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BWLCH NANT YR ARIAN

Near Aberystwyth



A fantastic day out for all the family. The way marked walks around Nant-yr-Arian are suitable for all ages and abilities. Allow plenty of time for your visit. Bwlch Nant yr Arian is in a beautiful setting and open all year round.

- Free entry for all activities (car parking £1.50 all day)
 - Dog Friendly—even in the cafe
- RSPB volunteers on the site to give plenty of information about the birds that can be seen
 - Walking trails for all abilities—all well marked
 - Kite feeding daily
 - Play area and puzzle trails for Children
 - Plenty of Picnic Areas
 - Cafe selling locally sourced produce

How to get there: Located on the A44, 9 miles east from Aberystwyth, two miles west of Ponterwyd.

The visitor centre is open daily from 10am –5pm (Summer) and 11am- 2.30pm (Winter). Kite feeding takes place 3pm in Summer and 2pm in Winter. It is always best to check feeding times and opening hours during the winter, ask a member of Reception to telephone for you. Kite feeding can be viewed from around the lake or from the visitor centre.

THE TRAILS

Barcud Trail
0.5 miles



This scenic trail is suitable for all abilities. There are no steps or stiles, there are resting places on the uphill sections. The trail takes you around the edge of the lake where daily kite feeding takes place.

Miners Trail
1.5 miles

The trail starts at the visitor centre and winds along the head of the valley, following a leat which once carried water from Llyn Pendam to power the old lead mines. A short steep climb crosses a hillside, clad in purple heather which descends through larch woodlands planted in the early 1960's, to Llwyernog pond where you can rest before your return to the visitors centre.

Ridgetop Trail
5.5 Miles

This splendid trail starts at the visitor centre and provides stunning views throughout its length. Starting out along the high ridge which looks down upon Nat yr Arian, the path rises to a stone viewpoint from which the panoramic scene takes in the Rheidol and Melindwr valleys. The return to Bwlch Nant yr Arian is along quiet woodland tracks.

Orienteering Trail

There are two orienteering courses, the YELLOW course is suitable for beginners and children and the ORANGE course is suitable for those with a little experience. Full details and maps are available at the visitor centre.

Should you be interested in cycling we have details on trails at Reception.

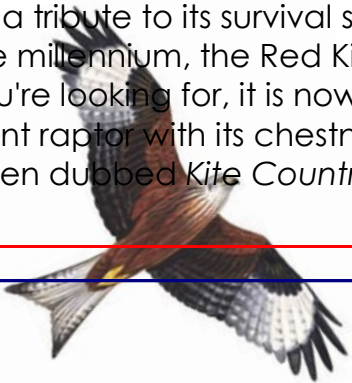


ABOUT THE RED KITE

Until very recently, the Red Kite was on the brink of extinction. For hundreds of years, gamekeepers and farmers had been encouraged to put down poison to kill the bird. As its numbers decreased, so the value of its eggs to collectors went up. By the turn of the twentieth century, only a handful of breeding pairs remained in the whole of the UK. They'd taken refuge in the isolated hills of the Cambrian Mountains in Mid Wales.

With the Red Kite about to disappear from these lands, the RSPB and other conservation organisations put out a call to action. The Red Kite population was put under a huge surveillance operation. Every bird was monitored. Farmers were encouraged to hold daily feeding sessions. Nests were guarded by a team of wardens and volunteer watchers - even a team of Gurkha soldiers were called in to help with guard duties. Those efforts were not in vain and the Red Kite programme has been one of the conservation success stories of the twentieth century. Latest estimates put the number of breeding Red Kite pairs in Mid Wales at more than 250.

As a tribute to its survival skills, the Red Kite was voted Bird of the Century in 1999. A year later, at the turn of the millennium, the Red Kite was also dubbed Wales National Bird. If you know where to look and what you're looking for, it is now rare to drive through Mid Wales without catching at least a glimpse of this elegant raptor with its chestnut plumage and distinctive forked tail. Not surprisingly perhaps, the region has been dubbed *Kite Country*.



OTHER THINGS TO DO AND SEE IN THE AREA

Llywernog Silver and Lead Mine - an authentic 18th century silver mine, it offers a fantastic insight into life nearly 200 years ago. Here you can take part in panning for silver, visit the many exhibitions, explore the miners' trail or take an underground tour.

Vale of Rheidol Railway - one of the Great Little Trains of Wales. It opened in 1902, it was originally built to serve the lead mines in the Rheidol Valley. It runs for 12 miles from Devils Bridge to Aberystwyth.

The Magic of Life Butterfly House - exhibiting a collection of exotic plants and butterflies. Visitors are free to walk among the butterflies or guided tours can be arranged.

Aberystwyth - the largest resort in Cardigan bay. Here you will find Aberystwyth University, Arts Centre, Ceredigion Museum, the National Library of Wales, a 13th Century Castle ruins and Aberystwyth Cliff Railway.