Article Side

# Historical Cardiff: Top Heritage Attractions by Jesse Wallace

Article published on June 8th 2012 | Travel

Cardiff might not be the first place you'd think of when considering the UK's most historic sightseeing spots, but it should also be far from the last. Cardiff's historic city centre is home to some of the greatest historical attractions in the country, and every year thousands of tourists come from across the globe to see Cardiff's top heritage attractions. The city of Cardiff as we know it today dates back to 1091, just over 20 years after the Norman invasion began and the Battle of Hastings took place.

This means that the first stop for any dedicated history buff visiting Cardiff has to be Cardiff Castle. Built in the late 11th century as a defence against the Normans, a small settlement soon grew around the Castle, and by the 18th century Cardiff had a population of 1,500 â€“ showing just how rapidly the city has grown in the last 200 years. The Castle today still stands tall, remaining remarkably similar to its original state. Visitors can enjoy a guided tour of the main castle building, as well as the luxury rooms that were refurbished in the 19th century by the Bute family.  From the castle's beautiful architecture to its inner rooms layered in gold, wood, marble and murals, Cardiff Castle is an astonishing spectacle.

Cardiff Bay is another of the cityâ€™s most historic locations. The Cardiff docks date back to 1793, when the 2nd Marquess of Bute was born. He spent the rest of his life building Cardiff's docks, which redefined the city as one of the UK's busiest ports. The city's population skyrocketed as a result of the docks, and by 1881, Cardiff was the largest town in the whole of Wales. Today, the docks retain a lot of their period features, and the site's unique history can be seen in the buildings, warehouses and boats that are assembled here. The bay area is also one of the city's greatest spots for eating out â€“ so it's a wonderful destination for those who want to combine history with a delicious dinner.

For a broader view of Cardiff's rich history, head to St. Fagan's National History Museum, which was once called The Museum of Welsh Life. The museum is set in a magnificent 100 acre park at the edge of the city, and is packed with fascinating relics. The museum is Wales' most visited heritage attraction, and with a variety of authentic exhibitions from across the country, it's no wonder. Cardiff is also home to St. David's Cathedral, a glorious Roman Catholic cathedral which dates back to the influx or Irish Catholics in the 1840s.

Cardiff's illustrious history has seen the city play its part in the politics and economy of the UK for nearly a millennium. When you're looking for hotel in Cardiff, keep an eye out for accommodation in the centre of the town â€“ here you'll see the most stunning examples of architecture and witness the traditional Welsh heritage that Cardiff has to offer.

Article Source:
http://www.articleside.com/travel-articles/historical-cardiff-top-heritage-attractions.htm - Article Side

Jesse Wallace - About Author:
Jesse Wallace writes for a digital marketing agency.  This article on a hotels in Cardiff has been

commissioned by a client of said agency.  This article is not designed to promote, but should be considered professional content.

Article Keywords:
Hotels in Cardiff, holidays in Cardiff, weekend in Wales, heritage attractions in Wales

You can find more free articles on Article Side. Sign up today and share your knowledge to the community! It is completely FREE!