



Britain

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Best Traditional British Pubs

- Star Inn (p146)
- Bear Inn (p149)
- Old Thatch Tavern (p151)
- Blue Bell (p156)
- Café Royal Circle Bar (p166)

Best Museums

- Victoria & Albert Museum (p121)
- Ashmolean Museum (p147)
- National Railway Museum (p154)
- Kelvingrove Art Gallery & Museum (p167)
- Science Museum (p121)

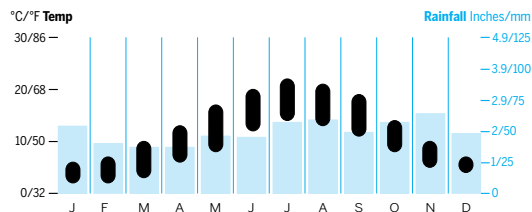
Why Go?

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 one end to the other, but you could spend a lifetime exploring – from the ancient relics of Stonehenge and Avebury, to the great medieval cathedrals of Westminster and Canterbury, and the magnificent country houses of Blenheim Palace and Castle Howard.

In fact, Britain isn't really one country at all, but three. While they haven't always been easy bedfellows, the contrasts between England, Wales and Scotland make this a rewarding place to visit. With a wealth of 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, an umbrella and a raincoat will certainly come in handy.

When to Go

London



Easter–May

Fewer crowds, especially in popular spots like 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.

Britain Highlights

- 1 Explore the streets of one of the world's greatest capital cities, **London** (p.112).
- 2 Visit Roman baths and admire grand Georgian architecture in **Bath** (p.144).
- 3 Enjoy a Shakespeare play in the town of his birth, **Stratford-upon-Avon** (p.150).
- 4 Marvel at the mountainous landscape of Wales' **Snowdonia National Park** (p.161).
- 5 Delve into the history – Roman, Viking and medieval – of **York** (p.154).
- 6 Get lost among the dreaming spires of **Oxford** (p.147).
- 7 Step back in time wandering around the great trilithons

