

# CARDIFF BAY

## WHAT A DIFFERENCE A BAY MAKES!

The Cardiff docklands area, known as Cardiff Bay, was transformed by the Cardiff Barrage that impounds the Rivers Taff and Ely. This has created a large fresh-water lake with a water depth of 2.5m or greater. Birthplace of Shirley Bassey and Roald Dahl there is plenty to explore by boat and on shore.



**ESSENTIAL READING:**  
[Cardiff Harbour Authority Bay User Guide](#)  
[Water quality](#)

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION

**Distance / Time**  
**Map**

**Trail Start / Finish**

This diagram is for information use only, not for navigation

**5 miles / 3 hours**

**OS 1:50 Admiralty 1182**

**Channel View Leisure Centre**

Postcode: CF11 7HB

W3W: debit.churn.fund

[cbwac.com/rowing/slipway-permits](http://cbwac.com/rowing/slipway-permits)

- Mariners should note that due to potential strong currents in front of the barrage sluices, vessels should keep to the correct side of the West Cardinal Mark.
- The Harbour Authority provides short stay visitor pontoon moorings at Mermaid Quay, which operate on a first come first served basis. Vessels must display a valid ticket for the time they are berthed.

**INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE?** Why not sign up to one of our courses: [rya.org.uk/go/daysailing](http://rya.org.uk/go/daysailing)  
[cbwac.com](http://cbwac.com) • [cbyc.co.uk](http://cbyc.co.uk)

# CARDIFF BAY

WHAT A DIFFERENCE A BAY MAKES!

## ABOUT THE AREA...

The Cardiff Bay Barrage was built in 1999 transforming Tiger Bay into the beautiful freshwater lake it is now. Cardiff's fortunes were originally built on Welsh coal exports but with the new barrage came an injection of new life. From the water you can see the Senedd, seat of the Welsh parliament.

Being such a large port, sailors often settled in Tiger Bay, there are now over 57 nationalities represented in the population today. It is even said that the first recorded landing of a free Black man was in Cardiff docks.

The Cardiff Bay Wetland Reserve is an area of approximately 8 hectares, located on the northern shore of Cardiff Bay between St David's Hotel and the River Taff.

The Mermaid Quay area is home to the The Senedd, the Wales Millennium Centre, and the Pierhead featuring Wales' very own Big Ben.

The source of the River Taff is in the Brecon Beacons and supports several migratory fish including salmon, sea trout and eel.

In the past the River Ely suffered heavily from pollution but in recent years the fish have returned, marking a significant improvement in water quality

Scott of the Antarctic left Cardiff Docks on the *Terra Nova* for his legendary trip to the South Pole in June 1910. The ship was laden with 100 tonnes of coal, 300 tonnes of fuel made from coal dust mixed with bitumen as well as pots and pans from a nearby tin works. You can see the masthead at a special exhibition about the ill-fated trip on the barrage.

## INTERESTING FACT

The Norwegian Church, now an arts centre, was formerly a church for Norwegian sailors. Famous children's author Roald Dahl was baptised there.



## FEEL LIKE A CHALLENGE?

Cardiff Bay Wetland Reserve Wildlife Explorer Trail

[cardiffharbour.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Wetlands-Wildlife-Explorer.pdf](http://cardiffharbour.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Wetlands-Wildlife-Explorer.pdf)

## WANT TO EXTEND YOUR TRIP?

Catch a water bus to Bute Park and Cardiff Castle

[cardiffharbour.com/water-taxis/](http://cardiffharbour.com/water-taxis/)

### SAFETY GUIDANCE

- Prepare before getting out on the water
- Know your limits
- Check the weather forecast
- Sign up to [safetrx.rya.org.uk](http://safetrx.rya.org.uk)
- Wear a correctly sized buoyancy aid
- Take a charged mobile phone in a waterproof case and keep in touch
- Take a map and/or route description
- Appropriate clothing for the weather conditions - remember it can be colder on the water than on the shore (+ spares in a dry bag)
- Drinks and sun cream!

### SAIL RESPONSIBLY

- Consider the impact of your boating on others
- Watch and be ready to assist others if needed
- Respect other water users
- Be environmentally aware, minimise your impact
- Observe navigational rules - keep right and give other users space
- Check, Clean and Dry after every trip  
[thegreenblue.org.uk/check-clean-dry](http://thegreenblue.org.uk/check-clean-dry)