

Gilfach Farm Holiday Accommodation



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Eco Friendly

Our Nearest...

Gilfach Farm Holiday Accommodation



Welcome

Gilfach is an upland hill farm with sixty acres of diverse pasture, woodland and undergrowth. It is lightly farmed and is currently home to five horses, six ouessant sheep, chickens, ducks and our Brecon Buff goose.

Gilfach is also home to myself (Hugh), my daughter and 5 year old grandson. We have a Chocolate Labrador, Oscar, and a Cocker Spaniel, Poppy. The dogs are very friendly and enjoy the company of guests of all ages. Not to be forgotten is Fluffy the cat.

In recent years the farm has diversified to provide five beautiful individual self-catering accommodations including the Barn Cottage, Barn Loft, Log Cabin, Shepherds Hut and during the summer months the Bell Tent.

We hope you enjoy your stay with us!



Hugh lives in the farmhouse and can usually be found somewhere on the yard. If you need any help please call him on his mobile.

- Mobile: 07770 851299
- Email: hugh@mip.co.uk



You may also see **Tania** who works flexible hours 10-2pm Mon - Fri and does the house keeping - cleaning, ironing and laundry (she's a star!)

Please let us know if anything is not as it should be - your feedback is greatly appreciated so that we have the opportunity to take corrective action. Thank you!

Gilfach Farm Holiday Accommodation



Safety First!

We really hope you have a wonderful stay with us and we encourage you to explore our beautiful piece of Welsh countryside. We have woods, views, streams and an abundance of flora and fauna.

However it is paramount that all our guests and visitors remain safe. We therefore ask you to;

- ★ Be aware that we are a working family farm. Please do not enter the barns/stables
- ★ Please keep your dog(s) on a lead at all times whilst on the yard and never leave your dog(s) outside unattended. Horses will kick a dog if it gets too close
- ★ Note that the yard can become unexpectedly busy at times with livestock, vehicles and visiting neighbours on horseback
- ★ Please do not allow young children to roam without supervision. In particular do not allow children to walk into the fields to stroke the horses or play on/around the machinery in the yard and barns. This can be extremely dangerous
- ★ Do give all our horses a wide berth. If they do come up to you whilst walking be extremely mindful that they can bite at one end and kick at the other! Generally our livestock are placid but there's no way of knowing when they're having a bad day. Always give them space and NEVER feed them
- ★ And lastly, please be aware that the swings and slide (and other play equipment) in the vegetable garden are private for family use only

With these points in mind we hope you have a safe and pleasant stay!

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Quirks of Note

Every accommodation is a little bit different so to help you get the most out of your stay with us in our Shepherds Hut we would like to mention;

- There are a couple of folding chairs for you which are stored in the cupboard under your bed. You can use these indoors and out
- The TV can stream video from the internet. Use the coloured button in the centre of the control
- The kitchen hob is induction, so you will not feel any heat come from it until a pan is placed on it
- There is a green trolley parked under the shepherds hut (to keep it dry), please feel free to use this to ferry your belongings to and from your car
- Charcoal for your BBQ on the patio is provided in a black crate under the shepherds hut. The eco firelighters provided for the log burner are also effective at lighting the BBQ. Insulated BBQ gloves are stored in the cupboard under the sink

Enjoy!

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Bedding

We hope that you have the best night's sleep whilst staying with us so we've put a lot of thought into your bedding;

- All your beds have [Baavet Natural Wool Duvets](#) made in Britain using 100% British wool!



Baavet wool duvets are made using the finest natural materials, 100% British wool fillings and 100% pure cotton casings. The natural antibacterial properties of wool, along with its inherent ability to regulate both temperature and moisture, create the best possible conditions for a healthy natural night's sleep. No chemicals, no fire retardants, no man-made fibres.

- There are luxury mattress toppers from John Lewis on top of your luxury pocket sprung mattresses for an extra bit of squish!
- We provide two different pillow types on your beds;
 - 100% feather fill (which are suitable for house dust mite allergy sufferers)
 - 100% polyester fill
- All duvet covers and pillowcases are 100% cotton and are freshly washed in non-biological detergent

Sleep well!

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Heating

The Shepherds Hut is a self contained unit and so has its own heating supply - electric underfloor heating!

- The underfloor heating can be adjusted using the thermostat control to the left hand side of the shower room door. We recommend a temperature of 22C
- If you would like additional heat please use the log burner. If you need any more logs please let us know
- Even though the heating is electric, rest assured it is still eco - our farm is supplied by [Octopus Energy](#) – who supplies us (and all its other customers) with 100% green electricity

The Biomass Boiler

When going into the main barn you may notice the biomass boiler. The boiler is run on solid wood fuel which we harvest ourselves from our larch woodland on the hill. It is as local and home grown as you can get! This boiler supplies the entirety of the heating to the rest of the farm and accomodations.



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Water

We are very lucky at Gilfach Farm to have our own water supply coming from a natural spring on the hill!

As much as we love our water, for our guests peace of mind the spring water is tested by the Environmental Health department from the local county council on a yearly basis to ensure its safety.



We usually have a plentiful supply of water (all that Welsh rain!) however in the summer during a heat wave the supply can run low. We ask that you are always considerate of your water use but especially during these times;

- **Turn off the tap when you brush your teeth** – this can save 6 litres of water per minute
- **Take a shorter shower.** Showers can use anything between 6 and 45 litres per minute
- **Fill a jug with tap water and place this in your fridge.** This will mean you do not have to leave the cold tap running for the water to run cold before you fill your glass

If you'd like some water saving tips and inspiration for when you're back home the Eden Project have a helpful page -

<https://www.edenproject.com/learn/for-everyone/water-saving-tips>

and Dwr Cymru/Welsh Water also has water efficiency tips and advice -

<https://www.dwrcymru.com/en/My-Water/Water-Efficiency.aspx>

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Recycling

We make a huge effort on the farm to recycle as much as we can. In fact we have a whole room dedicated to it. We can recycle almost anything as long as it's not contaminated (even film from packaging). In order to help us;

- Please rinse/wash/clean all of your recycling - this is vital. If the recycling is not clean the council will not collect it (and it will smell and attract vermin)
- All your recyclable materials can be collected in the same bin (the white crate in the right hand kitchen cupboard)
- All food waste (even cooked food and bones) can go into the green caddy provided
- If you have filled your bins you can empty them into the relevant bins in the recycling room - it is behind the black stable door facing the farm entrance gate
- If you do not want to separate your recycling (there is an information board to help you with this) just tip your CLEAN recycling into the designated bin (blue/green crate next to the stable door) and we'll sort it out for you! Yup, we really are that committed!



Gilfach Farm Holiday Accommodation



Free WiFi

All of the holiday accommodations on the farm have access to our superfast broadband (30Mb/s), it should be ample for all your needs including streaming video. To access the shepherds hut wifi select;

- Network: GilfachWifi
- Password: gilfachfarm



This superfast broadband connection has been made possible through the provider Dyfed IT and a community scheme in our valley where each farm has a wifi link that bounces the broadband to the next farm up the valley.

Please contact Hugh if you have any problems with your connection.

Gilfach Farm Holiday Accommodation



Log Burner

All log burners have their own little quirks, so to get the best out of this one we have put together some instructions for you;

To light:

- Leave the ash in the grate
- Make a hole through the ash in the center of the grate
- Ensure that any ash that might be in the ash pan is not blocking the hole
- Place a lighted fire lighter (provided in the bowl) over the hole in the ash
- Place three or four logs (provided in the basket) aligned front to back over the firelighter
- Open the bottom spin wheel vent completely
- Open the top vent using the slider
- Close the door - **the log burner must always be operated with the door closed**, please do not leave open



When the fire is burning well:

- Close the bottom spin wheel vent completely - otherwise all the heat just goes up the chimney!
- Use the top vent to control the fire

If the ash is cleared from the grate, too much air is directed around the logs and lighting is more difficult.

When logs burn well, there is practically no ash left behind. Ash rarely needs to be removed from the log burner.

The top vent directs airflow down the inside face of the glass and prevents it from sooting up. The airflow is then directed into the base of the fire.

The fire lighters provided are eco lighters made from timber shavings, natural resin and wax. We find them to be an effective eco alternative to the classic white paraffin tablets.

Gilfach Farm Holiday Accommodation



Fire Precautions

There is a fire detector installed above the entrance door or the shepherds hut. Please take note of the following for your safety;

- Please do not smoke in any of the buildings
- Note where fire extinguishers and fire blankets are located
- In case of a fire the fire detector will sound an alarm
- It is NOT connected to the emergency services. Dial 999 if assistance is required
 - What3Words - [///gardens.surveyors.orbited](https://www.what3words.com/?q=///gardens.surveyors.orbited)
 - Grid Reference - SN898302
- If the log burner accidentally activates this detector please open/doors windows till the smoke clears. The alarm should then stop



Gilfach Farm Holiday Accommodation



Tourist Information

We have gathered together for you some maps, books and leaflets which we hope will be of interest to you and give you ideas for your stay with us. You will be able to find them on the shelf next to the bed;

Maps

- OS Explorer - OL12 Brecon Beacons Western area
- OS Explorer - OL13 Brecon Beacons Eastern area
- OS Landranger - Brecon Beacons
- OS Tour - South & Mid Wales
- OS AZ Adventure - Brecon Beacons West



Books

- Walking on the Brecon Beacons - 45 Circular Walks in the National Park (Andrew Davies and David Whittaker)
- Enjoying the Brecon Beacons National Park (Roly Smith)
- Portrait of the Brecon Beacons (Tom Hutton)

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Oscar and Poppy

Oscar (the chocolate labrador) and Poppy (the black cocker spaniel) are both very friendly and Oscar in particular really loves our guests. For their own health and happiness;

- **Please don't feed them** (especially Oscar, he's really perfected those feed me eyes!) – we have to watch their weight carefully – all those just a bit here and just a bit there really add up
- **Please don't keep them in overnight** - they have a dog flap in the farmhouse door so they can always get back in and we miss them
- They love to go on walks around the farm (again especially Oscar) and they will like to accompany you – but please don't take them onto the road
- If you find their attention unwelcome – please let us know and we will ensure they do not bother you



Gilfach Farm Holiday Accommodation



Guest Dogs

Dogs (and other animals!) are all very welcome in any of our accommodations at Gilfach and we hope they enjoy our farm as much as you do.

Facilities available for your four legged companions;

- We have a wash stand outside the horse barn where you can wash down your dog(s) after a muddy walk
- Dog towels are available in the main barn next to the boot racks
- You and your dog(s) are welcome to explore the whole of the farm (just be mindful of the livestock - see Walking around the farm)
- There is a stream at the bottom of the farm that dogs particularly like playing in!

Very im-paw-tant;

- Please ask your dog not to sleep on beds for people or sofas!
- **Do not let your dog roam the yard unattended.** For your own safety and for the welfare of the animals (and other guests) please keep your dog on a lead
- Everyone knows how unpleasant dog mess is and it can cause infections, so **please clean up after your dog** - bagged mess can be deposited in the large green wheelie bin in the recycling room (right of the door)



Gilfach Farm Holiday Accommodation



Walking around the farm - guest dogs

We encourage you and your four legged friends to explore our farm but to ensure your dog does not disturb wildlife, farm animals, horses or other people it is important to keep your dog supervised, please;

- Keep your dog on a lead, or
- Keep it in sight at all times, be aware of what it's doing and be confident it will return to you promptly on command
- However, if cattle or horses chase you and your dog, it is safer to let your dog off the lead – don't risk getting hurt by trying to protect it. Your dog will be much safer if you let it run away from a farm animal in these circumstances and so will you

For complete guidance on the Countryside Code and Dog Walking please see information provided by Natural Resources Wales -

<https://naturalresources.wales/days-out/the-countryside-codes/?lang=en>

Local “Dog Furiendly” establishments

These local dog friendly establishments are listed on the very helpful website <https://dogfriendly.com/>;

[Brecon Cathedral](#)

This Cathedral is over 1,000 years old! Think of all that history your dog will be able to sniff out. Entry is free.

[Brecon Mountain Railway](#)

Choo choo! Hop on board this dog friendly train and bask in the views of the Brecon Beacons. There is a charge for your pooch though, a dog's ticket costs £2.50.

[Brecon Tap](#)

Nice dog friendly bar serving simple food such as; sandwiches, pies and the like (lunchtime and evening meals) in Brecon town center.

[Coffee #1](#)

Lovely dog friendly cafe in the heart of Brecon town. They even make puppachino's! Dogs only allowed on first floor cafe – but plenty of room here.



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[Hills](#)

This family run burger restaurant just outside Brecon welcomes a flurry of customers and their furry four legged friends. Dogs are welcome inside but there are also tables outside if you'd like to enjoy the sun admiring the stunning view. Water is provided and the staff make time to come and give a fuss.

If you come across any other dog friendly places during your stay please add them below to help future guests, thanks you!...

Gilfach Farm Holiday Accommodation



The BBQ Hut

In the main garden we have a beautiful BBQ Hut of which guests are welcome to use. With great views of the garden and down the valley, it is a lovely spot to cook up a barbie, or anything else for that matter. Available every day, any time of the year, whatever the weather - even in winter it soon warms up inside and we have installed lighting too for when the nights start drawing in.

- 🔥 **Free to use!** If you would like to use the BBQ hut please tell us so we can reserve it for you. Please understand that we only allow one guest booking per day so that we have time to clean between use
- 🔥 Inside the BBQ Hut we have supplied you with BBQ utensils and some plates, cups and cutlery
- 🔥 We suggest guests bring their own charcoal for the BBQ however a bucket of charcoal can be purchased on the farm if needed (£5)
- 🔥 When lighting the BBQ we recommend you fill the BBQ no more than half full so you don't become too hot
- 🔥 The hut has electric lighting inside - the black dimmer switch is up on the shelf on the right hand side of the doors as you go in
- 🔥 Enjoy!



Gilfach Farm Holiday Accommodation



Walking on the farm

We hope that you get to explore the farm. You are welcome to follow two footpaths that we have waymarked.

The orange waymarkers show the way for the “Farm Walk” which takes you up the farm through the forestry to the top of our hill where there are some terrific views.

The blue waymarkers show the way for the “Circular Walk” which takes you in a loop along the farm track, down over the stream and up again to meet the lane which then leads you back to our yard.

Before you set off please be aware;

- The farm tracks can be very muddy and slippery in wet weather, we suggest sturdy footwear
- Please ensure that your dog(s) stay away from livestock at all times
- Do not walk up to the horses - they can kick at one end and bite at the other
- Please leave all gates as you find them - open or shut

Our dog Oscar (the Chocolate Labrador) often likes to walk with our guests, he is welcome to accompany you but please do not leave the farm with him without asking first.

If Poppy (the black Cocker Spaniel) wants to walk too that is ok, but she usually turns back after a short distance to go back home. Please don't prevent her if she wants to go back, she will find her way.

Directions for the walks are on the following page.

Please note - there are no public footpaths on the hill opposite the farm.

Gilfach Farm Holiday Accommodation



Farm Walk directions

(Follow the Orange Waymarkers)

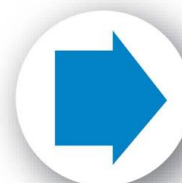
- Starting in the yard take the main farm track at the top of the yard and go left - behind the farmhouse and below the polytunnel
- Following the track up the hill, go through the metal gate (which crosses the track by the field shelter) and immediately turn right
- Follow the track up to, and walk through, the forestry. At the end of the forestry turn left and walk directly up to reach the fence line at the top of the hill. Enjoy the view!
- You can then follow the fence line (to the left) along the top of the hill and back down, where at the bottom you will join back onto the track
- Turn left onto the track and follow the track down, going through the gate again and back to the yard



Circular Walk directions

(Follow the Blue Waymarkers)

- Starting in the yard take the main track at the top of the yard and go right - behind the log cabin
- Follow the track along and down (turning right before you go through the gate way) to the stream
- At the bottom of the track there is a footbridge. Please note that this is the boundary of our farm and that you will be continuing on a public right of way.
- Cross the footbridge and continue to follow the track which will open on to our neighbours yard. We please ask that you are considerate of our neighbours and proceed through their yard to the right quietly and ensure that your dogs are well behaved
- You will come to the lane on your right. Follow the lane (back towards the farm) until you reach the entrance of our farm on your right where you can walk up our track back to the yard



Gilfach Farm Holiday Accommodation



Laundry Room

We have a laundry room inside the main barn which you are welcome to use.

When facing the cottage go through the large black double doors to the right of the cottage. The laundry room is through the door on the left.

- If you find the machines full, please empty them into a washing basket (there will be plenty in the room) and put it up on a work surface (do not leave on the floor). This will help us keep track of what's clean and what's still to be done!
- To keep energy use down we try to dry as much of our laundry as possible on the line. If the weather is good we have a collapsible line which we put up directly outside the barn doors. Otherwise we use the 4 lines that we've installed in the main barn next to the biomass boiler. Please feel free to use these

If you have any problems please let us know.



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Muddy Boots/Gear/Bikes and Spare Wellies

Have you been on a really good walk or bike ride and got a bit wet and muddy? Lets face it, it does rain a lot in Wales! We appreciate you may not want to bring these into your lovely accommodations so we have provided some facilities for all your mucky stuff;

Wash off

To get the worst of the muck off your waterproofs/boots/bikes please feel free to use the wash stand in the yard outside the horse stables. We also have a pressure washer available on request.

In the summer when water is low please use the water from the galvanised trough beside the stand instead. **Do not place dirty items in the trough.**

Hang out to dry

In the boiler room there is a rail and hangers for you to hang up all your wet gear and racks for your wellies/walking boots.

Park up your bikes

There are also bike stands in the boiler room for you to lock up your bike during your stay and to keep them out of the rain.

Forgot your wellies?

Coming soon - If you've forgotten your wellies we have a range of sizes available for you to borrow. Please return them to the boiler room after use.

(Please note: all property is left at the owners risk. The management is not responsible for any loss or damage to items left in the boiler room.)

Gilfach Farm Holiday Accommodation



Places to Eat

We are lucky to have a whole host of eating establishments close by. All have a unique character and strengths and weaknesses. Try them all! (Drive timings are according to Google Maps)

Glanusk Cafe, Sennybridge, LD3 8PS (5 mins)

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Glanusk-Cafe/164963030227846>

No need to book

Castle Coaching Inn, Trecastle, LD3 8UH (6 mins)

<http://castle-coaching-inn.co.uk/restaurant-and-bar>

Book a table - 01874 636 354

The Usk & Railway Inn, Sennybridge, LD3 8RS (6 mins)

<https://uskandrailwayinn.com/eat/>

Book a table - 01874 636101

White House Country Inn, Sennybridge, LD3 8RP (7 mins)

<http://www.whitehousecountryinn.co.uk/cuisine.html>

Book a table - 01874 636 396

The Tanners Arms Inn, Defynnog, LD3 8SF (8 mins)

<https://www.tannersarmsinn.co.uk>

Book a table - 01874 638 032

The International Welsh Rarebit Centre, Defynnog, LD3 8SL (8 mins)

<https://www.facebook.com/The-International-Welsh-Rarebit-Centre-1368747573184285/>

Book a table - 01874 636843 (you don't usually need to book here)

The Old Yew Tree, Defynnog, LD3 8SB (9 mins)

<https://www.facebook.com/TheOldYewTree/>

Book a table - 01874 638 200

The Shoemakers Arms, Pentrebach, LD3 8UB (11 mins)

<https://peza32.wixsite.com/shoemakers/menus-1>

Book a table - 01874 636 508

Our personal favourites are; Glanusk Cafe for breakfast, International Welsh Rarebit Centre for lunch and Shoemakers Arms for dinner. Yum!



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Special Occasion Dining

If you would like to go somewhere extra special for a fine dining or award winning experience we suggest the following establishments. They are a bit further to drive but we think it's worth it! As these are celebrated establishments it is essential to book in advance.

Llangoed Hall Hotel

Llyswen, Brecon, LD3 0YP

Menus - <http://www.llangoedhall.co.uk/dining/menus.html>

To make a booking call - 01874 754 525

Felin Fach Griffin

Felin Fach, Brecon, LD3 0UB

Menus - <http://www.felinfachgriffin.co.uk/Eat.aspx>

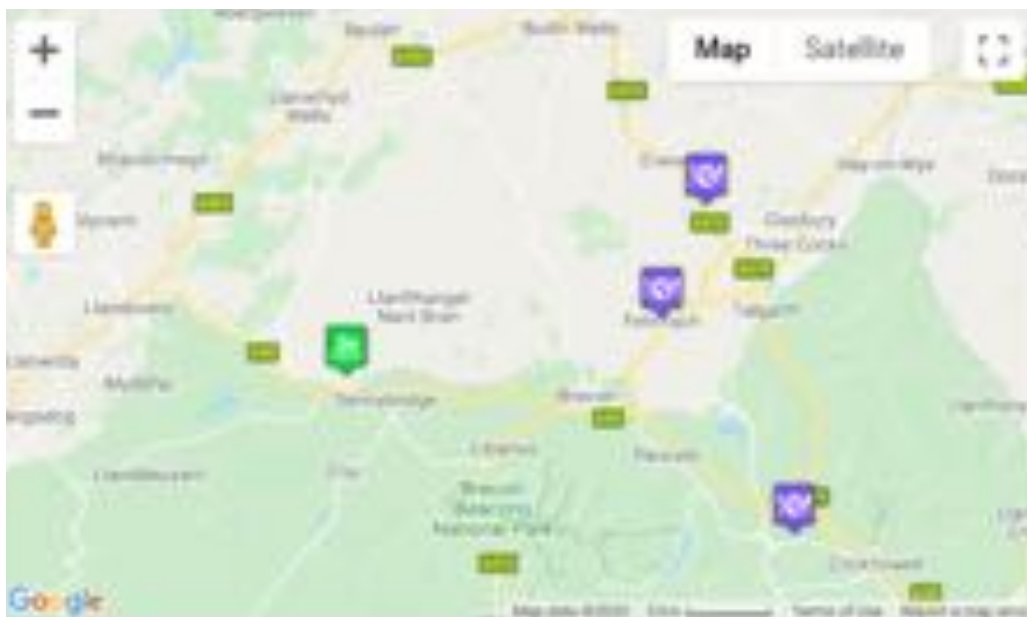
To make a booking call - 01874 620 111

Gliffaes Hotel

Crickhowell, Powys, NP8 1RH

Menu - <https://www.gliffaeshotel.com/food-drink/dinner/>

To make a booking call - 01874 640 258



Gilfach Farm Holiday Accommodation



Gardens to Visit

Walled Garden Treberfydd

Llangasty, Brecon LD3 7PX

<http://www.walledgardentreberfydd.com/>

Beautiful plant nursery, in a large old walled garden, specialising in hardy plants grown in Wales which are structural, unusual, edible, herbal or fragrant.



The Kitchen Garden at Ty Mawr

Llangasty, Brecon LD3 7PJ

<http://www.thekitchengarden.co.uk>

Rae grows a range of annual and perennial vegetables, herbs, fruit, edible flowers and salad ingredients, grown to organic standards in her small walled garden. You are also welcome to visit her beautiful shop located in the converted grade 2* listed building where she supplies her fresh vegetables, sustainable kitchen and garden wares and more.



Aberglasney Gardens

Llangathen, Carmarthenshire SA32 8QH

<http://aberglasney.org/>

Aberglasney was made famous by the BBC television series “A Garden Lost in Time” which followed its restoration. A renowned plantsman’s paradise with a unique Elizabethan cloister garden at its heart, Aberglasney offers the opportunity to explore more than 10 acres of magnificent gardens.



The National Botanic Garden of Wales

Llanarthne, Carmarthenshire SA32 8HN

<https://botanicgarden.wales/>

Here you’ll find an inspiring range of themed gardens, the world’s largest single-span glasshouse, the British Bird of Prey Centre, a tropical Butterfly House, play areas and a national nature reserve, all set in a Regency landscape.



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National Garden Scheme

The National Garden Scheme gives visitors unique access to over 3,700 exceptional private gardens in England and Wales, and raises impressive amounts of money for nursing and health charities through admissions, teas and cake. Use their website www.ngs.org.uk and put in our postcode LD3 8TY along with the dates of your stay with us and you will be able to see which amazing private gardens are open near us during your stay!

Gilfach Farm Holiday Accommodation



Walking and Cycling - Local Routes

We live in a beautiful place with endless opportunities for walking and cycling nearby in the Brecon Beacons and surrounding area. Below are a selection of routes which are all 40 min drive or less from here (Note: drive times and start locations are according to Google Maps).

Always be adventure smart, ask yourself 3 questions before you set off;

- Do I have the right gear?
- Do I know what the weather will be like?
- Am I confident I have the knowledge & skills for the day?

Enjoy!

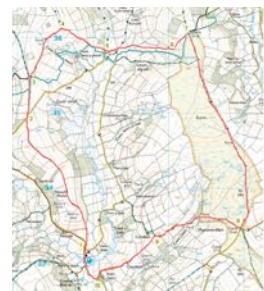


Gilfach Farm to Trallong Common circuit (21km)

Start from the farm

This is an excellent route for taking the eBikes! It can also be walked but be aware that except for the common the rest of the route is on roads.

<https://osmaps.ordnancesurvey.co.uk/route/3347871/Gilfach-to-Trallong-Common>



Epynt Way - Circular route 5 (Pentrebach)

11 min drive to "Shoemakers Arms, Pentre-bach"

This route starts from The Shoemakers Arms (our favourite pub!) just 4 miles from here.

<http://www.epyntway.org/circular-route-5-epynt-way-circular-route-no-5-pentrebach>



Usk Reservoir (5 miles / 8 km)

15 min drive to "Usk Reservoir car parking"

An excellent circular cycling and walking trail around the beautiful Usk Reservoir. It follows good compacted-stone forestry tracks and tarmac roads alongside the waters edge and through the surrounding woodland of the Glasfynydd Forest. There are also splendid views of the surrounding countryside and mountains.

<http://www.gps-routes.co.uk/routes/home.nsf/RoutesLinksCycle/usk-reservoir-walking-and-cycle-route#>

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Fan Hir (7 miles)

19 min drive to "Tarafen-y-Garreg car park"

This seven-mile route across the Black Mountain to Llyn y Fan Fawr in the Brecon Beacons National Park is wild and rugged – take on the path at walking pace, or for a little more excitement, try running the length of the ridge.

<https://www.countryfile.com/go-outdoors/walks/walk-fan-hir-powys/>

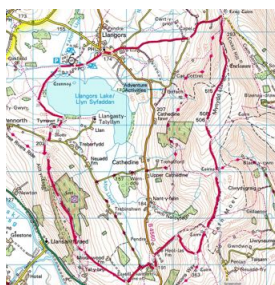


Llyn Cwm Llwhch (3 miles / 5 km)

26 min drive to "Nant Cwm Llwhch car park"

Llyn Cwm Llwhch is the best preserved glacial lake in South Wales. The walk starts at the car park near the lake and involves a steep climb along the Cwm Llwhch river to the beautiful lake. (This walk can also be continued to reach Pen y Fan.)

<http://www.gps-routes.co.uk/routes/home.nsf/routeslinks/walks/llyn-cwm-llwhch-walking-route#>



Myndd Llangorse (11 miles)

30 min drive to "Llangorse Lake"

Andy Jones has put up an excellent blog of the circuit you can do around Llangorse lake and the surrounding area with some great views. The blog also contains helpful photographs.

<https://surfnslide.wordpress.com/tag/mynydd-troed/>



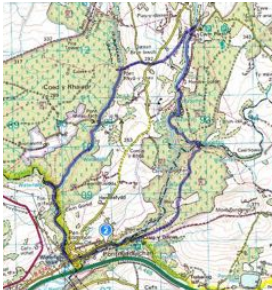
Llyn y Fan Fach a Fawr (9 miles / 14.5 km)

31 min drive to "Llyn y Fan car park"

This challenging circular walk visits Llyn Y Fan Fawr and Llyn Y Fan Fach. These two beautiful, isolated lakes are located close to each other on the northern margin of the Black Mountain in Carmarthenshire. It's a very peaceful and remote area with stunning scenery for the duration of the route. The walk runs for a distance of about 9 miles with some challenging climbs to the mountains which rise up above the lakes.

<http://www.gps-routes.co.uk/routes/home.nsf/RoutesLinks/Walks/llyn-y-fan-fawr-walking-route#>

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The Waterfalls (11 miles)

37 min drive to "Four Waterfalls Car Park"

Another from Andy Jones's blog - This is an excellent walk for when poor weather prevents you going up high. The walk starts from the car park at Ystradfellte, where the river Mellte vanishes underground leaving a series of caves behind. The sandstone that dominates most of the national park, here gives way to limestone that allows the formation of these caves and the Mellte, Hepste, Pyrddin and Neath rivers to create the greatest concentration of waterfalls in Wales.

<https://surfnslide.wordpress.com/2011/05/22/waterfalls/>

TrigPoint Adventures have also kindly supplied us with route cards for two walks which are more off the beaten track for those who want a little more adventure.

- Fan Brycheiniog
- Fan Gyhirych

Both are 6 hour long hikes with a rating of hard.

TrigPoint Adventures also run guided walks, please see the relevant page for more info.

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Horse Riding

We do not provide any horse riding on the farm however we do have two local riding centres where you can book anything from a riding lesson to a trek up the Brecon Beacons;

Cantref Adventure Farm

Upper Cantref Farm, Cantref, Brecon LD3 8LR

<https://www.cantref.com/>

Cantref is a family run horse riding centre which has been established for over 45 years and is the only centre licenced to take Pony Treks up on to the main peaks of the Brecon Beacons! They have rides to suit all ages and riding abilities, including;

- 20 mins - Introduction to Riding
- Hour - Cantref Red Kite Ride
- Half Day - Brecon Beacons Explorer Ride
- Full Day - Welsh Pony Trail
- Own A Pony Day

You can book your ride online -

<https://www.cantref.com/cantref-riding-centre-prices>

or call **01874 665223**

Llangorse Multi Activity Centre

The Gilfach, Llangorse, Brecon LD3 7UH

<https://www.activityuk.com/horse-riding/>

All of their rides are enjoyed on over 25 miles of private bridleways within their own land and on vast areas of adjacent hillside. They provide;

- Half day Beginners trek
- Half day and full day Intermediate ride
- Full day activities with riding
- Half day and full day hacks for Experienced riders

Booking in advance is recommended to avoid disappointment. To make a booking call **01874 658 272**



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TrigPoint Adventures

Sometimes we want to go for a really good walk but it's intimidating when you don't know the land, or we would like to have some company (or both!). Hugh has got to know a local - **Dorian Thomas** - who runs guided walks across the Brecon Beacons, and after going on a guided walk with Dorian himself we would like to promote Dorian to our guests;



An excerpt from Dorian's website

<https://trigpointadventures.co.uk/brecon-beacons/>;

“Many know that the Brecon Beacons National Park is home to the highest mountain in South Wales, Pen y Fan, however, the Park is much more than that one mountain! The National Park is made up of three mountain ranges; the Black Mountains which are found on the eastern side of the Park, the Brecon Beacons which cover the central part of the Park and the Black Mountain which are found on the western side of the Park.

One of the best ways to fully explore the Park is through a guide who can take you to the less visited and simply the most beautiful areas that the Park can offer. I have over 10 years experience of exploring this fantastic Park and I am also a Brecon Beacons Park Ambassador, an accolade gained through demonstrating knowledge and passion about the Park.”

To join a **Guided Walk** with Dorian see;

<https://www.airbnb.co.uk/experiences/559021> or

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/trigpoint-adventures-20046793087>

Or you can attend one of Dorian's **Hills & Mountain Skills courses**;

<https://mt.tahdah.me/provider/event/11135>

If you would like to discuss a bespoke day out in the Brecon Beacons you can **contact Dorian on 07769584650 / info@trigpointadventures.co.uk**

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Brecon Beacons Foraging

We went on a foraging half day with **Adele Nozedar** for Amanda's birthday last year. Adele was a wonderful guide who opened our eyes to all those things under our feet which has so many incredible uses and some were very tasty too! We would love to suggest Adele if you would like to do something outdoors which is just a little bit different. You'll never look at "weeds" the same way again!



An excerpt from Adele's website
<http://breconbeaconsforaging.com/>;

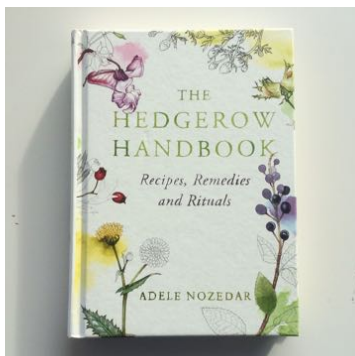
"I have lived in this astonishing part of the world for 21 years. The landscape here is a perfect place to explore nature's larder throughout the entire year. I can teach you how to identify a variety of delicious wild and cultivated plants and also how to use them in food, drinks and treats.



Foraging is a wonderful pastime, bringing you close to nature in a way that is easy, fun and safe...but which is also thought-provoking and a sensory experience which is guaranteed to make you feel delighted. So, grab those wellies and join me on an adventure which will last your entire lifetime!"

Adele is also the author of three excellent books;

- The Hedgerow Handbook
- The Garden Forager
- Foraging with Kids



Plus, if you want to take it one step further Adele also runs Gin Workshops!

To book an experience visit -
<http://breconbeaconsforaging.com/events/>

Or if you're hoping to do something last minute Adele is always happy to take out small groups of a minimum of 2 people at short notice (if she's free!) - **contact Adele on 07581226524 / breconbeaconsforaging@gmail.com**

Gilfach Farm Holiday Accommodation



Red Kite Feeding Station - Llanddeusant

A truly Welsh icon is the Red Kite. We have red kites flying over our farm every day however they're always high up. If you would like to see these once endangered birds up close then there is no better way than going to our local red kite feeding station at Llanddeusant (just 20 min drive away) where you will get to see them (100s of them!) up close as they dive for food. You'll be amazed by just how big these beautiful birds really are!

A few Q and As;

Q: Do I need to book?

A: No not usually, unless it is a very big party and you are unsure in which case contact us beforehand. We welcome school groups etc.

Q: When are you open?

A: Every day. Yes every day! 365 Days of the year.

Q: When do you feed the kites?

A: 2pm GMT and 3pm BST - **please arrive before the feed time so you can get to the hides.**

Q: Do you feed the Red Kites in bad weather?

A: Yes. The hides will keep you dry in the wet. No heating though!

Q: Do you have access for disabled persons?

A: Yes. Ramps and wide access points in place.

Q: Can I photograph the Red Kites?

A: Yes, don't miss a glorious opportunity to capture the event.

Q: Are dogs allowed?

A: Yes - But please have them on a lead at all times (even well behaved dogs). **Do not leave dogs in cars or tied up.**

Visit <http://www.redkiteswales.co.uk/> and <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Red-Kite-Feeding-Station/2393604904231745> for further information.



Gilfach Farm Holiday Accommodation



Other places to visit near here

If you're looking for something else to do near here, here are some other interesting places of which Hugh recommends;

Best Underground Experience: Dan-yr-Ogof Show Caves

<http://www.showcaves.co.uk/>

Best Castle: Castle Cennen, Trap, Nr Llandeilo

<http://www.breconbeacons.org/carreg-cennen-castle>

Best Beech: Oxwich Bay, The Gower

<https://www.thebeachguide.co.uk/south-wales/glamorgan/oxwich-bay.htm>

Best Historic House: Dinefwr Castle, Llandeilo

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/dinefwr>

Best Mountain Railway: Brecon Mountain Railway

<https://www.bmr.wales/>

Best Children's Entertainment: Play Barn, Brecon

<https://breconplaybarn.co.uk/>

Best Ice Cream: Llanfaes Dairy, Brecon

<https://www.llanfaesdairy.com/>

Best Gift Shopping: The town of Llandeilo

<http://www.visitllandeilo.co.uk>

Best Museum: Big Pit, Blaenavon

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

Best Road Trip: Black mountain pass

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-49033696>

Gilfach Farm Holiday Accommodation



Eco Friendly

We are working hard to make our holiday accommodations (and farm) as eco friendly as possible and we are already well on our way;

Electricity

Our farm is supplied by [Octopus Energy](#) – who supplies us (and all its other customers) with 100% green electricity.

Water

We are very lucky to have our own water supply coming from a natural spring on the hill. This spring supplies our entire farm so we do encourage responsible water use, especially during the summer months.

Gas

There is no gas supply to the farm.

Heating

In 2007 Hugh installed a biomass boiler in the main barn. The boiler is run on solid wood fuel which we harvest ourselves from our own larch woodland on the hill. It is as local and home grown as you can get!

In the Barn Cottage and Shepherds Hut, for extra cosy comfort, we have small wood burners. The logs supplied come from our own woodlands and the fire lighters provided are eco lighters made from timber shavings, natural resin and wax. We find them to be an effective eco alternative to the classic white paraffin tablets.

Lighting

Wherever possible we use LED lighting/bulbs.

We are also in an [IDA International Dark Sky Reserve](#)! As such we are committed to ensuring light pollution is reduced where possible. We encourage guests to use torches and to not leave any lights on when they are not in use (the most important one being the outdoor light).

Gilfach Farm Holiday Accommodation



Recycling

Wales has the [highest recycling rate in the UK](#) (at 62.8%) and we make a huge effort on the farm to recycle as much as we absolutely can. We can recycle almost anything as long as it's not contaminated – if it's not collected by our local county council (such as plastic film) then we collect it ourselves and take it to our local recycling centre – yup, we're that committed!

Cleaning products

All the products we use have the following criteria;

- quick and complete biodegradability
- minimum impact on aquatic life
- against animal testing
- suitable for septic tanks
- plant based & mineral ingredients - vegan

We are proud of the products we use which include [Ecover](#), [BioD](#), [Method](#) and [Faith in Nature](#). Ecover comes from a [true platinum zero waste factory](#) (they divert 98.1% of their factory waste from landfill through reduction projects, reuse, reducing and recycling and have identified a clean route to achieving zero% within the next couple of years). Method is an arm of Ecover. Both Faith in Nature and BioD are based and made in the UK.

Reducing plastic waste

We sat down and worked out how many single use plastic bottles we used to get through in a year and it was a scary number (in the 100s)! Washing up liquid, hand wash, shower gel and cleaning products – it all added up. Of course we recycled them but we knew it would be better to reduce rather than recycle. As a result we now purchase all of our products in bulk so that we can wash and refill just a few bottles with no need to purchase and bin any more. It's not perfect, but it's progress!

Sponges

Furthering our commitment to reducing plastic use we also researched alternatives to the plastic sponges and foam dishcloths we used to provide in the self-catering kitchens. These items could not be reused or recycled and had to be thrown away after each guest. Considering we welcome 1 night stays and up, the number of sponges and cloths we got through was vast.

Gilfach Farm Holiday Accommodation



We now use “[UnSponges](#)” made by Rowen Stillwater. These are plastic free and reusable (we put them in the wash after every guest). Also, when the sponge reaches the end of its useful life it can be cut up and composted! In place of the foam dishcloths we are now providing 100% cotton dishcloths which we also wash and reuse.

Toilet paper

We are proud users of [Who Gives a Crap](#). An awesome company who not only makes 100% recycled toilet paper and forest friendly bamboo tissues with zero plastic packaging but they also donate 50% of their profits to help build toilets and improve sanitation in the developing world.

Tree planting

Over 2018, 2019 and 2020 we’ve planted 7,000 native trees on the farm! Why? Because we love our farm and wanted to give something back – combating climate change, improving water management and maintaining and enhancing biodiversity. This Herculean effort was made possible through the Glastir Woodland Creation Scheme administered by the Welsh Government.

Gilfach Farm Holiday Accommodation



Our Nearest...

Doctor

[Sennybridge Health Centre](#), Defynnog Road, Sennybridge, Powys LD3 8RU
Tel: 01874 636559

Dentist

[mydentist](#), Wheat Street, Brecon, Powys LD3 7DG Tel: 01874 625378

Hospital

[Brecon War Memorial Hospital](#), Cerrigcochion Rd, Brecon, Powys LD3 7NS
Tel: 01874 622443

Chemist

[Boots](#), Brecon Bethal Square, Lion Yard, Brecon, Powys LD3 7JP Tel: 01874 622917 (we do not have a local all night chemist)

Vets

[Abbey Vets Brecon](#), Ashfield Place, Llanfaes, Brecon, Powys LD3 8EG
Tel: 01874 622464

Honddu Veterinary Practice, Ffrwdgrech Ind Est, Brecon, Powys LD3 8LA
Tel: 01874 611811

Bank/cash machine

The closest banks are in Brecon; [Lloyds](#), [NatWest](#) and [Barclays](#)
There is a Link cash machine in both fuel stations in Sennybridge

Public telephone

There is a pay phone on the Sennybridge high street beside the public toilets.
We do not have a landline on the farm

Post office

There is a [post office](#) on the Sennybridge high street

Post box

A post box is positioned on the junction turning off the A40 to our farm

Taxi

VRC Taxis (Simon) 01874 625 700 will do local trips