

# ROSS-ON-WYE - the birthplace of British Tourism





## Must see

Visit the historic **Market House**, one of the oldest buildings in the centre of town built between 1650 and 1654, and the **Made in Ross** fine art and craft gallery upstairs, showcasing a wide range of locally made arts and crafts.

Wander up to the beautiful **St Mary's Church** with its 205 foot high spire and head to **The Prospect** for breathtaking views over the River Wye.

**The Market Square** holds weekly markets on Thursdays and Saturdays where you can buy a range of gifts, flowers, crafts, food and drink.

Relax in the **Thomas Blake Memorial Gardens**, a pretty terraced space overlooking the riverside, opened in 1907 to commemorate one of the town's great benefactors.



Local sculptor **Walenty Pytel's** three metal sculptures depicting salmon, swans and mallards can be found at the top of Wye Street and on the riverbank.

In good weather enjoy a picnic on the **Rope Walk**, with its children's play area or take a walk along the riverside's **Linear Arboretum**. Stop off for a drink and bite to eat at **The Hope & Anchor** with your four legged friend.

During the summer months, head down to The Bandstand at **Caroline Symonds Gardens** and enjoy one of the free Sunday afternoon **Bands in the Park** concerts.



## Useful information

### Tourist Information Centres:

- **Ross-on-Wye Town Council**, 7 High St HR9 5HL - 01989 562373 - open Monday to Friday 9.30am-1pm.
- **Made in Ross**, 1st floor, Market House HR9 5NX - open daily 10am-4pm.
- **Truffles Delicatessen**, 46 High St HR9 5HL - open Tuesday to Saturday 9am-5pm.
- Two outdoor tourist information digital touchscreens are located opposite the Market House and at the Library.

### Coach parties:

Red Meadow Car Park HR9 7EG is open from 8am to 6pm with free parking for coaches. Access via Kyrle St.

**Bus & coach station:** Cantilupe Road HR9 7AN, serving local and National Express services (nationalexpress.com). Stagecoach runs a bus service between Hereford, Ross and Gloucester (view timetables at stagecoachbus.com).

**Trains:** Nearest train stations are Ledbury (14 miles), Hereford (15 miles) and Gloucester (20 miles).

**Library:** 7 Cantilupe Road HR9 7AN | 01432 383280 - open daily from 9.30am, closed Wed & Sun (public toilet available during opening hours).

**Public toilets:** Available at **The Croft** (free), Croft Court Shopping Centre HR9 7AD (8.30am-5.30pm); **Wye Street** (20p cash), 22 Wye Street HR9 7BT (7am-5pm); **Red Meadow** (20p cash), Brookend Street HR9 7RW (7am-5pm).

### Car parking:

Most town centre car parks charge from 8am-6pm, with free parking outside of these hours and on Sundays. ([www.herefordshire.gov.uk/parking](http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/parking)).

### EV charging:

Available at Edde Cross Street car park (HR9 7BU) and Morrisons (HR9 7AG), or at King's Head Hotel (HR9 5HL) and Wharton Lodge Cottages (HR9 7JX) for residents.

## Eat & drink

The Wye Valley is renowned for its local artisan produce from organic meat, vegetables, honey, preserves and crisps to beers, gins and fruit liqueurs. Pick up a wide selection of products from our delicatessens including **Truffles** on High St or **Field Fayre Organics** and award winning **Hank's Meat & Game** on Broad St. The following eateries are in the town centre or a few minutes' walk away.

### Coffee, lunch & brunch

Caffè Eleganza  
Gelatis  
Jacqueline's Café  
The Ginger Nut Café  
The Priory Coffee House  
Thorn's Coffee Lounge  
Truffles Delicatessen  
Victoria's

### Dinner

Avellino  
Castle Lodge  
No 3  
Orles Barn  
Seven Seas Fish Bar & Restaurant  
The King's Head Hotel  
The Pavilion  
The Royal Hotel

### Cocktails & tapas

Leonard's at 39

### Pubs

Com Exchange  
King Charles II  
The Eagle Inn  
The Hope & Anchor  
The Mailrooms  
The Man of Ross Inn  
The Tap House

### International

Café Zam Zam  
Indy yum  
The Mint House  
Yaks & Yetis

Scan for details



### Ross Wines

An independent wine retailer at 53 High Street - pop in and buy a bottle or two or have a chat with Chris if you need advice.

## Tours & activities

### Heritage Trail: ④

A two mile blue plaque tour taking in the town's sites of historical and architectural interest. View route overview, pick up a leaflet from a Tourist Information Centre or download the map at [visitorssonwy.com/heritage-trail](http://visitorssonwy.com/heritage-trail)

### Museum Without Walls:

This innovative trail uses augmented reality to bring back lost aspects of the town's past - visit [museumwithoutwalls.uk](http://museumwithoutwalls.uk) for details.



**Wythall Estate Vineyard:** A few minutes' drive outside of town, book onto one of Wythall Estate's vineyard & wine tasting tours - visit [wythal Estate.co.uk](http://wythal Estate.co.uk) or call 01989 566888.

### Cinema & Entertainment:

- **The Gateway** - [thegatewaycinema.co.uk](http://thegatewaycinema.co.uk) | 01989 552166
- **Flicks in the Sticks** - [www.artsalive.co.uk](http://www.artsalive.co.uk) | 01588 620883
- **The Phoenix Theatre** - [www.phoenix-theatre.org.uk](http://www.phoenix-theatre.org.uk) | 01989 564570

**Art Studio Ross:** Artist Sarah Morton holds regular arts & crafts workshops for all ages in the centre of the town - view the programme of events at [www.artsstudioross.co.uk](http://www.artsstudioross.co.uk).



### Galleries:

- **Made in Ross** - 1st floor, Market House HR9 5NX | 01989 789398
- **Gallery 54** - 54 High St HR9 5HN | 01989 567917
- **Sarah D'Arcy Ceramics** - 1b Church Street HR9 5HN | 07799 093411

## Shopping

**Vintage Trail:** Browse the independent shops & galleries whilst taking a tour of the town's Vintage Trail, a unique collection of vintage, retro and antique shops - download the leaflet online at [visitorssonwy.com/vintage-shopping-trail](http://visitorssonwy.com/vintage-shopping-trail).

**Boutiques:** Independent women's boutiques selling beautiful clothing and accessories include at **broad street** and **Suzy's** (Broad St), **Feathers and Frocks**, **Lainey's**, **Silver Store** and **Walker & Walker** (Gloucester Rd), **Lalena Jewellery** (High St) and **Crowsfoot** and **Boutique at No 2** (Cantilupe Rd).

**Gifts & Homewares:** Find unique and beautiful gifts at **Crossfield Creations**, **Yat Pottery**, and **The Cookshop** (High St), **Uvinkoom** (Gloucester Rd), **Lizzie Bunting** (Broad St), **The Architectural Store** (Brookend St) and **Masons and Badger's Bait** (Croft Court).

**Kids:** For children's toys, books, gifts, clothing and treats check out **Little Chic** (Brookend St), **Andy Pack** and **Toy Box** (Broad St), **Tudor Sweets**, **Little Saplings** and **Rosier Books** (High St).

**Gardeners:** Try **Dor's Garden** and **Heavenly Homes & Gardens** on the High Street for gifts or **Ross Garden Store** a couple of minutes' drive from the town centre (Station Approach HR9 7BW).

## Stay

There's plenty of accommodation to choose from in Ross-on-Wye.

- **The King's Head Hotel**, High Street HR9 5HL | 01989 763174
- **The Royal Hotel**, Royal Parade HR9 5HZ | 01989 565105
- **The Old Court House**, High Street HR9 5HH | 01989 762275
- **Radcliffe Guest House**, Wye Street HR9 7BS | 01989 563895
- **The White House**, Wye Street HR9 7BX | 01989 763572
- **Broadmeadow Touring Park**, HR9 7BW | 01989 768076
- **The Bridge House**, Wilton HR9 6AA | 01989 562655
- **Castle Lodge**, Wilton HR9 6AD | 01989 562234
- **Orles Barn Hotel**, Wilton HR9 6AE | 01989 218081
- **Glewstone Court Country House**, HR9 6AW | 01989 770367

## A little history...

In 1770, travel writer, **William Gipin**, took a tour of the River Wye from Ross to Chepstow and loved the journey so much, he published the UK's first tourist guide called 'Observations on the River Wye'. Now acknowledged as the birthplace of British tourism, Ross-on-Wye is an attractive historic market town, sitting on a rocky outcrop of old red sandstone, overlooking the Wye Valley.

Ross is the only town within the boundaries of the Wye Valley **Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty** (AONB) and is perfectly located for visiting Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Gloucestershire, including the nearby **Forest of Dean** and the **Brecon Beacons National Park**.

The town's key benefactor and philanthropist, **John Kyrle** - known as The Man of Ross - is referenced in many buildings, walks and other historical features throughout the town.

The **hedgehog**, the ancient emblem of the town dating back to 450 AD, has links to an ancient kingdom called Archenfield, and in St Mary's Church, you can see hedgehog icons on family crests dating back to the 17th century.

The town became officially known as Ross-on-Wye in 1931, to distinguish it from the other towns with the same name. With a population of around 11,500, Ross remains a very popular destination for those who enjoy the outdoor life and exploring the area.



### Dog Friendly Town:

Ross-on-Wye is a dog friendly town and many shops, bars and restaurants are happy to welcome your furry family member too! Look out for the window stickers around town.

## Get outdoors

**Riverside:** The River Wye is a key attraction for water activities including angling, rowing, stand up paddle boarding and canoeing - further details on [visitorssonwy.com](http://visitorssonwy.com).

**Walking:** The town is an official **Walkers are Welcome** destination with plenty of local routes suited to all abilities including the accessible Buggy Route. For details, visit [www.walkinginross.co.uk](http://www.walkinginross.co.uk).

**Cycling:** There are cycle routes to suit all levels and abilities within a stone's throw of the town - contact the local cycling club ([www.rosscc.co.uk](http://www.rosscc.co.uk)) or pop into **Revolutions** on Broad St for advice and all the equipment you need.

**Tennis:** Head to Ross Tennis Centre (Walford Road, HR9 5AR) if you fancy a game on one of the four all weather outdoor courts or enjoy a game of table tennis on their outdoor table (bring your own equipment).

**Ross Sports Centre:** A community hub with activities for all ages and abilities including football, cricket and the recently formed **Pétanque Club**. Find the popular **skatepark** next door in Wilton Car Park (Wilton Road HR9 7BY).

**Golf:** Pack your clubs and enjoy a game on one of the local greens. Try **South Herefordshire Golf Club** (Upton Bishop HR9 7UA | 01989 780535) or **Ross-on-Wye Golf Club** (Gorsley HR9 7UT | 01989 720267).

### Outdoor gear:

Whatever activities you're planning, you can pick up everything you need from a wide range of retailers in the town centre including **Fishers** (High St), **Mountain Warehouse** (Market Place), **Escape to the Great Outdoors** (Croft Court) and **Forest Army Surplus** (Broad St).



# Your guide to ROSS-ON-WYE



For more details visit:

Ross-on-Wye Town Council  
[www.rosstc-herefordshire.gov.uk](http://www.rosstc-herefordshire.gov.uk)

Ross-on-Wye Tourism Association  
[visitorssonwy.com](http://visitorssonwy.com)

All details correct at time of press 2023

