

Discover

Great Britain

Experience the best of Great Britain



Discover **Contents** Great Britain

Throughout this book, we use these icons to highlight special recommendations:



The Best...

Lists for everything from bars to wildlife – to make sure you don't miss out



Don't Miss

A must-see – don't go home until you've been there



Local experts reveal their top picks and secret highlights



Detour

Special places a little off the beaten track



If you like...

Lesser-known alternatives to world-famous

These icons help vou auickly identify reviews in the text and on the map:



Sights



Eating



Drinking





Information

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This Is Great Britain

Few places pack so much into such a tiny space as Britain. It's barely 600 miles from England's south coast to Scotland's northern tip so you can cross the island in a day, but you could spend a lifetime exploring and only scratch the surface. This proportionally challenged island manages to cram more sights into each square mile than a country 10 times its size.

History is undoubtedly one of the major highlights of a visit here. From clifftop castles and medieval cathedrals to stone circles and Roman ruins, the British landscape recounts a story that stretches back 5000 years. On your journey, you'll encounter a collection of kings and courtiers, heroes and villains, engineers and inventors, not to mention a host of writers, poets, painters, architects and artistic visionaries.

The landscape is another jewel in the nation's crown. Encompassing everything from green fields to isolated islands, rolling plains to wild hills, and sandy beaches to snowcapped mountains, the British landscape is astonishingly varied. Iconic cities such as London, Manchester, York, Bath and Edinburgh are stuffed with amazing architecture, captivating culture and hundreds of historic sights. And beyond the metropolises are 15 stunning national parks which now cover over 10% of the landscape, as well as countless quaint villages, hamlets and market towns – all of which make exploring this green and pleasant land an unbridled pleasure.

Of course, Britain isn't actually one country at all – it's three rolled into

One. Some of the differences between the nations of England, Wales and Scotland are obvious (particularly the accents of the people), but others are more subtle, and getting to grips with their individual quirks is a fundamental part of what makes travel here so fascinating. It's called Great Britain for a reason, you know – and you're about to find out why.

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