



England



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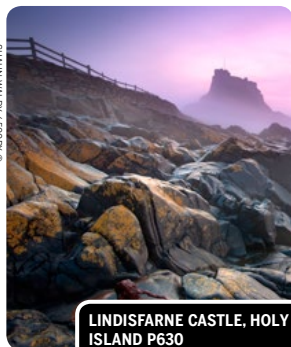
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Itineraries



8
DAYS

England Express

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 Square 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.

4
WEEKS

The Full Monty

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 the 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 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 seat of learning. Not far away is Shakespeare Central at **Stratford-upon-Avon** – take in a play by the Bard himself. Continue north via the heather-clad moors and 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 **Cambridge**, England's other great university city. 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 Square, the National Gallery, Tate Modern and the Tower of London, all polished off with a stroll across Westminster Bridge as Big Ben chimes the hour.



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 **Yorkshire 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 Westcountry Peninsula, jutting deep into the Atlantic. Take in the farmland of Devon and the heathery hills and sandy coves of **Exmoor National Park**, then it's on to the granite tors of **Dartmoor National Park**, which offer 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.

2
WEEKS

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 Abbey, 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 Cathedral** and **Leeds Castle** are top sights.

Then head into Hampshire, where **Winchester**, the ancient capital, boasts another fine cathedral. Jostling for prominence is nearby **Salisbury**, whose famous cathedral spire dominates the landscape.

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

8
DAYS

Urban Adventure

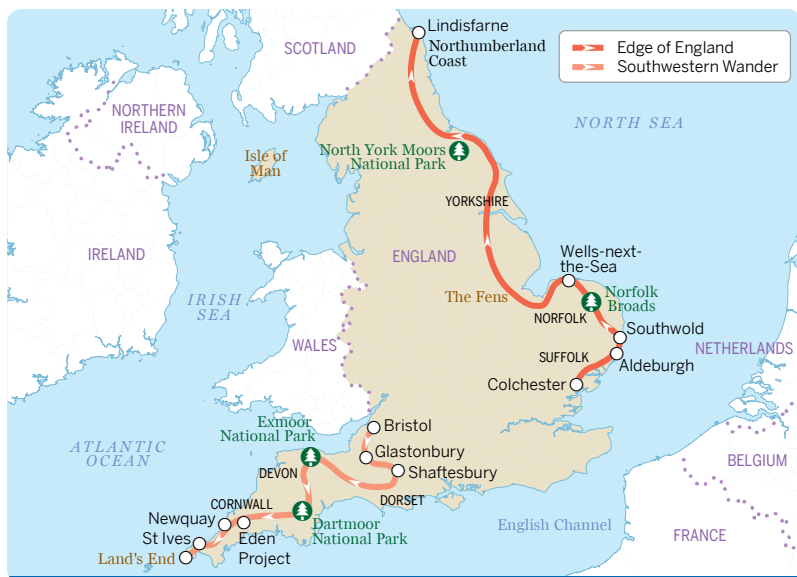
Outside of London, England's provincial cities provide a vibrant counterpoint to the country's tranquil coast and countryside.

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

Continue north to **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 Albert Dock.

Cross the Pennines to reach **Leeds**, the 'Knightsbridge of the North', where run-down 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**.



2 WEEKS

Edge of England

If you like the outdoors, and prefer flocks of birds to crowds of people, try this back-water 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 rivers of the **Norfolk Broads**. For beach strolls or country pubs head for the coastal villages near **Wells-next-the-Sea**.

North of Norfolk lies the eerie 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 hills roll all the way to the coast to drop dramatically into 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**.

2 WEEKS

Southwestern Wander

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 **Bristol**, the capital of the West Country, then saunter down through Somerset to **Glastonbury**, famous for its annual music festival. South leads to Dorset, where highlights include picturesque **Shaftesbury**.

West leads to heathery **Exmoor National Park**, then it's onwards into Devon, where there's a choice of coasts, as well as **Dartmoor National Park**, 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. You can hang ten in surf-flavoured party town **Newquay**, or browse the galleries at **St Ives**.

Land's End is the natural finish to this wild west meander, where the English mainland comes to a full stop. Sink a drink in the First & Last Inn at nearby Sennen, and promise to return some day...

Map Legend

Sights

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

Activities, Courses & Tours

- Body surfing
- Diving
- Canoeing/Kayaking
- Course/Tour
- Sento Hot Baths/Onsen
- Skiing
- Snorkelling
- Surfing
- Swimming/Pool
- Walking
- Windsurfing
- Other Activity

Sleeping

- Sleeping
- Camping

Eating

- Eating

Drinking & Nightlife

- Drinking & Nightlife
- Cafe

Entertainment

- Entertainment

Shopping

- Shopping

Information

- Bank
- Embassy/Consulate
- Hospital/Medical
- Internet
- Police
- Post Office
- Telephone
- 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)
- City/Large Town
- Town/Village

Transport

- Airport
- Border crossing
- Bus
- Cable car/Funicular
- Cycling
- Ferry
- Metro station
- Monorail
- 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
- Primary
- Secondary
- Tertiary
- Lane
- 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
- Water
- Dry/Salt/Intermittent Lake
- Reef

Areas

- Airport/Runway
- Beach/Desert
- Cemetery (Christian)
- Cemetery (Other)
- Glacier
- Mudflat
- Park/Forest
- Sight (Building)
- Sportsground
- Swamp/Mangrove

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



Damian Harper

London Damian has been working largely full time as a travel writer (and translator) since 1997 and has also written for *National Geographic Traveler*, the *Guardian*, the *Daily Telegraph*, Abbeville Press (*Celestial Realm: The Yellow Mountains of China*), Lexean, Frequent Traveller, China Ethos and various other magazines and newspapers.



Catherine Le Nevez

Birmingham, the Midlands & the Marches; Newcastle & Northeast England Catherine's wanderlust kicked in when she roadtripped across Europe from her Parisian base aged four, and she's been hitting the road at every opportunity since, travelling to around 60 countries and completing her Doctorate of Creative Arts in Writing, Masters in Professional Writing, and postgrad qualifications in Editing and Publishing along the way. Over the past dozen-plus years she's written

scores of Lonely Planet guides and articles covering Paris, France, Europe and far beyond. Her work has also appeared in numerous online and print publications. Topping Catherine's list of travel tips is to travel without any expectations.



Isabella Noble

Oxford, Cotswolds & Around Isabella's travels have taken her across India, South-east Asia, Australia, North America and Europe. She has lived in southern Spain and Melbourne, though she's now (loosely) based in London. Her work has also been published by lonelyplanet.com, the Hotelegraph, Hg2 | A Hedonist's Guide To, Virgin Atlantic, Emirates' Open Skies and Red Carnation hotels, among others.



Neil Wilson

Yorkshire Neil was born in Scotland and has lived there most of his life. Based in Perthshire, he has been a full-time writer since 1988, working on more than 80 guidebooks for various publishers, including the Lonely Planet guides to Scotland, England, Ireland and Prague. An outdoors enthusiast since childhood, Neil is an active hill-walker, mountain-biker, sailor, snowboarder, fly-fisher and rock-climber, and has climbed and tramped in four continents, including ascents

of Jebel Toubkal in Morocco, Mount Kinabalu in Borneo, the Old Man of Hoy in Scotland's Orkney Islands and the Northwest Face of Half Dome in California's Yosemite Valley. Neil also wrote the planning chapters of this book.



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'.

OUR WRITERS



Belinda Dixon

Cambridge & East Anglia, Bath & Southwest England Only happy when her feet are suitably sandy, Belinda has been (gleefully) travelling, researching and writing for Lonely Planet since 2006. Belinda also wrote the *Understand* and *Survival Guide* chapters. See her VideoBlog posts at <https://belindadixon.com>



Oliver Berry

Bath & Southwest England, the Lake District & Cumbria Oliver is a writer and photographer based in Cornwall. His first trip abroad was to the south of France, aged two. Since then he's travelled to Corsica, New Zealand, the South Pacific and the midwestern USA. Oliver first started writing for Lonely Planet in 2002, and has written for many titles including *France*, *Great Britain, England*, *Western Europe*, *Rarotonga & the Cook Islands* and *South Pacific & Micronesia*.



Fionn Davenport

Manchester, Liverpool & Northwest England Irish by birth and conviction, Fionn has been writing about his native country for more than two decades. He's come and gone over the years, pushed to travel in order to escape Dublin's comfortable stasis and by the promise of adventure, but it has cemented his belief that Ireland remains his favourite place to visit, if not always live in. These days, he has a weekly commute home to Dublin from Manchester, where he lives with his

partner Laura and their car Trevor. In Dublin he presents *Inside Culture* on RTE Radio 1 and writes travel features for a host of publications, including the *Irish Times*.



Marc Di Duca

Canterbury & Southeast England A travel author for the past decade, Marc has worked for Lonely Planet in Siberia, Slovakia, Bavaria, England, Ukraine, Austria, Poland, Croatia, Portugal, Madeira and on the Trans-Siberian Railway.

OVER MORE
PAGE WRITERS

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