



A TRIP TO SWANSEA, WALES

184 Vues 1 J'aime September 13th 2019

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A trip to Swansea, Wales

Level B1-B2

Last fall, while on a trip to a conference in Bristol, England, my husband and I decided to take a side trip to Swansea, **Wales**. It is easily accessible by train and almost everything is **within walking distance** of the train station. It was quite strange going from England, with all the **signs** in English, to Wales, an English-speaking country, but with the signs **in Welsh** (first) and English (second)!



Our plans included two nights in a boutique hotel (with a Primark just **across** the street!). One night after a light dinner at a pub, we went to the Swansea Grand Theatre. It was amazing – the theatre is on the small side, so it had a very intimate atmosphere. This helps the audience feel more connected to the performer. We were there to see our favorite **Irish** comedian, Dara O'Briain. Did you know that you can either write O'Briain (English) or Ó Briain (Irish) but never both. After the performance, we **went back to** our room – accessible only through a **coffee shop**!

Since Swansea is a **coastal** town, I definitely wanted to visit the beach. – the 'Mumbles' in particular. I found the name fascinating and funny! It seems that the name may have come from the French and refers to two islands that were called 'les mamelles' by French **sailors**. The other thought as to its origin **may** be the word 'mamucium' with 'mamm-' (meaning '**breast**') or mamma ('mother', referring to a local river goddess). At any rate, breasts **have something to do with** the name!



The next morning, we asked our **front desk clerk** how to get to the Mumbles, and it was very simple – one bus, no changes. She (and everyone else we met when we said we were going to The Mumbles) told us that we simply **must** try 'Joe's Ice Cream' as it was the best in the country.

We never got to visit Joe's Ice Cream, but what we did find, changed our foodie lives (Welsh cakes and a **flat white coffee**). But that's a story for **another time**...

Wales = Pays de Galles

within = (ici) à proximité de

signs = des panneaux

in Welsh = en gallois

across = (ici) en face

Irish = irlandais

to go back to = retourner

coffee shop = un café (lieu)

coastal = côtier

sailor = marin

may = (ici) peut-être

breast = un sein

to have something

to do with = (ici)

avoir un rapport avec

front desk clerk = réceptionniste

must = devoir

to never get = (ici) ne jamais aller

flat white coffee = un café avec un peu de lait et un peu de mousse, mais pas

autant qu'un latte avec

another time = une autre fois

<https://goenglish.fr/fr/blog/post/57-a-trip-to-swanea-wales.html>



A TRIP TO SWANSEA, WALES, PART 2

106 Vues 1 J'aime September 13th 2019

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A trip to Swansea, Wales, part 2

Level B1-B2

As I said in the last post, we never visited Joe's Ice Cream. But what we did eat was something we had never heard of – Welsh cakes. Imagine a scone, but it's not **dry** and **crumbly**, it's soft and **moist** with raisins dotted through. It was **delightful**. We sat on the Mumbles **pier** with our snack and watched the sea. On our walk back to the bus stop, it was lunch time. What do you eat by the seaside anywhere in the UK? Fish and chips with **mushy peas**. We found a restaurant that did everything right – the fish and chips were light and **crispy**, and the mushy peas were quite nice. I didn't know what to expect from mushy peas, but I liked them very much.



Then we had dessert. I had a traditional sticky toffee pudding, but it was **anything but** ordinary. At my first taste, I had to close my eyes – I didn't want any other **sensory input** to interfere. It was perfect. It was sweet with just a **hint** of salt in the toffee **to cut through the richness**. On the walk back we found some windows painted with Welsh Poet Dylan Thomas' poetry and **daffodils** and **leeks**, two Welsh symbols. They were beautiful, **but as it's almost always the case** with us, our trip was marked more by what we ate than what we saw!

dry = sec
crumbly = friable
moist = moelleux
delightful =
(ici) délicieux
pier = une jetée
mushy peas = une
purée de petits pois

crispy = croquant
anything but = tout
sauf
sensory input = les
stimuli sensoriels
hint = (ici) une
pointe
to cut through =
(ici) couper

richness = la
richesse
daffodils = des
jonquilles
leeks = des poireaux
**but as it's almost
always the case** =
(ici) mais comme
d'habitude

