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Travelling away for some, or all, of the festive period is now more popular than ever as many people use their time off as a chance to enjoy a winter getaway. This year, Christmas Day falls on a Sunday which means that most people will have a bank holiday in lieu â€“ meaning that instead of two days off, with the weekend included nearly everyone will have a four day break, or even longer if you choose to use annual leave or work somewhere that completely shuts down over the period.

When choosing somewhere to go for the festive time, the Welsh capital of Cardiff is an ideal destination as it provides the excitement of a city break with stunning countryside close by so you can also enjoy some time in the great outdoors. As Cardiff is a major city, there are direct trains from many locations throughout the UK so you can leave the car at home and not have to worry about driving through any wintery conditions.

When celebrating Christmas and/or New Year in Cardiff, there is plenty to do! See the city lit up with Christmas lights, watch this yearâ€™s Panto, Robinson Crusoe starring Christopher Biggins and explore what Christmas was like for the Victorians in Cardiff Castle. If you love a bit of retail therapy, there are a number of Victorian and Edwardian arcades to explore which are full of independent boutiques as well as high street and designer names on Queen Street. You could also just get away from it all by visiting some of the stunning countryside which surrounds the city.

Spending New Years in Cardiff is a magical experience. The event is known as Calennig in Welsh and it is celebrated in style in the city. A free event is held each and every year at the City Hall, and this includes a fair and ice rink which are both open until after 2012 is rung in. There is also live music between 9 and 12.20, as well as a spectacular firework display at midnight.

When planning your trip to Cardiff, where you stay is just as important as what you do. There is a wide choice of accommodation available with something to suit every budget. If you want to splash out on your break, there are a number of luxury hotels allowing you to pamper yourself and make the most out of your getaway or you could choose a cheap hotel Cardiff for the hotel experience for less.

For guests who prefer a guest houses, there are plenty of Cardiff bed and breakfasts providing you with affordable accommodation and great hospitality, or weekend apartments in Cardiff allowing you the same freedom as you have in your own home. Hostels in Cardiff have come on in recent years, so travelling on a budget no longer means that you have to rough it. There are contemporary hostels offering comfortable rooms and excellent facilities but at a lower price such as the Riverhouse Backpackers. The range of accommodation available means that you are certain to find somewhere to stay which will suit your requirements as well as your pocket!

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a Weekend apartments in Cardiff have become really popular and admired these days. The a

hostels in Cardiff are a great option to go with. a Cheap hotel Cardiff can also be found with ease.

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