



Coleford Town – Pride of the Forest



The market town of Coleford is picturesque and charming with a long and rich history. Comprising of the central town area, and surrounding settlements of Broadwell, Coalway, Mile End, Milkwall and Whitecliff it is home to just over 9000 residents. The towns' compact and walkable layout, with all the amenities and family-friendly attractions you could want, makes Coleford worth a visit.

Browse the shops in the historic town centre

Start your Coleford visit in Market Place, where the centrepiece is the historic clock tower, the remaining part of a church that was demolished in the 19th century.

When you are there, be sure to look at the memorial plaque commemorating the Battle of Coleford, which took place in 1643 during the English Civil War and is celebrated annually in February.

Then walk down the surrounding streets with their Georgian facades. These ancient routes house colourful independent retailers that range from a model train shop to a new age gift shop, a cinema and variety of food outlets for you to stock up. The town also boasts three butchers, two bakers and florists, a greengrocer, and a traditional DIY store.

Eat out in cosy cafes and pubs

Coleford is home to a quick bite or loungy lazy dining venues in the town centre and surrounding areas. The award-winning Forest Deli and Sixteen Community Cafe sit alongside Scoffs Coffee House, Bolters, Amici Italian Restaurant, Ritmo Tapas Bar, the Dog House Micro Pub, and the more traditional Angel Hotel.

A mecca for train enthusiasts

If you love trains, then the Great Western Railway Museum is for you. The Forest of Dean was an important iron ore and coal mining area, where the railways played an important role in its economic success.

One of the last remaining permanent railway buildings on the site of Coleford Station has been turned into a museum where among other things you can see a restored locomotive.

Once you have visited the museum, take a 30-minute trip on a steam locomotive courtesy of Perrygrove Railway. The railway has four stations, and with an all-day ticket most visitors hop on and off at one or more of the stations to explore the woods or have a picnic.

If model railways are your thing, then make sure you have time to visit Derails, located in the town centre for all your modelling needs.

Visit “the most magical forest on the face of the earth”

Kathleen Kennedy, Star Wars producer and president of Lucasfilm described Puzzlewood as “the most magical forest on the face of the earth!” This was after Puzzlewood served as the backdrop to Star Wars: The Force Awakens. It has also been used as the set for dozens of TV and film productions including Merlin, Dr Who and The Huntsman: Winter’s War and the 2020 release of The Secret Garden.

Walk through Puzzlewood and experience twisted trees in an otherworldly woodland through a mile and a half of paths, bridges, and lookout points. It is a wood like no other, and its magic will cast a spell to entice you back time and time again.

Go underground in the footsteps of the Freeminers

For over a thousand years the Freeminers held an exclusive birth right to mine for iron ore, coal, and stone in the caves beneath the Forest. Follow in their footsteps by visiting one of the 10 caves open for you to explore at Clearwell Caves. If that has whetted your appetite you can even take part in some deep level caving activities.

Coleford, the festival capital of the Forest

Carnival of Transport – Easter Monday; The Fiddle Fair – May, August and Christmas; Forest Morris Festival – held each June; Coleford Music Festival – held every July and the annual Skate Jam at Bells Field – held in August, to name just a few of the towns amazing regular events.

Accommodation to suit every taste and budget

From hotels to glamping, Coleford offers a range of places to stay to suit every taste and budget. For those who prefer to be self-sufficient, there are several self-catering options such as Lambsquay House apartments, Pomegranate Holidays and Puzzlewood Cottages, and campsites including Greenacres and Rushmere Farm.

Want to know more?

Download Coleford’s Hidden Heritage app free from Google Play or the App Store or visit www.colefordtown.net or follow us on Twitter @Coleford_Town

