

## Abergavenny – heritage, views and a vineyard too!

Start your day with a visit to **Abergavenny's museum** set in the grounds of a 'ruined' **Norman Castle**. In 1818, the present museum building was constructed on top of the motte as a hunting lodge for the Marquess of Abergavenny. Entrance is free as are the stunning views from the Castle of the Usk Valley and the Blorenge Mountain.

Enjoy a picnic in the grounds or walk to the town centre to find some lunch in one of the many cafe's and restaurants via the tranquil **Linda Vista Gardens** open to the public since 1963. The Gardens boast quite a number of rare and splendid trees, like the Foxglove tree. They include the 19th century formal gardens of Linda Vista House with their terraces of box hedging. There is also a lovely children's play bed with living willow tunnel. Another perfect picnic spot.

After lunch take the five minute drive out of town to the **Sugarloaf Mountain** car park. At 596 metres, the Sugarloaf is a baby compared to some of the peaks in the Brecon Beacons but its distinctive conical shape, makes it a prominent and much loved local landmark. The walk up to the summit is relatively easy, within the scope of people with average fitness – but the summit is very exposed – so don't be fooled by this baby and make sure you take suitable footwear and clothing. Although not tricky to find your way, you can choose a number of different routes so a map is a good idea.

If after the exertion lunch is but a distant memory – you could stop off at the **Sugarloaf Vineyard** on the way back to town for refreshments at their coffee shop. To complete the day you will be able to take a self guided tour through the vineyard and buy some excellent Welsh wine as a souvenir of your visit. Opening times and days vary with the seasons.

Above, top: Abergavenny Castle,  
bottom: Linda Vista Gardens.  
Right, top: Sugarloaf Mountain,  
bottom: Sugarloaf Vineyard.

### Sample Itinerary

11.00am

1.00pm – 2.00pm

2.00pm – 4.00pm

4.00pm – 4.30pm

**Arrive at the Castle Street car park and spend the morning in the Castle and museum.**  
**Enjoy a picnic in the castle grounds or the Linda Vista gardens or walk through the gardens to have lunch in Abergavenny.**  
**Drive to the Sugarloaf car-park and enjoy a walk up to the summit.**  
**Stop off at the Sugarloaf vineyards for tea and a self guided tour.**





Abergavenny Castle

## Where is it?

### Abergavenny Museum and Castle

Castle St Abergavenny, Monmouthshire NP7 5EE  
[www.abergavennymuseum.co.uk](http://www.abergavennymuseum.co.uk)  
 Tel: (01873) 854 282  
 are situated on the south side of the town and are accessed from the roundabout where the A4042 Pontypool road meets the A465 Heads of the Valleys road. From the roundabout follow the signs for the town centre along Monmouth Road. Just after the Visitor Information centre and bus station on the right hand side, turn left into West Castle Street and then right into Castle street car park.

### Linda Vista Gardens

The Gardens are found by turning left out of the Castle Street car park and continuing into Tudor Street where the gardens will be found on the left hand side.

### The Sugarloaf

To find the car park go past Neville Hall hospital on the A40, take first turn on right, signed sugarloaf vineyard, once onto the lane take two left turns, go past the vineyard and when road forks, take the fork with the little black arrow to car park.

### The Sugarloaf Vineyards

Dummar Farm, Abergavenny, Monmouthshire, NP7 7LA  
[www.sugarloafvineyard.co.uk](http://www.sugarloafvineyard.co.uk)  
 Tel: (01873) 853066  
 Leave Abergavenny on the A40 to Brecon road. Past the Neville Hall Hospital, first turn on right, signed Sugarloaf Vineyard, once onto the lane take two left turns, then immediately right into the Vineyard.

## Facilities and Access

### Abergavenny Castle and Museum

#### Opening Times

**March – October**  
 Mon – Sat: 11.00am – 1.00pm  
 & 2.00pm – 5.00pm  
 Sun: 2.00pm – 5.00pm

#### November – February

Mon – Sat: 11.00am – 1.00pm  
 & 2.00pm – 4.00pm

As with many historic buildings it is difficult to access in some areas and it is recommended that there is at least one able bodied person to assist. The grounds of the castle are uneven but there is a ramp leading up to the museum. In the museum there are varying degrees of access to different parts within but museum staff will assist on request.

### Linda Vista Gardens

The gardens are usually open 7.00am to 6.00pm in winter and 7.00am to 8.00pm in the summer. Entrance is free. There are a number of accessible paths in the gardens.

### The Sugarloaf Vineyards

#### Opening Times

**Easter – October 31st**  
 Tues – Sat 10.30am – 5.00pm  
 Sun 12.00pm – 5.00pm  
 Open Bank Holiday Mondays

#### November – December 24th

Wed – Sun 12.00pm – dusk  
 Outside these times please call and they will be happy to see you.

The coffee shop and shop area are on the ground floor with an accessible toilet. Cars can pull up outside the shop entrance if wheelchair access is required. The vineyards themselves are sloping with grass underfoot.

## Public Transport

**By Train** the nearest station is Abergavenny – the Visitor Information centre is just less than 1km walk.

**By bus:** Stagecoach ([www.stagecoachbus.com](http://www.stagecoachbus.com)). Beacons bus service on Sundays and bank holidays throughout the summer.  
 Tel: 01873 853254 – see the transport pages at [www.travelbreconbeacons.info](http://www.travelbreconbeacons.info) or visit [www.travelinecymru.info](http://www.travelinecymru.info)

