

So you're coming to Vidukon! Awesome! Allow me to explain how you get here. I've split this into two sections. The first will detail Getting to Cardiff, and the second, Getting to the Hotel (from Cardiff).

If you have any questions or any of this seems confusing or weird, you can contact me (beccatoria on LJ) and I will do my best to sort you out. :)

Getting to Cardiff

From the UK

Cardiff Central train and bus stations (where National Express coaches arrive) are literally next to each other, and I will detail below how to get from them to the hotel. It's a fairly major destination so I don't imagine anyone will have difficulty getting a train or coach to this location. Here are some handy websites for determining how long it will take and how much it will cost from your UK-based location:

<http://www.nationalexpress.com/home.aspx> (you want "Cardiff (Coach Station)")

and

<http://www.nationalrail.co.uk/> (you want "Cardiff Central" station)

If you're driving, again since I don't drive, you're probably better placed to plan your route to the general area than I am, but more detailed instructions on what to do once you're in Cardiff are to follow. </lj-cut>

From Elsewhere

If you're coming from overseas, you're probably going to be doing so by air or possibly the channel tunnel or ferry from the continent. If you're lucky enough to be arriving by ornithopter or submarine, I'm afraid I will have to leave you to wend your own way Cardiffwards: please skip to the following section.

By Air – Cardiff International Airport

Here is a brief rundown of how to get to the city from the airport, but because this information may change, I do recommend double-checking at this website before making firm plans:

<http://www.tbicardiffairport.com/en/airport/>

Rail: There is an hourly rail service.

<http://www.nationalrail.co.uk/> (search for "Rhoose (Cardiff International Airport)")

Bus: Or you can catch a bus, there are several different services which operate half hourly from around seven till six then hourly after that until around half ten, and the fare is about £3, and takes about 40 minutes. Approximate information is given as, quite honestly, Cardiff Buses change schedule and fares with annoying regularity, but it's likely to be in the same region. Again, the above website will provide greater detail.

Taxi: The current fixed-fee for a taxi to the city centre is approximately £26 and has the advantage of being able to take you directly to our hotel for probably only a small amount more. </lj-cut>

By Air – London Heathrow

Cardiff is obviously the more convenient airport, but it's also often more expensive to travel to than Heathrow, or involves connections. Traveling to Cardiff from Heathrow involves catching either a coach or a train.

Coach: This is easy. National Express offer a comprehensive service from most terminals, and if you're in a terminal without a coach station there's a free inter-terminal shuttle. This takes approximately four hours and will cost approximately £25 if you book early (though I've seen it as high as £35 – £40). It generally involves a direct coach with no changes. Details can be found here:

<http://www.nationalexpress.com/home.aspx> (Search for “Heathrow” for an autosearch list of Heathrow terminal stations, and “Cardiff (Coach Station)” is the one you want for Cardiff).

Rail: The Heathrow Express operates a rail link between the airport and Paddington Station, with costs starting from £16.50.

Details here: <http://www.heathrowexpress.com/Home>

Once at Paddington you can catch a direct train to Cardiff. This is where the costs get tricky. Tickets will range from £12 – £50 as long as you book at least somewhat in advance, depending on whether you want a ticket to be transferrable to other trains, or for a specific journey only and whether the Awesome Cheap Tickets have sold out yet. **BUT PLEASE NOTE** if you want to travel during peak hours, your ticket, especially for London, will suddenly double in price. Yes, this means you might end up paying £100 for an anytime ticket from Paddington to Cardiff. Yes, it is ridiculous that the same journey can vary in cost by £90. Peak hours vary depending on train company but will be specified by your ticket. Generally it means morning and evening rush hour on weekdays. The itself journey is around two hours.

So basically rail is faster, potentially just as cheap but potentially horrifyingly expensive. Again details are here, remember to search for “London Paddington” and “Cardiff Central”:

<http://www.nationalrail.co.uk/>

By Air – Gatwick

Again, your choice is to connect to the coach or rail services.

Coach: A National Express service is available from Gatwick, but may require changing at Heathrow to go on to Cardiff. It costs about £40 – £50 and takes four or five hours depending on whether you have to change or not.

Details: <http://www.nationalexpress.com/home.aspx> (search for “Gatwick” for a choice of the two Gatwick terminals, and “Cardiff (Coach Station)” is the Cardiff option you want.

Rail: Gatwick Railway station is attached to the South Terminal and can be reached by free shuttle from the North Terminal. You can get trains from Gatwick to Cardiff, but it will involve at least one and possibly two changes of train, will take about three and a half hours. Again, as detailed under the Heathrow Rail section, it's very hard to assess how much this will cost due to off-peak, anytime and cheap advance ticket availability. An offpeak ticket seems to be around £30 – £40, but this could double if you are traveling during peak hours or the cheaper tickets are sold out. It's best to double check this for yourself:

<http://www.nationalrail.co.uk> (search for “Gatwick Airport” and “Cardiff Central”)

Coach/Rail Hybrid: There's also a rail-air service which takes you via coach from Heathrow to Reading station where you can catch a connecting train. This sometimes works out cheaper, because Reading is not a central London station so you can avoid paying London train prices. Details are available here:

<http://www.railair.com/>

The Chunnel

The channel tunnel has a link-up to St Pancras International Station in London. From here you can catch the train to Cardiff, although I believe this always involves at least one change of train.

Details and costs can be found here: <http://www.nationalrail.co.uk/>

Protip: remember to search for “London St Pancras International”; if you just search for “St Pancras” it won't show up as a valid station.

By Ferry

Unfortunately, this is not going to be very comprehensive as there are several ferry ports and I'm not sure where you're coming from. However, I have it from a reliable third party that the most convenient option for anyone travelling on foot via the ferry is to catch a ferry to Portsmouth. The Portsmouth ferry terminal is a 5 minute taxi trip from the railway station which is either Portsmouth Harbour, or Portsmouth and Southsea which are both on the same train line. Portsmouth Harbour and Portsmouth and Southsea are on the Portsmouth to Cardiff railway line, with trains running once an hour all day; it takes about 3.5 hours on a weekday or 4.5 hours on a Sunday. Singles start from £10, and an anytime return is about £40-42. If you're travelling by foot, Dover and Folkestone are not good options with regards to public transport.

Getting to the Hotel

Vidukon is based at the Future Inn Hotel in Cardiff Bay. Cardiff Bay is situated a few miles away from Cardiff City Centre, which is where you will likely be arriving should you be traveling by rail or coach. The central train and bus stations are also right next to each other, along with a large taxi rank, so if you arrive in Cardiff Central by train but want to catch a bus to the hotel or vice versa, this is very easy.

By Taxi

There is a taxi rank right outside the train station/next to the bus station. Will cost £5 – £6 to get to the Future Inn Hotel and take about 5 minutes.

By Bus

There are several buses you can catch from the bus station to the Bay for £1.50. There are several more that leave from a street just across the road from the Central Bus station. The Central Bus station is usually full of bus drivers (often sat in idling buses) who are used to directing confused passengers to the correct places to catch buses.

Details are here: <http://www.cardiffbus.com/baycar.shtml>

It's probably easiest to get off at the Wales Millennium Centre, which is marked on the accompanying map (and may be familiar to some of you as the Building With Writing On From Behind The Big Torchwood Tower), which is a few minutes walk from the hotel.

On Foot

I probably wouldn't recommend it unless you don't have much luggage and are comfortable reading a map, but it's basically a walk down a long straight road (Lloyd George Avenue) that start fairly close to the train station. It's probably a mile or a mile and a half. If anyone's interested in this option, I could probably actually come pick you up at the station and wander down with you, or give you better written instructions.

By Train

There is no rail access really. Cardiff Bay does have a rail station a mere five minutes walk from the hotel, however, it links with another minor Cardiff Station at the other end of the city. In order to get there by rail

you'd need to walk ten minutes across town to Cardiff Queen Street station in order to catch a five minute train a few miles down the road. It would cost you £1.30, which would be only 20p cheaper than a bus anyway.

By Car

I'm not a driver, so I'm afraid I'm poorly placed to give detailed instructions on the best way to get to the hotel.

For googlemap purposes, the address is: Future Inn Hotel, Hemingway Road, Cardiff, CF10 4AU.

The hotel itself has a page which offers directions using a googlemaps embed:

<http://www.futureinns.co.uk/contact>

Click on the purple marker highlighting the hotel and you will be prompted for a UK postcode from which you receive directions.

ATTACHED MAP:

<http://maps.google.co.uk/maps?hl=en&ie=UTF8&q=google+maps+future+inn+cardiff&fb=1&gl=uk&hq=future+inn&hnear=Cardiff&view=map&cid=2735439501455671459&iwloc=A&ved=0CIgBEKUG&sa=X&ei=VR7sTKSaGIL7jAeT28nkBQ>

Please note the Wales Millennium Centre (mentioned above) is just below the bottom cut off of the map, but you can drag to see it. I would also note that the default scale here is VERY close; please don't be put off by the numbered roads – they aren't huge highways. The greyed out box underneath the hotel marker is the actual outline of the building.