

Wales

For a small country Wales has a lot to offer. With dramatic mountains, spectacular seashores, tumbling rivers, fresh green valleys and Europe's largest concentrations of medieval fortresses, it is a real gem that is often overlooked by tourists.

With a name that springs from the Anglo-Saxon term 'waleas' meaning 'foreigner', it is hardly surprising that the Welsh have a unique culture, language and heritage that distinguish them from the English. Although best known for their unpronounceable place names, roaring men's choirs and fierce Rugby teams - this is a friendly and hospitable nation.

Wales is a land of nature and legend with stunning natural, unspoiled scenery that is protected by a series of large National Parks. For lovers of nature and the great outdoors Wales can be the perfect destination.

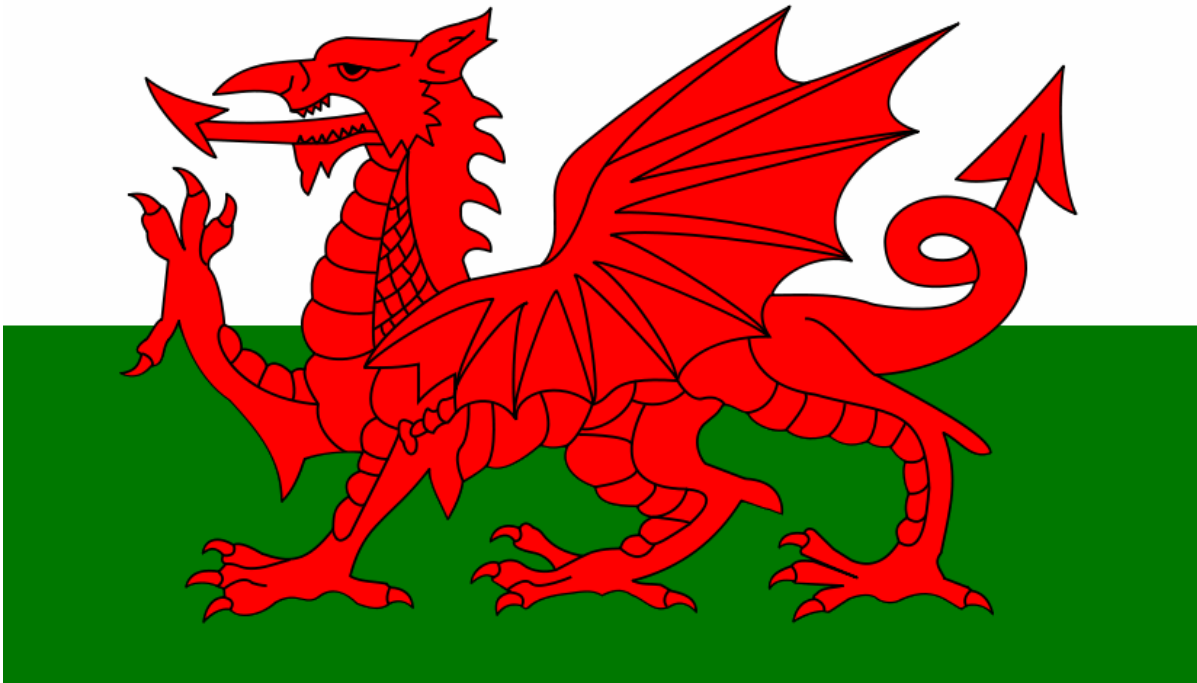


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1. Basic Data.

Capital (and largest city)	<u>Cardiff</u> (<i>Caerdydd</i>) 🌐 <u>51°29'N 3°11'W</u>
<u>Official languages</u>	<u>Welsh, English</u>
<u>Demonym</u>	<u>Welsh</u> (<i>Cymry</i>)
<u>Government</u>	<u>Devolved Government</u> in a <u>Constitutional monarchy</u>
- <u>Monarch</u>	<u>Elizabeth II</u>
- <u>First Minister</u>	<u>Carwyn Jones</u> <u>AM</u>
- <u>Prime Minister of the United Kingdom</u>	<u>David Cameron</u> <u>MP</u>
- <u>Secretary of State</u> (in the <u>UK government</u>)	<u>Cheryl Gillan</u> <u>MP</u>
Legislature	<u>UK Parliament</u> and <u>National Assembly for Wales</u>
<u>Unification</u>	
- by <u>Gruffydd ap Llywelyn</u>	1057
<u>Area</u>	
- Total	20,779 km ² 8,022 sq mi
<u>Population</u>	3,006,400
Currency	<u>Pound sterling</u> (<u>GBP</u>)
Drives on the	left
<u>Patron saint</u>	<u>Saint David</u> , <i>Dewi Sant</i>

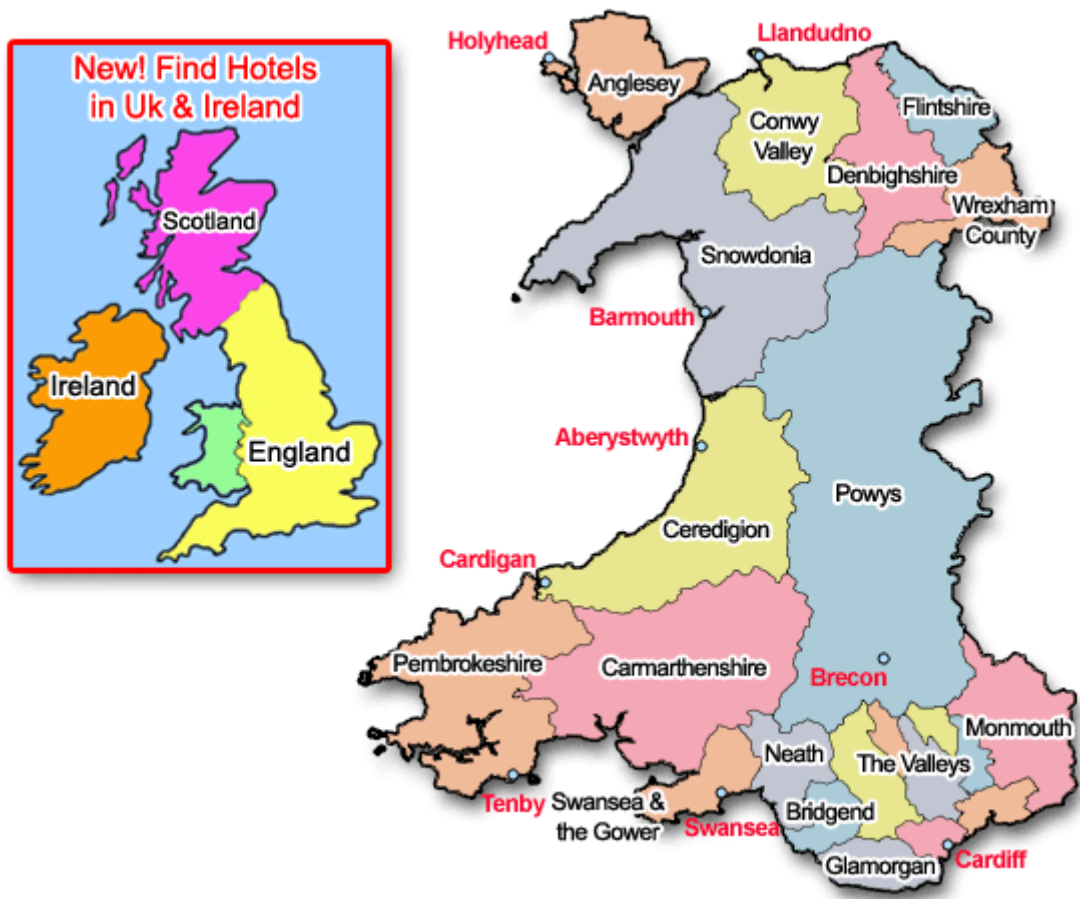


Welsh Flag

2. Administrative-territorial division.

Wales, part of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, united politically, legally, and administratively with England and occupying a broad peninsula on the western side of the island of Great Britain. Wales also includes the island of Anglesey, which is separated from the mainland by the narrow Menai Strait.

Wales is bounded on the north by the Irish Sea; on the east by the English counties of Cheshire, Shropshire, Hereford and Worcester, and Gloucester; on the south by Bristol Channel; and on the west by Saint George's Channel and Cardigan Bay. The maximum north-south extent of the Welsh mainland is 220 km (137 mi); in an east-west direction the distance varies between 60 and 155 km (36 and 96 mi). The total area of Wales is 20,760 sq km (8,015 sq mi). Cardiff is the capital, principal seaport, and shipbuilding center.



3. Welsh National Anthem

Mae Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau

Mae hen wlad fy nhadau yn annwyl i mi,
Gwlad beirdd a chantorion, enwogion o fri;
Ei gwrol ryfelwyr, gwladgarwyr tra môd,
Tros ryddid gollasant eu gwaed.

Cytgan

Gwlad, Gwlad, pleidiol wyf i'm gwlad.
Tra môr yn fur i'r bur hoff bau,
O bydded i'r hen iaith barhau.

Hen Gymru fynyddig, paradwys y bardd,
Pob dyffryn, pob clogwyn i'm golwg sydd
hardd;

Trwy deimlad gwladgarol, mor swynol yw si
Ei nentydd, afonydd i mi.

Os treisiodd y gelyn fy ngwald tan ei droed,
Mae hen iaith y Cymry mor fyw ac erioed,
Ni luddiwyd yr awen gan erchyll law brad,
Na thelyn berseiniol fy ngwlad.

The Land Of My Fathers

The land of my fathers, the land of my choice,
The land in which poets and minstrels rejoice;
The land whose stern warriors were true to the
core,
While bleeding for freedom of yore.

Chorus

Wales! Wales! fav'rite land of Wales!
While sea her wall, may naught befall
To mar the old language of Wales.

Old mountainous Cambria, the Eden of bards,
Each hill and each valley, excite my regards;

To the ears of her patriots how charming still
seems
The music that flows in her streams.

My country tho' crushed by a hostile array,
The language of Cambria lives out to this day;
The muse has eluded the traitors' foul knives,
The harp of my country survives.

4. Tourist Attractions in Wales.

National Museum Cardiff



The National Museum in Cardiff is an art gallery and museum charting Wales' history. The museum is home to the Welsh national collection of fine art and applied art as well as European art by famous artists like Monet, Van Gogh, Renoir and Cezanne.

Cardiff Castle



Cardiff castle is one of Wales' most popular tourist attractions with 2000 years of history behind it. The castle sits in the heart of the city and has served as a Roman garrison, a Norman stronghold and was extravagantly refurbished by architect William Burges in the Victorian era.

Bodelwyddan Castle



Bodelwyddan Castle is a historic 19th century castle, museum and gallery situated in 260 acres of magnificent parkland in Denbighshire, North Wales.

South Stack Lighthouse



South Stack is an island situated just off Holy Island on the North West coast of Anglesey and the home of one of Wales' most spectacular lighthouses.

Caldey Island



Caldey Island is situated just south of Tenby. The name, Caldey, comes from the Viking name Keld-Eye meaning "cold island".

Kidwelly Castle



The present remains of the Kidwelly Castle include work from about 1200 to about 1476. Although created as a defence against the Welsh, the castle fell into Welsh hands several times in the twelfth century.

5. Interesting Facts About Wales

Wales is a country that is a part of the United Kingdom. It is bordered by England, the Atlantic Sea and the Irish Sea. Here are some interesting facts about Wales.

- English and Welsh are the two official languages of Wales. English is the most widely spoken language.
- Just over 3 million people live in Wales.
- The official currency of Wales is the British Pound.
- Until the 1980's, Wales was one of the main exporters of coal.
- The soil quality in Wales is very poor. It is difficult to grow crops in Wales so they focus on raising livestock. Wales is well known for sheep farming.
- Rugby union and football (soccer) are the two most popular sports in Wales.
- Tom Pryce was one of two Welsh drivers to compete in Formula One Racing. He finished on the podium twice during his career.
- Just over 70% of the Welsh population identify themselves as Christians. The Roman Catholic Church is the largest denomination.
- Road signs in Wales are usually written in both Welsh and English.
- About 2% of the Welsh population are of Asian decent.
- There are a lot of shipwrecks off the Welsh coast due to the perilous seas near Cardiff (the capital of Wales).
- The official motto is (translated to English): "Wales forever".

○ Bibliography

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