

# Four Days in the Brecon Beacons at Gliffaes Hotel

Life is made up of experiences and when we go away on holiday, we want to experience the best that a place has to offer. All too often it's hard to know what to see and do in your short and precious time away – Well, we know what's good to see and do around here and we're going to pass that knowledge on to you!

For 2015 I have updated the suggested itineraries for our Explore Wales offer, with options for each days activities; some folk may wish to be walk or cycle, some may wish to explore gardens or ancient castles and others might just fancy a driving tour with a nice stop for lunch.

The four night break consists of;

- 4 nights bed and breakfast
- Dinner on two nights with suggestions for other places to eat
- Either a walking, cycling map or a driving map to help with your explorations
- A packed lunch on one day
- Afternoon tea on one afternoon
- A half bottle of Prosecco awaiting your arrival
- Free use of our electrically assisted bikes\*
- A day's fishing free\*

(\* subject to availability)

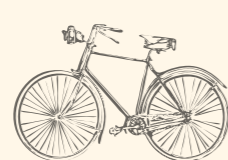
## Day 1 – check in and get your bearings

Arrive in time for a bar lunch on the terrace or in the conservatory and get into the holiday mood with a glass wine. Suitably relaxed I suggest collecting a map from reception and exploring the magnificent gardens and trees we have at Gliffaes as well as taking a stroll along the river below the hotel. Can't make it that early? Then arrive in time for afternoon tea on the terrace, served from 4-5.30pm.

*Dinner in the hotel*

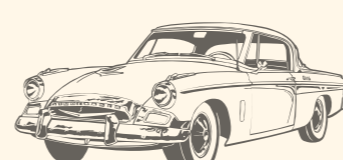
## Day 2 – explore the local environs

### By Bike



Take the hotel's pair of electric bikes on a 26 mile loop along the back lanes. Taking in the bird hide at Llangorse Lake, The Mill in Talgarth where you should have lunch at the 'Baker's Table'. On the way back call in at the gliding club if the weather is fine, the views are amazing. Still in the mood for visiting? Check out the amazingly resorted medieval manor in Tretower just a mile from the hotel.

### In The Car



A circular 50 mile route through one of the most picturesque valleys in Wales; the Llanthony Valley. Stop off to see the ruins of the medieval priory. Keep driving right to the top and enjoy a spectacular stroll on the top of Hay Bluff before heading downhill to Hay-on-Wye for shopping and lunch. There are a number of places worthy of a stop on the way home but don't miss the medieval manor at Tretower.

### On Foot



One of the best walks in the area to soak up the scenery of the Black Mountains and the Brecon Beacons is the 11 mile circuit of Myndd Llangorse. The route can be made shorter as required but the lovely aspect of this walk is that you are unlikely to meet nothing more than a Welsh Mountain pony. We can provide you with a pack lunch and mark up your map for you.

*Suggested restaurant for dinner; The Felin Fach Griffin*

## Day 3 – Trips Further Afield

### Magnificent gardens



Just over an hour's drive due west of Gliffaes along the A40 are two spectacular gardens and a National Trust property set amidst splendid oak parkland. First stop should be The National Botanic Garden of Wales. After this head for the more romantic Aberglasney where lunch outside watching the swallows swoop over the pond is one of the joys of summer. If you still have the energy a stroll around the house and grounds at Dinefwr Park is worth the effort.

### Canoe the river Wye



Wye Valley canoes at Glasbury (25 minutes from Gliffaes) will hire out canoes for either a lazy full day's paddling down the river Wye or a half day trip with transport back to the start point. Take a picnic or have lunch at the River Café and then go into Hay-on-Wye to explore the book and print shops of this lovely small boarder town.

### Explore Waterfall country on foot



Nestled into the southern slopes of the Forest Fawr massif, west of Merthyr Tydfil, Waterfall Country (about 30 miles from Gliffaes) is one of the most beautiful and popular parts of the Brecon Beacons National Park and the Fforest Fawr Geopark, with steep, tree-lined gorges and an abundance of tumbling water.

There are around 25 miles of footpaths to explore around the waterfalls, streams and woodland. If you are feeling adventurous you could sign up for a caving or gorge walking day. Plenty of fun after we have had some rain.

On the way home you could visit the Welsh Whisky distillery.

*Dinner in the hotel*

## Day 4 – Still Plenty To See And Do

### Industrial Heritage



Just the other side of the mountain from Gliffaes lies the birth place of the industrial revolution.

Your first stop should be the award winning Big Pit National Coal Museum where you will be taken underground by ex-miners to experience the conditions endured by the miners and the pit ponies.

Next stop Blaenavon Ironworks. This is the best preserved blast furnace complex of its period and type in the world. It is a key attraction within the Blaenavon World Heritage Site and is well worth a visit.

Still time for a little fun after all this education? Take a ride on the steam powered Brecon Mountain Railway.

### Explore the canal by bike or on foot



The Monmouth & Brecon Canal was dug over 200 years ago as an important transport link. It begins in Brecon and follows the line of the river Usk, right pass Gliffaes and on to Newport.

The canal tow path makes for easy walking and cycling. Walk into Crickhowell for a spot of lunch and some shopping. For a longer more challenging walk go up and over nearby Tor y Foel before coming home via the canal tow path.

Cycle to Brecon (about 12 miles) on our electric bikes and explore the Royal Welsh Military Museum (of Zulu War fame).

### Climb the highest peak in South wales



The highest peak in the Brecon Beacons at 886 meters is Pen y Fan. Don't be daunted by the fact that this hill is used to weed out volunteers for the Special Forces! There are several ways up to the top and bagging this peak can be incorporated into a day long walk over the central ridge of the Brecon Beacons.

This is one of Wales's iconic walking areas and for good reason. The views across rural Powys to the north are something to behold.

We can help you plan your route depending on how far you wish to walk. Alternatively, we could arrange for a guide to take you up – no worries about navigation.

*Suggested restaurants for dinner; The Bear Hotel in Crickhowell or The Hardwick, Abergavenny*

## Day 5 – Time To Go Home

Arrive in time for a bar lunch on the terrace or in the conservatory and get into the holiday mood with a glass wine. Suitably relaxed I suggest collecting a map from reception and exploring the magnificent gardens and trees we have at Gliffaes as well as taking a stroll along the river below the hotel. Can't make it that early? Then arrive in time for afternoon tea on the terrace, served from 4-5.30pm.

*Suggested restaurant for dinner; The Felin Fach Griffin*