

Simply Nice Tours

All Wales



Welcome to Simply Nice Tours. We specialize in trips that allow you to experience the unique character, history, and present day life of the places you visit.

A 16 day / 15 nights comprehensive, no rush tour of Wales. With its historic places, medieval castles, ancient stones, Celtic culture, interesting people, spectacular coastline and beautiful countryside.

The proposed daily itineraries will be coordinated by guides with a wealth of knowledge about the history and culture of the area and local lore. Our tours are flexible, so just let us know your particular interests and needs. We look forward to helping you have a very memorable holiday in Wales.

DAY 1 - TUESDAY: - ARRIVAL DAY

We can meet you at Newport railway station.

A visit to Caerphilly castle the stone behemoth, surrounded by a series of moats and watery islands was the brainchild of Gilbert 'the Red' de Clare, a redheaded nobleman of Norman descent. He also built the original Castell Coch, 'Red Castle', located the other side of Caerphilly mountain.

DAY 2 - WEDNESDAY: - The Capital and St Fagan's Outdoor Museum of Welsh Life

Today we drive to the Welsh Capital, Cardiff the home of the Welsh Parliament at the Senedd Building in Cardiff Bay. We will also find the Millennium Centre for performing arts. Many of the now famous BBC Television series are filmed right here in Cardiff, such as Dr. Who & Upstairs Downstairs, you may recognise some of the locations.



The city centre houses some fine examples of Victorian Arcades, wonderful museums, art galleries and the spectacular Cardiff Castle dating back to Norman times.

In the afternoon we will be visiting The Museum of Welsh Life at St Fagan Castle. In the grounds of this fortified manor house many old buildings have been reconstructed from all over Wales to avoid them being destroyed forever, they are now preserved and you'll be free to roam in and out of them to experience welsh life through the ages, included at the museum is a working bakery, Victorian shops, a farm were animals are still kept and much more.



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DAY 3 - THURSDAY: - National Botanical Gardens & Brecon National Park

Today we will wind our way through Brecon Beacon National Park over to The National Botanic Garden of Wales at Llanarthney, here we will see the largest single glass greenhouse in Europe, which houses exotic plants from all over the world. You can wander through walled gardens, avenues and hothouses enjoying this unique botanical collection.

After our visit here we will drive up to Brecon for lunch in this delightful and ancient market town, there will also be time for you to explore the town.

We continue west to the coast to the smallest city in Wales, it really is a village, St David's.



DAY 4 - FRIDAY: - Churches and Harbours

In the morning we will visit the small coastal town of Solva situated on St. Brides Bay in West Wales. It's hard to imagine that many ships left this small harbour bound for the New World.

The afternoon will be spent visiting St Davids Cathedral, named after the patron saint of Wales Dewi Sant, a beautiful medieval place of worship, there has been a church on this site since the 6th century and the present cathedral was stated in 1181.

Should you wish to attend a service arrangement can be made.

We recommend dinner in the picturesque Porthgain harbour with two good eating establishments and lovely sea views.



DAY 5 - SATURDAY: - Pembrokeshire National Park Path



A short walk on the Pembrokeshire National Park Path will lead you to St Govan's a chapel by the sea that dates back to the 6th century. Remember to count the steps down and see if they match the steps coming up.

The Tudor Merchant house in Tenby will transform you to 15th century Wales. At the time, Tenby was a busy commercial port, and the occupant of this type of house would have been a merchant who'd trade goods that were brought into and out of the town's harbour. The building consists of three stories; the lower floor was originally used as a shop by the merchant to conduct his business, the first floor as living quarters for the family and the upper floor for the sleeping quarters.



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DAY 6 - SUNDAY: - Driving the West Coastal Road

In the morning we will drive this scenic coastal road to Criccieth with stops on the way at Pentre Ifan the Neolithic dolmen in the Preseli hills, and the fascinating Nevern Church with its 'weeping yews' and Celtic cross. In the afternoon we continue along the coast road passing Harlech castle to the Victorian village of Criccieth. After we have checked you into our accommodation we will orientate you to your new home.

DAY 7 - MONDAY: - The Architecture and Gardens of Portmeirion.

We will visit the charming and much photographed village of Beddgelert and hear the sad story of Gelert the faithful hound of Prince Llywelyn. A gentle walk by the river to Dinas Lake. In the afternoon we will explore the Italianate village of Portmeirion, the dream of Sir Clough Williams-Ellis who designed and built it between 1925 and 1975.



DAY 8 - TUESDAY: - World Heritage Castle and the Pilgrim's Path

This morning you will have the option to take the Welsh Highland Railway for a spectacular ride through mountain passes of Snowdonia. Ending our journey at one of the most impressive castles in Europe. Caernarfon Castle a world heritage site is where the investiture of the Prince of Wales took place.

In the afternoon we will be following the path of thousands of pilgrims over the centuries to Bardsey Island. In medieval time's three pilgrimages to the island equated to a pilgrimage to Rome. We also visit a National Trust property Plas yn Rhiw an early 17th century manor house.



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DAY 9 - WEDNESDAY: - Snowdonia National Park.

Today * you have the option to take the cog train to the summit of Britain's second highest mountain Snowdon, let's hope for a clear day as the views from the summit are spectacular.

We move on from Snowdon to Llanberis in the afternoon to watch some slate splitting demonstrations and the mining machinery that has left an imprint on the land.

To complete our day, we will stop for tea or a pint at the Pen Y Gwryd pub, this is where the first successful ascent of Mount Everest was conceived and planned by Sir John Hunt. The 1953 Everest team also stayed here as they prepared for their historic climb.

** This day is subject to the weather conditions.*



DAY 10 - THURSDAY: - Modern History and the hard life Slate Mining.

Steve to re-write this day - Today we will visit the village of Llanystumdwy, Criccieth, the boyhood home of David Lloyd George, the only solicitor to date to become Prime Minister of Great Britain; he led a Wartime Coalition Government between 1916 and 1922 and was the Leader of the Liberal Party from 1926 to 1931. You could say he was part Andrew Jackson and part FDR, this remarkable man had a huge influence on history.

We move on to evocative Llechwedd Slate Mine at Blaenau Ffestiniog this afternoon and visit a small Victorian village which we hope will give you an insight and understanding of the people and the economy of this region and the hardship they endured.

We round off the day with an evening visit to a Welsh Male Voice Choir rehearsal

DAY 11- FRIDAY: - The Vale of Conwy

Today we drive through Snowdonia national park to Betws y Coed, along the Conwy Valley with stops at Trefriw Woollen Mills, Tu Hwnt ir Bont tea shop, Llangelynnin Church, Bodnant Garden.

The end of the day we will be in the imposing medieval walled town of Conwy and visit the Albion Ale House where if you choose to sample a flight of local brews.



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DAY 12 - SATURDAY: - Last Stand of the Druids.

We spend the day on the Island of Anglesey the power base of the Druids and where they took their last stand against the Romans. We will visit the town of *Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwllllantysiliogogoch* which translated is - *Saint Mary's Church in the hollow of the white hazel near a rapid whirlpool and the Church of St. Tysilio of the red cave*. After visiting here, we then move on to explore ancient standing stones, burial chambers and Iron Age Hut circles. In the afternoon we will travel to see the South Stack National Bird Reserve, St Patrick's church and the museum and gallery of Oriel Ynys Mon.



DAY 13 - SUNDAY: - Heart of Wales.

A drive through the heart of Wales takes use down valleys, and across the most rural part of Wales with its villages and small towns. We stop along the way at Dolgellau, and see where some of the earliest settlers came from Wales to settle Penns Woods the original Pennsylvania. At Machynlleth we get a view of Owain Glyndwr first Parliament building. In Llanidloes there is a good example of a half-timbered Market Hall. To break our long drive we stop for a 'cuppa' and a slice bara brith at the Builth Wells Art Gallery, and now a site for the work of local artists and crafts people.



DAY 14 - Monday: - The Borderlands.

In the morning we explore Tintern Abbey (Welsh: Abaty Tyndyrn) founded by Walter de Clare, Lord of Chepstow, 1131. It is situated in the village of Tintern in Monmouthshire, on the Welsh bank of the River Wye which forms the border between Monmouthshire in Wales and Gloucestershire in England. It was only the second Cistercian foundation in Britain, and the first in Wales. It inspired William Wordsworth's poem "Lines written a few miles above Tintern Abbey", Alfred, Lord Tennyson's poem "Tears, Idle Tears", Allen Ginsberg's "Wales Visitation". In the reign of King Henry VIII, his Dissolution of the Monasteries ended monastic life in England and Wales. On 3 September 1536 Abbot Wyche surrendered Tintern Abbey and all its estates to the King's visitors and ended a way of life which had lasted 400 years. Valuables from the Abbey were sent to the royal Treasury and Abbot Wyche was pensioned off. The building was granted to the then lord of Chepstow. Lead from the roof was sold and the decay of the buildings began.

The afternoon is taken up in Caerleon an old Roman fortress Isca Augusta on the River Usk. The National Roman Legion Museum tells us about the Roman way of life in Wales.



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DAY 15 - TUESDAY: - The Town of Books.

For our last full day we spend it leisurely exploring the 'Gospel Pass', the highest road in Wales, with a stop at Llanthony Priory.

In the afternoon we visit the 'Town of Books'. More of a village than a town this remarkable place has an international reputation for its book festival attracting authors and visitors alike to enjoy this spectacular gathering of literary folks. Take as much time as you want. Browse one of the thirty six book stores. Take a peek in the Lion Street Gallery or read in the real castle bookstore.



DAY 16 - WEDNESDAY: - Departure Day.

Following an early breakfast, we will take you to Newport railway station or your train to London Paddington and the Heathrow Express for those departing Heathrow that afternoon, or other destinations.

PRICES:

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| Name of Tour | All Wales Tour |
| Number of Days/Nights | 16 Days/15 Nights |
| Price per Person based on two people sharing a twin or double room. | \$3,976 |
| Start | Newport Railway Station |
| End | Newport Railway Station |

Premium rooms may be available on some tours, please email for price.
Space may be available for a solo traveler, please email for availability and price.
All prices are subject to change without notice, your deposit will lock in your price, guide and tour dates.
Email - simplynicetours@comcast.net



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TOUR PRICE INCLUDES:

- Guide Services
- Transfer
- B&B accommodation with an en-suite room
- Full breakfast for each night of accommodation

TOUR PRICE DOES NOT INCLUDE:

- Air travel
- Lunch, Dinners and beverages, you choose when to eat, what to eat and how much you spend.
- Admissions, train or boat you only pay for the admissions and rides that interest you.
- Any travel related insurance coverage.

AIR:- Please confirm your air arrangements with us before booking with the airline.

We reserve the right to change the sequence of days, or, itinerary due to weather, or other unforeseen circumstances.

CONTACT - We look forward to hearing from you.

Simply Nice Tours LLC.

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www.simplynicetours.com