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 Mumbles, gateway to the Gower Peninsula  
 Swansea vs Manchester Utd, Liberty Stadium, Swansea  
 Swansea indoor market  
 Walking on Rhossili Down, Gower Peninsula

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 Bute Park, Cardiff  
 Wales Millennium Centre, Cardiff  
 Cardiff Bay's busy waterfront  
 Doctor Who Experience, Cardiff Bay

## Cardiff

Okay, you have 48 hours to explore our capital city. So let's go... shopping. Cardiff's one of the best retail cities in the UK, thanks to the mighty St David's centre ([stdavidscardiff.com](http://stdavidscardiff.com)), part of a £700m transformation of the city centre. It has more than 160 stores – including John Lewis – restaurants and cafés, all set snugly in the compact heart of the city. There are also seven historic shopping arcades ([visitcardiff.com](http://visitcardiff.com)) and Cardiff Market ([cardiff-market.co.uk](http://cardiff-market.co.uk)), a proper old-style glass-roofed jobbie.

There are museums and galleries galore in the city centre. The National Museum Cardiff ([museumwales.ac.uk/en/cardiff](http://museumwales.ac.uk/en/cardiff)) tells four and a half million years of Welsh history and also houses one of the finest art collections in Europe. Just outside the city is St Fagans: National History Museum ([museumwales.ac.uk/en/stfagans](http://museumwales.ac.uk/en/stfagans)), a fantastic open-air museum and deservedly one of the most popular visitor attractions in Wales.

The city has more than 2,000 acres of parkland, making it the greenest capital city in Europe. Bute Park ([cardiff.gov.uk](http://cardiff.gov.uk)) is a stunning stretch of greenery that reaches right down into the heart of the city, where it bumps into the 'Animal Wall' of sculptures next to Cardiff Castle ([cardiffcastle.com](http://cardiffcastle.com)).

Cardiff bursts with music and drama too, from venues like St David's Hall ([stdavidshallcardiff.co.uk](http://stdavidshallcardiff.co.uk)), Motorpoint

Arena ([livenation.co.uk](http://livenation.co.uk)) and the Wales Millennium Centre ([wmc.org.uk](http://wmc.org.uk)) to intimate spaces like Chapter Arts Centre ([chapter.org](http://chapter.org)) – which also has an excellent café and bar – and Clwb Ifor Bach ([clwb.net](http://clwb.net)). There are countless places to relax with good food and drink. Thanks to the docks of Tiger Bay, this was Britain's first multi-cultural city, which is reflected in the food: pretty much all cultures are represented, from Brazil to Bengal, along with the best locally-sourced Welsh produce.

This is a city that parties every weekend. The clubs of St Mary Street and Greyfriars Road are the epicentre of the action, but you don't have to look far to find an authentic Welsh pub selling Brain's beer, like the legendary City Arms ([thecityarms.com](http://thecityarms.com)), or a laid-back bar like 10 Feet Tall ([10feettallcardiff.com](http://10feettallcardiff.com)) which has a great cocktail menu and a DJ crafting a nice groove.

As you're making a weekend of it, you'll have time for a little exploration. Cardiff Bay ([visitcardiffbay.info](http://visitcardiffbay.info)) offers striking architecture to explore – both old and new – as well as plenty of places to eat and drink, plus attractions like the science museum Techniquest ([techniquest.org](http://techniquest.org)), Dr Who Experience ([doctorwhoexperience.com](http://doctorwhoexperience.com)) and the superb Cardiff International White Water ([ciww.com](http://ciww.com)).

[visitcardiff.com](http://visitcardiff.com)