



# Cardiff.

Atlantic Rim Bowls Championships 2019  
Visitor Attractions



#FindYourEpic

Croeso!

On a whistle-stop visit  
to Wales' capital city?

Cardiff or Caerdydd as  
we say in Welsh.

# The capital city of Wales, a truly modern and cosmopolitan city of around 350,000 lovely people.

In the Cardiff Bay area, you'll find some stunning showpiece buildings; the Millennium Centre, a fantastic arts and cultural venue, the slate and glass Senedd (Welsh Parliament Building) and in the city centre, the Principality Stadium with its 'Thunderbirds are go' sliding roof.

But despite all that forward thinking and huge recent developments in the city centre, it's a city that has not forgotten its past. The magnificent Civic Centre and National Museum are some of the finest in Europe and Cardiff Castle, a spectacularly unexpected city centre surprise.

# Here are a few ideas to get you going.

Cardiff is a very compact city so nearly everything we mention can be visited on foot.

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## Cardiff Castle

We recommend that you start your tour of Cardiff at Cardiff Castle. Its the best place to get your bearings. You can't miss it. Cardiff revolves around it. It's like a big calm cube right in the city centre. Originally a Roman fort, it's now a mixture of buildings from all eras. Ultimately, it was the 3rd Marquis of Bute, one of the richest men on the globe, who transformed Cardiff Castle into the mock Gothic extravaganza we have now.

We highly recommend that you take the guided tour. (and if you have a little more time, book yourself onto a specialist tour such as the ghost tour or the film locations tour) The interior of the castle is absolutely stunning. Then climb up to the top of the 12th century Norman Keep (the little castle in the middle of the grounds) for great views over the city and out to Cardiff Bay and the sea beyond.

[www.cardiffcastle.com](http://www.cardiffcastle.com)

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## Cardiff Civic Centre/ Cathays Park

Cardiff's Civic Centre is the finest in the British Isles, even if we do say so ourselves! There are some seriously impressive buildings here. The centrepiece is the magnificently domed, snarling dragon topped City Hall; the dragon looks as if it's guarding an egg, presumably Wales.

Nearby buildings which make up the Civic Centre include; Cardiff University, the Temple of Peace and the Welsh National War Memorial which is a beautiful and surprisingly quiet place to sit and relax right in the city centre.





National Museum of Wales

National Museum of Wales



The Principality Stadium

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## National Museum of Wales

You're likely to spend a lot of your time in the next building; the National Gallery and Museum of Wales. It's the big domed one next to City Hall. The museum is one of the finest in the UK. If you had the time you could quite happily spend a few days wandering the galleries, but because you don't, highlights include: the Evolution of Wales gallery; packed with high tech paraphernalia; scary moving dinosaurs, earthquakes, volcanoes that sort of thing.

The main draw for most people is the Davies Collection. The largest collection of Impressionist and Post Impressionist paintings outside Paris. Cezanne sits next to Renoir and Rodin, opposite Monet, near Pissarro, over by Manet. Look out for Van Gogh's stunning Rain at Anvers – angry slashes of rain run right across what is otherwise a beautiful landscape, it was painted just weeks before his suicide.

On a lighter note you will be pleased to know that that the museum is completely free! Like most museums its closed on Mondays, so don't get caught out by that one!

[www.museumwales.ac.uk/en/cardiff](http://www.museumwales.ac.uk/en/cardiff)

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## The Principality Stadium

The Principality Stadium is quite simply magnificent. The stadium dominates the city and has become an iconic symbol of not only Cardiff, but of Wales as a whole.

The capacity is 74,500, (78,000 for boxing) and all seating has an excellent, unimpeded view of the action on the pitch. Its four masts hold up a massive sliding roof, the second largest of its type in the world. It opens and shuts in no time. Each of the stadium's fifteen bars are equipped with the so-called "joy machines" which can pour 12 pints in less than 20 seconds.

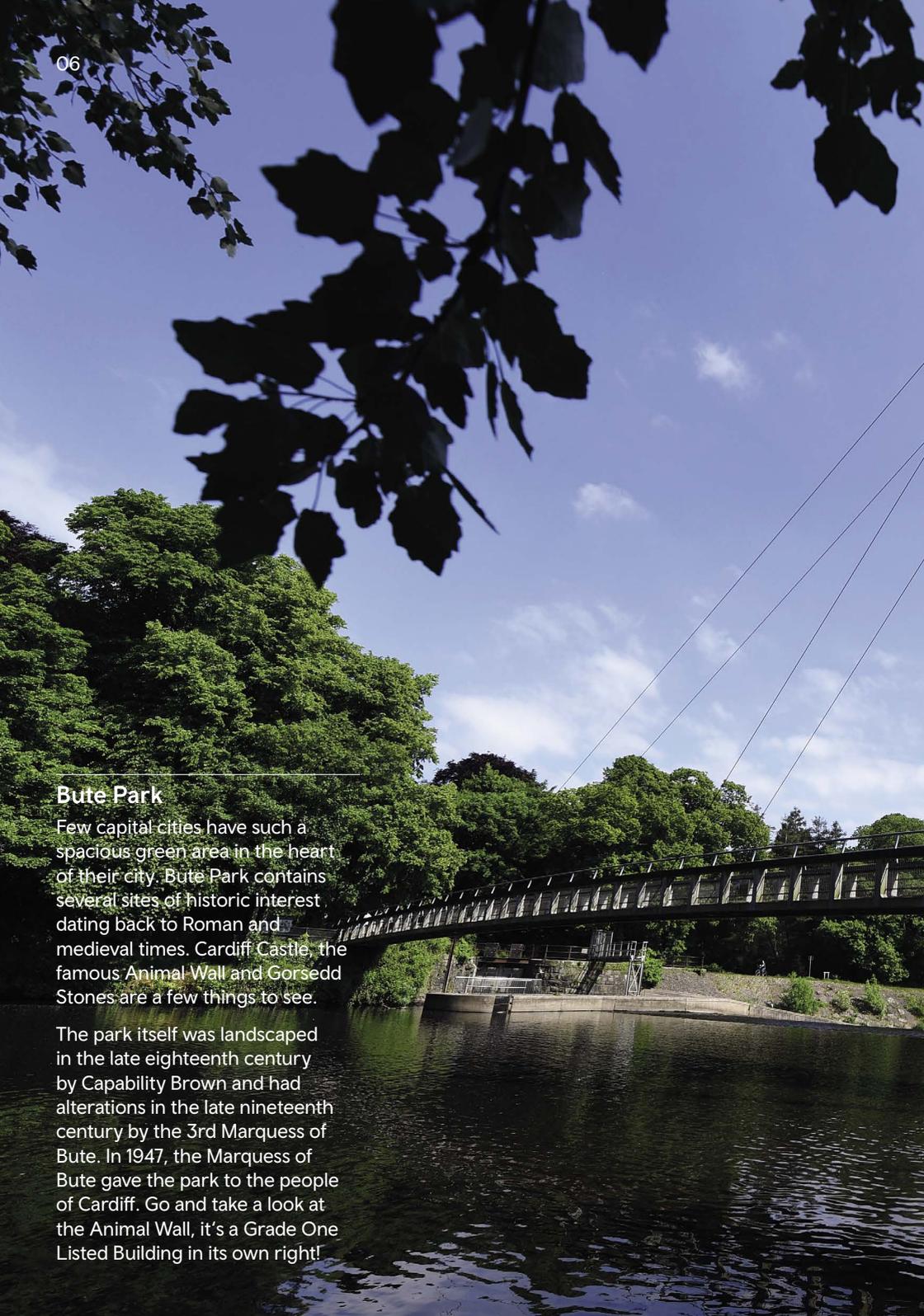
Take the tour of the stadium which includes running down the players' tunnel. Imagine yourself being greeted by 74,500 people eagerly awaiting the pain and the glory of rugby at its best; they even play the crowd cheering and the Welsh National Anthem. Quite stirring is an understatement!

[www.principalitystadium.wales/tours](http://www.principalitystadium.wales/tours)

## Bute Park

Few capital cities have such a spacious green area in the heart of their city. Bute Park contains several sites of historic interest dating back to Roman and medieval times. Cardiff Castle, the famous Animal Wall and Gorsedd Stones are a few things to see.

The park itself was landscaped in the late eighteenth century by Capability Brown and had alterations in the late nineteenth century by the 3rd Marquess of Bute. In 1947, the Marquess of Bute gave the park to the people of Cardiff. Go and take a look at the Animal Wall, it's a Grade One Listed Building in its own right!





# Retail therapy.

Queen Street and the Hayes are Cardiff's shopping hubs with high street chains and cafés dotted along the pedestrianised areas.

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Cardiff has all the major stores you'd expect to find in a capital city. But two things make shopping here a special pleasure – the compact city centre and the authentic Victorian and Edwardian arcades with their individual and specialist shops. There are six arcades in total, stuffed full of the quirky and the unusual. Snug coffee shops sit next to esoteric club clothing boutiques and chic high end fashion stores. There's a shop that sells nothing but Harry Potter next to one that sells nothing but violins. And they're next to a stylish gin bar and a Welsh cheese shop.

Its worth seeking out Spillers Records in the Morgan Arcade. Its the oldest record shop in the world! Its served lovers of Vinyl for nearly 120 years!

[www.spillersrecords.co.uk](http://www.spillersrecords.co.uk)

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## Cardiff Market

It's well worth making your way through the crowds of shoppers to find out what Cardiff Central Market has to offer. The market has been trading in one form or another since the 1700s. It has occupied the same site for over 100 years and although you'll longer find livestock tethered and penned outside its doors, some of the old features remain to this day.

Within this food-lovers paradise you'll be sure to find something delicious to take your fancy, whether you have a passion for Welsh Cakes made in front of you or a penchant for Lava Bread (a Welsh delicacy made from seaweed), there's also pets, nuts and bolts and rock and roll.

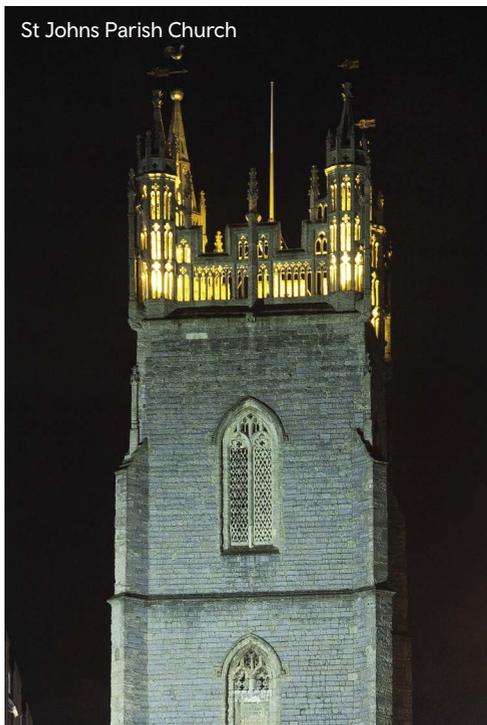




Spillers Records



Cardiff Market



St Johns Parish Church



Victorian Arcades

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## The Cardiff Story

Learn about Cardiff's history at The Cardiff Story Museum in the 'Old Library', The Hayes.

It's free entry and has art galleries, a learning suite, interactive exhibitions and other objects and stories that bring to life the history of the Welsh capital.

After you've walked around the interactive exhibits, head to Bodlon, it's gift shop stuffed full of Welsh goodies. Some of the best buys include bars of Nom Nom chocolate made in West Wales and Melin Tregwynt Welsh wool blankets.

[www.cardiffstory.com](http://www.cardiffstory.com)

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## St Johns Parish Church

This is the oldest church in the city centre and apart from sections of the castle is said to be the oldest building in Cardiff still in constant use.

The church is next to city centre's Victorian market. St John's welcomes about a thousand city visitors a week and hosts many different celebrations for city institutions, charities, and individuals. It's also rather a nice place to stop for a cup of tea and a homemade cake.



# Coffee Stops.

Or tea if that floats your boat.

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A firm favourite is **Coffee Barker** in the Castle Arcade. The shop has a cool warehouse aesthetic – exposed brickwork, high ceilings and steel girders characterising the coffee shop's contemporary interior – Coffee Barker offers something distinctly different from the other coffee shops in the city.

A warm and friendly feel is achieved with a great mix of cool and comfy leather seats. Doorstep sandwiches, appealing paninis and excellent toasties come in a variety of options. Smoked salmon, brie and gammon, mascarpone chicken and cheese are among the many tantalising choices. The cakes prove equally tempting.

If you don't like coffee, rather handily, they also own **Barkers Tea Rooms** in the High Street Arcade opposite.

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Nearby is **Pettigrew's Tea Rooms**, located in the former Gatehouse of Bute Park.

David Le Masurier 's inspirational story is an example of someone who has pursued their dream. In 2010 he packed in a successful career in the hotel industry with the intent of establishing a traditional British tea room.

Two years later Pettigrew tea rooms opened in the gate house of Bute Park. Pettigrew tea rooms is a slice of old fashioned British charm. Wooden display cabinets are filled with freshly baked cakes and loose leaf tea, and mismatched teaware and bunting all add to the vintage feel.

**[www.pettigrew-tearooms.com](http://www.pettigrew-tearooms.com)**

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## Eat at Gareth Bale's Elevens

As if being a world famous footballer for Real Madrid and Wales wasn't enough, international star Gareth Bale has his own premium sports bar and restaurant in his home town.

He partnered with Cardiff's biggest brewery, Brains, to bring local food and beer to the venue, which is directly opposite the Castle's Clock Tower. Stop at Elevens for a pint of Brains and you may even catch a match featuring Gareth on one of the sports screens!

**[www.sabrain.com/pubs-and-hotels/south-wales/cardiff/elevens-bar-grill](http://www.sabrain.com/pubs-and-hotels/south-wales/cardiff/elevens-bar-grill)**

# Cardiff Bay.

From the city centre, head to Cardiff Bay. You can get here by bus, train or by water taxi near Petigrews Tea Rooms. It's only about 2 miles, so if it's a nice day, you could walk directly down Lloyd George Avenue.

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This is the former docks area of the city and used to be the largest port in the world. It was once better known as Tiger Bay, immortalised by locally born diva and all-round Welsh legend, Shirley Bassey.

These days the Bay is one of the world's largest regeneration projects. Central to the whole idea is the Cardiff Bay Barrage, which transformed the bay from mud flats to a massive freshwater lake. Around the lake, Cardiffians have realised that they love water! Marinas, apartments, water taxis, opera houses and even a parliament building all vie for a waterfront location.

The area around the Millennium Centre is known as Mermaid Quay. It's a jumble of shops, bars and restaurants, and on a warm day, packed; a great place to people watch.

To the east of Mermaid Quay is the gleaming white Norwegian Church, an old seaman's mission in which the Cardiff born author, Roald Dahl was christened. If by now you fancy a coffee and a cake, it's now been converted into a great little café and art gallery.

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## Wales Millennium Centre

This stunning building is all glass and slate and looking very much like a Welsh armadillo. Its home to seven of Wales' major cultural institutions, including the Welsh National Opera. The structure is dominated by a huge dome coated in copper oxide to give it a bronze colour. Inscribed above the front door are two poetic lines. The Welsh: "Creu Gwir fel gwydr o ffwrnais awen" which means "creating truth like glass from the furnace of creation" and the English "In these stones, horizons sing" the letters form the windows of the upper floors and bars and are lit up at night. The materials come from all over Wales and are designed to reflect the different parts of the country.

Take in a free performance on the Glanfa Stage. These vary from day to day but can be anything from hip hop to poetry.

[www.wmc.org.uk](http://www.wmc.org.uk)





Cardiff Bay



The Norwegian Church Arts Centre



The Senedd



Techniqwest Science Centre

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## Mermaid Quay

The area around the Millennium Centre is known as Mermaid Quay. It's a jumble of shops, bars and restaurants, and on a warm day, packed; a great place to people watch.

Try the 'Dock'. Occupying one of the best spots in Cardiff Bay, this is a smart sophisticated bar, popular with both the locals and tourists. With its elegant glass fronts and stylish balconies this is the perfect place to spend a summers evening looking out over the bay. The Dock is both a bar and restaurant – and it excels at being both. The food ranges from simple bar snacks to full meals and the choice is excellent.

[www.thedockcardiff.co.uk](http://www.thedockcardiff.co.uk)

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## The Senedd

Next door to the Millennium Centre is the Welsh Senedd (Parliament) Building.

Designed by acclaimed architect Richard Rogers and opened by the Queen in 2006, the building is certainly impressive. Its wave-like roof juts out into the sky uncompromisingly; its glass walls afford you a clear view inside the building from 50 metres away but still reflect the waters of Cardiff Bay which practically lap onto its steps. It manages to be both gutsy and ethereal – and has a certain magic that you can only feel by visiting it. So that's what you should do! Take the free tour. Poke around a bit, have a slice of Bara Brith in the splendidly located café.

[www.assemblywales.org/sen-home.htm](http://www.assemblywales.org/sen-home.htm)

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## The Norwegian Church Arts Centre

Formerly a Church for Norwegian Sailors, this is a landmark building could be straight out of Bergen. The church was where the Cardiff born children's author Roald Dahl was christened. Its placed right on the Cardiff Bay waterfront and is now a renowned cultural venue. The unique venue hosts a variety of events, from live music to workshops, functions and classes. The Dahl Gallery also displays a range of art and photography exhibitions. The stylish café bar offers food all day, with the outside terrace overlooking the tranquil waters of the Bay.

[www.norwegianchurchcardiff.com](http://www.norwegianchurchcardiff.com)

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## Technquest Science Centre – Cardiff Bay

If you've got kids, this is where to take them for a few hours, if you haven't; just pretend, it's great for adults too! Technquest is one of the UK's largest science centres, its packed full of fun exhibits, experiments and hands on quirky stuff like firing rockets to bubble racing.

[www.technquest.org](http://www.technquest.org)

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## Cardiff Bay Barrage

You can take a boat over to the Barrage, they depart from Mermaid Quay or you can walk or cycle. The Barrage itself is 1.1km long and extends from Cardiff docks in the east to Penarth in the west. This was a huge civil engineering construction project and created a freshwater lake with over 13km of waterfront around which everyone wants to live.

The barrage is quite a busy place with the yachts coming in and out of the locks. Go and see the giant fish passes, you may see some jumping salmon or trout. The landscaped embankment is a great place for a picnic with excellent views out over the sea and the city.

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## White Water Rafting in the city!

Go and take a look at the Cardiff International White Water (CIWW), situated at International Sports Village in Cardiff Bay. It opened in 2010 and is unique in the UK. Positioned on the Bay Edge walkway, you will be able to access the site and view action on the water before taking the plunge into the rapids. For a thrilling water sports adventure they offer a unique environment of on-demand white water, plus access to a diverse river system for flat water paddlers only a stones throw away from the city with all it has to offer.

[www.ciww.com](http://www.ciww.com)

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## Cardiff Bay Barrage Coast Path

The route provides a safe pedestrian and cycle route with direct access to and from the Inner Harbour, linking with the existing footway, cycle way and transport network through to the city and beyond. The path forms part of the 870mile (1400km) Wales Coast Path which runs right around the coastline of the country. The route is accessible via a bridge crossing Roath Basin lock next to the Norwegian Church, and takes you past the Environment building, the barrage, which includes locks and bridges, sluice gates, and a fish pass and Cardiff Harbour Building. The artwork 'Barrage Circles' is by the Swiss artist Felice Varini and uses the Barrage structures and paint to create a collage that results in circles. These circles are not immediately evident and can only be viewed from one location. The art highlights the many parts that are needed to make up the operational structure of the Barrage.

[www.visitcardiff.com/seedo/cardiff-bay-barrage-coast-path](http://www.visitcardiff.com/seedo/cardiff-bay-barrage-coast-path)

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## Penarth

The pretty seaside town of Penarth became a suburb of Cardiff many years ago, but it retains an atmosphere of its own with its steep streets, pretty shops and ornate Victorian pier. A 20 minute stroll round the bay across the barrage brings you to the marina which is relatively new. A further 15 minutes up the hill or a short taxi ride and you reach the main beach front promenade and the famous old Victorian pier with its recently restored Pavilion.



Barrage Circles by Felice Varini



Cardiff Bay Towards Penarth



Cardiff International White Water

# Dinner Suggestions.

As befits a European capital city with a vibrant history of ethnic and cultural diversity, you won't go short whether you're looking for Thai, Italian, French, Indian, Lebanese, or the finest locally-sourced Welsh produce.

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We highly recommend **Chapel 1877** in the city centre.

What was a lovely old Victorian chapel has been extravagantly converted into a stylish venue on two floors, with an informal downstairs bar. There's plenty of ornate brickwork in a host of marvelous colours, coupled with a spectacular chandelier and, with the open kitchen thrown in for boot, makes for a truly stunning venue with fantastic food.

[www.chapel1877.com](http://www.chapel1877.com)

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We also recommend the **Potted Pig** on High Street.

Pared back British cooking, an atmospheric bank vault setting and a dangerously broad selection of gins make this one of Cardiff's hottest tickets at the moment. Unctuous duck hash, succulent steaks paired with the finest chips we've ever eaten, top drawer slow roast pork belly with baked carrots and greens are just some of the dishes we love here.

[www.thepottedpig.com](http://www.thepottedpig.com)



# Post Sightseeing.

If you still have the energy. Cardiff nights are legendarily raucous with 35,000 students in the city, a great night is guaranteed!

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Cardiff is packed full of pubs and clubs of all styles, with chic cosmopolitan bars jostling alongside more traditional Victorian pubs and massive beer barns.

For those who enjoy less boisterous surroundings, there are several wine and gin bars where you can sit back and enjoy waiter service. Any visit should sample a pint of the city's very own beer, Brains SA, brewed in the heart of the city. Legend has it that the SA stands for 'skull attack' but you'll have to make up your own mind about that one!

**We love these bars:**

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## 10 Feet Tall

### 11-12 Church Street

This is a place where Cardiff's sophisticated yet fun-loving types gather to enjoy the tastes of some of the city's most on-the-mark DJs. The furniture is mix'n'match with high-backed wooden chairs, low-slung armchairs and funky, chunky brown couches and this mish mash fits perfectly with the ambient background music. Its cocktail hour-ish on a Sunday is legendary, as is the tapas and the more substantial meals. During the day, it's a great place to chill out after hitting the shops with an equally chilled alcoholic ginger beer.

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## The Dead Canary

This is possibly the fanciest cocktail bar in the city, and it's well worth a visit. It's a speakeasy style bar, so look for the bell and feather in a birdcage on the wall along Barrack Lane to find the way in. Dress smart and prepare for your taste buds to be amazed.

[www.thedeadcanary.co.uk](http://www.thedeadcanary.co.uk)



Tiny Rebel Bar

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## Gwdihw

### 6 Guildford Crescent

We really love this place! Gwdihw (pronounced 'goody-huw', which is the sound an owl makes in Welsh) Its all a bit eccentric and quirky. Lots of 'retro' type mismatched furniture, a stage and a proper looking DJ booth. Outside is a really cute little seating area, covered, all a bit inside outside with heaters and a leather sofa. The tiny little bar really gives the impression of a homely, friendly place where the staff are part of the party.

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## The Old Arcade

### Church Street

The Famous Old Arcade, known throughout the world as the place to go to when in Cardiff for a rugby match, as its packed to the rafters with a good humoured rugby atmosphere and singing. It has quite a bit of history – having opened its doors to punters way back in 1844 as the 'Birdcage Inn'. It's also very handy for Cardiff's Victorian Market so you can nip in for a faggot between pints of Brains.

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## Caroline Street

For a real Cardiff tradition it has to be Caroline Street or Chippy Lane as it is more commonly known. Best stumbled upon after a long night on the tiles, sophisticated it's not, but if you're in need of a late night snack, it's the place to be, and don't worry anyone who is anyone ends up here sooner or later!



# Must See Attractions.

## Just outside the City.

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### St Fagans National History Museum

St Fagans is one of Europe's foremost open-air museums and Wales's most-visited heritage attraction. It stands in the grounds of the magnificent St Fagans Castle, a late 16th-century manor house donated to the people of Wales by the Earl of Plymouth. During the last fifty years, over forty original buildings from different historical periods have been re-erected in the 100-acre parkland.

The re-erected buildings include houses, a farm, a school, a chapel and a splendid Workmen's Institute. There are also workshops where craftsmen still demonstrate their traditional skills. Their produce is usually on sale.

Native breeds of livestock can be seen in the fields and farmyards, and demonstrations of farming tasks take place daily. Visitors gain an insight into the rich heritage and culture of Wales, and the Welsh language can be heard in daily use amongst craftsmen and interpreters.

There are also galleries with exhibitions of costume, daily life and farming implements. Special exhibitions are also held regularly. Throughout the year, St Fagans comes to life — literally — as traditional festivals, music and dance events are celebrated. St Fagans explores all aspects of how people in Wales have lived, worked and spent their leisure time.

The grounds of St Fagans extend to over 100 acres in total, with many buildings in the open-air section. Although the amount of time spent on site varies from one visitor to another, we recommend that you allow at least 3 hours for your visit. The Museum is one of the UK's top ten free attractions as voted by users of TripAdvisor, the world's largest travel review site.

There are regular buses from the city centre which take approximately 25 minutes.

<https://museum.wales/stfagans>



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## Castell Coch

While resting on ancient foundations, Castell Coch (Red Castle) is relatively modern, the by-product of a vivid Victorian imagination, assisted by untold wealth. The Middle Ages fascinated the Victorians as much as the Victorians fascinate us today. High Gothic was the order of the day.

The 'eccentric genius' William Burges was given free rein by his paymaster, John Patrick Crichton-Stuart, the 3rd marquess of Bute, to create a rural retreat to complement the opulence of his main residence, Cardiff Castle. He didn't hold back. Dazzling ceilings, over-the-top furnishings and furniture were liberally applied.

Detailed architectural drawings still survive today and following Burges's death in 1881, colleagues faithfully continued work on the interiors for another ten years. The castle was not suitable for, nor was it intended to be, a permanent residence and the family's visits were infrequent. It's a fascinating place to visit with regular events taking place within the walls.

You can cycle along the Taff Trail to Castle Coch, it's a very easy 6.6miles (10.6km) or regular buses will take you to the village of Tongwynlais and you can walk from there.

<http://cadw.gov.wales/daysout/castell-coch/?lang=en>

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## Caerphilly Castle

Caerphilly, covering 30 acres (12.2ha), is one of the greatest surviving castles in the medieval Western world and the second largest in Britain. It was a highpoint in medieval defensive architecture with its massive gatehouses and water features. It was built by Earl Gilbert de Clare, beginning in 1268, to frighten Llywelyn, the last native Prince of Wales, from fighting the Normans in the southern part of Wales. It was then used as a model for Edward I's castles in North Wales. Crafty Llywelyn seized it when it was half finished, but it was soon back in Norman hands.

After Llywelyn's defeat and death, the Welsh threat substantially ended, and the castle became the administrative centre for de Clare's estates. Edward II spent time here. Caerphilly, being uncomfortable for a family residence, eventually decayed, and stone was taken to build a nearby country house. The Bute families coal money rescued and restored the castle in the late Victorian era leaving us with this huge masterpiece of military planning, it even has a tower that out leans the one at Pisa!

There are regular trains from several of Cardiff's train stations to Caerphilly; the journey takes about 20 minutes.

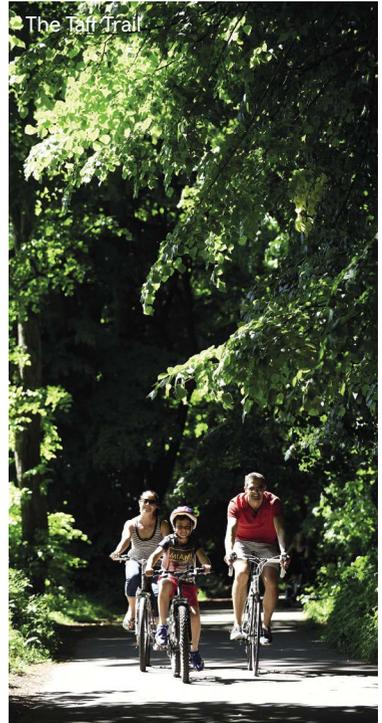
<http://cadw.gov.wales/daysout/caerphilly-castle/?lang=en>



Castell Coch



Caerphilly Castle



## The Taff Trail Cycle and Walking Route

Cardiff has more green space than any other city in Europe, per head of population.

The Taff Trail makes the most of former rail routes, towpaths and tramways, allowing you to walk or cycle from Cardiff Bay through 2000 acres of parkland, all the way to the moorland of the Brecon Beacons, if you really need some extra miles to work off that Sunday lunch.

You can rent bikes or go on an organised cycle tour here:

<http://www.cardiffcycletours.com/bike-hire>

# Organised Tours.

## 1/2 Day Tours.

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### Cardiff Historical Tour

Cardiff's definitive walking tour gives an unrivalled insight into the history of Wales' capital city. Travel 2000 years in two hours on the rollercoaster ride of Cardiff's compelling story.

Conquest and rebellion, destruction and rebirth, corruption and catastrophe, boom and bust – Cardiff has survived it all to emerge as the vibrant capital of its country. Visit Cardiff Castle and its roman keep, The National Museum and Galleries of Wales and the quaint Victorian Arcades – you will hear about the Celts, Romans, Vikings, Normans, princes, kings, pirates, patriots, rogues, rebels, statesmen, reformers, industrialists, aristocrats and paupers who have all played their part around the famous landmarks and hidden corners of this remarkable city.

[http://planetwales.co.uk/walking\\_tour.html](http://planetwales.co.uk/walking_tour.html)

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### Cardiff Food Safari

Cardiff has a thriving food scene – Welsh signature foods, ethnic and continental foods, some locally produced, markets and festivals. Walk around the city centre and Cardiff Bay, passing beautiful parks and key landmarks including Cardiff Castle, the Principality Stadium 'the home of Welsh rugby', and the National Assembly of Wales – Senedd and the Millennium Centre.

On the tour you will learn about different kinds of cuisine from sophisticated dining to traditional pubs and street food. The tour also allows you to get to know Cardiff better. On the menu you will taste Welsh Beer/Cider, a range of tastings including laverbread, seasonal specials, Welsh cheeses and more. We also discover the wide variety of cafes, pubs, restaurants, shops and boutiques so that you can plan your visit to include the best food and drink, sightseeing and shopping.

<http://lovingwelshfood.uk/>



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### Cardiff Ghost Tour

The Creepy Cardiff Ghost Tour is a walking tour not to be missed! The tour begins outside the National Museum of Wales, Cathays Park and lasts approximately one hour.

Winding its way through the beautiful white stone buildings, you'll hear stories of hauntings, dragons, reincarnation, and even the burial place of Queen Boadicea.

The heady mix of history, mystery, myth and legend is enough to spellbind even the most cynical soul. There is a lot of fact and a lot of fiction, it's up to you to decide which is which.

[www.creepycardiff.com](http://www.creepycardiff.com)

# Organised Tours.

## Full Day Tours.

### Out of Cardiff Day Trip

Caerphilly Castle is the biggest castle in Wales. The iconic fortress is mightily impressive, surrounded by a series of moats and watery islands. The castle is the brainchild of Gilbert 'the Red' de Clare, a redheaded nobleman of Norman descent, who's early attempts at building the castle were thwarted by Llywelyn ap Gruffydd. Gilbert eventually succeeded to build a mammoth stronghold using the concentric 'walls within walls' system of defence. Visitors can climb to the rooftop of the massive east gatehouse, and from here the rings of stone and water defences that made Caerphilly such a stronghold can be seen. Dark passages known as the Braose Gallery can be explored, and the south-east tower — which outleaves Pisa's famous tower is hard to miss, and the mighty siege engines and special firing events are worth seeing.

### Whisky Tasting

Nestled in the foothills of the Brecon Beacons National Park, close to 'Waterfall Country', Penderyn Distillery has taken the whisky world by storm since it first started creating its smooth single malt in 2004. Since then, it has also concocted award-winning vodka, gin and a cream liqueur. Visitors can experience the distilling, bottling process and the history of whisky making in Wales in the

state-of-the-art building. And of course, you get to sample the spirits.

### Lunch at local restaurant

### Brecon Mountain Railway

The return journey takes just over an hour in all-weather observation coaches behind a vintage steam locomotive. It runs through beautiful scenery into the Brecon Beacons National Park along the full length of the Taf Fechan Reservoir to Dol-y-Gaer.

At Pontsticill you can alight from the train and visit the Cafe, with views across the water to the peaks of the Brecon Beacons, and go for a ramble alongside the reservoir. At Pant station the railway also has a workshop where old steam locomotives are repaired.

### Big Pit Coal Mine

Experience a real coal mine by travelling 300 feet underground. Tours are led by a former coalminer who provides a fascinating and personal tour with the sights, sounds and smells of the mine, creating an impression of what working life was like at the coalface. The mining museum also provides historic buildings, audio and visual exhibitions and plenty of displays.

[www.seewales.com/day-tours.asp](http://www.seewales.com/day-tours.asp)



# Organised Tours.

## Full Day Tours.

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### Golf in Wales

If you're looking for legendary golf, you've come to the right place, golf courses in Wales are undoubtedly among the best in the world. Our show stopping golf experiences come in all shapes and sizes, from walking in the footsteps of Ryder Cup heroes and Open-winning superstars at internationally renowned championship courses, to the thrill of discovering one of the many hidden gems dotted around our coast and countryside. Whichever Welsh Golf Course you choose to play, you'll find the same warm Welsh welcome and unstuffy attitude that's the essence of what we call 'golf as it should be'.

2018 is our Year of the Sea, highlighting our spectacular shores and crystal-clear waters. For golfers, that means getting to grips with the classic coastal links courses occupying prime seafront spots up and down the

country. Get ready for towering dunes, lightning fast greens and unpredictable sea breezes – rugged golf that's as challenging as it is satisfying. Why not come and sample it for yourself?

To book, try one of our local golf operators: [www.visitwales.com/things-to-do/activities/golf/operators/welsh-operators](http://www.visitwales.com/things-to-do/activities/golf/operators/welsh-operators) or contact the courses direct.

If you need more inspiration for your trip, or have the time to travel further afield (the stunning Pembrokeshire Coast National Park is less than two hours away for instance) then the Visit Wales web site can certainly help with your planning!

[www.visitwales.com](http://www.visitwales.com)



If you're experiencing Cardiff for the first time and fully plan on finding your epic, tell us about it on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter using the hashtag **#FindYourEpic**.

You can also visit the city's website for further inspiration and up-to-date event listings:  
**[www.visitcardiff.com](http://www.visitcardiff.com)**

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