



# welcome to Great Britain

## Variety Packed

From the graceful architecture of Canterbury Cathedral in the south to the soaring ramparts of Edinburgh Castle in the north, via the mountains of Wales or the picture-postcard landscape of the Cotswolds, Britain's astounding variety is a major reason to travel here. The cities tempt with top-class shops and restaurants, and some of the world's finest museums, while cutting-edge clubs and world-famous theatres provide endless nights to remember. Next day, you're deep in the countryside, high in the hills or enjoying a classic seaside resort. In Britain, there really is something for

everyone, whether you're eight or 80, going solo or travelling with your friends, your kids or your grandma.

## Time Travel

A journey through Britain is a journey through history – but not history that's dull and dusty. This is history you can feel and re-live. You can lay your hands on the megaliths of a 5000-year-old stone circle, or walk the battlements of a medieval fortress – just as they were patrolled by knights in armour many centuries ago. Fast-forward to the future and you're admiring 21st-century architecture in Glasgow or exploring the space-age domes of Cornwall's Eden Project.



*Edinburgh Castle,  
Buckingham Palace,  
Stonehenge, Manchester  
United, The Beatles – Britain  
does icons like no other place  
on earth, and travel here is  
a fascinating mix of famous  
names and hidden gems.*

(left) Big Ben (p63), Houses of Parliament (p63) and the London Eye (p83)

(below) Stourhead (p268), England



## English Spoken Here

While Britain boasts complex traditions and culture, on the surface, at least, it's familiar to many visitors thanks to a vast catalogue of British film and TV exports. And for most visitors, Britain's national language – English – is equally recognisable, and one more reason why travel here is a breeze. Of course Wales and Scotland have their own languages, but everyone speaks English too – and all outsiders get a little confused by local accents in places such as Devon, Snowdonia and Aberdeen.

## Easy Does It

A final thing to remember while you're planning a trip to Britain: getting from

place to place is pretty straightforward. Although the locals may grumble (in fact, it's a national pastime), public transport is pretty good, and a train ride through the British landscape can be a highlight in itself. Whichever way you get around, in this compact country you're never far from the next town, the next pub, the next restaurant, the next national park or the next impressive castle on your hit-list of highlights. The choice is endless, and we've hand-picked the best places for you. Use it to steer yourself from place to place, and mix it with making your own discoveries. You won't be disappointed.