Come and experience Gloucestershire’s number one foodie destination The Barn at Severn and Wye Smokery.

The Barn has an award-winning chefs larder, fish market, restaurant, café, gift shop and cookery school.

Relax with a coffee and cake or stay longer for lunch or dinner and enjoy expertly cooked fish dishes selected from our amazing fresh fish counter.

The chefs larder stocks our kitchen’s homemade delicacies and cured fish as well as a wide choice of delicious local produce.
GET LOST IN DISCOVERY

History meets contemporary, mindfulness meets adventure, the Wye Valley and Forest of Dean is a first world paradise packed with memorable experiences, history and culture hidden throughout an outstanding natural landscape. There’s nowhere in the UK that has so much to offer whether your interest is an escape from the city or a retreat for a treat as a couple, family or group of friends. That’s all down to our unique area that takes in two countries, two rivers and three counties, with hospitality fuelled by a taste for great food and drink. Awaken your senses, free your mind and get lost in discovery. Then tweet what you eat and Instagram what inspires #DeanWye

Helen O’Kane & Yvette Farrell
Co-Chairman, Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Tourism
“Riding into work each day, along the river and into the forest, makes you realise how lucky we are to live in such a beautiful part of the country”. Ian Officer, Pedalabikeaway

DISCOVER THE WONDER OF UNDER

Underneath the Forest of Dean lies an unfathomable natural cave system that has been mined for more than 4,500 years, but still hides a whole world of secrets.

9 AWESOME CAVERNs
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Whether your heart needs to beat faster or slower, you’ll discover your perfect sense of place, whatever the season, whatever the reason.

Discover three counties and one incredible destination

The Wye Valley and Forest of Dean is a force of nature, an island nestled between two rivers, that demands you should slow down to discover nature or speed up to find your inner adventure.

An ancient Forest with a traumatic past, in medieval times the Dean was a Royal hunting playground before it was a source of timber for the Navy’s Tudor warships. By Victorian times it was a major site of industry.

Today, its landscape is scarred by coal and iron mining, quarrying and associated industries but for you it’s a view of a new world through tree tops, hill tops, magnificent vistas, ancient paths and secret lanes.

A thousand stories from a people and past made whose memories are made for tomorrow.
Wye Valley Butterfly Zoo

aMazing Hedge Puzzle

Looking for fun
Share the joy with everyone

Miniature Golf

Open daily from 10am

Laser Tag

Check out our online offers at butterflyzoo.co.uk

Follow us: facebook, twitter

Symonds Yat West HR9 6DA  01600 890360
Safe, secure, metered parking
ONE VISIT IS NEVER ENOUGH

The Wye Valley and Forest of Dean is alive and buzzing with things to see and do, offering an abundance of fantastic opportunities for great days out and exciting adventures. Here are a few ideas to help you make the most of the area’s extraordinary assets.

MAKE A SPLASH
Take to the fifth longest river in the UK. The unspoilt River Wye is one of Britain’s best places to enjoy a canoeing or kayaking experience. Wyedean Canoe & Adventure Centre, Canoe the Wye and Wye Pursuits all offer a variety of river activities to suit all tastes. If one day isn’t enough, spend a longer break surrounded by beautiful landscapes, canoe during the day and camp next to the Wye overnight, perfect for leaving those every day stresses and worries behind.

You could even try your hand at river surfing. The Severn Bore is one of Britain’s few truly spectacular natural phenomena. It is a large surge wave that can be seen travelling up the River Severn, with the best point to view at Minsterworth. The largest bores occur around the times of the equinoxes. River surfing enthusiasts attempt to surf along on the wave, which can reach two metres in height.

If that sounds too energetic, take a river cruise with Kingfisher Cruises, sit back, relax and let the towering limestone gorge scenery drift by.

FOREST FISHING
Within the Forest of Dean there are some excellent opportunities to enjoy a spot of fishing, both coarse and game. There are a variety of lakes that offer something different for the keen angler.

TAKE TWO WHEELS
The Forest of Dean provides an abundance of opportunities to cycle on various terrain with wonderful backdrop scenery. With an extensive network of stoned roads and paths, it is perfect for cyclists of all abilities. Road riders can look forward to winding country lanes and short hill climbs, while families can use the popular cycle paths in the Cannop Valley safely away from traffic. For keen mountain bikers the forest tracks provide wild opportunities with an excellent dedicated off-road area. If you don't have your own bike, they can be hired from Pedalabikeaway Cycle Centre.
"The freedom to walk through woodland uninhibited and always discover something new makes the Forest and Wye Valley a special place to live and work." Tom, Taurus Crafts
GO UNDERGROUND
For people who want their pulses to race, try caving in networks of former mines. It will certainly make your family holiday one to remember. Clearwell Caves offers caving experiences that allow you to join a group that explores beyond the public pathways to visit a labyrinthine of workings created by mining. Be warned, these trips do involve tight bits, scrambling and getting dirty.

ESCAPE UNDER THE STARS
Camping in spectacular scenery in the Forest of Dean and Wye Valley is one of the most popular activities and it is easy to understand why. Camping and caravan parks are situated in some of the most beautiful spots, making them the perfect base for exploring the area.

Many of the sites cater for families and offer a great range of facilities, while others are ideal for getting away from it all and relaxing in beautiful surroundings. If you are looking for something a little more opulent but still want to immerse yourself in outdoor living, then Glamping is the answer in one of Seven Hills Hideaway’s luxury Safari tents with private hot tub.

HAVE FUN ON THE FARM
Learn some rural skills at Humble by Nature on a working farm, including everything you need to know about keeping lambs, pigs, chickens and bees. Try a course on hedge-laying or dry stone walling. There are bushcraft courses for juniors, where they can learn to build a den, or make a fire. We can’t guarantee they’ll stay clean and dry, so pack some wellies just in case.

WALK THE DOG
The Forest of Dean and Wye Valley is a dream getaway to walk your dog in miles of countryside with safe, scenic paths for you and your pooch to explore. Pick one of many traffic-free walking routes from gentle strolls to all-day hikes - guaranteed enjoyment for any energetic pet.

Forest of Dean Dog Warden Service requests dogs are tagged with your mobile number and temporary place of stay (Forest of Dean Dog Warden: 01594 810000 (office hours), or 07505 820220 (out of hours)). Look out for the Pet Friendly symbol for a huge variety of dog-friendly accommodation.

TAKE TIME FOR TEE
Tee off in stunning surroundings, and practice your golf swing. There are over a dozen golf venues in the area with superb parkland, panoramic views and excellent greens, including two championship courses. Forest Hills features a challenging par-72 course and is one of the finest golf courses in Gloucestershire. For a few hours of family, golfing fun, a 12 hole roman ruin fantasy is set in spectacular scenery at Wye Valley Miniature Golf. The course has wheelchair access and short putters so even toddlers can play.

Twitch
Visit Symonds Yat Rock viewpoint, which towers above the River Wye, and observe peregrine falcons that nest on the Coldwell Rocks. Enjoy watching them hunt and raise their young in late spring and summer.

Discover eagles, vultures, falcons, kites, owls and watch amazing flying demonstrations at the International Centre for Birds of Prey in Newent, the oldest dedicated birds of prey centre in the world.

The area is a perfect destination for birdwatching and is home to a huge variety of species.
Discover a world of treehouses and treasure hidden in the trees on the edge of the Forest of Dean. Armed with a key, clues and a whole day of fun ahead, explore the whole of Perrygrove to unlock your box of treasure!

Steam trains wind their way along a ¾ mile track through farmland and woods. There are four stations each with paths to walk through the ancient Perrygrove Wood on the edge of the Forest of Dean. Armed with a key, clues and a whole day of fun ahead, explore the whole of Perrygrove to unlock your box of treasure! The perfect place for hide and seek, our indoor village is fun for kids and just about big enough for most grown ups too!

Open every Saturday, Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday and bank holidays all year round and daily in Gloucestershire school holidays.

EVENTS 2019
- Teddy Bears Picnic – 12th May
- Women Teaching Women – 22nd & 23rd June
- Cider, Sausage & Steam – 6th July
- Steam Gala – 20th - 22nd Sept
- Halloween Free – October
- Christmas at Perrygrove – December

Looking for somewhere to eat, or why not pack a picnic full of local goodies? For all that’s ‘Local & Delicious’ see pages 16-19

ACTIVITIES & ATTRACTIONS

- Explore the mysterious beauty
- Relax in the café and picnic area
- Meet our farm animals
- Have fun in the mazes and play area
- Stay in one of our cottages

www.puzzlewood.net
DELVE BACK IN TIME

The Forest of Dean is not devoid of rain, but there is plenty to see and do when the wet weather strikes. Visit Dean Heritage Centre in Soudley and learn about the area's rich heritage. Find out about the ancient local mining traditions at Hopewell Colliery on an underground tour with an expert Freemer. Discover more about the history of the area through the fascinating displays at Chepstow Museum and Nelson Museum.

To delve further back in time visit Clearwell Caves's informative exhibition, offering a unique opportunity to meet many of the sea creatures that formed the cave's limestone rock 345 million years ago.

DOE A DEER!

There is a good chance to spot deer throughout the Forest, particularly once you move away from the car parks and if you are quiet. Deer can be seen throughout the year, but the best time is in Autumn during the mating season or 'rut'. Early morning or dusk is the time when you are most likely to see them roam.

ON THE RIGHT TRACK

To have fun on a family train ride visit Dean Forest Railway, which stops at five points so passengers can jump off, enjoy a woodland walk before a delicious picnic or hearty pub meal.

For something a little different visit Perrygrove Railway. Their steam trains wind along a three-quarter mile track through farmland and woods. There are four stations, each with paths to walk through the ancient Perrygrove Wood.

Take life at a slower pace aboard a GWSR steam or heritage diesel train. Travel between Cheltenham Racecourse and Buckland through more than 26 miles of spectacular scenery.

DISCOVER YOUR INNER TARZAN

With more than 20 million trees in the Forest it’s the perfect place to explore new heights, with tree-top trails, rope climbs and zip wires, the area has a reputation for adventure.

Overcome fears or fuel an appetite for adrenaline at Go Ape!, a hidden world of walkways, where you can wobble-wobble over rope bridges and fly into a huge rope net.

TRY TO ESCAPE

Try to escape as you attempt to navigate your way through a maze at Elton’s Giant Maze. The fantastic maize mazes are planted each year in April and reach full height in mid July.

Visit the aMazing Hedge Puzzle at Symonds Yat. The Jubilee Maze is one of Britain’s most famous traditional hedge mazes, with a romantic temple at the centre and over a kilometre of hedges.

Scowles create natural, magical labyrinths. They are a fascinating landscape feature from the remains of early opencast iron ore extraction. Explore their meandering pathways through moss covered, deep ravines and twisted trees. Some excellent examples can be seen at Puzzlewood and The Secret Forest.
"The Forest of Dean and Wye Valley, with its mix of attractions, activities and public access to the outstanding natural beauty of the area, is simply the best place in Britain to live and visit with your family, we love it!"
Edward Heyes, The aMazing Hedge Puzzle
TARGET PRACTICE
Fancy improving your shooting skills? Try your hand at clay pigeon shooting, air rifle or archery, there is something for every ability. At DBC, there are options for tuition or to simply book and have a go, with the beautiful scenery on offer, you won’t be disappointed.

ADRENALINE RUSH
For those adults wanting some adrenaline-packed adventure, head off-road driving in a quarry at Whitecliff Off Road Driving Centre’s 40 acre quarry site. With its variety of surfaces, it is deemed one of the best in the UK.

To experience pulse-racing battle simulation for the whole family, visit Battlesports Glos or Wye Valley Warfare Laser Ops, where you can partake in a full combat without going into battle for real! Both offer a range of exciting missions for juniors and adults.

SADDLE UP
Take in spectacular scenery and tranquility whilst horse riding in the forest. Enjoy bridle-ways, roads and riding trails, a paradise for any horse rider. Greenacres Stables and Riding Centre’s friendly horses and ponies will help you make the most of the surrounding woodland, sleepy country lanes, hills and lakes. A range of experiences is on offer, from 30 minute hacks, perfect for young adventurers, to four hour routes for more experienced riders.

SHOP ‘til YOU DROP
For those who like to indulge in some retail therapy, you will find an abundance of independent shops throughout the market towns and picturesque villages where you will be met with a friendly personal service. There are butchers and bakers, traditional sweet shops and Labels Outlet in Ross-on-Wye, plus several delicatessens offering a range of local produce. Visit Severn & Wye Smkery’s new Chef’s Larder and fresh fish counter for an array of delicious produce, or call in to Green & Jenks to try their delicious gelato.

Feeling hungry after all that adventure? Turn to pages 16-18 for all things ‘local and delicious’
ACTIVITIES & ATTRACTIONS

Forest of Dean Caravans

www.forestofdeancaravans.co.uk

Parkend, Lydney, Glos. GL15 4JR
01594 562206
info@forestofdeancaravans.co.uk

A FAMILY RUN BUSINESS IN THE HEART OF THE FOREST
Caravan Sales, Part Exchanges Welcomed, Large Accessory Shop, Indoor Display, Service Department, Transport/Towing & Repairs.

Open: Mon - Sat 9am - 5.30pm (Sun 11am)

Photography Skills Courses
Photo training in the fabulous Forest of Dean & Wye Valley with professional photographer and tutor David Broadbent. Get jargon free, fun photo training in our great outdoors of the Forest and Valley. Fun, fresh air training catering for all abilities and equipment.

Gift vouchers available. Follow us on Facebook and Twitter

T: 07771 664973
E: info@davidbroadbent.com
www.davidbroadbent.com

BattleSports Glos

www.battlesportsglos.com

Map Ref: D3

BattleSports Glos. Elton Leisure, Littledean Road, Newnham GL14 1JU
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E: info@battlesportsglos.com
www.battlesportsglos.com

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The Rocks, Clearwell, Glos. GL16 8JR
T: 07786 156646
E: info@secretforest.co.uk
www.secretforest.co.uk
Visit The Secret Forest and enjoy a leisurely walk through magical ancient woodland and surrounding Iron Age workings.
Replica Iron Age village
Tea room/gift shop
Eco toilets
Dog friendly
Opening times/seasonal events see website.
Open: Weekends, school holidays: 10am - 4pm
At other times by appointment.
Please check website as opening times may vary.
Photograph by Tina Dorner Photography

Gwy House, Bridge Street, Chepstow, Monmouthshire NP16 5EZ
T: 01291 625981
E: chepstowmuseum@monmouthshire.gov.uk
Twitter: ChepstowMuseum
Attractive displays focus on the history of Chepstow, the working life and leisure of its people. The everlasting appeal of Chepstow and the Wye Valley to artists and tourists alike is illustrated in a collection of 18th and 19th century paintings and prints. Situated in an elegant 18th century house with a fascinating history that is also vividly recreated. Special exhibitions, activities and quizzes for children. Wheelchair access and toilet facilities. Parking opposite. Admission FREE.

The Nelson Museum & Local History Centre, Monmouth, Priory Street, Monmouth, NP25 3XA. T: 01600 710630
E: nelsonmuseum@monmouthshire.gov.uk
Facebook: Nelson Museum & Local History Centre
Horatio Nelson was born in Norfolk, died at sea, and is buried in London, yet Monmouth is home to one of the World’s prime collections of material about the famous admiral. Find out why, and about his life, loves, death and commemoration through displays of original letters and documents, prints and paintings, weapons, ship models, glass, ceramics and books.
The museum also deals with the history of Monmouth and surrounding area, and includes a collection about Charles Rolls, co-founder of Rolls-Royce.
FREE ADMISSION
Open: Daily 11am - 4pm (closed Weds Oct - May, Christmas Day, Boxing Day & New Year)

Symonds Yat East HR9 6JL
T/F: 01432 267862
E: rivertrip@supanet.com
www.wyeboat.com
Symonds Yat is world famous as part of the historic Wye. Tour enjoyed by romantics of the 18th Century. Times vary according to season. Telephone for times. Full commentary telling of the natural beauty and history of the area is provided. Evening trips for parties by prior arrangement.
One paying child - one child free.
Open: 11am - 5pm. Daily from March to end October.

Trowgreen Farm Shooting School, St. Briavels, Lydney, GL15 6QP
T: 01594 833940
M: 07850 969169
E: info@dbcleisure.co.uk
www.dbcleisure.co.uk
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Air Rifle Target Shooting
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Mile End Road, Coleford GL16 7QD
T: 01594 810620
(T: 01594 830223 (Golf Pro Shop)
T: 01594 810620 (Restaurant)
E: enquiries@foresthillsgolfclub.co.uk
www.foresthillsgolfclub.co.uk
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Course & Range
Visitors are welcome on the golf course, equipment can be hired and the driving range is just across the road.
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overlooking the Course
Upstairs all are welcome to enjoy our coffee lounge with home made cake or lunch & balcony overlooking the golf course.
Open: All year, 7 days a week, rum-usure (Golf Course & Golfers Bar), bookings recommended for Restaurant

Rock Lane, Lea, nr. Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire HR8 7JZ
T: 01989 750781
E: info@greenacresstables.co.uk
www.greenacresstables.co.uk
Our small equestrian centre offers tailored riding lessons, off-road treks, pony camps and various activities throughout the year, for beginners and experienced riders of all ages. Our friendly horses and ponies will take you along country lanes and forest tracks to enjoy the beautiful scenery and spectacular views.
Open: All year 9am - 5pm.
Mondays-Saturdays, including bank holidays (not Christmas day or New Year’s day)

Whitecliff Quarry, Coleford GL16 8NB
T: 01594 834666
M: 07720 734192
E: info@whitecliff4x4.co.uk
www.whitecliff4x4.co.uk
Half & Full Day 4x4 Off Road Driving Courses
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Parent & Junior Off-Road Experiences
NB: All Courses Must Be Pre-Booked
Vehicles Used: Land Rover 90, Discoverys & Range Rovers.
Tel: 01594 834666
Courses Available: All year (except 2 weeks over Xmas) Mon - Sat 9.30am to 4.30pm
(Prior booking essential)
This small traditional dairy farm, set at the heart of the Severn Vale, is home to the famous DOUBLE GLOUCESTER cheese, used at Coopers Hill Cheese Roll and the rarer SINGLE GLOUCESTER cheese. Meet the Gloucester Cows, see the Cheese being made and enjoy the flavours of Gloucestershire’s favourite cheeses.

**VISIT US**
Throughout the month there are regular events, pre-booked brewery tours, fun activities, team building and experience days, brewing your own beer, stag or hen dos, or just watching the sun go down with an ale and your boots off.

Check out our website for more details.

www.hillsidebrewery.com

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**Food Festivals** The Abergavenny Food Festival is held annually on the third weekend in September and the Forest Food Showcase is held annually at Speech House on the first Sunday in October. The Flavours of Herefordshire food festival takes place on August Bank Holiday weekend in the heart of Hereford.
The Forest of Dean & Wye Valley is home to a wealth of small-scale producers, providing the finest food and drink for locals and visitors alike.

The great thing about holidays is that you’ve time to indulge and the great thing about the area’s local produce is it ticks all the right boxes – seasonal, traceable, low food miles and above all, mouthwateringly scrumptious.

All that forest fresh air certainly makes you hungry, which is the perfect excuse to pack a picnic. Artisan makers, farmers’ markets and well-stocked shops provide everything you need. You have the choice of hundreds of picnic sites, many in wooded glades, alongside rivers, streams or ponds.

You’ll find equally tempting Forest specialities in restaurants, tea rooms, pubs and cafés. For a spot of local luxury, dine royally on venison, like the kings of old who came to hunt, or tuck into fresh wild salmon from Severn and Wye Smokery at Chaxhill.

To improve or learn kitchen skills book a course at the award-winning Harts Barn Cookery School, where students learn everything from bakecraft to the secrets of saucy success. Explore the farm to fork concept at Humble by Nature, or brew your own beer at Hillside Brewery. Visit one of the award-winning local cider producers, Apple County Cider, Ty Gwyn and Severn Cider all offer tastings. Once you have discovered the timeless joy of distinguished real cider, take home a bottle (or two) of their speciality cider and perry.

If real ale is more to your taste, relax with a pint at one of the area’s many welcoming pubs. The Red Lion at Newent also offers wood fired pizza and Andronicas speciality coffee.

For something a bit different, visit Old Ley Court to see traditional cheese making. The farm is one of only four traditional single Gloucester producers in the world. Watch Gloucester cheese being made by hand from an age-old recipe passed down over generations using unpasteurised milk from their own cows. Each cow has a name, based on its character and ancestry.

To follow all that savoury goodness call in to Green & Jenks for a scoop of their sumptuous gelato ice-cream, lovingly produced in their shop every day from locally sourced ingredients.
The Forest of Dean and Wye Valley’s farmland, rivers, orchards and woods are a rich larder for all sorts of goodies. Be prepared to have all of your tastebuds tickled.

LOCAL & DELICIOUS

Whitehouse Farm, Newcastle, Monmouthshire NP25 5NS
T: 01600 750835
www.applecountycider.co.uk
Visit Apple County Cider nr. Skerfrith where they make award winning cider from their orchards on lush rolling Monmouthshire hills. Enjoy an orchard walk (leaflet available) bring a picnic followed by cider tasting. Take home cider and local produce from the shop. Discover the timeless joy of distinguished real cider with Apple County.
Open: Monday to Saturday 10 – 6, Sunday 11-5 (check for seasonal variations)

Ty Gwyn Cider have a lovely rustic farm cider shop just off the main A465 road between Abergavenny and Hereford near the stunning Black Mountains. Offering free tastings of our award winning ciders (and a perry) to all visitors. We are licensed so you can enjoy a cider on our sun deck whilst looking in the amazing views and wildlife (red kites and peregrine falcons have been spotted).
Open: Wed to Sat 1000-1800, Sun 1100-1700.
Open bank holiday Mondays. Open all year except Jan.

THE FILLING STATION CAFE
TINTERN

Family run café, delicious freshly ground espresso coffee, tasty hot paninis and baguettes, scrumptious cakes and traybakes. Beautiful indoor and outdoor seating. A favourite stop for cyclists and walkers
T: 07770 544592
See our Trip Advisor and Facebook pages for news and opening hours
TINTERN NP16 8SF
MAP REFERENCES

Forestry Commission Sites
Beechenhurst GL16 7EG D3
Mallards Pike GL15 4HD D4
Symonds Yat Rock GL16 7NY C3
Wenford GL15 4DG D4
Cannop Ponds GL16 7EG D3
Soudley Ponds GL14 2UB D3

Nature Reserves
RSPB Nagshead OS606087 D4
Clarke’s Pool Meadows OS668061 D4
Lancant and Ban-y-Gor Wood OSS9966/OS536967 C5
Betty Daws Woods OS696284 D2
Gwen and Vera’s Fields OS696277 E2
Vell Mill Meadow OS710314 E1

Visitor Information
Forests of Dean District Council’s Reception has an Information Zone with access to wyedeantourism.co.uk, plus a wide range of leaflets on local attractions, activities and events in the area, which is open during office hours.

Tourist Information:
Abergavenny:
Tythe Barn, Monk Street, Abergavenny, NP7 5ND
01873 853254

Chepstow:
Castle Car Park, Bridge St, Chepstow NP16 5EY
01291 623772

Coleford:
4 Lord’s Hill, Coleford GL16 8BD
01594 837135

Monmouth:
Shire Hall, Agincourt Square, Monmouth NP25 3DY
01600 775257

wyedeantourism.co.uk
For centuries the magical environment has inspired many great artists, writers and poets.
Many local artists can be visited at their independent galleries. World-renowned Mary Rose Young Pottery is a prime example with its workshops and studio selling vibrant coloured, ceramic treasures.

Visit Creates Gallery in Monmouth, Nature in Art and Wobage Makers Gallery to be inspired by wonderful exhibitions of art.

Dean Heritage Centre, Abbey Mill and Taurus Crafts feature regular displays of work by local artists and provide ideal settings to while away an afternoon browsing gift shops and watching craftspeople at work. There are also plenty of workshops and courses on offer to help you learn new skills.

The magical environment has for centuries inspired many great writers and poets. The area’s most famous son is Dennis Potter who was born and brought up in Coleford. Other writers who have been inspired by the forest include JRR Tolkien, JK Rowling and the Great War’s Dymock poets.

For the music scene check out the local pubs and village halls. Ad-hoc festivals have become established in the Forest of Dean & Wye Valley. The level of activity currently taking place is extraordinary for the size of the area.

Images:
Little Staple Edge Wood by Doug Eaton,
Artisans Studios, Martin Stephens Potter, Mary Rose Young Pottery, Rachel Shilston Mosaic

Visit wyedean tourism.co.uk for events and festivals information
Deer and wild boar wander freely amongst the ancient woodlands; peregrine falcons and goshawks circle above, whilst kingfishers and salmon play in the water below. The Forest of Dean was designated as a National Forest Park in 1938, the first in England. It is now sensitively managed by the Forestry Commission.
**SPRING**
The Forest of Dean and Wye Valley is a nationally important site for thousands of fresh scented bluebells. Equally famous is the Golden Triangle of wild daffodils around Oxenhall, Kempley and Dymock.

Pied flycatchers, woodpeckers and treecreepers all inhabit the trees, whilst dippers love to perch on boulders in the fast flowing Wye.

The Severn Estuary has the second highest tidal range in the world, giving rise to the famous Severn Bore tidal wave around the spring and autumn equinoxes. Minsterworth is a top viewing point.

**AUTUMN**
Nature’s own firework display of yellows, oranges, reds and golds, the trees come alive in the autumn. The Forest of Dean has one of the best natural colour spectacles in the UK, easily competing with others throughout the world.

For something a little more unusual, get up with the dawn chorus and take a quiet walk to see Fallow deer that roam freely through the Forest. If you're lucky, you could glimpse the magnificent white bucks known as Forest White Ghosts.

**WINTER**
Without its leafy canopy the Forest becomes light and airy. Frosty forest paths, frozen lakes and snow-capped trees create a stillness and solitude for a truly magical walking experience.

**BEAVERS RETURN**
A pair of Eurasian Beavers were returned to the Forest of Dean for the first time for around 400 years.

The Eurasian Beaver is a large semi-aquatic native mammal that was once widespread throughout Britain. They were hunted to extinction by the beginning of the 16th Century.

It is expected that the beavers’ activity in the Forest of Dean will improve biodiversity in their new 6.5 hectare home and may have the potential to reduce local flood risk. Regular monitoring will continue on site throughout the three-year project to assess these ecosystem benefits.

“The beaver has a special place in English heritage and the Forest of Dean. This release is a fantastic opportunity to develop our understanding of the potential impacts of reintroductions and help this iconic species, 400 years after it was driven to extinction. The community of Lydbrook has shown tremendous support for this scheme and the beavers will be a welcome addition to local wildlife.”

Environment Secretary, Michael Gove

Images: Kingfisher, Forest Fungi, Butterfly, Sparrowhawk, Lizard, Forest Boar - all © Forest Blood (www.facebook.com/forestblood)
Walking is one of the most popular outdoor activities in the Wye Valley and Forest of Dean.

**WYE VALLEY WALK**

If you are looking for a pleasant afternoon stroll, week-end break, or a two week walking holiday then the Wye Valley Walk is well worth considering.

This beautiful 136 mile (218km) trail follows the river valley from Chepstow in Monmouthshire to the slopes of Plynlimon in Powys, criss-crossing the border between England and Wales. The walk is waymarked with the distinctive leaping salmon logo.

- **Walk Route** Chepstow-Monmouth -Hereford-Hay on Wye-Builth Wells -Rhyader-Plynlimon
- **Distance** - 136 miles

**THE SCULPTURE TRAIL ART IN THE FOREST**

Established in 1986, this four mile long Sculpture Trail was one of the first to open in the UK. The Trail features sculptures created by artists to interpret the Forest environment and the history of this very unusual landscape. It provides a unique opportunity to walk through the woodlands and discover art along the way.

Perfect for all ages and abilities, you don’t need to know about art to enjoy what you see. The sculptures are installed within the woodland to encourage you to seek them out - the trailmarkers with purple arrows will direct you - but if you want to make life easier for yourself, pick up a map from the cafe at Beechenhurst Lodge.

- **Free entry but parking charge**
- **Open all the time**
- **Walk Route** - Follow trailmarkers with purple arrows
- **Location**. Grid Ref SO6112, Post Code GL16 7EG
- **Duration** - 1.5 hours
- **Distance** - four miles

At wyedeantourism.co.uk you can download a choice of walks covering different areas. Here are a few:

### FOREST OF DEAN

- **Lancast Loop.** Sheer limestone cliffs, dramatic views, ruins and a scramble across boulders and along narrow ledges by a river drop. Not for the faint hearted. 5½ miles.
- **The Poets Path Walk.** A circular walk of eight miles from Dymock, taking in places of interest associated with the Dymock poets; Abercrombie, Brooke, Drinkwater, Gibson, Thomas & Frost.
- **The Daffodil Way.** A circular walk of 10 miles from Dymock through the wild daffodil country.

### MONMOUTHSHIRE

- **Penallt Pubs.** A moderately easy walk of 3½ miles from Redbrook starting along the river, but rising into the wooded hills around Penallt.
- **Peregrine Path.** A cycle route from Monmouth to Goodrich including a 3½ mile off-road section near Symonds Yat suitable for walkers.
- **Tintern to Penterry.** A 5 mile walk around Tintern.
- **The Circles of Legends Walks.** Six walks throughout Monmouthshire linked with the Circle of Legend sculptures at Tintern Old Station. Each walk is named after a historical or mythological Welsh character.

### HEREFORDSHIRE

- **Peregrine Path.** A cycle route from Monmouth to Goodrich including a 3½ mile off-road section near Symonds Yat suitable for walkers.
- **Head for the Hillforts.** A seven mile walk from Symonds Yat down to the Wye. Cross the river at Biblins and visit Little Doward, King Arthur’s Cave and New Weir Forge.

You will find many routes at wyedeantourism.co.uk, including ‘12 Easy Walks’. Why not try a few?
Foresters’ Forest is a Heritage Lottery Funded Landscape Partnership programme formed from an association of partner organisations and local community groups within the Forest of Dean. The programme aims to raise awareness and participation in the built, natural and cultural heritage that makes the Forest of Dean special.

**Find Hidden Heritage**

Two apps bring the Forest of Dean to life on a mobile device. This ancient area has had a rather traumatic past; in medieval times it was a Royal Hunting Forest, then a source of timber for the navy’s Tudor warships. By Victorian times it was a major site of industry, its noisy landscape greatly scarred by coal and iron ore mining, quarrying and associated industries. You can discover points of interest along the Forestry Commission’s Cycle Trail, or follow a route around the historic market town of Coleford. See the past in the present and download more than meets the eye – search for “Hidden Heritage of the Dean” and “Coleford’s Hidden Heritage” on the App Store or Google Play.

**Discover your Bat Nav**

The Forest of Dean is an important place for the UK’s rare horseshoe bats. Experience what it is like to be one of these incredible, endangered creatures at Clearwell Caves, where its Bat Nav installations help you see in the dark. Created by the Foresters’ Forest Heritage Lottery-Funded Batscape Project, Bat Nav was inspired by the large colony of rare lesser horseshoe bats that roost in the caves through winter, the largest lesser horseshoe bat colony in the UK. The project is led by Natural England to understand and improve the habitat of lesser and greater horseshoe bats in the Forest area.

Through Heritage Lottery funding, Foresters’ Forest supports 38 different community based projects to uncover, reveal, share and celebrate Forest heritage. Find out more at www.forestersforest.uk

Images: Lesser Horseshoe Bat © David Priddis; Heritage Hidden App Beechenhurst and Old Coleford
The Wye Valley and Forest of Dean is a gateway to the far-away worlds of intergalactic heroes and villains, Time Lords, magicians and warriors.

**Puzzlewood**


Puzzlewood has featured in many productions but most famously in Star Wars: The Force Awakens. Sharp-eyed viewers will see the heroes travel to a forest world, Rey battles among Puzzlewood’s iconic rocks and trees.

**Goodrich Castle, Cannop Ponds and Speech House Lake**

*Merlin*

Goodrich Castle features in Merlin episode Sins of the Father.

Merlin, series five filmed the scenes of Another Sorrow at Cannop Ponds, the Forestry Commission nature reserve. Speech House Lake is in the episodes The Gates of Avalon and Excalibur, in which Merlin hides a sword underwater.

**Clearwell Caves**

*Doctor Who, Merlin, Atlantis*


**Symonds Yat and Coppett Hill**

*Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows, Part 1*

The Deathly Hallows, Part 1 Coppett Hill features in a snowy scene in which Harry asks where they are. Hermione explains that they are in the Forest of Dean. Additionally, in the film trailer there is an aerial view of Harry, Ron and Hermione walking along the bank of the River Wye near Horsehoe Bend at Symond’s Yat.

**The Doward and Biblins**

*King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table.*

Between Biblins, near Ross-on-Wye, and Monmouth, on the pathway along the riverside, is undulating ground within the trees, behind which looms a massive wall of carboniferous limestone rock. This setting is used in King Arthur as a council location. Hart’s-tongue fern prettifies the slightly stark scene. King Arthur’s cave was filmed at the prehistoric cave standing in the shadow of Great Doward, where protected sorbus trees hang over the entrance. The cave is a Scheduled Ancient Monument and rises about 25-feet, so large enough for a man on horseback to ride in and out.

To celebrate decades of small and big screen drama, there are a number of TV & Movie Trails so fans can explore their favourite locations for themselves. For further information visit wyedeantourism.co.uk/film_TV
Local Myths

One of the most haunted houses in England is Littledean Hall, thought to be the oldest occupied manor house in the UK.

Shrouded in local superstition is King Arthur’s Cave on The Doward, near Symonds Yat. One tale involves a giant human skeleton discovered there in 1695, which was lost at sea when a local surgeon transported it to Jamaica but his ship sunk.

Pwcas are mythical Monmouth creatures that offer help to farmers in exchange for milk. If unrewarded they cause mayhem and mischief.

According to Welsh folklore, Corgis, the Queen’s favourite canine, are the preferred mode of transport for fairies. The Staunton Longstone is a seven foot tall Bronze Age standing stone that is believed to bleed if it’s pricked with a pin at midnight.

Wintour’s Leap is named after the Royalist Sir John Wintour who, when hotly pursued on horseback by Parliamentary forces, jumped off the cliff, landed in the Wye below and swam to nearby Chepstow Castle.

Ellen Hayward, a Cinderford wise woman, was the last person charged with witchcraft in the UK. She was tried at Littledean Jail in 1906.

Devilish Tale

The Devil’s Pulpit is a rocky viewpoint that overlooks the thirteenth century Tintern Abbey. Local mythology says that the Devil created the Pulpit to preach to the Monks so he could tempt them from their religious ways. Other stories suggest that the Devil decreed the Monks perform a vulgar sermon from the Abbey roof. The Monks agreed, but cleverly tricked him with a shower of Holy Water that forced him to flee.

Bears in the Forest

In 1889 two Russian bears were brought to the Forest of Dean by four Frenchmen. Legend has it that foreign bear keepers fed their animals children’s flesh, so when a rumour spread that the animals had killed a child and mauled a woman an angry mob gave chase.

Some horrified Ruardean residents rescued and sheltered the keepers after witnessing their brutal beating and bears’ slaughter. During the trial many locals were mistakenly accused of the attacks and today the mocking refrain “Who killed the bears” taunts the good people of Ruardean.

To find out more, take a look at wyedeantourism.co.uk/myths
Getting around by car is easy and there are many car-parks within the main towns and all around the Forest at Forestry Commission sites (some charges apply).

Detailed times for local bus services, contact Traveline 0871 200 22 33.

Heritage steam and diesel trains runs through the forest between Lydney, Whitecroft and Parkend. For details visit www.wyedeantourism.co.uk.

Reduce your Carbon Footprint

The Forest of Dean and Wye Valley has a vast network of cycle trails, centred at Cannop Ponds. Cycle racks are available in all of the main towns. Bring your own bike or hire from the many cycle shops in the area.

Accessibility Information

For in-depth information on area accessibility go to wyedeantourism.co.uk

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Getting Here

Close to Birmingham and Bristol, straddling the England Wales border a delightful area waiting to be explored that covers parts of Gloucestershire, Herefordshire and Monmouthshire.

National Express operates nationwide coach services to and from Newent, Chepstow, Gloucester, Ross-on-Wye and Monmouth.

Plan Ahead

Buy the OS Leisure Map OL14 - Wye Valley & Forest of Dean 1:25,000.

For leaflets, books and route maps: The Forestry Commission 03000 674800

Distances to the Wye Valley & Forest of Dean

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<th>Time</th>
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<td>156/252</td>
<td>3hrs</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Discover a local village

Villages are scattered throughout the area, where local beliefs and traditions still exist today.
Find breathtaking scenery and a different story around every corner.

Some great finds:

Minsterworth
Top viewing point for the Severn Bore Tidal Wave.

Soudley
Natural attractions such as Blaize Bailey viewpoint and Soudley Ponds.

Tintern
Home to an iconic Cistercian Abbey.

Symonds Yat East & West
Well-known for walking, cycling, canoeing and good food.

Full of fascinating history, our market towns are a delight.

Ross-on-Wye
- The town sits high on a sandstone cliff, overlooking the River Wye and has an array of gardens and excellent riverside walks.
- The Prospect Public Garden offers a view of the famous horseshoe bend in the River Wye.
- ‘The Plague Cross’ (also known as the Corpse Cross) was built in the churchyard of St. Mary’s in 1637 as a memorial to 317 people who died from the plague.

Cinderford
- The name Cinderford dates to the C14th but the town wasn’t actually there until 1840, the name reflects the area at that time; a ford across the brook full of cinders from Roman iron workings.
- Fantastic town trail with six artworks that portray the past industrial and cultural activity.
- Look out for the war memorial and a statue of a local Freeminer.

Newent
- Unspoilt market town dating back to the 13th Century with the half-timbered market house forming part of the town conservation area.
- Visit in September and experience the infamous ‘Onion Fayre’.
- Birthplace of Joe Meek, the legendary 60s maverick record producer.

Monmouth
- By day a great mix of boutique and high street shops and by night a large range of eateries and pubs.
- Look out for Shire Hall, a splendid Grade 1* listed building.
- In September 2013, evidence was found of a Bronze Age boatbuilding community, including three 100 feet long channels adjoining the site of a now vanished lake.
- The only known example of the 16th Century ‘Monmouth Cap’, can be seen at Monmouth Museum.

Coleford
- Robert Mushet perfected the Bessemer process for the making of steel in Coleford.
- The clock tower used to be that of a church, the rest of the church got demolished as it got too small.
- There is an ancient burial path that runs from Coleford to Newland.

Lydney
- Once an important location for shipping timber, coal and iron through the docks.
- Lydney Train Station with trains running to the popular attraction Dean Forest Railway.

Chepstow
- Chepstow Castle cited to have the oldest doors in Europe.
- Chepstow is home to the Welsh Grand National and has been held annually since 1946.
Welcome to Lydney Town
Accessible by Road, Rail & Sea

There's so much more in Lydney!

Gateway to the Forest of Dean

T: 01594 842234
@lyndeytown
Lydney Town Council
www.lyndeytowncouncil.co.uk
Visit our website to start your adventure
forestryengland.uk/the-forest-dean

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