

BAVARIAN CURLING

NEW! Take on the challenge in the EisBahn at Cardiff Castle. Using traditional curling sticks, you'll compete to get closest to the target and play without stepping onto the ice, making it an accessible activity for everyone. Hosts will explain the rules, and you can enjoy table-service drinks delivered to your seating area.



VISIT CARDIFF GIFT GUIDE

Stuck on what to get the person who has everything? Don't worry – Visit Cardiff has you covered! We've handpicked some of the city's very best gift ideas.



GETTING AROUND

Don't forget to plan your journey. For the latest Christmas travel information, including public transport services and event-related road closures, visit the website and stay up to date throughout the festive season.



FESTIVE FOOD & DRINK

Christmas is the perfect time to indulge in great food and drink. Whether you're catching up with friends over festive treats and seasonal drinks, enjoying a traditional afternoon tea, or celebrating with a Christmas dinner and cocktails, Cardiff offers plenty of ways to savour the season.



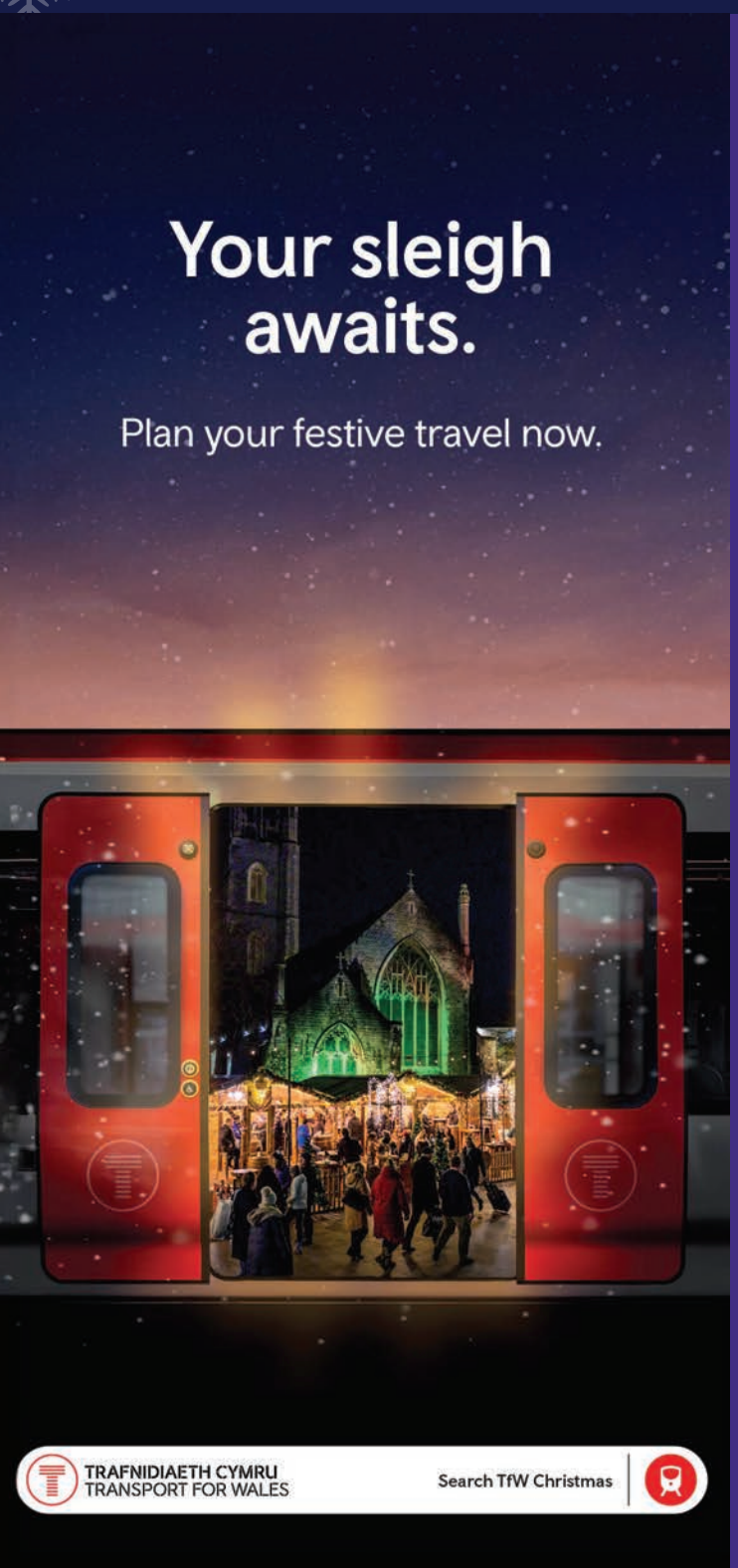
WHERE TO FIND SANTA

From magical grotto experiences to dining with the big man himself, our handy guide brings together Santa visits across the city so you can plan the perfect Christmas adventure.



MAKE IT A CHRISTMAS BREAK

Why not turn your visit into a festive city break? Cardiff is the perfect destination for a winter getaway. Stay a little longer and choose from a wide range of accommodation, from luxury hotels and stylish apartments to budget-friendly hostels.



WIN A CITY BREAK WITH VISIT CARDIFF

We would love to know what you thought of your time in the city.

Use the QR code below or visit **www.visitcardiff.com/visitor-survey** to complete the official tourism visitor survey, and check out the prize draw for a chance to win a break for two people. For terms & conditions see the website.



VISIT CARDIFF

Mae'r ddogfen hon hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg
This document is also available in Welsh

The information on this document is deemed correct at time of print - Nov 2026



FESTIVE ATTRACTIONS & EVENTS

We look forward to welcoming you this festive season. Find out more below, and remember, this is just a small insight to what the city offers this Christmas. Check out **visitcardiff.com** for more.

CARDIFF CASTLE VISITOR CENTRE & TOURS 1

The Visitor Centre is free to enter, where you can relax at the Castle Café, browse the Gift Shop, or use the city's Visitor Information Point. Want to explore more of the Castle? This time of year, ticket holders can see the Victorian Apartments in their beautiful, traditional decorations.

BUTE PARK & SOPHIA GARDENS 2

Ticketed

The parks play host to two magical events this season. Experience the Spirit of Christmas at Bute Park and explore four magical realms; Joy, Hope, Wonder and Magic. Opens 19 November and closes 31 December. Or head to Sophia Gardens for cabaret, music and theatre in the enchanting Fortuna Spiegeltent. Opens 26 November and ends 24 December.

CARDIFF'S WINTER WONDERLAND 3

12 Nov - 3 Jan/ Free to enter

Cardiff Castle

Set within the historic grounds of Cardiff Castle, the site is home to Winter Wonderland's popular ice skating rink and Ice Walk. It also hosts The Tavern bar, festive food stalls, and the new activity Bavarian Curling, all against the stunning backdrop of one of Wales' most iconic landmarks.

CARDIFF'S WINTER WONDERLAND 4

12 Nov - 3 Jan/ Free to enter

City Hall Lawn

Just a short stroll away, City Hall Lawn is the place to enjoy classic Christmas thrills and festive entertainment. Home to the big wheel, family funfair and the much-loved Sur La Piste Alpine Bar, visitors can soak up the festive atmosphere, enjoy spectacular views across the city and warm up with seasonal food and drink throughout their Winter Wonderland visit.

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

CARDIFF CHRISTMAS MARKET 6

Thu 12 Nov – Wed 23 Dec

The Hayes / Working Street

The Christmas Market boasts over 70 stalls, and, with its recognisable wooden huts, it is perfectly located in the hustle and bustle of the main shopping area. At each stall, you will be purchasing original work from talented makers: bespoke jewellery, beautiful textiles, wooden turned gifts, and original artwork across all mediums.

ST DAVID'S DEWI SANT 7

City Centre/7 Days a Week

St David's Cardiff is one of the UK's leading shopping and leisure destinations, home to more than 160 stores, restaurants and attractions in the heart of the city. From major brands including Zara, Sephora, LEGO and John Lewis to a wide range of dining options, there's something for every visitor. The centre also offers unique entertainment experiences, including Treetop Adventure Golf and the UK's largest Hollywood Bowl venue. With world-class shopping, great food and family-friendly attractions all under one roof, it's the perfect place for a day out.

VICTORIAN AND EDWARDIAN ARCADES 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

7 Arcades City Centre/7 Days a Week

Known as the City of Arcades, housed in the walls of Cardiff's arcades is a maze of independent stores. Under glass covered passageways, you'll find over 100 shops, cafes, bars, and restaurants from family-run businesses to big name brands.

CARDIFF MARKET

St Mary Street/Mon – Sat | 08:00 – 17:00

With fresh quality produce and warm local charm, this Victorian indoor market is the beating heart of Cardiff's retail offer and a unique shopping experience. Under its great glass roof you will find a buzzing, lively market filled with local independent businesses, including a variety of popular street food stalls.

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST 12

5 Dec - 3 Jan / Ticketed

New Theatre

Join Prince Gethin, Nurse Nellie, and the Spirit of Pantomime for a magical adventure! With curses, comedy, and true love, this sparkling show features dazzling effects, music, and mischief. Will Aurora wake from her enchanted sleep? Find out in Cardiff's most spellbinding pantomime.

MATILDA 9

9 Dec - 17 Jan / Ticketed

Wales Millenium Centre

Following the sellout success of its first tour, the multi-award winning musical from the Royal Shakespeare Company, inspired by the beloved book by Roald Dahl, is heading across the UK and Ireland. With book by Dennis Kelly, music and lyrics by Tim Minchin and directed by Matthew Warchus, Matilda is the story of an extraordinary little girl who, armed with a vivid imagination and a sharp mind, dares to take a stand and change her own destiny.

TOROID

13 Nov – 5 Jan/Free

Central Square

FOR Cardiff is bringing TOROID by This is Loop to Central Square this Christmas, marking the artists' first installation in Wales. This striking light and sound experience invites visitors beneath its glowing canopy, where mirrored surfaces reflect Cardiff and the people who make the city unique.

CITY CENTRE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

12 Nov - 3 Jan

Various city centre locations

Twinkly lights will illuminate the trees along Queen Street and The Hayes, adding a vibrant sparkle to the city's key shopping areas. The iconic 40-foot Christmas tree in front of Cardiff Castle will be lit with a dynamic display of lights and designs, standing alongside the much-loved Reindeer in the castle moat. Plus traditional bauble crossings will return to High Street and Queen Street – creating a warm Christmas welcome.

EXPLORE THE FESTIVE ATTRACTIONS



FESTIVE ATTRACTIONS

1. Cardiff Castle Visitor Centre & Tours
2. Christmas at Bute Park
3. Cardiff's Winter Wonderland Funfair
4. Cardiff's Winter Wonderland Ice Rink & Ice Walk
5. Festive Quarter (Bar & Food Stalls)
6. Cardiff Christmas Market
7. Shop at St David's Dewi Sant
8. Santa Experience at Principality Stadium
9. Pantomime: Beauty and the Beast at New Theatre
10. Cardiff Christmas Festival in the Spiegeltent
11. Festive Food & Drink at Mermaid Quay
12. Matilda at Wales Millennium Centre
13. The Grinch Trail at Cardiff Bay
- TOROID at Cardiff Central Square

VICTORIAN & EDWARDIAN ARCADES

1. DUKE ARCADE
2. WYNDHAM ARCADE
3. ROYAL ARCADE
4. MORGAN ARCADE
5. HIGH STREET ARCADE
6. CASTLE ARCADE
7. DOMINIONS ARCADE

The above drawing is not to scale and is for illustrative purposes only