Discover little adventures on your doorstep

See how many birds you can spot and name in five minutes

Go for a walk along the towpath to see the beautiful Brynich Aqueduct

Take a torch and walk on the wild side through Chirk Tunnel

Picnic by the Llangollen Canal, one of the most scenic in Britain

Race to a canal bridge

Take a boat trip and experience the awesome landscape from the water

Cross Pontcysyllte Aqueduct on foot - but make sure you’ve got a head for heights!

Get to the pub in time for lunch

Cycle up the towpath - you might be lucky and spot a kingfisher

Watch the boats passing through the locks
Are you looking for inspiring places to visit with the family? Then look no further than your local canal or river. This guide features a selection of our best waterside places to visit in Wales – whatever the weather! Each location includes a map, suggestions of fun-packed activities you can do and useful information on where to park, places to eat, toilets and boat trips.

So many to choose from

Key

1. Llangollen†
2. Pontcysyllte Aqueduct†
3. Chirk Aqueduct†
4. Llanymynech
5. Welshpool
6. Brecon Basin
7. Goytre Wharf

*AINA Waterways
*World Heritage Site

Have a look on our map and find a little adventure on your doorstep!

†World Heritage Site

This map shows waterways managed by members of the Association of Inland Navigation Authorities (AINA). We have not featured places to visit on waterways managed by these organisations. There are other inland waterways that have not been shown; the information on this map is for guidance only, for accurate information please visit our website.
Discover **Llangollen**

The beautiful Llangollen Canal twists its way through the awesome Welsh hills and across the spectacular Dee Valley. No wonder it’s a top choice for boaters and family visits alike.

*LITTLE ADVENTURES ON YOUR DOORSTEP*

*STAY SAFE: STAY AWAY FROM THE EDGE*
A little bit of history

Thomas Telford designed the Llangollen Canal to feed water from the River Dee at the Horseshoe Falls and into the canal network. Completed in 1808, he built aqueducts and tunnels to take the canal over and through difficult terrain. The area was designated a World Heritage Site in 2009.

Five things to do at Llangollen

- **Take a boat trip** and experience the awesome landscape from the water. Some boats are still drawn by horse!
- **Walk** to the Horseshoe Falls also designed by Thomas Telford. It’s 140 m long (460 ft).
- **Visit** the Llangollen Museum to find out more about this area. It’s free!
- **Check out** the steam railway – the only standard gauge railway in North Wales.
- **Pack a picnic** and binoculars. Keep an eye open for green woodpeckers and other birds that love the wooded hillsides.

What to Spot

Explore the waterside together. How many of these can you spot?

- A duck quacking
- The number of a bridge or lock
- A fascinating insect
- An interesting stone or brick
- The names of two boats
- A face or animal in the clouds

* Don’t forget:
Although the site is always open the facilities and boat trips may not be and some may be chargeable. Please check with local businesses before setting out.

Go to [canalriverexplorers.org.uk](http://canalriverexplorers.org.uk) to discover lots of fun things to do with the family.

A big thank you to all the volunteers who helped produce these.
Visit **Pontcysyllte Aqueduct**

Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and the Trevor Basin on the Llangollen Canal have World Heritage Status. That means it’s as important as Stonehenge!
A little bit of history

Thomas Telford and William Jessop designed Pontcysyllte Aqueduct to carry the Llangollen Canal across the Dee Valley. Completed in 1805, it’s a cast iron trough supported on giant stone pillars 39 metres (127 feet) above the river. It’s one of the most awesome engineering feats on the canal network.

Five things to do at Pontcysyllte Aqueduct

☐ Cross the aqueduct on foot – but make sure you’ve got a head for heights!
☐ Take a boat trip over the aqueduct. It’s like being suspended in mid air.
☐ Look for the grooves on the aqueduct railings. They were made by the ropes of horse-drawn narrowboats.
☐ Walk along the riverbank and view the aqueduct from below. To keep it as light as possible, the piers are partly hollow and taper at their summit.
☐ Spot the remains of the iron foundries, brickworks and lime kilns which once dominated this landscape. In Victorian times, it was once described as ‘a vision of hell’.

What to Spot

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Information

Pontcysyllte Aqueduct
LL20 7YQ

- Parking
- Toilets
- Pub
- Visitor Centre (open March - Oct)
- Picnic bench
- Boat hire & trips
- Path

Offa’s Dyke National Trail

Allow a half to full day for this visit

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Sign up for our newsletter and get regular updates and offers from the Canal & River Trust.
Simply go online and search for ‘canal newsletter’.

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Explore
Chirk Aqueduct

Chirk Aqueduct is part of Pontcysyllte Aqueduct and Canal World Heritage Site and a terrific place for family outings. It’s one of the best places in the country to see awe-inspiring canal architecture.
A little bit of history
Situated on the Llangollen Canal, Chirk is where waterways, roads and the railway meet. There are aqueducts and viaducts to marvel at, long tunnels to discover, lush landscapes to admire and the canal to explore. There’s even one of Wales’ great medieval castles nearby.

Five things to do at Chirk

- **Picnic** by the Llangollen Canal, one of the most scenic in Britain.
- **Marvel** at Chirk Aqueduct, opened in 1801. It was built by Thomas Telford and William Jessop to carry the Ellesmere Canal, (the original name of the Llangollen Canal) over the Dee Valley.
- **Look up** at Chirk Viaduct built by Scottish engineer Henry Robertson and opened in 1848.
- **Take a torch** and walk on the wild side through Chirk Tunnel.
- **Visit** Chirk Castle. Completed in 1310, it’s the last of the castles built by Edward I that’s still lived in today.

**Did you know?...**
It’s best to feed ducks tasty treats like:
- porridge oats
- rice
- peas
- chopped lettuce
- birdseed
Whilst they will gobble up white bread, crisps and chips its junk food for you and ducks!

Information
Gledrid, Chirk, Wrexham LL14 5DG

- Parking
- Toilets
- Café
- Pub
- Path
- English/Welsh border
- Allow 2-3 hours for this visit

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Discover **Llanymynech**

Located on the Montgomery Canal, the English Welsh border runs down the centre of the main street of Llanymynech. Enjoy family walks with one foot in England and one in Wales!

**Map not to scale:** covers approx 0.5 miles/0.8km
A little bit of history
The Llanymynech area is rich in limestone so the village developed as a mining settlement in early times. A rare Hoffman lime kiln, built to speed up the production of lime, can still be seen. Today the kiln, and the canal built to transport the lime elsewhere, form part of an industrial landscape of national importance.

Five things to do at Llanymynech

☐ Check out the Hoffman Hikes. There’s a 1 mile walk (or a 3 mile route) taking in stunning landscape, geology, and wildlife habitats. Look out for the Hoffman kiln chimney – it’s the only one left!

☐ Get out on to the water, take a boat trip and explore the Montgomery Canal (Easter to September only).

☐ Follow the ancient Offa’s Dyke, part of which runs alongside the canal here. The dyke is probably a defensive earthwork built in the 8th century by Offa, King of Mercia.

☐ Walk down to the towpath to Carreghofa Locks or walk a little further and see the Grade II Vyrnwy Aqueduct.

☐ Pack a picnic, sit on the banks and feed the ducks.

Did you know?...
Our lock gates are handbuilt by skilled carpenters in our workshops in the West Midlands and Yorkshire, from FSC Green Oak. Each one is unique and can take up to a month to make. Once built they last for about 25 years.

Information
North Road
Llanymynech
Powys SY22 6ER

Parking
Toilets
Café
Pub
Picnic
Boat trips
Path
Hoffman Trail 1 mile
English/Welsh border
Offa’s Dyke
Allow 2-3 hours for this visit

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A big thank you to all the volunteers who helped produce these.
Explore Welshpool

Welshpool lies on the Montgomery Canal, known as ‘the Monty’. Regularly voted the prettiest canal, the Welshpool section was one of the first to be restored for pleasure use after being abandoned during WWII.
A little bit of history

The Monty was originally planned to run from Llangymynech to Newtown via Welshpool. It was built mainly to transport lime for use as a fertiliser on fields and produce better agricultural land. Many promoters were local landowners who hoped make money from bigger yields of crops rather than shares in the canal.

Did you know?...

Coots have a white spot on the front of their head and moorhens have a bright red beak tipped with yellow, and a white stripe on their side.

Five things to do at Welshpool

☑ Find out more about Welshpool and the Monty in Powysland Museum. It’s housed in an old canal warehouse.

☑ Check out the old stone wharf where lime and other goods were once off-loaded.

☑ Take a trip on the Welshpool & Llanfair Light Railway. It used to carry animals to the Livestock Market.

☑ Cycle up the towpath to the nature reserve. You might be lucky and spot a kingfisher.

☑ Visit Powys Castle & Gardens that has a medieval deer park and world-famous gardens.

Information

Church St
Welshpool SY21 7DQ

Parking
(pay & display)

Toilets

Café

Pub

Information Centre

Path

Allow 2-3 hours for this visit

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A big thank you to all the volunteers who helped produce these.
Visit Brecon Basin

The Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal (Mon & Brec) is often voted Britain’s prettiest canal. Much of it runs through Brecon Beacon National Park and follows the line of the lovely, wooded Usk Valley.

Little adventures on your doorstep

Map not to scale: covers approx 0.5 miles/0.8km

STAY SAFE: Stay Away From the Edge
A little bit of history

The Mon & Brec was built to link Brecon with Newport and the Severn Estuary. Stone and lime from nearby quarries was transported to the canal on horse-drawn trams and then by barge to Newport. Today, there is little evidence of what was once a busy industrial site – it’s most people’s idea of a perfect country walk.

Best of all it’s FREE!* 

Five things to do at Brecon Basin

☐ Take a boat trip and discover more about the Mon & Brec Canal.
☐ See how many birds you can spot and name in five minutes.
☐ Explore two miles of the Taff Trail along the towpath starting from Brecon Basin to Brynich Lock.
☐ Pack a picnic and go fishing or watch anglers along the canal. There are plenty of carp, bream and roach in the canal.
☐ Go for a walk along the towpath to see the beautiful Brynich Aqueduct.

Can you name the different parts of a narrowboat?

1. bow 2. cabin 3. tiller 4. hull 5. stern

Answers: 1 bow; 2 cabin; 3 tiller; 4 hull; 5 stern

Go to canalriverexplorers.org.uk to discover lots of fun things to do with the family.

A big thank you to all the volunteers who helped produce these.

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Discover
**Goytre Wharf**

During the Industrial Revolution two hundred years ago, Goytre Wharf was a bustling canal side wharf. Now known as the gateway to the spectacular Brecon Beacons National Park, it’s a wonderful place for a family outing.

Map not to scale: covers approx 1.4 miles/2.4km
A little bit of history

Goytre Wharf was once a vital link in the mighty Welsh iron and coal industry. From here coal, iron ore, fireclay for bricks and limestone was loaded on to barges and transported via the Mon & Brec Canal to the ironworks at Blaenavon, and to the rest of the world via Newport Docks.

Five things to do at Goytre Wharf

- Hire a canoe or take a boat trip to explore the beautiful and peaceful Mon & Brec canal
- Take a circular walk (1.7 miles) passing through 'magic' woodlands with owls, witches (mostly friendly) and broomsticks!
- Explore the wharf and old lime kilns and discover historic features such as the aqueduct and Machine Cottage
- Go to the Visitor Information Centre and find out more about Goytre Wharf in its industrial heyday
- Visit the nearby Blaenavon World Heritage site.

Did you know?

It's best to feed ducks tasty treats like:
- porridge oats
- rice
- peas
- chopped lettuce
- birdseed

Whilst they will gobble up white bread, crisps and chips it’s junk food for you and ducks!

Information

Goytre Wharf
Llanover, Abergavenny
Monmouthshire
NP7 9EW

- Parking (pay & display)
- Toilets
- Café
- Visitor Centre
- Cycle hire
- Canoe hire
- Boat hire & trip boat
- Walking trail
- Path

Allow half a day for this visit

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A big thank you to all the volunteers who helped produce these.
A place to walk, somewhere to feed the ducks or a place to simply be. **Life by water is relaxing, friendly and healthy, it makes a difference to how we feel.**

At Canal & River Trust we believe life is better by water. We care for these waterways so they exist for you to enjoy, for free, every day.

Discover, explore, enjoy.