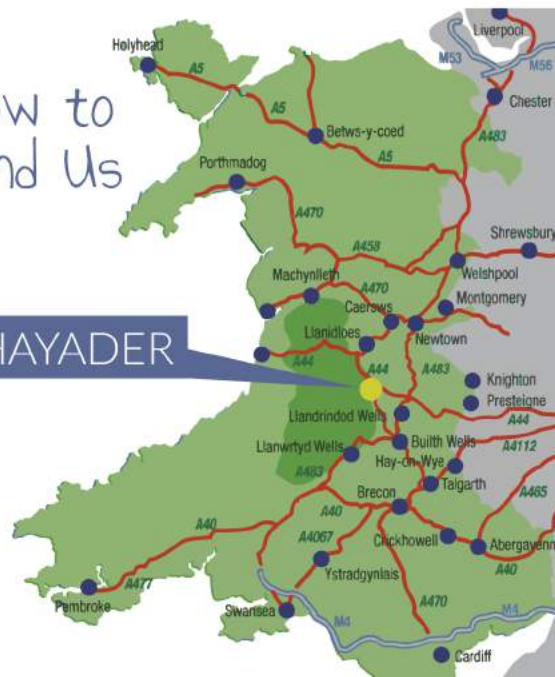


21. **St Brides Church:** the parish of Cwmdeuddwr, where in 1746 Rev. John Wesley preached. Traditionally Cwmdeuddwr families were buried on one side of the path and Elan Valley families on the other. Return from Cwmdeuddwr back over the bridge and turn left down
22. **Gasworks Lane:** not sign-posted, but leading down to what was a grocery store, but before had several uses including that of the town's cinema. The open picnic area beside the river was the site of the town's first electricity works, powered by water, and also the site of the gas works and saw mills. Follow the path alongside the river around below the
23. **Site of Rhayader Castle:** the remains of its dry moat can still be seen. On the river bank opposite the castle can be seen the ruins of a mill, one of many corn mills and flannel mills of the district. Again you may wish to take a detour on through Waun Chapel Parc and over the footbridge to enjoy the riverside walk, but to continue the town trail walk up to the top of the park to view the castle mound. The castle, of 1177 – 1231, was a wooden structure built by the Welsh Prince Rhys ap Gruffudd to defend the first major crossing on the River Wye, but was destroyed by Llewelyn the Great in his fight against the Mortimers. There is an on site information board explaining its full history. From Castle Road turn left into Church Street to
24. **St Clements Church:** the parish church of Rhayader, formerly St. Cynllo. It is said to stand on the site of the old Garrison Church of the castle. Whilst foundations of a new tower were being dug, several skeletons were discovered laid neatly in a mass grave. One was of enormous size with a thighbone longer than a metre. It is generally agreed that these were soldiers of the garrison of Rhayader Castle who had been slain by Llewelyn the Great and that the "giant" was the Castle Commander. Across the main road from the church is
25. **Tanners Row:** where lodged many of the labourers working on the Elan Valley dams. Their roistering on a Saturday night gave it the nickname of Hell Fire Square. Also site of Rhayader Parish pound where stray animals were impounded awaiting collection by their owners.



How to Find Us

RHAYADER



Directions



By Car/Motorcycle

Situated in the heart of Mid Wales, the crossroads between East and West, North and South. Centrally located, a 2 hour drive from Manchester, Birmingham and Cardiff.



By Train

The nearest railway station is Llandrindod Wells. For train information, please contact the National Rail Enquiry Line on 0845 7484950 or visit www.arrivatrainswales.co.uk or www.traveline.cymru.



By Bus

Please contact the National Enquiry Line on 0871 2002233 or visit www.nationalexpress.com.



By Bike

The National Cycle Route 8 (Lon Las Cymru) and Route 81 (Lon Cambria) pass through Rhayader. For more information visit www.sustrans.org.uk



Tourist Information Centre Rhayader Museum and Gallery

(01597) 810561 Email - info@rhayader.co.uk

Tourist Information Centre Elan Valley Visitor Centre

(01597) 810898 / 810880

Email - elanrangers@dwrcymru.com



Rhayader & the Elan Valley

Spectacular 52 weeks a year



Don't forget your boots!



TOWN TRAIL

www.rhayader.co.uk

Beginning from the Smithfield Market the walk will take about an hour at a leisurely pace allowing for time to stop and look. It is all accessible for wheel chairs and push chairs although there is a steep 50m climb in Waun Capel Parc.

- 1. The Smithfield Market:** where regular sales of sheep, cattle and ponies take place throughout the year. Pleasure fairs are still held here in May, a legacy of the old hiring May Fair where workers sought new Masters, advertising their skills by wearing or carrying a token of their trade e.g. a shepherd would sport a wisp of sheep's wool. Contracts were sealed by giving the workers a shilling and then they went off to enjoy the amusements.

Walk down North Street to

- 2. The Town Clock:** built on the site of the Old Market Hall, the clock is a War Memorial for the two world wars.
North face: a mother and child with ivy for sympathy, clasped hands for friendship.
East Face: Welsh Dragon fighting the Prussian Eagle and the old Coat of Arms of the district flanked by leeks, national emblems of Wales.
West face: soldier and Welsh Dragon
South face: angel placing a victory wreath. The palm branch an emblem of peace and on the shield the Trinity and Cross signifying the Great Sacrifice.
Please beware of traffic at the Town Clock crossroads. On the corner of East Street and South Street is

- 3. Ye Old Corner Shoppe:** a grade II, 17th Century, listed, black and white timber framed building with stone tiled roof. Originally a private dwelling it became business premises in 1794.

Continue along East Street to see

- 4. Bank House** – "New" Market Hall: formerly the North Wales and South Wales Bank and a market hall. From 1930 to 1974 it was the town fire station and then it housed the old museum.
- 5. Old HSBC Bank Building:** built of Ruabon brick and originally the Kington and Radnor Bank.



- 6. Turn right down by the Post Office and follow Caerberbert Lane** to where it meets South Street and from where you can see **6. Bryniago House:** built in the 1880s with distinctive red tile shingles.
- 7. Penralley House:** a dignified Georgian dwelling. The simple spearhead iron railings and the pineapples incorporated into them are symbols of hospitality.
- 8. The Tollhouse:** these had been set up on all the main entries to the town, with gates across the road, to collect road taxes. In the 1840s this led to The Rebecca Riots, where men disguised as women tried to destroy the tollhouses.
- 9. Greenfields:** A late Georgian house and fine example of local hand cut and dressed stone. To avoid walking along the narrow part of South Street there is an alternative route back along Caerberbert Lane and left up Martin's Way footpath to the Old HSBC Bank Building in East Street. Pick up the Town Trail from the town clock and follow West Street to see
- 10. The Old Swan:** with its crooked chimneys, the gargoyle above and the large window. Carved on the left of the frame and protected by glass is the date 1683. This was originally the porch of The Old Swan Inn.
- 11. The Arches:** once the Crown Post Office and Telephone Exchange, purpose built in the early 1900s of Ruabon brick, it now houses the community support offices, telecentre and information touch screen facility.
- 12. The Lion Royal Hotel:** known for around 250 years as the Red Lion, this was the main coaching inn. The gates in the archway came from the old Market Hall. The archway opposite still has some of the original wooden cobbles which muffled the sound of the horses' hooves.
- 13. The Cwmdauddwr Arms:** probably early 17th Century it is listed as a good example of local style building – mixing stone and weatherboarding.

- 14. The Old Police Station and Courthouse:** built about 1870 with courts sitting until the mid 1990s. The distinctive porches have studded, pointed arch doors.
- 15. The Tabernacle Chapel:** One of the first Congregational Chapels in Radnorshire and reputedly built on the site of the town prison, its 300th anniversary was celebrated in 1988. According to local folklore a tunnel led from the chapel to Tower House opposite.
- 16. Tower House** also reputedly stands on the site of the defended entrance to Rhayader Castle and a passage allegedly connected it with the castle. A one time Inn and seat of the Court Leet, the date 1766 is carved on an oak beam inside. A well, now buried under the kitchen floor, supplied pure water. Just by the Chapel you may like to take a detour down
- 17. Water Lane:** once called Mill Street as both a grist mill and woollen mill operated here, as did the old forge. At the bottom lies the ancient river ford and from here you can follow the riverside walk round to South Street. Across the river is the Gro park (Gro meaning gravel or pebbles) and above it is the 16th Century Triangle Inn, once called Tafarn-y-Rhyd – the Tavern on the Ford. Proceed over the bridge to Cwmdauddwr
- 18. The Bridge:** joining the two parishes of Rhayader and Cwmdauddwr. Halfway across is an interesting plaque to read. Just below the bridge clothes were once washed and the cottagers who lived around the Gro had the right to erect clothes lines.
- 19. Motte and Bailey Castle:** behind the old wall at the back of the Cwmdauddwr car park, see on site information board.
- 20. The Old School:** endowed in 1794 it educated the infants of the district up to 1978. On the left stood the village pound where stray animals were impounded awaiting collection by their owners. The next door cottage was once the Bell Inn.

Key

- Footpaths
- - - - - Wildlife Walk
- P** Parking
- Toilets
- Information
- Picnic Site
- Recycling Point
- Petrol Station
- Library
- Museum & Gallery
- Post Office
- Police & Fire Stations
- Church
- Doctors

Rhayader Town Trail

