

# Newport

## Welcome to the City of Newport



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Newport is surrounded by beautiful landscapes, including the Forest of Dean, the UK's largest oak forest, the Wye Valley, designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the undulating Vale of Usk, famous for its salmon fishing. For breathtaking walks, or a leisurely drive, the Brecon Beacons National Park is less than an hour's drive away. Cyclists are also catered for; with superb mountain biking on offer at nearby Cwmcarn.

There are fantastic sporting facilities and events in Newport; the Wales National Velodrome; first-class rugby union within five minutes walk of the city centre at Rodney Parade; and the new Twenty Ten Course at The Celtic Manor; the first course ever to be built especially for The Ryder Cup. Golfers are spoilt for choice, with over thirty golf clubs in the area, eight of which are within ten minutes drive of the city centre.

[www.greensofsouthernwales.com](http://www.greensofsouthernwales.com)

Summer visitors can ride on the Open Top Bus Tour, and hop on and off at various attractions and sites of interest on the tour around the city. [www.newporttransport.co.uk](http://www.newporttransport.co.uk)  
**+44(0)1633 263600**

The area is steeped in heritage, ranging from Celtic and Roman, with the historic sites at Caerleon and Caerwent, to fascinating mediaeval castles at Chepstow, Caerphilly and Newport. Evidence of the more recent industrial heritage can be found at the Transporter Bridge, and at Fourteen Locks Canal Centre, and the Museum and Art Gallery houses fascinating displays depicting archaeology, art, natural sciences and local history. Tredegar House is the architectural wonder of Wales, a stunning Restoration mansion, and the ancestral home of the Morgan family.

[www.newport.gov.uk/visiting](http://www.newport.gov.uk/visiting)  
[www.visitwyevalley.com](http://www.visitwyevalley.com)

## *New for 2011, the Newport Festival and the Newport Food Festival*

After a buzzing 2010, Newport has been busy pulling together an action-packed series of activities to take you through to Christmas! Many of the festival programme events are free, and are designed for all ages to enjoy. Making a welcome return to The Riverfront Theatre are the Comedy Port and Discover Dance Festivals which will be offering both daytime and evening theatre performances as well as hands-on activities.

In the Autumn, the inaugural Newport Food Festival will have local producer stalls, chef demonstrations and family activities, including Mini Chef and Teen Chef competitions.

Following on from last year's success, The Big Splash is once again set to take Newport by storm. Large scale spectacular stunts, free

firework display, entertaining performances and hands-on opportunities for all the family to enjoy, including a gigantic puppet show, street theatre, waterwalker balls, fairground and food and craft stalls.

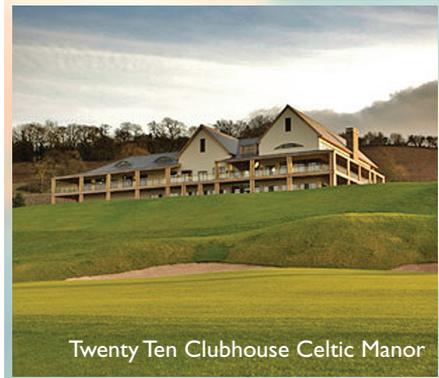
So, why not bring family and friends and enjoy some great days out!

[www.newport.gov.uk/newportfestival](http://www.newport.gov.uk/newportfestival)



# Contents

Introduction	2
Contents	3
Caerleon	4, 5
Tredegar House and Gardens	6, 7
Newport Transporter Bridge and Newport Castle	8
Cefn Mably Farm Park & Newport Mediaeval Ship.	9
Public Art and Sites of Interest	10 & 12
City Centre Map	11
Newport Museum, Art Gallery & Cathedral	13 & 14
Fourteen Locks Canal Centre	15
Newport Wetlands Reserve	16
City Centre	17
The Great Outdoors	18
Area Map	19
UK Map and How to Get Here	20
Making the Best of Newport	21
Tourist Information Centres	21



## Caerleon

### *A fascinating Ancient Roman Fortress town, and Home to the Legend of King Arthur*

Caerleon is a charming walled riverside town with plenty of places to eat and drink near the city of Newport. It was one of the most important military sites in Britain under the Roman Empire. The town hosted a whole legion of soldiers between the First and Third Centuries AD, and evidence of their way of life can still be seen at the ancient remains and National Roman Legion Museum.



The **Barrack block** is the only Roman barrack block visible in Europe and visitors to the **Fortress Baths** can see what would have been a giant 'leisure centre', with heated changing rooms, swimming pool, huge gymnasium and bath halls.

**Visit:** Barracks and **Amphitheatre** open all year. Baths, open all year, except Christmas and New Year; closed Sunday mornings Oct-Mar. Admission free  
+44(0)1633 422518  
[www.cadw.wales.gov.uk](http://www.cadw.wales.gov.uk)

At the **National Roman Legion Museum** you can find out why the Romans were such an awesome force and how life wouldn't be the same without them. Exhibitions and models show how they lived, fought and died whilst at weekends and holidays there are opportunities to step into a full sized barrack room to experience life as a Roman soldier:

**Visit:** Open all year, except Sunday mornings, Christmas and New Year.

Admission free  
+44(0)1633 423134

[www.museumwales.ac.uk/en/roman/](http://www.museumwales.ac.uk/en/roman/)

Caerleon is linked with King Arthur in many texts, including Geoffrey of Monmouth's History of the Kings of Britain, and the Welsh Mabinogion. He is thought to have had a palace here, along the River Usk, and the site of the Amphitheatre which once held 6,000 Roman soldiers is said to be that of his legendary Round Table.

<http://idl.newport.ac.uk/kingarthur/>



The **Ffwrwm Arts and Crafts Centre** is set in an 18th Century walled garden decorated with a variety of sculptures. The courtyard contains several craft shops, a tea room/restaurant, and art gallery and is a peaceful spot for refreshment and relaxation.

**Visit:** Open all year. Admission free +44(0)1633 430777

The well-established **Caerleon Arts Festival** takes place annually, and this year the sculptors on the field will be joined by archaeologists from Cardiff University, exhibiting last year's finds and discussing

their plans for excavation and work with the Time Team in Caerleon this august. [www.caerleon-arts.org](http://www.caerleon-arts.org)

**Directions:** Caerleon is just two miles from the M4, signposted from junctions 24 and 25 from the East and junction 26 from the West.

**Caerleon Tourist Information Centre**  
 5 High Street  
 Caerleon, NP18 1AE  
 +44(0)1633 422656  
[caerleon.tic@newport.gov.uk](mailto:caerleon.tic@newport.gov.uk)  
[www.caerleon.net](http://www.caerleon.net)



## Tredegar House & Gardens

### *One of the best examples of a 17th Century Restoration Mansion in Britain*

The Morgan family lived on the site of Tredegar House from 1402, but the oldest part of the building we see today is from the late 15th Century. Between 1664 and 1672, the north-east wing of the house was completely rebuilt and an additional wing was designed as the principal façade. Tredegar House made a very strong statement about the importance of the Morgans who influenced the heritage of the area, and impacted enormously on the lives of people in South East Wales socially, economically and politically. By the end of the 18th Century, they owned over 40,000 acres of land in Monmouthshire, Breconshire and Glamorgan.

Charles Morgan was instrumental in the establishment of the Monmouthshire Canal, and the Brecknock and Abergavenny Canal, and he also encouraged the construction of a tram road from Sirhowy to Newport for the transportation of coal and iron ore. A mile of this tram road passed through the Park and the family charged a toll for each vehicle crossing the land. This contributed a vast fortune to the family coffers and the mile-long section became known as the Golden Mile.

In addition to the main house, there are

many interesting outbuildings such as the magnificent stable block and orangery, and the estate Brewhouse, all set in a beautiful ninety acre park. Visitors can discover the extraordinary and often eccentric family history of the Morgans, the most famous of whom was the pirate, Captain Henry Morgan, who gave his name to the rum.



There is a children's play area and boating lake, along with craft workshops, tea rooms and a gift shop and visitor centre. Open air theatre, concerts and special events such as the annual folk festival and vintage car rally take place throughout the year.



Orangery

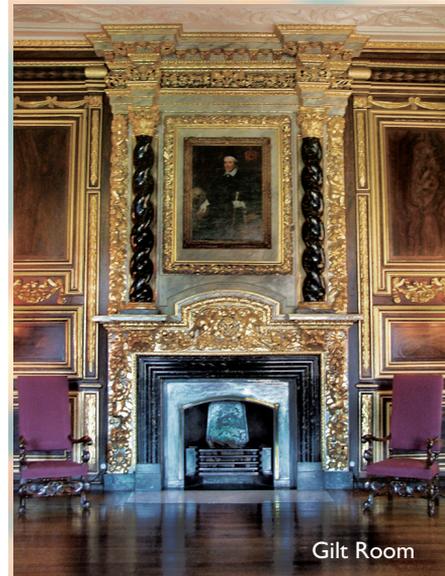


Mediaeval Hall

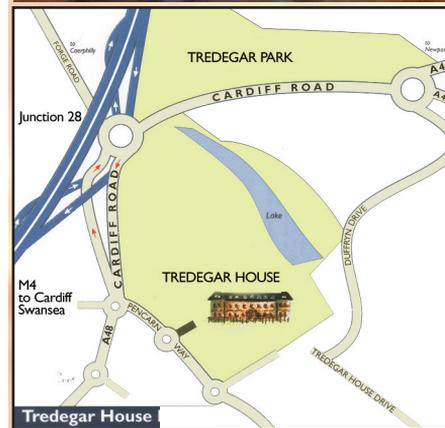
**Visit:** The Park and Woodland Walk are open all year from 9.00am to dusk, free of charge. The House and tea rooms are open from Easter to the end of September, with House tours from Wednesday - Sunday. Tours take approximately 1¼ hours starting at 11.00am, then hourly until 4.00pm, Adults £7.50, Concessions £5.65, children (under 15) free. Parking: £2 per car (refunded against a single House tour admission), coaches free.

**Directions:** The House is just two miles west of Newport city centre; follow the signs from the M4, junction 28, or the A48.

**Tredegar House**  
 Newport  
 NP10 8YW  
 +44 (0)1633 815880  
 tredegar.house@newport.gov.uk  
 www.newport.gov.uk/tredegarhouse



Gilt Room



## Newport Transporter Bridge

This impressive Grade I listed structure was built to carry foot passengers and vehicles across the very high tidal range of the River Usk without hampering the busy shipping traffic. There are only two other similar bridges in the UK and seven in the world, and visitors can ride across the river in the gondola. The Friends of Newport Transporter Bridge (FONTB) offer guided tours and talks, and welcome special interest groups.

**Visit:** The Visitor Centre is open daily, from 10am to 4pm. Please check the website for the Bridge operating timetable. Gondola crossings £1 per car, foot passengers and cyclists free. The public can walk across the high level walkway on certain open days throughout the year - £2 entry fee.

**Directions:** From either Junction 24 or Junction 28 of the M4 take the A48, Southern Distributor Road which runs right past the bridge.

Usk Way, Newport, NP20 2JG  
+44 (0)1633 250322  
transporterbridge@newport.gov.uk  
[www.fontb.org.uk](http://www.fontb.org.uk)



Gondola, Transporter Bridge

## Newport Castle

In the 1300s visitors sailing up the River Usk would have been greeted by Newport Castle's three soaring towers. The Castle was first built by the Lord of Glamorgan but soon became the base for the Lord of Newport.

The landward defences were modest, comprising of three plain walls surrounded by a simple but effective tidal moat. A rare and unusual feature of the castle is its water gate which could be accessed by boat at high tide, and which still exists today. Newport Castle was probably built in the late 1200s by Gilbert 'the Red' de Clare. In 1405, the

castle had to be heavily repaired following Owain Glyndwr's attack. It was substantially renovated in the early 1400s before falling into disrepair in the mid 1500s. By the 1800s the castle was home to a tannery and then a brewery before being placed in the care of the Ministry of Works in the 1930s. The site is open to visitors for special events during the year.



## Newport Museum & Art Gallery

Newport's Museum and Art Gallery houses many collections which show how the city's history, culture and environment have developed. Of particular local interest are material from Roman Caerwent and objects and documents relating to the Chartists Rising of 1839.

## Tourist Information Centre & Museum Shop

The museum shop sells souvenirs from Newport, gifts, local interest books and maps and stamps.

## The Art Gallery

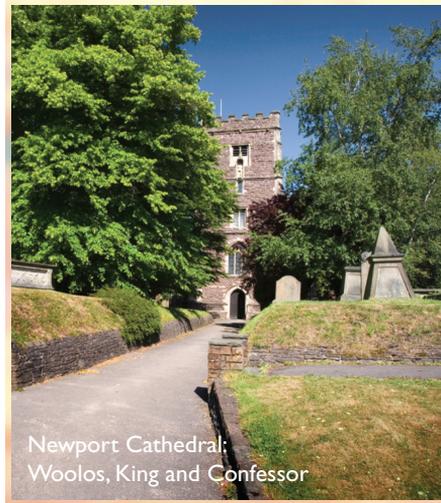
The Art Gallery presents a programme of exhibitions and events covering aspects of art and design, focusing on artists living and working in Wales. The art collections illustrate the changing face of South Wales's rural and industrial landscape. The Gallery's collections of paintings, watercolours, decorative ceramics, contemporary prints, and craft incorporate work by artists such as L.S.



Art Gallery

Lowry, Dame Laura Knight, Hans Feibusch and the 19th century Newport artist James Flewitt Mullock.  
John Frost Square  
NP20 1PA  
+44 (0)1633 414701  
[museum@newport.gov.uk](mailto:museum@newport.gov.uk)

## Newport Cathedral: Woolos, King and Confessor



Newport Cathedral:  
Woolos, King and Confessor

St Woolos Cathedral has been a site of worship since the 5th Century. The building is of Norman construction, with Mediaeval and Victorian additions. The church was a key staging post for the Chartist marchers, whose efforts are still commemorated each November at the site.

### Newport Cathedral

Stow Hill, Newport, NP20 4EA  
+44(0)1633 212077

## Fourteen Locks Canal Centre

The fascinating history of the Fourteen Locks on the Monmouthshire, Brecon and Abergavenny Canals can be traced at the visitor centre, and there is ongoing work to restore the locks to full working order. The flight of locks raises the canal over 160 feet in just half a mile and is an impressive feat of engineering. School and educational visits and holiday activities take place throughout the year, and Santa visits the centre each December.

Free guided walks along the towpath and in the nature reserve take place at 10am on the first Saturday of every month, regardless of the weather. An attractive picnic area and way-marked walks along the canal towpath and surrounding countryside make Fourteen Locks an enjoyable day out.

**Visit:** March to October, 9am - 4.30pm  
November to February, 10am - 4.30pm, admission free. Tea room on site, open 10am - 4pm, shop and art exhibitions.

Cycle hire available, including children's bikes and tag-alongs. Free parking, coaches welcome.



**Directions:** From the M4, junction 27, take the High Cross road for around half a mile, then turn right into Cefn Walk, signposted Fourteen Locks. The centre is over the canal bridge on your right.

### Fourteen Locks Canal Centre

Cwm Lane, Rogerstone, Newport  
NP10 9GN

Tel:- 01633 892167 01633894802

[www.fourteenlocks.co.uk](http://www.fourteenlocks.co.uk)

E Mail:- [mail@fourteenlocks.co.uk](mailto:mail@fourteenlocks.co.uk)

Centre Manager Phil Hughes

Mobile:- 07971235182



## Newport Wetlands Reserve

This nature reserve offers a haven for wildlife, and is a great place for people too with a new RSPB visitor centre, a café, shop and children's play area.

Covering over 438 hectares from Uskmouth to Goldcliff, the reed beds, saline lagoons, wet grassland and scrub, have attracted a wealth of wetland birds, including some rare species such as the Cetti's warbler and bittern. The reserve is also an excellent place to see orchids, butterflies, dragonflies and otters.

Footpaths cross the reserve and there is a cycle track from Uskmouth. Guided walks around the reserve can be arranged and plenty of activity days take place throughout the year.

**Visit:** Open all year except Christmas Day, 9am to 5pm, or dusk in winter. Coffee shop open 10am to 4pm. Shop and toilet facilities at the visitor centre. Ample free parking, suitable for coaches. Admission free.

**Directions:** Leave the M4 at Junction 24, take the A48 to Newport Retail Park, then follow the brown duck signs to the Reserve.

### Newport Wetlands Reserve

West Nash Road  
Newport, NP18 2BZ  
+44 (0)1633 636363  
[www.rspb.org.uk](http://www.rspb.org.uk)



## Lots to See and Do in the City Centre

As a multiple winner of the Wales in Bloom competition, Newport has beautiful floral displays, and just a short stroll through the city will reveal little gems of public art. For a more thorough exploration, follow the public art trail on the centre pages of this guide. The city centre has a variety of high



street brand shops to choose from, but if you love local producers and traders, why not wander and browse in the interesting independent shops in the pretty Victorian Newport Arcade and the Indoor Provisions

Market.

For exhibitions, events, theatre, dance and music, visit The Riverfront Theatre and Arts Centre, just along the river from the spectacular new university campus building. It is at the heart of the arts and entertainment scene in Newport, offering a wide-ranging live performance programme, and free visual art exhibitions. The Newport Centre is a popular venue for large live events, and has excellent leisure facilities, including a pool. The independently owned Dolman Theatre is a hub of amateur theatre and performing arts.

This year, the Newport Festival is a programme of mostly free entertainment and events for all the family in and around the city centre, such as The Big Splash, the Discover Dance Festival and the Food Festival.

For details of all the events, see

[www.newport.gov.uk/newportfestival](http://www.newport.gov.uk/newportfestival)

## The Great Outdoors

### Parks

Tredegar Park was once part of the Tredegar estate, and now has extensive playing fields, a large childrens' play area, and often hosts special events such as fun days and circuses.

Belle Vue and Beechwood Parks are both ornamental parks and have a great variety of unusual plants and trees on show.

Beechwood House, and the bandstand, pavilion and conservatories at Belle Vue Park have all been beautifully restored.

Newport City Council's Countryside

section has a selection of walks leaflets and an annual programme of free accompanied walks, led by local experts. Some routes are spectacularly scenic, and others are planned especially so as to observe local wildlife such as the dawn chorus; or to learn more about local history while enjoying the countryside. Pick up leaflets from your local Tourist Information Centre.

Why not meet up with the South Gwent Ramblers group, and make the most of their local knowledge and experience on your walk [www.ramblers.co.uk](http://www.ramblers.co.uk)

# The Great Outdoors

## Cycle Routes

The newly opened section of the Connect2 walkway and cycle path now enables cyclists and walkers to enjoy a mostly traffic free route along the river from the city centre to Caerleon.



Cycle path Newport

Cycles, including children's bikes and tandems, can be hired at Fourteen Locks Visitor Centre, and the towpath provides a peaceful route from which to see some beautiful countryside, including the nature reserve at Allt-yr-Yn.

More information on national cycle routes in the area can be found here:

[www.sustrans.org.uk](http://www.sustrans.org.uk)

## Treetops Sporting Ground

Treetops has been run from the Cefn Llogell wood in Coedkernew since 1989 and is now one of the best equipped clay pigeon shooting grounds in the area. There is professional expert coaching on hand for the complete beginner to the most experienced shot, and archery, coarse fishing, 4x4 off-road driving and quad biking are also available.

**Cefn Llogell**, Coedkernew

Newport

NP10 8UD

+44 (0)1633 681197

[www.treetops-sporting.co.uk](http://www.treetops-sporting.co.uk)

## Peterstone Lakes

Just off junction 28 of the M4, Peterstone has several beautiful lakes in a peaceful setting, all very well stocked with a variety of coarse fish such as carp, perch and pike. Parking and refreshments are available on site.

**Walnut Tree Farm**, Wentlooge,

Newport, NP10 8SQ

+44(0)1633 680905

[peterstonefishery.webs.com/lakes.htm](http://peterstonefishery.webs.com/lakes.htm)

## Cwm Hedd Lakes

Only 5 minutes from J28 of the M4, Cwm Hedd has eight acres of spring fed lakes, well-stocked with rainbow trout. Individual or group coaching can be arranged in advance, and equipment is available for hire. Good lodge facilities, serving hot and cold food. The lakes have won two national awards for disabled access and facilities.

Croesheolydd Farm, Bassaleg

Newport, NP10 8RW

+44 (0)1633 896854,

+44(0)7980 562876

[www.cwmhedd.co.uk](http://www.cwmhedd.co.uk)



## How to get here



The city is easily accessible by road, air and rail, being only around forty-five minutes drive from both Cardiff and Bristol airports and less than two hours by train from London. It is also well connected to the national motorway network, via the M4.

For help with booking accommodation and for general enquiries about the area, please contact one of our Tourist Information Centres

Newport is well served by road, rail and air communications:

Around 45 minutes from 2 international airports

### Cardiff Airport

+44 (0)1446 711111

[www.tbicardiffairport.com/en](http://www.tbicardiffairport.com/en)

### Bristol Airport

+44 (0)871 334 4344

[www.bristolairport.co.uk](http://www.bristolairport.co.uk)

Just 90 minutes by rail from central London

### National Rail Enquiries

+44 (0)8457 484950

[www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk)

### National Express Coaches

+44 (0)8450 130130

[www.nationalexpress.com](http://www.nationalexpress.com)

Road distances from Newport:

London: 139 miles, 222km

Cardiff: 12 miles, 19km

Bristol: 30 miles, 48km

Birmingham: 93 miles, 150km

Manchester: 166 miles, 266km

## Getting around Newport

**Newport Transport**  
+44 (0)1633 670563  
[www.newporttransport.co.uk](http://www.newporttransport.co.uk)

**Traveline Cymru**  
+44 (0)871 2002 233  
[www.traveline-cymru.info/](http://www.traveline-cymru.info/)

**Local Taxi Services**  
[www.newport.gov.uk](http://www.newport.gov.uk)

**Newport Tourist Information Centre**  
John Frost Square  
Newport  
NP20 1PA  
+44 (0)1633 842962  
[newport.tic@newport.gov.uk](mailto:newport.tic@newport.gov.uk)

**Caerleon Tourist Information Centre**  
5 High Street  
Caerleon  
NP18 1AE  
+44 (0)1633 422656  
[caerleon.tic@newport.gov.uk](mailto:caerleon.tic@newport.gov.uk)

## How to make the best of Newport

If you're looking for ideas on what to do during your stay, get up-to-date information about what's on in the area via this link:

[www.newport.gov.uk/whatson](http://www.newport.gov.uk/whatson)  
visit

[www.newport.gov.uk/visiting](http://www.newport.gov.uk/visiting)  
or  
telephone +44 (0)1633 656656

For information on where to stay and where to eat whilst in the area, pick up or ring to request your copies of the latest Eating Out and Accommodation Guides from the Tourist Information Centres in Newport and Caerleon, which can also offer advice on local attractions and help with bookings. These guides can also be downloaded at [www.newport.gov.uk/visiting](http://www.newport.gov.uk/visiting)

