



WELCOME TO THE FORGE AND BLUEBELL CORNER

Here is some useful information to help you get the most out of your stay.

GYPSY CARAVAN

Our vintage gypsy caravan is over fifty years old and was lived in by a family and pulled by a real horse for many years. More recently it has been refurbished back to its former splendour and we've added a few more modern home comforts, whilst keeping many of the original features. The steps are as they would have been – take care going up and down as these are quite steep – hence the handrail! It would be really helpful if you could leave any muddy wellies under the steps if possible, as we've just laid a nice, new carpet.

The main feature is the double bunk, complete with memory foam mattress and lots of cosy blankets and bedding. If you need extra blankets let us know and we can provide these for you. There is a small red step ladder to help you climb up into the bunk – do be careful if the wood burning stove is on as it gets very hot. We have added in some wooden slats to protect you from the flue. Keep an eye on anything falling off the bunk while the stove is on! There is a surprising amount of storage in the caravan – do please feel free to use what space you need. In the cupboards to the left of the door as you walk in you will find the fire-lighting equipment. We use an eco firelighter to start the fire then larger logs to build the heat. To keep the stove ticking over all night while you're asleep, close down all the vents before turning in and you will be nice and toasty till the morning. If you run out and need any more logs during your stay just let us know. Also, if you would like your dog to sleep with you in the caravan, under the bed is a great spot!

LOG CABIN

The kitchen area has mains running water which is perfectly safe to drink and a gas hob which lights easily with a match – just turn the knob anti-clockwise and then press the yellow button in. There is a fire extinguisher by the door under the hammock and blanket. There is a solar powered hub on the shelf to the right of the door as you walk in which will power the lights and you can also charge your phones here. The battery is finite, and when it's gone, it's gone, so please switch it off when you are not using it. The log burning stove is identical to the one in the caravan, so start with a firelighter then add the logs. You will also find some tea light candles – we just ask that you use the storm lanterns provided to avoid anything catching fire from the naked flames. If you would like new ice packs or clean tea towels, or would like us to empty the bins during your stay, please let us know.

COMPOSTING TOILET

Very simple to use, very clean and eco-friendly – we use all the compost created to feed our new woodland. You just pee in the front part of the toilet and poo into the main chamber, to separate out the different types of waste. After a poo throw down a couple of scoops of sawdust and all toilet paper goes into the main chamber too – anything else goes in the bin. Always make sure you close the lid when you leave to activate the composting process and use the anti-bac gel to wash your hands.

SHOWER



There is a handle under the boiler which you just need to turn anti clockwise to activate the hot water. The water drains away naturally into the stream. You can adjust the heat using the hot water dial on the boiler. Please do not touch the cold-water dial.

HAMMOCKS

There is a hammock frame set up for you and the fabric is underneath the sofa in the cabin. If you could pop the fabric bit inside if it looks like it's going to rain that would be great!

CAMPFIRE

There is a fire bowl next to your deck where you are welcome to start a fire and you can cook using the griddle supplied in the cabin kitchen area. We have supplied firelighters, kindling and logs in the yellow box at the back of the caravan (this is underneath the back window and can be opened by the latch). There is a large skillet that you can use to cook over the fire bowl. You will find this in the black zip bag under the worktop in the cabin. Aim to light the fire an hour before you want to start cooking so the flames are not too big. Screw the legs on, add a little oil and you are good to go! When you have finished cooking just wipe the skillet with a piece of kitchen roll while it is still warm, there is no need to use soap and water on it.

HILL FORT & FIRE CIRCLE

You are welcome to wander up to the hill fort above the tents to enjoy the views and the fire circle. All we ask is that you don't wander over any gates or fences into the farmer's field next to where the bell tents are located, especially during lambing season! This is also our home so please respect any signs which indicate our private spaces. At weekends, we often have retreat guests here, so you may see other people around.

BOOKS

We have left a selection of books in your cabin – please feel free to borrow one and if you are nicely stuck into it, please feel free to take it with you. We just ask that you leave us one in return.

CHECKING OUT

Our check out is at 10am and it would be great if you could leave the place as clean and tidy as you found it, with the washing up done and everything back in its place. There is no need to formally check out with anyone but if the shop is open and one of The Forge team is around do pop over to say goodbye before you go.



SIOP YR EFALL | THE FORGE SHOP

If you would like to buy anything from our onsite shop, please let us know and we can come and open it for you. On a weekend, the shop is usually open between 4-5pm. We sell glamping essentials, bushcraft kit, chocolate, crisps and marshmallows. We also stock hand-crafted local artisan products including pottery, jewellery, and handmade soap, which was designed here at The Forge.

Depending on the time of the year (and how busy our bees and hens have been), you can buy fresh, free-range eggs, our own honey and beeswax which is a miracle ingredient for everything from lip balm and hand cream to shoe and furniture polish. We also sell our plants and vegetables that have been grown in The Forge kitchen garden.

We accept cash or card payments. We are very happy to lend you local Ordnance Survey maps and walking guides, plus provide tourist information for the local area. And if the shop is not open, please feel free to text 07377 190346 between 9am and 5pm and we'll be very happy to open up for you!



INFORMATION ABOUT THE LOCAL AREA

SHOPS

Nisa – local convenience store which sells all the essentials – from the end of the drive turn right and follow the directions into Corwen and it is located on the main A5 through road. Open from 9am – 9pm daily (opens at 10am on Sundays). 01490 413180

Rhug Estate Farm Shop – lots of local produce including meat produced on the farm. Excellent bistro and take-away burgers and good coffee available too. Open from 9am – 5pm daily. 01490 411100

TAKEAWAYS

China Garden – good Chinese takeaway opposite the Post Office. Open daily from 4 – 10.30pm except Tuesdays. 01490 412243

Parry's Plaice – Fish and Chips – yummy family favourites on the A5 main road. Open from 11.30am – 2pm and 4.30 – 8pm every day except Monday. 01490 412346

RESTAURANTS

The Grouse – our 'local' in Carrog, a 5 min drive away, serves up fantastic pub grub and lovely ales all overlooking the river and the old bridge. Food and drink served every day from 12 noon to 10pm. Dog friendly. 01490 4302722 – booking in advance advised.

The Berwyn Arms – owned and run by the same amazing team behind The Grouse (see above) this converted 17th century coaching inn in Glyndyfrdwy offers gastro-pub food and comes highly recommended. 01490 430210

Old Wive's Tales – Traditional Portuguese restaurant in Bala (20 mins) with a keen local clientele and a very homely atmosphere. Open Tuesday to Saturday from 5 – 10.30pm. 07428 473129

The Cornmill – A little drive away (20 mins) in Llangollen, this converted mill sits right on the river Dee and has great food and beers. Open daily. 01978 869 555

Gales Wine Bar – also in Llangollen, this beautiful, panelled restaurant is super-friendly with a local seasonal menu that changes regularly. Open for lunch 12-2pm Monday to Sunday and for dinner 6-9pm Monday to Saturday. 01978 860089

Tyddyn Llan – if you fancy treating yourself, we have a Michelin-starred restaurant only 15 minutes away in Llandrillo that serves up amazing food. Well worth the splurge. 01490 440264

Pale Hall – and just a little further on is Pale Hall, under executive chef Michael Caines, that has a spectacular tasting menu. It's not cheap but the lunch menus are good value. 01678 530285

THINGS TO DO

WALKS – there is a lovely 4km walk up to the top of **Caer Drewyn** which you can see from the caravan. This is one of the best-preserved hill forts in the area and you can still see all the stone ramparts. From the top there are stunning views down the Dee Valley and on a good day you can see Snowdon! There are also lots of lovely shorter walks around the river and in the woods behind the town which can range from 0.5km – 5km. This summer there is an art installation called Waking the Giant in the **Pen Y Pigyn** woods where you can see various things that the giant left behind before he fell asleep in Dol Corwenna. The walk up to **Liberty Hall** takes around 4-5 hours there and back from here and is well worth it! Just ask us if you need any more information about walks or trail runs in the area or down into Snowdonia or the Berwyn ranges. We have OS maps available on request.

MUSEUM – there is a local museum in the town which has a wealth of information about the area and our local hero, Owain Glyndwr, the last Welsh prince of Wales who is reputed to be buried in our lovely local church. Entry is free and the volunteers are happy to answer any questions you may have.

MOUNTAIN BIKING – One Plant Adventure in Llandegla has an outstanding selection of rides through the forest with bike hire and an amazing on-site café. You can also rent bikes at Llyn Brenig.

FISHING – the local River Dee offers some of the best river fly fishing in Wales. We can arrange for one day permits with CADAC (Corwen and District Angling Club) which offers you stretches of the River Dee to fish for salmon, trout and grayling.

WATER SPORTS – white-water rafting, gorging, canyoning, river-bugging and more are all available with our partners SAS Outdoors and White Water Active in Llangollen.

STAND UP PADDLEBOARDING – this can be done on flat water on the canal at Llangollen or on the river Dee if you are more experienced. www.standuppaddleboarduk.com

A bit further afield down into Eryri and on the coast, there are loads of things to do so let us know if you need some inspiration and we can share our ideas. We can also let you in on a few secrets about the best places in the local area....



THE BEST LOCAL PLACES...

To see RAF fighter jets. Head to the Mach Loop, about a 45-minute drive from here and a real once-in-a-lifetime experience to see the jets fly over you and then duck down and away down the valley. If you are lucky you might catch them flying over The Forge on their way to the loop.

For a lakeside picnic. Take the Bala Lake Railway and get off and Llangower for a stunning picnic spot and a fantastic opportunity for a stone skipping competition! Marvel at the crazy tree root in this Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) while enjoying your sarnies.

For afternoon tea. The Sugar Plum Tea Room in Rhewl, just outside Ruthin and about a 25-minute drive away serves up the best afternoon teas. Make sure you go hungry and if you are feeling decadent, splash out on a glass of fizz while you are at it. 01824 702852

To spot red squirrels. We have red squirrels living in Clocaenog Forest just a short drive from here. Go quietly and you might just be lucky enough to see them...

For a paddle and a pint. The Grouse Inn in Carrog has a lovely outdoor seating area where you can watch the kids and the dog paddling in the River Dee on a warm day. You can also wander along to the tea rooms at Carrog station for yummy local ice cream.

For locally made ice-cream. Head to Aran Ice Cream on Bala High Street. They change the flavours regularly and offer ice cream 'tapas' if you can't make up your mind. They also make special ice cream for dogs! 07570 410034

For local ales and gin – just across the road from Aran Ice Cream in Bala is Stori – a wonderful cavern of locally produced beers, ales and spirits. They even have a BYOF (Bring Your Own Food) policy so you can enjoy what they have on tap in the little room at the back whilst enjoying your lunch. 01678 520501

For a romantic meal – The White Horse in Hendrerwydd is a wonderful restaurant for tapas style food using lots of local ingredients. Their dining room is a treasure trove of menus they have gathered from amazing restaurants around the world and has a cosy log fire and big armchairs. 01824 790218



OTHER USEFUL INFORMATION

Our closest **A&E department** is at Wrexham Maelor hospital around a 25-minute drive away. We also have a local surgery for any minor complaints – 01490 412 970.

Rowlands **Pharmacy** can be found in the main square in Corwen and is open 9am – 6pm Mon to Fri and 9-11.30am on Saturdays. Closed on Sundays. If you are stuck over the weekend please let us know and we can help out.

The nearest **petrol station** is in Glan-yr-Afon which is on the road to Bala about 10 mins drive away.

We are very happy to welcome dogs but please pick up after them so we can all enjoy the space 😊. There is a dog waste bin behind the showers in the main field. We do have a **vet** in Corwen for any emergencies – 01490 412 276.

Do feel free to tag us in any photos or posts on social media – you can find us on Instagram and Facebook (**@theforgecorwen**).

For any questions or issues please text or call 07377 190346 between 9am and 5pm. We ask that you contact us outside of these times for emergencies only – thanks!

We hope you have a wonderful stay!