

PLAN YOUR TRIP

YOUR PLANNING TOOL KIT
 Photos, itineraries, lists and suggestions
 to help you put together your perfect trip

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need to know

When to Go

Top Events

- 1 Brighton Festival, May
- 2 Glastonbury Festival, late June
- 3 Edinburgh, August
- 4 Notting Hill Carnival, late August
- 5 Springing the Queen, Mid June

January
 After the holidays, it's the best time to visit. The weather is mild and the crowds are small. It's also a good time to see the new year celebrations in London.

February
 The weather is still mild and the crowds are small. It's also a good time to see the new year celebrations in London.

March
 The weather is still mild and the crowds are small. It's also a good time to see the new year celebrations in London.

April
 The weather is still mild and the crowds are small. It's also a good time to see the new year celebrations in London.

High season
 June - August

Shoulder
 May and September

Low season
 November - February

Money
 £50

Travel
 £50

Language
 English

Set Your Budget
 £50

month by month

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UNDERSTAND ENGLAND

GET MORE FROM YOUR TRIP
 Learn about the big picture, so you
 can make sense of what you see

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1960s

At home, it's the era of Beatlemania. Successful songs such as 'I Want to Hold Your Hand' ensure The Beatles become household names in Britain, then America — then the world.

if England were 100 people



TOP EXPERIENCES MAP **NEXT
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Public Holidays

In England and Wales, most businesses and banks close on these official public holidays (hence the term 'bank holiday'):

New Year's Day 1 January
Easter March/April (Good Friday to Easter Monday inclusive)

THIS EDITION WRITTEN AND RESEARCHED BY

David Else,

Oliver Berry, Joe Bindloss, Fionn Davenport, Marc Di Duca,
Belinda Dixon, Peter Dragicevich, Etain O'Carroll, Neil Wilson



Look out for these icons:



Our author's
recommendation



A green or
sustainable option



No payment
required

On the Road

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CANTERBURY & THE SOUTHEAST ...	128	ISLES OF SCILLY	393	EAST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE	591
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THE COTSWOLDS	200	NOTTINGHAMSHIRE	450	AROUND LIVERPOOL	676
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Stratford-upon-Avon

See a Shakespeare play at the Bard's birthplace (p519)

Oxford

Wonder at archaic colleges and traditions (p182)

The Cotswolds

Enjoy classic chocolate-box English countryside (p200)

Bristol

Experience medieval history, industrial heritage (p301)

Bath

Admire classic Georgian architecture (p312)

Newquay

Laze on sparkling sandy beaches (p369)

Jurassic Coast

Discover 185 million years of geology (p274)

Eden Project

Marvel at Cornwall's three gigantic greenhouses (p387)

London

Linger in London's world-class museums (p52)

Stonehenge

Go mystic at England's iconic prehistoric site (p291)

Canterbury

Be awed by this historic place of worship (p129)

Seven Sisters

Stroll across the white chalk rollercoaster (p158)

Cambridge

Attempt to punt by the picturesque 'Backs' (p402)

Canterbury

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itineraries

Whether you've got six days or 60, these itineraries provide a starting point for the trip of a lifetime. Want more inspiration? Head online to lonelyplanet.com/thorntree to chat with other travellers.



Two Weeks

England Highlights

▶ If you've got just two weeks to see the best of England, this tour hits most major highlights, with the occasional hidden gem as well. Start with a full day in the nation's capital, **London**, simply walking the streets to admire the world-famous sights: Buckingham Palace, Tower Bridge, Trafalgar Square and more. Then head southwest to the grand cathedral cities of **Winchester** and **Salisbury**. Next stop: ancient history – the iconic menhirs of **Stonehenge**, and their less-well-known counterpart **Avebury Stone Circle**.

A short hop west is the beautiful historic city of **Bath**, and if time allows you can branch out to neighbouring **Bristol** – the southwest's big little city. Then cruise across the classic English countryside of the **Cotswolds** to reach the ancient seat of learning, **Oxford**. Not far away is **Stratford-upon-Avon**, for everything Shakespeare.

Next, strike out north to **York** for Viking remains and the stunning Minster, before swinging south to England's other great university city, **Cambridge**. Enjoy the last few days of your tour back in **London**, immersed in galleries, museums, luxury shops, street markets, West End shows or East End cafes – or whatever takes your fancy.



One Month

The Full Monty

With a month to spare you can enjoy a trip taking in all the very best that England offers. Kick off in **London**, and spend a couple of days seeing the big-name attractions. Make the time for no-fixed-program saunters as well – along the south bank of the River Thames, or through the markets of the East End. Next, go down to the sea, and the buzzy coast-resort **Brighton**; then west, via **Portsmouth** for the historic harbour, to reach the picturesque **New Forest**. From the coast head inland to the grand cathedral cities of **Winchester** and **Salisbury**, and on to England's best-known ancient site, **Stonehenge**, and nearby **Avebury Stone Circle** – bigger than Stonehenge and a more intimate experience. Onwards into deepest Wessex, via Thomas Hardy's hometown, **Dorchester**, to reach the neat little city of **Exeter** and the wide and wild expanse of **Dartmoor National Park**. Then it's time for yet another historic city, **Wells**, with its beautiful cathedral, en route to the Georgian masterpiece of **Bath** and the southwest's big little city, **Bristol**. Next comes the classic English countryside of the **Cotswolds**, with a stop at delightful **Stow-on-the-Wold**, and maybe **Broadway** or **Chipping Campden** before reaching **Oxford**, England's original seat of learning. Not far away is Shakespeare Central at **Stratford-upon-Avon** – tie in your visit here with seeing a play by the Bard himself. Continue journeying north via the heather-clad moors and tranquil limestone dales of the **Peak District** to reach England's second city **Manchester** and neighbouring cultural crossroads **Liverpool**. Then it's back to the wilds again with a short hop to the scenic wonders of the **Lake District**. From the sturdy border-town of **Carlisle**, follow the ancient Roman landmark of **Hadrian's Wall** all the way to revitalised city **Newcastle-upon-Tyne**, for a taste of England's far north. Then it's into the home stretch, south via **Durham** and its world-class cathedral, and then **York** for its Viking remains and stunning Minster, to reach **Cambridge**, England's other great university city. From here it's a hop back to **London**, to use up the last few days of your grand tour, taking in highlights such as the Trafalgar Square, the National Gallery, Tate Modern, the Tower of London, all polished off with a stroll across Westminster Bridge as Big Ben chimes the hour.



One Month The Wild Side

Some itineraries focus on the cities, but this is a tour through the best of England's natural landscape, the inspiration for generations of poets, writers and composers. So put on your hiking boots, or have a camera at the ready, as we take a northeast-southwest meander through some of the country's finest national parks and stretches of open countryside.

Start on the achingly wild and beautiful **Northumberland coast**; the elements are unpredictable, but that's the attraction. Just a short distance inland is **Northumberland National Park**, England's final frontier, dotted with sturdy castles and wind-lashed hill-tops. Then it's west via the spectacular Roman remains of **Hadrian's Wall** to the high peaks of the **Lake District**, once the spiritual home for Wordsworth and the Romantic poets, now a mecca for outdoor fans, with dramatic hikes, cosy inns and the country's highest summit **Scaféil Pike**.

Travelling east from the Lakes carries you across the **Pennines** – the chain of hills known as 'England's backbone'. To the south lie the green hills and valleys of the **Yorkshire Dales**, and the moors around Haworth – inspiration for Emily Brontë's *Wuthering Heights*. Further east sit the heather-clad **North York Moors**, where humpbacked hills roll all the way to the coast to drop as sheer cliffs into the choppy waters of the North Sea.

Travel south through the moors and dales of the **Peak District** to reach the bucolic **Cotswolds** and Elgar's beloved **Malvern Hills** and then the epic dimensions of **Salisbury Plain**, home to **Stonehenge** and other archaeological intrigues. A few miles more and you're back at the sea again on Dorset's spectacular and fossil-ridden **Jurassic Coast**.

Then head west into England's toe, the counties of Devon and Cornwall, jutting deep into the Atlantic. First stop here is the lush fields and sandy coves of **Exmoor**, then it's on to the eerie granite tors of **Dartmoor** offering some of England's most bleakly beautiful views, rivalled only by the gorse-clad clifftops and sparkling bays of Cornwall's **North Coast**. Last port of call on this scenic excursion is **Land's End**, where the English mainland finally runs out of steam and plunges headlong into the restless ocean. Toodle-pip, England – next stop, America...



Two to Three Weeks

Heart of England

➤ This journey through England's central regions starts in **London**, with its biggest landmarks: Trafalgar Square, Westminster Abbey, the Tower of London, St Paul's Cathedral and Buckingham Palace. Out of the centre, the gorgeous gardens at **Kew**, historic **Eton College** and regal **Windsor Castle** are also must-see sights.

Beyond the capital is old England proper, especially around the market towns of Kent, where **Canterbury Cathedral** and **Leeds Castle** are top architectural spots.

Then loop through Sussex and into Hampshire, where **Winchester**, the ancient capital, boasts another fine cathedral. Jostling for prominence is nearby **Salisbury**, whose cathedral's famous spire dominates the landscape for miles around.

Out to the west, **Bath** is crammed with landmark English architecture, while the picture-perfect **Cotswolds** conceal a host of pretty villages. On to **Oxford**, one of the country's great centres of learning, and **Stratford-upon-Avon**, home of Shakespeare. There's just time to top up on traditional English towns such as **Northleach**, **Cirencester** and **Wantage**, as well as the grand stately home of **Blenheim Palace** and historic **Warwick Castle**.

Two to Three Weeks

Northern Soul

➤ It's grim up north (an old saying), and if England's former industrial heartland once was, this itinerary shows how things have changed. Start in **Leeds**, where run-down factories and abandoned warehouses have been turned into loft apartments and ritzy boutiques. But don't forget the past completely: go deep underground at the **National Coal Mining Museum**.

Just a few miles east is 'England's second city', **Manchester**, famous for its music and a certain football team, where architectural highlights include the stunning **Imperial War Museum North**.

Nearby **Liverpool** is reinventing itself as a cultural capital, with the rebuilding and rebranding most apparent at the historic waterfront, **Albert Dock**.

Back across the Pennines, one-time king of coal and steel **Newcastle-upon-Tyne** has traded heavy industries for art and architecture. Cross the **Millennium Bridge** to Gateshead and the **BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Art**, a former grain mill turned art gallery, before catching a show at the fabulous **Sage** concert hall.

Conclude your tour with a visit to England's best-known piece of public art, the iconic (and gigantic) **Angel of the North**.



Two Weeks

The Edge of England

England's national parks are beautiful: hardly a well-kept secret. If you like your landscapes a little less hectic, try this backwater route along England's eastern fringe.

Start in sleepy **Suffolk**, a favourite spot for boaters, bikers and birdwatchers. Quaint villages and market towns such as **Sudbury** and **Lavenham** dot the landscape; along the coast are wildlife reserves, shingly beaches, fishing ports such as **Aldeburgh** and the delightfully retro seaside resort of **Southwold**.

Things get even quieter in **Norfolk**, especially around the misty lakes and windmilled rivers of **The Broads**. For big-sky strolls or historic country pubs head for the coastal villages near **Wells-next-the-Sea**.

Across the border in Lincolnshire lies the eerie, pan-flat landscape of **The Fens**, now a haven for otters and birdlife. Then it's north again into Yorkshire, where the massive breeding seabird colonies at **Bempton Cliffs** are one of England's finest wildlife spectacles.

Enjoy quirky **Robin Hood's Bay** and bustling **Whitby**, then round things off with a blustery stroll between the landmark castles of **Bamburgh** and **Dunstanburgh** on the wild **Northumberland Coast**.

Two Weeks

Wild West Meander

The southwest of England takes a bit of effort to reach, but repays in full with a rich green landscape surrounded by glistening seas.

Start in **Bristol**, the capital of the West-country, then saunter down through Somerset to **Glastonbury** – famous for its music festival and the best place to stock up on candles or crystals at any time of year. West leads to heathery **Exmoor**. South leads into Dorset, where highlights include picturesque **Shaftesbury**.

Onwards into Devon, there's a choice of coasts, as well as **Dartmoor**, the highest and wildest hills in southern England.

Cross into Cornwall to browse the galleries at **St Ives**, explore **Tintagel Castle**, the legendary birthplace of King Arthur, or wax your board in **Newquay**, epicentre of England's surf scene. Just inland is the **Eden Project**, where giant space-age greenhouse domes are home to a range of habitats from jungle to desert.

The natural finish to this wild west meander is **Land's End**, where the English mainland comes to a final full stop. Sink a drink in the First & Last pub, and promise yourself a return trip some day...



OUR STORY

A beat-up old car, a few dollars in the pocket and a sense of adventure. In 1972 that's all Tony and Maureen Wheeler needed for the trip of a lifetime – across Europe and Asia overland to Australia. It took several months, and at the end – broke but inspired – they sat at their kitchen table writing and stapling together their first travel guide, *Across Asia on the Cheap*. Within a week they'd sold 1500 copies. Lonely Planet was born.

Today, Lonely Planet has offices in Melbourne, London and Oakland, with more than 600 staff and writers. We share Tony's belief that 'a great guidebook should do three things: inform, educate and amuse'.

OUR WRITERS



David Else

Coordinating Author As a professional writer, David has authored over 40 books, including several editions of Lonely Planet's *England*, *Great Britain and Walking in Britain*. His knowledge comes from a lifetime of travel around the country – often on foot – a passion dating from university years, when heading for the hills was always more attractive than visiting the library. Originally from London, David has lived in Yorkshire and Derbyshire, and is now a resident of the Cotswolds. For this current edition of *England*, David's research took him from Cornwall to Northumberland – via two favourite spots: Porthcurno Beach and the *Angel of the North*.

Read more about David at: lonelyplanet.com/members/davidelse



Oliver Berry

Bristol, Bath & Somerset (Wessex); Cornwall; Cumbria & the Lake District Oliver is a writer and photographer based in Cornwall. Among many other projects for Lonely Planet, Oliver has written the 1st editions of *Devon*, *Cornwall & Southwest England* and *The Lake District*, and worked on several previous editions of the *England* and *Great Britain* guides. Research highlights for this edition were sampling some traditional 'scrumpy' on a Somerset cider farm

and watching the sun rise over Glastonbury Tor. You can see some of his latest work at www.oliverberry.com.

Read more about Oliver at: lonelyplanet.com/members/oliverberry



Joe Bindloss

Nottingham & the East Midlands; Birmingham, the West Midlands & the Marches Born of English stock, albeit in Cyprus, Joe spends a lot of time in the Marches, not least because his parents and brothers live in the sleepy village of Clun (hell, they even go Morris dancing). For this book, Joe juggled exploring rugged uplands and picturesque medieval villages with writing for newspapers and magazines and being a full-time dad in London. Joe has been writing guide-

books for Lonely Planet since 1999, covering everywhere from rural England to the high reaches of the Himalaya.

Read more about Joe at: lonelyplanet.com/members/bindibhaji



Fionn Davenport

Manchester, Liverpool & the Northwest Fionn is an unashamed urban junky (urban philosophy: eat, stare, walk) – there are enough distractions in a good city to keep him entertained for years. Which is why he's been visiting and writing about north-west England for the guts of a decade – it's home to his favourite English city (Manchester) and his favourite football club (Liverpool). He also likes getting out of cities, and spots like the Wirral, northern Lancashire and the Isle of Man have enough countryside for anyone intent on getting away from Man's concrete footprint.

OVER MORE PAGE WRITERS

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**Marc Di Duca**

Canterbury & the Southeast; Newcastle & the Northeast From Farnham to the Farne Islands, Marc topped and tailed his native land for this edition of *England*. Born a mile from the Stockton & Darlington railway, Marc spent a decade in central Europe before becoming a full-time travel-guide author based in the southeast. Chilling extremities in the nippy River Tees, sinking ale in Cinque Ports, scrambling along Hadrian's Wall and stalking Dickens across six counties all formed part of his research for this guide.

Read more about Marc at:
lonelyplanet.com/members/maridu

**Belinda Dixon**

Hampshire, New Forest, Isle of Wight, Dorset, Wiltshire (Wessex); Devon Belinda made a gleeful bolt for the southwest 17 years ago and has worked as a writer, journalist and local radio broadcaster there ever since. This is her sixth mission for Lonely Planet in the region, and it's seen her hugging sarsens in the stone circle at Avebury, rummaging for fossils at Lyme, and cresting tor tops on Dartmoor. All that and rigorously (very rigorously) testing all the food and drink she can manage.

Read more about Belinda at:
lonelyplanet.com/members/belindadixon

**Peter Dragicevich**

London After a dozen years reviewing music and restaurants for publications in New Zealand and Australia, London's bright lights and loud guitars could no longer be resisted. Like all good Kiwis, Peter got to know the city while surfing his way between friends' flats all over London, before finally putting down roots. He has contributed to 18 Lonely Planet titles, including *Walking in Britain* and the last edition of this book.

Read more about Peter at:
lonelyplanet.com/members/peterdragicevich

**Etain O'Carroll**

Oxford, Cotswolds & Around; Cambridge & East Anglia Travel writer and photographer Etain grew up in rural Ireland but now calls Oxford home. She has worked on more than 20 Lonely Planet books including numerous *England* and *Great Britain* guides as well as *Cycling Britain*. Her top tip? Oxford and the Cotswolds are expensive to live in but great places to visit on a budget. There are world-class museums, stunning architecture, gorgeous villages and ancient pubs – most of them free to visit.

Read more about Etain at:
lonelyplanet.com/members/EtainOCarroll

**Neil Wilson**

Yorkshire From rock-climbing trips to Yorkshire gritstone, to weekend getaways in York and Whitby, Neil has made many cross-border forays into 'God's own country' from his home in Scotland. Good weather on this research trip allowed a memorable ascent of Ingleborough with summit views to the Irish Sea, and a knee-trashing mountain-bike descent of the Pennine Way into Hawes. Neil is a full-time travel writer based in Edinburgh, and has written more than 40 guide-books for various publishers.

Read more about Neil at:
lonelyplanet.com/members/neilwilson

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