

# WELCOME TO WALES



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**WALES** is a part of the United Kingdom and is located in a wide peninsula in the western portion of the island of Great Britain. Wales is surrounded by water on three sides: to the north, the Irish Sea; to the south, the Bristol Channel; and to the west, Saint George's Channel and Cardigan Bay.





- Wales is very mountainous, **Snowdon** is the highest mountain in Wales and England.
- The **Dee River**, with its headwaters in Bala Lake, the largest natural lake in Wales, flows through northern Wales into England. Numerous smaller rivers cover the south, including the Usk, Wye, Teifi, and Towy.



# CARDIFF



- The Romans settled in Cardiff in 55AD and built a military fort on the site of Cardiff Castle.
- Cardiff has been transformed into a sporting capital since the completion of the Millennium Stadium, hosting events such as the Six Nations, the FA Cup and the Wales Rally GB.
- Cardiff became a city in 1905 and was crowned the capital of Wales in 1955
- Today, Cardiff has a population of 328,000 and attracts more than 12 million visitors a year

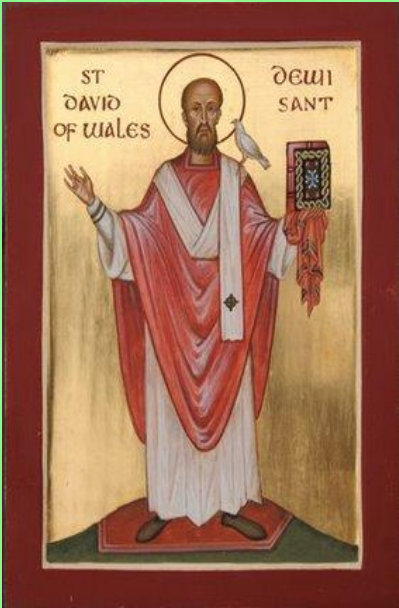
Cardiff Castle



Millennium Stadium



# SYMBOLS OF WALES



St. David

**St. David** is the patron saint of Wales. He was a monk who lived on bread, water, herbs and **leeks** and died on March 1, 589 A. D.



The **leek** had been recognized as the emblem of Wales since the middle of the 16th century.

It was decided that from 1984, British **£1** coins would feature different reverse designs for each of the four parts of the United Kingdom. All **£1** coins dated 1985 feature on the reverse the Welsh Leek





The **daffodil** is also a Welsh national emblem because its Welsh name is translated as a type of leek.



The **Red Dragon of Wales**, although perhaps of Chinese origin, was introduced to Britain by the Romans some eighteen hundred years ago.



A favourite souvenir for the tourists is a **Welsh love spoon**. They are made of wood and are carved very beautifully. Originally, they were made by young men as a love token for their sweethearts. There are many different designs demonstrating the skill and love of the hopeful suitor. If the girl kept this present, all was well, but if she sent it back, she did not want him.





- English and Welsh are the two official languages of Wales. English is the most widely spoken language.
- Just over 3 million people live in Wales. The majority of people that live in **Wales**, live in Southern Wales, while the remaining population lives in Northern Wales.
- Wales has always been known as a country of **music and song**.





Since the 12th century we have records of an annual competition (or **Eisteddfod** [ais'teSvad] in Welsh), which was held to find the best poets, writers and musicians in the country. Originally only professionals took part, but now the Eisteddfod is open to the public and, because all the events are in Welsh, it encourages a strong interest in the Welsh arts.

