



5 BREAKS IN... WALES



FAMILY PEMBROKESHIRE

Chances are that for many, a past family holiday will have involved Pembrokeshire. Its scenic coastline, boasting white sandy beaches and rugged cliffs that kids will love playing on, is a huge draw for many families looking for a good value break. The town of Tenby also has much to offer young ones: there's a dinosaur park, an adventure park and a zoo, as well as nearby Saundersfoot Beach. Stay: Celtic Haven near Tenby is a cluster of white-washed self-catering cottages with a leisure club to keep kids entertained and a spa for adults to retreat to. Cottages available from £79 per person, per night. celtichaven.co.uk





FOOD & DRINK

ABERGAVENNY

Abergavenny might be difficult to say, but you better get used to it. The town outside the Brecon Beacons is the food capital of Wales – home to the Abergavenny Food Festival (abergavennyfoodfestival.com) in September, the Michelin-starred The Walnut Tree Inn, (thewalnuttreeinn.com) and a string of local delis serving up local produce. Gastropubs are a huge part of the area too – we like The Hardwick on Raglan Road, which sources its dishes from south Wales. Stay: The Angel Inn in Abergavenny is the sister property to the Walnut Tree Inn, and is equally luxurious. Come for the cosy, rustic vibe and stay for the afternoon tea. Doubles from £111, including breakfast. angelabergavenny.com



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ABOVE: As well as fantastic scenery and great beaches, Wales is fast becoming a destination for foodies in search of gastropubs, independent restaurants and fresh locally made produce



RELAXATION

THE GOWER

You'll have a hard time believing that the gorgeous beaches along the Gower Peninsula are in Wales. With white sandy strips and turquoise seas, this southern part of the country is spectacularly beautiful, and can relax even the most stressed of travellers. Spend your days strolling around the Gower Coastal Path (walescoastpath.gov.uk), jumping into the rock pool at Blue Pool, watching the sunset in nearby Rhossili or take some time out in one of the region's many spa hotels. It's not a hard life here. Stay: The Worms Head hotel overlooks the Gower (and has been voted one of the best views in Wales). If that won't relax you, what will? Doubles from £80. thewormshead.co.uk





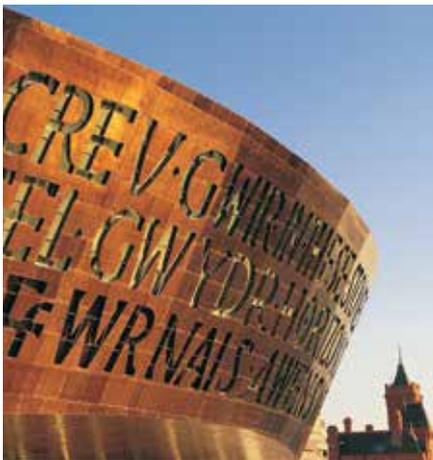
PARTYING CARDIFF

If the newspaper reports about Cardiff are to be believed, you'll spend a Saturday night glassy-eyed in a local pub, before walking barefoot to the chippy. But behind the headlines is a city full of lively drinking spots – from local microbreweries to trendy cocktail bars. Cardiff Bay (cardiffbay.co.uk) is a good sundowner spot, with plenty of bars and pubs to kick back in. Buffalo Bar and 33 Windsor Place are both good nightspots in town without the crowds, or if you're looking for a post-rugby pint, crack open a beer in the Brewery quarter.

Stay: Jolyon's claims to be the best boutique hotel in town, and is close to the city centre if you're too blotto to make it much further. Double rooms start from £100. jolyons.co.uk



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TOP: Cardiff has become a destination spot for a night out, as a growing choice of watering holes make for a great night out in the country's capital; BELOW: Snowdonia's rugged landscapes

ADVENTURE SNOWDONIA

Home to Wales' biggest mountain, the eponymous Snowdonia region is the clear Welsh adventure destination. There's the mountain hiking (it's quite possible to summit in a day) as well as scrambling over gorges and rock climbing in the huge 823 sq mile national park. The area is also home to Europe's longest zip line (zipworld.co.uk), which is sure to quicken your heart rate, if the regular land-based adventure activities don't...

Stay: Bron-y-Graig in Corwen is on the edge of Snowdonia, and a proper Welsh Victorian country bolthole. Relaxing by the fire is a must – you've just scaled Snowdonia, right?

Double rooms start from £59. north-wales-hotel.co.uk



Photograph (above and top left) by Visit Wales (below) by Getty Images/Andrew Peacock

