

Welcome to the Forest of Dean and Wye Valley
- quite simply one of the best places in the UK
to enjoy the autumn pursuit of **Leaf Peeping**.



Symonds Yat Rock

**LEAF PEEPERS
WELCOME**

LEAF PEEPING EXPLAINED

Here's your gateway to the region with our recommended Leaf Peeping Drive as well as **10 Hotspots not to be missed in autumn.**

www.wyedeantourism.co.uk/leafpeeperswelcome



Devil's Pulpit



Bigswear Bridge

'**Leaf Peeping**' is a term growing in popularity from North America. It is all about strolling through autumn woodland and admiring the foliage as it turns from summer greens to the yellows, reds and golds of autumn.

With over 20 million trees spread across 200 square miles, the Wye Valley and Forest of Dean is heaven for Leaf Peepers. Home to a wide variety of majestic oaks, ashes, birches, beeches, larches, sweet chestnuts and many more, the foliage lights up as the days start to draw in, creating an indulgent feast for the visual senses.

Follow our special 'Leaf Peeping Drive' through sweeping countryside with river views across ancient woodland before delving deeper into 10 forest hotspots en route to enjoy breathtaking views, riverside walks, lakes and arboretums each drenched in autumnal colour.

WANT TO FIND OUT MORE...?

To discover the full Leaf Peeping Guide, complete with leafy escapes, autumnal activities, forest feasts and more, visit www.wyedeantourism.co.uk/leafpeeperswelcome.



If you're looking to explore more of the area, our family friendly attractions, adrenaline-fuelled activities, or experience our tea rooms, restaurants and award-winning hotels - visit www.wyedeantourism.co.uk for more information.

10 LEAF PEEPING HOTSPOTS

LEAF PEEPERS WELCOME

www.wyedeantourism.co.uk/leafpeeperswelcome

Symonds Yat Rock



Perched high atop an outcrop of limestone, Yat Rock overlooks the meandering River Wye and takes in unspoilt panoramas of the rich mixed forest landscape. Look below the rock to see an ancient woodland of small-leaved lime trees changing from a rich green to a golden yellow. For an extra special view, take the Mailscot Wood trail turning right from Yat Rock car park for a lower viewpoint of the River Wye.

The Kymin



Climb to the very top to reach the National Trust's 18th-century round house with views of the rolling Monmouthshire hills where, on a clear day it's even possible to spot the Black Mountains in the distance. In contrast to the dense forest views of the other spots along the drive, the surrounding landscape is a mosaic of woodland, fields and hedgerows creating a tapestry of yellows and deep greens that are interwoven with the lush greens of the fields.

Tintern & The Devil's Pulpit



Next to the River Wye and surrounded by a densely wooded valley Tintern Abbey is an iconic spot for autumn colours. Stand on the old railway bridge for foliage dense views in each direction along the valley or climb up to the Devil's Pulpit where legend has it the devil himself used to lure monks away from the Abbey below. We actually think he was up there admiring the ancient yew trees and stunning views.

Eagle's Nest



Do you like a challenge? Then ascend the 365 steps (there is a gentler zig-zag option from the car park) from the valley below to reach Eagle's Nest and look out for beech, ash and oak which will turn the woodland into a rich palette of russets, golden yellows and copper browns come autumn. At the top, you'll be rewarded with views that span from the Wye out to the River Severn and the Cotswold hills beyond.

Wintour's Leap



This viewpoint overlooks steep limestone cliffs and the Wye located on the edge of the Lancaut Nature Reserve. It is home to over 350 plant species including small-leaved lime and wayfaring trees amongst beech, oak, ash and cherry that collide in a carnival of colour during autumn.

Puzzlewood



A truly magical setting at any time of the year, this gnarly ancient woodland literally glows in autumn. And, as rays pierce its canopy, mushrooms emerge from the golden carpet below it, creating a fairy-tale-like environment to lose yourself in.

Cyril Hart Arboretum



The arboretum next to the Speech House Hotel is home to over 200 tree species that create a rich palette of autumn colours, from the bright yellow of the tulip trees to the deep reds of the maples. A great spot to 'peek' some non-native species with stunning colour displays.

Goodrich Castle, Kerne Bridge & Coppett Hill



The ancient woodlands above Kerne Bridge can be enjoyed from both the medieval castle of Goodrich or the higher vantage point of Coppett Hill which offers a kaleidoscope of colour when the sweet chestnuts, beeches, oaks, hawthorns and ash all begin to change colour.

Beechenhurst & Cannop Ponds



Beechenhurst is known as the activity hub of the Forest of Dean with cycle trails, walking paths and a 4-mile sculpture trail. Its mighty birches show off white bark contrasting with their own yellow leaves and the golden browns of nearby sturdy oaks. Cannop Ponds are less than a mile away and by contrast are surrounded by alders, the last to turn every autumn.

New Fancy View & Mallards Pike



New Fancy offers 360-degree views where you get a sense of the enormous scale of the Forest of Dean. Keep your eyes peeled as yellow birch and orange beech give way to the evergreen conifers in the distance and, on a clear day, nearby Mallards Pike will reflect the bright orange needles of the larch trees and the pink bark of the Scots pine.