

Experience our industrial past near Abergavenny

Many visitors enjoy the truly memorable experience of the **Big Pit National Coal museum** – but there is far more to our industrial past.

The Blaenavon World Heritage Centre is the ideal starting point for your visit. It provides a great overview of the history of the region and explains why the Blaenavon Industrial landscape was awarded the UNESCO World Heritage status. The centre also has a cafe and a TIC, ideal for morning coffee, centre is closed on Mondays. After coffee take the short drive to the Blaenavon Ironworks – where there are substantial remains of five early blast furnaces, cast houses and a magnificent water balance tower. You will also find the iron workers cottages and information centre – which were the location of the popular BBC Coalhouse television series. Even better is that entry to both these attractions is completely free.

Depending on the season and weather – you can either return to the World Heritage Centre for lunch or follow the B4246 back towards Abergavenny over the Blorenges and stop at the **Keepers Pond** for a picnic. Also known as the Forge Pond as it was built in the early 19th century to provide water for the Garnddyrys Forge. When the forge was dismantled in 1860 it rapidly became a local beauty spot with good reason – the views are stunning. This is also a good starting place for a walk on the Blorenges Mountain – ideal for dog walking and kite flying.

After lunch – complete your industrial education with a visit to **Goytre Wharf** on the Monmouth and Breconshire canal, a 200 year old industrial heritage site that now houses an Italian cafe and a visitor centre. Should the Blorenges walk be a little too challenging – you can also enjoy a meander along the canal towpath

Above top: Big Pit, middle Monmouthshire & Brecknockshire canal, Keepers pond. Top right: Sugar Loaf, Blaenavon World Heritage Centre.

Sample Itinerary

10.00am – 11.30am

11.30am – 12.45pm

12.45pm – 2.00pm

2.30pm – 4.00pm

Enjoy a visit to the **Blaenavon World Heritage Centre** and morning coffee.
 Visit the **Blaenavon Ironworks**, information centre and the workers cottages.
 Either lunch at the **World Heritage Centre Cafe** or picnic and walk up at **Keepers Pond**.
 Drive to **Goytre Wharf** visitor centre, take a walk along the canal and enjoy afternoon tea and cakes at the **Canal cafe**.



Sugarloaf.



Where is it?

The Blaenavon World Heritage Centre is found on Church Road, Blaenavon NP4 9AS (or NP4 9AE for some sat-navs)
Tel: 01495 742333 web site: www.world-heritage-blaenavon.org.uk

The Blaenavon Ironworks is found on North Street Blaenavon NP4 9RN
Tel: 01495 792615 Web site: www.cadw.wales.gov.uk

Keepers Pond is found on the B4246 between Blaenavon and Abergavenny.

Goytre Wharf (Landranger Map 161 SO322 064)
The Canal cafe and Information Centre NP7 6EW
www.canale.co.uk
Tel (01873 881069)

The Visitor centre is signposted off the A4042 between Mamhilad and Llanover.

Facilities and Access

The Blaenavon World Heritage Centre is open 9.00am to 5.00pm Tuesday to Sunday, April to September and 9.00am to 4.00pm, Tuesday to Saturday October to March. The cafe is open in normal opening hours. There is parking available and the centre has full disabled access. Entrance is free.

The Blaenavon Ironworks have the following Opening times:
31/3 – 31/10 – Monday – Sunday 10.00am – 5.00pm
1/11 – 31/3 Monday – Thursday

closed. Friday and Saturday 9.30 – 4.00pm, Sunday 11.00am to 4.00pm

The cottages which house the exhibitions have level floors but outdoors path surfaces are rough and the ground uneven. Disabled parking is permitted on-site and there are toilet facilities accessed by a ramp. Dogs are welcome on the site but must be kept on leads.

Keepers Pond

There is a car-park but the area has un-even ground and there is no disabled access. As a beauty spot it is always available for enjoyment.

Goytre Wharf

The Canale cafe and Information Centre is open Wednesday to Sunday 9.00am to 5.00pm. It is also open as an evening restaurant Thursday to Saturday 6.00pm to 11.00pm. The cafe and information centre are downstairs and have full disabled facilities. There is a large car-park close to the centre. The route down to the centre is slightly sloping.

Public Transport

By Train: the nearest station is Pontypool

By Bus: The X3 service operates between Abergavenny and Pontypool. The X24 and X30 services operate between Pontypool and Blaenavon. The Services are operated by Stagecoach (0871 200 2233).

