



Forest of Dean Group Travel

Welcome

Whether you're planning to bring your group for a day or longer, the Forest of Dean is the ideal location. The Forest is a unique and fascinating part of Gloucestershire nestled between the Rivers Wye, Severn and Leadon. Truly an area for all seasons. Steeped in history and rich in culture, the Forest of Dean offers a place to relax and enjoy some of the country's most spectacular scenery. Nature and wildlife is abundant as is the range of outdoor leisure activities and exciting attractions that are ideal for all tastes and ages.

There are a variety of accommodation options in the Forest of Dean, so you can be sure to find something to suit your taste and your budget. Historic hotels, inns, guest houses and B&Bs are available throughout the area, or you may choose to stay on a farm, go self catering or simply enjoy the outdoors at one of our camping and caravan sites. Enjoy your stay!

Guided tours are available from the Forest of Dean & Wye Valley Tour Guides who can accompany you to a variety of places of interest including industrial heritage sites, nature walks and some of the area's top scenic spots.

Call 01594 888197 or visit www.wyedeantourguides.org.uk

If you would like further information or assistance with itinerary planning or tailor-made packages please contact Paula Burrows - Tourism Officer on 01594 812389 or email paula.burrows@fdean.gov.uk

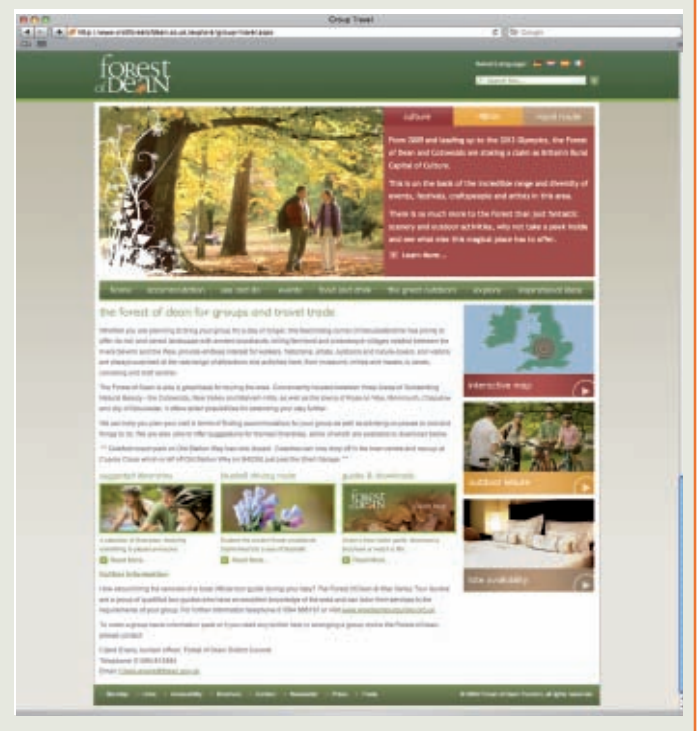
Information correct at time of going to print - November 2009

Symbols:

- Facilities for deaf/hard of hearing
- Toilets for the disabled
- Facilities for blind/partially sighted
- Disabled parking
- Wheelchair access to most areas (avoiding steps)



The Forest of Dean website has a dedicated area for Group Travel. Here you will find all of the latest information to help plan your visit.



Forest Facts...

1. It is Britain's largest ancient forest; all that remains of the vast tracts of forest that once covered most of the western half of Britain.
2. The Forest was Britain's first National Forest Park, designated in 1938.
3. Ancient commoners rights enable sheep to roam freely in the Forest. The people who look after them are called 'badgers'.
4. Freeminers are men born in the Hundred of St Briavels (an area with similar boundaries to the Forest of Dean), aged over 21, who have worked a year and a day in a mine. These men enjoy ancient rights to mine in the Forest, conferred on them by Edward I. Their rights still exist and are regulated by a Crown official called the Deputy Gaveller.
5. Wine from Three Choirs Vineyard in Newent is exported to France, Germany, Sweden and Hong Kong and has been enjoyed by first class BA passengers plus travellers on the Euro Shuttle.
6. The bee shelter at Hartpury is the largest and most ornate of the 103 shelters known to survive in the UK.
7. Westbury Court Garden has the only formal Dutch water garden in the UK.
8. Forest of Dean red ochre is believed to be the famous "Terra Rossa d'Inghilterra" - "English Red Earth" - prized by Italian Renaissance painters, and is still produced at Clearwell Caves.
9. The famous Sculpture Trail is the largest in the South West and won best walk in Country Walking magazine. It was also awarded the Number 1 place in The Independent's top 50 Autumn Breaks in the UK, 2004.
10. During the seventeenth century the Dean had the largest concentration of iron furnaces and forges in Britain.
11. Dark Hills was the first steel production site in Britain.
12. The Roman Camp and Temple at Lydney Park Gardens is one of the most important Roman archaeological sites in Britain.
13. The Severn Estuary has the second highest tidal range in the world and is the location of the famous Severn Bore.
14. There are over 30 nature reserves in the Forest of Dean, five of which are designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest.



Top viewpoints for group travel

- Symond's Yat Rock
(Grid ref. SO564160)
There is an outdoor café at the Rock.
- May Hill
(Grid ref. SO695215)
- New Fancy View
(Grid ref. SO628095)
Open all year round apart from Christmas Day and bad weather (snow).
- Ruardean Hill (Pan Tod Beacon)
(Grid ref. SO6316)
- Blaize Bailey
(Grid ref. SO662116)
Contact the Forestry Commission on 01594 833057 for opening times and access

