



Cardiff Castle

Cardiff Castle stands at the heart of Wales's capital city, built atop a Roman fort established around the late 3rd century. The Norman keep was added in the 11th century, later transformed into a lavish Gothic Revival mansion by the 3rd Marquess of Bute during the 19th century. Its layered architecture reflects nearly 2,000 years of military, medieval, and Victorian history, making it one of Wales's most architecturally diverse landmarks.

Swansea Castle

Founded in the early 12th century by the Normans, Swansea Castle was constructed to secure the River Tawe and exert control over the region. Although only fragments of the medieval structure survive-particularly the 13th-century arcaded parapet-it remains a notable symbol of Norman authority on the frontier between Welsh and Anglo-Norman territories.

Kidwelly Castle

Kidwelly Castle is a monumental Norman stronghold founded around 1106. Dramatically positioned above the River Gwendraeth, it evolved into a powerful concentric fortress during the 13th-14th centuries. Its imposing towers, gatehouse, and riverside setting make it one of the best-preserved medieval castles in Wales.

Carmarthen Castle

Carmarthen Castle, overlooking the River Towy, was originally built by the Normans in the 12th century and later used as an administrative centre. Though much of its outer ward has disappeared, the surviving gatehouse and walls hint at its former strategic importance in the medieval struggle for control of southwest Wales.

Castell Aberystwyth (Aberystwyth Castle)

Commissioned by Edward I during his conquest of Wales, Aberystwyth Castle was begun in 1277 and rebuilt on a larger scale in the 1280s. Though now heavily ruined due to centuries of conflict and later slighting, its surviving gatehouse and sea-facing remains show its role as a key English fortress on the west coast.

Castell Dolwyddelan

Dolwyddelan Castle, built by Welsh prince Llywelyn the Great in the early 13th century, stands dramatically in Snowdonia. Its rugged mountain setting gave it defensive strength and symbolic power. The castle was later captured and modified by Edward I's forces but retains its distinctive native Welsh character.

Harlech Castle

Harlech Castle, part of Edward I's "Iron Ring," was constructed between 1283 and 1289. Its towering concentric walls rise from a rocky crag, once bordered directly by the sea. The castle is famous for its endurance during sieges—including the Wars of the Roses—and for inspiring the Welsh song "Men of Harlech."

Castell Dinas Brân

Perched high above Llangollen, Dinas Brân is a native Welsh castle dating to the mid-13th century. Although ruined, its dramatic position and stone foundations reveal its defensive significance to the princes of Powys. Its location has inspired centuries of legend and Welsh cultural memory.

Chirk Castle

Built starting in 1295 as part of Edward I's campaign in northeast Wales, Chirk Castle is a well-preserved marcher fortress. Over time it evolved into a stately residence, with lavish interiors and landscaped gardens. The castle's blend of medieval fortification and post-medieval opulence reflects its long continuous occupation.

Castell Caergwrle

Caergwrle Castle was built in the 1270s by Welsh prince Dafydd ap Gruffydd but was soon seized by English forces. A devastating fire left it largely ruined. Its hilltop views over the Alyn Valley remain impressive, and excavations have revealed insights into late Welsh princely architecture.

Castell Ewloe

Ewloe Castle is unusual among Welsh fortresses because it was built by Welsh princes rather than the English, likely during the mid-13th century. Set deep in woodland, its characteristic D-shaped "Welsh keep" marks it as a rare example of native Welsh castle design before Edward I's conquest.

Flint Castle

Flint Castle, begun in 1277, was one of the first Edwardian strongholds built during the conquest of Wales. Its unique design includes an isolated round tower separated from the main ward by a narrow causeway. The castle also played a role in the events leading to the English Civil War.

Denbigh Castle

Established in 1282-83 under Henry de Lacy for Edward I, Denbigh Castle formed part of the northern campaigns against Welsh resistance. Its impressive triple-towered gatehouse and extensive town walls reflect its role in colonizing the region. The castle was later contested during the Civil War.

Rhuddlan Castle

Rhuddlan Castle, built by the English crown between 1277 and 1282, stands beside the River Clwyd, which was deliberately engineered to allow supply ships to reach the fortress. Its diamond-shaped layout and twin-towered gatehouse embody the strategic planning of Edward I's military architects.

Gwrych Castle

Gwrych Castle is a 19th-century Gothic Revival mansion overlooking the north Wales coast. Built between 1812 and 1822, it was designed to resemble a medieval fortress, though it was never defensive. In recent years, restoration efforts have revived interest in its romantic architecture and landscaped grounds.

Conwy Castle

Constructed between 1283 and 1287 during Edward I's conquest, Conwy Castle is one of the finest surviving medieval fortresses in Europe. Its eight massive towers and riverside walls form part of a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The castle and town walls illustrate the scale of English colonization in medieval Wales.

Beaumaris Castle

Beaumaris Castle on Anglesey is considered the masterpiece of Edward I's architects, even though it was never completed. Begun in 1295, it features perfect concentric defenses with symmetrical towers, moat, and gatehouses-a pinnacle of medieval military engineering.

Penrhyn Castle

Penrhyn Castle is a 19th-century neo-Norman fantasy built on the site of older fortifications. Completed for the Pennant family, whose wealth came from slate quarrying and sugar plantations, it is notable for its elaborate interiors, grand staircases, and sweeping views over the Menai Strait.

Castell Cricieth

Cricieth Castle was first built by Welsh princes in the early 13th century before being expanded by Edward I after his conquest. Its twin-towered gatehouse and clifftop position overlooking Cardigan Bay make it a striking blend of native and English architectural traditions.

Caernarfon Castle

Caernarfon Castle, begun in 1283, is one of the most iconic castles in the world. Designed with polygonal towers and banded stone, it was intended as both fortress and royal palace. The castle symbolized English dominance, and it later became the site of the investiture of the Princes of Wales.