

THE DISCOVER WALES GUIDE

PEAK WALES

Your master guide to an unforgettable, action-packed August.

"August in Wales is unlike August anywhere else."

The schools empty, the roads fill, certain mountains stay quiet in the mornings and the festival fields come alive. This year it is particularly good, with a week of culture in Pembrokeshire, jazz in Brecon, folk in the dunes, Green Man in the Beacons, a drone light show over a Carmarthenshire racecourse and on the night of the 12th, a partial solar eclipse coinciding with the Perseids meteor shower on the darkest skies in Europe.

Here is everything worth knowing.

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SECTION ONE

Culture

7–9 AUGUST · LLANGWM, SIR BENFRO

Gŵyl Lenyddol Llangwm

A small, quietly excellent literary festival in west Wales. Talks, walks, music, workshops, arts and food over a long weekend, with authors and poets gathering in the pretty estuary village of Llangwm, the Cleddau never far away. The kind of festival that rewards turning up without a schedule and seeing what you find. Supported by Literature Wales.

AUGUST · PORTMEIRION, GWYNEDD

Gŵyl Portmeirion

This summer Portmeirion celebrates its centenary. The Italian village on the Welsh coast turns 100, and the festival marking that anniversary promises to be one of the most special events in its history. Open-air concerts against pastel towers and subtropical gardens, Welsh artists alongside international names, the estuary at high tide catching the stage lights. If you have been before, you will know. If you haven't, the centenary year is the time.

"If you have been to Portmeirion before, you will know. If you haven't, the centenary year is the time."

PORTMEIRION TURNS 100 · 2026

SECTION TWO

Music

6–9 AUGUST · ABERHONDDU, POWYS

Brecon Jazz Festival

World-class jazz in a small Welsh market town for decades. Internationally acclaimed musicians playing in pubs, churches, market squares and dedicated venues across a town of 8,000. The Brecon Beacons as backdrop. The kind of festival where you stumble into the best thing you hear all weekend through a pub door you almost walked past.

27–30 AUGUST · COEDWIG CANDLESTON, PEN-Y-BONT

Between the Trees

The lesser-known one. Boutique, intimate, set in 100 acres of coastal woodland next to the largest sand dunes in Britain. Around 3,000 people. Indie and folk on stages built into the trees, spoken word in the Seren Barn, science workshops, willow weaving. If Green Man is the festival you go to with friends, Between the Trees is the one you tell people about afterwards.

20–23 AUGUST · GLANUSK ESTATE, BANNAU BRYCHEINIOG

Green Man Festival

Wales' most acclaimed independent music festival and one of the finest in Britain. On the Glanusk Estate near Crickhowell, with the Black Mountains as the stage backdrop. Indie, folk, alternative, Americana, electronica — but the feeling is consistent: unhurried, warm, and completely unlike any corporate festival. Headliners this year include Four Tet, Mogwai, WILCO and Wolf Alice. The Settler's Pass lets you arrive early and spend a full week in the Beacons before the festival begins.

27–31 AUGUST · ABERGWAUN, SIR BENFRO

Aberjazz Festival

Five days of jazz in the harbour town of Fishguard at the end of the month, coinciding with the Bank Holiday. Local talent alongside visiting artists, indoor and outdoor venues, a relaxed atmosphere by the water. A good reason to be in Pembrokeshire for a second time in August.

SECTION THREE

Food & Drink

7–9 AUGUST · ABERTAWE CITY CENTRE

Gŵyl Bwyd a Diod Abertawe

Swansea fills with independent food traders, chefs, street food and local producers for three days in early August. Free to attend. One of the better urban food festivals in Wales – the setting helps, with the bay visible at the end of most streets.

AUGUST · CAERFFILI

Caerphilly Cheese Festival

Caerphilly cheese has been made in Wales since the 19th century, and the festival celebrating it is exactly what it sounds like. Live music, food, cheese and a great family day if you are in the south.

1–2 AUGUST · PARC YR ODYN, YNYS MÔN

Gŵyl Haf Ynys Môn

A note for regular visitors: the Menai Food Festival has moved. Because Menai Bridge is celebrating its 200th birthday in 2026, the town's own events mean the festival cannot return to its usual site. Instead it has relocated to Parc yr Odyn near Pentraeth under the expanded banner of the Anglesey Summer Festival. Over 100 food, drink, craft and homeware exhibitors, street food, live music across both days, family activities. Same spirit, new site, slightly larger than before.

15 AUGUST · ABERTEIFI, CEREDIGION

Cardigan River & Food Festival

Held along the River Teifi in Cardigan, this is one of the nicest small food festivals in Wales. Local producers, street food, live music and the river as a backdrop.



Llanwrtyd Wells. August Bank Holiday. The smallest town in Britain, and the strangest sporting weekend you will ever see.

SECTION FOUR

Sport & The Unusual

15 AUGUST · TYWYN, GWYNEDD

Race the Train

Exactly what it sounds like. Runners race a steam train on the historic Talylyn Railway, one of the oldest narrow-gauge railways in the world. The route covers about 14 miles. Some people beat the train. Most do not. Worth going to watch even if you have no intention of running.

15 AUGUST · LLANWRTYD WELLS, POWYS

World MTB Chariot Racing

Teams of three. Two riders on mountain bikes tow a third on a chariot behind them. Speed, teamwork and creativity in roughly equal measure. Not a sentence you expect to type about a sporting event in mid-Wales.

30 AUGUST · LLANWRTYD WELLS, POWYS

World Bog Snorkelling Championships

Mask, snorkel and flippers. Two lengths of a 60-yard peat bog trench without conventional swimming strokes. World record: 1 minute 18.82 seconds. Around 200 people enter; thousands come to watch. The Bogathlon — bog swim, bike ride and run — runs the day before.

30 AUGUST · CAERDYDD

Wales Strongest Man 2026

Part of the official UK strongman circuit. The strongest man in Wales is decided in Cardiff on 30 August. Atlas stones, log lifts, truck pulls. Worth knowing about.

SECTION FIVE

Agricultural Shows

11–12 AUGUST · MONA SHOWGROUND

Anglesey County Show

One of the largest agricultural events in north Wales. Livestock, horses, horticulture, cookery, crafts. Two days at the Mona Showground. An honest, rooted celebration of what Anglesey is.

8 AUGUST · CAS-GWENT

Sioe Chepstow

A great family day at Chepstow Racecourse. Livestock, horticulture, vintage, dogs. New for 2026: a circus workshop and live music stage.

19–20 AUGUST · HWLFFORDD

Pembrokeshire County Show

Farming, food and rural life in Pembrokeshire – two days at the County Showground. Livestock competitions, local produce and family attractions. The county's biggest annual event outside the Eisteddfod.

SECTION SIX

Something Different

15 AUGUST · FFOS LAS, SIR GAERFYRDDIN

Space Safari: Drone Light Show

Hundreds of synchronised drones illuminate the sky over Ffos Las Racecourse, narrated by BAFTA-winning presenter Michaela Strachan. The show travels through space and the animal kingdom. Family- and dog-friendly, with fairground rides and a food village. A one-night-only event. Book ahead.

24–30 AUGUST · LLANDRINDOD WELLS, POWYS

Llandrindod Victorian Festival

The spa town transforms into Victorian Britain for a full week every August. The whole town dresses up – residents, shopkeepers, visitors. Carriages, corsets, markets, concerts, theatre. It has been running for decades and is one of the most charming and unexpected events in the Welsh calendar. If you have never been, add it to the list.

ONE MORE THING

The Night of *12 August*

A partial solar eclipse, the Perseids meteor shower peak, and a new moon — all falling on the same night. That combination has not happened in the UK this decade.

The new moon means the darkest possible skies. The Perseids will produce up to 100 meteors an hour at peak. The eclipse adds a quality of light in the hours leading up to sunset that is unlike anything else.

94%

SOLAR DISC
COVERED

100/hr

PERSEID METEORS
AT PEAK

No.1

FOR PROTECTED DARK SKY
LAND, OF ANY COUNTRY

Wales has the highest percentage of protected dark sky land of any country on earth. If you are going to be in Wales in August, try to be somewhere dark on the night of the 12th.

Hwyl am y tro.