



A Wonderful Week in Wales – May 2015.

Why Wales?

Wales is the smallest, and most ancient of the three countries that make up the island of Great Britain. North West and Central Wales is full of history, marvelous scenery, great golf, and lovely places to stay.

Our journey will start by flying directly from New York to Manchester International Airport for the transfer to Bodysgallen Hall, Near Llandudno (this lovely seaside town was the inspiration for Lewis Carroll's 'Alice' books) in North Wales. This is approx. a 90 minute journey. Bodysgallen Hall Hotel is on of the UK's top country house hotels and is set in its own magnificent gardens.

During your three nights stay at Bodysgallen we will visit:

- Conwy is a magical town ringed in on three sides by castle walls and the sea on the fourth. Conwy Castle (built by Edward 1) and the walls are some of the finest in Europe and have achieved World Heritage status. Being on the water, actually by the sea and a river estuary) make Conwy a great food town. Their mussels and oysters are claimed to be the world's finest as they are filtered both by sea and river waters.
- Bodnant Gardens (just south of Conwy) are some of the finest in the world. And close is Trefriw Woolen Mill where you can see traditional Welsh Tapestry weaving.



Conwy Castle



Bodnant Gardens

- The Isle of Anglesey was home of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge before their wedding. They loved it. It is an ancient land and home of the Druids with many remains going back thousands of years. Beaumaris castle (another castle built by Edward 1) is magnificent as is Plas Newydd, a wonderful Georgian Mansion full of great art. The gardens give marvelous views across the Snowdonia. Halen Mon sea salt hails from Anglesey and is used in the kitchen's at the White House and many of the best restaurants in the world who understand it's purity of taste.



Beaumaris Castle on Anglesey



View of Snowdonia from Anglesey

- Caernarfon Castle was the venue in 1969 of the investiture of Prince Charles as Prince of Wales. Another marvelous Edward 1 castle and a World Heritage site.
- Great golf can be found at Nefyn Golf Club on the Llyn Peninsular, Conwy Golf Club (the oldest in Wales) and Royal St. David's which sits on the coast underneath brooding Harlech Castle.

It's no wonder that Bloomingdale's chose to shoot part of their Fall 2013 Fashion catalogue in Snowdonia National Park. The rugged beauty was perfect for their men's outdoor range. Snowdonia was also where Hillary and Tensing trained before their historic ascent of Mt. Everest (which incidentally, was named after a Welshman) in 1953. The inn they used as a base is still there and houses a Hillary Memorial room and display.

For more information about Bodysgallen Hall to discover this unspoilt area of Wales - www.bodysgallen.com



Bodysgallen Hall Hotel



Nefyn Golf Course

We then drive south to Mid Wales and a two night stay at **Ynyshir Hall Hotel**. Close to the sea, and set on a wonderful River Estuary Wildlife Centre, the hotel once belonged to Queen Victoria who also played an important part in laying out their magnificent gardens. It is a most relaxing place to stay with only 9 bedrooms and wonderful, locally sourced food. They have a great spa as well.

- During your stay you will visit **Llanerchaeron House** - a beautiful National Trust property with great gardens. Gentle walks can be made from the hotel and you are in the heart of a wildlife sanctuary. The seaside town of **Aberystwyth** is home to the **National Library of Wales** which is well worth a visit as it is home to some of the oldest printed books in the world. The ancient town of **Machynlleth** was once the Capital of Wales.

Great golf can be found at Aberdovey and Borth – very close to the hotel. **The Vale of Rheidol Steam Railway** takes you through some superb scenery and is well worth the ride.



National Library of Wales



Ynyshir Hall Hotel

Next, we move South East for a two night stay at Llangod Hall hotel in the eastern part of Mid Wales - <http://www.llangodhall.co.uk>. It was originally owned by Laura Ashley and is renowned for its fine food and hospitality.

- The drive from Ynyshir Hall will take you through home of the wildest scenery in Wales (The Cambrian Mountains) and the lovely Victorian Spa town of **Llandrindod Wells**. Whilst at Llangoed you should spend time in **Hay on Wye** – the second hand bookshop capital of the world - last count – 37). The town itself is little changed since the 18th century and also home to the famous Hay Literary Festival each year.



Llangoed Hall Hotel

On the eighth day after our arrival we will leave Wales for either Southampton (if you want to return to the USA by sea) or London. Before leaving Wales, you will visit the beautiful **Wye Valley** and **Tintern Abbey**.



Hay on Wye Bookshop



Tintern Abbey