



# Tour Information



## Roman and Medieval South Wales





The tour starts and finishes at the **Holiday Inn, Cardiff City Centre**.

Castle Street

Cardiff

CF10 1XD

Tel: 0371-9429240

**Please note that transport to the hotel is not included in the price of the tour.**



## Transport

### Travelling by car:

**From the North** - Take A 470 following signs for CARDIFF and then CITY CENTRE. When in the city centre, Cardiff Castle will be on your right. The hotel is on the left after the castle.

**From the East** - Exit junction 29 of M4 motorway onto the A48, follow signs for CITY CENTRE. Turn onto A470 heading into city centre. When in the city Cardiff Castle will be on your right. The hotel is on the left after the castle.

**From the West** - Exit junction 33 of M4, onto B4232. Take 2nd exit and head to CITY CENTRE. Pass Cardiff City Stadium on your right, through traffic lights and under rail bridge. At next set of lights turn right into Wellington St and Cowbridge Rd and then into Castle Street. Hotel on right as you cross the bridge.

**Travelling by train:** Cardiff Train Station is approx. 5-minute taxi ride.



# Accommodation

## Holiday Inn, Cardiff

Located in the city centre of Cardiff, this modern and accessible hotel offers comfortable bedrooms with private bath/shower, TV, telephone and tea/coffee making facilities. Facilities at the hotel include a restaurant & bar.

Car parking is available at the hotel, at a cost of £15 per night, payable directly to the hotel.

For more information, additional details can be found on the website:

<https://www.ihg.com/holidayinn/hotels/gb/en/cardiff/cdfcy/hoteldetail#>

## Check-in and departure from the hotel

On the day of arrival, you will be able to check-in at the hotel from 15.00, and the tour manager will meet you in the evening at the welcome reception.

On the last day of the tour, the tour will not finish until approximately 17.00 – 17.30 so you should check with your tour manager, or the hotel reception, where luggage should be stored until your departure.

## Extra nights

If you have booked to stay an extra night at the hotel, this is on a bed and breakfast basis and check out from the hotel is at 11.00.

## Special requests

If you haven't already done so, please notify Travel Editions of any special requests as soon as possible to allow sufficient time to make the necessary arrangements.

## Dining

On the first night of your stay, a private dinner with wine is provided. During the second evening of the tour, dinner is provided in the hotel restaurant. Breakfast on each day of your stay is included in the price of your tour.



## Places Visited

### Caerwent

Founded in AD 75 by the Romans, Caerwent was a market town for the defeated Silures tribe. Large sections of the Roman town walls are still in place, rising up to 5 metres high in places. Historian John Newman has described the walls as 'easily the most impressive town defence to survive from Roman Britain', and in its freedom from later rebuilding one of the most perfectly preserved in Northern Europe. The name Caerwent translates from Welsh as 'fort of Gwent' and the name Gwent derives from the Roman name Venta.

<http://cadw.gov.wales/daysout/caerwent-roman-town/?lang=en>

### Romano Celtic temple

The remains of a Roman City can be seen at Caerwent. The 44-acre site was surrounded by a high wall much of which still survives. Known to the Romans as Venta Silurum, the city becomes the tribal capital of the Silures.

### Caerleon

A Roman legionary fortress and settlement, the remains of which lie beneath parts of the present-day village of Caerleon, on the northern outskirts of the city of Newport. Many people were unaware of this Roman military base, and only since the early 1900's have the secrets of the Roman fortress of Isca been slowly rescued from oblivion. Prior to this, visitors to the ruins had mistakenly confused the remains of the Britain's biggest Roman Amphitheatre with King Arthur's Round Table! The National Roman Legion Museum at Caerleon researches, preserves and displays half a million objects from the Roman fortresses of Caerleon (Isca), Usk (Burrium) and their environs. It is an internationally important collection which provides evidence for life in two major Roman military bases, as well as life in civilian settlements that grew up around them.

<https://cadw.gov.wales/visit/places-to-visit/caerleon-roman-fortress-and-baths>

<https://museum.wales/roman/>

### Cardiff Castle

One of Wales' leading heritage attractions and a site of international significance, Cardiff Castle is set within beautiful parklands located in the heart of the city. Cardiff Castle's walls and fairytale towers conceal 2,000 years of history. The original motte and bailey castle was built in the late 11<sup>th</sup> century by Norman invaders on top of a 3<sup>rd</sup>-century Roman fort. Commissioned by either William the Conqueror or Robert Fitzhamon, the castle formed the heart of the medieval town of Cardiff.

<https://www.cardiffcastle.com/>

### Raglan Castle

A late medieval castle located just north of the village of Raglan, this modern castle dates from between the 15<sup>th</sup> and early 17<sup>th</sup> centuries, when the successive ruling families of the Herberts and the Somersets created a luxurious, fortified castle, complete with hexagonal tower, known as the Great Tower or the Yellow Tower of Gwent.

<https://cadw.gov.wales/visit/places-to-visit/raglan-castle>

## Tintern Abbey

The Cistercian abbey of Tintern is one of the greatest monastic ruins of Wales. Founded in May 1131, by Walter de Clare, Lord of Chepstow, in the reign of Henry I, it soon prospered, thanks to endowments of land in Gwent and Gloucestershire, and buildings were added and updated in every century until its dissolution in 1536.

<https://cadw.gov.wales/visit/places-to-visit/tintern-abbey>

## Chepstow Castle

A Norman castle perched high above the banks of the river Wye, Chepstow castle is beautifully preserved and is a history lesson in stone. Dating back to 1067, this castle was used in the conquest of Gwent during the 12<sup>th</sup> century. From the time it was built through to 1690, the castle, almost chameleon-like, changed its appearance as fashions changed in military architecture. More a case of bright architects than bright colours however.

<https://cadw.gov.wales/visit/places-to-visit/chepstow-castle>

## Your Guide

**Mike Stone** will be your guide throughout the tour. Mike is an archaeologist, historian and qualified Blue Badge guide who has many years' experience leading tours.



**Mike will give the following talk during the tour:**

*'Celts & Romans in South Wales'*

## Your Speaker

Your speaker, Dr Marc Morris, Marc is a medieval historian and broadcaster best known for his TV series on British castles. In 2008 he published a bestselling biography of Edward I, "A Great and Terrible King", to widespread critical acclaim and his new book "The Norman Conquest" is every bit as engagingly written.



**Marc will give the following talk during the tour:**

*'An Introduction to Castles'*



## Practical Information

**Tour manager** - Your tour manager will be on hand throughout the tour to ensure that everything operates according to plan. If you have any problems or questions, please see him or her immediately – it is often possible to resolve complaints or problems very quickly on the spot, and do everything to help you enjoy your holiday.

**Tipping** – To keep our tours affordable, we do not increase the tour price by adding in tips. However, in the tourism industry, there is a certain level of expectation that when receiving a good service, one does award with a tip. Tour Managers, Representatives, Guides and Drivers appreciate a tip at the end of their involvement with the tour, but this is entirely at your discretion. We believe in allowing you to tip according to your level of satisfaction with their services, but for your guidance about £2-3 per person per day for the tour manager is the norm. We would like to reiterate that tipping is an entirely optional payment, and this information is given purely to answer any questions you may have about it.

**Grading** – This tour has been graded as **Demanding**: On your feet all day, uneven terrain (e.g. cobbles).



## Insurance

Although this is a UK holiday, please note that, should you cancel your holiday, the amount paid is non-refundable. For this reason, you may wish to take out insurance just in case an unforeseen event caused you to have to cancel the tour. As well as covering cancellations, your travel insurance will also cover your baggage and personal belongings in case they are lost or stolen.



## Emergencies

**Should an emergency arise, please call our offices on:**

020 7251 0045

Outside office hours (Mon-Fri 0900-1700), telephone our emergency staff on:

07841 023807 or 07831 133079

**PLEASE USE THESE NUMBERS ONLY IN THE EVENT OF A GENUINE EMERGENCY.**

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