

Full Risk Assessment for Vehicle-Based Tours

Activity: Guided vehicle-based sightseeing tours with stops at historic sites, viewpoints, landscapes, beaches, castles, Roman remains, and other attractions.

Led by: Qualified Wales Outdoors guides with appropriate driving licences.

Vehicle Type: Car, minibuss or MPV.

1. Activity Description

Tours involve road transport between multiple destinations, with short periods of walking or site exploration on foot. Participants may be of varied ages and fitness levels.

2. Participant Details

Mixed ability. Guides responsible for dynamic risk assessment and group management.

3. Hazard Identification & Control Measures

A. Transport-Related Hazards

1. Road Traffic Collision

Risks: Injury, whiplash, serious harm.

Controls: Vehicle maintained and inspected; driver fully licensed; adherence to highway code; appropriate insurance; speed adjusted to conditions; rest stops built in.

2. Adverse Weather (rain, wind, fog, ice)

Risks: Reduced visibility, longer braking distance.

Controls: Itinerary adjusted; slower driving; cancellation if extreme weather.

3. Passenger Behaviour

Risks: Distraction to driver, unsafe movement.

Controls: Safety briefing; compulsory seat belts; luggage secured.

4. Fatigue

Risks: Reduced reaction time.

Controls: Adequate breaks; shared driving where possible; dynamic review of driver alertness.

B. On-Site Hazards

5. Uneven Ground at Sites

Risks: Trips, slips, twists.

Controls: Participants briefed; suitable footwear encouraged; careful route choice.

6. Historic Structures (castles, ruins)

Risks: Steep steps, low ceilings, slippery stone, falling masonry.

Controls: Established visitor routes followed; warning signs heeded; group supervision.

7. Coastal Edges & Beaches

Risks: Falls from height, tides, unstable cliffs.

Controls: Tide times checked; approach to cliff edges controlled.

C. Participant Health

8. Medical Conditions

Risks: Illness during activity.

Controls: Pre-tour declaration; guide trained in outdoor first aid; emergency plans in place.

9. Heat / Cold Exposure

Risks: Hypothermia or heat exhaustion.

Controls: Participants briefed on appropriate clothing; water encouraged.

D. Emergency Situations

10. Breakdown / Accident

Controls: Breakdown cover; emergency kit; communication equipment; clear procedures (999 for serious incidents).

11. Lost or Separated Participant

Controls: Head counts; clear meeting points; guide contact details shared.

4. Emergency Procedures

- Call 999 for serious injury (Police → Ambulance if roadside; Coastguard for coastal sites).
- Move group to safe area.
- Provide first aid.
- Record all incidents.

5. Leader Competence

- Wales Outdoors guides with clean driving record, licence for vehicle used, first aid training.

6. Residual Risk

Acceptable for activity with controls in place.