



IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF JMW TURNER

When undertaking this walk please ensure that you are suitably prepared by following the Countryside Code which will assist you with visiting safely and keeping our environment and communities in mind. For more information go to www.naturalresources.wales/countrysidecode



**THE DRAMATIC
HEART OF WALES**

Neath Port Talbot

dramaticheart.wales

THE TURNER TRAIL

Start point: Aberdulais Falls or Melincourt Waterfall Car Park
(Please follow signage off A465 for both attractions. Please do not use Satellite Navigation)

Length: 5 miles

Duration: 2 - 3 hours

Parking: Free car park at both start points (admission cost applies to Aberdulais Falls)

Food and Refreshments: There are a number of public houses and cafe's located in Aberdulais and Resolven. There are public toilet facilities at Resolven Canal Car Park (just off A465) along with toilet facilities for paying visitors at Aberdulais Falls.

Prior to visiting please check opening days and times for National Trust's Aberdulais Falls as the operation of this attraction has changed due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Joseph Mallord William Turner visited South Wales in 1795 and captured many sketches of its industry and breath taking waterfalls. The industrial landscape has been reclaimed by nature and you can see first-hand the inspiration that prompted Turner to capture some of South Wales's most dramatic scenes.

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ROUTE

The Turner Trail is an opportunity to visit two beautiful waterfalls that were painted by Joseph Turner. You can choose to start the walk either at Melincourt Waterfall or National Trust's Aberdulais Tin Works and Waterfall (paid entry) where you will also be able to find out about the industrial history of the beautiful Vale of Neath.

Starting from Aberdulais falls, explore the fantastic waterfalls and learn all about the history of this important tin works site. In the classroom you will see a copy of Turner's painting of Aberdulais Mill which he produced in 1796/1797.

Moving onwards to the next point **1**, you can exit the site and cross the road. Turn right and cross the Dulais River and turn onto the foot path to follow the river under the A465 to where the Dulais joins the River Neath. Follow the foot path and cross the canal. Turn left and cross over the river on Dulais Fach Road (Calor Gas will be on your right). Turn left to join the Canal tow path and follow this path for approximately 4 miles. Keep your eyes open for wild visitors to the canal such as Herons, Foxes and a variety of small birds.

As you near the end, turn right to cross the River Neath and follow the foot path to Melincourt Waterfall car park, here you can take a rest or head straight along the short path to reach Melincourt Waterfall **2**.

When you are ready to return, you can either retrace your steps along the canal or catch a bus which will take you back along the B4434, you can dismount the bus in Tonna to rejoin the path and return to Aberdulais. This route is also feasible on pedal bike along the tow path.

POINTS OF INTEREST

1 National Trust Aberdulais Tin Works and Waterfall

A beautiful spot for getting to grips with the history of the Vale of Neath and home of the UK's largest electricity-generating water wheel, Aberdulais waterfall played an important role in the industrial revolution.

With the raw mechanics of early industry on show, plus a 'tin man' exhibition you will learn all about the important industrial heritage of this National Trust site. The waterfall is magnificent and to see it functioning to produce 'green' energy is even more impressive.

Aberdulais Tin Works and Waterfall is a fully accessible and easy to view waterfall, with a lift available to take visitors to the top of the waterfall.

2 Melincourt Waterfall

Melincourt Waterfall stands at an impressive 80ft (24m) high, just shy of the tallest waterfall in Wales (90ft). The waterfall lies within a quiet 12-acre reserve managed by the Wildlife Trust, while the path is moderately difficult, it is easy to follow as it runs alongside the river.

Turner's sketch at Melincourt, also completed in 1795, was completed with partial watercolours and is noted as a 'virtuoso exercise in the rendering of moving water'. It was in a period where the artist was building up towards his first exhibited oil painting.

The waterfall and the reserve stand as an impressive natural feature hidden in the Vale of Neath and provide an opportunity for nature lovers, photographers and painters to retrace the steps of Turner and recreate art in their own way.

