



Looks fun

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

Wow nice plan!



Me too!



WOAH! Can I come?



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.

Where will you explore today?

So many to choose from




Key

1. LLangollen*
2. Pontcysyllte Adqueduct*
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!

* 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.



Canal & River Trust

Making life better by water



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.



Valle Crucis Abbey (ruins) & campsite

Llantysilio car park
P

The Chainbridge Hotel

Llangollen Motor Museum

Horseshoe Falls

River Dee

Llangollen Canal

Corwen
7 miles/11km

Camp site

Caravan site

Meter House

Chainbridge (under restoration)

Mooring basin

Llangollen Wharf

Little adventures on your doorstep



Berwyn station tea room
P

Royal International Pavilion
P

Pontcysyllte Aqueduct
3.7 miles/6km

Chirk 7.4 miles/12km

Llangollen Steam Railway

Llangollen Museum

Llangollen Town Centre
P

Chirk 7 miles/11km

Plas Newydd

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.

Best of all it's FREE!*

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.

Information


Main Car Park
Market Street
Llangollen LL20 8RT

-  Parking (free & pay & display)
-  Toilets
-  Café
-  Pub
-  Visitor Information Centre
-  Picnic
-  Boat trips
-  Path
-  Allow 2-3 hours for this visit

What to Spot

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

A duck quacking



166

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 to discover lots of fun things to do with the family.

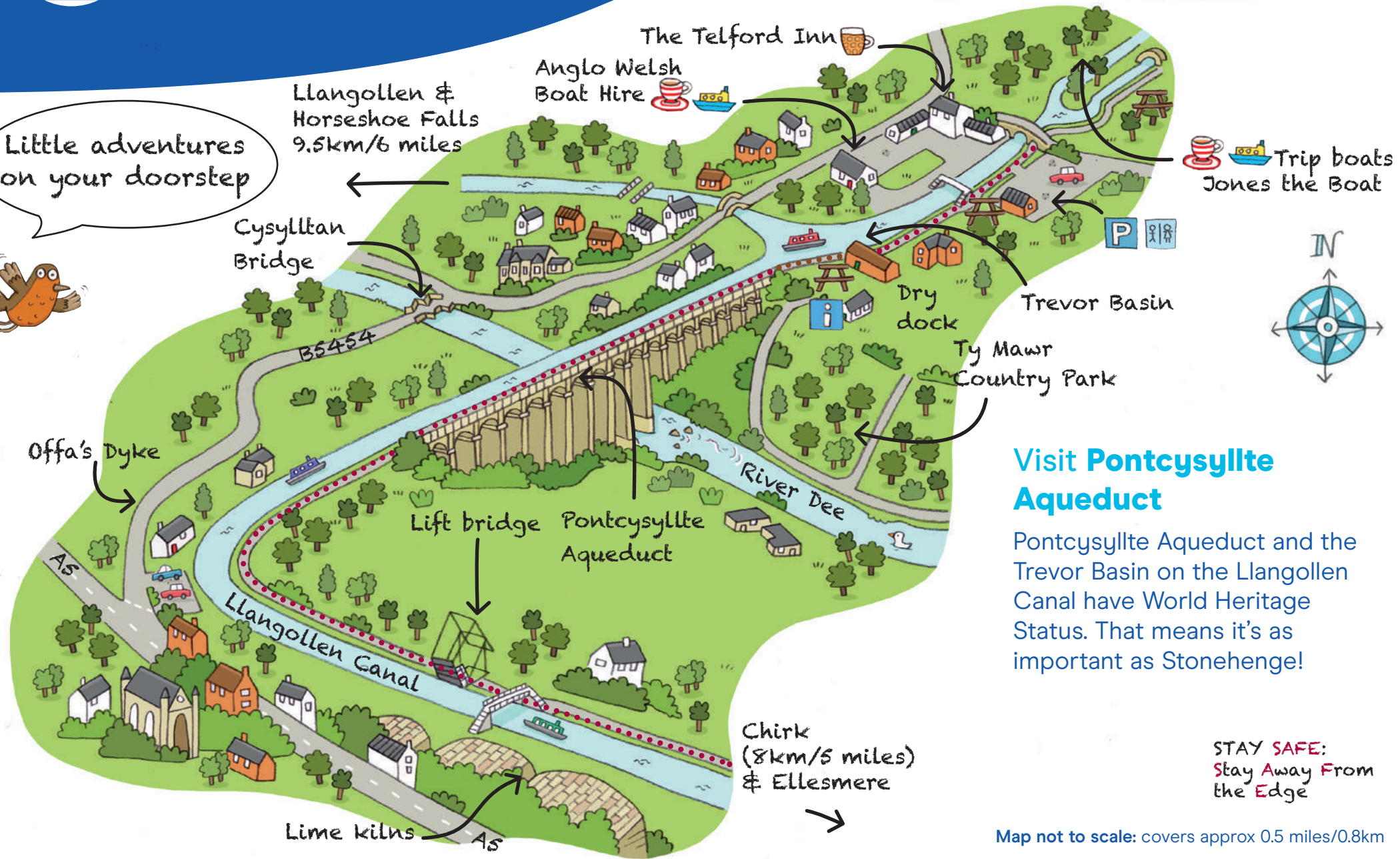
A big thank you to all the volunteers who helped produce these.



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Llangollen & Horseshoe Falls
9.5km/6 miles

The Telford Inn

Anglo Welsh Boat Hire

Trip boats Jones the Boat

Cysylltan Bridge

Trevor Basin

Ty Mawr Country Park

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!

Chirk (8km/5 miles) & Ellesmere

STAY SAFE:
Stay Away From the Edge

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

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.










Best of all it's FREE!*

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'.

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


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



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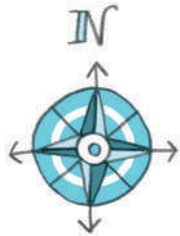


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Explore Chirk Aqueduct

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.



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

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.

Best of all
it's FREE!*

Five things to do at Chirk

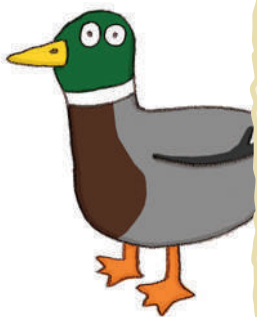
- **Picnic** by the Llangollen Canal, one of the most scenic in Britain.
- **Marvel** at Chirk Aqueduct, opened in 1801. It was built by Thomas Telford and William Jessop to carry the Ellesmere Canal, (the original name of the Llangollen Canal) over the Dee Valley.
- **Look up** at Chirk Viaduct built 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!



Carreghofa Locks
(0.3 miles/0.5km)
Welshpool

STAY SAFE:
Stay Away From
the Edge

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.

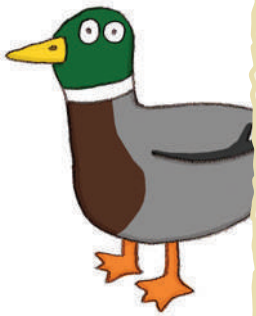
Best of all
it's FREE!*

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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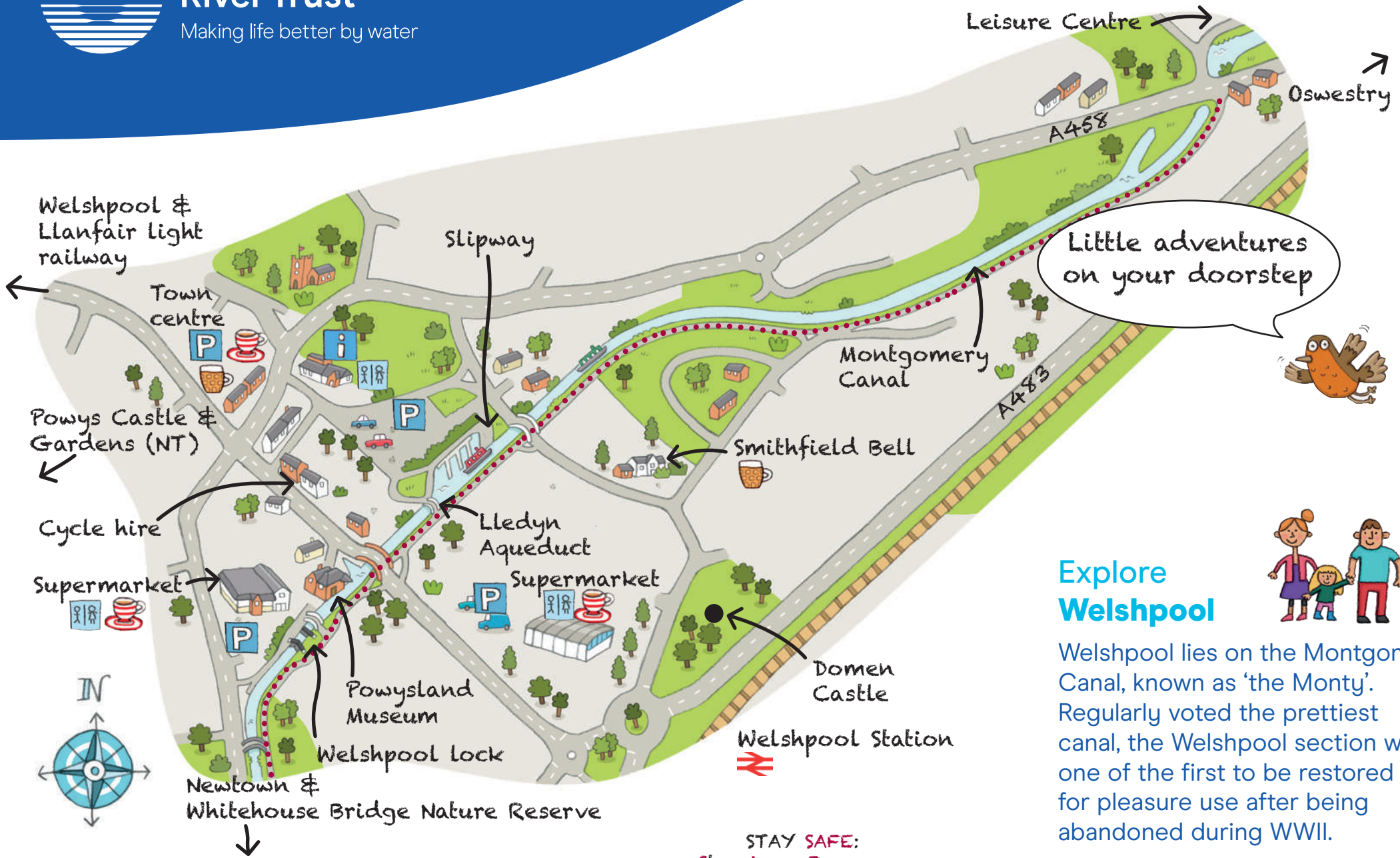
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Little adventures on your doorstep



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.

STAY SAFE:
Stay Away From the Edge

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

A little bit of history

The Monty was originally planned to run from Llanymynech 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.




Best of all
it's FREE!*


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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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.



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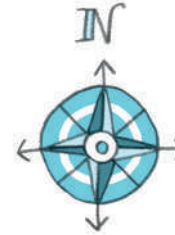
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Visit Brecon Basin

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.



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.

Information

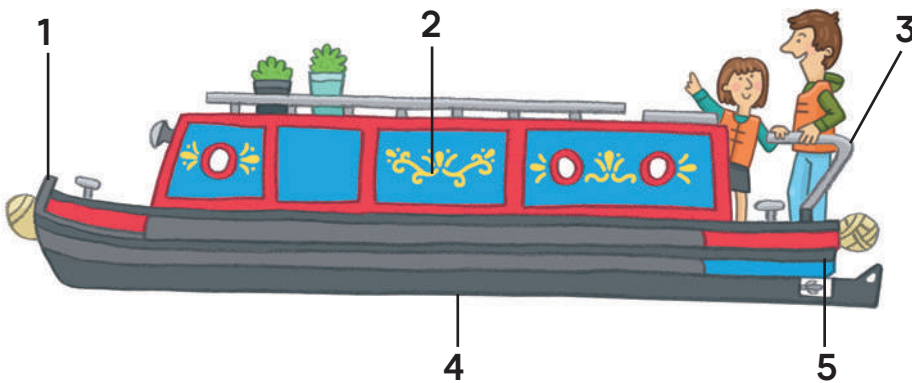
Brecon Basin, Powys
LD3 7EW

-  Parking (pay & display)
-  Toilets
-  Café
-  Picnic
-  Boat trips
-  Path
-  Allow 2-3 hours for this visit

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Can you name the different parts of a narrowboat?



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

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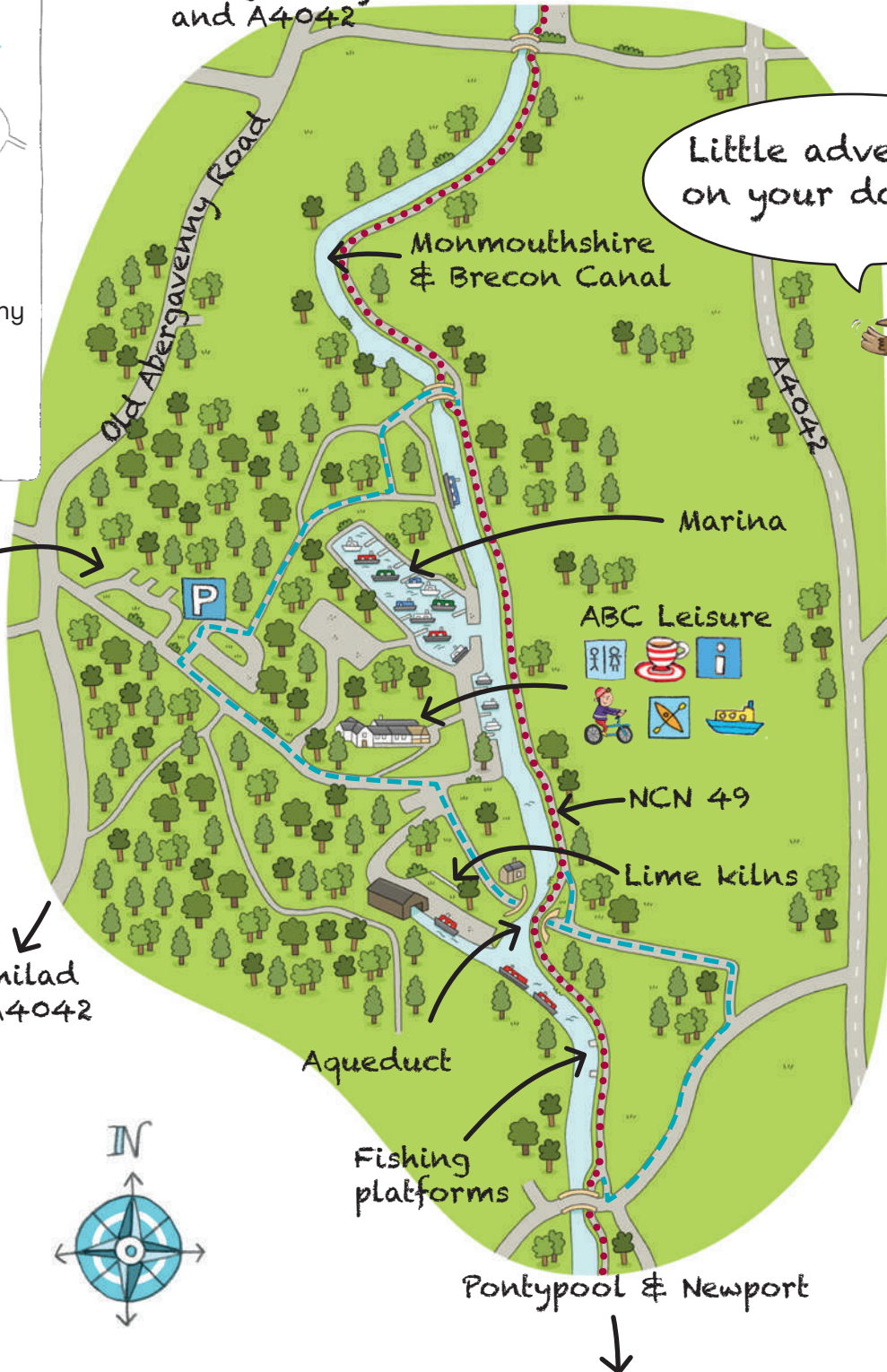
Making life better by water

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.



Abergavenny and A4042



Little adventures on your doorstep



Coach **P**



ABC LEISURE GROUP

Mamhilad and A4042

Aqueduct

Fishing platforms

Pontypool & Newport

STAY SAFE:
Stay Away From
the Edge



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.


Best of all
it's FREE!*


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.

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

* Don't forget:

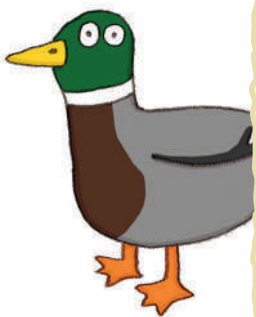
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Did you know?

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!



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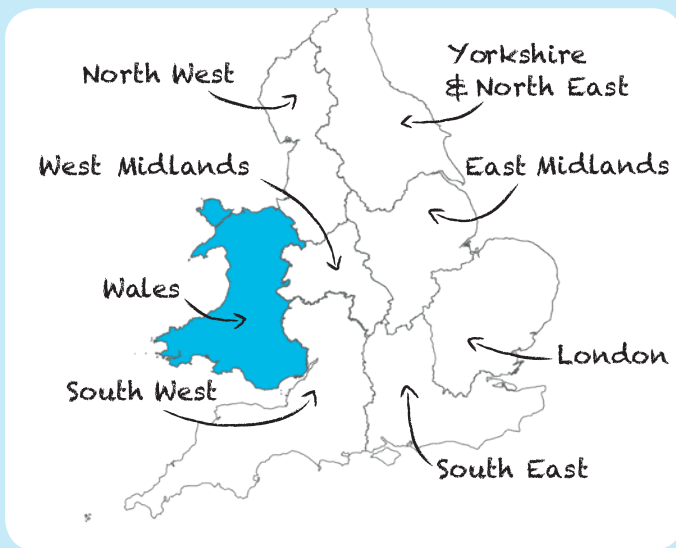




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Making life better by water

For more inspiring places to visit look out for our other guides.



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.



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