

Visit Wales Industry News



6 July 2020



First Minister asks people to visit Wales safely

As outdoor spaces in Wales prepare to welcome visitors from Monday, First Minister Mark Drakeford has urged people visiting the countryside, beaches and beauty spots to do so safely.

The requirement to stay local will be lifted today (6 July), enabling people to travel in Wales and into Wales. It will also mean outdoor visitor attractions can open and it will pave the way for the tourism sector to begin re-opening from 11 July, if conditions allow.

The Welsh Government has been working with local authorities, national parks, Natural Resources Wales and other landowners to ensure Wales' wonderful outdoors are ready to welcome visitors.

This includes [new guidance about public toilets](#), focusing on hygiene, social distancing, signage and queuing. Not all public toilets, however, will be safe to re-open so people are being advised to check in advance what facilities will be open.

The countryside code has also been revised in light of the coronavirus pandemic and visitors to the countryside are now asked to:

Respect other people

- Consider the local community and other people enjoying the outdoors
- Park carefully so access to gateways and driveways are clear
- Leave gates and property as you find them
- Follow paths but give way to others where it's narrow

Protect the natural environment

- Leave no trace of your visit, take all your litter home
- Be careful with barbecues and don't light fires
- Keep dogs under effective control
- Dog poo - bag it and bin it, or take it with you

Enjoy the outdoors

- Plan ahead, check what facilities are open, be prepared
- Follow advice and local signs and obey social distancing measures

First Minister Mark Drakeford said:

"We live in such a beautiful part of the world and I know many of us are looking forward to visiting beaches, the countryside and our many beauty spots."

"People throughout Wales have done so much over the last few months to follow the rules and help reduce the spread of coronavirus – I thank them for their patience and understanding. I ask them to continue in this spirit."

"Unfortunately, over the recent weeks we've seen the results of people not treating parts of Wales with respect, with crowds leaving piles of litter in their wake. This selfish behaviour is a blight on our beauty spots and puts people at risk."

"While many footpaths and car parks are re-opening, not all facilities will be available in every location straight away. Please, check websites where possible and plan your visit. If your planned destination is too busy when you arrive, have a plan B ready and try an alternative car park or destination."

"Coronavirus has not gone away and, while the evidence shows the risk outdoors is lower, there is still a risk. We therefore need to continue to act responsibly. Be kind to local residents and to fellow visitors by parking considerately, leaving nothing behind and following the recently revised Countryside Code."

Tegryn Jones, chief executive of the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority, said:

“We know people have missed being outdoors and the important role that nature plays in supporting the health of our nation. We want to encourage people to enjoy Wales’ natural landscapes safely, responsibly and ultimately, more sustainably.

“National park communities are already working hard to ensure there will be a warm welcome for our visitors and we’re working hard with these communities and partners to ensure the national parks can be enjoyed safely by everyone.

“We urge those who choose to explore our landscapes in the coming weeks and months, perhaps for the first time, to do so with respect – for the people and wildlife, which call it home and for each other.”

Stay up to date with tourism industry news

We are committed to providing the support and assurance the business community needs during these unprecedented difficult times and have issued several Coronavirus (COVID-19) related bulletins which can be found on the [Tourism Industry Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Bulletins page](#).

Business Wales is providing businesses with tailored support and advice about dealing with coronavirus, from financial and supply chain planning to advice on staffing issues. We would advise Tourism businesses and stakeholders in Wales wanting specific guidance to visit the [Business Wales website](#) or call Business Wales helpline on 03000 6 03000, and to regularly visit the [Public Health Wales website](#) for up-to-date public health information for you, your staff and your visitors.

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