



# Britain

## Includes »

London . . . . .	156
Canterbury . . . . .	181
Brighton & Hove . . . . .	183
Bath . . . . .	187
Land's End . . . . .	193
Oxford . . . . .	194
Cambridge . . . . .	199
York . . . . .	202
Liverpool . . . . .	208
Lake District NP . . . . .	210
Cardiff . . . . .	211
Edinburgh & Glasgow	214
Understand Britain . . . . .	228
Survival Guide . . . . .	233

## Best Places to Eat

- » Smiths of Smithfield, London (p174)
- » CB2, Cambridge (p201)
- » Gray's Court, York (p204)
- » Trof, Manchester (p208)

## Best Places to Stay

- » Hoxton, London (p170)
- » Ethos Hotel, Oxford (p194)
- » Ambleside YHA, Lake District (p211)
- » Smart City Hostel, Edinburgh (p218)

## Why Go?

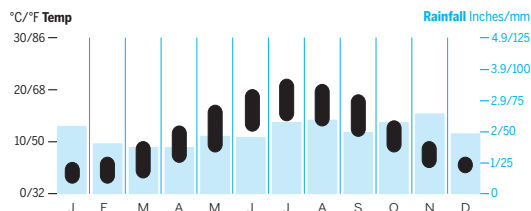
The Tower of London, Edinburgh Castle, Buckingham Palace, Manchester United, The Beatles. Britain does icons like nowhere else on earth, and this country's astounding range of attractions is a major reason to visit. Cities tempt with bars and restaurants, world-famous clubs and top-class museums. Next day, you're deep in the countryside, high in the hills or enjoying a classic seaside resort.

Along with variety, a journey through Britain is a journey through history. You can marvel at 5000-year-old Stonehenge or walk the Roman remains of Hadrian's Wall, then fast forward to the future and explore the space-age domes of the Eden Project.

And it's all so easy. In this compact nation you're never far from the next scenic national park, the next welcoming pub or the next impressive castle on your hit-list of highlights.

## When to Go

### London



**Apr–May** Fewer crowds, especially in popular spots such as Bath, York and Edinburgh.

**Jun–Aug** The weather is at its best but the coast and national parks are busy.

**Mid-Sep–Oct** Prices drop and the weather is often surprisingly good.

## Connections

As an island on the edge of Western Europe, Britain's overland options to neighbouring countries were limited to ferries before the opening of the Channel Tunnel in 1994 brought direct Eurostar rail services to London from Paris and Brussels (for details, see p236). Ferries still sail from southern England across to France in a couple of hours, from eastern England to the Netherlands and Germany, from northern England to Scandinavia, from southwest Scotland to Northern Ireland and from Wales to the Republic of Ireland. For details on ferry routes, see p237.

## ITINERARIES

### One Week

With just seven days, you're pretty much limited to sights in England. Start with a couple of days in London, then branch out to Canterbury and Brighton, or Salisbury and Stonehenge (or all four). Sample the delights of historic Bath, tootle up to Oxford and Stratford-upon-Avon, then head east to Cambridge, before returning to London.

### Two Weeks

Start in London, then do a southeast-southwest loop via the grand cathedral cities of Canterbury, Winchester and Salisbury. Marvel at the iconic menhirs of Stonehenge and nearby Avebury, before enjoying more history in beautiful Bath. Loop over to Cardiff for a taste of Wales, then cruise across the classic English countryside of the Cotswolds to reach Oxford. Not far away is Stratford-upon-Avon, for everything Shakespeare. Strike out north to Scotland's capital, Edinburgh, before crossing the border again down to Durham and York, then Cambridge. Enjoy the last few days of your tour back in London.

## Essential Food & Drink

- » **Roast beef with Yorkshire pudding** Iconic English dish: beef with baked-batter pudding.
- » **Bangers and mash** Another icon: sausages and mashed potato.
- » **Fish and chips** Once the nation's most popular takeaway food, though nowadays curry is the favourite.
- » **Haggis** Scottish speciality of sheep-offal pudding served with 'tatties and neeps' (potatoes and turnips).
- » **Cawl and bara lafwr** Welsh treats: a broth made with lamb and leeks, and savoury scones made with oatmeal and seaweed.

## AT A GLANCE

- » **Currency** Pound sterling (£)
- » **Language** English, Welsh and Scottish Gaelic
- » **Money** ATMs are widely available
- » **Visas** Not required by most citizens of Europe, Australia, NZ, USA and Canada

## Fast Facts

- » **Area** 88,500 sq miles (229,000 sq km)
- » **Capitals** London (Britain and England), Cardiff (Wales), Edinburgh (Scotland)
- » **Country code** 44
- » **Emergency** 999

## Exchange Rates

Australia	A\$1	UK£0.65
Canada	C\$1	UK£0.63
euro zone	€1	UK£0.87
Japan	¥100	UK£0.76
New Zealand	NZ\$1	UK£0.49
USA	US\$1	UK£0.62

## Set Your Budget

- » **Hostel dorm bed** £10-25
- » **Midrange B&B** £50-100 per double room
- » **Cheap meal in cafe or pub** £5-9
- » **Beer (pint)** £3

## Resources

- » **Visit Britain** ([www.visitbritain.com](http://www.visitbritain.com))
- » **National Traveline** ([www.traveline.org.uk](http://www.traveline.org.uk))