

- 19 Turn right into Arthur's Gate. On the right you can see the restored remains of a tower on a corner of the old town walls.
- 20 Retrace your steps back up Pool Road towards the War Memorial. Look out for Manor House, a 19th century stone cottage on your left at the corner of Gaol Road. It once housed the old Montgomery Police Station and lock-up.
- 21 Continue up Pool Road until you reach the junction with the War Memorial.
- 22 To stay on the pavement, continue past the Memorial and cross over Chirbury Road where the pavement continues. You are now at the bottom of Princes Street.
- 23 Cross Princes Street to the small triangular area with the Tourist Information blue phone box (well stocked with leaflets about local attractions) and to the bottom of Arthur Street.
- 24 Proceed up Arthur Street passing the fingerpost signed for The Castle, Toilets and Museum. Take care as there is no pavement on this stretch of the Trail.
- 25 You will pass an old black and white half-timbered building on your left. It was once the home of Hugh Bennet, a Town Bailiff in 1652/3.
- 26 Continue up Arthur Street until you reach Bunner's Traditional Ironmongers which was established in 1892 and is still run by members of the same family. It is a rabbit warren of a building and well worth a visit.
- 27 As you continue up Arthur Street you will reach the Montgomery Town Institute and Library built in 1924, as a gift to the town by Lord Davies of Llandinam, on the site of a former wheelwright's shop.

Background Photo: G17 Photography Services

- 28 The Institute houses the Cloverlands Model Car Museum on the top floor. The museum displays the lifetime collection of Miss Gillian Rogers of Trefnanney near Welshpool. With over 4,000 exhibits, it's the largest collection of model cars in Wales. The museum charges a small entrance and is open all year.
- 29 On the opposite side of the road is a row of half-timbered and red brick cottages and the Old Bell, once a public house. It is now a local history museum, founded in 1979 and run by volunteers of the Montgomery Civic Society. The museum is open from April to the end of September each year and by special request at other times.
- 30 At the Town Hall, take the small road that passes behind the building to reach the car park in front of The Dragon Hotel; once the Green Dragon, an old coaching inn.
- 31 The steep lane (known locally as the Conduit), was built as an escape route from the town to the castle in 1248 in the event of a Welsh raid. Continue past an ornate stone structure with a crest displaying 3 lions rampant on a shield surmounted by a crown. This was formerly the town reservoir and a watering and tethering point for animals on market days.
- 32 **To walk to the castle** – a short but steep walk up the Conduit brings you to the entrance to Montgomery Castle and the Castle car park.
- 33 As you walk up the hill to the Castle you pass a large brick building on your left. Now a terrace of three private houses, it was originally the First County Gaol built in 1734.

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Montgomery Castle. 9

- 34 The Castle is open all year: September to March from 10am - 4.00pm, April to June 10am - 6.00pm and July to September 10am - 9.00pm. CLOSED on 24, 25, 26 December and 1 January. Entrance is free.
- 35 **To skip the walk to the castle** – return to the front of the Town Hall to complete the Trail.
- 36 You can take your car to the Castle car park- but not via the Conduit. Please follow the signs along Kerry Street for the route for motorists (see the dashed line on the map).

Amended and abridged version of the Civic Society's, 'A Walk Around Montgomery'.

DESTINATION MONTGOMERY

Montgomery is a Healthy Life Town and our walking and cycling Trails aim to inspire visitors of all ages and abilities to enjoy the benefits of outdoor activity for their health and wellbeing. The Trails have been developed with the support of Big Lottery Fund 'Awards for All'.



5 HERITAGE TRAIL

Founded in 1223 and granted its Royal Charter in 1227, Montgomery is a medieval town which grew up at the foot of the cliff topped with the once impregnable Montgomery Castle. Formerly the County Town of Montgomeryshire, the market town is still an unspoilt and historic architectural delight for the visitor, with its medieval street layout, its fine Georgian buildings and beautiful Town. **Look out for the informative wall plaques around the Town erected by the Montgomery Civic Society.**

**3.5km (2.17mi)**
**1.5hrs**  
**Steep**
**Moderate**
**Flat**
**Easy**
**Moderate**
**Difficult**



View of the rear of the Town Hall, looking towards Church Bank. 1

**Map OS Explorer 216**  
**Start/finish Recycling Car Park Bishop's Castle Road (B4385) SO 22470 96301**  
**Dog friendliness**  
 Keep dogs on leads.  
**Parking at start/finish**  
 Toilets To rear of Town Hall

Photo: G17 Photography Services

# DIRECTIONS

- 1 Start from in front of the Georgian Town Hall. Built in 1738 to replace the old Guildhall, the lower market hall had open archways and the upper Assembly Rooms housed the County Assizes.
- 2 Walk down Broad Street towards the Ivy House Cafe and Post Office at the far end. NOTE – most houses the same width (c.33ft) – the 1220's standard width of a burgess plot.
- 3 Turn right down Bishop's Castle Street. Look out for Penygrisau, a house on the left side of the road which once housed the Magistrates Court, while the upper storey of the Town Hall was being added in 1828.
- 4 Take the first turning to the left – up Lions Bank.
- 5 You are now following the route of the old town wall.
- 6 At the corner, and with Clawdd y Dre house (the name means Town Dyke) in front of you, turn left and continue until you reach a junction with Church Bank at the corner of St Nicholas Churchyard.

The new Gaol, opened in 1836. 15



Photo: sproutuk.com



St Nicholas church. 10

Photo: G17 Photography Services

- 7 From Church Bank there is an excellent view across the Vale of Montgomery and Lymore Estate. As you look from left to right you will see Long Mountain, the tree covered summit of Bromlow Callow, the rock-crested ridge of the Stiperstones, the conical hill of Cordon, hump of the Long Mynd behind and finally the Kerry Hills.
- 8 Turn left and enter the churchyard of St Nicholas Church. The Grade 1 Listed Church is open from 9 am till dusk throughout the year. The hammer-beam roof, medieval rood screen and magnificent Herbert Tomb are well worth a detour.
- 9 Take the path to left of (or turn right as you leave) the church porch around to the rear. On your way, you pass the white marble tombstone of PC William Davies, a former town policeman, displaying a lantern, truncheon, belt and helmet. From this point there is a fine view of the castle and its dominant position.
- 10 As you approach the rear gateway to the churchyard on your left you pass the Robber's Grave; "the grave of the man unjustly hanged" for highway robbery.
- 11 Exit through the gate at the rear of the churchyard. Turn right, then left downhill keeping Glebe House and Heale Hall, once the first Presbyterian chapel, on your left.
- 12 Turn left opposite the school and descend School Bank.
- 13 At the bottom of the steep hill you reach a junction with a small public garden and the town War Memorial (ahead). This is the site of the old Pound.
- 14 Turn right down Chirbury Road (B4386) and continue to the end of a small estate of bungalows on the left-hand side of the road.
- 15 After the last bungalow you will see a footpath to your left. Take the path and continue through the estate until you see the imposing arched gateway of the second County Gaol on your right. The new Gaol was opened in 1836 and the Old Gaol closed in 1837. The imposing gateway was built much later in 1866. The second County Gaol eventually closed in 1878. The gateway and the remaining buildings are now private housing.
- 16 Turn left and continue straight down Gaol Road to the end and the junction with Pool Road.
- 17 Turn right and continue 20 yards on Pool Road (B4385) until the junction with Welshpool Road.
- 18 Take the road on the right signed to Welshpool and continue past *The Cottage* – Monty's Brewery Visitor Centre. Entrance is free and inside you can see the brewing process in action.