



# WALES

**Capital:** Cardiff

**Language:** Welsh, English

**Population:** 3 Million

**Time Zone:** EST plus 5 hours

**Currency:** British Pound (GBP) - £ Sterling

**Electricity:** 240V. 50HZ

## Fun Facts



- Wales is known as the land of songs.
- The world's first wireless transmission took place in Wales.
- The Prince of Wales is not Welsh.

Wild, wonderful, enchanting Wales... was this the true land of King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table? Some scholars think so, and many dreamers believe so.

Wales was conquered by England over 700 years ago. During the Victorian era, it was the industrial heartland of the British Empire. The valleys of the south were pitted with coal mines and steelworks. The mountains of the north were stripped for their slate as Wales roofed the world. But the scars of industry have long since healed. The valleys are green again, forests of oak and birch skirt the wild moors of mid-Wales, and the mountains of Snowdonia are among the most majestic in the British Isles. Much of the land has remained remote and wild—secret even—with hidden valleys, tumbling streams, and waterfalls; it has been defended through the ages by natural battlements of rolling hills and rugged mountains, where dragons once roared and eagles still fly.

The last stronghold of the ancient Britons and Europe's oldest language (Welsh) still remain in Wales. Welsh, also known as Cymraeg, is spoken by a quarter of the population. Despite being England's closest neighbor, a strong sense of independence and national pride exists, which separates the people of Wales from the traditions of England. For centuries, Welsh folk culture has been celebrated annually at the National Eisteddfod, a great festival of poetry, prose, music, song, and dance. Since 1947, the beautiful little town of Llangollen has played host to cultures of the world at the International Eisteddfod, a Welsh festival of literature, music, and performance. Music is never far away in this land of song. Chapels once resounded with hymn singing, and choral traditions live on through the male-voice choirs. Sir Geraint Evans, Bryn Terfel, Charlotte Church, and Katherine Jenkins have graced the opera houses of the world, while Tom Jones, Shirley Bassey, the Stereophonics, and Manic Street Preachers have achieved stardom in the pop charts. Ancient bards wrote in Welsh of lovers, heroes, and the sorrows of a vanquished people long before Chaucer raised his quill. But it is Dylan Thomas who is the best-known Welsh writer with his magical use of the English language, inspired by his native landscape. Great actors have come from Wales too, including Richard Burton, Sir Anthony Hopkins, and Catherine Zeta-Jones.

In 2005, Cardiff celebrated fifty years as the capital city of Wales. Cardiff is vibrant and modern, yet famous for its splendid Victorian Gothic architecture. This is a young capital in a land of great antiquity.

The national dish of Wales is roast lamb and cawl (a broth of meat, leeks, and vegetables). Home baking is still popular, especially bara brith (currant bread) and Welsh cakes. Gourmands seek out bara lawr (laverbread

– seaweed, often rolled in oatmeal and fried). For fine shopping, look for Welsh gold jewelry, Celtic-design pottery, items handcrafted from coal and slate, or maybe a carved wooden love spoon for a sweetheart.



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## VISAS AND PASSPORTS

Visas to Wales are not required for U.S. citizens. If you hold a passport from another country, please check with your local consulate about requirements for travel to Wales. All passengers traveling internationally are required to have a passport. Please carry proper identification (your passport) on you and do not leave it in your suitcase or hotel room.

European law requires you to carry your passport with you at all times.



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## COUNTRY CODES

The country code for Wales is 44. When calling to Wales from overseas, dial your international access code (011 from the U.S./Canada) followed by the country code, area code, and phone number. Phone numbers in Wales are 11 digits in length. Dialing from the U.S./Canada: 011 44+### ####.



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## CURRENCY

Throughout Wales the currency is the Pound Sterling or also known as the British Pound (GBP).

1 POUND (£) STERLING = 100 Pence (p)

- Banknote denominations: £5, £10, £20, £50
- Coin denominations: 1p, 2p, 5p, 10p, 20p, 50p, £1, £2

For the most current exchange rates, please go to our Web site at [www.globusfamily.com/currency](http://www.globusfamily.com/currency).

Credit cards are widely accepted in Wales, and you should have no issues using them in larger shops and restaurants. Visa and MasterCard are most accepted. Smaller shops may ask you to pay in cash or have a minimum amount required to use a credit card.

Visitors from outside the European Union can have the value-added tax (VAT) refunded at the end of their trip. Ask for a tax-free shopping form with each purchase and follow the instructions for completion.

### Bank hours:

- Monday - Friday: In general, 9am – 5pm . Some branches are open Saturday mornings.



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## BUDGETING AND SHOPPING

The following budget guidelines are just approximate values or starting values for meals and are per person. Actual prices will vary widely by restaurant and city within a country but below are some averages as provided by our experienced personnel.

The approximate cost of a soft drink/mineral water/coffee is £2.50.

An average lunch consisting of a salad or sandwich and a soda or water starts at approximately £8.

A steak dinner at a mid-range restaurant with dessert and a non-alcoholic beverage starts at approximately £25.

### Shopping

Stores may close at different times/earlier than back home and are usually not open on Sundays.



## TIPPING

Tipping is common in the United Kingdom. In restaurants, a tip of 10% is usually acceptable; it is best to leave the tip in cash to ensure it goes to the wait staff and not the restaurant itself. Tipping in pubs for drinks ordered at the bar is not customary.

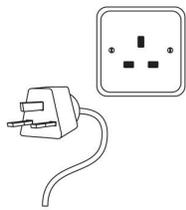
Tipping tax drivers is generally not expected, but rounding up the fare is appreciated.

Tip hotel staff £0.50 for room service.



## ELECTRICAL OUTLETS

Voltage for outlets is 240V. North American voltage is generally 110V. Therefore, a converter may be necessary for your travels. Adapters will be necessary to adapt your plug into the outlet but may not convert the voltage, so both devices are necessary.



Type G



## TEMPERATURES

The weather in Wales is often cloudy, wet and windy, but mild. Bring lightweight clothes in the summer and warmer wind-proof layers in winter.

To help you plan, below are average low and high temperatures for Cardiff.

January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
32/43°F	32/43°F	34/47°F	37/52°F	42/57°F	47/63°F	50/65°F	50/65°F	47/61°F	42/55°F	35/47°F	33/44°F

To convert to Celsius, subtract 32, then multiply by 5 and then divide by 9.



## FOOD SPECIALTIES

Roast lamb, cawl (a broth of meat and vegetables), leek dishes, bara lawr (laverbread – seaweed, often rolled in oatmeal and fried), bara brith (currant bread), and Welsh cakes.



## A FEW WORDS OF THE LOCAL LANGUAGE

**Welsh (pronunciation in parentheses):**

**Good morning:** Bore da (*bo-re dah*), **Good evening:** Noswaith dda (*nos-w(eye)th thah*), **Goodbye:** Da boch chi (*dah bohch chi*), **Please:** Os gwelwch yn dda (*os gwel-ooch uhn thah*), **Thank you:** Diolch (*di-olch*), **Cheers!:** Iechyd da (*ye-chid dah*)!

**American/British English:**

**Elevator:** Lift, **Apartment:** Flat, **Yard:** Garden, **Trunk:** Boot, **Truck:** Lorry, **Bartender:** Barman, **Cell phone:** Mobile, **check:** Bill, **Bill:** Bank note, **Trash can:** Bin, **Sidewalk:** Pavement, **Drugstore:** Chemist, **Band-Aid:** Plaster, **Bathroom/Washroom/Restroom:** Toilet/WC/loo, **Highway:** Motorway, **Subway:** Tube/underground, **Taxi:** Cab, **Traffic circle:** Roundabout, **Crosswalk:** Pedestrian crossing, **Movie theater:** Cinema, **Orchestra seats:** Stalls, **Sweater:** Jumper, **Pants/slacks:** Trousers, **Pantyhose:** Tights, **Sneakers:** Trainers, **Line:** Queue, **Mail:** Post, **Napkin:** Serviette, **Fries:** Chips, **Potato chips:** Crisps, **Eggplant:** Aubergine, **Dessert:** Pudding, **Jelly:** Jam, **Cookie:** Biscuit, **Liquor:** Spirits, **Dark ale:** Bitter, **Beer:** Lager, **Emergency room:** Casualty, **Washcloth:** Flannel, **Wallet:** Purse, **Purse:** Handbag.

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