

BRECON BEACONS NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY



Education Courses



Your outdoor classroom

Revised 2015

Outdoor Learning in the Brecon Beacons National Park

The Brecon Beacons National Park Authority delivers unique outdoor educational courses providing pupils with valuable learning experiences. Our Education Officers deliver curriculum linked courses for all levels through the medium of Welsh or English.

All our courses involve Literacy and Numeracy and consist of a variety of educational activities that support each theme. Each course is designed to enhance pupils' understanding and awareness of the natural environment, issues surrounding sustainability and the protected landscape of the Brecon Beacons National Park. We are happy to discuss learning requirements with you to ensure you get the most from your visit.

Learning Centres - please see map on back page for centre locations.

Craig-y-nos Country Park (CYNCP) Penycae, Swansea Valley SA9 1GL



Craig-y-nos Country Park is a 40 acre site which was once a Victorian pleasure garden. It is an ideal place for educational visits having woodlands, ponds, meadows, rivers and upland all with easy access from the indoor and outdoor teaching spaces.

National Park Visitor Centre (NPVC) Libanus, Brecon LD3 8ER



The National Park Visitor Centre offers easy access to the upland environment on Mynydd Illtyd and has some of the best views of Pen-y-fan and across the National Park. The site includes a large wildlife garden, pond and indoor teaching space. Have fun during lunch in our outdoor play area.

YHA Danywenallt (DYW) Talybont on Usk LD3 7YS



Come and stay for more than a day and experience an activity based education programme which will really help you get to know more about our National Park. In a converted farmhouse with comfortable accommodation, excellent food and in a beautiful setting, school groups are able to have a fun, safe and educational stay.

Foundation Phase and Key Stage 1



Course	Location	Duration	Cost per pupil
<p>Teddy Bears' Picnic Bring your own teddy and join our Teddy Bears' Picnic. An enchanting course where children learn to care for their environment and the creatures that live in it.</p>	CYNCP (NPVC)	4 hours	£6
<p>Woodland Caretakers Become caretakers of the woods and create a shelter for woodland creatures. Crown your head with leaves that have been collected and sorted. Having listened to the symphony of the woods, compose your own with natural sound makers.</p>	CYNCP	4 hours	£6
<p>Sensational Stroll Experience the natural world on a walk of discovery. Each of your senses will be used to give you a unique perspective of the natural environment.</p>	CYNCP NPVC	2 hours	£3
<p>Natural Art Workshop We love being creative in our National Park. Become inspired by the natural materials you find around you, turn molehills into mountains and explore colour, pattern, texture and shape.</p>	CYNCP NPVC	2 hours	£3
<p>Wriggle and Splash Many creatures make their homes under the trees and in the pond. Understand why they live here and what they need to survive. Hunt them, identify them and group them according to their characteristics. Create a class poem about your favourite creature and move like them.</p>	CYNCP NPVC	4 hours	£6

Key Stage 2



<p>Flowing Rivers Explore how our River Tawe changes along its course and investigate the impact of flooding and erosion. Develop investigative field work skills and record data at two contrasting sites by using a range of measuring equipment. Discover how the river is managed in the Country Park.</p>	CYNCP	4 hours	£6
<p>Tall Trees, Habitats and Food Chains Use keys and equipment to investigate, identify and measure the native trees in Craig-y-nos Country Park. Compare woodland habitats and categorise animals found according to their distinguishing features. Create giant food chains to raise awareness of feeding relationships in an ecosystem.</p>	CYNCP	4 hours	£6

Key Stage 2 continued



Course	Location	Duration	Cost per pupil
<p>National Park Explorers</p> <p>Learn the basics of navigation using a map and compass. Learn how to read an orienteering map to complete a course (CYNCP). Go Geocaching and use a GPS to discover hidden treasure (CYNCP/NPVC).</p>	CYNCP NPVC	4 hours	£6
<p>Wriggle, Wiggle and Crawl / Sink or Swim</p> <p>Our National Park is home for many mini beasts that creep, crawl and swim. Compare and contrast different habitats e.g. woods and meadow and use keys to identify the animals that live in them. Develop data handling skills to record the number of species found. Become a mini beast and describe the world you live in by using adverbs and adjectives to write a simple class sensory poem. Choose between investigating mini beasts on land or river.</p>	CYNCP NPVC	4 hours	£6
<p>Survival Challenge</p> <p>A skills focused activity with the aim of working as a team to spend time safely outdoors. Building shelters, navigation, discussing food, equipment, walking and clothing form part of a fun filled activity which culminates in a walk to practice skills.</p>	CYNCP (NPVC)	4 hours	£6
<p>Celts and Romans (main focus of day to suit your topic)</p> <p>Engage your pupils with an action packed day studying Celts and Romans. Become a Celtic warrior or dress as a Roman soldier, walk in their footsteps to an Iron Age Hill fort and enact a battle scene. Try a range of hands on activities including sketching artefacts, grinding flour, making pots and brooches.</p>	NPVC	4 hours	£6
<p>A Walk in the National Park</p> <p>Enjoy a guided walk to the site of an Iron Age Hill fort with superb views across the National Park and beyond. This walk will be themed according to your needs and the age of the pupils. Themes can include the special qualities of the National Park, how the mountainous landscape was formed, the history, wildlife and the conflicts that can arise in an area which is used by people for work and play.</p>	NPVC	4 hours	£6
<p>Fantasy, Fairy and Folklore</p> <p>Listen to and discuss a legend from the Brecon Beacons. Use materials found in the outdoors to create a natural story board. Create a character from the legend with natural materials and use this as a stimulus for composing class sensory poems.</p>	CYNCP	4 hours	£6

Key Stage 2 continued



Course	Location	Duration	Cost per pupil
<p>Quarries and Caves</p> <p>Our rocks tell of times past and recent industry. This walk takes you to quarries and caves where you discover how important geology is to our past and present and see just how far back in time it will take you.</p>	CYNCP	4 hours	£6
<p>Up and Under</p> <p>Walk across the Cribarth mountain and familiarise yourself with the rock types of the National Park. View a number of limestone features and discuss the impact that farming, tourism, quarrying, forestry and Early People have had on the area. Pupils will be given the opportunity to visit Dan-yr-ogof, the National Showcaves Centre for Wales.</p>	CYNCP March- Oct only	4 hours	£6 (charges may apply to caves)
<p>Victorian Christmas</p> <p>Our Country Park was built as a pleasure garden for the world famous opera singer Adelina Patti. Discover more about her and the Victorian people who worked for her. There will be a chance to view her private theatre and test your singing voice.</p>	CYNCP Nov-Dec	4 hours	£6

Key Stage 2 / 3



<p>Mountain and Moorland Walk</p> <p>Enjoy a more challenging guided walk to enjoy superb views across to Pen y Fan. This walk can be themed according to your topic. Themes include glaciation, biodiversity, climate change and the impact of tourism.</p>	NPVC	4 hours	£6
<p>Linear Mountain Walk</p> <p>Enjoy a guided walk through the National Nature Reserve Craig Cerrig Gleisiad to the National Park Visitor Centre. This walk affords a wealth of interesting glacial features including spectacular views of some of the well-known peaks of the National Park.</p>	Meet at Craig Cerrig Gleisiad	4 hours	£6
<p>Pen y Fan</p> <p>Climb to the top of Southern Britain's highest mountain. This guided walk requires a good level of fitness, suitable clothing and footwear. Please be aware an alternative walk will be offered if weather/clothing/footwear is not appropriate on the day.</p>	Meet at Pont-ar - Daf	4-6 hours	£10
<p>Tretower Court (in partnership with CADW)</p> <p>Explore what life was like as a servant in Tudor times. Find out about the jobs that had to be done to keep a large house like Tretower Court running smoothly. Try out a few outdoor activities such as hurdle making, rush peeling and using Tudor measurements.</p>	Tretower	3-4 hours	£360 (up to 60 pupils)

Key Stage 3 & Above



Course	Location	Duration	Cost per pupil
<p>Welcome to the National Park</p> <p>A short illustrated talk and guided walk to introduce the concept of a National Park, the habitats, wildlife and land uses of this special place.</p>	NPVC	2 hours	£3
<p>National Park Explorers</p> <p>Learn the basics of navigation using a map and compass. Learn how to read an orienteering map to complete a course (CYNCP). Go Geocaching and use a GPS to discover hidden treasure (CYNCP/NPVC).</p>	CYNCP NPVC	4 hours	£6
<p>Sustainable Tourism in the Brecon Beacons National Park</p> <p>A presentation with case studies covering tourism issues and visitor management within the National Park. This can be combined with a longer walk (see Linear Mountain walk) or a shorter guided walk/ fieldwork at this honeypot site. Issues investigated include biodiversity, visitor pressure, farming and the effects of climate change on this protected environment.</p>	NPVC/ CCG	4 hours	£6
<p>Talybont - A Sustainable Village?</p> <p>Investigate how a village within the National Park is striving to become more sustainable. Visit a community run hydro electricity project and get a chance to generate hydro electricity on a smaller scale.</p>	Talybont on Usk March – Oct	4 hours	£6

Residential



Our residential courses are run from YHA Danywenallt National Park Study Centre and cater for KS2/3. Please contact us for availability and costs. Some courses may be available on a day visit basis and are marked with *.

Survival Challenge *

A skills focused activity with the aim of working as a team to spend time safely outdoors. Building shelters and discussing food, equipment, walking and clothing form part of a fun filled activity.

Investigating Rivers *

Explore how our river changes along its course and about the impact of flooding and erosion. Develop investigative field work skills at two contrasting sites by using a range of measuring equipment. You also get a chance to build a weir and generate hydro electricity on a smaller scale.

Sensational Stroll *

Experience the natural world on a walk of discovery. Each of your senses will be used to give you a unique perspective on the environment.

Tor y Foel Mountain Trek *

A walk to the top of Tor y Foel through beautiful scenery observing the many ways people have influenced the landscape in the past and still do today.

Residential continued



Mammals of the Wood

Investigate mammals, through humane trapping and find out how their lives are affected by the need for food and shelter. A chance to use identification charts, calculate weights and use the data collected to draw conclusions and create food chains.

Sustainability Hunt *

Develop compass skills to navigate around the area and find out how sustainable people were in the past and how we compare today. You also get a chance to look at a modern hydroelectric scheme.

Creatures from the Deep *

Explore our local pond and river. Understand why creatures live here and what they need to survive. Hunt, identify and group them according to their characteristics and then compare the data collected.

Puzzles and Problems *

Work as a team using thinking skills to solve problems in the outdoors and find out about the National Park along the way.

Story Sticks *

Develop your artistic skills using natural materials to re-tell your story of a journey in the Native North American tradition. Create a souvenir of a special expedition to take home.

Celts and Romans (main focus of the day to suit your topic)

Engage your pupils with an action packed day studying Celts and Romans. Become a Celtic warrior or dress as a Roman soldier, walk in their footsteps to an Iron Age Hill fort and enact a battle scene. Try a range of hands on activities including sketching artefacts, grinding flour, making pottery and brooches.

Geocaching Challenge *

Go Geocaching! Find your way around the area with a GPS unit. Learn how to read a map and complete a course finding out how to use modern technology to discover the hidden treasure.

Courses below require own transport.

Waterfalls Walk to Sgwd Gwladus or Sgwd yr Eira *

A walk along the beautiful Nedd Fechan or Hepste river to visit a stunning waterfall. Learn how it was formed and explore the rich natural and industrial history of the area.

Farm Visit *

A trip around a local environmentally aware farm with an introduction from the farmer. An opportunity to see at first hand where food comes from and how a Welsh hill farm is managed.

SAMPLE PROGRAMME

	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
Day 1	Arrive lunchtime	Puzzles & Problems	Mammals of the Wood
Day 2	Mammals of the wood - Tor y Foel Trek		Own Activities
Day 3	Survival Challenge	Depart lunch time	

Further Information

All our Education Officers are experienced in delivering educational courses from pre-school age to adults. We are licensed by the Adventurous Activities Licensing Service (AALS), our staff have walk leader qualifications and are First Aid trained. We conduct risk assessments on all our activities. Please call us on the number below to discuss any of our courses or how we can tailor them to your needs.

More information can be found on our website at <http://www.beacons-npa.gov.uk/learning>

Bookings & Contact

Education Department
Brecon Beacons National Park Authority, Plas y Ffynnon, Cambrian Way
Brecon
LD3 7HP
01874 624437
enquiries@beacons-npa.gov.uk



Once we have received your booking we will send you a booking form and a medical/special needs form. Please return these completed forms within two weeks to confirm your course. A list of appropriate clothing and footwear and guidance for group leaders will be sent with the booking form.

Payment

We will invoice you after your visit so please do not bring payment on the day.



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