



England



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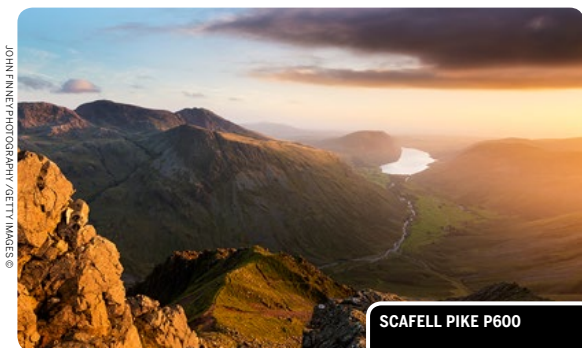
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Itineraries



8 DAYS England Express

Just over a week is long enough to tick off many of England's highlights. This tour takes in a dozen of the nation's top sights, from London to the Lakes.

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 Sq and more. Then head west for one or both of the grand cathedral cities of **Winchester** and **Salisbury**. Next stop: ancient history – the iconic megaliths of **Stonehenge**.

A short hop northwest leads to the beautiful city of **Bath**, for Roman history and fabulous Georgian architecture. Then cruise across the classic English countryside of the **Cotswolds** to reach **Oxford**, the ancient seat of learning. Not far away is **Stratford-upon-Avon**, for everything Shakespeare.

Next, strike out north for the **Lake District**, one of the country's most scenic areas, then across to **York** for Viking remains and the stunning Minster. End your trip with a visit to **Cambridge**, England's other great university city. Then a final day back in **London**, immersed in galleries, museums, luxury shops, street markets, West End shows or East End cafes – or whatever takes your fancy.



4
WEEKS

The Full Monty

With a month to spare you can enjoy a trip taking in all the very best that England offers, without the pressure of a crowded schedule. This circuit of the country covers all the bases.

Kick off in **London**, and spend a couple of days seeing the big-ticket attractions, but make the time for exploratory 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 at the buzzy coastal resort of **Brighton**; then west, via **Portsmouth** for the historic dockyard, to reach the picturesque **New Forest**. Head inland to the grand cathedral cities of **Winchester** and **Salisbury**, and on to **Stonehenge**, England's best-known ancient site, and nearby **Avebury Stone Circle** – bigger than Stonehenge but a more intimate experience.

Onwards into deepest Wessex, via Thomas Hardy's hometown, **Dorchester**, to reach 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 pause at delightful Stow-on-the-Wold, and maybe Broadway or Chipping Campden, before reaching **Oxford**, England's oldest seat of learning. Not far away is Shakespeare central at **Stratford-upon-Avon** – plan on 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 bordertown of **Carlisle**, follow the ancient Roman landmark of **Hadrian's Wall** all the way to revitalised city **Newcastle-upon-Tyne**. 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 Sq, the National Gallery, Tate Modern, the Tower of London, all polished off with a stroll across Westminster Bridge as Big Ben chimes the hour.



2
WEEKS

The Wild Side

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 at the spectacular Roman remains of **Hadrian's Wall**, one of England's finest reminders of the classical era, where you can explore the ancient forts and stride beside the ramparts centurion-style. Then continue into Cumbria for the high peaks of the **Lake District National Park**, once the spiritual home of Wordsworth and the Romantic poets, now a mecca for outdoor enthusiasts, with hikes and strolls for all abilities, plus cosy inns and traditional country hotels.

Travelling east from the Lakes carries you across the Pennines – the chain of hills known as the backbone of England – to reach the green hills and valleys of the **Yorkshire Dales National Park**. Nearby are the moors around **Haworth** – inspiration for Emily Brontë's *Wuthering Heights*.

Travel south through the hills and dales of the **Peak District National Park** – stopping off to explore the great park around Chatsworth if time allows – then through central England, via Elgar's beloved **Malvern Hills**, to reach the classic English countryside of the **Cotswolds**. Then continue southwards again to enjoy the epic emptiness of **Salisbury Plain**, home to **Stonehenge** and other archaeological intrigues. Nearby is **Avebury**, England's other great stone circle. A few miles more and you're on Dorset's spectacular fossil-ridden **Jurassic Coast**.

Then head into England's toe, the Westcountry Peninsula, jutting deep into the Atlantic. Take in the lush farmland of Devon and the heathery hills and sandy coves of **Exmoor National Park**, then it's on to the eerie granite tors of **Dartmoor National Park**, which offers some of the country's most bleakly beautiful views. Next stop: **Cornwall**, for pretty ports, gorse-clad cliffs and sparkling bays. Then finish this bucolic excursion at **Land's End**, where the English mainland finally runs out of steam and plunges headlong into the restless ocean.

8
DAYS

Urban Adventure

Start in **Bristol**, a thriving regional capital famed for its engineering heritage and lively cultural scene. Then to **Birmingham**, in the heart of the English Midlands, once forlorn and now a byword for successful urban renewal.

Continue north to reach **Manchester**, famous for its music and football team. Architectural highlights include the stunning Imperial War Museum North. Nearby **Liverpool** is reinventing itself as a cultural capital, with the redevelopment most apparent at the historic waterfront, Albert Dock.

Cross the **Pennines** to reach **Leeds**, the 'Knightsbridge of the North' where rundown factories and abandoned warehouses are now loft apartments and ritzy boutiques. But don't forget the past: go underground at the **National Coal Mining Museum**.

Further north is **Newcastle-upon-Tyne** and neighbouring Gateshead, former kings of coal, ships and steel, where heavy industries have given way to art and architecture, most notably the BALTIC contemporary gallery and the Sage concert hall. Conclude your urban tour with a visit to England's best-known public art, the iconic **Angel of the North**.

2
WEEKS

Heart of England

Start in **London**, with its biggest landmarks: Westminster Abbey, the Tower of London, St Paul's Cathedral and Buckingham Palace. Out of the centre, the gorgeous gardens at Kew, Eton College and **Windsor Castle** are also must-see sights.

Beyond the capital lies old England proper, especially around the market towns of Kent, where **Canterbury Cathedral** and **Leeds Castle** are top historic sights.

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

Out west, **Bath** is crammed with Georgian architecture, while the picture-perfect **Cotswolds** conceal a host of pretty towns and villages, such as Northleach, Wantage and **Cirencester**, as well as the grand stately home of Blenheim Palace. On to picturesque **Oxford**, crammed with college buildings carved from honey-coloured stone, and **Stratford-upon-Avon**, home of Shakespeare and classic half-timbered houses, leaving just enough time to top up on English history at stunning **Warwick Castle**.



2 WEEKS Southwestern Wander

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

West leads to heathery **Exmoor National Park**, then its onwards into Devon, where there's a choice of coasts, as well as **Dartmoor National Park**, the highest and wildest hills in southern England.

Cross into Cornwall to explore the space-age biodomes of the **Eden Project**. Nearby, but in another era entirely, is Tintagel Castle, the legendary birthplace of King Arthur. Depending on your tastes, you can hang 10 in surf-flavoured party-town **Newquay**, or browse the galleries at **St Ives**.

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

2 WEEKS Edge of England

Start in **Colchester**, then visit sleepy **Suffolk**, where quaint villages and market towns such as Sudbury and Lavenham dot the landscape. Along the coast you'll discover wildlife reserves, shingle 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 windmill-lined rivers of the **Norfolk Broads**. For beach strolls or historic country pubs head for the coastal villages near **Wells-next-the-Sea**.

North of Norfolk lies the eerie, flat landscape of the **Fens**, now a haven for otters and birdlife. Then it's north again into Yorkshire to the heather-clad **North York Moors**, where humpbacked hills roll all the way to the coast to drop dramatically into the choppy waters of the North Sea.

Round things off with a stroll between the castles of Bamburgh and Dunstanburgh on the wild **Northumberland Coast**, finishing your tour at the island of **Lindisfarne**.



Belinda Dixon

Bath & Southwest England; Cambridge & East Anglia Belinda made a gleeful bolt for the sunny southwest for her post-grad, having been drawn there by the palm trees on campus. Like the best Westcountry limpets, she's proved hard to shift since and now writes and broadcasts in the region. Research highlights for this latest adventure included fossil hunting on the Jurassic Coast, white-water kayaking on Dartmoor, pony spotting on Exmoor, 'researching' cider in Dorset and sampling afternoon tea in Lyme.

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



Peter Dragicevich

Oxford, Cotswolds & Around Wales has held a fascination for Peter ever since he was sent to write about Welsh castles for one of his first ever newspaper travel features. Since then he's co-authored dozens of Lonely Planet titles, including the Wales guidebook. And while his name may not be very Welsh, it does at least have over half a dragon in it.



Damian Harper

London Born off the Strand within earshot of Bow Bells (favourable wind permitting), Damian grew up in Notting Hill way before it was discovered by Hollywood. A onetime Shakespeare and Company bookseller and radio presenter, Damian has been authoring guidebooks for Lonely Planet since the late 1990s. He lives in South London with his wife and two kids, frequently returning to China (his second home).



Catherine Le Nevez

Birmingham, the Midlands & the Marches; Newcastle & Northeast England Catherine first roadtripped around Great Britain aged four and she's been roadtripping here at every opportunity since, completing her Doctorate of Creative Arts in Writing, Masters in Professional Writing, and post-grad qualifications in editing and publishing along the way. She's also written dozens of Lonely Planet guidebooks and newspaper, magazine and online articles covering the UK, Europe and

beyond. Roaming castle ruins and corridors of stately homes were highlights of researching this book, as was discovering idyllic countryside pubs.



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 Franklin, London, Melbourne, Oakland, Beijing and Delhi, 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



Neil Wilson

Coordinating Author; Yorkshire Neil was born in Scotland and, save for a few years spent abroad, has lived there most of his life. A lifelong enthusiasm for the great outdoors has inspired hiking, biking and sailing expeditions to every corner of Britain. Researching this edition took him from the country's most westerly point at Ardnamurchan Lighthouse to its most easterly at Fraserburgh, and to every corner of Yorkshire. Neil has been a full-time author since 1988 and has

written around 65 guidebooks for various publishers, including Lonely Planet's *Scotland* and *Scotland's Highlands & Islands*.



Oliver Berry

Bath & Southwest England; The Lake District & Cumbria A professional writer and photographer based in Cornwall and Bristol, Oliver likes nothing better than exploring his local beaches and clifftops in the name of research. For this book he covered his home county, and also ventured across the Tamar to write the sections on Somerset, Bristol, Bath and Cumbria. Research highlights included kayaking down the Helford River and watching the sunset from the top of Scafell

Pike. You can see his latest work at www.oliverberry.com.



Fionn Davenport

Manchester, Liverpool & Northwest England As a Dubliner, Fionn feels an affinity with the Northwest. Maybe it's his lifelong support of Liverpool Football Club, or his longtime love of The Smiths, but a visit to Liverpool or Manchester is always that little bit special. Over the years and various editions of this guide he's had plenty of occasion to visit and get to know the region better, exploring Chester and the Wirral, and tramping through Lancaster and into the north Lancashire hills.



Marc Di Duca

Canterbury & Southeast England Originally from Darlington, County Durham, Marc has been a northerner-gone-south since 2000 and has covered his adopted corner of weald and down for the past three editions of Lonely Planet's *England* and *Great Britain*. A full-time travel author for a decade, Marc has updated and written Lonely Planet guides to Ukraine, Russia, the Trans-Siberian Railway, Poland, Austria and Germany, though he can usually be found in Sandwich, Kent,

where he lives with wife Tanya and their two sons.

Read more about Marc at:
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OVER MORE
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