



ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION
of SMITH COLLEGE

Aug 26 - Sept 5, 2013

Wales: In the Footsteps of Dylan Thomas

*A unique tour of Wales designed exclusively for Smith Travel.
Celebrate Dylan Thomas' 100th birthday and then participate
in a 2-day workshop at the Welsh National Writers' Centre.*



Welsh Poet Menna Elfyn at Ty Newydd

Monday, Aug 26th. Departure from your chosen US gateway city. **Overnight: Plane**

Tuesday, Aug 27th. We'll gather this morning at Heathrow Airport, where we'll be met by our guide and our tour bus. It's a fast drive down the motorway and across the Severn Bridge to South Wales, but we'll be stopping along the way for refreshments and to stretch our legs. On arrival at our hotel in Swansea, we'll have time to relax, unpack and rest up from the journey before we gather for a welcome dinner. **(D) Overnight: Swansea**

Wednesday, Aug 28th. Swansea was where Dylan Thomas went to school and spent most of his early childhood, leaving in the early years of World War II. This morning we'll have an exclusive program at the Dylan Thomas Centre and then repair to The Mumbles for lunch. There will be some free time this afternoon before we gather again for a tour of his birthplace museum. Dinner is included this evening in Dylan Thomas' childhood home. **(B, D) Overnight: Swansea**



The Gower Peninsula

Thursday, Aug 29th. A day trip from Swansea today, takes us through the area that Dylan fell in love with as a boy and where he spent his family vacations at the beach (seaside holidays as he would know them). We begin by touring the Gower Peninsula, an area of renowned scenic beauty. On our way back to our hotel in Swansea, we'll stop and visit Kidwelly castle. The evening is free in Swansea to sample a local restaurant. **(B) Overnight: Swansea**

Friday, Aug 30th. Today we take a second day trip exploring Dylan's coastal haunts. Driving through Carmarthen, we cross over the river Towy to Llansteffan, where Dylan spent many summers at his Aunt's farm, the eponymous Fern Hill. We'll work our way around the estuary of the River Taf to visit Dylan Thomas's village of Laugharne, where he lived after the war. We'll stop for lunch in Brown's Hotel, where Dylan was a regular, and visit the Boathouse, where he wrote much of his later work. We return to Swansea in time to do a little shopping and enjoy a free evening. **(B, L) Overnight: Swansea**

Saturday, August 31st. Heading north this morning we hit the Irish Sea and Cardigan Bay at Aberystwyth, a thriving, seaside university city, where we'll tour Wales' National Library, home to some of the world's most treasured manuscripts. This afternoon we'll make a brief stop at lovely Llanarchaeron Gardens on our way to Lampeter. On arrival a brief walking tour will detail Dylan's associations with the town. We'll round off the day with a visit to the Welsh Quilt Center in Lampeter and then check into our hotel. Dinner is included at the hotel this evening. **(B, D) Overnight: Lampeter**

Sunday, Sept 1st. Leaving Lampeter we head to the coast to New Quay. After delving into the many connections between Dylan and New Quay, we continue along the coast to the wonderful Georgian seaside town of Aberaeron, where we'll stop for lunch. From here our route north takes us through Dolgellau, a delightful market town with excellent shops and around the edge of the Snowdonia National Park. We'll arrive at Tŷ Newydd with time to freshen up before dinner. **(B, D) Overnight: Crickieth**

Monday, Sept 2nd - Tuesday, Sept 3rd. Tŷ Newydd is Wales' National Writers' Centre and offers a wide variety of residential creative writing courses and experiences to people of all ages and backgrounds. We will be taking a two day course in this inspiring and nurturing environment for writing, located in a beautiful, historic house set in stunning surroundings with views to the Welsh mountains and the sea. Excursions to sites of local interest will be provided for anyone not wishing to participate in the workshops. Dinner on one night will be at the exceptional restaurant-with-rooms, Plas Bodegroes. **(B, D) Overnight: Crickieth**

Wednesday, September 4th. We wrap up our course this morning and head back through North Wales to our hotel near Manchester Airport. En route, we'll stop in Chester, one of Europe's top heritage cities, the city walls date to Roman times. We'll celebrate with a farewell dinner at our hotel. **(B, D) Overnight: Alderley Edge**

Thursday, September 5th. Morning transfers to Manchester Airport for returning flights to the U.S. **(B) Overnight: Home**



Kidwelly Castle