



# WEEKENDER GUIDE

OUR RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE BEST  
THINGS TO DO IN THE BRECON BEACONS





# WELCOME!



**I**n the lead-up to the 2025 Dragon Ride, your focus will undoubtedly be on how you're going to tackle this challenging sportive, and rightly so. However, we wanted to also highlight all there is to do and see during your stay in South Wales. We've done our best to collate some of the best places to eat, drink, and spend your time, from the 'Town of Books' to a 900-year-old pub.

For the more logistically specific information for our

riders, we have created a separate event guide which is also available on our website.

The Dragon Ride is one of the oldest and most iconic cycling sportives in the UK, known for its breathtaking (and challenging!) scenery that makes it a true bucket-list ride. We hope you will enjoy the electric feeling in the air on Sunday 22nd June 2025, and will enjoy every second of this monumental achievement that you'll never forget.

Have fun.

**The Dragon Ride Team**





# WHERE TO EAT

**W**hilst your time in the Brecon Beacons may be spent mostly admiring the beautiful scenery of the national park, there's also a variety of pubs and restaurants for all to enjoy. We've rounded up a few of our favourites that we recommend you try!



## **THE BEAR CRICKLEHOWELL**

The Bear Hotel in Cricklehowell has been welcoming guests for 500 years. The pub has a cosy atmosphere with a flowery summer garden and is one of the best places for families in the Brecon Beacons.

## **THE THREE HORSESHOES GROSSFORDD**

Gastro style dog-friendly pub with an open fire and lovely rural views. It also has a fun beer garden with beach huts to sit in!

## **THE FELIN FACH GRIFFIN ABERHONDDU**

A rural gastropub that offers gourmet dining in a cosy setting. Part of the "Eat, Drink, Sleep" group of pubs/restaurants, that has enjoyed success across the UK.

## **THE BELL AT SKENFRITH ABERGAVENNY**

Bringing your dog on your trip? The Bell at Skenfrith is one of the best dog-friendly pubs around. As the Brecon



Beacons is famous for being a fantastic place for dog walks, The Bell is perfect for a post-walk treat!

## **TOMATITOS TAPAS BAR HAY-ON-WYE**

Tomatitos combines the friendly pub atmosphere with delicious Spanish cuisine.

## **BEAN AND BREAD, ABERGAVENNY**

Bean and Bread in Abergavenny is a wonderful coffee and brunch spot — if you love the Aussie/ Kiwi brunch vibes, you'll find them here. Brewing some of the best

coffee around and serving up some great vegan and veggie options this place has it all.

## **THE WALNUT TREE LLANDDEWI SKIRRID**

Located 3 miles north-east of Abergavenny town, the Michelin-starred restaurant was founded in the early 1960's and offers the menus of acclaimed chef Shaun Hills.

## **OLD ELECTRIC SHOP HAY-ON-WYE**

Known as Hay's hippiest café serving modern vegetarian food, as well as its connected shop selling new and vintage clothing, furniture and books.



# WHAT TO DO

## THE QUIRKY TREASURES & OTHER SPORTS TO TRY

**N**ot only are you spoilt for choice with an abundance of walking and cycling routes in the Brecon Beacons, but there are also some quirky, hidden treasures that not many know about. Fancy trying something different? Check out these cool options:



### GO CAVING OR GORGE WALKING

There are thousands of caves and tunnels for you to explore in the Brecon Beacons, with the Brecons forming some of the most important cave systems in Europe. Or if you don't fancy going underground you could try gorge walking? Scramble over rocks, climb waterfalls and even experience raging rapids.

### GO ROCK CLIMBING

Reach new heights and get a completely different view of the Brecons. There are plenty of both indoor and outdoor rock climbing companies who are available to help guide you.

### GO STARGAZING

Did you know – the Brecon Beacons National Park has been recognised as one of only 11 international Dark Sky Reserves in the world, making it one of the best places to

Fay y Big



### GET A PHOTO ON THE 'DIVING BOARD' AT FAY Y BIG

It may not be the highest peak in the Brecons but the views are equally as spectacular and there are far less people here. The diving board is a rocky outcrop, that juts out so you can a birds eye view of the glorious scenery of the national park.

go stargazing. Apparently some nights you can see as far as the Milky Way! Dark Sky Wales organise numerous group stargazing and astrophotography events at the Usk reservoir and other sits.

### TAKE A RIDE ON A VINTAGE TRAIN

Go on a journey with Brecon Mountain Railway into the Brecon Beacons National Park, through Pontsticill and along the full length of the Taf Fechan Reservoir before climbing to Torpantau high in the Brecon Beacons and the summit of the original line.

### CHANNEL YOUR INNER BATMAN

Wales has been the location for hundreds of films, but did you know that the Brecon Beacons formed part of the set for the Batman movie The Dark Knight Rises? In the 2012 movie, the Batcave is hidden behind the 88-foot waterfall known as Henryhd Falls, one of the highest waterfalls in the Brecons.

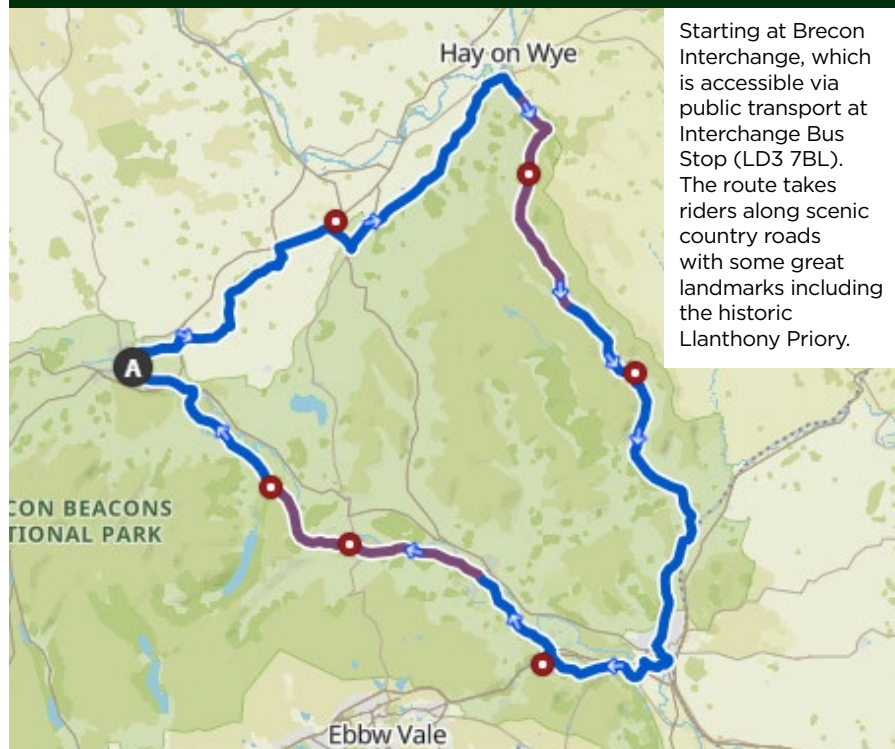


# BEST CYCLE ROUTES

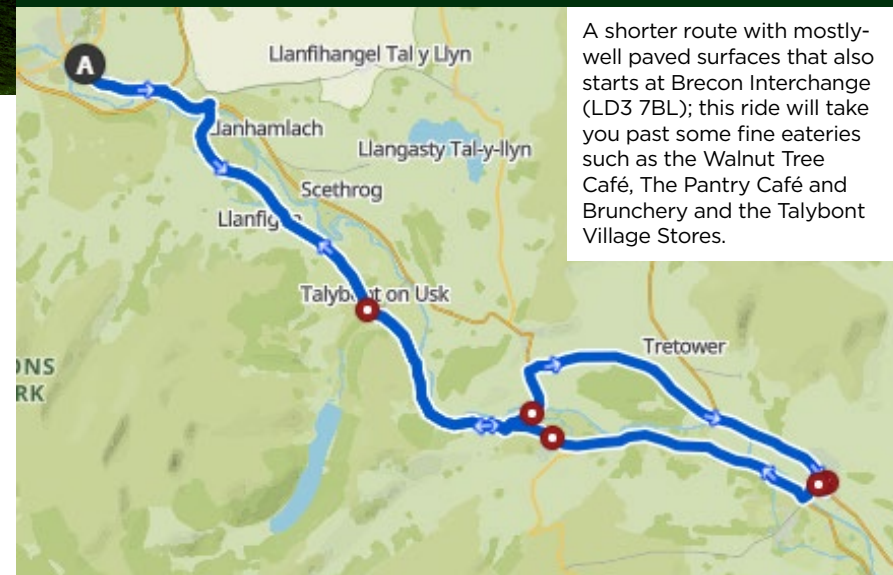
**F**or those that can't get enough of riding in the Brecon Beacons, there are a number of great cycling routes of varying difficulties that pass through many of the beautiful

landscapes and landmarks of the national park. Here are three cycling routes that can help in your preparation for the Dragon Ride, or rides for the future if you wish to visit the Beacons again!

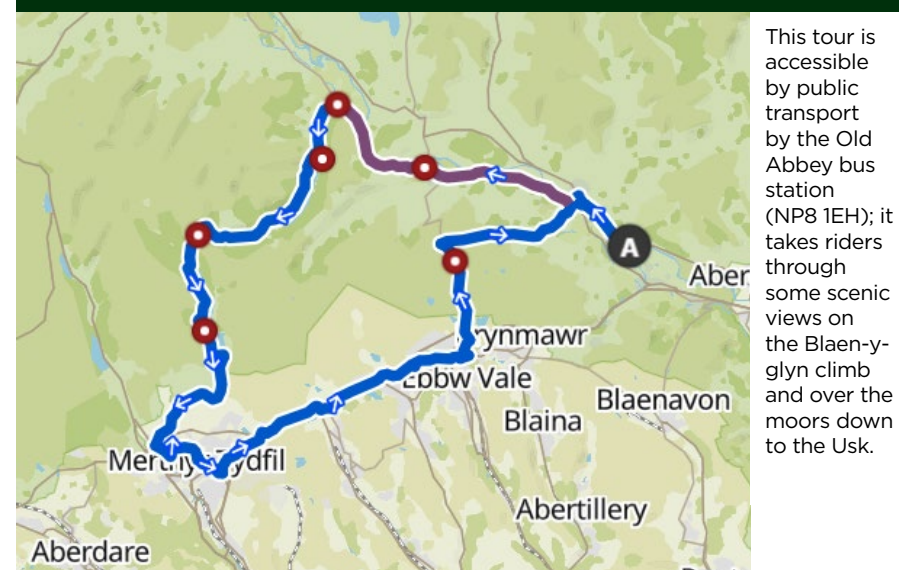
## GOSPEL PASS LOOP ↔ 62.0MI ↗ 4,125FT



## TALYBONT VILLAGE STORES LOOP ↔ 30.3MI ↗ 1,275FT



## BLAEN-Y-GLYN CLIMB LOOP FROM GLANGRWYNEY ↔ 46.0MI ↗ 3,650FT





# BEST WALKING ROUTES

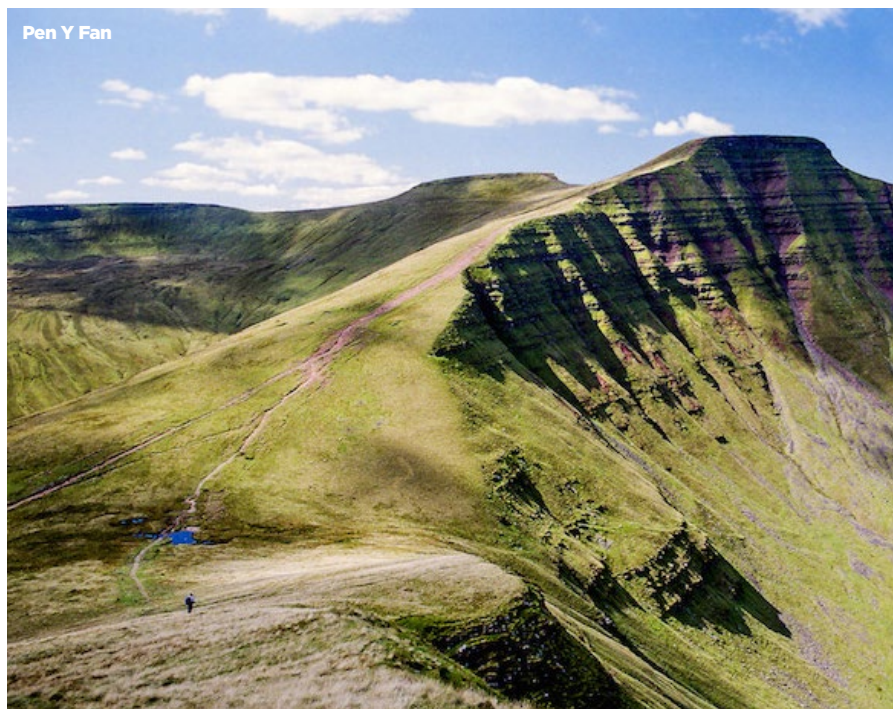
**F**or those wanting to stretch their legs in a different way over the weekend, there

is an overwhelming choice of diverse walks to choose from. The Brecon Beacons spans over 520 square miles and is home to a wealth of mountains, waterfalls, and stunning scenery – all of which makes for some

spectacular adventures. Here are 3 of the highest recommended routes for you to explore:

## PEN Y FAN

This 16km trail ticks off four of the park's most thrilling climbs: Corn Du (873m), Pen y Fan (886m), Cribyn (795m) and Fan y Big (719m). You'll need stamina and a head for



Pen Y Fan



heights (Fan y Big's 'diving board rock' is a hair-raising viewpoint) – and around five or six hours to tackle the lot. Route details.

## BRECON TO PENCELLI

A gentle, leafy ramble alongside the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal, this 7km route runs between Brecon

Canal Basin and Pencelli – taking in Usk Valley views, towering aqueducts, and colourful narrowboats. It's accessible for wheelchairs and pushchairs, and the local bus can whisk you back to your starting point.

## SUGAR LOAF

At 596m, Sugar Loaf is one of Brecon's more diminutive peaks – but its views are legendary. From the top you can gaze across the central Beacons, Black Mountains and the Usk Valley: not a bad result for the modest climb and 14km round-trip. It's not all about the summit, though – the Deri Fach woodlands are beautiful, with red kites often seen wheeling overhead.





# MOST BEAUTIFUL PLACES TO SNAP A PHOTO

**W**e have mentioned it above but you really will struggle to find views as beautiful as the rugged scenery of Wales. It has been a real struggle to narrow down the most 'Instagrammable' spots but we have done our best!

## PEN-Y-FAN

The mountain of Pen-y-Fan holds the highest peak in South Wales, one of several walkable peaks in the Brecon Beacons. Views from the top of the mountain are so

Pen-y-Fan



impressive that you will never want to leave, it certainly guarantees a beautiful picture.

## LLANTHONY PRIORY

Located in Llanthony, Abergavenny, the Llanthony Priory is a remaining part of the ruins of a former Augustinian priory that dates back to the 1100s. It's easy to see why the Llanthony priory was

Llangorse Lake



Llanthony Priory



one of Wales's great medieval buildings.

## LLANGORSE LAKE

Between the Central Beacon and the Black Mountains, east of Brecon is the largest

natural lake in Wales. The calm Llangorse Lake is not only known for its beautiful scenery, but is also renowned for its pike fishing and water sports.

## SKIRRID MOUNTAIN INN

The Skirrid Mountain Inn located in Abergavenny is shrouded in history and mystery. Standing tall for over 900 years, it is one of the oldest pubs in Wales, with many tales of the inn being haunted and being built on the mountain that once 'shivered'. Snap a picture here and check the photo for any ghostly apparitions!

Skirrid Mountain Inn





# BEST BRECON BEACONS TOWNS AND VILLAGES TO VISIT

**B**rimming with history, there are some gorgeously quaint towns to visit in the Brecons full of traditional shops and local cafes.

## HAY-ON-WYE

Located close to the border of England and Wales this little town has become known as the 'Town of Books'. Hay-On-Wye is world famous for its second-hand bookstores, and range of galleries, clothing, and craft shops with many original and unusual items for sale.

## BRECON

A bustling market town set in the heart the Usk Valley, Brecon's narrow streets showcase the history of the two with its 12th century cathedral, South Wales Borderers Military Museum, and Brecknock Museum and Art Gallery. Also, if you time it right, on the second Saturday of every month Brecon hosts the largest farmer's market in the area.

## CRICKHOWELL

The picturesque market town

of Crickhowell, lies in the Usk Valley, and has an array of shops and restaurants, as well as being a great starting point for a variety of outdoor activities. Another well-known feature of the town is the 16th century bridge that spans the River Usk.

## LLANGORSE

The Llangorse community



Crickhowell



Hay-on-Wye

comprises several small villages, and is a haven for sports lovers. The lake has a variety of water sports including sailing, boating, canoeing and water-skiing, with the surrounding hills ideal for walking and horse riding.



