

# LLANDEILO

**WE'VE ASKED CERI PHILLIPS, ONE OF OUR NEW VOICES IN STORYTELLING, TO PUT ON THE HAT OF A LOCAL HISTORIAN AND TOUR GUIDE AND SHARE WITH US A LITTLE MORE ABOUT LLANDEILO.**



Llandeilo, historically known as Llandeilo Fawr (Greater Llandeilo) has been a cultural centre in Wales for centuries. The town began as a small clas (a monastic settlement), founded by St. Teilo in the 6th century. Not a whole lot is known about the life of this early Welsh saint, but he would have been quite a big deal in his day – a contemporary of

Wales' patron saint, Dewi, Teilo has lent his name to around 45 settlements from Wales to Brittany. The town found itself at the heart of the often-powerful Kingdom of Deheubarth throughout the early Middle Ages, the nearby citadel of Dinefwr (now home to a certain storytelling festival of some renown) being the main residence of the Kings and Princes of Deheubarth. Notable monarchs like Hywel Dda, Rhys ap Iweddwr, Yr Arglwydd (The Lord) Rhys and Rhys Gryg ('Rhys the hoarse'), all ruled from the great castle on the hill above the River Tywi.

Nowadays, Llandeilo is a bustling rural town, the beating heart of Carmarthenshire. It is known as a bit of a shopping capital - there are plenty of local shops to delight even the most discerning shopaholic. From fashion boutiques like Chess and Toast (Llandeilo is home to the ladies' fashion brand's first ever shop) to art galleries like Oriel Mimosa and Fountain Fine art, along with gift shops like The Cuckoo's Nest, The Little Welsh Dresser and Crafts Alive, Llandeilo's retail scene is vibrant and rich.

If you fancy a bite to eat, a cup of coffee or something a little stronger, Llandeilo has many fine eating and drinking establishments. The centrally located Cawdor Hotel contains a large dining hall open for evening meals and drinks. Or why not check out



Maryellen's@139, The Hangout or The Ginhaus for great lunchtime fare, a great cup of coffee and, in the case of the Ginhaus, a great choice of local and international gins (paired with a tonic, unless you want to buy a bottle!).

**WITH STUNNING LOCAL ATTRACTIONS LIKE THE BEAUTIFUL RIVER TYWI, THE ANCIENT TREGIB WOODS, THE NEARBY BRECON BEACONS NATIONAL PARK AND, OF COURSE, THE STUNNING 800-ACRE NATIONAL TRUST SITE OF DINEFWR, THERE REALLY IS NO SHORTAGE OF THINGS TO DO AND SEE IN AND AROUND LLANDEILO FAWR.**

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