



# Britain

## Includes »

London .....	155
Brighton & Hove.....	186
Bath .....	188
Oxford.....	197
Cambridge.....	201
York.....	202
Manchester .....	208
Liverpool.....	211
Lake District National Park .....	213
Cardiff.....	215
Edinburgh.....	218
Glasgow.....	223
Understand Britain .....	233
Survival Guide.....	236

## Best Places to Eat

- » Laughing Gravy (p176)
- » Porthminster Beach Café (p195)
- » The Broad Chare (p207)
- » Sam's Chop House (p210)
- » Ubiquitous Chip (p227)

## Best Places to Stay

- » Hoxton Hotel (p175)
- » Kipps Brighton (p186)
- » Manchester YHA (p209)
- » Smart City Hostel (p219)
- » Clachaig Inn (p231)

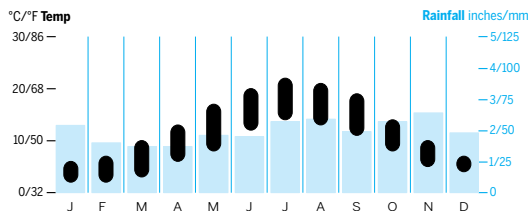
## Why Go?

Few places cram so much history, heritage and scenery into such a compact space as Britain. Twelve hours is all you'll need to travel from tip-to-tip, but you could spend a lifetime exploring – from the ancient relics of Stonehenge and Hadrian's Wall, to the great medieval cathedrals of Westminster and Canterbury and the magnificent country houses of Chatsworth and Castle Howard.

In fact, Britain isn't really one country at all, but three. While they haven't always been easy bedfellows, the contrast between Britain's nations makes this a rewarding place to visit. With a wealth of glorious coastline, rolling countryside, stately cities, world-class museums and national parks to explore, Britain really is one of Europe's most unmissable destinations. And despite what you may have heard, it doesn't rain *all* the time – but even so, a broly and a raincoat will certainly come in handy..

## When to Go

### London



**Easter–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.

## AT A GLANCE

- » **Currency** Pound sterling (£)
- » **Languages** English, Welsh, Scottish Gaelic
- » **Money** Change bureaux and ATMs widely available
- » **Visas** Schengen rules do not apply

## Fast Facts

- » **Area** 88,500 sq miles
- » **Capital** London
- » **Country code** 44
- » **Emergency** 999

## Exchange Rates

Australia	A\$1	UK £0.68
Canada	C\$1	UK £0.64
Euro Zone	€1	UK £0.84
Japan	¥100	UK £0.70
New Zealand	NZ\$1	UK £0.55
USA	US\$1	UK £0.65

## Set Your Budget

- » **Budget hotel room** £60–80
- » **Two-course meal** £10–15
- » **Pint of beer** £3–4
- » **London Tube ticket** £4.50

## Resources

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

## Connections

The quickest way to Europe from Britain is via the Channel Tunnel, which has direct Eurostar rail services from London to Paris and Brussels. Ferries sail from southern England to French ports in a couple of hours; other routes connect eastern England to the Netherlands, Germany and northern Spain, and Ireland from southwest Scotland and Wales.

## ITINERARIES

### One Week

With just seven days, you're pretty much limited to sights in England. Start 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 head west to Salisbury for a trip to Stonehenge and nearby Avebury. Enjoy more history in beautiful Bath. Head 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 via Manchester and the Lake District to Scotland's capital Edinburgh, detour via Glencoe and Loch Lomond to the UK's highest mountain, Ben Nevis, before recrossing the border to York, then Cambridge and back to 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 a curry is 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; savoury scones made with oatmeal and seaweed.