



# Great Britain



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### EDINBURGH

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# Itineraries



## 2 WEEKS Best of Britain

Start with a full day in Britain's greatest city, **London**, simply walking the streets to admire the world-famous sights: Buckingham Palace, Tower Bridge, Trafalgar Sq and more. Then head southwest to the grand cathedral cities of **Winchester** and **Salisbury**, across to the iconic menhirs of **Stonehenge** and its less well-known counterpart **Avebury Stone Circle**, then onwards to the beautiful historic city of **Bath**.

Loop over to **Chepstow** for its impressive castle, and then continue to **Cardiff**, the Welsh capital. Retrace slightly, then cruise across the classic English countryside of the **Cotswolds** to reach the university city of **Oxford**. Not far away is **Stratford-upon-Avon**, for everything Shakespeare.

Strike out north to Scotland's capital, **Edinburgh**, for another great castle, before re-crossing the border to **York** for its glorious cathedral and historic city walls. Keep going south to reach **Cambridge**, another landmark university city. Then enjoy the last few days back in **London**, immersed in galleries, museums, luxury shops, street markets, West End shows, East End cafes – or whatever takes your fancy.

5  
WEEKS

## The Full Monty

After a day or two in **London**, head southeast to **Canterbury**, then along the coast to hip and happening **Brighton**. For a change of pace, divert to the **New Forest**, then up to historic **Winchester** and **Salisbury** with their awe-inspiring cathedrals. Next, religion of a different kind: the ancient stone circles at **Stonehenge** and **Avebury**. Go west to **Bath**, with its grand Georgian architecture, Roman remains and famous spas, and then over the border to reach Wales. Stop off at the energetic little city of **Cardiff**, then head north through to the whaleback hills of the **Brecon Beacons** to reach the quirky book-mad town of **Hay-on-Wye**.

Then it's back to England, and east into the Cotswolds, with its rolling hills, quintessential rural scenery and chocolate-box towns like **Chipping Norton**. Not far away is the famous university town of **Oxford**, as well as the ancient town of **Warwick**, with its spectacular castle, and Shakespeare's birthplace **Stratford-upon-Avon**.

Continue north to **Chester**, for its famous city walls, diverting into North Wales for the grand castles at **Conwy** and **Caernarfon**, and the stunning mountains of **Snowdonia**. If time allows and the weather's good, you can take a train to the top of the highest peak. Then ferry across the Mersey to **Liverpool**, with its famous musical heritage and revitalised waterfront, or to **Manchester** for a taste of big-city life, followed by a total change of scenery in the tranquil mountains of the **Lake District**. To the north is the sturdy border town of **Carlisle**, and one of Britain's most impressive Roman remains, **Hadrian's Wall**.

Hop across the border to **Scotland**, via the tranquil Southern Uplands, to reach good-time **Glasgow**. Then trek to **Fort William** (and maybe up Ben Nevis, Britain's highest mountain), from where it's easy to reach the beautiful **Isle of Skye**. Then it's time to head south again, via **Stirling Castle** to **Edinburgh**, and on through the historic abbey towns of **Melrose** and **Jedburgh**.

Back in England, you can marvel at the castle and cathedral of **Durham** and the ancient Viking capital of **York**, before taking in the old university city of **Cambridge** and enjoying the last few days of your trip in **London**.



4 WEEKS

## Britain's Wild Side

Start in the **New Forest**, then go west via Dorset's fossil-ridden **Jurassic Coast** to reach granite-topped **Dartmoor**. Stop off at **Land's End**, then traverse the stunning **Cornwall** coast and rich farmland of **Devon** to reach the gorse-clad hills of **Exmoor**.

Cross into Wales to hike the **Brecon Beacons** or stroll the beaches of **Pembrokeshire**, then head north to explore **Snowdonia** and the nearby **Isle of Anglesey**. Then it's back to England, through the hills and moors of the **Peak District** and **Yorkshire Dales** to reach the peaks and grand scenery of the **Lake District**.

Head north again, across (or along) the Roman remains of **Hadrian's Wall**, and over the border into Scotland. Saunter through the delightful Southern Uplands, then continue via **Loch Lomond** to the mountain wilderness of the **Cairngorms**.

The top of Britain is crowned by the famous highlands and islands of northwest Scotland, where jewels include peaks like **Ben Nevis** and remote mountain ranges such as **Torrifon**, while out to sea the lovely isles of **Skye** and **Mull** bask in the afternoon sun.

3 WEEKS

## Urban Odyssey

Kick off in **Bristol**, a city with fierce pride and a rich historic legacy, then cross over to **Cardiff**, once a provincial backwater but now the lively Welsh capital.

Next stop is **Birmingham**, oozing transformation, with a renovated waterside, energised museums and a space-age shopping centre. Onwards to **Leeds**, where rundown factories and warehouses have been turned into loft apartments, ritzy boutiques and stylish department stores. Shopping not your thing? No problem. Head for **Newcastle-upon-Tyne** and twin-city **Gateshead**; both have given up on heavy industries in favour of art and architecture – and are famous for to-the-hilt partying.

Still want more? It's got to be **Glasgow**, Scotland's other great city, boasting fabulous galleries and welcoming pubs. Then it's south to **Liverpool**, which has reinvented itself as a cultural hot spot, with a famous musical heritage and very lively current music scene. Finish your tour in **Manchester**, a long-time stage for artistic endeavour, with dramatic new architecture and a rather well-known football club.





## Highland Fling

Start in **Edinburgh**, where highlights include the renowned castle, as well as the Royal Mile, the new parliament and the haunts of the Old Town. For a change of pace, hop over to **Glasgow** for a day or two as well. Then head northeast to see Scotland's other great castle at **Stirling**. Next stop is **Callander**, a good base for exploring the hills and lochs of the **Trossachs**, part of Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park, for a first taste of Highland scenery.

Continue north and the landscape becomes ever more impressive, culminating in the grandeur of **Glen Coe**. Keen hill-walkers will pause for a day at **Fort William** to trek to the top of **Ben Nevis** (plus another day to recover!) before taking the 'Road to the Isles' past glorious **Glenfinnan** to the fishing harbour of **Mallaig**.

Take the ferry to the **Isle of Skye**, then head back to the mainland via the Skye Bridge to reach pretty **Plockton** and magnificent **Glen Torridon**. Onwards, via the outpost of **Ullapool**, takes you into the British mainland's furthest reaches, the remote mountain landscape of Scotland's far northwest, before looping south to finish your tour at **Inverness**.



## Edge of England

Start in **Colchester**, then head out into the sleepy county of Suffolk, where quaint villages and market towns such as **Sudbury** and **Lavenham** dot the landscape, while 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 windmill-lined rivers of the **Broads**. For beach 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 bird life.

Continue into 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.

Enjoy a blustery stroll on the wild coast of Northumberland near the landmark castles of **Bamburgh** and **Dunstanburgh**, then end your tour at the historic island of **Lindisfarne**.

1  
WEEK

## Welsh Wander

Start in **Cardiff**, with its fantastical castle, gigantic rugby stadium, revitalised waterfront and stunning Millennium Centre. Head west via the beautiful **Gower Peninsula** to reach the clear waters and sandy beaches of **Pembrokeshire**. Don't miss the ancient cathedral at **St Davids** – Britain's smallest city. Continue up the coast to **Aberystwyth**, then through 'alternative' **Machynlleth** to reach **Harlech** and its ancient castle. Divert to the tranquil **Isle of Anglesey** and historic **Beaumaris Castle**, then strike through the mountains of **Snowdonia** to reach **Conwy** (another stunning castle) and the seaside resort of **Llandudno**.

Southwards takes you through **Llangollen**, with its jolly steam trains and vertiginous aqueduct, then along the England-Wales borderlands to book-mad **Hay-on-Wye**. Loop inland to peaceful **Brecon** and foodie **Abergavenny**, then saunter down the **Wye Valley** to finish at the frontier town of **Chepstow** – and yet another amazing castle.

2  
WEEKS

## Southwest Meander

Start in **Bristol**, the capital of the West-country, then saunter south to reach **Glastonbury** – famous for its annual 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 to **Dorset**, where highlights include picturesque **Shaftesbury** and the fossil-strewn Jurassic Coast.

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

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-ten in surf-flavoured party-town **Newquay**, or browse the galleries at **St Ives**.

The natural finish to this wild-west tour is **Land's End**, where the British mainland comes to a final full stop. Sink a drink in the First and Last Inn in Sennen, and promise yourself a return trip some day...

# England



## England Highlights

- 1 Spending more time than you'd planned in England's (and Britain's) endlessly entertaining capital, **London** (p62)
- 2 Being a Jane Austen character for a day in elegant **Bath** (p320)
- 3 Wandering lonely as a cloud in the idyllic **Lake District** (p592)
- 4 Exploring medieval walls, Viking sights and the soaring Gothic minster in historic **York** (p502)
- 5 Falling in love with the impossibly quaint villages of the **Cotswolds** (p200)
- 6 Getting some higher education among the dreaming spires of **Oxford** (p186)
- 7 Punting along the river in **Cambridge** (p371)
- 8 Seeing wild scenery and ancient engineering at **Hadrian's Wall** (p640)
- 9 Catching a Shakespeare play or visiting the Bard's grave in **Stratford-upon-Avon** (p425)
- 10 Marvelling at one of Europe's greatest cathedrals in **Canterbury** (p149)





# Wales

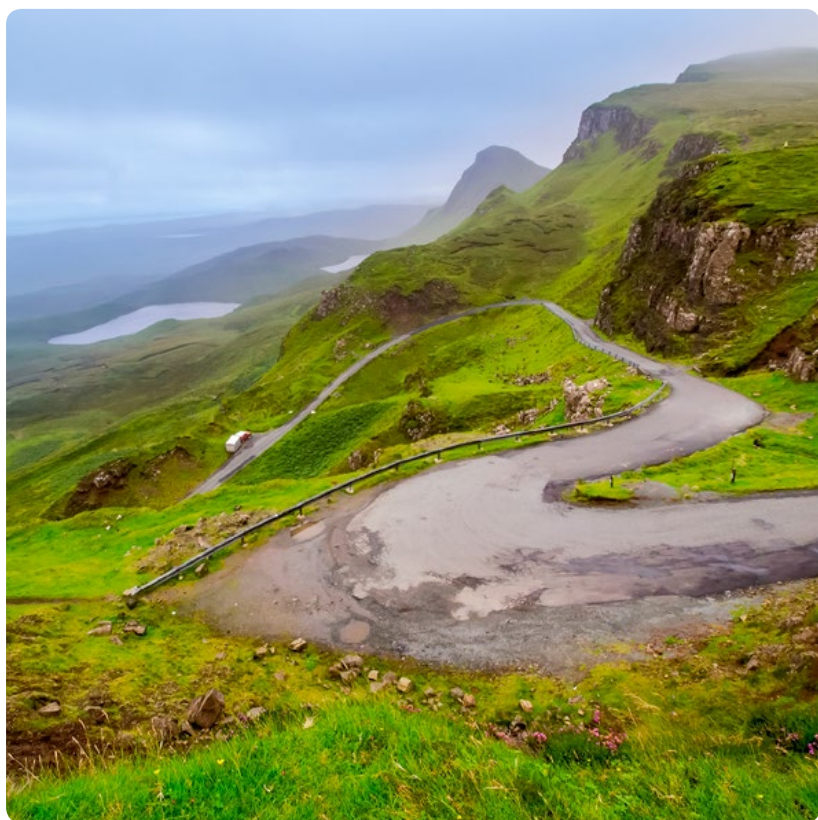




## Wales Highlights

- 1** Exploring **Cardiff** (p659), the Welsh capital, with its castle, shopping arcades and nightlife
- 2** Catching some breaks or just enjoying the views along the **Gower Peninsula** (p685)
- 3** Marvelling at the picture-perfect ruins of **Tintern Abbey** (p678) in the beautiful Wye Valley
- 4** Enjoying tiny **St Davids** (p696), with its beautiful cathedral and idyllic setting
- 5** Climbing Wales' highest peak, **Snowdon**, or enjoying more gentle exercise in **Snowdonia** (p730)
- 6** Buying fish and chips and strolling along the pier in **Llandudno** (p758)
- 7** Seeing **Caernarfon Castle** (p746), maybe the most impressive of Wales' fortresses
- 8** Wandering through **Hay-on-Wye** (p719), a book-lover's heaven
- 9** Walking in the mountains, then eating in the gastropubs of the **Brecon Beacons** (p710)

# Scotland







## Scotland Highlights

- 1** Exploring Scotland's capital, **Edinburgh** (p771), one of the world's most fascinating cities
- 2** Enjoying Victorian architecture, great nightlife and friendly locals in **Glasgow** (p803)
- 3** Getting permanent jawdrop along the **northwest Highlands coast** (p924)
- 4** Experiencing the romantic ruins of the **Border Abbeys** (p822)
- 5** Uncovering scenic beauty and tragic history at **Glen Coe** (p913)
- 6** Capturing the brooding splendour of Skye's **Cuillin Hills** (p935)
- 7** Climbing **Ben Nevis** (p917), the highest point in Britain
- 8** Admiring the magnificent forests and lochs of **Highland Perthshire** (p909)
- 9** Discovering 5000-year-old neolithic sites on **Orkney** (p946)



**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](http://lonelyplanet.com/members/belindadixon)



**Peter Dragicevich**

**Oxford, Cotswolds & AROUND; Cardiff, Pembrokeshire & South Wales** 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).



**Anna Kaminski**

**Hay-on-Wye & Mid-Wales; Snowdonia & North Wales** No stranger to Wales, Anna spent this research trip gleefully rediscovering childhood highlights: castles, narrow-gauge railways, the beaches of North Wales and the many hiking paths of Snowdonia and the Brecon Beacons. In spite of (or perhaps because of) nearly bringing a rockslide down on herself on Mt Snowdon and her car breaking down for the first time ever, it has been Anna's most memorable venture into Cymru's remotest parts. Anna has contributed to over a dozen Lonely Planet titles.



**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.



**Andy Symington**

**Glasgow & Southern Scotland; Central & Northern Highlands & Islands** Andy's Scottish forebears make their presence felt in a love of malt, a debatable ginger colour to his facial hair and a love of wild places. From childhood treks up the M1 he graduated to making dubious roadtrips around the firths in a disintegrating Mini Metro and thence to peddling whisky in darkest Leith. While living there, he travelled widely around the country in search of the perfect dram, and, now resident in Spain, continues to visit very regularly.



## 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; Edinburgh; Argyll, Central & Northeast Scotland**

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](http://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:  
[lonelyplanet.com/members/madidu](http://lonelyplanet.com/members/madidu)

OVER MORE  
PAGE WRITERS

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