



## Group Travel Information Pack

Our 12<sup>th</sup> century working water-powered corn and saw mill complex is a Wales Tourist Board Star Attraction and we aim to provide a complete service for visiting groups, from the moment you book your visit with us. You can choose from a range of possible options such as **Guided Coach Tour, Guided & Themed Walks, Welsh Cream Tea, Meals and Extra Activities**. Each tour can be geared to your specific needs. We look forward to welcoming you to Gower.

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**Gower Heritage Centre**, Parkmill, Gower, Swansea. **Tel:** 01792 371206

**E-mail:** [reception@gowerheritagecentre.co.uk](mailto:reception@gowerheritagecentre.co.uk)

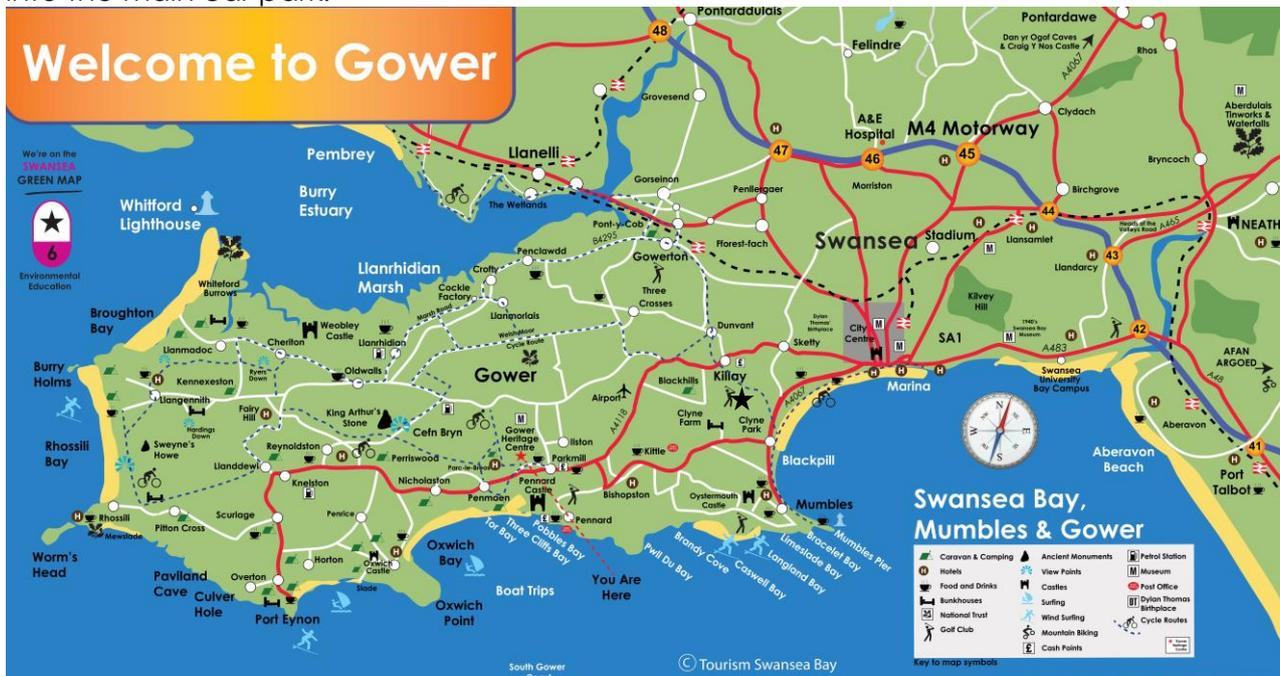
**Website:** [www.gowerheritagecentre.co.uk](http://www.gowerheritagecentre.co.uk)



## 1. Useful information

### How do we get there?

The Gower Heritage Centre is on the A4118 only 8 miles west of Swansea in the village of Parkmill. There is ample coach parking at the Centre; just follow the brown tourist signs into the main car park.



### Accessibility

The Gower Heritage Centre is particularly convenient for visiting groups who have mobility problems. Wheelchairs can be used throughout the site, although we also have 3 available for your use. Contact us to discuss your requirements.

### How long does a visit last?

Most group visits last two hours. Our guided tours take about half an hour. Your group will also want at least half an hour to look around the rest of the site and enjoy our craft shops. Workshop activities usually add another hour to your stay. This can be extended to a full day visit if you wish to combine it with a guided walk.

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## 2. Guided tours

Guided tours are available every day. The minimum group size is 20, maximum 150, although a large party would be broken into smaller groups.

You are greeted at the entrance by your Guide, who will direct the group to the Water Wheel to begin the tour, which will take between half an hour and 45 minutes. It will take you all round the water-powered corn mill and saw mill, into the Miller's cottage and Blacksmith's shop, and include the history of the Mill and descriptions of milling, wood-turning and blacksmithing. There are plenty of chances to ask and answer questions. The tour also takes in the coracle display area. Following the tour, your group will want to investigate the rest of the site. As well as the traditional crafts and shops, there is a collection of rare breeds of poultry and ducks.

We have an impressive collection of old farming machinery, with the old threshing machine regularly put to work. Older visitors may be taken back in time if they visit the air raid shelter, with a collection of wartime memorabilia. We organise special visits for school and college groups, which include a tour of the Heritage Centre and worksheets. Please ask for our School/College Group information packs.

## 3. Meals and Refreshments

Our Tearooms offer a variety of traditional and homemade hot and cold options from soups or full lunches to light snacks and our famous Welsh Cream Teas. You can also have the chance to taste our award winning Cider brewed at the Mill from our own Apples grown here in the Orchard. We can also prepare a menu package to suit your needs.

## 4. Guided Walks

The Gower peninsula was the UK's first designated area of outstanding natural beauty and is an ideal location for walking tours. Nearby Green Cwm valley with its Neolithic burial chamber, lime kiln and prehistoric cave, or Three Cliffs Valley with rare flora & fauna and overlooked by the ruins of Pennard Castle, are ideal destinations for a guided walk. They are easily accessible on foot from the Gower Heritage Centre and we can design the walk to fit in with your group's abilities, lasting 1 or 2 hours or longer if required. Please contact us for further details about a themed walk (history, nature, "in the footsteps of the Saints").

The Gower Heritage Centre is accredited by the Wales Tourist Board as an Activity providers and all walks are accompanied by a B.E.L.A. qualified guide. Our guides are trained to Basic Expedition Leader standard and are qualified First Aiders with full insurance cover as required by the British Sports Council.

**A Cream Tea Gower Tour**, by coach, is also available for groups. A fully qualified guide will accompany the visitors, on their own coach, to point out the highlights of Gower: from the heights of Cefn Bryn and the historic "Arthur's Stone" to the breath-taking

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beauty of Rhossili beach and the Worm's Head, returning to the Gower Heritage Centre for a traditional Cream Tea.

## 5. Extra Activities

**Pottery** Our resident potter will help members of your group to "throw their own pot" (for small groups) or make clay models. These can be taken home on the day.

**Woodturning** Your group can learn all about woodturning and chat to our resident woodturner who will be happy to answer any questions.

**Blacksmithing** Your group can learn about the importance of the smith in traditional society and watch our blacksmith fire up the forge and make metal items.

**Youth Groups & Schools** There are a variety of other activities and workshops which are designed for younger visitors. Please contact us for one of our specialised information packs.

**Breadmaking** Take part in a hands on breadmaking experience where you will learn all about how flour is made, before making your very own bread with our resident baker using flour ground here at the mill!



**Our most popular option chosen by coach parties –  
'Scenic Gower Coach Tour'**

### Scenic Coach Tours of Gower Peninsula

In 1956 The Gower Peninsula near Swansea in South Wales was the first area in the UK to be declared by the UK Government as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty or AONB. The result of this declaration has meant that the Peninsula has enjoyed special protection of its wonderful landscape so that visitors can enjoy all its pristine glory from golden beaches to soaring cliffs with green woodlands and gentle hills.

For coach tours we would suggest the following itinerary:-

Your coach will arrive approx 10 am for a Guided Tour of the 12<sup>th</sup> Century water mill at the Gower Heritage Centre with an option to have a Cream Tea of Scones, Clotted Cream and Jam followed by a guided Coach Tour of Gower.

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- **Guided tour of the mill** – guests will be greeted at the entrance by your guide, who will direct the group to the Water Wheel to begin the tour, which will take between **half an hour and 45 minutes**. It will take you all round the water-powered corn mill and saw mill, into the Miller's cottage and Blacksmith's shop, and include the history of the Mill and descriptions of milling, wood-turning and blacksmithing. There are plenty of chances to ask and answer questions. The tour also takes in the coracle display area. Following the tour, your group will want to investigate the rest of the site. As well as the traditional crafts and shops, there is a collection of rare breeds of poultry and ducks. The Centre is also home to **La Charrette** the smallest cinema in Wales. If you are a large group then you may be split into smaller groups with a guide for each one.
- Suggested other attractions at the Heritage Centre - **the "Eggucation Centre"**, there are often tiny chicks that have just hatched. The **Woollen Mill** has working looms, other equipment and a demonstration can be given about spinning and weaving. There is an impressive collection of old farming machinery, with some machine regularly put to work. Older visitors may be taken back in time if they visit the air raid shelter, and war time shop with a collection of wartime memorabilia.
- **Cream tea in the Tea Rooms** – this will comprise of a scone served with clotted cream, jam, Bara Brith, Welsh Cake served with tea or coffee. Our Tea Rooms can accommodate up to 60 guests. After your Cream Tea your coach will depart for a coach tour of Gower alternatively your group could purchase a light snack from the Tearooms and then have a cream tea after the guided coach tour.
- **Coach tour of Gower Peninsula incorporating the UNESCO accredited Rhossili Bay**- a fully qualified guide (this will be the same guide throughout the visit) will accompany the visitors, on their own coach for approximately **2 hours**, to point out the highlights of Gower: from the heights of Cefn Bryn and the historic "Arthur's Stone" to the breath-taking beauty of Rhossili beach and the Worm's Head. Rhossili Bay has been voted the top beach in the UK and in the top ten of the world.
- The coach tour **starts and ends** at the Heritage Centre - Rhossili Bay and areas around Gower will be covered and the guide will give a commentary on the coach as it drives around the scenic view points. The tour will predominately take place on the coach. Depending on weather conditions, the guide will stop off at suitable points for guests to walk or take in views. If you have more active group then we can advise and organise longer walks to take in more of the views and other places of interest. On a typical coach tour we will take the South Gower road towards Rhossili. This road was created in the 1890's to facilitate bus travel to Gower originally using open top buses to take visitors to the scenic bays. The route was made famous by the Swansea born poet Dylan Thomas who would often travel on the buses in his youth on camping trips and to stay at Worms Head in Rhossili where a number of his poems and short stories were composed.

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Along the route we will get views of the iconic Three Cliffs Bay and the open moorland and

hills of Gower known as Cefn Bryn. The road also passes the larger beach of Oxwich with views of the ancient Penrice estate and Castle with its castellated lodges and interesting outbuildings. Next we pass through the villages of Knelston and then Scurloge where the guide will point out developments that occurred during the Second World War when large contingents of armed forces were based in Gower training for the Normandy Landings.

As we approach Rhossili we will get views of Rhossili Downs which has a number of ancient burial chambers one reputed to that of Sweyne the Viking Warrior who raided the coast line of Wales in the 9<sup>th</sup> Century but eventually settled in Britain to control large areas of the Kingdom. He is reputed to have formed the originally settlement called Sweynes Eye ( meaning Sweynes trading place) which today is the modern city of Swansea set on the gateway to Gower.

In Rhossili we get views of the breathtaking beach and also of Worms Head a large outcrop of rock jutting out from the Headland. This famous landmark was called Worms Head by the early Viking settlers as Worm means a serpents Head in Nordic and the rock structure does resemble the shape of some great sea monster rearing up from the sea. On stormy days the waves crash through a blow hole in the rocks on worms head as it seems that the "serpent" is blowing out smoke! There is a national Trust shop and viewing gallery at Rhossili and by special arrangement we have reserved parking spaces for the coach in the carpark so that everyone can take the sort walk to the viewing area on the headland where you can see the full expanse of the beach with its 3miles of golden sand and soaring cliffs. You will be able to see why this has been voted the best beach in Britain and one of the top ten in the world.

On the return journey the Guide will point out other interesting landmark buildings such as the series of small Chapels built in Gower in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century by the evangelical Lady Barham a wealthy heiress who did much to promote the virtues of education and christian lifestyles to the local population. If there is time there will be an option to take the coach to the top of Cefn Bryn for a view of the neolithic monument called Arthurs Stone. This was reputed to have been placed in position by King Arthur throwing it on to Gower - although it weighs over 40 tonnes. More likely it was placed in position by our Neolithic ancestors as part of an elaborate burial site.

- The guide will also advise on rest breaks (*toilet stops and lunch/refreshment breaks*) and the best route for the coach to take and access suitable stopping places, coach parks and turning areas to ensure a smooth drive around the Peninsula.

## 6. Booking Prices

Please telephone the Heritage Centre on 01792 371206 to check availability on your chosen date. We will confirm with you the overall price for your chosen option.

**Group Prices 2020 are as follows per person:**

Entry & Guided Tour of the Centre	<b>£6.00</b>
Seniors	<b>£5.50</b>
Coach Tour of Gower or Guided Walk	from <b>£7.00</b>
One Tour plus workshop	<b>£7.50</b>
Any Tour plus Cream Tea or Cawl*	<b>£10.95</b>
(*Cawl: Traditional Welsh lamb broth) includes tea or coffee	

## 7. Familiarisation Trips

Please enjoy a free visit to the Gower Heritage Centre. Just call us today and book a planning visit.



Pennard Castle



Rhosilli

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