

Our many market towns offer something unique to discover!



Coleford



MARKET TOWN TRAIL

in the Wye Valley & Forest of Dean

- 1 Coleford**
Coleford is dominated by its famous clock tower, which is surrounded by a variety of independent shops.
This is where the annual Music and Transport festivals are held, as well as being the site of a memorial plaque to the Civil War Battle of Coleford. Famous residents include Robert Mushet, a metallurgist who perfected the Bessemer Process for making steel, and the 20th century writer Dennis Potter, of Singing Detective fame. Just outside the town are two popular attractions, Puzzlewood and the Perrygrove Railway.
- 2 Cinderford**
Cinderford is known as the Industrial Capital of the Forest. This former mining town was founded in the 19th century and gets its name from the early iron making process that created cinders.
Its industrial past is remembered by a dramatic statue of a Free Miner in the town centre, commissioned in 2000. Today Cinderford is better known for its good range of shops and entertainment, visitors can enjoy shows at the town's historic cinema or experience a Victorian themed afternoon tea at the nearby Aunt Martha's Tea Rooms.
- 3 Newent**
Recorded in the Domesday Book, Newent is a small historic town which still retains its old charm with a number of 13th century medieval black and white buildings, and a central 17th century Market House.
Newent has a variety of independent shops and cafés, hosts the famous and quirky annual Onion Fayre and is home to the double Olympic gold medal winning horse, Valegro. Nearby are popular attractions, the Three Choirs Vineyard and International Centre for Birds of Prey.
- 4 Monmouth**
Monmouth, a Welsh border town, takes its name from the Monnow River. It features the 13th century Monnow Bridge, the only remaining fortified river bridge in Britain and Monmouth Castle, the birthplace of Henry V.
Statues of King Henry and Charles Rolls can be seen outside the elegant Shire Hall of 1724 and the town has a largely Georgian feel to it with strong links to Lord Nelson, who visited with Lady Hamilton in 1802. There are plenty of interesting shops to explore, a good range of cafes and eateries, an historic theatre, plus annual festivals to enjoy.

Cinderford



Newent



Monmouth



WANT TO FIND OUT MORE...?

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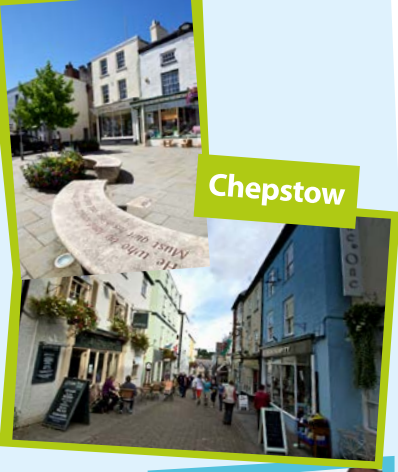
Usk



Caldicot



Abergavenny



Chepstow



Ross on Wye

Lydney



5 Lydney Lydney describes itself as “The Gateway to the Forest” and has plenty of independent shops and cafes to explore. The harbour was once a busy conduit for travel and trade. In 1846 200,000 tons of coal was exported across the world from Lydney Docks, which is a great place to explore and enjoy views across the River Severn. The steam trains of the Dean Forest Railway run through Lydney on the way to the Forest, and just outside the town, Taurus Crafts is a popular attraction to visit with its mix of arts, crafts and activities.

6 Usk Usk sits on the river of the same name, one of the finest salmon fishing rivers in the country. Its 11th century castle is the backdrop for an enchanting garden and the town is a gold medal winner in the ‘Britain in Bloom’ awards. Usk’s charm lies in the range of its small independent shops, its tearooms and pubs and riverside walks. A 17th century bridge still carries the main road across the river. The town also holds a popular annual Winter Festival, with music, market stalls and sometimes reindeer!

7 Caldicot Caldicot has one of the hidden gems of the region, Caldicot Castle and Country Park, nestled in the town. This Norman castle, with its colourful history, is an attraction and entertainment venue, that hosts an annual food festival showcasing the region’s best food providers and producers. Mentioned in the Domesday Book, Caldicot’s modern centre contrasts with its ancient history and Roman connections, with excellent access from the M4 and rail network.

8 Abergavenny Abergavenny describes itself as “A Gateway to Wales” and is on the very edge of the Brecon Beacons. It is known for its excellent food and drink associations. Rising above the town is the Norman built castle that dates to 1087, with a bloody history to discover. Below in the town is a large historic indoor market and lots of independent shops to explore, as well as award winning places to eat and stay. Abergavenny is best known for its nationally famous autumn Food Festival that attracts exhibitors and celebrity chefs from across Wales and the UK.

9 Chepstow Chepstow, at the mouth of the River Wye valley on the England and Wales border, celebrated its 950th anniversary in 2017 and has a long and turbulent history. The town’s castle, town walls and the Old Wye Bridge (the longest five span cast iron bridge in Britain) are all significant features to explore, along with quaint streets of independent shops in this historic market town. Chepstow holds music and arts festivals each year and regular local produce markets within the old Norman town boundaries.

10 Ross on Wye Ross on Wye, known as “The Gateway to the Wye Valley” and the “Birthplace of Tourism”, has plenty of excellent independent and specialist shops, restaurants, cafes and hotels. At its heart is the historic 17th century Market House which houses regular exhibitions and market stalls below. Its impressive mock Gothic walls and Gazebo Tower were built in 1833 in the “Picturesque” style, reflecting the importance of the Wye Valley Tour. Concerts are held in the Bandstand by the River Wye during the summer months.

Wye Valley and Forest of Dean's market towns offer a wonderful range of places to shop, eat and stay.

WANT TO FIND OUT MORE...?

www.wyedeantourism.co.uk/explore



Discover...

**...Independent Shops,
Music & Food Festivals...**

**...Tea Rooms, Cafés, Pubs
Outdoor Concerts...**

**...Castles, Historic Buildings,
Gothic Walls, Gatehouses...**

**...Market Stalls, Arts & Crafts
Exhibitions, Theatres..**

**... plus much more to
see and do in the glorious
Wye Valley and Forest
of Dean!**

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