

Mid Wales Tourism Awards

Corris Mine Explorers triumphs at the Mid Wales Tourism Awards

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A company that organises tailored trips deep inside the former Braich Goch slate mine workings at Corris, near Machynlleth celebrated an award at the inaugural Mid Wales Tourism Awards.

Corris Mine Explorers won the Best Activity or Experience Award at a glittering ceremony held at The Hafren, Newtown, which was attended by Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism, Lord Elis-Thomas. Compere was Welsh tourism personality Jonathan Jones, CBE.

Designed to celebrate and showcase the region's exceptional tourism industry, the biennial awards organised and managed by MWT Cymru on behalf of Mid Wales Tourism Forum and supported by Visit Wales, the Welsh Government's tourism arm. A dedicated Tourism Awards Advisory Group was established specifically to assist with the awards.

Corris Mine Explorers goes forward to represent Mid Wales at the National Tourism Awards for Wales in May 2020.

The award was presented to Corris Mine Explorers director Ian Rutherford and explorer manager Mark Waite by Bev Thomas, managing editor of The Cambrian News. "It's a great honour to be recognised for all the hard work we put in to keep alive the history of Mid Wales," said Mark.

"A huge amount of work has gone in to organising these awards and it's nice to have the industry recognised in Mid Wales."

The attraction offers a unique range of mine exploration trips, combining adventure with history, discovery, fun and authenticity.

The Braich Goch slate mine remains as it was left when the mine closed in the early 1970s - a time capsule with machinery, miners' tools, equipment, candles and drinking vessels in vast caverns and tunnels.

Guides, who are continuously trained to maintain a quality experience, have extensive knowledge of the history of the mine, which was worked from 1836. Trips run with a small number of explorers and some are very active, with lots of climbing, scrambling and adventure, whilst others have more emphasis on the history of the Braich Goch slate mine.

Quality of the trips, which include one and two-hour explorations, an exclusive expedition and an overnight sleepover, is maintained by a commitment to small and exclusive groups, allowing maximum personalisation to suit individual needs.

Trips can be booked online and start from Corris Craft Centre where explorers can enjoy pre and post trip refreshments in Y Crochan café, which has a five-star food hygiene rating.

Corris Mine Explorers contributes to tourism associations and groups at a local and regional level and works closely with Corris Railway and the Centre for Alternative Technology on cross promotion

As a member of Eco Dyfi and the Dyfi Biosphere Tourism Association, the attraction is committed to sustainability and has installed an electric car charging point which is free for car owners to use during opening hours.

Runners up for the award were Falconry Experience Wales, Machynlleth and Epic Fishing Ltd, New Quay.

Granted an Awards Trust Mark by the Independent Awards Standards Council, the awards were open to all businesses, organisations and individuals who contribute to tourism within Mid Wales.

MWT Cymru is the regional destination marketing and membership organisation for Powys, Ceredigion and Meirionnydd district of Southern Snowdonia. As a not-for-

profit social enterprise company, MWT Cymru supports and represents more than 550 tourism businesses and organisations across the region.

Picture caption:

Bev Thomas, managing editor of The Cambrian News, presents the Best Activity or Experience Award to Ian Rutherford and Mark Waite from Corris Mine Explorers at the Mid Wales Tourism Awards held at The Hafren, Newtown.

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