

# Heart of Wales Steam & Cruise

13-17 May

*This scenic holiday takes us to the heart of Wales where the rugged peaks and velvet slopes of the Cambrian Mountains create an enchanting landscape. Based in the delightful historic spa town of Llandrindod Wells, we travel to the west coast, returning part of the way by steam power on the Vale of Rheidol Railway. We take a cruise on the Brecon Canal and visit the lovely Hergest Croft Gardens overlooking the Welsh Marches.*



**£525.00 PER PERSON**

Single Room Supp: £40.00

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## What's Included

- ✓ 4 nights Dinner, Bed & Breakfast
- ✓ All rooms are en-suite with TV, telephone, WiFi, hairdryer & hospitality tray
- ✓ Time to explore Llandrindod Wells, Aberystwyth, Hay-on-Wye & Bath
- ✓ Ride on Vale of Rheidol Railway
- ✓ Entry to Hergest Croft Gardens, with cream tea
- ✓ Boat trip on Brecon Canal with buffet lunch

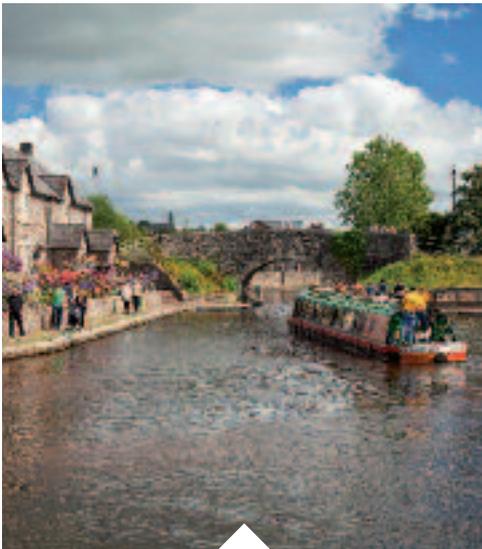
## METROPOLE HOTEL

### Llandrindod Wells

Built in 1896, upon completion The Metropole Hotel, Welsh hotel and Spa was the largest hotel in Wales and is still privately owned by the great grandson of the founder. There are spacious lounges in which to relax and contemporary bars and brasserie. There is a lift to all floors, and the restaurant serves a delicious menu. Leisure facilities include an indoor swimming pool, thermal whirlpool spa, sauna and steam room.



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### Sunday 13 May

Departing Oxted, and making refreshment stops along the way, we drive to Llandrindod Wells, our home for the next four nights.

### Monday 14 May

Late morning, we take a scenic drive to Hay-on-Wye, the famous "town of books" where we shall be free to explore and find lunch. Early afternoon we continue through the Welsh Marches to Hergest Croft Gardens. Created over 100 years by three generations of the Banks family, the gardens contain a unique collection of rare plants, trees and shrubs and over 90 "Champion" Trees. There are gorgeous flower borders, an old fashioned Kitchen Garden, Azalea Garden, Maple Grove, and Park Wood. After taking time to enjoy the gardens, we shall have a delicious cream tea before making our way back to the hotel.

### Tuesday 15 May

This morning we travel across to the west coast of Wales, to the pretty town of Aberystwyth. Nestled

between three hills and two beaches, it has some castle ruins, a pier and a harbour. The Victorian cliff railway, the longest of its kind in Britain, climbs Constitution Hill from the northern end of the town's promenade, and, on a clear day, from the summit, there are spectacular and uninterrupted views of the town, Cardigan Bay, and 26 mountain peaks spanning much of the length of Wales. After lunch we join a narrow gauge steam train, one of the Great Little Trains of Wales, for an unforgettable 11¾ mile journey through the spectacular Rheidol Valley, with some spectacular views. Our destination is Devil's Bridge, where you will have a little time to explore before we re-join the coach and back to our hotel.

### Wednesday 16 May

Our excursion today takes us through the Brecon Beacons and Black Mountains to Brecon, a market town nestling in the foothills of the Brecon Beacons National Park. Late morning we board our canal boat for a ride on the Brecon Canal. As we cruise through a canal lock and over an aqueduct that carries the canal over the River Usk we shall enjoy a buffet lunch. Later we return to our hotel.

### Thursday 17 May

Departing from the hotel after breakfast we commence our homeward journey, making a stop in the historic spa town of Bath, one of the oldest and best-preserved Georgian cities in Britain. We arrive home early evening.



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