

## *Things to do in Swansea—a CA tourist guide*

Please see the Visit Swansea Bay website at <https://www.visitswanseabay.com> for further information to help plan your stay.

### On the campuses:

- On Singleton Campus, we recommend our in-house museum, the Egypt Centre, with a collection of ancient objects originally amassed by Sir Henry Wellcome. It is not usually open Sunday or Monday, but for the conference it will be opened specially on Monday 20 April. Hours are 10:00–16:00. Handling sessions of objects from the Egypt Centre will also be held for delegates during registration on Friday from 13:00.

- In Fulton House on Singleton Campus, a Costcutter will be open during the conference should you want to self-cater; the student bar, JC's will also be open. Further along Mumbles Road near Singleton Hospital is the Pub on the Pond, a Greene King establishment.

- On Bay Campus, Tafarn Tawe (the Union Bar) will be open during the conference, as will the local Tesco Express and the bar in the Great Hall.

### In Swansea:

- The ruins of Swansea Castle are worth stopping by on your way to Wind (pronounced like 'wine') Street, which boasts historical buildings and is the main entertainment district. Good restaurants here include The Star Chinese Restaurant, the Hanson at the Chelsea, and La Braseria. The most congenial pub is No Sign bar, frequented—like many Swansea establishments—by Dylan Thomas. Good bars include Brewdog, Prohibition, Flickering Light, Old Havana and Juniper Place (both on Oystermouth Road), and No. 6 (opposite the Travelodge). Chain-wise, there are the usual suspects like Nando's, Turtle Bay, Five Guys, and Pizza Express.

- In town, Swansea Market, with cockle sellers and Welsh cake purveyors, as well as good Thai food, delis, a falafel stand, and Yorkshire puddings wrapped round roast dinners, is well worth a visit; note that it is not open on Sundays. The Kardomah has original 1950s décor and was also a Dylan Thomas haunt; it opens at 07:30 but is also closed on Sundays. Steak by Night is a legendary 1970s-era restaurant open into the wee hours on weekends; Bouchon de Rossi, Awa Grill House, and Zinco Lounge are solid choices; Gershwin's Coffee House and Tiffany's are good for breakfast, and Reed's bakery has so-called Swansea pies (filled with minced beef).

- Near the train station, notable artistic establishments include Elysium art gallery (free to enter, with a cocktail bar), Volcano Theatre, Cinema and Co. (an arthouse cinema), and Glyn Vivian Art Gallery (in the old BBC building); good watering holes include Copper Bar, serving local Boss Brewery Beer, BaseKamp by Afan Coffee Co. (a coffee roastery), and Café Continental, an old-school worker's caff which opens at 08:00.

- On and near the Marina, the National Waterfront Museum, Swansea Museum, and the Dylan Thomas Centre are worth your time. Restaurants, pubs, and bars in the area include The Pump House (the conference pub), The Swigg (mod Welsh), GiGi Gao's (Chinese), El Pescador, Gallini's, BeerRiff brewery, Positano, Lotus (Thai), and Rasoi Waterfront (Indian). The Grape and Olive Bar and Restaurant on the top floor of the Meridian tower offers views over the city.

- Closer to the University's Singleton Campus, by the St Helen's ground (where Garfield Sobers scored the first-ever six sixes in an over), are The Secret Beach Bar, Roots at the Patti Indian (in what was once Adelina Patti's private train station in the Brecon Beacons), and the Bay View Thai pub. Good restaurants from various cultures line Bryn-y-mor Road and St Helen's Road.

- Behind the aforementioned Patti Pavilion is the location of the conference dinner: Brangwyn Hall, part of Swansea's Guildhall, on occasion a Doctor Who filming location, with murals by the eponymous Sir Frank Brangwyn that were rejected by the Houses of Parliament.

- In Uplands, Dylan Thomas's birthplace is at 5 Cwmdonkin Drive, and the poet also frequented Cwmdonkin Park. By the University's Singleton Campus are Brynmill Park and Singleton Park. We can recommend among others in this area Arthur Neave (Spanish), The Pizza Boyz, Brewstone, Noah's Yard, The Optimist, Uplands Diner (breakfasts), Calaca Kitchen (Mexican), and (closest to the Singleton Campus) Brynmill Coffee House. Check websites for opening times.

#### Around Swansea:

- Mumbles is a Victorian-era resort (named for *mamelles*, 'breasts') at the edge of Swansea Bay. There are many small boutiques and restaurants here, including Verdi's and Joe's, both known for ice-cream, the lovely Norman-era Oystermouth Castle (closed on Mondays), and Mumbles Pier. The Wales Coast Path (part of National Cycle Route 4) runs along Swansea beach from the Marina to Mumbles via Blackpill, where you can find Clyne Botanical Gardens and the Junction Café, and from Mumbles out past Bracelet Bay, overlooked by Castellamare, a noted Italian restaurant, to Langland and then Caswell Bays, each with a branch of Surfside Café, and beyond.

- Gower Peninsula is a short drive west of Swansea. This was the UK's first Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Nice beaches include the aforementioned Langland and Caswell, Three Cliffs Bay, Oxwich, and Rhossili, with a half-submerged shipwreck, a meteorological station, Worm's Head (accessible at low tide), and a National Trust car park. Neolithic sites include Arthur's Stone and Parc le Breos burial chamber; ruined manor houses include Oxwich Castle, Pennard Castle, and Weobley Castle. Good pubs include The Plough and Harrow, Murton; the King Arthur Hotel, Reynoldston; the King's Head Inn, Llangennith; the Britannia Inn, Llanmadoc; and the Rake and Riddle, Penclawdd. The Beach House on Oxwich beach is top-notch.

- North of Swansea city centre, National Cycle Route 43 goes up the River Tawe valley, past the derelict Hafod Copper Works, Liberty Stadium (near Morfa Shopping Park and Boss Brewery), to—eventually—the Brecon Beacons. Neath and Port Talbot offer (post-)industrial landscapes, including the National Trust-owned Aberdulais Falls, Aberavon beach with Franco's and Reno's Cafés, and Cefn Coed Colliery Museum and the South Wales Miners' Museum. The Brit Pub in Cwmafan and La Casona in Skewen are recommendable.

- In the Port Talbot area also is Margam Stones Museum, with an impressive collection of ancient carved stone, and the ruins of Margam Abbey. Our excursion (Saturday 18 April, 14:00) will take in both; these are in Margam Country Park, which also houses nearby Margam Castle, a 19<sup>th</sup>-century country house formerly owned by the Mansel Talbot family. The 1793 Orangery and garden are very fine.