WELCOME TO CARDIFF, WALES

Cardiff is the capital and largest city in Wales and the eleventh-largest city in the United Kingdom. The city is the country's chief commercial center, the base for most national cultural and sporting institutions, the Welsh national media, and the seat of the National Assembly for Wales. The Cardiff metropolitan area makes up over a third of the total population of Wales, with a population estimate of about 1,100,000 people. Cardiff is a significant tourist center and the most popular visitor destination in Wales with 18.3 million visitors in 2010. Cardiff was ranked sixth in the world in National Geographic's alternative tourist destinations.

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CLIMATE

Cardiff lies within the north temperate zone and has an essentially maritime climate, characterized by mild weather that is often cloudy, wet and windy. Summers tend to be warm and sunny, with average maximum temperatures between 66 and 72 °F (19 and 22 °C). Winters tend to be fairly wet, but rainfall is rarely excessive and the temperature usually stays above freezing. Spring and autumn feel quite similar and the temperatures tend to stay above 57 °F (14 °C)—also the average annual daytime temperature. Rain is unpredictable at any time of year, although the showers tend to be shorter in summer.

Cardiff has more sunny weather on average than the rest of Wales (1,518 hours vs. 1,389 hours per year). Thusly, the city receives less than the average rainfall for the rest of the country.

GEOGRAPHY

The center of Cardiff is relatively flat and is bounded by hills on the outskirts to the east, north and west. Its geographic features were influential in its development as the world’s largest coal port, most notably its proximity and easy access to the coal fields of the south Wales valleys. The highest point in the authority is Garth Hill 1,007 ft. (307 m) above sea level.

Cardiff is built on reclaimed marshland on a bed of Triassic stones; this reclaimed marshland stretches from Chepstow to the Ely Estuary, which is the natural boundary of Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan. Triassic landscapes of this part of the world are usually shallow and low-lying which accounts and explains the flatness of the center of Cardiff. The classic Triassic marl, sand and conglomerate rocks are used predominantly throughout Cardiff as building materials. Many of these Triassic rocks have a purple complexion, especially the coastal marl found near Penarth.
COST OF LIVING

Wales has some of the lowest living costs in the United Kingdom and most of the population enjoy a high standard of living. Living costs in Wales do depend on your location, employment, and circumstances. However, historically Wales has had lower costs on items such as accommodation, travel, food, entertainment, shopping, and services. Property prices, council tax, and basic expenses in Wales all generally fall below the UK average, so your wages go further in Wales. Below are the median home purchase price and median monthly rent for the city of Cardiff.

Key Metrics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Median Home Price</th>
<th>Median Monthly Rent</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>£215,158</td>
<td>£921</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Approx. $265,892 USD</td>
<td>Approx. $1,138 USD</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TRANSPORTATION

Airport
Cardiff Airport (CWL)

Bus and Rail
Cardiff Central railway station is the largest railway station in Wales with seven platforms, through which over 10 million passengers a year pass. Cardiff Queen Street railway station is the second busiest in Wales and is the hub for routes via the Valley Lines services that connect the South Wales valleys and the Cardiff suburbs.

Cardiff has a comprehensive bus network, with municipal bus company Cardiff Bus providing the vast majority of routes in the city.

Other
Cardiff has many bike paths. Water taxis are used to reach destinations across Cardiff Bay.
Before moving to the UK for work, you will need to determine the appropriate visa for your situation so that you will not be violating any of the requirements. There are several work-based categories which are part of the UK’s point-based system for immigration.

**Tier 1: High Value Migrant Visas**

The High Value Migrant Visa for the UK applies to “exceptionally talented” people such as investors, entrepreneurs and others. It is designed for highly skilled workers who have made significant contributions in their field and want to immigrate to the UK to work. In order to qualify for this type of visa you will need to meet certain criteria on a points-based system.

**Tier 2: Skilled Worker Visas**

If you are a national of a country outside of the European Economic Area or Switzerland and you have a job offer from a licensed sponsor and a certificate of sponsorship, as long as you pass the points-based assessment, you can immigrate to the UK under the Skilled Worker Visa. This visa is for people with specific skills who have been offered a job in the UK.

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**UK VISA BEST PRACTICES**

Before moving to the UK for work, you will need to determine the appropriate visa for your situation and undergo an application process. You can obtain a visa application form from the UK Embassy or online. Seeking the assistance of a professional visa processing agency can simplify the process, and is highly recommended to ensure your visa acquisition is both successful and timely.

To obtain a UK visa, you may apply for a visitor visa at any of the visa application centers within the country. Any other visa applications, such as a working visa, must be made outside of the UK, Channel Islands and the Isle of Man. It’s a good idea to apply for your visa well before your intended travel date, since it is difficult to predict how long processing times will be and what delays might arise during the process. It is also important to note that you must apply to obtain your own visa for the UK. A third party cannot apply on your behalf, but may help you complete the application form.

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*This summary is intended for informational purposes only and is not an authorized guide on how to obtains work authorization*
LIFESTYLE & ENTERTAINMENT

Cardiff has a strong nightlife and is home to many bars, pubs, and clubs. Most clubs and bars are situated in the city center, especially St. Mary Street, and more recently Cardiff Bay has built up a strong night scene, with many modern bars and restaurants. Cardiff is known for its extensive parkland, with parks and other such green spaces covering around 10% of the city’s total area. Named one of the UK’s most musical cities, Cardiff is home to both classical symphonies and cutting edge bands - many of whom have garnered worldwide acclaim. Cardiff hosts many festivals and important sporting events.

SPORTS

Pro Teams
Cardiff City - Football (Soccer)
Cardiff Cricket Club - Cricket
Cardiff Devils - Ice Hockey
Glamorgan County Cricket Club - Cricket

Major Venues
Cardiff Arms Park
Cardiff City Stadium
Cardiff International Sports Centre
Ice Arena Wales
Millennium Stadium
SWALEC Stadium

OUTDOORS & ADVENTURE

Parks and Trails
Bute Park
Cardiff Bay Wetlands
Cathays Park
Cosmeston Lakes Park
Roath Park

Fun by the Water
Bristol Channel
Cardiff Bay
Ely River
Llanishen Reservoir
River Taff

Historic Attractions
Caerphilly Castle
Cardiff Castle
Castle Coch
Llandaff Cathedral
Tinkenwood

Discover More
aroundcardiff.co.uk
visitcardiff.com
visitwales.com
walesonline.co.uk
wearecardiff.co.uk
SHOPPING & DINING

Being Wales’s largest – and most international – city, Cardiff has no shortage of fantastic restaurants from which to choose. From trendy to quaint to the finest dining, Cardiff residents have tons of options. Being a port city, Cardiff has attracted cuisine from all around the globe so that French, Indian, Thai, and other worldly restaurants land on the lists of best places to eat. Locals rave about the tea and pastries at Waterloo Gardens Teahouse, as well as the vegetarian options and view of the bay at Ffresh.

A Shopping Paradise

Cardiff is one of the top ten retail destinations in the UK, with two main shopping streets (Queen Street and St. Mary Street), and three main shopping arcades; St. David’s Centre, Queens Arcade, and the Capitol Centre. The current expansion of St. David’s Centre as part of the St. David’s 2 project has seen it become one of the largest shopping centers in the United Kingdom. Cardiff has a number of markets, including the vast Victorian indoor Cardiff Central Market and the newly established Riverside Community Market.

ART & CULTURE

Cardiff has some wonderful, historic theaters that attract top acts from around the world. There are also many museums and art galleries in Cardiff that will engage the minds of visitors of all ages.

**Museums & Galleries**
- Albany Gallery
- Cardiff Story Museum
- Castle Fine Art Gallery
- Martin Tinney Gallery
- National Museum Cardiff
- Norwegian Church Art Centre
- St. Fagans Natural History Museum
- Techniquest Science Museum
- Third Floor Gallery
- World of Boats Museum

**Theaters**
- Chapter Arts Centre
- Music Theatre Wales
- National Theatre Wales
- New Theatre
- Richard Burton Theatre
- St. David’s Hall
- Sherman Theatre
- Stage Theatre
- Underground Theatre Company
- Wales Millennium Centre
EDUCATION IN CARDIFF, WALES

Cardiff has 3 state nursery schools (one bilingual), 98 state primary schools (two bilingual, fifteen Welsh medium), and 19 state secondary schools (three Welsh medium). There are also a number of independent schools in the city, including St John’s College, Llandaff Cathedral School, Cardiff Sixth Form College, Kings Monkton and Howell’s School, a single-sex girls’ school (until sixth form). In 2013 Cardiff Sixth Form College came top of the independent senior schools in the UK, which were based on the percentage of A+ and A at Advanced Level. Also in the top 100 were St John’s College and Howell’s School.

Notable schools include Whitchurch High School (the largest in Wales), Fitzalan High School (which is one of the most multi-cultural state schools in the UK), and Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf, which is the largest Welsh medium secondary in Wales.

Notable Colleges & Universities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cardiff Metropolitan University</td>
<td>Cardiff, Wales</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardiff University</td>
<td>Cardiff, Wales</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Royal Welsh College of Music &amp; Drama</td>
<td>Cardiff, Wales</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Michaels College - Llandaff</td>
<td>Cardiff, Wales</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Wales</td>
<td>Cardiff, Wales</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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CONNECT WITH GMS

Founded in 1987, Global Mobility Solutions (GMS) is a global corporate relocation services company that specializes in workforce mobility. The company’s corporate relocation services include global assignment management, domestic relocation management, and a range of pre-decision solutions. GMS is a perennial winner of the HRO Today “Baker’s Dozen” customer satisfaction surveys, being named a top relocation provider in 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017.

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