



## itinerary

### Explore the Vale of Rheidol

Explore this hidden gem. Legends of the Devil's Bridge, Electricity in the Making, Free Flying Butterflies, all reached by the Steam Train that started using the line in 1902 !

#### Morning

Start your day in Aberystwyth on the Vale of Rheidol Railway. Travelling on the Vale of Rheidol Railway is the finest way to see the stunning Rheidol Valley. Opened in 1902, the railway has been delighting passengers young and old for over a century. From the comfort of your carriage watch the scenery passing by. See the countryside change as you travel through wide open fields, woodland and rugged mountain scenery, the line twisting and turning as it clings to the hillside. Listen to the sound of a powerful narrow gauge steam locomotive working hard to climb 700ft (200m) in the 11 ¾ miles from Aberystwyth to Devil's Bridge. Arrive in Devil's Bridge and you will have time to explore the village and the famous Devil's Bridge Waterfalls. These unique waterfalls have attracted many thousands of visitors since the 18th century, including William Wordsworth who wrote about the "Torrent at the Devil's Bridge".



Vale of Rheidol Railway



Devil's Bridge / Pontarfynach



Waterfalls at Devil's Bridge Waterfalls

#### Lunch

Opposite the Rheidol Steam Railway station, you will find Y Caban - a fully licensed, family run restaurant, bistro and gift shop or visit The Hafod Hotel. Alternatively you can pick up the Railway for one stop down the line to Rheidol Falls and a walk through the woods to the Cwm Rheidol Power Station & Visitor Centre for lunch.



Visitor Centre and Cafe at Cwm Rheidol Power Station

#### Afternoon

If you have enjoyed a lunch in Devil's Bridge village you can now pick up the Railway for one stop down the line to Rheidol Falls and a walk through the woods to the Cwm Rheidol Power Station & Visitor Centre. Free tours of the Power Station run hourly and give a fascinating insight into both the history and the current use of the plant and it is only a 10 minute walk to the Visitor Centre for a restorative cuppa ! Have a look around the display and a short film about the building. Next door are the promised butterflies! Neil is a real enthusiast and will happily talk to you about the different species flying around your head! A short stroll and you can pick up the train at Aberffrw'd Halt puffing its way back to Aberystwyth and end the day with a stroll along the promenade.



Cwm Rheidol Power Station



Magic of Life Butterfly House

## Morning: Vale of Rheidol Railway



### Address

Park Avenue

Aberystwyth  
Ceredigion  
SY23 1PG

### Contact Details

Tel: 01970 625819

From the coast at Aberystwyth, watch the scenery passing by your window. See the countryside change as you travel through wide open fields, ancient woodland and rugged mountain scenery as the line twists and turns, clinging to the hillside to reach Devil's Bridge - home of the famous Mynach Falls and Devil's Punchbowl. Look out for birds of prey such as red kites and buzzards soaring high above the valley floor and listen to the sound of the narrow gauge steam engine working hard on the climb into the hills. Opened in 1902, the railway is a masterpiece of engineering and has been delighting passengers young and old for generations. Although the line no longer carries lead ore from the mines it has been carrying holidaymakers to the beauty spot of Devil's Bridge for over a hundred years! The 12 mile journey takes 1 hour in each direction. See timetables for departure times. For further information visit: [www.rheidolrailway.co.uk](http://www.rheidolrailway.co.uk)

### Directions

By Public Transport:

The Vale of Rheidol Railway is located in the centre of Aberystwyth and is a short walk from the mainline railway and bus stations.

By Road:

Rheidol railway has a large car park off Park Avenue / Boulevard St Brieuc between the Park & Ride site and Co-operative Supermarket. SAT NAV Postcode SY23 1PG

Please note that if you start your journey at Devil's Bridge, car parking adjacent to the station platform. SAT NAV: SY23 3JL

### Prices and opening

A variety of Single and Return journeys are available.

Tickets also available to intermediate halts: Llanbadarn, Glanyrafon, Capel Bangor, Nantyrnonen, Aberffrw, Rheidol Falls and Rhiwfron.

## Morning: Devil's Bridge / Pontarfynach



### Address

Ceredigion

Wales

### Contact Details

Tel: 01970 612125

The village of Devil's Bridge, which translated in Welsh is Pontarfynach, means 'The bridge on the Mynach'. The village is situated at the head of the Rheidol Valley amidst the Plynlimon hill range in the heart of the Cambrian Mountains, it is internationally famous for its waterfalls and Narrow Gauge Steam Railway. Two rushing streams - the Mynach and Rheidol descend dramatically into a gorge below the village where over time three different bridges have been built, one on top of the other. Visitors can enjoy several footpaths and walks to view the bridges and waterfalls. The bridge is at a point where the River Mynach drops 90 metres (300 ft) in 5 steps[1] down a steep and narrow ravine before it meets the River Rheidol. The set of stone steps leading down to the lowest bridge at the waterfall are known as Jacob's Ladder. Devil's Bridge has its own railway station on the historic narrow-gauge Vale of Rheidol Railway, which opened between Aberystwyth and Devil's Bridge in 1902. For further information visit: [www.visitmidwales.co.uk](http://www.visitmidwales.co.uk)

### Directions

Devils bridge is located on the A4120 (Aberystwyth - Ponterwyd) road. It is in close proximity to the A44 (from the east) and the A487 coast road at Aberystwyth.

The nearest Mainline railway station is at Aberystwyth, however the Vale of Rheidol narrow gauge railway terminates in Devils bridge.

[www.traveline-cymru.info](http://www.traveline-cymru.info)

### Prices and opening

Open all the time.

## Morning: Waterfalls at Devil's Bridge Waterfalls



### Address

Devils Bridge

Aberystwyth  
Ceredigion  
SY23 3JW

### Contact Details

Tel: 01970 890233

Take a walk along the Nature trail and see the spectacular 300ft waterfalls and the view of the 3 bridges, built one on top of the other, which span the breathtaking woodland gorge. Follow in the footsteps of the monks of past, along the path and descend Jacobs Ladder (100 steps). Cross the humped bridge spanning over the Mynach river at the bottom of the waterfalls and begin to ascend the other side of the gorge. Go into Robbers Cave, an old hideout place next to the waterfall. Incorporated along the walk is a free viewing telescope, decking and gazebo with seating. Information boards with local history, u-turn boxes with the legend and history of Devil's Bridge and clips of traditional Welsh harp music. Alternatively, you can choose the easier, short walk to view the 3 bridges and the Devil's Punchbowl. Discover the Legend, of how an old lady and her dog outwitted the Devil. For further information visit: [www.devilsbridgefalls.co.uk](http://www.devilsbridgefalls.co.uk)

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[www.traveline-cymru.info](http://www.traveline-cymru.info)

### Prices and opening

Waterfalls:

Adult £3.50

Child (age 5-16) £2.00

Child under 5 Free

Student £3.00

Senior Citizen £3.00

Group:

Adult £3.00

Senior Citizen £2.00

Student £1.25 - £1.50

Punchbowl:

Per person: £1.00

Open all the time. Open all year by turnstile

Attendant at entrance from 9:45 to 17:00 Easter to end of October

(please note - attendant hours may vary slightly depending on high or low season).

Groups welcome during attendant hours.

### Opening details

Season Dates	Opening Hours
Notes	Open all year by turnstile Attendant at entrance from 9:45 to 17:00 Easter to end of October (please note - attendant hours may vary slightly depending on high or low season). Groups welcome during attendant hours.

## Lunch: Visitor Centre and Cafe at Cwm Rheidol Power Station



### Address

Cwmrheidol  
nr Aberystwyth  
Ceredigion  
SY23 3NF

### Contact Details

Tel: 01970 880667

The Visitor Centre and Cafe includes an interactive display, local films and guided tours of the centre at set times. The cafe offers a choice of light lunches, sandwiches and snacks. For further information visit:  
<http://www.statkraft.com/about-statkraft/visitor-centres/rheidol-visitor-centre.aspx>

### Directions

Turn off the A44 (Aberystwyth -Llangurig road) at Capel Bangor towards Cwm Rheidol. Follow the road 4 miles down the valley.  
The nearest train station is at Aberystwyth, and public transport operates along the A44.

The signposted Rheidol Cycle Trail which begins in Aberystwyth, terminates at Cwm Rheidol.

[www.traveline-cymru.info](http://www.traveline-cymru.info)

### Prices and opening

Free entry

## Afternoon: Cwm Rheidol Power Station



### Address

Cwmrheidol  
nr Aberystwyth  
Ceredigion  
SY23 3NF

### Contact Details

Tel: 01970 880667

The Rheidol Hydro scheme is one of the premier visitor attractions in Mid-Wales and we are happy to welcome visitors who take an interest in our activities. The visitors centre is open daily from 1st May - 30th Sept. Entry into the visitors centre and tours of the station are all free of charge. The Visitors Centre has interactive educational models for the younger generation who want to learn about renewable energy as well as a café for those who want a quiet cup of relaxing tea. The environment is central to our work at Rheidol hydro-electric power station. We work closely with the Environment Agency regarding our operation and the site includes SSSI areas and vast heather beds. Here at Cwm Rheidol we encourage biodiversity at all opportunities including tree felling and landscaping where logs are left in place for wildlife and fencing off wood ant colonies in the forestry behind the station. Rheidol is close to the local Red Kite feeding centre, so kites and buzzards are common in our area. Our Rheidol windfarm is adjacent to the feeding area and demonstrates the successful harmonisation of wind turbines and birds. We have bat colonies in our store and visitors centre buildings which have been refurbished with due consideration of the preservation of the bats. We also have many wild birds around the power station locations and have set up boxes for barn owls and have many other small birds that nest on site, including swallows and wagtails. At one of our abstraction points at Llywernog, where there is a dammed pool and river, there is a population of water voles and we are working with the Environment Agency to ensure that our operation has a positive effect on the colony. The River Rheidol is an integral part of the Rheidol hydro-electric scheme and also a breeding area for salmon and trout. The fish originally had to pass Trotter's Falls to reach their spawning grounds but when the Falls were replaced by a new dam, weir and bridge at Felin Newydd we included/constructed a special 'fish lift' to allow the fish to reach their old spawning grounds. Upstream of the power station a 'fish ladder' was cut into the rock to bypass the Rheidol Falls and thus opened up new spawning grounds to the fish. The fish ladder rises 6 metres and has 14 pools. Brown and rainbow trout are reared at Cwm Rheidol in specially constructed tanks alongside the power station. These fish are put into Dinas Reservoir. This provides anglers with a put-and-take fishing facility. Some of the brown trout are also stocked into Cwm Rheidol and Nant-y-Moch Reservoirs, to help support the indigenous population. For further information visit: <http://www.statkraft.com/about-statkraft/visitor-centres/rheidol-visitor-centre.aspx>

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[www.traveline-cymru.info](http://www.traveline-cymru.info)

### Prices and opening

Free entry

### Opening details

Season Dates	Opening Hours
Notes	Open Easter Bank Holiday weekend, then from 1st May - 30th September from 10.30 - 16.15. Station Tours run from 11.00 - 15.30

## Afternoon: Magic of Life Butterfly House



### Address

Cwmrheidol  
Aberystwyth  
Ceredigion  
SY23 3NB

### Contact Details

Tel: 01970 880928

Come and see some of the largest and most colourful butterflies in the world! We exhibit species from all over the tropics. Our pupae are farmed sustainably in the tropics. They are put in an incubator where they emerge the next week. Many of the butterflies have natural lives of only a week meaning that have hundreds of pupae each season. In any one season, we display up to 70 different species of butterflies. Each month we rear a number of giant caterpillars. These often belong to the silkmoth family and they eat prodigious amounts of foliage. The lush tropical conditions allow many rare and exotic plants to thrive. We display many species of Passion flowers, Bananas, Birthworts and Cannas. Many of the moths we display rival the butterflies for their beauty. Our reception room has many different types of insects from beetles to praying mantids and giant stick insects. Our wildlife garden has many varieties of plants specifically for butterflies. We have recorded over 26 species of native butterflies in the garden. The day out provides a hand-on learning experience for all ages. The stunning Rheidol Valley is a hidden gem. Waterfalls, walks and woodlands are located close to the butterfly house. For further information visit: [www.magicoflife.org](http://www.magicoflife.org)

### Directions

From the A44 at Capel Bangor, take the road signposted 'Cwmrheidol'. Passing the church on the immediate right, follow the valley road up for 3.5 miles and we are on the left next to the Cwm Rheidol Power Station Visitor Centre.

The nearest train station is at Aberystwyth, and public transport operates along the A44.

The signposted Rheidol Cycle Trail which begins in Aberystwyth, terminates at Cwm Rheidol.

[www.traveline-cymru.info](http://www.traveline-cymru.info)

### Prices and opening

Adults: £6.50

Concessions: £5.50

Under 16s: £4.00

Under 3s free

10% Discount for groups of six and above

Open all the time. Open daily from 10:00 - 17:00 March to November (closing at 16:00 in October)

### Opening details

Season Dates	Opening Hours
Notes	Open daily from 10:00 - 17:00 March to November (closing at 16:00 in October)