



Britain

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Best Places to Eat »

- » Smiths of Smithfield (p189)
- » Terre à Terre (p203)
- » Marlborough Tavern (p211)
- » Llys Meddyg (p264)
- » Fishers Bistro (p274)

Best Places to Stay

- » Hoxton (p187)
- » St Anne's House (p207)
- » Ambleside YHA (p260)
- » NosDa Budget Hotel (p263)
- » Trafford Bank (p289)

Why Go?

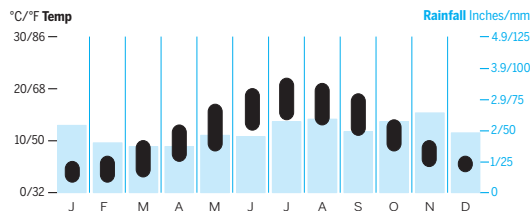
The Tower of London, Edinburgh Castle, Buckingham Palace, Manchester United, The Beatles... Britain does icons like nowhere else on earth, and the astounding variety is a major reason to travel here. City streets tempt with shops and restaurants, and some of the finest museums in the world. Next day, you're deep in the countryside, high in the hills or enjoying a classic seaside resort.

Along with variety, a journey through Britain is a journey through history. You can lay your hands on the ancient megaliths of a 5000-year-old stone circle or walk through Roman ruins, then fast forward to the future and admire 21st-century architecture or explore the space-age domes of Cornwall's Eden Project.

And it's all so easy. In this compact country you're never far from the next welcoming pub, the next scenic national park or the next impressive castle on your hit list of highlights.

When to Go

London



Easter–May
Fewer crowds, especially in popular spots like Bath, York and Edinburgh

June–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

Connections

As an island on the edge of Western Europe, Britain's overland transport options to neighbouring countries were limited to ferries before the opening of the Channel Tunnel in 1994 introduced direct Eurostar rail services from Paris and Brussels. Ferries still sail from southern England across to France in a couple of hours, from eastern England to the Netherlands, Germany or northern Spain, from northern England to Scandinavia, from southwest Scotland to Northern Ireland and from Wales to the Republic of Ireland. For details on Eurostar and ferry routes, see p308 and p309.

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 do a southeast-southwest loop via the grand cathedral cities of Canterbury, Winchester and Salisbury. Marvel at the iconic menhirs of Stonehenge and nearby Avebury, then 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 to Scotland's capital Edinburgh, before recrossing the border down to Durham and 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 the 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.

AT A GLANCE

- » **Currency** pound sterling (£)
- » **Languages** English, Welsh, Scottish Gaelic
- » **Money** Change bureaux and ATMs widely available.
- » **Visas** Schengen rules do not apply; see p308.

Fast Facts

- » **Area** 88,500 sq miles
- » **Population** 58 million
- » **Telephone** country code 44; international access code 00
- » **Emergency** 999

Exchange Rates

Australia	A\$1	UK£0.65
Canada	C\$1	UK£0.63
Euro Zone	€1	UK£0.87
Japan	¥100	UK£0.77
New Zealand	NZ\$1	UK£0.45
USA	US\$1	UK£0.60

Set Your Budget

- » **Hostel dorm bed** £10–25
- » **Midrange B&B** £50–100
- » **Two-course pub dinner** £8–13
- » **Pint of beer** £3
- » **Long-distance coach** £10–30 (200-mile trip)
- » **Long-distance train** £15–50 (200-mile trip)

Resources

- » **Visit Britain** (www.visitbritain.com)
- » **National Traveline** (www.traveline.org.uk)