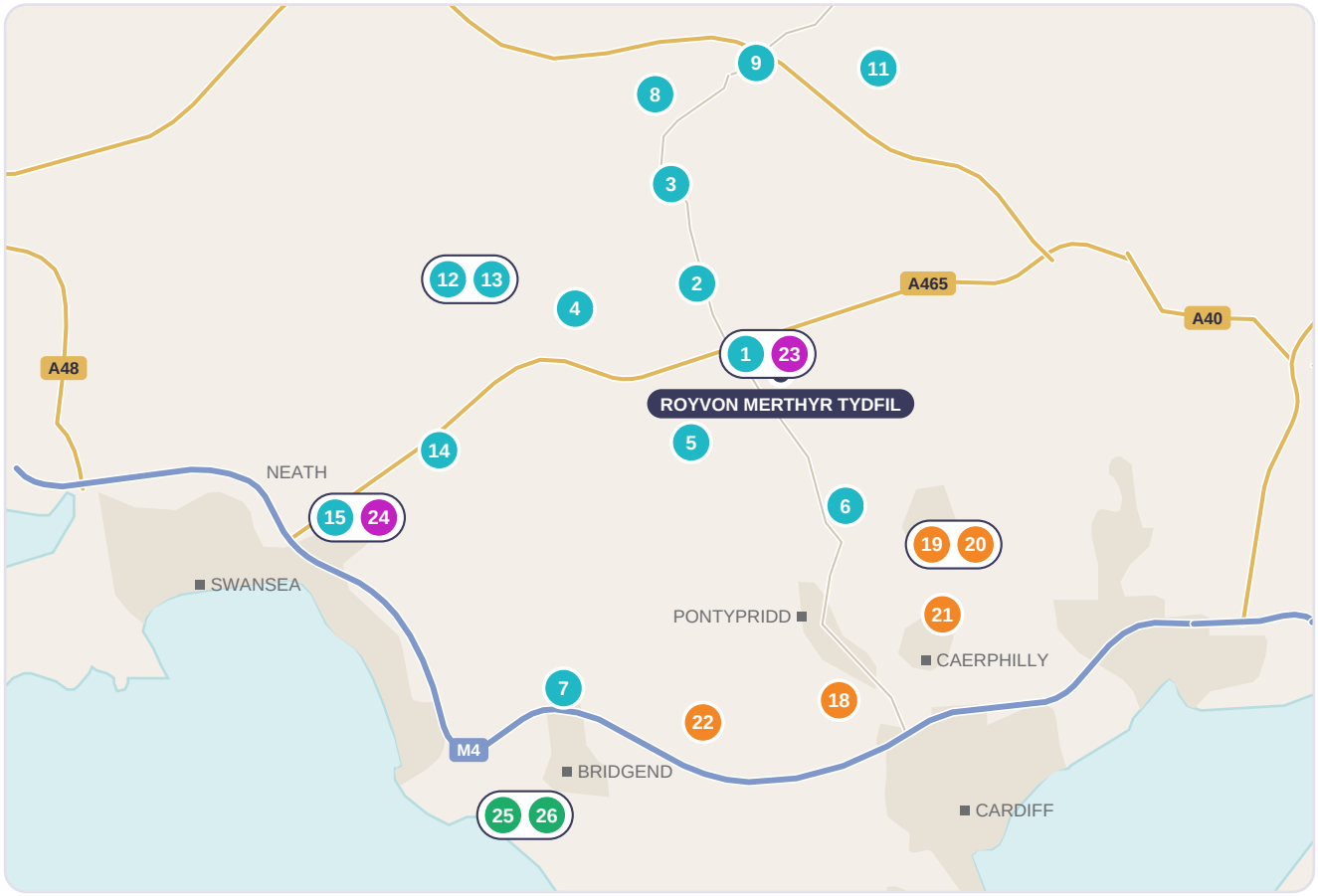
A FREE GUIDE FROM ROYVON · UPDATED OCTOBER 2026

Dog days out in South Wales

Walks, secure dog fields, beaches and days out near Royvon Merthyr Tydfil, each with dog rules, an official source and directions. Free for any dog owner to use and share.

Checked against official sources in October 2026. Rules and parking can change, so check signs on arrival.



Walks & parks **Secure dog fields** **Days out** **Beaches & coast** Location overview, not a navigation map: use the directions links for routes. Not pinned: Talybont Reservoir, Cwmblacks Playful Paws and Wern Isaf Secure Dog Walking Fields.

Walks & parks

1

Cyfarthfa Park Merthyr Tydfil · CF47 8PA

160 acres of parkland around Cyfarthfa Castle with woodland walks, sensory gardens and a playground. Free parking.

Dog notes: Dogs welcome, subject to signposted restrictions: follow the signs for lead areas and dog-free sections. Dogs on leads are welcome at the Halo café. Only assistance dogs in the museum.

Source: Merthyr Tydfil Council (Cyfarthfa) Directions from Royvon

2

Garwnant Visitor Centre Coed Taf Fawr, north of Merthyr · CF48 2HU

Forest visitor centre off the A470 with the all-ability Willow Walk, the 1.75-mile Wern Walk, a sculpture trail and a bike skills park. Forest Café open daily; paid parking (pay before you leave).

Dog notes: Dogs welcome on the forest walks, inside the visitor centre and in the Forest Café, with water bowls in the courtyard. Keep dogs under control and follow local signs.

Source: Garwnant Visitor Centre Directions from Royvon

3

Pen y Fan & Corn Du circular Pont ar Daf car park, A470 · LD3 8NL

4-mile circular from Pont ar Daf over Corn Du to the 886m summit of Pen y Fan. Strenuous, with steep steps near the top; allow about 3.5 hours.

Dog notes: Close lead on this route, and short leads near livestock. Short lead on open country and common land 1 March to 31 July.

Source: National Trust Directions from Royvon

4

Four Falls Trail Gwaun Hepste car park, Ystradfellte · SA11 5UT

Strenuous 5-mile circular past four waterfalls, including Sgwd yr Eira, where a rough, very slippery path runs behind the falls. Allow 3 to 4 hours.

Dog notes: Dogs welcome. We recommend a lead near the waterfalls, steep drops and other visitors, and a short lead near farm animals. Link paths to the falls are narrow, slippery and stepped. Pay and display parking at Gwaun Hepste.

Source: Natural Resources Wales Directions from Royvon

5

Dare Valley Country Park Aberdare · CF44 7PS

Country park with lakes and three waymarked trails, from the level 2-mile Bwllfa Trail to the 4-mile Penrhiwllech Trail onto the upland plateau. Free parking.

Dog notes: Dogs welcome; not in the play areas. The café has a dog-friendly area; use the courtyard entrance.

Source: Rhondda Cynon Taf Council Directions from Royvon

6

Parc Taf Bargoed Trelewis · CF46 6AP

Green Flag park on reclaimed colliery land with lakes, walking and cycling paths, canoeing and fishing, linked to the Taff and Trevithick Trails. Visitor address: Glo Ddu Pavilion, off High Street, Trelewis.

Dog notes: Dogs welcome.

Source: Merthyr Tydfil Council Directions from Royvon

7

Bryngarw Country Park Brynmenyn, Bridgend · CF32 8UU

Over 100 acres of meadow, gardens and woodland beside the River Garw, with a Japanese Garden, a wetland boardwalk and a café.

Dog notes: Dogs welcome; leads asked for in the park (busy areas). No swimming in the duck pond or Japanese Garden pond. Café is dog friendly; dog wash by the visitor centre. Paid parking.

Source: Bryngarw Country Park Directions from Royvon

8

National Park Visitor Centre Libanus, near Brecon · LD3 8ER

Visitor centre on Mynydd Illtud common with the Dau Fynydd Café, which has a dog-friendly area. Open 10am to 4pm all year.

Dog notes: Leads no longer than 2m from 1 March to 31 July, and asked for year-round, for ground-nesting birds and livestock. Paid parking.

Source: Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Directions from Royvon

9

Brecon canal towpath Brecon Basin to Brynich Lock · LD3 7EY

Easy surfaced towpath on the Monmouthshire & Brecon Canal, a little under 3 miles from Brecon Basin to Brynich Lock.

Dog notes: Canal & River Trust asks for a short lead around locks and bridges and no swimming in the canal. Cyclists give way to walkers.

Source: Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Directions from Royvon

10

Talybont Reservoir Talybont-on-Usk · not shown on map

Reservoir in the hills above Talybont-on-Usk. Cross the dam wall to join the Taff Trail beside the water. Parking near the dam and in designated lay-bys.

Dog notes: Dogs welcome on the walking areas but must stay on a lead, because the reservoir is used for fishing. This is separate from the rules that apply to anglers themselves.

Source: Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Directions from Royvon

11

Llangorse Lake Llangors · LD3 7TR

Waymarked, mostly flat, stile-free path along the western shore to Llangasty Church, with a bird hide beyond. Return the same way: it isn't a circuit of the lake. Lakeside Café April to November.

Dog notes: Good for dogs on the western lakeside route, with leads where livestock are present. No dogs inside the Lakeside Café. The path can flood after heavy rain.

Source: Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Directions from Royvon

12 **Craig-y-Nos Country Park** Upper Swansea Valley · SA9 1GL
Victorian parkland with woodland, meadows, ponds and river paths, a visitor centre and Caffi Dwy Afon.
Dog notes: Dogs welcome on a lead. Not in the hay meadow when sheep graze in winter. Pay and display parking.
Source: Bannau Brycheiniog National Park Directions from Royvon

13 **Henrhyd Falls & Nant Llech** Coelbren · what3words ///glossed.nothing.insolvent
Moderate 3.5-mile walk to Henrhyd Falls, the highest waterfall in South Wales at 90ft, then along the wooded Nant Llech valley.
Dog notes: Dogs welcome. Steep stairs near the start and drops beside some paths.
Source: National Trust Directions from Royvon

14 **Melincourt Waterfalls Nature Reserve** Resolven · SA11 4ED
A 10 to 15 minute walk from the free council car park through ancient oak woodland to an 80ft waterfall. Bluebells in spring.
Dog notes: Dogs on a lead. No facilities on the trail.
Source: Wildlife Trust of South and West Wales Directions from Royvon

15 **Gnoll Estate Country Park** Neath · SA11 3BS
Country park in 200 acres of woodland with four ponds, restored 18th-century cascades and a visitor centre café. Paid parking.
Dog notes: Dogs welcome, with leads near the visitor centre and playgrounds. Well-behaved dogs are allowed downstairs in the visitor centre café. Dog bins throughout the park.
Source: Gnoll Country Park Directions from Royvon

Secure dog fields

16 **Cwmblacks Playful Paws** Merthyr Tydfil · not shown on map
Secure dog field just outside Merthyr Tydfil, booked online through the operator's website.
Dog notes: Book a private slot online. Check the website for fencing, prices and field rules.
Source: Cwmblacks Playful Paws Directions from Royvon

17 **Wern Isaf Secure Dog Walking Fields** Nelson, Treharris · not shown on map
Secure dog walking field near Nelson, booked online.
Dog notes: Book a private slot online. Check the booking page for prices and field rules.
Source: Wern Isaf (online booking page) Directions from Royvon

18 **Drysgoed Dogs & Horses** Drysgoed Farm, Efail Isaf, near Pontypridd · CF38 1SN
Secure indoor arena (non-slip surface, lighting) and an outdoor grass dog park with toys. Toilets, water, a free hose and a paid hot wash on site, with off-road parking.
Dog notes: Open 6am to 9pm; book online and pay in full by bank transfer. Finish 5 minutes before your slot ends. No digging. XL Bullies welcome with their certificate. Don't follow satnav through the field gates; use the written directions on the contact page.
Source: Drysgoed Dogs & Horses Directions from Royvon

19 **Islwyn Dog Field** Gelligroes, Pontllanfraith · NP12 2HY
Two separately bookable fields. The Main Field is a large grass area with agility kit and a shelter (up to 15 dogs). The Paddock has a stream, a hard-ground area with shelter and agility kit, and access to woodland (up to 9 dogs).
Dog notes: 6ft fences, buried underground. Gate code emailed on the day. Dogs on lead in the car park; off lead only once the gate is shut. The Paddock is accessible by car only. 25 or 50 minute sessions. Dogs must be vaccinated, wormed and flea treated. Unlit.
Source: Islwyn Dog Field Directions from Royvon

20 **Sweetwell Fields** Springfield, Mynyddislwyn · NP12 2BL
Fenced grass field and woodland with a shelter, a wash station with hose and a waste bin. One booking per slot, so you have the field to yourselves.
Dog notes: 6ft fencing dug 3ft into the ground. Appointment only; gate code emailed an hour before. Half-hour or hour slots on weekdays, hour only at weekends. Dogs on lead from the general car park to the gate; one car can park inside the field. No choke, prong or electronic collars. Uneven ground and a steep-sided stream in places; unlit.
Source: Sweetwell Fields Directions from Royvon

21

Top of the Meadow Dog Park Mountain Road, Bedwas · CF83 8ER

Two separately bookable private fields: Glen's Field, with valley views, and Shep's Field, a minute further up the lane. Each has a shelter with a bench; wash and drinking water station on site.

Dog notes: 6ft secure fencing. One booking per slot, up to five dogs and two cars. Book and pay online; the access code is in your confirmation and changes regularly, so check which field you've booked. Daylight hours, unlit. Cancel at least 24 hours ahead.

Source: Top of the Meadow Directions from Royvon

22

Hope Rescue training paddock Old Llanharry Road, Llanharan · CF72 9RA

Private hire of the charity's training paddock, with specialist dog-proof fencing, for off-lead or long-lead training. This is separate from the rescue centre, which isn't a public venue.

Dog notes: Open 1 April to 31 October only (closed over winter). 30-minute sessions, £5. Book through the online form; send your dog's vaccination card first. Over-18s only to book. Park in the space outside the paddock gate, across the road from the rescue centre.

Source: Hope Rescue Directions from Royvon

Days out

23

Brecon Mountain Railway Pant, Merthyr Tydfil · CF48 2DD

Steam railway from Pant through Pontsticill and along the Taf Fechan Reservoir to Torpantau.

Dog notes: Well-behaved dogs ride for a small fee and are allowed in both cafés, the shop and outdoor seating. Dogs aren't allowed on Santa Specials or The Polar Express (assistance dogs excepted).

Source: Brecon Mountain Railway Directions from Royvon

24

Aberdulais Tin Works & Waterfall Aberdulais, Neath · SA10 8EU

National Trust tin works and waterfall site with a second-hand bookshop. Car park across the road.

Dog notes: One pawprint: dogs welcome in the grounds and bookshop on a short lead. No bins, so take bags home. Opening days vary.

Source: National Trust Directions from Royvon

Beaches & coast

25

Merthyr Mawr Warren Near Bridgend · CF32 0LR

National Nature Reserve with 840 acres of dunes, including the Big Dipper, the highest dune in Wales. The Beach Walk runs from Candleston car park to the beach.

Dog notes: Mostly on leads inland and on waymarked paths; room to run on the beach. Bridgend's summer beach dog ban doesn't cover Newton Beach. Pay and display parking.

Source: Visit Wales Directions from Royvon

26

Ogmore-by-Sea beach Vale of Glamorgan · CF32 0PD

Sandy beach with rock pools, with Ogmore Castle nearby. Paid parking at the council's Rivermouth car park.

Dog notes: Dogs currently allowed: the council didn't apply its 1 May to 30 September beach ban here in summer 2026 while the order is under review.

Source: Vale of Glamorgan Council Directions from Royvon

Days out difficult? Royvon can help.

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Our force-free behaviour training helps with reactivity, recall and nerves.

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