



Welcome to The Brigands Inn

Your hosts Kevin and Sue welcome you to the Brigands to enjoy the peace and tranquillity of Mallwyd and the Snowdonia National Park.

The Brigands Inn is perfectly located to make the most of the wide variety of places and activities that surround us. Using the Brigands as a hub, many of the highlights Wales has to offer are within striking distance. Set in the Vale of Dyfi the Brigands is a great rendezvous for Anglers, Shoots, Artists, Climbers, Walkers and those who enjoy motoring amongst beautiful, unspoilt and mountainous countryside.

The fantastic array of beaches and coastal towns ensure that there is something for everyone. Aberystwyth and its winding promenade is popular with visitors and locals alike and in summer is a thriving resort town, closer to home along the coast there is an array of towns such as Aberdyfi, Tywyn, Borth, Barmouth (all about 30 mins drive) and Harlech (about 40 mins drive). Each have their individual character and charm but all are worth exploring to find your favorite.

The Brigands Inn is the gateway to Snowdonia National Park which has a wide variety of activities to suit all. For the more adventurous the mountain biking, tree top parks, white water rafting and canoeing can be found in various locations. The area also has many fantastic places for walking, bird watching or beautiful drives to take in the outstanding scenery and with a rich railway heritage there are many stunning railway journeys that can be taken. For climbers Cader Idris (2927ft) and Aran Mawddwy (2920ft) are within easy distance

Please ask at Reception for more details or check through our collection of Tourist Information leaflets just outside the door to the Residents Lounge.



Your comfort and wellbeing is our priority and we take pleasure in providing a friendly and relaxing atmosphere to ensure that you have an enjoyable stay.

- Breakfast is served in the Function Room between 8 and 9.30am
If you would like an early breakfast, please ask at Reception
- To connect to wifi select 'Brigands Inn Guest Wifi', there is no password
- This room is fitted with a satellite box for the TV, there are two remote controllers, to switch TV on follow these steps:
 - ✓ Step 1 Switch on TV with the TV remote control
 - ✓ Step 2 Switch on Satellite box with satellite remote control, please be patient at this stage as the box takes about 30 seconds to load
 - ✓ There are about 50 channels available which can be accessed by selecting the 'guide' button on the satellite remote control
 - ✓ Fault Solution: If you are not receiving a picture the TV may be connected to the wrong input. To check press the 'source' button on the TV remote and ensure that the source is set to HDMI. If there is still no picture please contact Reception.
- The back door by the Reception desk is left unlocked, if you are returning late to the hotel please use this door.
- Check out time is 11am

In case of evacuation of the building there are 2 emergency exits, one by the reception desk into the back car park and one by the staircase between rooms 6 and 7 which leads to the residents lounge, exit through the fire exit to the Welshpool Road side of the building. The assembly point is in the Front car park.

We do not live in the Inn, however there is always a member of staff on site, either in Room 2, The Annex or Static Caravan in the Kitchen Car Park



and we are only a 10-minute drive away. In case of emergency during the night please call 01650 531616 or 07970 349965 for assistance, please feel free to use the telephone at Reception in an emergency

History of the Brigands Inn

Part of the Inn dates back to the XVth century and is reputed to have been the meeting place of the notorious 'Red-headed Brigands of Mawddwy'. Later it became one of the principal stage-coach Inns between Aberystwyth and Shrewsbury.

Much of the character of the Inn remains unchanged, even after its sympathetic restoration in 2014. The original oak beams, antique furniture, roaring log fires and weapons all combine to give that sense of olde world charm and comfort which add to the pleasure of a visit. The residents lounge can hardly have changed much since the tumultuous days of old.

In the XVth century THE BRIGANDS INN was in the midst of a particularly lawless area; the whole country around Dinas Mawddwy and Mallwyd being haunted by the Gwylliaid Cochion Mawddwy.

Legend has it that only a couple of miles from the Inn, at Barons Bridge – just by the Mill Shop in Dinas, there took place a scene as grim as any saga in Central Wales.

It was in 1554 that Queen Mary commissioned Lewis Owen, the Baron of the Exchequer of Caernarvon, to wipe out the bandits. On Christmas Eve the Baron surprised the outlaws whilst they, men, women and children, were feasting and captured eighty of the men whom he immediately hanged from the topmost branches of the trees that had, only moments earlier witnessed scenes of drunken revelry. One old woman, after pleading in vain for the life



of her son, vowed that her other sons would avenge the deed by dipping their hands in the Baron blood.

A year later, almost to the day, whilst he passed over the bridge the Baron was attacked and, after his bodyguard had fled into the forest, unmercifully hacked to death. The old woman's vow had been fulfilled.

The Battle of Camlan

Historians have long debated the site of King Arthur's last great battle against his nephew, Modred, and his Saxon allies. Some claim that it was at Camelford in Cornwall, or Camelon in Scotland. More recently, it has been suggested that the battle took place at Camlan near Dinas Mawddwy in Gwynedd, with the suggested site of the battle being the hillside across the road from the Brigands Inn. In old Welsh the word Cadgamlan means a slaughter. So any of these sites might be the place of this final battle.

From the 12th century onwards, successive writers have told and retold the story of the Battle of Camlan, until the legend has become fixed along certain lines.

This is the story as commonly told:

- Modred (Medraut) began a love affair with Arthur's wife Guinevere (Gwenhwyfar) and/or abducted her.
- Aided and abetted by his mother Morgan Le Fey (Gwyar/Anna/Morgaine/Morgause), Modred sought to seize Arthur's 'kingdom' for himself.
- Modred raised an army (some sources say there were over 80,000 men there - seems a bit high...) amongst Arthur's enemies, including the Saxons, Irish, Scots and disaffected Welsh.



- Also backed by a huge army (mostly Welsh), Arthur met Modred at Camlan.
- As uncle and nephew (possibly son), they didn't want to actually fight, but the treachery of their intermediary, plus an accidental pulling of a sword to kill a snake, made it inevitable.
- In the vast slaughter that ensued, tens of thousands of people lost their lives. It weakened the British forces for a generation, thus allowing the Saxons to gain a strong foothold in Britain.
- Modred was killed outright in the fighting.
- Arthur was mortally wounded, but survived for a short while.
- Sir Bedivere (Bedwyr) was instructed by Arthur to take the latter's sword Excalibur (Caledfwlch) to a nearby lake and cast it into the center.
- After some faffing, Bedivere does as he's told. He witnesses the Lady of the Lake's arm reach out and catch the sword, then take it down into the depths.
- Arthur is carried on a barge, accompanied by Morgan Le Fey (and three or nine Ladies) to the island of Avalon.
- One day Arthur will return, whole and well, from Avalon to save Britain (Welsh/Cornish).

These are all parts of the legend added centuries (sometimes over a millennium) after the true events of Camlan. Some are undoubtedly romantic, spiritual or political insertions, matching the times in which they were penned, rather than a truly accurate historical telling.

But one thing in which all sources are agreed - it happened at Camlan, and Camlan is still there.



A Short Walk to See the Main Battlefield

Starting from the Brigands' Inn go left first to visit St Tydecho's church, founded on an ancient sacred site in 520, and spot mysterious bones over its porch, built in 1641. Return to the Brigands' Inn to cross the A470, passing its roundabout on your right, and take a minor road ahead

Cross Pont Mallwyd, an old bridge over the River Dyfi, and go left uphill to turn right through a gate. Follow a track which bears right and go through another gate. Keep to a higher path in woodland but turn right to step across a small stream and over a stile. Cross another stile in the next fence to overlook the battlefield before descending to turn right through the farmyard of Maes-y-Camlan

Turn right along the lane to return the bridge and back up the lane to the Brigands



Fishing in the Area

Afon (River) Dyfi flows through the Dyfi Valley in Mid Wales. It rises in the small lake Creiglyn Dyfi at about 1,900 feet (580 m) above sea level, below Aran Fawddwy, flowing south to Dinas Mawddwy and Cemmaes Road, then south west past the town of Machynlleth to Cardigan Bay at Aberdyfi.

River Dyfi is famous for its brown trout, salmon and sea trout

Permits available for the upper reaches from the Post Office, Cemmaes Road £17.50

Afon Twymyn, a main tributary of the Dyfi, has all types of fishing

Permit £10 per day again from the Post Office in Cemmaes Road

E Lewis Llambrynmair 01650 521385 offers

Wild brown trout fishing, 2 lakes of 25 acres each, bank or boat £12 per day
- boat £5

Clywedog - Reservoir fishing Rainbow and brown trout, bank or boat £18
day - motor boat £22

You need a fishing rod licence to fish for salmon, trout, freshwater fish, smelt or eel with a rod and line in:

- England (except the River Tweed)
- Wales
- the Border Esk region of Scotland

You must always carry your rod licence when you're fishing or you could be prosecuted.

