

City v countryside

Text A

Turn a football away-day into a weekend in the Welsh capital

Cardiff is a city with sport at its heart and its football club's home is a genuine reflection of a football club on the rise. The newly expanded 33,000-seater Cardiff City Stadium is the capital city's newest sports venue and home to top class football. Hosting some of the biggest games, from Super Cups and internationals to the Premiership's elite, there's always been a fabulous welcome in Europe's youngest capital city, leaving supporters with good memories, regardless of the result!

Stay a little longer

There are many ways to turn your football away day into a weekend break. Cardiff is a magnet for shoppers. St David's is a 21st century retail development that has seen a complete transformation of the city centre. It has over 160 stores, restaurants and cafes, making it one of the top five shopping destinations in the UK.

Alongside this £700 million redevelopment, the city also has six historic shopping arcades dating back to the Victorian and Edwardian eras. Cardiff Market has existed in one guise or another since the 18th century, but has resided under the same glass roof since 1891.



A green city

The city has over two thousand acres of parkland, making it widely recognised as the greenest capital city in Europe. Bute Park is a stunning stretch of public parkland featuring over two thousand trees, leading right into the heart of the city. You can even camp in the secluded Cardiff Caravan Park.

At the city end of Bute Park is Cardiff Castle, a dramatic centrepiece to the city that has to be seen to be believed. If it's gargoyles you're after you really have come to the right place. Although the origins of the castle stretch back as far as 50AD, much of it was rebuilt in the 19th century by eccentric architect William Burges.

Hungry?

There is, of course, a chance you might go home with a heavy heart after a drubbing for your beloved football team; but at least there are countless places to soften the blow with good food and drink. As befits a European capital city with a vibrant history of ethnic and cultural diversity, you won't go short whether you're looking for Thai, Italian, French, Indian, Lebanese, or the finest locally-sourced Welsh produce.

Cardiff's nightlife

This is a city that parties every weekend. The pubs and clubs of St Mary Street are the epicentre of the action, but you don't have to wander too far to find an authentic Welsh pub selling Brain's beer, like the legendary Y Mochyn Du ('The Black Pig' in English) or a more laid-back bar with a nice cocktail menu and a DJ crafting a nice groove.

Source

Adapted from <http://www.visitwales.com/things-to-do/attractions/sports-events/wales-football/cardiff-city-fc> [Accessed 23 July 2015]

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National Trails

Did you know that there are about 2500 miles (4000 km) of National Trails which cover some of the most stunning scenery in England and Wales?

The National Trails website www.nationaltrail.co.uk is a great resource and full of useful information on the 15 walking trails in England and Wales. These long distance routes are suitable for walking, cycling and horse riding and are a perfect way to explore our beautiful countryside.

All of these trails have been created by linking existing footpaths, minor roads and bridleways and developing new ones where gaps existed. The first trail – Pennine Way – was opened in 1965.

With trails passing through some of the most diverse scenery in the British landscape there is a trail to suit all ages from short walks to an incredible 630 mile adventure.

Circular National Trail walks are great for family groups. Generally not too long or arduous they usually pass through a tea room or pub so you can break for refreshments.

These circular routes are a great form of exercise and you can usually download a route to take with you. You can complete 2-3 miles so don't let the length of the National Trails put you off!

Source

<http://www.staycation.org.uk/national-trails>

[Accessed 23 July 2015]

Reading

Read Text A and answer the following questions.

1.

a. How many historic shopping arcades are there in Cardiff?

b. How many trees are there in Bute Park?

c. When was Cardiff Castle rebuilt?

d. When was Cardiff Market opened?

These questions test your ability to retrieve information from the text.

2. What is the meaning of 'a drubbing' as used in the sentence '... you might go home with a heavy heart after a drubbing for your beloved football team'?

a. a beating	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. a scare	<input type="checkbox"/>
c. a victory	<input type="checkbox"/>
d. an advantage	<input type="checkbox"/>

This is a multiple choice question which asks you to choose the best fit meaning for a word based on its use in this sentence.

3. Is this statement true or false?

	True	False
Cardiff is recognised as the greenest capital city in the world.		

This question tests your ability to retrieve information from the text.

4. Explain three types of visitors you think would enjoy visiting Cardiff and give reasons for your opinions.

This question asks you to comment on the audience the text is aimed at. Give reasons for your ideas, including textual details to support your ideas.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Read **Text B** and answer the following questions.

5. The writer states that the trails are 'not too long or arduous'.

Select one definition from the list below that best defines the meaning of the word 'arduous'.

a. dangerous

b. exciting

c. difficult and tiring

d. winding

6. How does this blog try to persuade you to explore the National Trails in England and Wales?

You need to comment on:

- the writer's choice of words;
- the details the writer has chosen to include;

This is an analysis question which asks you to look at the language writers use to convey their meaning effectively.

Oracy

7. Group discussion

(Linked to written task below.)

Discuss: 'City life and living in the country both have advantages and drawbacks.'

Group size: 3-4

Time: 15-20 minutes

Decide on 'success criteria' for group work.

Writing

8. 'City life and living in the country both have their advantages and drawbacks.'

Write an essay expressing your opinion about the advantages and disadvantages of city life versus life in the country. Include details and reasons and discuss your own experiences if relevant. Write 500-600 words.

Plan carefully before writing.

9. Write a letter to the local council explaining your ideas about how to make your area/town a more eco-friendly and 'green' place. Write 500-600 words.

Research into 'green cities' in the UK/Europe might be necessary before commencing with the writing.

Plan carefully before writing.