



Kings Head Inn

Swansea, Wales

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8/10

Telegraph expert rating

"The King's Head is a 17th-century inn at the heart of tiny Llangennith, deep in the Gower Peninsula – the UK's first Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Close to rocky bays and limestone cliffs, you'll find uncomplicated dining and down-to-earth accommodation."

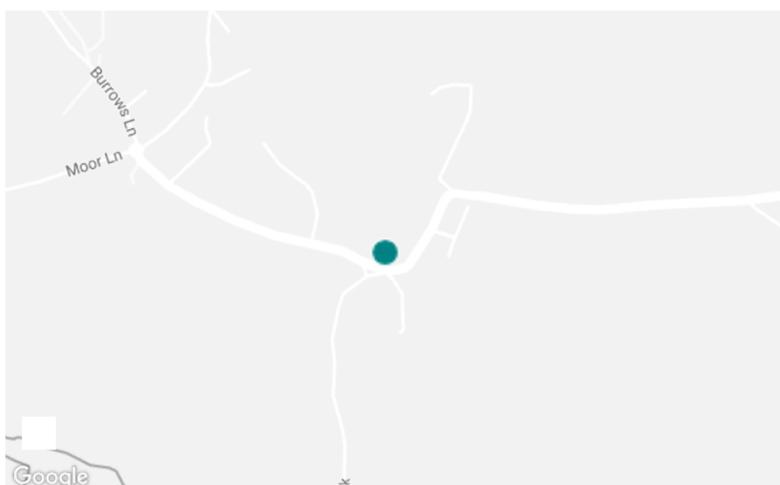
By Benjamin Parker, TRAVEL WRITER

Location

7/10

To reach Llangennith, a Gower village of scattered houses, 12th-century church and pub, you head across the peninsula's twisting commons. The King's Head is on the right as you reach the village, passing rows of pastel houses and opposite rolling hillsides. Five minutes in the car and you reach Rhosilli Bay, backed by sand dunes and popular with surfers (swells pour in year-round from the Atlantic).

There are a number of surf schools at the beach, as well as PJ's Surf Shop outside the King's Head. There are plenty of walks to follow: Llangennith to Llanmdoc's three-hour trek leads to sublime views of the North Gower salt marshes, while shorter walks (around one hour) can take in the rugged coastline towards Broughton Burrows.



Map © Report a map error

Style & character

8/10

Behind rough-hewn stone walls, The King's Head spreads over three sections: a traditional pub wrapped in Virginia creeper, main accommodation in standalone buildings, and a townhouse with bigger family rooms. The country pub element is straightforward: exposed stonework, low beams, walls overflowing with photos and paintings.

The Stevens family have owned it since 1988, and banter with the locals late into the evening shows they have a loyal following. The main bedrooms, just up from the pub, are found within rustic local stone walls – it was built in 2009, but on passing look like they've sat there for centuries.



Service & facilities

7/10

It's a quiet spot, and the laid-back service matches it (you might have to wander a little to find someone to check you in). Receptionist Sam jokes about how nothing much happens in Llangennith but she is a go-to when planning your days. Staff in the pub chat to you like it's your local watering hole.

- ✔ Bar
- ✔ Beach
- ✔ Parking
- ✔ Restaurant
- ✔ Wi-Fi

Rooms

8/10

The country-style rooms keep elements of the exterior's rusticity but give it a layer of polish in smooth Spanish stone floors and tawny wooden surfaces. The bedside sconces and curved desk chairs are more traditional, but black leather armchairs and canvas prints of Gower scenes give it enough modernity.

Bathrooms, all but one with showers over baths and big mirrors in each, look fresh and are furnished with large pale tiles. Beds are soft and soothing, and when you step off heated floors they become the heart of these warm boltholes; use them as romantic nests to watch cold mist rolling over the pastures outside.

Food & drink

7/10

Classic Gower cuisine – based around meat and fish, fresh ingredients – gets blurred with pasta and stone-baked pizzas, pub grub as well as Thai curries and Greek salads. The result is hearty, unpretentious meals; though naming a Welsh lamb curry "Dragon's Breath" means it needs to pack more of a punch than it currently does.

The drink options are broad. They believe they could have the biggest malt whisky collection outside of Scotland with 130 marks. Ales from the Gower Brewery travel just eight miles to the pub.

Breakfast offers a cold selection (buttery pastries were particularly good) and a hot menu from breakfast sandwiches to big and still hefty small fry-ups. A Welsh breakfast, complete with a pot of laverbread, is also available.

Value for money

9/10

Double rooms from £85 in low season; and from £99 in high. Breakfast included. Free Wi-Fi.

Access for guests with disabilities?

There are two disabled access rooms in the townhouse with wet rooms and one next to the reception. Parking spaces can be found just outside these rooms.

Family-friendly?

Yes. A children's menu is available in the restaurant, and large family rooms have double sofa beds with space for extra Z beds if required.

📍 Llangennith, Gower, Swansea SA3 1HX, Wales.
01792 386212
kingsheadgower.co.uk