

EDINBURGH– CARDIFF – BELFAST 12. – 22. AUGUST 2012

In August, we decided to take a trip to these three capitals within UK. Having been to Edinburgh for a few days, we traveled on to Cardiff in Wales. We traveled from Edinburgh at 14.25 and we were arrived in Cardiff at 15.50.

A LITTLR ABOUT CARDIFF OG WALES



Det walisiske flagget

[Cardiff](#) was small until the early 19th century, when it was used as a port for the transport of coal. It received city status in 1905, and became the capital of Wales 20 December 1955. The 2001 census found that it had 305,353 inhabitants, making it Britain's 16th largest city.

[Neanderthals](#) lived in what is now Wales, or Cymru in Welsh, at least 230,000 years ago, while [homo sapiens](#), that modern man descended from, arrived around 29,000 years ago.

However still dating habitation by modern humans from the period after the last [ice age](#), around 9000 AD, and Wales has many relics from the [Stone Age](#) and the [Bronze Age](#).

[The Romans](#) began their conquest of [Britain](#) in 43, and got total control of the region known as the Roman province of Britannia with their victory over the [ordovices](#) in year 79. The Romans left the island around 400, opening the door for the [Anglo-Saxons](#) to invade and settle.

A number of kingdoms formed in the years after the Romans withdrew from Wales, but there was none of them who managed to unite Wales for long periods of time. Mutually debilitating struggles and strife and external pressure from the British and later by the Norman conquerors led to the Welsh kingdoms gradually came under the heel of the English crown. In 1282 resulted the death of [Llywelyn the last](#) to the conquest of the Principality of Wales by [King Edward I](#) of England.



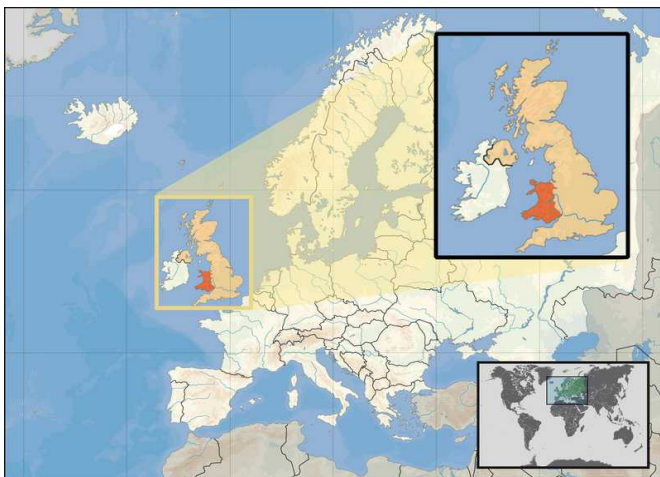
Det walisiske riksvåpen er det samme som for Storbritannia.



The flag



The coat of arms



The location of Wales in Europa.



The location of Cardiff in Wales.



We traveled with an airline called [Flybe](#). It is British and has headquarters in Exeter.



We stayed at [Cardiff Sandringham Hotel](#), which is situated in the middle of the town center.



We took a taxi from the airport to the city. We had to enter this office to get a taxi.



The terminal building.



After we had installed ourselves we went for a sightseeing trip. We passed this sculpture called "all hands". It is located in a place where there was a channel in the past, and it is supposed to represent the hard work of pulling boats with ropes along the canal.



Here we pass Callaghan Square, a large public space with water and fountains. It was previously called Bute Square but was renamed in 2002.



This is a large roundabout in Tresillian Road with fountains in the middle.



In Bute Street, we pass [St Mary's Church](#).



This is the east end of the church facing Bute Street.



Now we come down to [Cardiff Bay](#). This is [Wales Millennium Centre](#), an arts center.



Now we are approaching [Roald Dahl Plass](#). The author [Roald Dahl](#) was born in Cardiff in 1916 of Norwegian parents. The space was formerly a [dock](#). Now it is filled in and applied to various outdoor events and concerts.



The columns are illuminated at night, and the largest pillar to the left is a metal bar where the water runs down the sides.



Roald Dahl Plass with the arts center in the background.



This is the [Pierhead Building](#), which was built in 1897 as headquarters for the Bute Dock Company. The clock in the tower is popularly called «Baby Big Ben».



After we passed Roald Dahl Place (to the right), we look back at [Mermaid Quay](#), which opened in 1999. There are restaurants, bars, cafes and shops.



[Merchant Seafarers' War Memorial](#)



Behind the cape in the background lies [Penarth](#), which is a wealthy resort town.



[Cardiff Bay](#) was earlier a gulf that was exposed to tidal variations. Boats could go out and in just two hours at high tide.



More photos from the bay. Today the bay is closed off from the sea by a dam, [Cardiff Bay Barrage](#), where there are locks that boats can go through. The result is that the bay has become a fresh water lake with stable water level.



The [World Harmony Peace Statue](#)



A former lightship is docked in one of the docks.



The lighthouse.



There is a restaurant here.

The ship is now called [Goleuong](#) and is transformed into a Christian center.



From the cabins. When it operated as a lightship there was required a crew of 11.



A few postcards of the ship.

When we were there it started to rain and blow violently, and it did not seem to want to stop. We called for a taxi, but we had to run through the rain over to the street and wait there for a while, so we were a little wet and cold.



The next day we went over to [Cardiff Castle](#), which is a medieval fortress from the Middle Ages and a Victorian mansion. On the site there is also a Norman castle, which is erected over a Roman fort.

The clock tower.



At the entrance there are people dressed in medieval costumes. One is carrying a dragon.



The dragon is popular with the kids.



Inside the walls there are events of all kinds.



Here are going to be a fight with various weapons. The kids are divided into two teams to cheer for each participant.





The Normannic castle in the background.

Here, Anne Berit has come in the pillory.



[Cardiff Castle](#) was built around 1091 on a hill inside the wall of Cardiff Castle.

In the background we see one of the gates into Cardiff Castle.

[The official website of Cardiff Castle.](#)





A moat, filled with water.



The north gate,



The Norman castle seen from the north gate.



Up to the castle.



At the inside of the Norman castle.

In the past there were houses for the garrison that lived here. The holes in the wall were used to insert the rafters of the buildings along the walls.



View from the top and down to the courtyard.



Looking down onto the courtyard. The palace to the right.



A view northwest to [Bute Park](#). It is the largest city park in Cardiff.



A view northeast. We see the tower of the City Hall.



Down the stairs again.



The bridge across the moat.



The palace is also located within the walls of Cardiff Castle. It was built in the years 1423 - 1439, but has been altered and extended many times after that.



Getting ready for a parade in front of the palace.



The drummer is also ready.



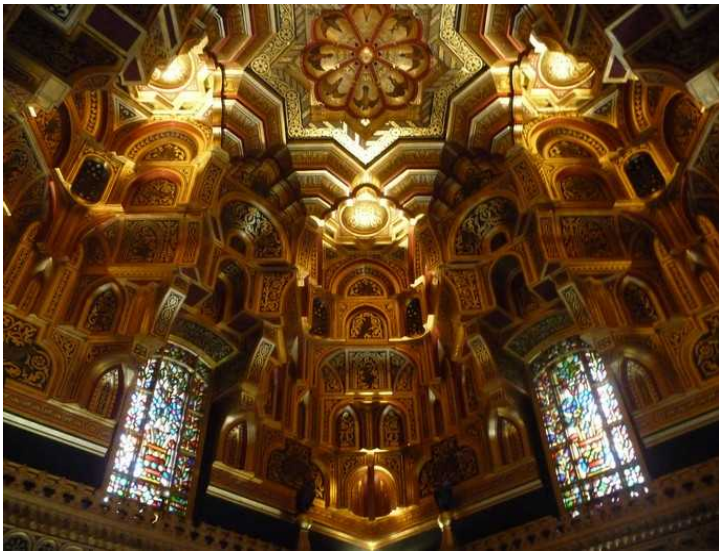
An overview of the area.



Nise glass paintings inside the palace.



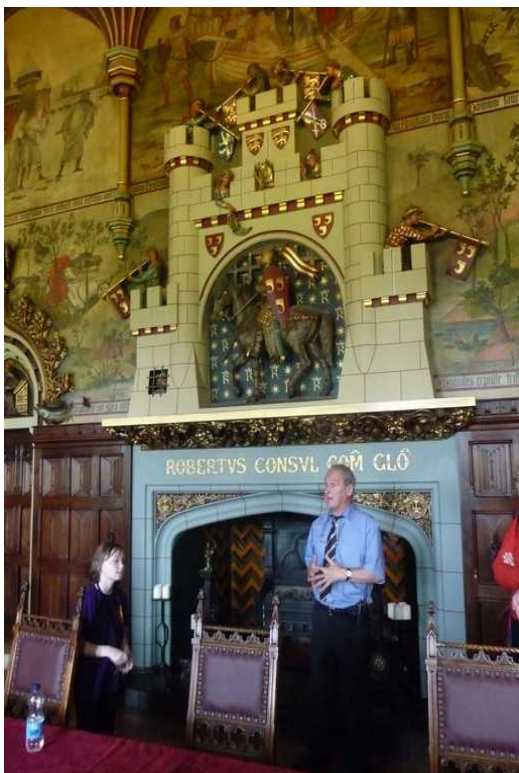
A small cabinet door in the wall.



The ceiling in the Arabic room.

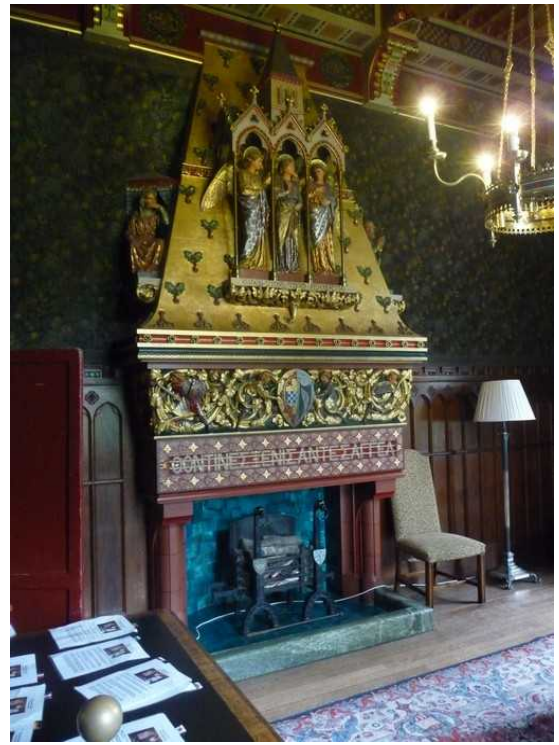


From the main hall.





This is in the small dining room that was used by the family Bute when there were few or no guests.



The drawing room or lounge. Most of the furniture was removed before Bute family gave the property to the city's inhabitants.



The library.



The fireplace in the library.



Out again in the courtyard. Here is the dragon.



A last picture from the courtyard.



In the street where we stayed.



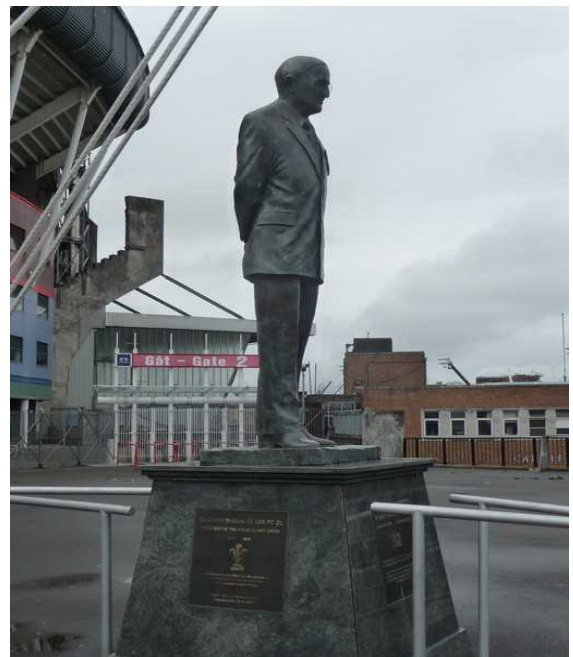
Huge flower pots.



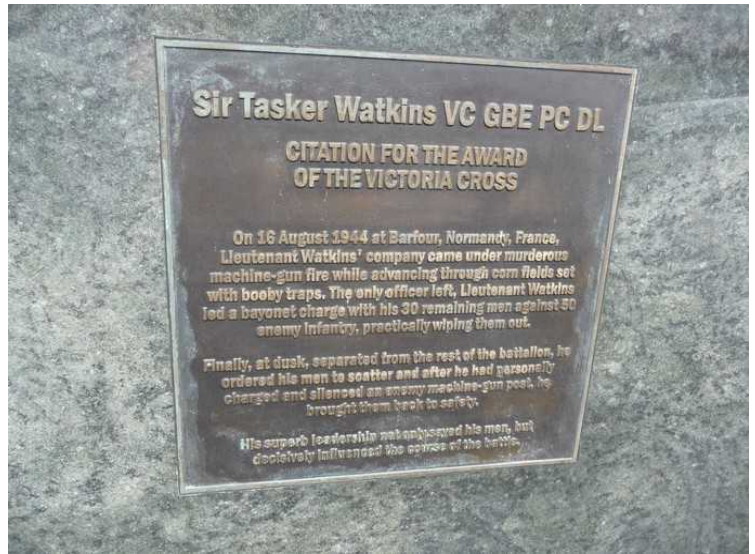
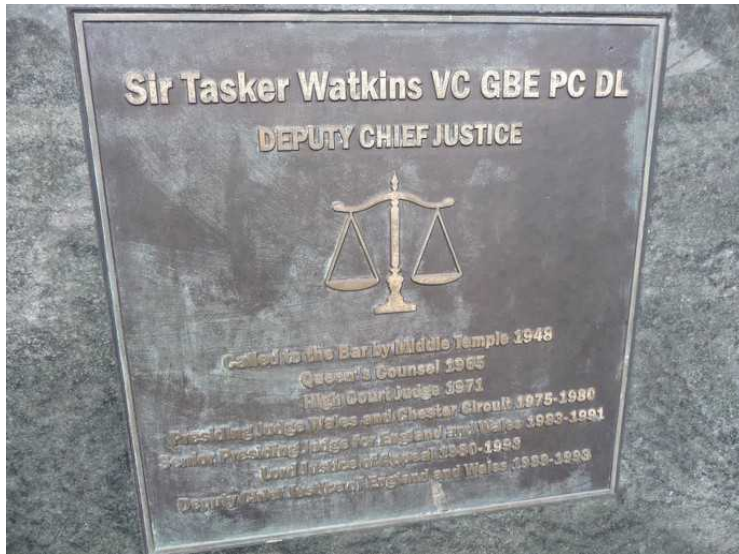
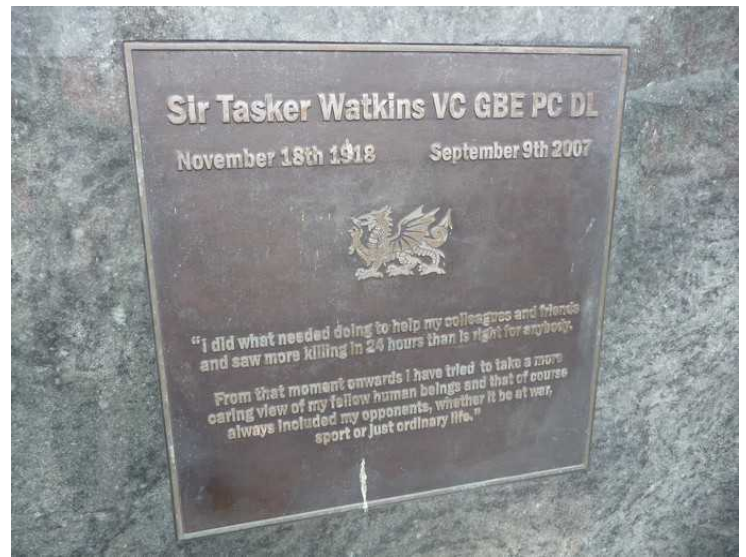
Behind the door is the [Millennium Stadium](#). It was built in 1999 and was for some years the UK's largest stadium with seating for 74,600 spectators.



Plaque in the street.



Statue of [Sir Tasker Watkins](#) outside the stadium.



There is such a plaque on each of the four sides of the base.
 They talk about the different positions Watkins had.



In one of the side street near there we stayed.



A choir is preparing to perform.



St John's Church.

It was built in 1180 and is the oldest church in Cardiff.



Cardiff Story.

This building housed the old library. The library was moved in 1988. Today it is a museum that tells the city's history. It was opened in 2011.



A statue av John Batchelor who was a prominent politician and businessman.



A way to earn money.



In the pedestria street The Hayes.



In the south en of the pedestrian area lies the new [library](#).



We sat at an Italian restaurant, [Giovannis Restaurant](#), in the pedestrian area. Kjell had meatballs.



Anne Berit had chicken. Everything was very good.



This guy has sat down to take a sip of water. He looked pretty tired.



This «rose tree» stands in the street where our hotel is located.



Kjell wants us to believe that he has bent this iron rod.



The other day we went back to the district [Butetown](#), lying at Cardiff Bay. This is the [Norwegian Church](#).



[Scott Antarctic Memorial](#) standing right beside the Norwegian church.



The [Doctor Who Experience](#) building. It is an amusement park based on the British television series.



The Scott memorial in front of the Norwegian church.



We can see BBC Wales Drama Village behind the docks. It is a new TV production center.



Boats in the marina.



Here we are at the Mermaid Quay.



We had a glass of wine.



It is a big center and there were a lot of people everywhere.



One of the streets out of the center.

After having been there for a while, we took a taxi back to our part of the city.
It is quite a distance walk so we wanted to spare our feet a bit.



Here we are back in «our» street.



Our hotel.

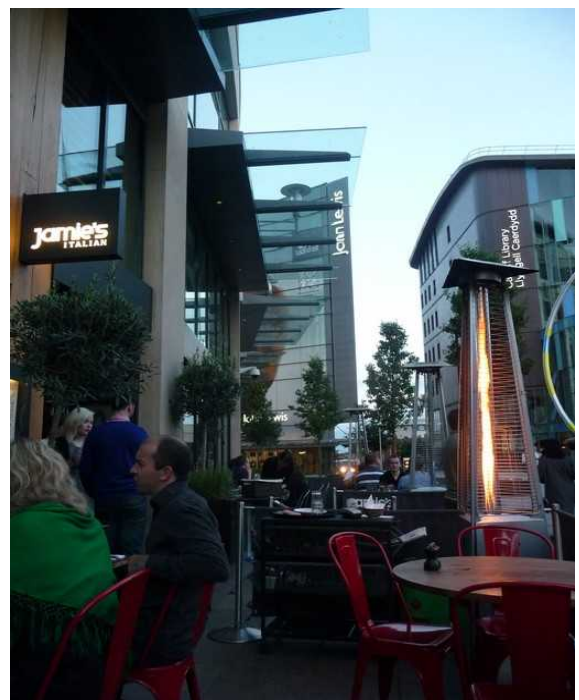


Later we went to get something to eat. We first went to Giovanni's, where we had been earlier in the day, but there was no free table.



Then we ended up at [Jamie's Italian Restaurant](#) a little further away in the street. There was also quite full, but there was one free table.

[Jamie Oliver](#) is a famous English chef who has written several cookbooks and have TV shows.



It was a bit chilly, so the gas oven was on.



Good food, but not so good as at Giovannis.



It became dark.



A picture of the restaurant when we are leaving.



Here we are on a Hop-on-hop-off-buss the next day.

When we take pictures from such a bus, it will be only pictures of famous buildings, so this is a list buildings we got a picture of during the trip.




[Hilton Hotel.](#)




[Cardiff Crown Court.](#)


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WALES CYMRU
INSPIRING IDEAS



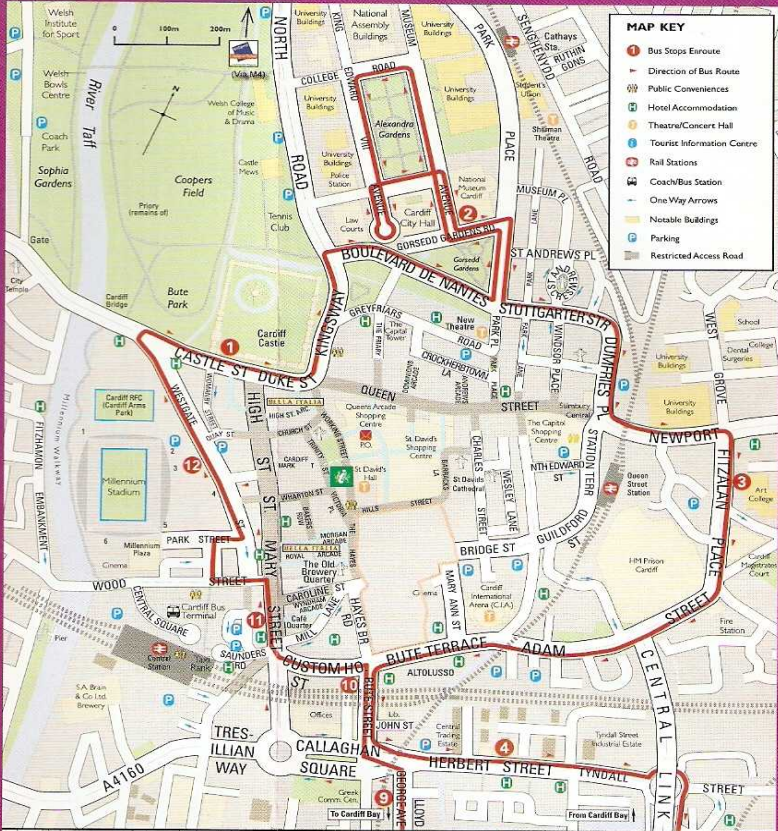
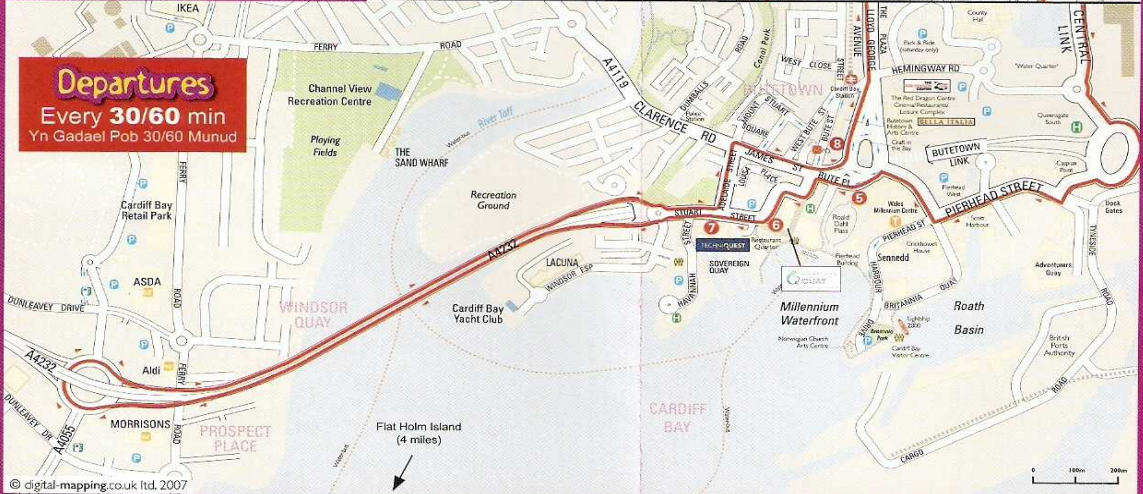
Cardiff Castle



Millennium Stadium

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The itinerary of the sightseeing bus.



[National Museum.](#)



On the back of the City Hall.



The [National Assembly Building](#)



One of the buildings of [Cardiff University](#).



[The Bute Building](#) is also a part of Cardiff University.



Another of the university buildings,
[The Glamorgan Building](#).



Still another university building.



The Courthouse again.



One of the small towers of the City Hall.



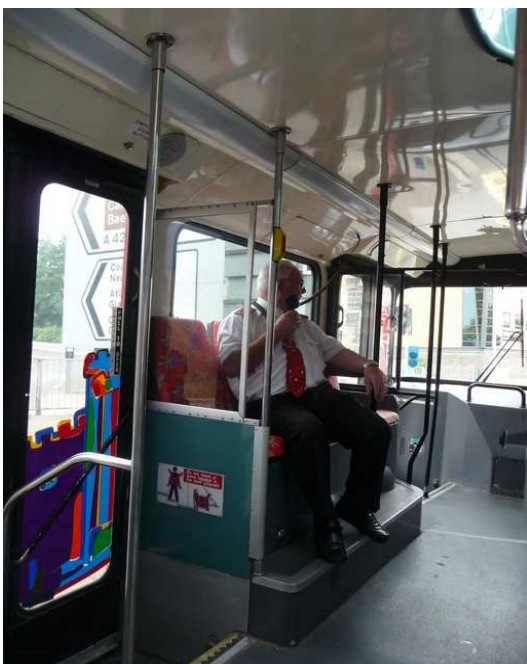
The large tower of the City Hall.



City Hall.



The National Museum again.



This is the guiden in the bus. He was talking all the time about what we were seeing when we were diving past.



Motorpoint Arena is an exposition and arrangement hall with room for up to 7500 spectators.



This is the Cardiff branch of one of Britain's largest department stores, [John Lewis](#).



View of Cardiff Bay.



The river [Taff](#) is flowing out into Cardiff Bay here.



Back after the round-trip at the [Animal Wall](#), outside [Bute Park](#).





Bute Park lies next to Cardiff Castle.

A soccer goal just outside the walls of Cardiff Castle.



Here is a football player too.



At the Cardiff Airport, on our way to Belfast in Northern Ireland.