

England



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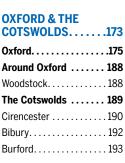
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Essential England

Just over a week is long enough to tick off many of England's highlights. This tour takes in a dozen of the nation's top sights, from London to the Lakes.

Start with a full day in the nation's capital, **London**, simply walking the streets to admire the world-famous sights: Buckingham Palace, Tower Bridge, Trafalgar Sq and more. Then head west for one or both of the grand cathedral cities of **Winchester** and **Salisbury**. Next stop: ancient history – the iconic megaliths of **Stonehenge**.

A short hop northwest leads to the beautiful city of **Bath**, for Roman history and fabulous Georgian architecture. Then cruise across the classic English countryside of the **Cotswolds** to reach that ancient seat of learning, **Oxford**. Not far away is **Stratford-upon-Avon**, for everything Shakespeare.

Next, strike out north for the **Lake District**, one of the country's most scenic areas, then across to **York** for Viking remains and the stunning Minster. End your trip with a visit to **Cambridge**, England's other great university city. Then a final day back in **London**, immersed in galleries, museums, luxury shops, street markets, West End shows or East End cafes – or whatever takes your fancy.





With a month to spare, you can enjoy a trip taking in all the very best that England offers, without the pressure of a crowded schedule. This circuit covers all the bases.

Kick off in **London**, and spend a couple of days seeing the big-ticket attractions, but make time for exploratory saunters as well – along the south bank of the River Thames, or through the markets of the East End. Next, go down to the sea at the buzzy coastal resort of **Brighton**; then west, via **Portsmouth** for the historic dockyard, to reach the picturesque **New Forest**. Head inland to the grand cathedral cities of **Winchester** and **Salisbury**, and on to England's best-known ancient site, **Stonehenge**, and nearby **Avebury Stone Circle** – bigger than Stonehenge but a more intimate experience.

Onwards into deepest Wessex, via Thomas Hardy's hometown, **Dorchester**, to reach the wild expanse of **Dartmoor National Park**. Then it's time for yet another historic city, **Wells**, with its beautiful cathedral, en route to the Georgian masterpiece of **Bath** and the southwest's big little city, **Bristol**. Next comes the classic English countryside of the **Cotswolds**, with a pause at delightful Stow-on-the-Wold, and maybe Broadway or Chipping Campden, before reaching **Oxford**, England's oldest university city. Not far away is Shakespeare Central at **Stratford-upon-Avon** – plan on seeing a play by the Bard himself. Continue journeying north via the heather-clad moors and tranquil limestone dales of the **Peak District** to reach England's second city, **Manchester**, and cultural crossroads **Liverpool**.

Then it's back to the wilds again with a short hop to the scenic wonders of the **Lake District**. From the sturdy border town of **Carlisle**, follow the ancient Roman landmark of **Hadrian's Wall** all the way to revitalised city **Newcastle-upon-Tyne**. Then it's into the home stretch, south via **Durham** and its world-class cathedral, and then **York** for its Viking remains and stunning minster, to reach England's other great seat of learning, **Cambridge**. From here it's a hop back to **London**, to use up the last few days of your grand tour, taking in highlights such as Trafalgar Sq, the National Gallery, Tate Modern and the Tower of London, all polished off with a stroll across Westminster Bridge as the sun sets over the Houses of Parliament.





The Wild Side

This is a tour through the best of England's natural landscape, the inspiration for generations of poets, writers and composers. So put on your hiking boots, or have a camera at the ready, as we take a northeast–southwest meander through some of the country's finest national parks and stretches of open countryside.

Start at the spectacular Roman remains of **Hadrian's Wall**, one of England's finest reminders of the classical era, where you can explore the ancient forts and stride beside the ramparts centurion-style. Then continue into Cumbria for the high peaks of the **Lake District National Park**, once the spiritual home of Wordsworth and the Romantic poets, now a mecca for outdoor enthusiasts, with hikes and strolls for all abilities, plus cosy inns and traditional country hotels.

Travelling east from the Lakes carries you across the Pennines – the chain of hills known as the backbone of England – to reach the green hills and valleys of the **York-shire Dales National Park**. Nearby are the moors around **Haworth** – inspiration for Emily Brontë's *Wuthering Heights*.

Travel south through the hills and dales of the **Peak District National Park** – stopping off to explore the great park around Chatsworth if time allows – then through central England, via Elgar's beloved **Malvern Hills**, to reach the classic English countryside of the **Cotswolds**. Then continue southwards again to enjoy the epic emptiness of **Salisbury Plain**, home to **Stonehenge** and other archaeological intrigues. Nearby is **Avebury**, England's other great stone circle. A few miles more and you're on Dorset's spectacular fossil-ridden **Jurassic Coast**.

Then head into England's toe, the West Country Peninsula, jutting deep into the Atlantic. Take in the lush farmland of Devon and the heathery hills and sandy coves of **Exmoor National Park**, then it's on to the eerie granite tors of **Dartmoor National Park**, which offers some of the country's most bleakly beautiful views. Next stop: **Cornwall**, for pretty ports, gorse-clad cliffs and sparkling bays. Then finish this bucolic excursion at **Land's End**, where the English mainland finally plunges headlong into the restless ocean.



Eks Heart of England

This journey through the country's heartland takes in the best of 'Olde England'. concentrating on castles, cathedrals and picturesque medieval towns and villages.

Start in **London**, with its biggest landmarks: Westminster Abbev, the Tower of London, St Paul's Cathedral and Buckingham Palace. Out of the centre, the gorgeous gardens at Kew, Eton College and Windsor Castle are also must-see sights.

Beyond the capital lies old England proper, especially around the market towns of Kent, where Canterbury Cathe**dral** and **Leeds Castle** are top sights.

Head to Winchester, the ancient capital, which boasts another fine cathedral. Jostling for prominence is nearby Salis**bury**, with its famous cathedral spire dominating the landscape for miles around.

Out west, **Bath** is crammed with Georgian architecture, while the Cotswolds conceal a host of pretty towns, such as Cirencester, as well as Blenheim Palace. On to picturesque Oxford and Stratfordupon-Avon, the home of Shakespeare, leaving just enough time to top up on English history at stunning Warwick Castle.



8 Urban Experiences

Outside of London, England's provincial cities provide a vibrant counterpoint to the country's tranquil coast and countryside.

Start in **Bristol**, a thriving regional capital famed for its engineering heritage and lively cultural scene. Then head to Birmingham once forlorn but now a byword for successful urban renewal.

Continue north to reach Manchester, famous for its music and football team, where architectural highlights include the stunning Imperial War Museum North. Nearby **Liverpool** is reinventing itself as a cultural capital, with the redevelopment most apparent at the historic waterfront, Albert Dock.

Cross the Pennines to reach **Leeds**, the 'Knightsbridge of the North', where rundown factories and abandoned warehouses are now apartments and ritzy boutiques. But don't forget the past: go underground at the **National Coal Mining Museum**.

Further north is **Newcastle-upon-**Tyne and neighbouring Gateshead where heavy industries have given way to art and architecture. Conclude your urban tour with a visit to England's best-known public art, the iconic Angel of the North.





Edge of England

If you like the outdoors try this backwater route along England's eastern fringe.

Start in **Colchester**, with its magnificent castle, then visit sleepy **Suffolk**, where quaint villages and market towns such as Sudbury and Lavenham dot the landscape. Along the coast you'll discover wildlife reserves, shingle 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 **Norfolk Broads**. For beach strolls or historic country pubs head for the villages near **Wells-next-the-Sea**.

North of Norfolk lies the eerie, flat landscape of the **Fens**, now a haven for otters and bird life. Then it's north again into Yorkshire to 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.

Round things off with a stroll between the castles of Bamburgh and Dunstanburgh on the wild **Northumberland Coast**, finishing your tour at the historic island priory of **Lindisfarne**.



The southwest of England takes a bit of effort to reach but repays in full with a rich green landscape dotted with hills and moors, surrounded by glittering seas.

Start in the historic university city of **Bristol**, factoring in the M-Shed Museum, a walk around the harbour and a visit to SS *Great Britain*. Detour to beautiful **Bath**, and wander around the Royal Crescent and Roman Baths. Saunter down through Somerset to **Glastonbury** – famous for its annual music festival, ruined abbey and many mystical legends. South leads to Dorset, where highlights include picturesque **Shaftesbury**.

Head west to heathery **Exmoor National Park**, then it's onwards into Devon, where there's a choice of coasts, as well as **Dartmoor National Park**, with the highest and wildest hills in southern England.

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. Continue west to visit the galleries of **St Ives**, before concluding your trip at **Land's End**.

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- Beach
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- Buddhist
- Castle/Palace
- Christian
- Confucian Hindu
- Islamic
- Ŏ Jain
- lewish
- Monument
- Museum/Gallery/Historic Building
- Shinto Sikh
- Taoist
- Winery/Vineyard Zoo/Wildlife Sanctuary
- Other Sight

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- Bodysurfing
- Diving
- Canoeing/Kavaking
- Course/Tour
- Sento Hot Baths/Onsen Skiing
- Snorkelling
- Surfing
- Swimming/Pool
- Walking
- Windsurfing
- Other Activity

Sleeping

- Sleeping
- Camping ← Hut/Shelter

Eating

Eating

Drinking & Nightlife

- Drinking & Nightlife
- Cafe

Entertainment

Entertainment

Shopping

Shopping

Information

- Bank
- Embassy/Consulate ♣ Hospital/Medical
- @ Internet
- Police
- Post Office
- Telephone
- (I) Toilet
- Tourist Information
- Other Information

Geographic

- Beach
- Gate Hut/Shelter
- Lighthouse
- Lookout
- ▲ Mountain/Volcano
- Oasis
- Park
-) (Pass
- Picnic Area
- Waterfall

Population

- Capital (National)
- Capital (State/Province)
- Citv/Large Town
- Town/Village

Transport

- Airport
- Border crossing
- Bus
- ++⊕++ Cable car/Funicular
- - Cycling
- Perry
- Metro station
- - Parking
 - Petrol station S-Bahn/Subway station
 - Taxi
 - T-bane/Tunnelbana station
- → Train station/Railway
- -**⊕** Tram
- Tube station
- U-Bahn/Underground station
- Other Transport

Routes

Tollway Freeway

Secondary Tertiary

Lane

Primary

Unsealed road Road under construction

Plaza/Mall Steps

Tunnel Pedestrian overpass

Walking Tour Walking Tour detour

Path/Walking Trail

Boundaries

--- International State/Province

Disputed Regional/Suburb

Marine Park Cliff - Wall

Hydrography

River, Creek Intermittent River Canal

Dry/Salt/Intermittent Lake

Cemetery (Christian)

Reef

Areas

Airport/Runway Beach/Desert

Cemetery (Other)

Glacier

Mudflat

Park/Forest

Sight (Building)

Sportsground Swamp/Mangrove

Note: Not all symbols displayed above appear on the maps in this book



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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, Dublin, 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'.

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CRN 554153

Published by Lonely Planet Global Limited

10th edition - Apr 2019 ISBN 978 178657 804 4 © Lonely Planet 2019 Photographs © as indicated 2019 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 Although the authors and Lonely Planet have taken all reasonable care in preparing this book, we make no warranty about the accuracy or completeness of its content and, to the maximum extent permitted, disclaim all liability arising from its use.

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