This historic market offers a unique experience with a fantastic selection of specialist stalls offering everything from fresh, local produce to antiques and bespoke gifts. An ideal environment for street photography. Park The Quadrant ///handle.sleepy.darker Wellington St SA1 3QR or Copr Bay South car park ///jabs.sits.tummy Oystermouth Rd SA1 3BX.

30c Plantasia Tropical Zoo ///swim.salon.losses Parc Tawe SA1 2AL

One for when the weather turns. Plantasia is a hi-tech hot house boasting one of the finest collections of plants in the country. There are 2 climate zones, Tropical and Arid. These environments are meticulously maintained through computer control connected to the locally-housed weather station on the top of the Pyramid shaped building that houses Plantasia. www.plantasiaswansea.co.uk 10:00–17:00, £8.95 (£6.95). Park next to Plantasia in Parc Tawe Retail Park, free for 2 hours ///scout.hooks.pound. If you require longer than 2 hours then please supply a member of staff with your car registration.

30d Wind Street ///crown.closes.inner

The street is one of the most attractive old streets in the centre of Swansea. Unlike other areas, Wind Street survived the blitz in World War II, and has recently been given a new lease of life as part of an urban renewal programme. Great for street photography. Park the same at Market.

30e Swansea Castle ///sobs.small.from 8 Castle St SA1 1DW

Little remains of Swansea Castle but it was once a fortress of great strategic importance, controlling a harbour and important east–west route along southern Wales. Though there has been a castle here since at least the early 12th century, the remains that stand today date from the late 13th and early 14th centuries. The most striking feature is the distinctive arcaded parapet on the south block. Park the same at Market.

Swansea City

Map Ref 30

Sunrise, Daytime, Sunset



30c Plantasia



30b Swansea Market



30a Glynn Vivian Gallery



30a Glynn Vivian Gallery



30e Swansea Castle



30b Swansea Market



30d Wind Street

Swansea Maritime Quarter

Map Ref 31 Various, 15 minutes from hotel

Sunrise, Daytime, Sunset

The Maritime Quarter is the regenerated former dockland area immediately to the south of Swansea City Centre. The area comprises three water frontages to the River Tawe, the former South Dock and the beach to Swansea Bay.

31a Swansea Marina Difficult to pinpoint but this gets you in the area ///global.angle.tilt Where the city meets the sea. Boats, buildings and reflections, day or night. Swansea Marina in the Tawe Basin is situated in the award-winning Maritime Quarter area of Swansea City, bordered on one side by the beach of Swansea Bay and the city centre is only a short walk away. Park Paxton Street car park ///active.dangerously.asks SA1 3SA or Marina car park ///period.goats.showed SA1 1TT.

31b Sail Bridge ///bonus.shift.amused

An essential crossing for pedestrians and cyclists from the city centre to the Port Tawe Innovation Village. The bridge is lit up regularly. However, I couldn't find specific details about a schedule. Park East Burrows Road ///feast.audio.agree SA1 1RE.

31c National Waterfront Museum ///down.spends.leaves

The National Waterfront Museum tells the story of industry and innovation in Wales, now and over the last 300 years. The Museum is housed in an original listed warehouse linked to a ultra-modern slate and glass building. Park same as marina.

31d Copr Bay Bridge ///reap.spins.taped Oystermouth Rd SA1 3LQ

The 49m award-winning span bridge is an eye-catching structure that is 12m wide and 6m high and spans 6 lanes of traffic. It provides a safe and continuous connection between Swansa's city centre and the coast. Park Copr Bay South Car Park ///liability.bucket.tribes Oystermouth Rd SA1 3BX.

31e Swansea Arena ///vocab.copy.wake Oystermouth Rd, Bae Copr Bay SA1 3BX

The Arena sits as the crowning jewel within the coastal park. The exterior is designed to address all directions equally, the city centre, the passing traffic and the bay. The facade appears as a fluid arrangement of bifurcating curves wrapped over all sides of the building, changing in response to the spatial requirements of the programme within. Park same as Copr Bridge.

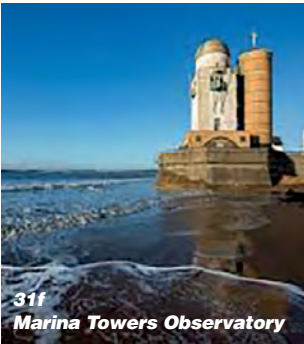
31f Marina Towers Observatory ///eagles.pink.simply The Slipway SA1 1YB

The Marina Towers Observatory (also known as the Swansea Observatory and Tower of the Ecliptic) was previously home to Wales's largest optical astronomical telescope. The building was designed by Robin Campbell in 1989 and consists of two towers. The top of the tower has a stained glass feature designed by David Pearl. Observational facilities previously included a 20-inch Shafer-Maksutov telescope – the second largest of its kind in the world. But this has since been removed after Swansea Astronomical Society vacated the site. I think these are public parking spaces off the slipway ///ocean.defeat.shovels.

Swansea Maritime Quarter

Map Ref 31

Sunrise, Daytime, Sunset



Sychryd Waterfall & Upper Dinas Silica Mine

Map Ref 32 SA11 5NE

Daytime

30 minutes minutes from the hotel.

Hidden away in the Sychryd gorge is a small secluded set of falls traversed by a wooden footbridge. This isn't the most impressive set of falls in Brecon Beacon waterfall country but its secluded nature, fairytale-esq surroundings, and lack of other visitors, make it a perfect waterfall to visit.

Park free at Dinas Rock Car Park ///boomer.attends.makeovers Dinas Rd, Pontneddfechan SA11 5NE.

32a Sychryd Falls ///loaded.poorly.socket

Follow the path ///stall.height.hungry that runs between the car park and the river past Dinas Rock. The path rises steeply and is rocky underfoot. There's a handrail to help the less surefooted. Follow the path for 200m until you reach a fork. Go right following signs for Penderyn. After 50m the path will fork again, stick right and follow the path as it drops down steps towards the river. After 100m the bridge and waterfalls comes into view. Descend the steps to Sychryd falls, a three tiered waterfall which flows beneath a footbridge into a emerald plunge pool named Pwll y Berw.

You have a couple of options for viewing and photographing the waterfall. If you do want to get a shot of all three cascades alongside the bridge, you will have to do a bit of gorge scrambling downstream to get a better vantage point. The route down is marked by a short metal handrail. You can also view the fall from the wooden footbridge which traverses the upper section of the river. Opposite the bridge is an old mining tunnel which extends approximately 300m into the cliff face.

32b Upper Dinas Silica Mine ///evaporate.carting.singles

Located on the side of northern side of the the river is a loosely fenced off section of the Dinas Silica mine. Abandoned in 1964, the material sourced from these mines was used to produce brickwork that was used in furnace linings for the copper, iron and steel industries. Although the mines are surrounded by danger signs, you can poke your head around the entrance.



From above



From the footbridge



32b Dinas Silica Mine

1 hour from the hotel.

Tenby is a walled seaside town on the western side of Carmarthen Bay. Notable features include 2.5 miles of beaches, the 13th century medieval walls and the Victorian revival architecture in pastel colours, making the town have a Mediterranean feel. It is hilly so be prepared for plenty of steps. St Julian's is a tiny church in the harbour, built for fishermen to say a prayer before heading out to sea. Another worthwhile visit is the tidal island of St Catherine's and its Victorian fort. Also Caldey island and the ancient priory. Boat trips run regularly Easter to October from the harbour, £20.

Harbour Viewpoint, Norton Road [///flag.porch.resorting](#). The harbour is lit best in the morning and then in the evening when the lights come on.

Lifeboat station [///hatch.dreams.shackles](#)

Crackwell Street [///dries.taxed.whizzed](#)

Castle gardens [///hems.rationing.centuries](#)

Castle beach [///mural.juniors.clogging](#)

St Catherine's Island [///optimists.swanky.suspended](#)

North beach View [///glides.factually.skills](#)

Tenby Wall [///nagging.employers.ranged](#)

Park North Beach Pay and Display Car Park [///dinner.placidly.important](#) Gas Lane SA70 8AG or

Tenby Multi-Storey Upper [///craziest.strange.patch](#) Park Rd SA70 7LT or

South Beach [///noting.ethic.buying](#) Battery Rd SA70 7EG.



Three Cliffs Bay & Pennard Castle

Map Ref 34 Various

Sunrise, Daytime, Sunset

40 minutes from the hotel.

Three Cliffs Bay is a spectacular shoreline of sand dunes, salt marsh and the signature three limestone cliffs. With Pennard Pill stream running through a luscious green valley to the beach and panoramic views from the cliffs, it is a particularly photogenic part of the Wales Coast Path. This beach is more difficult to reach than others but the views and beach itself certainly make up for the extra effort. The most sought after shot is from the dune covered headland which separates Three Cliffs from the neighbouring Pobbles bay. This spot is a great location for sunset and is marked by two benches and large wooden shell on the headland. Another great location is from the other side of the bay just below Three Cliffs Holiday park. This view also makes for a great spot for sunrise especially if you can time it with high tide.

Views from Pennard castle are also dramatic and beautiful.

This 12th-century ruin is perched on the clifftop, the castle has sweeping views towards Three Cliffs Bay. It overlooks the winding Pennard pill in the valley below. Three Cliffs Bay is a designated dark sky location so worth trying some astro photography over the castle too.

Parking for Pennard Castle is in a field opposite Shepherds of Gower, £3 (Parkmill SA3 2EH). From the car park (red line) cross the footbridge over the river into wood. Take a right, follow path along the river up into the forest. After 150m, at fork turn left and head to the woods. Follow this path up the hill, behind several houses, until you emerge onto the golf course. Carry along the edge of the golf course until you reach Pennard castle. Take plenty of time to explore the 12th century ruins and enjoy the views on the Gower. From the castle either follow the sand dunes along the edge of the golf course towards Three Cliffs viewpoint (wooden sea shell). Or walk through sand dunes from the castle into the valley and follow the path onto the beach.

Free parking is available behind St John the Baptist church in Penman just off the A4118. This is the best option to access in the sandy section of the beach (left blue line). As you turn off the main road and pass the church, free parking is located just over the cattle grid on the right. Walk past church, cross road and follow North Hills Lane towards holiday park. After 100m turn right and follow the road as it drops towards the beach, turn left, pass through a swing gate and walking a further 100m to an incredible viewpoint where the path splits. turn left to the lifeguard hut and the stepping stones. From here you can weave around edge of the river to reach the beach or cross over the stepping stones to reach the castle.

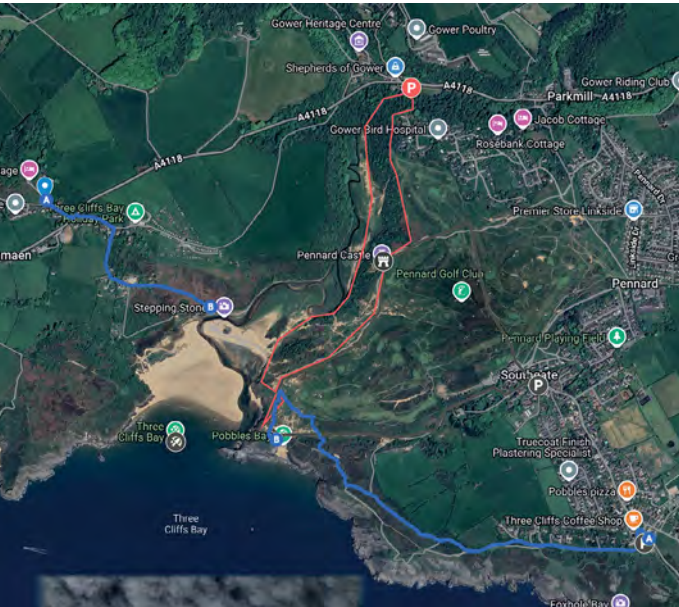
From the National Trust car park in Southgate simply follow the coastal path westwards along the cliff top for a mile until the iconic peaks come into view. Drop down to Pobbles beach and back up to the viewpoint, or if it's low tide you can walk around or through the Three Cliffs to reach the other side of the beach.



Three Cliffs Bay & Pennard Castle

Map Ref 34

Sunrise, Daytime, Sunset



Tranch Pyle Abandoned Lime Quarry

Map Ref 35 Closest postcode CF33 4AB

Daytime, Sunset

30 minutes from the hotel.

An abandoned lime quarry near Tranch Pyle/Kenfig Hill (Cefn Cribwr, Bridgend CF33 4AB) is a rambling site that offers photographers an opportunity to capture industrial heritage artifacts in a free and unrestricted environment. There is a deep lake on site and extreme caution should be exercised in close proximity to it. Similarly the superstructures should not be climbed as interesting angles and perspectives are achievable from ground level. The latest information is from 3 years ago so I hope there is still something there.

Google throws up next to nothing about the place other than whether it was known as Tranch Quarry, Pyle Limeworks, Stormy Down Quarry or Kenfig Limeworks, but as it's located in the village of Tranch Pyle that's the name that is most often used. It seems that the Stormy Stone & Brick Company operated from this site at one point 20 years ago. The underlying local geology is of limestone, exploited for centuries but notably in recent times for use as a flux in the smelting process in local ironworks. Most of the lime quarries have now gone though and works such as these appear to have been left to nature.

Park just off the road at [///title.regulator.giants](#)

Cross the road and make your way down the road to the quarry at [///bystander.loss.fancied](#)



Wales Coast Path: Mewslade Bay to The Knave

Map Ref 36 SA3 1PP

Daytime, Sunset

1 hour from the hotel.

Why not enjoy a dramatic perambulation along the Wales Coast Path passing a succession of Iron Age forts perched high above the rugged craggy coast.

36a Thurba Head ///quaking.anguished.serious with views of the intriguing Worms Head

36b Mewslade Sea Cave ///quilt.describe.discloses

36c Deborah's Hole Nature Reserve ///scratches.dreading.departure (SS 4338.8629). Deborah's Hole is named after a small inaccessible cave which during archaeological excavations in the nineteenth century yielded Stone Age tools. The vegetation ranges from limestone grassland to heathland. The reserve also has nesting rock pipit and linnet, with fulmar and raven nesting upon adjacent cliffs. The hornet robberfly has been seen in early autumn. This reserve allows good views of The Knave and on a clear day, Lundy Island can be seen out in the Bristol Channel.

36d The Knave Along the path is the wave cut shoreline leads to the impressive conical rock, The Knave ///slab.airliners.clattered with Horse Hill Cliffs behind. The smaller rocks near The Knave are the Bull and Calf. On the headland, it is possible to see the grassed-over ramparts of an Iron Age hillfort. Paviland Cave can be found close by. September is a good month to visit The Knave as it receives evening light when other south-facing parts of the Gower coast are in shadow.

Park in the National Trust car park SA3 1PP. ///runways.destroyer.coasting and follow the coast path east.



Whiteford Point, Burrows, Saltmarsh & Lighthouse

Map Ref 37 SA3 1DE

Low tide

50 minutes from the hotel.

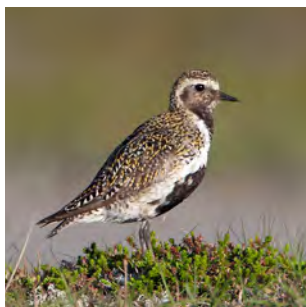
Owned by the National Trust, Llanrhidian Marsh and Whiteford Burrows are outstanding both for landscape beauty and wildlife. Whiteford Burrows has an excellent series of dune habitats, with the dilapidated cast iron lighthouse at its north end with views across the estuary towards Pembrey Sands and Burry Port opposite.

Llanrhidian Marsh is one of the best examples of a salt marsh in Britain and is of international importance for its population of wintering wildfowl and waders, including the oystercatcher, knot, pintail and golden plover. The award winning Saltmarsh Lamb is reared on Llanrhidian Marsh.

The decommissioned cast iron lighthouse ///hypocrite.reseller.tasters found at the furthest northern tip of the beach is the last remaining cast iron lighthouse in British Isles. It is advisable to explore this location on a receding or low tide. During our stay this is the morning to early afternoon so a great location between a sunrise and sunset shoot elsewhere on the coast.

Whiteford Beach Car Park, Llanmadoc SA3 1DE ///concerts.dunk.introduce. From car park take a right towards Cwm Ivy. Stay left and pass the houses, through the wooden kissing and metal swing gates. At the bottom of the hill turn right before the path begins to climb gently again, through the wooden swing gate just in front of Burrows cottage. Follow the path to the left through the woods past the 'former military firing range sign' through the sand dunes and down onto Whiteford beach. Upon reaching the shoreline of Whiteford sands, cross the vast expanse of wet sand straight towards the lighthouse or follow the high tide line. The final section involves crossing a rocky causeway to reach the base.

<https://ohwhataknigh.co.uk/blog/whiteford-lighthouse-walk-guide> is a useful set of directions.



Events

18 to 22 September

Country Fest

Swansea. Details: <https://www.facebook.com/events/8367808066619321/?ref=110>

Saturday 20 September

Porthcawl Market

Porthcawl Marina. Market featuring independent producers, talented crafters, artisan makers and a few tasty surprises! Details: <https://www.greentopevents.co.uk/>

Sunday 21 September

Welsh Motorsport & Supercar Festival

Details: <https://pembreycircuit.co.uk/event/welsh-motorsport-supercar-festival>

Street Dance Championships

Neath Sports Centre, Abbey Road SA10 7BR. Details: <https://www.101-events.co.uk/swansea-sept>

Kenfig Artisan & Farmers Market

Kenfig National Nature Reserve, Bridgend. Details: <https://www.visitbridgend.co.uk/events/kenfig-artisan-farmers-market-september>

Ironman

Tenby comes alive to a stunning sunrise swim on Tenby's sandy North Beach, wild bike course scenery along Pembrokeshire coastline, and a fan-filled town-centre run.

Details: <https://www.ironman.com/races/im-wales>

21 to 22 September

Cadw Open Doors Festival

Risca Collieries Workman's Institute, Risca

Abandoned Buildings

Garrison, Pembroke Dock SA72 6NT ///reception.soils.yourself

St Tydfils hospital in Merthyr ///pardon.dozen.agree

Also...

National Show caves, Abercraf, Swansea SA9 1GJ. Details: <https://www.showcaves.co.uk/>



