

Look up!

Did you know that on a clear night above the Brecon Beacons stargazers are able to see the Milky Way, as well as numerous major constellations, bright nebulae and even meteor showers? In fact, the Brecon Beacons has some of the highest quality dark skies in the whole of the UK - making it the perfect destination to visit to get a better view of the night sky.

The award of INTERNATIONAL DARK SKIES reserve has identified Llangorse Lake as one of the top ten places to come and see the night sky.



Whether you are looking for the finest cut of meat, visiting the local bird hide or hiking up the Allt, why not make use of the farm shop car park and then finish off with a well deserved tea, coffee or delicious slice of cake.

The farm shop offers a warm and friendly welcome from staff, who are Brecon Beacons National Park Ambassadors and have extensive knowledge of both the produce and local area for their customers.

Bwlch has one pub, The New Inn which is a perfect start for the Bwlch - Llangorse Circular Walk or a halfway stop along the route.

The Gate shop in Bwlch is open seven days a week, selling a good range of food and drink, sandwiches, newspapers and has a post office. Do try their locally baked bread and free range eggs.

Looking for a pub lunch or evening meal, Llangorse is blessed with two pubs, The Castle and Red Lion, plus two micro-breweries; Redstone and Llangorse. If you can't make up your mind which one to go to, then simply take a gentle walk to both!

Lakeside bar is open to all, as is the lakeside café ideally located on Llangorse common.

Or call in at Llangorse Multi Activity Centre to their 'Base Camp' Café serving a variety of meals and a delicious range of locally-made cakes with stunning views overlooking the Lake and Brecon Beacons beyond. It makes a perfect base for exploring and has ample on-site parking.

Further around the lake in the village of Llanfihangel Talyllyn is The Black Cock Inn.

Local taste

The Welsh Venison Centre is situated in the heart of the Brecon Beacons National Park. Nestled in this beautiful landscape is a family run business, established in 1985.



It supplies the very highest quality and award winning venison, beef, pork and lamb both locally and nationwide. Very proud winners 2 years running for Gold, Silver and Bronze in the Wales True Taste Awards.

Welsh Venison Centre

The Castle

Red Stone Brewery

Black Cock Inn

The Red Lion

The New Inn



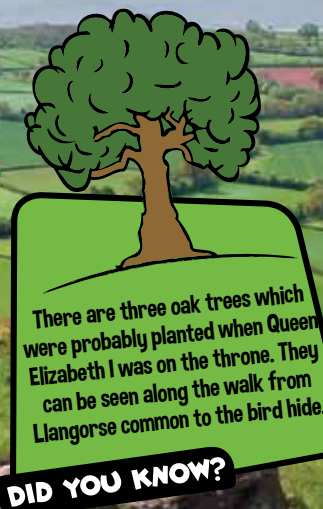
More about the area

Llangorse Lake is a glacial lake formed thousands of years ago when moving ice pushed and scraped its way along, shaping the landscape that we see today. On its journey it collected piles of debris (mud, rocks, wood and stones) which were deposited to the front and side of the glacial movement.

When the ice finally melted this debris was left to form mounds known as moraines. Llangorse Lake owes its existence to the moraine deposits left in the area between Llanfihangel Talyllyn and Talgarth. At one time it was some 150 feet (45 meters) higher with two overflows into the Usk River at Bwlch and Pennorth.

The entire lake's surface and the adjoining common is Registered Common Land giving local people ancient rights to graze their livestock upon it.

Bwlch is home to three circular walks, one being Bwlch with Altitude which is featured on the map. Bwlch with Fortitude which leads to Tretower Court & Castle and Bwlch with Magnitude, taking you on a magnificent ascent of Tor -Y-Foel. All have their own dedicated maps and leaflet.



Llangorse & Bwlch

In the heart of the Brecon Beacons

**WALKS
ACTIVITIES
STAR GAZING
WILDLIFE
HISTORY
EAT & DRINK
STAY**



activities

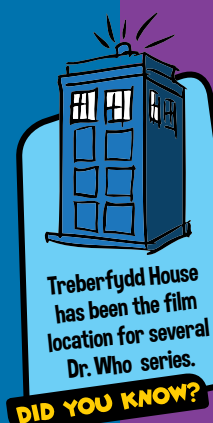


Get up, get out!

The lake offers the opportunity to hire rowing and fishing boats, canoes, kayaks, pedaloes and sailing dinghies. Get out onto the water and enjoy the views of the mountains from the lake. Fishing in the lake can only be done from a boat.

The multi-award-winning Llangorse Multi Activity Centre offers a range of exciting fully-instructed indoor and outdoor activities, including the largest rock-climbing centre in Wales, 'Sky Trek' outdoor zip line tours and two outdoor challenge courses - all with spectacular views of the Lake. Their BHS-approved riding centre offers trekking, riding and hacking for all ages. Friendly, experienced and knowledgeable instructors guide you through 25 miles of stunning private bridleways all within their own land. They cater for everyone - individuals, families and groups, whether experienced or novice, young or old. Visit for a half day, full day, or longer. The centre is AALA licensed and open every day until 10pm (5pm Sunday), all year round.

Ellesmere Riding Centre is a small friendly riding centre on the edge of Llangorse Common, next to the lake, offering trekking for novices and families and faster hacking for experienced riders. Experienced ride escorts with local knowledge point out fascinating features and wildlife en route. Half-day rides follow a spectacular circular route offering views over Llangorse Lake, whilst full-day rides travel through the western parts of the Black Mountains, lunching at a village pub or cafe. Ellesmere also specialises in 2-5 day long distance trail rides. Ride one of the fit, well schooled pure bred Welsh and Irish cobs. Hand picked accommodation along the route, a fantastic holiday adventure.



discover

History

Crannog

Crannogs are artificial islands built of timber and stones on which some form of settlement usually stood. Crannogs are more common to Ireland and Scotland, where they occur from prehistory through to the medieval period. Llangorse Lake Crannog is the only known example of a Crannog in Wales, and the only known example in the world outside Scotland or Ireland!

The Crannog dates back at least as far as the late 9th or early 10th Century. It was excavated in the late 1980s and early 1990s, with some spectacular finds, including a fragment of fine linen decorated with pictures of animals and plants (to have textiles dating back to the 10th Century is very rare and exciting!). Its careful construction and spectacular finds suggest that this was a high status site, and one interpretation of this evidence is that the Crannog may have been home to the early medieval Kings of Brycheiniog.

Paragon Tower

A Victorian built folly or hunting lodge, Paragon tower is a romantic ruin which sits amidst woodland. This round structure has four rooms, each of which has a fireplace linking into the central chimney. It is said that the Ladies of local estates would wait in the tower whilst the Lords were out hunting, and the tower's location provided a fantastic view of the land and the hunting below.

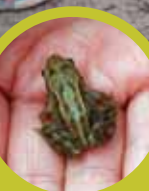
Allt yr Esgair Iron Age Fort

This Iron Age fort lies atop a hill above Llangorse Lake. The fort was constructed sometime between 800BC and the arrival of the Romans in the area in the AD70s and occupied throughout the Iron Age period and perhaps even beyond. It is likely that this large hillfort was an important regional centre for the Iron Age people who lived here. The large earthen ramparts are still visible today even after all these years, and the views from this vantage point are breathtaking.

Blaenllynfi Castle

Although not much survives of Blaenllynfi castle today, this 13th Century castle was once a defensive stronghold with up to 5 towers. Sections of its defensive walls that still remain are 2m thick! In its heyday in the 1200s the castle would have been a busy and influential centre for the local area, and was forcibly taken and changed hands many times during its history.

wildlife



All around us

For some birds Llangorse Lake can be the equivalent to a service station stop on a motorway. Migrating birds can re-fuel, and rest their tired wings before continuing along their journey.

Some birds stay all year such as Canada Geese and Grey Herons.

A new bird hide has been constructed on the side of the lake made from traditional materials and featuring a roof thatched with water reed from Wales. Why not take a walk over to the bird hide to look out for some of the birds.



DID YOU KNOW?

Llangorse Lake is a natural lake and probably the premier pike water in Wales.

Llangorse Lake and its reedy shores and shallows are an excellent habitat for the dragonfly. A number of species have been recorded including the Golden Ringed Dragonfly.

Discover Llangorse & Bwlch

Llangorse has the largest natural lake in south Wales. It boasts an ancient Crannog and is a perfect location to mess about in boats, take a gentle stroll or watch the bird life.

Bwlch has castles, ancient iron age forts and standing stones, not to mention 360° views across the lake.

Llangorse OR Llangors?
The Welsh version is without the 'e', but you will see it spelt both ways.



Bwlch → Llangorse
circular walk

Length of Walk: 12.04 miles (19.26km)
Length if following alternative route: 13.24 miles (21.18km)

If you want to follow this route description, you will have to start from Bwlch, but you can start and finish from anywhere on the map.

Turn left by the side of the Star Bunkhouse, go through kissing gate to reach Penel Baptist Chapel. Walk around the left end of the chapel, go through kissing gate and continue forward. Turn right along a road and shortly turn left up a lane leading to a white cottage. Go through a gate above it, follow the track ascending steeply beside stone wall to join ridge above. A well defined track follows the fence and wall along the ridge of Mynydd Llangorse. After about 2.5 miles, bear left on a path heading for a white 'trig point' marking the summit of Mynydd Llangorse (608m). On reaching the end of the ridge follow the path as it descends. Turn left down a tarmac road, and follow all the way down to Llangorse village. After visiting Llangorse Church, and signing the visitors book, cross the road and opposite the 'Old School' go through a gate between a house and a stone wall. Cross a stile and follow the path through fields, via two gates to reach a footbridge spanning a stream. Go straight across next field to reach a stile. Walking in a westerly direction, cross the common to reach a footbridge spanning the River Llynfi. If the field is not flooded go diagonally left and make

for the kissing gate. Cross the next field passing to the left of two pollarded oaks to reach a gated footbridge spanning a stream. If the field is flooded see alternative route below. Bear slightly left through the next field to reach a board walk and a gate. At a track junction keep straight on. The building directly above is Tŷ Mawr Farmhouse. The path leads on via more kissing gates to reach Llangasty Nature Reserve where a path to the left leads down to a bird hide on the edge of the lake. Continue the walk by going through a five bar gate on the right and then beside a fence; along a board walk and through more kissing gates to turn right up a lane leading to Llangasty Church. After visiting the Church walk up the road to reach a junction and turn right, to follow the road for about quarter of a mile. Turn left by a Bridleway fingerpost directing the way to Allt yr Esgair. Go through a gate and follow the green lane which leads up to the start of the ridge and turn left at a track junction. On reaching the second of the three hunting gates, go right to follow an alternative track (less muddy), ascending parallel to the main one which is used by pony trekkers. It follows the crest of the ridge to reach the

Alternative route if field is flooded

After periods of heavy rain the path passing through fields next to the lake may be flooded. It is necessary to take the following route, which involves a road walk of 4 miles. Walk up the road leading to Llangorse village and turn left at the T junction (signposted Brecon). On reaching Llanfihangel Tal-y-Llyn take the third turning on the left (signposted Tal y Llyn). Just beyond Tallyllyn village turn left at Pennorth and then left again, following the road to join the main route at Llangasty Village hall (on the right).

60MPH ON MANY LANES. PLEASE TAKE EXTRA CARE!



Lake Trail

A shorter Lake Trail runs around the western end of the lake from Llangorse to Llangasty. It is waymarked by greenringed posts and information boards are provided at various points along the way. The walk is about 3.5km (2 miles). It is mostly flat and is stile-free. You should allow about 50 minutes each way. The paths cross farmland where sheep and cattle graze. Please keep dogs under control. Sections of the path flood during the winter and after periods of heavy rain. It is not possible to walk around the eastern end of the lake. Be sure to stop by the spectacular Bird Hide!



Activities

Llangorse Multi Activity Centre
Tel: 0333 600 20 20
www.activityuk.com
Ellesmere Riding Centre
Tel: 01874 658282
www.ellesmereridingcentre.co.uk
Llangorse Lake Boat hire
Tel: 01874 658226
www.llangorselake.co.uk
Llangorse Sailing Club
www.llangorsesailing.com
Llangorse Water Ski Club
Tel: 01874 658 226
Ty Mawr Heritage Skills & Archaeology
Tel: 01874 611380
web: www.lime.org.uk

Attractions

The Crannog
Tel: 01874 658 226
www.llangorselake.co.uk/crannog
Bird Hide
www.breconbeacons.org/visit-us/easy-access/routes-strolls-and-walks/llangasty-birdhide
Treberfydd House
Tel: 01874 730205
www.treberfydd.com
Paragon (derelict Hunting Lodge)
The Allt -Prehistoric Hill fort
Blaenllynfi Castle

Churches & chapels

All Saints Church
St Paulinus Church
St Gastyns Church
St Mary's Church, Llanywern
St Michael & All Angels Church, Llanfihangel Talyllyn
Pennorth URC Chapel

Eat/drink out

Red Lion pub
Tel: 01874 658825
www.redlionllangorse.co.uk
Castle Inn
Tel: 01874 658819
www.facebook.com/castle.llangorse
Base Camp Cafe at Llangorse Multi Activity Centre
Tel: 01874 658226
www.llangorselake.co.uk
Lakeside Bar
Tel: 01874 658226
www.llangorselake.co.uk
Lakeside Cafe
Tel: 01874 658170
www.llangorselake.co.uk
Black Cock Inn
Tel: 01874 658697
The New Inn
Tel: 01874 730 215
www.beaconsbackpackers.co.uk
Llangorse Brewery
Tel: 01874 658825
www.llangorsebrewery.co.uk
Redstone Brewery
Tel: 07691 878 604
www.redstone-brewery.com

Shop

Lakeside shop
Tel: 01874 658226
www.llangorselake.co.uk
Welsh Venison Centre & Beacons Farm Shop
Tel: 01874 730929
www.beaconsfarmshop.co.uk
The Gate Shop & Post office
Tel: 01874 730492

Camping

Lakeside Caravan & Camping
Tel: 01874 658226
www.llangorselake.co.uk

B&B

Pen-y-Bryn House
01874 658606
www.stayinllangorse.com

Self-catering

Aubreys, Llangorse
Tel: 01874 658154
www.aubreysllangorse.com
Ty Gwydr (Glass House), Llangorse
www.stayinthepark.com
Tel: 07976975363
Min y Llyn, Llangorse
Tel: 01874 658100
www.llangorsecottages.co.uk
Ty Mawr Coach House, Llangorse
Tel: 01874 676446
www.breconcottages.com
Tower House, Cathedine
Tel: 01874 676446
www.breconcottages.com
Old Coach House, Cathedine
Tel: 01874 676446
www.breconcottages.com
Winnies Hay Loft, Bwlch
Tel: 01874 731105/ 07891 645477
www.winnieshayloft.co.uk
Dragons Cottage, Bwlch
Tel: 01874 676446
www.breconcottages.com
Brynderwen, Talyllyn
Tel: 01874 658898
www.brynderwen.uk.com
Glaslyn, Pennorth
Tel: 01874 676446
www.breconcottages.com
Ty Bryn, Llanywern
Tel: 01874 676446
www.breconcottages.com

Wedding & celebration venues

Treberfydd House
Tel: 01874 730205
www.treberfydd.com
The Crannog
Tel: 01874 658226
www.llangorselake.co.uk
Buckland Hall
Tel: 01874 730276
web: www.bucklandhall.co.uk

Group accommodation

Beacons Backpackers
Tel: 01874 730 215
www.beaconsbackpackers.co.uk

Non-graded accommodation

Gilfach Bunkhouse
Ty Mawr camping
Treberfydd House Group Accommodation
Gilfach Camping
Llynfi Holiday Park

Other

Llangorse Community Council
www.llangors.org.uk
Llangorse Youth & Community Centre
Tel: 01874 658645
www.llangorseshall.co.uk
Llangasty Village Hall
Tel: 01874 658 726
www.llangastyvillagehall.co.uk
Beacons Nursery
Tel: 01874 730 169
Llanfihangel & Llanywern Community Hall
Tel: 01874 658 869
www.llangorse.org.uk
Llangasty Retreat House
Tel: 01874 658250
web: www.llangasty.com

Wedding & celebration venues

Treberfydd House
Tel: 01874 730205
www.treberfydd.com
The Crannog
Tel: 01874 658226
www.llangorselake.co.uk
Buckland Hall
Tel: 01874 730276
web: www.bucklandhall.co.uk



- **KEY**
- ★ **POINTS OF INTEREST**
1. Crannog Centre
 2. Bird Hide
 3. Paragon Tower
 4. Blaenllynfi Castle
- ★ **ACTIVITIES**
1. Llangorse Multi Activity Centre indoor climbing, horse riding, outdoor activities, cafe & more
 2. Llangorse Lake - Boat Hire, Jetties, cafe & more
 3. Ellesmere Riding Centre
- ★ **SHOPS**
1. Welsh Venison Centre & Farm Shop Tea, coffee, cakes available
 2. Gate shop
 3. Lakeside shop
- ★ **PUB/CAFE**
1. New Inn/Beacons Backpackers
 2. Base Camp Cafe - Llangorse Multi Activity Centre
 3. Castle Inn
 4. Red Lion
 5. Lakeside Cafe
 6. Black Cock
- ★ **VILLAGE HALLS**
1. Llangorse
 2. Llanfihangel Talyllyn
 3. Llangasty
 4. Bwlch
- ★ **CHURCHES/CHAPEL**
1. St. Paulinus church
 2. St. Michael's
 3. Pennorth chapel
 4. St. Gastyns church
 5. All Saints Church
 6. Cathedine

→ **ROUTE KEY**

- Circular walk (see description)
- Alternative routes
- Path may become flooded
- 🦆 Lake trail (no cycles)
- i Information boards
- P Parking