

A WALES.ORG WINTER EDITION

Christmas & Winter *in Wales*

Markets, Welsh traditions older than Christmas itself, wild winter walks, dark skies and the coldest sea swims in Britain — the complete seasonal guide.

The illuminated gates of Tredegar House welcome visitors into a dazzling festive light trail each December. © Crown copyright Cymru Wales 2026

A Welsh winter is worth the trip.

Most people think of Wales as a summer country — beaches, castles, long coastal walks in the sun. But winter is when Wales does something no other season can: the Christmas markets fill medieval town squares and Italianate villages, a horse's skull goes wassailing door to door, carol singers gather in freezing chapels before dawn, and thousands of people run screaming into the sea on New Year's Day for fun.

This guide pulls together everything we think is worth knowing about a Welsh Christmas and a Welsh winter — the big public markets and the strange, centuries-old customs that survive nowhere else in the world. We've included practical detail throughout (dates, distances, locations) so you can actually plan around it, not just read about it.

Wherever you're reading this from, we hope it gives you a reason to visit Wales at the one time of year most people overlook.

Nick — Wales.org

A FEW THINGS YOU DIDN'T KNOW

A horse's skull goes wassailing

The Mari Lwyd parades door to door between Christmas and Twelfth Night, demanding entry in rhyming verse.

One valley never changed its calendar

The Gwaun Valley still celebrates New Year on 13 January — the old Julian date, abandoned everywhere else in 1752.

Wales has five dark sky designations

Including Europe's first International Dark Sky Sanctuary, on an island that closes to visitors every winter.

Thousands swim on Christmas Day

Porthcawl's Christmas Morning Swim has run since 1965 — one of Britain's oldest festive dips.

What's Inside

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"Croeso i'r gaeaf Cymreig." — Welcome to the Welsh winter.



CHAPTER ONE

Christmas Markets in Wales

Thirty-plus markets and fairs, from a six-week city-centre market in Cardiff to a weekend fair inside the pastel-coloured village of Portmeirion.

Father Christmas brings festive magic to the spectacular Victorian gothic interiors of Castell Coch. © Crown copyright Cymru Wales 2026

Wales has one of the strongest Christmas market calendars in the UK — more than 30 significant markets and fairs running from mid-November to Christmas Eve.

At a Glance

- **Biggest:** Cardiff Christmas Market — 70 stalls, over 200 businesses, mid-November to 23 December
- **Most photogenic:** Portmeirion Christmas Fair — early December, 120+ stalls inside the Italianate village
- **Biggest free event in the North:** Llandudno Christmas Extravaganza — late November, four days
- **Most traditional:** Royal Welsh Winter Fair, Builth Wells — agricultural show meets Christmas market
- **Best castle setting:** Pembroke, Picton and Beaumaris castles all host weekend fairs in the run-up to Christmas

Cardiff Christmas Market

Cardiff's market spans five pedestrianised streets in the city centre — St John Street, Working Street, Trinity Street, Hills Street and The Hayes — with 70 wooden chalet stalls hosting a rolling programme of over 200 individually vetted craft and food businesses across its six-week run. It is run by CraftFolk, who check every stallholder for handmade quality rather than allowing commercial resellers in. Typical hours are Monday to Saturday 10am–6pm (late night to 7pm on December Thursdays) and Sunday 10am–5pm, with free entry throughout.

Three separate events overlap with the main market: **Cardiff Winter Wonderland** at the City Hall Lawn and Cardiff Castle grounds (free entry, with an outdoor ice rink, giant wheel, funfair and an Ice Bar chilled to -10°C); **Cardiff Christmas Festival**, a heated 550-seat Spiegeltent at Sophia Gardens hosting live music and comedy through December; and **Christmas at Bute Park**, an illuminated light trail through the city's green heart.

Llandudno Christmas Extravaganza

A free, four-day event in the North Wales seaside resort, with food and craft stalls, vintage fairground rides and live entertainment. It opens the North Wales festive season and is the largest single free Christmas event in the region. Note: this is a separate event from May's Llandudno Victorian Extravaganza — same organisers, different festival.



Artisan crafts and festive decorations on display at a wooden chalet stall during the Llandudno Christmas Extravaganza. © Crown copyright Cymru Wales 2026

Portmeirion Christmas Fair

The most photogenic market of the year. Over 120 exhibitors set up throughout Sir Clough Williams-Ellis's pastel-coloured Italian-style village on the Gwynedd coast, selling artisan food, drink, crafts and pottery — including Portmeirion Pottery itself, still produced under the brand. Reached from Minffordd railway station on the Cambrian Coast Line (a 15-minute walk to the entrance). Standard village admission applies on top of the free fair browsing; allow 4–5 hours to see the whole village.

Markets in Welsh Castles

Some of the most atmospheric Welsh Christmas markets are weekend-only events held in castle grounds — smaller than the big city markets, but worth the drive for the setting.

- **Pembroke Castle Christmas Market** — 80+ stalls under festive lights in the outer ward, live carollers throughout the day.
- **Picton Castle Christmas Fair** (Pembrokeshire) — runs alongside seasonal tours, wreath-making workshops and a Santa's grotto.
- **Beaumaris Christmas Market** (Anglesey) — small, well-loved, close to Beaumaris Castle; dogs welcome on leads.
- **Conwy Winterfest** — sword fighting, torch-bearing performers and armoured knights alongside the market stalls in the medieval walled town, early December.

The Royal Welsh Winter Fair & Hay Festival Winter Weekend

The **Royal Welsh Winter Fair** at the agricultural showground in Builth Wells (Llanfair-ym-Muallt) is one of the biggest one-weekend events in the Welsh calendar — alongside livestock and craft competitions, it has a huge food hall, Santa's Grotto, reindeer visits and a fireworks finale. Admission is paid, unlike most other markets.

The **Hay Festival Winter Weekend** in Hay-on-Wye (Y Gelli Gandryll), the famous book town on the Welsh-English border, combines author talks and performances with a Christmas food and craft fair and the town's own festive shopping streets — the strongest option for anyone combining Christmas shopping with books and culture.

What Welsh Food & Drink to Look For

Food

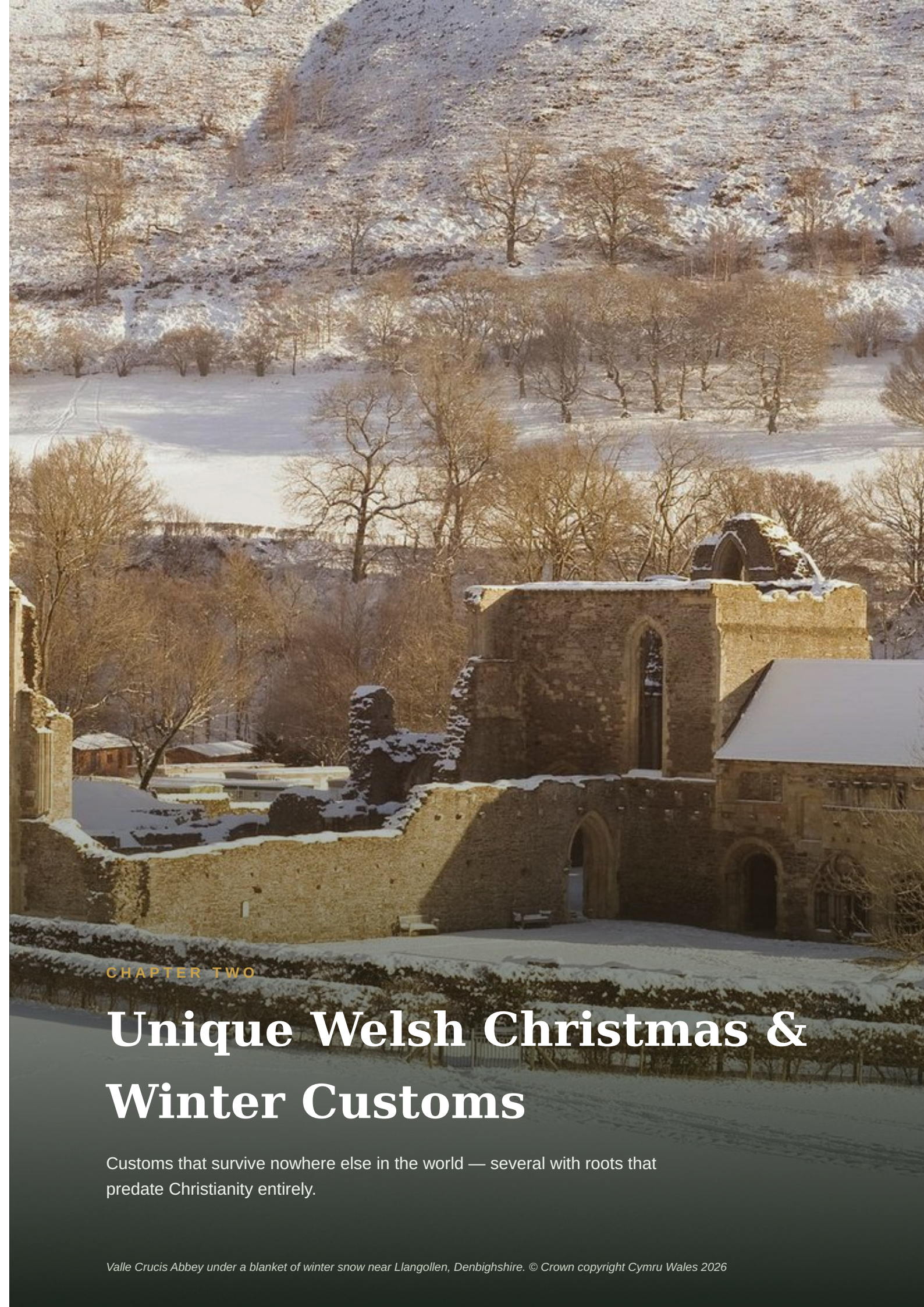
- Welsh cakes — griddle-baked, sold hot off the bakestone
- Bara brith — the traditional fruit tea bread
- Welsh farmhouse cheeses — Caerphilly, Perl Wen, Perl Las, Y Fenni
- Welsh lamb and beef, laverbread

Drink & Crafts

- Penderyn Welsh whisky, Welsh craft gin
- Welsh craft beer and mulled cider
- Welsh slate products, love spoons, wool blankets
- Hand-poured Welsh candles

Timing tip: the weekend before December (roughly 28–29 November) is the sweet spot — Christmas atmosphere is building, crowds are moderate, and accommodation is still reasonably available. The two weekends before Christmas Day are busiest and most expensive.

Market dates shift slightly year to year — always confirm against the individual organiser's own site before travelling.



CHAPTER TWO

Unique Welsh Christmas & Winter Customs

Customs that survive nowhere else in the world — several with roots that predate Christianity entirely.

Noson Gyflaith — Toffee Evening (Christmas Eve)

On Christmas Eve, Welsh families would gather to make toffee — boiling butter, sugar and treacle in a pan over the fire, then pouring the molten mixture onto a greased slate or hearthstone. Everyone present greased their hands with butter and took a turn "pulling" the toffee into long, golden ropes, supposedly revealing the initials of your true love as it curled. The toffee-making was really a way to stay awake and sociable through the night before the pre-dawn Plygain service — and houses were traditionally decorated with holly and mistletoe during the same evening.

Plygain — the Pre-Dawn Carol Service (Christmas Morning)

At three, four, even six in the morning on Christmas Day, Welsh villagers once walked to chapel by torchlight for Plygain — a carol service sung entirely unaccompanied, in three- or four-part harmony, by soloists, family groups and choirs taking it in turns. No carol was meant to be sung twice. The service could run for hours, finishing as the first cockerel crowed, after which the congregation would head to the local inn for breakfast.

The tradition survives today, revived in parts of mid-Wales — Llanerfyl in Powys is where the modern Plygain revival began, and services are also held in Llandeilo Fawr and the surrounding parishes in Carmarthenshire. For a more accessible, daytime version, St Fagans National Museum of History near Cardiff holds "Carols in the Chapel" each December inside its reconstructed St Teilo's Church.



Mari Lwyd — the Grey Mare (Christmas Day to Twelfth Night)

One of the strangest customs anywhere in Britain. A horse's skull — traditionally real, often wooden today — is decorated with ribbons and mirror or glass eyes, and mounted on a pole beneath a long white sheet. Carriers parade the Mari Lwyd through South Wales villages between Christmas Day and Twelfth Night (5–6 January), knocking on doors and challenging the household to a rhyming insult-duel called *pwnco* — the household and the Mari's party trade improvised verses back and forth, and if the Mari's party wins, they're let inside for food and drink.

Believed to be a pre-Christian survival, the custom nearly died out in the 20th century but has been strongly revived since the 1970s. The most consistent surviving tradition runs annually in

Llangynwyd, near Bridgend; **Chepstow** holds the largest revived event, combining Welsh and English wassailing traditions on the border in mid-January; and **Llanwrtyd Wells** runs a torch-lit procession on New Year's Eve itself.

Calennig — New Year's Day Gift-Giving

A South Wales children's tradition: on New Year's Day, children go door to door singing traditional Welsh folk songs in exchange for small gifts of money, sweets or food. They traditionally carry a *perllan* — an apple studded with cloves and evergreen leaves, impaled on three sticks — as a

symbol of health and renewal for the coming year. It survives today mainly in the Gwaun Valley and pockets of South Wales and Monmouthshire.

Hen Galan — the Old New Year (13 January, Gwaun Valley)

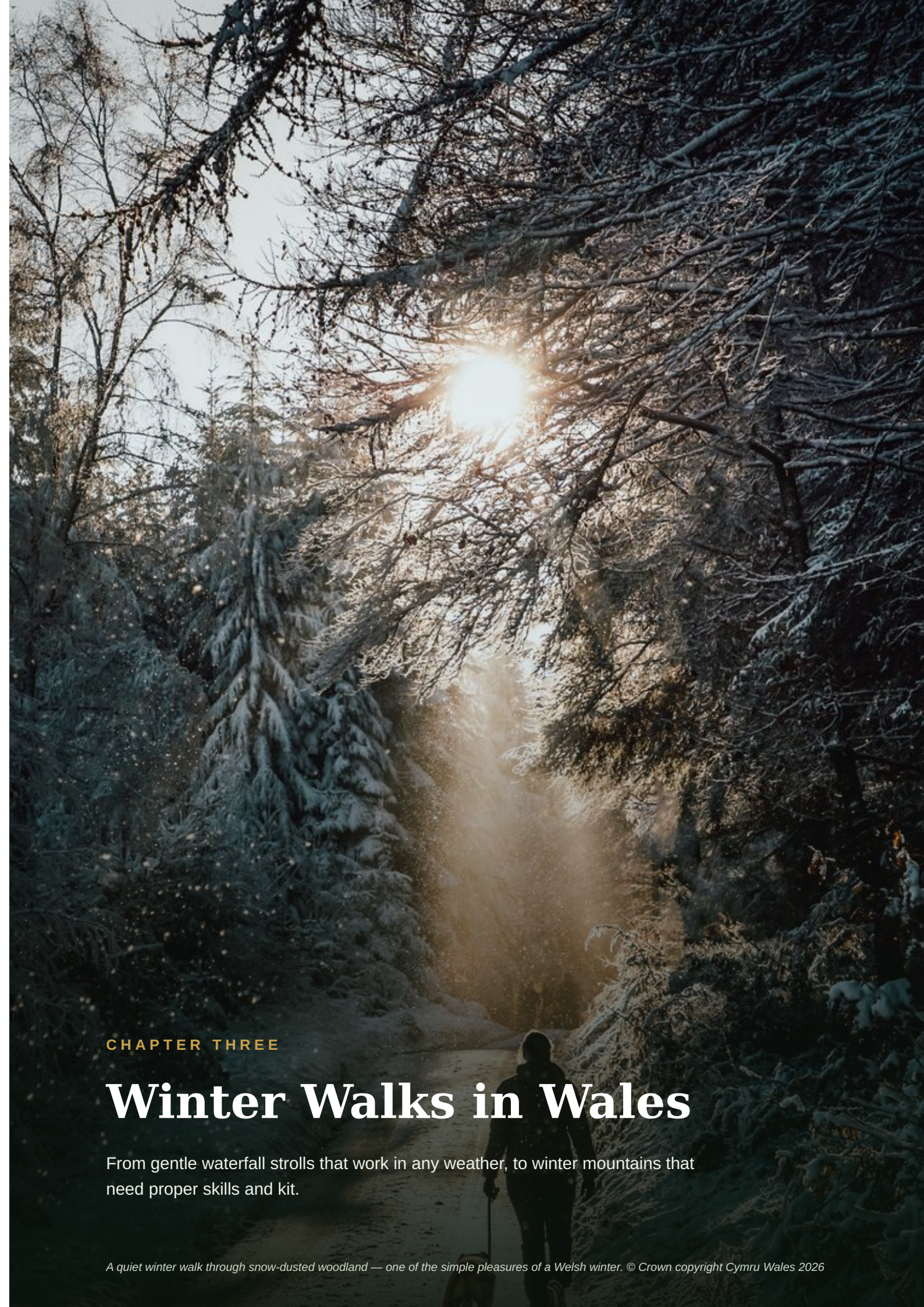
When Britain switched from the Julian to the Gregorian calendar in 1752, eleven days vanished overnight. Most of the country accepted the loss. The Gwaun Valley (Cwm Gwaun) near Fishguard in north Pembrokeshire never did — and is the only community in the world still to celebrate New Year continuously on the old date, 13 January.

On the day, children go house to house singing New Year verses for calennig gifts, while adults gather in the valley's pubs for music, folk dancing and long, unhurried meals that spill through the day. The heart of it is the Dyffryn Arms at Pontfaen — universally known as "Bessie's" after its legendary landlady Bessie Davies, who kept the pub for over 70 years until her death in December 2023, aged 93. Her family continue to run it exactly as she did, hatch service and all, and it remains the valley's beating heart on 13 January.

Say it right: "Blwyddyn Newydd Dda" (BLOOI-thin NAY-with THA) means Happy New Year in Welsh — use it in the Gwaun Valley on 13 January and you'll be received warmly.

Nos Galan Road Races (31 December, Mountain Ash)

Around 2,000 runners descend on Aberpennar (Mountain Ash) in the Cynon Valley every New Year's Eve for the Nos Galan road races, honouring Guto Nyth Brân, an 18th-century runner and local legend. The day begins with a church service at Llanwynno, where a wreath is laid on Brân's grave and a torch lit, before being carried down the valley to Mountain Ash for the races themselves. Children's and adult races run through the afternoon, finishing by 9:30pm to keep the whole thing family-friendly.

A person is walking away from the camera down a path in a winter forest. The path is covered in snow and leads towards a bright sunset or sunrise where the sun is low in the sky, creating a strong lens flare and illuminating the scene. The trees are bare and their branches are covered in snow. The overall mood is peaceful and serene.

CHAPTER THREE

Winter Walks in Wales

From gentle waterfall strolls that work in any weather, to winter mountains that need proper skills and kit.

A quiet winter walk through snow-dusted woodland — one of the simple pleasures of a Welsh winter. © Crown copyright Cymru Wales 2026

Wales is walkable through winter, but altitude and location matter enormously. Below are three honest tiers. Start at the top.

Winter mountain safety: Yr Wyddfa (Snowdon) is a winter mountain in its own right between January and March — crampons, an ice axe and the ability to use both are essential, along with a checked forecast from the [Mountain Weather Information Service](#). Every year there are avoidable rescues from walkers without proper winter kit. Plan any route using [AdventureSmart Wales](#) before you set out, and if in doubt, stick to the Accessible & Lowland routes below.

Accessible & Lowland (Walkable in Any Winter Weather)

Swallow Falls (Rhaeadr Ewynnol), Betws-y-Coed

30 min return LL24 0DW

A short, well-maintained path from the entrance to a series of viewing platforms over one of Wales's most-visited waterfalls — a gentle introduction to winter walking.

Difficulty: Accessible **Dogs:** On leads, welcome

Facilities: Pay-and-display car park on site; small entry fee to the falls themselves

Fairy Glen, near Betws-y-Coed

20–30 min LL24 0SL

A short descent into a narrow wooded gorge on the Afon Conwy, just outside the village.

Difficulty: Accessible, but steps are slippery in winter — good grip essential **Dogs:** On leads

Facilities: Small roadside car park; small entry toll; none on the path itself

Aber Falls (Rhaeadr Fawr), near Abergwyngregyn

1.5–2 hrs 2.5 miles return LL33 0LP

A gently rising, well-maintained woodland path to a spectacular 37-metre waterfall, just off the A55 — one of the best-value winter routes in North Wales.

Difficulty: Accessible, well-maintained throughout **Dogs:** On leads (livestock grazing)

Facilities: Car park and toilets at Bont Newydd

Pistyll Rhaeadr, near Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant, Powys

20–30 min to the base SY10 0BZ

Widely cited as Wales's highest waterfall at 73 metres, falling in three distinct stages down an Ordovician cliff face — one of the country's official "Seven Wonders." Longer horseshoe routes into the Berwyn hills are available for the more energetic.

Difficulty: Accessible to the base; moderate for the horseshoe routes above **Dogs:** On leads

Facilities: On-site car park (small charge) and café

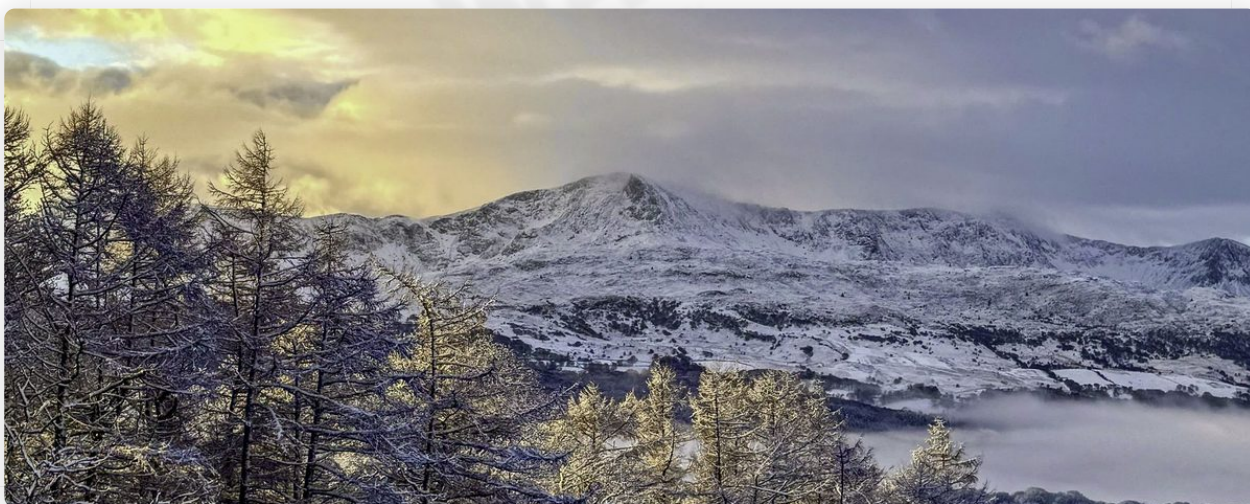
The Precipice Walk, near Dolgellau

~1.5 hrs 3.5 miles

A waymarked loop around Moel Cynwch with sweeping views over the Mawddach Estuary — far gentler underfoot than its name suggests, and one of the best view-to-effort ratios in Wales.

Difficulty: Accessible, mostly level **Dogs:** On leads (working farmland, livestock)

Facilities: Small car park; none on route



Snow dusts the peaks above Dolgellau as mist settles in the valley below. © Crown copyright Cymru Wales 2026

Bosherston Lily Ponds & St Govan's, Pembrokeshire

~2 hrs 4.5 miles Stackpole Estate

Flat, waymarked National Trust paths around the lily ponds, finishing at the tiny chapel of St Govan's wedged into the cliff face — coastal, sheltered and a reliable winter choice.

Difficulty: Accessible, flat throughout **Dogs:** On leads (ground-nesting birds, livestock)

Facilities: Car park and toilets at Stackpole Court; café at Stackpole Home Farm

Elan Valley reservoir walks, Rhayader

Varies, 1–3 hrs Multiple waymarked routes

The Victorian dams and reservoirs are at their most photogenic running full after winter rain, with well-signed paths throughout.

Difficulty: Accessible, varies by route chosen **Dogs:** On leads near the visitor centre and livestock

Facilities: Elan Valley Visitor Centre — café, toilets, car park

Moderate Coastal & Valley

The Four Waterfalls Walk, Pontneddfechan

3–4 hrs 6 miles Waterfall Country, Bannau Brycheiniog

Links four major falls through an ancient oak gorge, including Sgwd yr Eira, where a rock-cut path runs *behind* the curtain of water. At its fullest after winter rain — but the wooden walkways can ice over in January and February, so take care underfoot.

Difficulty: Moderate, uneven ground and river crossings **Dogs:** On leads

Facilities: Cwm Porth car park with toilets; small parking charge

Wales Coast Path — selected sections

870 miles in total, walked in sections

Most sections are walkable in winter with a waterproof jacket and reasonable fitness. The North Wales coast, the Vale of Glamorgan section, and most of Anglesey are the most reliable winter stretches.

Difficulty: Moderate, varies significantly by section

Dogs: Generally welcome on leads; some seasonal restrictions near nesting sites

Tides: Some Anglesey and Pembrokeshire crossings are impassable at high tide — check [tidetimes.org.uk](https://www.tidetimes.org.uk) before setting out

Advanced Winter Mountaineering

Pen y Fan (886m) in Bannau Brycheiniog, Cadair Idris (893m), the Carneddau, and Yr Wyddfa (Snowdon) itself all become winter mountains in their own right from December through March. These require proper winter kit — crampons, an ice axe, and the experience to use both — plus a checked mountain forecast from MWIS. They are not casual walks in winter conditions, whatever they look like in summer photographs.

The safest starting point for visitors without mountain experience: the Wales Coast Path around Pembrokeshire on a bright, cold day, followed by Waterfall Country, followed by the Elan Valley reservoir walks. All three deliver serious scenery in ordinary winter kit, with nothing beyond a checked weather forecast and sensible tide-timing required.

Winter Wildlife Spectacles

Wales's winter wildlife calendar is one of Britain's best-kept secrets — and most of it needs nothing more than warm clothes and good timing.

Red Kite Feeding, Gigrin Farm

Gigrin Farm at Rhayader in Mid Wales is one of the strongest wildlife spectacles in Britain: hundreds of red kites descend on a hillside feeding station every single day. Winter is peak season, when natural food is scarcer and numbers are highest — feeding happens daily at **2pm**. Photographic hides are available on site.

Grey Seal Pups

Grey seal pups born in autumn are still visible on Pembrokeshire and Anglesey beaches right through December, before moulting from white pup-fur to adult grey in January. Adult seals remain visible year-round from clifftop paths — Ramsey Island, the Marloes Peninsula and the north Anglesey coast are the strongest spots.

Starling Murmurations

Thousands of starlings swirling into huge, shape-shifting clouds before dropping to roost at dusk. The display peaks in November and December but continues into February at two reliable sites: **Aberystwyth Pier** (right in the town, no walk required) and **RSPB Newport Wetlands** in South Wales. Arrive around 30 minutes before sunset — in December that means being in position by 3:30pm. Calm, clear evenings give the best shows.

Winter Migrant Birds

Wales's coastal wetlands host large numbers of wintering birds arriving from Northern Europe and the Arctic. **RSPB Ynys-hir** near Machynlleth (the BBC Springwatch site), the **Dee Estuary** in the north-east, and **Kenfig Nature Reserve** near Bridgend are all strong winter locations, with numbers peaking December through February.

Leave No Trace: protecting winter wildlife

Winter is a vulnerable season for Welsh wildlife. Keep dogs on short leads near grey seal pups on Pembrokeshire and Anglesey beaches — a disturbed mother will abandon her pup, and this is both an ethical and, at many sites, a legal requirement. The same applies around overwintering migratory birds at reserves like Ynys-hir, the Dee Estuary and Kenfig, where flushing a flock from its roost burns fat reserves the birds need to survive the winter. Keep a respectful distance, stay on marked paths, and never approach a seal pup, however approachable it looks.

Festive Sea Swims

A very Welsh coastal tradition: thousands of people, often in fancy dress, running into freezing water for charity between Christmas morning and New Year's Day. Spectating is every bit as much fun as swimming.

Porthcawl Christmas Morning Swim — Bridgend

Running since 1965 at Sandy Bay, this is one of the oldest festive swims in Britain. A party-like atmosphere, with hundreds taking part in fancy dress for local charities, drawing spectators and swimmers from across the UK and further afield.

Tenby Boxing Day Swim — Pembrokeshire

Running since the 1970s, Tenby's Boxing Day swim draws several hundred swimmers and thousands of onlookers to the town's beaches, with every swimmer receiving a medal for their trouble.

Barry Island New Year's Day Swim — Vale of Glamorgan

Started in 1984 on a pub wager between members of the Jacksons Bay Lifeguard Club, this is now one of the biggest New Year swims in Wales, drawing thousands of participants in costume and fancy dress to Whitmore Bay.

Saundersfoot New Year's Day Swim — Pembrokeshire

Regularly billed as the UK's largest festive dip, with well over a thousand participants most years raising tens of thousands of pounds for charity. A full morning of fancy dress, music and a mass warm-up before everyone heads for the water together.

Also worth knowing about

Porthdinllaen and Abersoch (Llyn Peninsula) both run smaller, RNLI-safeguarded New Year's Day dips in beautiful settings — Porthdinllaen's car-free beach is one of the prettiest spots in Wales for it.

Water temperature: the Welsh coast typically sits between 4°C and 10°C over the festive period. These are organised, lifeguard- or RNLI-supervised events — never attempt a solo cold-water swim without knowing the local conditions.

A full-page photograph of a stone archway, known as Y Bwa, in a snowy landscape at night. A person and a dog are standing in the center of the arch, looking up at a sky filled with stars and constellations. The arch is made of rough-hewn stones and frames a view of the night sky and distant hills.

CHAPTER SIX

Winter Dark Skies

Over 15 hours of true astronomical darkness every night — the strongest season of the year for Welsh stargazing.

Stargazing beneath Y Bwa (The Arch) on a clear, snow-dusted winter's night. © Crown copyright Cymru Wales 2026

Winter is the strongest season of the year for Welsh stargazing. From mid-December to mid-January it is properly dark from around 4:30pm to 8am — over 15 hours of true astronomical darkness every night.

Wales holds five international dark sky designations — more than almost anywhere else on earth for its size — and all five are at their best in winter:

- **Bannau Brycheiniog (Brecon Beacons)** — International Dark Sky Reserve since 2013. Try Sugar Loaf near Abergavenny, Llanthony Priory, or Usk Reservoir.
- **Eryri (Snowdonia)** — International Dark Sky Reserve since 2015. Try the shores of Llyn y Dywarchen, the Ogwen Valley, or Bwlch y Groes.
- **Elan Valley Estate** — an International Dark Sky Park. Try the shores of the Craig Goch and Pen y Garreg reservoirs.
- **Ynys Enlli (Bardsey Island)** — Europe's first International Dark Sky Sanctuary, awarded in 2023. The darkest measurable skies in Wales, though reaching it takes real commitment (the island closes to visitors from late October to late March).
- **Presteigne and Norton** — the Powys border town and its neighbouring village became Wales's first International Dark Sky Community in 2024.

The best winter meteor showers are the **Geminids** (mid-December, usually peaking around 13–14 December) and the **Quadrantids** (early January) — both visible with nothing more than your eyes, a clear night, and about 20 minutes for them to adjust to the dark.

Practical Notes & Where to Stay

Weather & What to Pack

Welsh winters are mild by British standards but wet and changeable — 2–8°C in the lowlands, colder and often below freezing at altitude. Rain, not cold, is the main thing to plan around.

- A fully waterproof jacket — not just water-resistant
- Thermal or fleece base layer, insulating mid-layer, waterproof outer shell
- Waterproof walking boots with good grip — wet leaves and slick stone are the real winter hazard, more than snow or ice at lower levels
- Warm hat, gloves, scarf, thick socks
- A head torch — full dark by around 4:15pm in mid-December
- Binoculars, if wildlife-watching or stargazing is on the agenda

Value Tip

Outside Christmas week, New Year, and any Six Nations rugby weekend in Cardiff, January and early February are the cheapest weeks of the entire year to visit Wales — accommodation routinely drops 30–50% below summer rates.

Where to Base Yourself

BASE	BEST FOR
Cardiff	Christmas markets, museums, city-break comfort, wet-weather backup
Llandudno	Christmas Extravaganza, Conwy Winterfest, day trips to Portmeirion and Beaumaris
Betws-y-Coed	Fairy Glen, Swallow Falls, Eryri winter walks, dark skies
Rhayader	Red kites, Elan Valley walks, dark skies
St Davids / Solva / Saundersfoot	Coast path, seals, festive swims
Fishguard / Newport (Pembs)	Hen Galan, 13 January, coast walks

All details in this guide were checked against official event organisers, Visit Wales, the Met Office and individual attraction operators at the time of writing. Dates and prices change year to year — always confirm with the organiser before travelling.

Full Christmas Market Calendar

Every major Welsh Christmas market and fair with a confirmed or reliably recurring date, in chronological order. Beyond this list, dozens of smaller church, school and village markets run throughout the season — check local council and parish listings nearer the time for those.

MARKET	TYPICAL DATES	LOCATION
Cardiff Christmas Market	12 Nov – 23 Dec	Cardiff city centre
Llandudno Christmas Extravaganza	19–22 Nov	Llandudno town centre
Beaumaris Christmas Market	Late Nov	Rating Row, Beaumaris, Anglesey
Snowdonia Christmas Market	Late Nov / early Dec	Royal Oak Hotel, Betws-y-Coed
Aberglasney Winter Fair	Late Nov / early Dec	Aberglasney Gardens, Carmarthenshire
Hay Festival Winter Weekend	26–29 Nov	Hay-on-Wye (Y Gelli Gandryll)
Royal Welsh Winter Fair	30 Nov – 1 Dec	Builth Wells showground
Cardiff Winter Wonderland	Mid-Nov – early Jan	Cardiff Castle / City Hall Lawn
Cardiff Christmas Festival	1–24 Dec	Sophia Gardens Spiegeltent, Cardiff
Portmeirion Christmas Fair	4–6 Dec	Portmeirion village
Pembroke Castle Christmas Market	Early Dec	Pembroke Castle
Picton Castle Christmas Fair	Multiple Dec weekends	Picton Castle, Pembrokeshire
Conwy Winterfest	Early Dec	Conwy town square
Insole Court Christmas Fair	One Dec weekend	Insole Court, Llandaff, Cardiff

Dates shift slightly year to year and several are confirmed only in September or October — always check the organiser's own site before booking travel around them.

Diolch — Thank You

That's our complete guide to Christmas and winter in Wales. If it's given you even one idea for a trip, we've done our job. For deeper dives into any of the above — full Christmas market calendars, hotel packages, stargazing spot-by-spot — head to wales.org, where all of this lives in full, kept up to date year round.

We send a free weekly dispatch, Discover Wales, with more of exactly this: hidden spots, honest food and drink recommendations, and curated itineraries across the whole country.

Hwyl am y tro.

Nick — [Wales.org](https://wales.org)

