

DYLAN'S RHOSSEILI



Discover the Rhossili Bay Dylan Thomas would have known



visitswanseabay.com

'I wish I was in Rhossili'...

...wrote poet and writer Dylan Thomas (when he was pining to be back home). And you can certainly see why; Rhossili Bay is, as Dylan also aptly put, a 'very long golden beach' on the Gower Peninsula, which was the first in the UK to be designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

A 'VERY LONG GOLDEN BEACH' ON THE GOWER PENINSULA

Dylan Thomas spent his boyhood in Swansea and enjoyed camping on Gower as depicted in his short story 'Extraordinary Little Cough'. The promontory of Worm's Head is linked to the mainland by a tidal causeway and Dylan was apt to mistime his return and get cut off by the tide – resulting in an impromptu overnight stay on the Worm! He writes about this in the story 'Who Do You Wish Was With Us?'

Dylan's Rhossili

Dylan had a strong connection with Rhossili Bay (among many other of Gower's beaches). Here's a little known fact. Whilst looking to move away from his birthplace at 5 Cwmdonkin Drive, Dylan made enquiries to buy The Old Rectory on Rhossili Bay (now owned by the National Trust). He decided against it as there was no pub in the village and as we know, Dylan was a devout socialite. His



Find out more about Dylan Thomas 2014 at dylanthomas.com

schoolfriend Guido Heller ran the Worm's Head Hotel, but at the time it did not have a licence.

More about Dylan

Many people are familiar with Dylan's poetry and prose, some of which is influenced by Gower's inspirational countryside and coastal scenery; but this summer, there is a unique opportunity to see some of Dylan's personal letters and manuscripts, written in his own hand at an exceptional exhibition at Swansea's Dylan Thomas Centre.

INFLUENCED BY GOWER'S INSPIRATIONAL COUNTRYSIDE AND COASTAL SCENERY

This exhibition is part of Dylan Thomas 2014, a year-long celebration of his life and work in his hometown and surrounding area.

More legends...

The original village of Rhossili was located just above the beach, but over time sand reclaimed the village – it's said that sometimes ghostly bells can be heard above the sound of the sea!

THE 'WORM' IN WORM'S HEAD COMES FROM 'WURM' WHICH IS NORSE FOR DRAGON.



The 'Worm' in Worm's Head comes from 'wurm' which is Norse for Dragon. The Scandinavian King Sweyne gave his name to this area and that's where the name Swansea comes from, or as it was originally known, Sweyne's Eye. Burry Holms at the northern end of the Bay has its own legends. During the 6th century, a deformed baby was set adrift in a barrel, but he was rescued by seagulls and raised on Burry Holms by angels. The baby grew up to become St Cenydd and founded the largest church on Gower in Llangennith.



IT'S LINKED TO STORIES OF WRECKING AND SMUGGLING

Dylan's 'would-be' home, known as the Old Rectory, is a halfway house between the villages of Llangennith and Rhossili and was home to the local vicar who preached at both village churches. It's linked to stories of wrecking and smuggling but is now a National Trust holiday home!



YOU CAN SEE THE WOODEN WRECK OF THE HELVETIA, WRECKED IN 1887 PUSHING THROUGH THE SAND

You can see the wooden wreck of the Helvetia, wrecked in 1887 pushing through the sand and the City of Bristol, a small paddle steamer was wrecked in 1840. Also reputed to have wrecked off Rhossili is the famous Portugese 'dollar ship' carrying the dowry of Catherine of Braganza (Charles II's queen).



Dylan's Swansea

Rhossili Bay is only a 30 minute drive from Swansea.



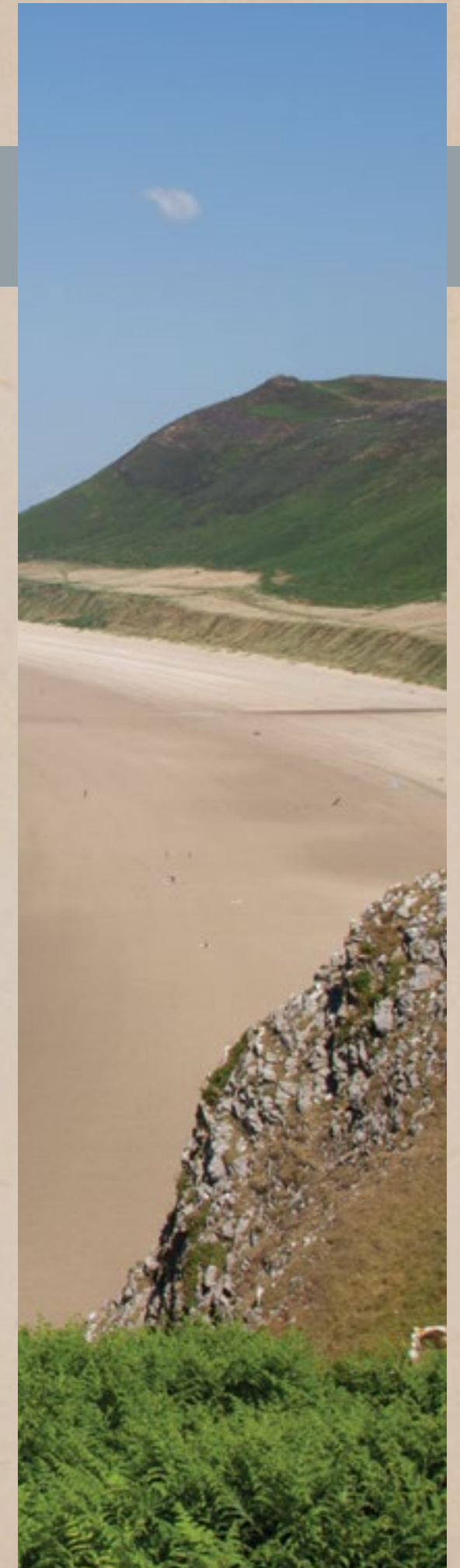
RHOSSILI BAY IS ONLY A 30 MINUTE DRIVE FROM SWANSEA.

Get to know Dylan Thomas a little better by visiting Swansea Bay in the year of his centenary.

Visit Dylan Thomas' Birthplace at No. 5 Cwmdonkin Drive. It's a living museum and homage to Dylan's life there - lovingly restored to how it would have been during Dylan's time.

Head to Cwmdonkin Park to see where Dylan played as a boy. It's thought that Cwmdonkin inspired his poem 'The Hunchback in the Park'.

A new refurbished exhibition will be opening at the Dylan Thomas Centre this year. If you've been before, you'll be amazed at the changes being made in time for the Dylan Thomas Festival (which begins on the 23rd of October). And if you've never been, what are you waiting for? The Festival is always a perfect excuse to visit Dylan's hometown.



BREATHTAKING
SUNSETS
OVER BY THERE

360° VIEWS
(GOWER PANORAMAS FROM THE TOP)

COULD HAVE BEEN
DYLAN'S?

193 METRES

GLAS
(THAT'S WELSH FOR BLUE)

3 MILES
OF SWEEPING SANDY BAY

DRAGON THIS WAY
(WORM'S HEAD)

I wish I was in Rhossili...

WROTE DYLAN THOMAS

THANKS FOR READING

Visit Swansea Bay...

www.visitswanseabay.com

Swansea Bay is the name we use to roll five great experiences into one. These are Swansea, Mumbles, the Gower Peninsula, Rural Swansea and Afan & the Vale Of Neath. There aren't many places where you can hit the shops in the morning and the surf in the afternoon. In Swansea Bay, you'll find the best of both worlds – from blue flag beaches to award winning green spaces.

Why not plan a Dylan Thomas themed visit? Be sure to include the following in your itinerary:

Rhossili Bay

Dylan Thomas Centre

Dylan Thomas' Birthplace

Cwmdonkin Park

The Gower Peninsula

Swansea

Mumbles

Celebrate Dylan Thomas 2014...

www.dylanthomas.com

2014 marks the centenary of Dylan Thomas' birth; to celebrate the life and times of Swansea's most famous son, many events will be taking place at the Dylan Thomas Centre and other cultural venues in Swansea throughout the year.

The focal point of celebrations will be the well-established Dylan Thomas Festival, which runs from 27 October to 9 November (the dates of Dylan Thomas' birth and death).

But there are plenty of events and activities to enjoy in the run up to the Dylan Thomas Festival. Visit the website for the full range.

