

Take the tour: legendary south Pembrokeshire

As you take a super-scenic road trip around south Pembrokeshire, you'll encounter our prehistoric, our famous [myths and legends](#) plus the odd knight and a king!

Here are some of the legends to look out for:

Retrace [St Govan's](#) footsteps at his chapel. The story goes that in the 6th century, St Govan was out for a stroll when pirates threatened him – he hid and rocks closed around him in protection. When the pirates departed, the rocks opened to release him. Ashamed of his cowardice, St Govan decided to stay put and set about converting the heathens. The hermit clashed with pirates a second time and the troublemakers stole his silver bell, but luckily Govan had the angels on his side, who recovered it and made it chime a thousand times louder than before!

A hop, skip and a – very big – jump away from St Govan's is **Huntsman's Leap**, a dramatic 120-foot deep, sheer-sided coastal chasm, situated beside the [Pembrokeshire Coastal Path](#).



Apparently a hunter was galloping along here and suddenly found himself on the edge of the gulf, but with no time to stop his steed, man and horse leapt right over and landed safely on the other side. When he looked back at how far he'd flown, the hunter is said to have died on the spot from shock. Today, the near-vertical walls are often dotted with adventurous [cliff-climbers](#).

In 1782, a farmer called Harry Reynolds was out walking on the cliffs at **Linney Stack**, not far from his home in Pen-y-holt (near St Govan's

Chapel), when he saw a youth far out to sea in deep water. As he approached, Harry saw that the youth was sitting upright, held aloft by a swishy brown tail – a **merman**! When Harry brought his friends over to see the ethereal creature, he had disappeared...



On 28 January 1457, Henry Tudor – the future **King Henry VII** – was born in [Pembroke Castle](#). Almost thirty years later, in 1485, he returned to Wales, this time with an army, marching across the country to England to meet Richard III's forces at the Battle of Bosworth. He proudly held aloft a flag with a red dragon which, following his triumph, was taken to St Paul's Cathedral to be blessed, and a version of which is now the flag of Wales.

Another great man connected to Pembroke Castle was **William Marshall**, who trained as a knight and became the 1st Earl of Pembroke. Marshall rebuilt in stone much of the castle we

see today, including the splendid **Great Tower** – climb up and enjoy magnificent views.

Before the restoration of Pembroke Castle in the 19th century, the fortress lay in a state of decay – the perfect hiding place for a stray **dragon**? A bunch of lads walking by the cliff heard noises from the Wogan, a vast cavern lying underneath the castle. They had a dog with them, who bounded into the cave. They heard a heavy creature moving around, saw a snap of some fiercely sharp white teeth, and scales flashing in the light...the dog emerged, injured, the boys sought help from the castle watchman, reporting they'd seen a dragon and a group of armed men came to slay the creature. It turned out to be a small crocodile – possibly escaped from a trading vessel.

In the distant past, [Caldey Island](#) was a significant stop-off point for local residents; considered a stepping stone between this life and the next, the bodies of the dead were taken there so that their spirits might not trouble the living.



The island was also the site of the mysterious legend of the **black- robed monk of Caldey**.

During the Reformation, a monk was entrusted with valuable treasures from Glastonbury and tasked with keeping them safe –

this he did, squirreling them away to Caldey

Island. Upon hearing that Henry VIII's men were on the prowl nearby, the monk is said to have bricked himself up with the treasure and suffocated. Look out for a ghostly glow, which many believe marks the location of the buried bounty.

Pembrokeshire has so many myths and legends for you to explore. Why not take time and spend [48 hours in Pembroke](#) to explore more of Pembrokeshire's wild stories and tall tales.

