

Pre-Conference Visit Options – Friday 19th April 2024

We have not arranged any group visits around the 2024 conference because some places are free, others have reduced or free entry for National Trust, CADW or English Heritage members (which itself would complicate trying to book a group rate visit), some group rates offer little saving and not all venues offered a guided group tour.

There are however a number of visit options some of which we detail below. Please check opening times and ticket options before visiting.

Please note that if you have held English or Scottish Heritage membership for more than a year this gives you free entry into CADW properties. And if you take out CADW membership (which is cheaper than English Heritage) this includes 50% discount on English Heritage property entry in year 1 then free entry from year 2 onwards (I have maintained my CADW membership from when I worked in Cardiff 1996-2000)

Places to visit in or near Newport

If you are spending time in Newport before or after the Conference, you may find the following of interest:

Tredegar House Newport (National Trust)

Set in beautiful 90 acre park Tredegar House is probably the best 17th century Charles II mansion in Britain, and a thoroughly pleasant place to spend a day, exploring the red-brick house, its gardens and parkland.

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/wales/tredegar-house>

Caerleon

Wales was one of the farthest-flung outposts of the Roman Empire, and in AD75 the Romans built a fortress at Caerleon, a few miles from Newport, that would guard the region for over 200 years.

Roman Fortress and Baths (CADW)

<https://cadw.gov.wales/visit/places-to-visit/caerleon-roman-fortress-and-baths>

Roman Amphitheatre (CADW)

<https://cadw.gov.wales/visit/places-to-visit/caerleon-amphitheatre>

National Roman Legion Museum (Amgueddfa Cymru – Museum Wales)

<https://museum.wales/roman/>

Newport Museum and Art Gallery Newport (Amgueddfa Cymru – Museum Wales)

Explore Newport's history and discover the story of Newport's geological, archaeological and historical development. The Art Gallery is dedicated to the display of oil paintings and changing exhibitions of a variety of media and themes.

<https://www.newport.gov.uk/heritage/en/Museum-Art-Gallery/Museum-Art-Gallery.aspx>

Big Pit National Coal Museum Pontypool (Amgueddfa Cymru – Museum Wales)

Big Pit is a real coal mine and one of Britain's leading mining museums. Enjoy a multi-media tour of a modern coal mine with a virtual miner in the Mining Galleries, exhibitions in the Pithead Baths and Historic colliery buildings.

<https://museum.wales/bigpit/>

St Fagans National Museum of History Cardiff (Amgueddfa Cymru - Museum Wales)

An open-air museum in Cardiff chronicling the historical lifestyle, culture, and architecture of the Welsh people.

<https://museum.wales/stfagans/>

Castell Coch Tongwynlais, Cardiff (CADW)

The 'Red Castle', rises up from the ancient beech woods of Fforest Fawr like a vision from a fairy tale but it's no exotic folly and underneath the mock-medieval trappings you can still trace the impressive remains of a 13th-century castle, once used as a hunting lodge by the ruthless Marcher lord Gilbert de Clare.

<https://cadw.gov.wales/visit/places-to-visit/castell-coch>

Tintern Abbey Tintern (CADW)

Founded in 1131 by Cistercian monks, who were happy to make do with timber buildings at first, Tintern Abbey is a national icon — still standing in roofless splendour on the banks of the River Wye nearly 500 years since its tragic fall from grace.

<https://cadw.gov.wales/visit/places-to-visit/tintern-abbey>

Other attractions

For ideas of other places to visit, go to

<https://www.visitwales.com/destinations/south-wales/things-do-newport>

<https://www.visitwales.com/inspire-me/city-breaks/how-explore-cardiff-24-hours>

<https://www.visitwales.com>