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TRAVEL WEEKLY

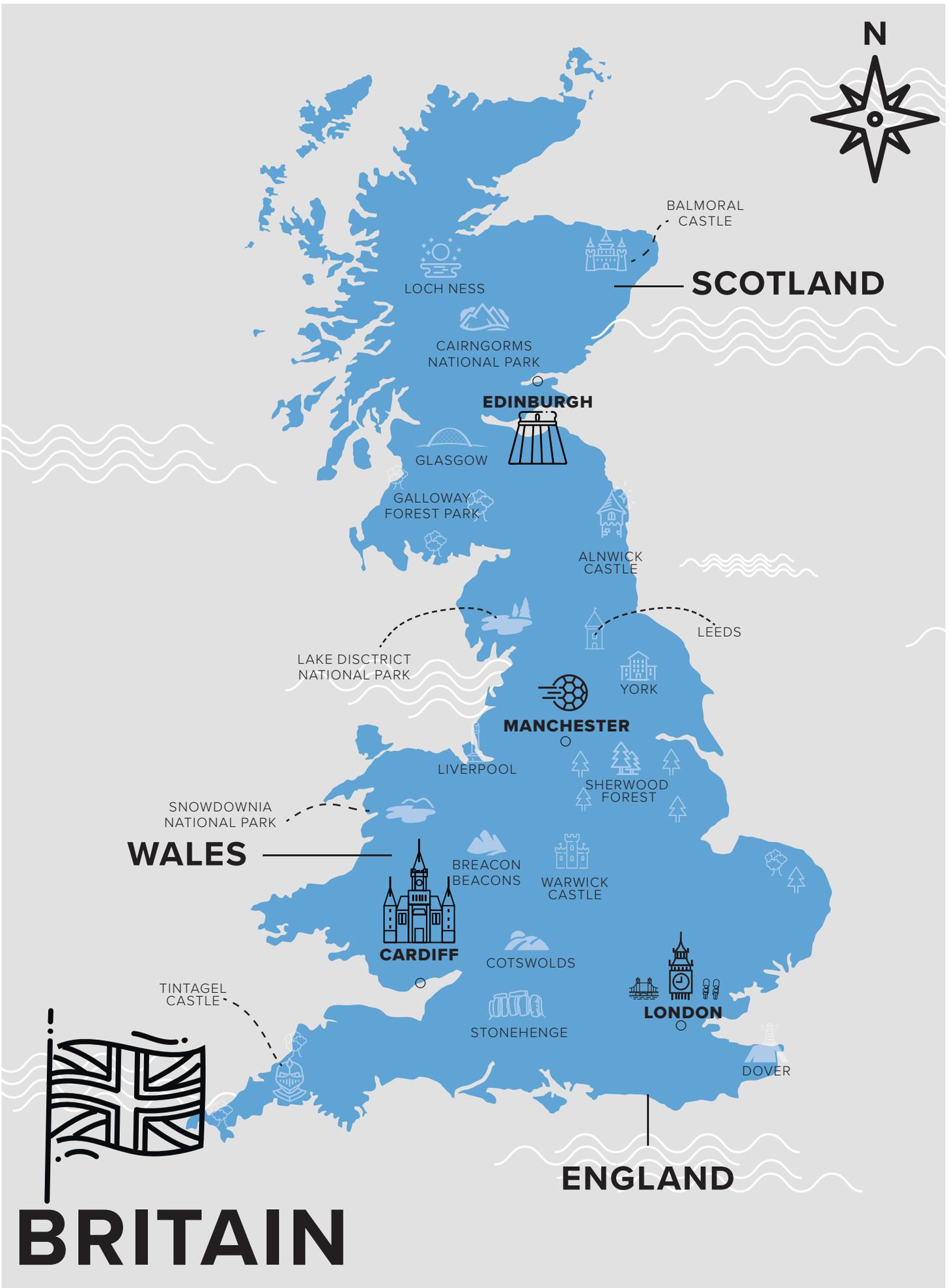
FIND YOUR

GREAT

BRITAIN



YOUR ULTIMATE DESTINATION GUIDE TO
ENGLAND, SCOTLAND & WALES



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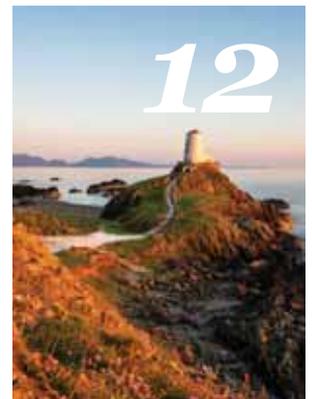
ON THE COVER:
 Blenheim Palace, Oxfordshire



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Contents



- 04 UNEXPECTED BRITAIN
- 06 FIRST-TIMER'S GUIDE TO LONDON
- 08 FIRST-TIMER'S GUIDE TO MANCHESTER
- 10 FIRST-TIMER'S GUIDE TO SCOTLAND
- 12 FIRST-TIMER'S GUIDE TO WALES
- 14 SELF-DRIVE BRITAIN
- 16 SELF-DRIVE SCOTLAND
- 17 SELF-DRIVE WALES
- 20 EVENTS CALENDAR
- 22 FUN FACTS

Welcome to *Find Your Great Britain*, the ultimate guide to selling the UK. In the following pages you will find information on some of the most popular, culturally significant and naturally wonderful sites across the continent, at key must-visit locations in each country.

After reading this guide, you will develop a good understanding of the unique culture and culinary identities of each nation, their traditions and must-do experiences. You will also gain a valuable insight into some of the touring routes in the UK, covering England, Scotland and Wales. By the end of this guide, you will be able to help your clients find their GREAT Britain.

So kick back, put the kettle on, pour yourself a cup of England Breakfast, and turn over a new leaf.

Discover who puts the 'Great' in Great Britain.

UNEXPECTED BRITAIN

WHILE YOUR CLIENTS MAY ALREADY HAVE AN IDEA OF WHAT TO EXPECT IN THE UK, HERE'S THE INSIDE TIP ON SOME HIDDEN GEMS

WORDS: Tara Harrison



Art

EXPECTED:

The National Gallery on Trafalgar Square is a hub for English art culture, backed by the National Portrait Gallery, as well as the powerhouses of the Tate Modern, Tate Britain and the Victoria and Albert Museum.

UNEXPECTED:

The art is just as accessible outside of the walls of these institutions. England forged the career of the world's greatest street artist, Banksy. This paved the way for the recognition of street art as a phenomenon in its own right. Often referred as the most democratic art form in the world, street art took root in Bristol – a city where clients can take self-guided tours of Banksy's best, including his twist on Vermeer's *Girl with a Pear Earring*: the *Girl with the Pierced Ear Drum*.



Gardens

EXPECTED:

England's gardens are a national treasure, and among the most impressive in Europe. Whether it's a walled, secret garden-style affair, or the royal designs of Kensington Palace, the gardens in England stand as architecture in their own right.

UNEXPECTED

Futuristic and eccentric gardens abound in Britain. How about sculptures amid rolling green hills? It awaits at Yorkshire Sculpture Park, where world-class art is a surprising discovery in the country. There's also Alnwick Garden, in the northeast of Britain, and Jupiter Artland in Scotland to explore. The black gates are marked with a skull and crossbones and a warning: "these plants can kill". It is home to a poison garden and the castle it adjoins was used for production on *Harry Potter* and *Downton Abbey*.



Royals

EXPECTED:

The royals are as intriguing as ever, coming off the back of cultural zeitgeists like *The Crown*, *The Queen* and *The Favourite*, to name but a few. The world's fascination has been fuelled as well by recent marriages and children. While everyone knows Buckingham Palace, Sandringham is a royal Christmas retreat.

UNEXPECTED:

The royals have their favourite and long-standing connections for the finest things, mostly based in London. For jewellery, it's Cleave & Company, which fashioned Megan Markle's diamond engagement ring. Then there's Lock & Co. Hatters – the oldest jeweller in the world. The Goring Hotel is the Queen's choice for entertaining beyond Buckingham's gates.



Pubs

EXPECTED:

After a ramble, the English country pub is a welcoming hub of fresh ale and hearty comfort food. Country pubs come with a beer garden of long tables and umbrellas (come sun, come rain), while the pub itself is preferably thatch-roofed and always historic, dating many centuries back. The Old Ferry Boat in Cambridgeshire is officially the oldest country inn from the 1400s.

UNEXPECTED:

The country comes to the city in London, where pubs channel the rural aesthetic in the city with all manner of plants and ivy growing on pub walls. The ultimate example of this is The Churchill Arms in Kensington, with more than 100 florals on the exterior. No one does a drinking establishment like the British, with cosy nooks, fireplaces, wonky walls, and mismatched tables and chairs. The charm is iconic.



Nature

EXPECTED:

The green and pleasant hills of Britain are renowned, with the chocolate-box vistas of cottages and ivy reaching into thatch roofs. The place for this sort of scenery is the Cotswolds, within easy reach of London. The next most famous vista of England is the Lake District, with its glassy lakes and moody, cloud-capped moors.

UNEXPECTED:

Do not let your clients overlook the more dramatic aspects of the British landscape. The Scottish highlands offer staggering peaks, while the Brecon Beacons in Wales is home to the Black Mountain Range, which will delight the adventurous client. Hiking through Glencoe, regarded as the best of Scotland's mountain valleys, is also an unexpected adventure in Britain.



SHOPPING

Bicester Village (Oxfordshire):

Whoever said retail shopping was dead has clearly never been to Bicester Village. One of the biggest attractions in the United Kingdom, the Village based out of Oxfordshire, just an hour from London, hosts more than six million visitors per year. This puts the high-brow retail strip among the most visited attractions in Britain, just behind the country's most visited attraction – the British Museum.

All the big hitters are here, with Gucci, Dior, Prada, D&G and McQueen, on offer for the folks, and Bonpoint and Jack Wills for the kids.

Victoria Street and Grass Market (Edinburgh):

Victoria Street is among Edinburgh's prettiest and most historic preserved buildings from its Victorian past. Before Queen Victoria's coronation in 1838, it was known as Bow Street, and was built to replace one of the city's main thoroughfares – the West Bow. The street is also rumoured to be the inspiration for *Harry Potter's* Diagon Alley.

The area surrounding Victoria Street and the Grass Market is home to a selection of local and British designers, including Godiva Boutique, and Calzeat – a family business that sells local Scottish-woven throws and high quality jacquard textiles.

Royal Arcade (Cardiff):

The Royal is Cardiff's oldest arcade, dating back to the 1800s, and is listed as a Grade II Historic Listed building. The area has only recently been transformed into a shopping complex, offering independent Welsh products, as well as international high-end brands.

FIRST-TIMER'S GUIDE TO **LONDON**



HOME TO SOME OF EUROPE'S TOP MARKETS AND RESTAURANTS, AND SOME OF THE MOST HISTORIC INSTITUTIONS, LONDON HAS PLENTY TO OFFER VISITORS

WORDS: Tara Harrison

CULTURE

The bastion of world culture is arguably London, which is home to institutions such as the Natural History Museum, the Tower of London, the Science Museum, Buckingham Palace, the London Eye, and The Shard.

There are two places just outside the city centre that also deserve to be frequented. Greenwich, for its maritime history and sweeping vistas that feel like a country escape. It also boasts one of the best views back over the Thames and the city of London. Combine this with Hampstead Heath, to the city's north, which is also rich with the culture of local Londoners.

With more than 230 theatres in London, there's no excuse to be bored for evening entertainment. You can go from seeing a new-release musical on the West End to seeing a several-hour performance of Shakespeare at the open-air Globe Theatre.



Brick Lane, London



Tower Bridge and the City of London

MUST-DOS



The drink that starts the world.

London has some of the best markets in Europe, each with its own distinct personality, just as unique as every Londoner you meet. Each market also takes you into a different precinct – west to east, to north and south. The foodie will be at home in Borough Markets. Here, the smell of melting cheese raclette is the first sign that you are near the market. Stalls selling hole-in-the-wall artisanal coffee, butchers, fishmongers and grocers all selling their on-the-day produce. For travellers who want a sample without commitment, the take away meals are multicultural and delectable.

For the cool kids, there's Brick Lane Market, which combines vintage clothes stores with DJs spinning decks, and Red Stripe tinnies being drunk from locals sat on crates eating street food from food trucks. For the girly girl, Colombia Road Flower Market is where it's at. The markets are on every Sunday, and they appear like a mirage within the street sprawl of East London. Camden Market has something for everyone. The overall aesthetic is an embrace of every style and personality, whether it's neon disco raver (there is a shop with glow-stick dancers on the stage for all opening hours) to the European antiques section near the old Stables. Portobello Road is of course famed by the film *Notting Hill*, but retains its community feel, with boutiques, antiques and vintage littering one of London's most famous roads.

DINING

London has some of the finest dining in the world. You're truly spoilt for choice. Sketch is perennially popular for its creative interiors and art installations. The all-millennial pink dining room hosts transitioning art displays and makes for the ideal Insta backdrop.

There's also the Michelin-starred homes of experimental and famous chefs, such as Dinner by Heston Blumenthal, one of the best in the world. You can dine in a prison, you can dine blindfolded in the dark, you can eat Ethiopian, you can eat Michelin-starred dim sum at a converted church at the London outpost of Hong Kong's legendary Duddell's.

Afternoon tea deserves an entire section to itself, such is the importance of the ritual in the UK, and London's institutions offer the quintessential English experience. There will always be some conjecture over whether the cream is top or bottom of the jam on the scone, but that's one way to differentiate those who hail from Devonshire and those who hail from Cornwall.

If your client has a luxury appetite on a mid-range budget, high tea is a great way to sample the high-end hotels. The Ritz, The Savoy, Claridges and The Lanesborough all offer the experience.



Dining at Sky Garden, London's highest public garden

FIRST-TIMER'S GUIDE TO MANCHESTER



FAMOUS FOR NOT ONE, BUT TWO OF THE WORLD'S TOP FOOTBALL TEAMS, AND SOME OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL CANALS, MANCHESTER IS ONE OF ENGLAND'S MUST-VISIT CITIES

WORDS: Tara Harrison

CULTURE

Manchester takes the mantle for northern culture. It is a city that has bred iconic music, football and even the BBC is headquartered there.

English football is among the most competitive in the world, and at the professional level, its rivalries are among the fiercest. Some of these are among the oldest in the world as well. Manchester's two teams, City and United, have battled for almost 150 years, with a combined 88 league and cup honours between them. Old Trafford, the home of Manchester United, is a must see whether you're a football fan or not. Just under seven kilometres north-east of Old Trafford is Etihad Stadium – Manchester City's home ground and another of the city's cultural hubs. The lineage of the clubs are rich in history and storytelling that reflects the fabric of Mancunian society. It's hard not to be swept away by the passion for the clubs here, and it's even better if you manage to secure a ticket to a match. Make sure you lock this in as soon as your client books, for tickets can be tricky to come by.

For a self-guided tour, the Official Manchester Walking Tours app will guide you through the city with either an architectural highlight angle or a cultural tour, and you will be hosted by DJ and music journalist Mary Anne Hobbs. Music is big in Manchester, and the place to see live music and to also support up-and-coming talent is Band on the Wall. Manchester is renowned for its punk scene, such as The Fall and Joy Division. Simply Red started here, as did Bjork and Oasis.



Matt & Phreds Jazz Club

MUST-DOS

The industrial legacy of this city comes to life with the warehouses, mills and bridges all found in the conservation area of Castlefield. This is also where you can meander along the lean lines of the canals.

Those in the know recommend the libraries of Manchester as a place to lean into history as well as literature. While some would bestow Oxford or Cambridge with the honour, the fact is that Manchester boasts the world's oldest English-speaking library called Chetham Library. Its age is very evident in the historic setting, and we challenge you to find a more inspiring place to read. The design of the Manchester Central Library has been correlated to the dome of the Pantheon in Rome – encourage your client to be the judge. The John Rylands Library in all its neo-Gothic glory has medieval manuscripts, as well as a two-storey reading room that feels more like a cathedral.

The Whitworth Gallery is an award-winning art establishment that interestingly houses a textile collection numbering 20,000, some from 300 AD, for the garment or fashion-loving clients. For the traditionalists, there are the ethereal works of both William Blake and Rossetti.

Getting there: Manchester is in north-west England, two hours and 15 minutes north of London by train. Britain's third-busiest airport, Manchester Airport, is served by a range of international airlines.



Old Trafford Stadium is home to the Red Devils Manchester United.

Mural of Blue Tit on Manchester Wall



DINING



It's all about being a local when in Manchester. The Northern Quarter has recently been overhauled and is an imbibing hub. The place for brunch is Fress, which doubles up as a great cocktail parlour come the evening. Albert Schloss is the go-to for cronuts, and marries pastries with burlesque shows on a Tuesday night. Great street food and food trucks are at Altrincham Market.

Characterful and high-end hotels are a great place to explore for dinner or a drink, or spending the night, King Street Townhouse is a boutique hotel in a former bank. Hotel Gotham is an art-deco gem also housed in a former bank, with a bar and members club.

After a huge boom in indie-restaurants sent Manchester's culinary scene through a cultural renaissance, the city has since played host to some of Britain's best and brightest. Hidden railway arches are now home to booming street food markets, while forgotten Victorian warehouses – stripped of their historicism – are now home to world-renowned restaurants

Manchester still holds onto its history as a definitely British destination – you'll find sites serving black pudding – but there's also a keen representation of Britain's place as a hub for Indo-European migration, with rice 'n' three – a dish consisting of a serve of rice topped by your choice of three curries – a feature on several successful restaurants' menus.



MANCUNIAN MUST EATS

Eccles Cake – Manchester has its own cake, originating from the suburb of Eccles. It's a little like a hot cross bun meets Christmas Cake meets bread and butter pudding.

Manchester Tart – It's a concoction of raspberry jam, custard and coconut flakes in shortcrust pastry, and can be found in many bakeries.

Lancashire Hot Pot – A one-pot stew of lamb and onion topped with sliced potatoes that came from the demands of the Industrial Revolution.

Vimto – A drink of raspberries, grapes and blackcurrants mixed with a blend of herbs and spices became a cordial in 1913.



Time to go nuts for cronuts

FIRST-TIMER'S GUIDE TO SCOTLAND



DESPITE IT BEING KNOWN MOSTLY FOR KILTS AND BAGPIPES AND HAGGIS, THERE IS A LOT MORE TO SCOTLAND THAN MEETS THE EYE

WORDS: Tara Harrison

CULTURE

Scotland would have to be one of the most concentrated cultural destinations, offering such a density of personality and history. First-timers must start in Edinburgh—a UNESCO city of Literature, where culture is seeded at the world-class Edinburgh Festival Fringe. It is the largest art festival in the world and shares August with the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

With more than 10 significant festivals that run throughout the year, Edinburgh is one of Scotland's richest destinations for art culture. Travellers should also visit Glasgow—a UNESCO city of Music—for its incredible list of music events, the renowned Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum, as well as celebrated architect and designer Charles Rennie Mackintosh.

Theatre productions run year round at the Edinburgh Playhouse, Britain's largest working theatre for 3000 attendees. While Glasgow holds the mantle of music capital, Edinburgh is known for its rich literary lineage. J.K. Rowling wrote the early *Harry Potter* novels at an Edinburgh tea and coffee emporium called Elephant House, where Ian Rankin and Alexander McCall also sipped on its china cups while tapping away at their respective stories. The Scottish National Gallery is free to enter and houses some significant masterpieces, from Raphael and Cezanne to Thomas Gainsborough.

MUST-DOS

If your client doesn't have the good fortune of Scottish friends or family to introduce them, arrange a 'ceilidh' (pronounced kay-lee) experience. The word means 'party' and it involves Scottish dancing – an art unto itself and quite the jig. Partaking in one of these knees up – literally, too, as there's plenty of lifted legs – is an immersive introduction to the fun and lively spirit of the Scots. Taken with many a dram of whisky, this will be a night to remember. On a Tuesday, the Edinburgh Ceilidh Club hosts a night for all to attend.

Edinburgh Castle is the behemoth that dominates the city, and what the city was constructed around. The castle is situated on an extinct volcano – hard to imagine that volcanoes were in this region, but when you look to the dramatic scenery of the highlands, you can envisage how they came to be. You can also hike from the centre of town to the top of one at Arthur's Seat. The Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art is an excellent introduction to Scotland today, boasting the works of controversial artist Tracey Emin and David Hockney.



Street Performer at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe

View from the top of Calton Hill



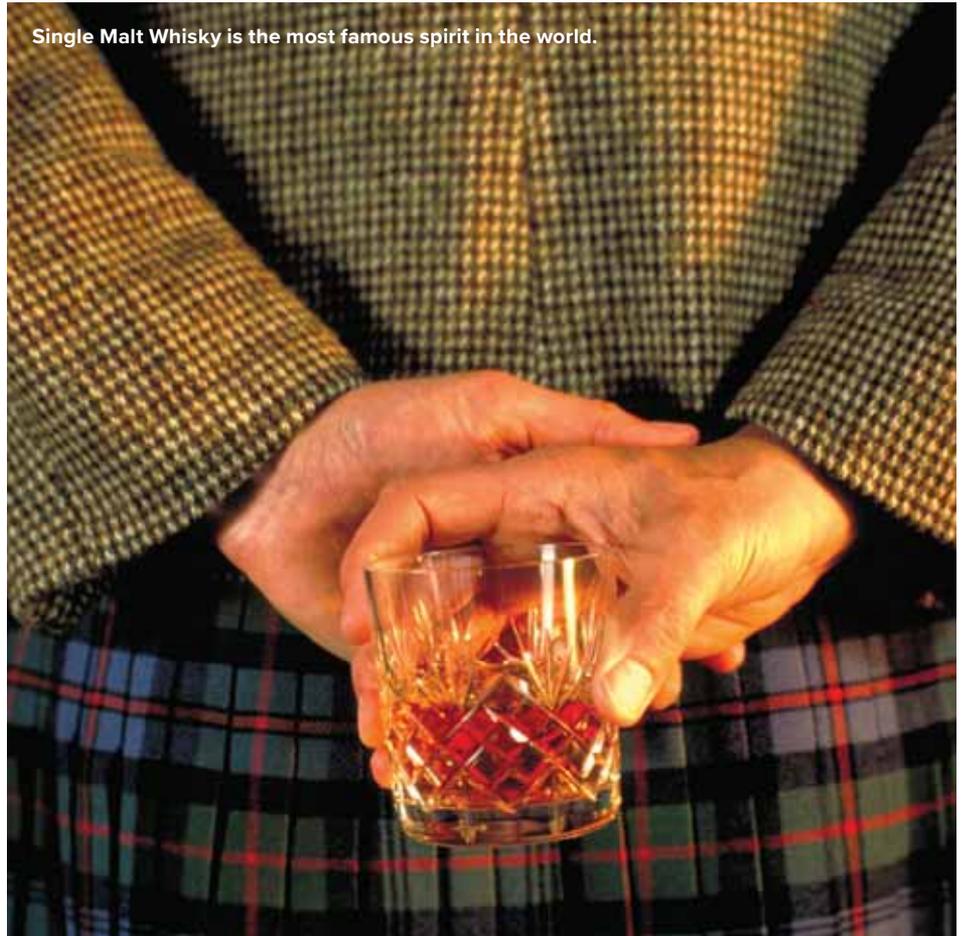
DINING

With its rolling, rural hillsides, clear coastal waters and lush, fertile land, Scotland produces the best food and drink in Britain, and some of the best quality produce in the world.

From the water of life – Scotch whisky – to its world renowned seafood and cattle, Scotland is synonymous with an extraordinary standard of taste and quality. Hand-dived scallops and Aberdeen Angus beef are among the country’s most prized foods, while an evolving culinary scene showcases rural quality and acquired skill: Scotland is home to several Michelin-starred restaurants. Visitors to Edinburgh prepare in advance by booking early at Number One or Restaurant Martin Wishart—both Michelin-starred restaurants.

With more than 500 years of whisky-making history, Scotland is the spiritual home of whisky, and remains the only legal benefactor of its own brand of whisky: Scotch. There are over 100 active distilleries across Scotland, spread between the whisky-producing regions of Campbeltown, Highland, Islay, Lowland and Speyside, with a number of them each providing their own selection of experiences—offering travellers a taste of Scotland.

Single Malt Whisky is the most famous spirit in the world.



Edinburgh Tattoo is steeped in Scottish history.

FIRST-TIMER'S GUIDE TO WALES

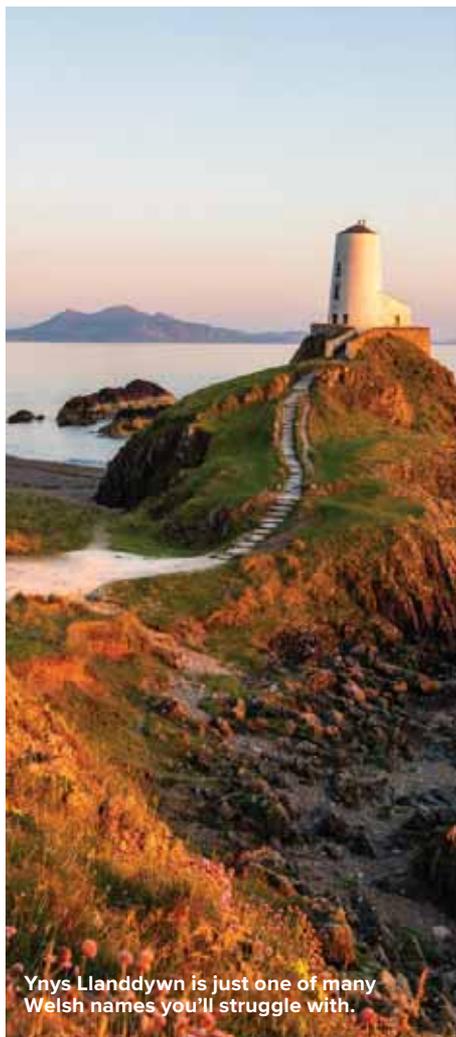


WALES IS A PARADISE FOR CASTLE-LOVING AND THRILL-SEEKING TOURISTS ALIKE. YOU'LL BE SINGING ITS PRAISES IN NO TIME

WORDS: Tara Harrison

CULTURE

Wales is a small country with a very distinct identity. If you want to appreciate the cultural differences and have a good chuckle while you're at it, the BBC's much-loved series *Gavin and Stacey* captures it well. It is a quirky and bilingual country, with the Welsh speaking their native tongue as well as English. The Welsh language boasts some of the best tongue-twisting words in the world. Just try saying *Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwllllantysiliogogoch*, which translates to the very descriptive 'St Mary's Church in the hollow of the white hazel near to the fierce whirlpool of St Tysilio of the red cave'.



Ynys Llanddywn is just one of many Welsh names you'll struggle with.

MUST-DOS

The capital of Wales is Cardiff, a two-hour train trip from London. The first thing to do in Cardiff is go for a walk around the university town. It's manageable and is the best way to get your bearings, with Cardiff Castle and the River Taff creating identifiable boundaries around the city centre. Walking also allows you to see the pedestrian only arcades and alleys filled with boutique shops, restaurants and bars. Cardiff Market, Jacobs Market and the old library all captures local history.

To see even more of the city, take to two wheels. Cardiff Pedal Power hires bicycles, and it's the best way to explore the 55-hectare greenery of Bute Park as well as the coast of Cardiff Bay, where coal export docks made the city so wealthy and created Cardiff Castle, thanks to the wealth of the industry and the Marquess of Bute. You can continue on from Bute Park to another beautiful castle, Castell Coch.

Walk hand-in-hand with Welsh history by taking a trip through Snowdonia National Park. Found in the northwest of Wales, the park hugs some of the nation's most impressive wilderness. Snowdonia is also home to remnants of the nation's medieval past, with a wealth of castles dispersed throughout its borders. For those travellers looking for an adrenaline rush, coasteering is a popular and proper Welsh activity that combines rock-hopping, shore-scrambling, swell-riding, cave-exploring and cliff-jumping. It's a unique way to discover the country's wildlife and beautiful scenery too.

DINING

The countryside of Wales means that the produce is first rate and makes for quality foodie institutions. A surprise development, even to the locals, is a guerrilla-style street food scene, with events organised by Street Food Circus. Moreover, Wales is also home to some of the UK's most impressive culinary fine-dining, with restaurants like Ynshir and Tyddyn Llan regularly voted among the best on the continent. Found in Eglwys Fach, Nr Machynlleth, Michelin starred Ynshir is home to a million-dollar kitchen headed by one of the UK's most talented chefs. The restaurants food is influenced by the flavours and techniques found in Japanese cuisine. Ynshir was once owned by Queen Victoria as a hidden Welsh retreat.

Tyddyn Llan is another Michelin starred restaurant in the Welsh countryside, and boasts a seasonal menu based around classic, Welsh cooking considered among the best the country has to offer. The restaurant is found in Llandrillo, Corwen. If you are planning on grabbing a table at either of the above restaurants, we recommend planning ahead. Both are quaint, well-respected and very popular across the UK.

As for drinks, the Welsh love their beer and Cardiff's most famous brewer is called Brains Brewing Company. Brains SA, the company's flagship brand, is a light-coloured malty best bitter which is colloquially known as "Skull Attack". For craft beer, the Tiny Rebel hosts a great rotation.



Principality Stadium is argued to be the best place in the world to watch rugby.



Britain's Great Journeys

BRITAIN WOULD HAVE TO BE ONE OF THE BEST-CONNECTED TRANSPORT DESTINATIONS. IF YOUR CLIENT IS AFTER EFFICIENCY, THERE ARE HIGH SPEED MOTORWAYS OR HIGH SPEED TRAINS THROUGH THE MAJOR HUBS. IF YOUR CLIENT WANTS TO MEANDER, THERE ARE COUNTRY LANES THAT SLICE THROUGH PHOTO OPPORTUNITY-READY HILLS AND FORESTS, AS WELL AS SCENIC TRAINS THAT RUN ALONG THE COASTLINE, OR OLD-SCHOOL SLEEPER STEAM TRAINS THROUGH THE SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS

WORDS: Tara Harrison

Many clients do want to combine their city breaks with self-drive itineraries, so in the pages ahead, you will uncover an array of multi-day itineraries that will ensure the best of Britain is seen. There are road trips that take in beaches, highlands, jagged peaks, green hills, and you never have to drive long before uncovering a country gem of a gastropub that brings a country community together.

VisitBritain is soon to release brand new touring routes through England, Scotland and Wales which map out journeys that were previously the domain of locals or those with insider knowledge.

Let this be your client's pick-and-mix guide to creating a bespoke journey through Britain that will keep them coming back for more. While the first half of the guide tackled the first-timer, these are journeys that will cater for beginners and repeat visitors alike. One thing is for sure: they will be a repeat client after experiencing one of these packages.



SELF-DRIVE ENGLAND

London to Liverpool



LONDON > THE COTSWOLDS

130KM / 1H 40 MIN+

London has a plethora of hire car outlets from which to start your journey. The arteries of the city will get you out of town quickly, and the motorways are multi-lane and liberating as your client kicks off their roadtrip.



THE COTSWOLDS > THE LAKE DISTRICT

340KM / 3H 45 MIN+

First stop: The Cotswolds. At only a few hours from London, the chocolate box villages are everything you imagine England to be. Small bridges over babbling brooks, sandstone double-fronted houses, horses in fields and green paddocks. It's a place that makes you want to snuggle in and then rug up for long walks in the fresh air. The towns are as idyllic and storybook-like as their names – places like Chipping Camden, Stow on the Wold, Bourton on the Water – they all sound like something out of *The Wind in the Willows*. You half-expect Toad to come screeching around in his open-top convertible. You can see castles, as well as quaint villages, and Blenheim Palace is one of the majestic icons of a roadtrip in this region. There are regular antique fairs, vintage shopping as well as Regency towns like Cheltenham and medieval towns like Tewkesbury. From The Cotswolds, it's time to head north.



THE LAKE DISTRICT > YORKSHIRE DALES

60KM / 1H 5 MIN+

In just under four hours you'll reach another region of England that is a bastion of what it means to be British. This is a land of large lakes, stone-walled paddocks, high peaks and boulders just made for rambling – the English term for walking. This is the landscape that inspired poet William Wordsworth – with his famous ode to daffodils – as well as Beatrix Potter. It's fair to say that the landscape provokes a vivid imagination and creativity. Beatrix was so passionate about the land that she saw it was protected from developers and maintained as a conservation area. Here, take the walking routes and explore the towns and homes of these literary figures for the best experience. The national parks are exquisite and the walking trails are well marked, so it is possible for clients to set up in a cosy B&B or luxe hotel and explore.

OVERALL DISTANCE:
~770KM
OVERALL TIME DRIVING
10H 45MIN

LIVERPOOL

Welcome to the music capital of England, and the home of The Beatles. Fans of the original boy band can visit the award-winning and world's largest permanent Beatles museum. Then, of course there are the childhood homes of The Beatles, as well as Penny Lane, Strawberry Field and The Cavern Club, where the band played its first-ever gig. Liverpool is also home to the British Music Experience. If sports is more your clients' jam, they can soak up the intense atmosphere at a top-tier game, with Liverpool home to not one but two teams in the English Premier League: Liverpool F.C. and Everton. Visitors will leave this city with a love for the locals, affectionately known as 'Scousers'.



PEAK DISTRICT > LIVERPOOL
110KM / 2H

We're getting closer to Liverpool and Manchester now, and this district is as distinct as its predecessors, and warrants at least two days. It is the UK's first national park, and combines scenery that spurs many a 'let's just pull over', while the towns offer history and country charm. Hike through the mountains and moors and find a historic pub for dinner. There's a 16th century coaching inn called the Old Hall Hotel which captures the area's charm. Be sure to stop in at Bakewell, home to the famous tart and pudding. Chatsworth House is a highlight of this region and has been used as the grand estate in many films.



YORKSHIRE DALES > PEAK DISTRICT
125KM / 2H

You've surely heard or read about the moors and the dales – and you only really comprehend it when you set foot upon it. So, while driving through this region is best, be sure to advise clients to take regular stops to off-road by foot. Again, this is literary territory, with the Brontës immortalising the haunting scenery in Yorkshire. At night, it has another alluring quality – the stars. So much so, that the Yorkshire Dales National Park has a Dark Skies Festival in February and March to herald the stargazing.





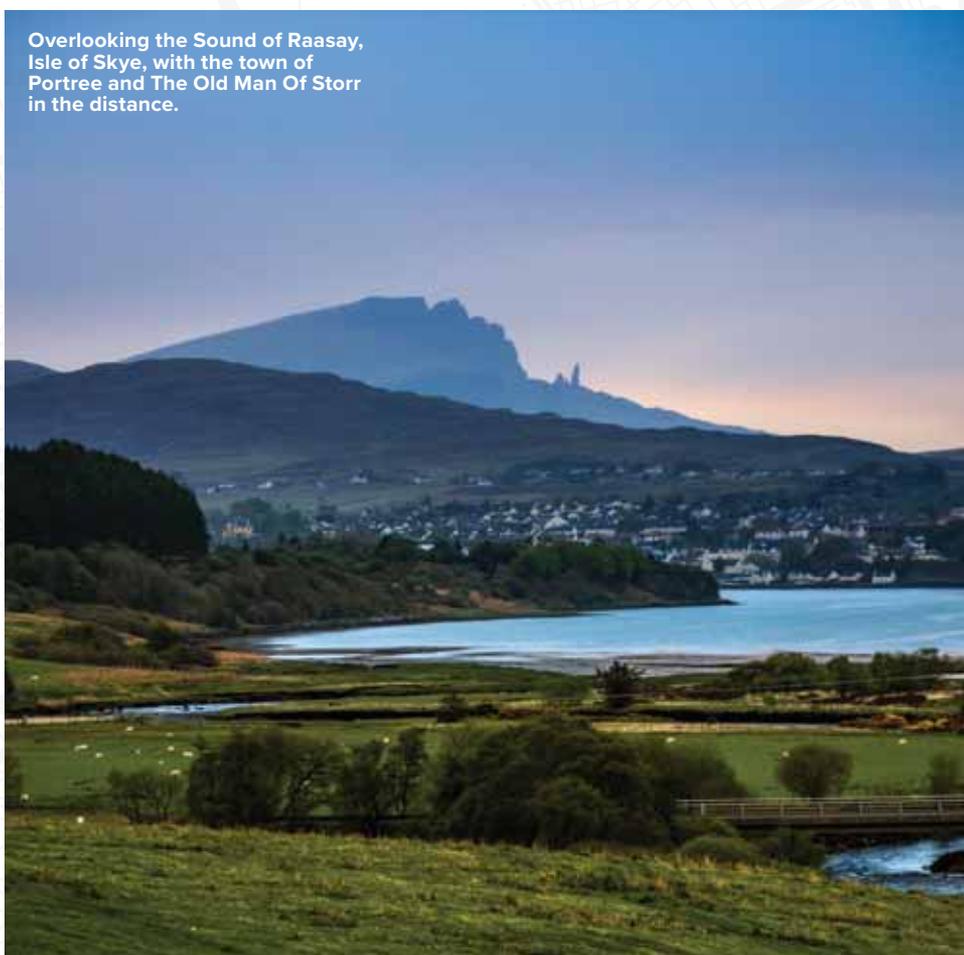
SELF-DRIVE SCOTLAND

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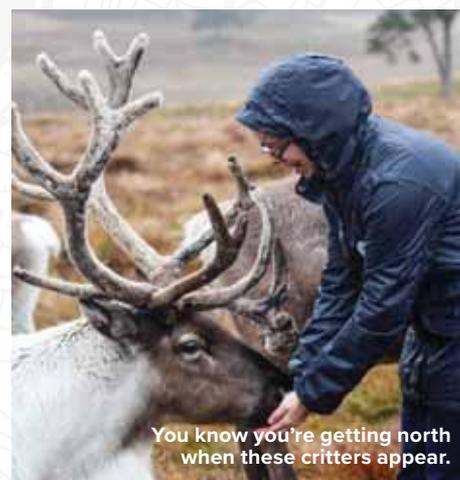
Blairgowrie and Rattray
> Granttown-on-Spey
(Scotland)

~150KM / 2H

Overlooking the Sound of Raasay, Isle of Skye, with the town of Portree and The Old Man Of Storr in the distance.



Glen Ord, the nearest distillery to Inverness & Loch Ness in the Highlands of Scotland..



You know you're getting north when these critters appear.

Scotland boasts the highest public roads in Britain. The evocatively named Snow Roads are found in the Cairngorms National Park. It's an ideal bolt-on for clients visiting Edinburgh who want to explore and see the country for a few days. The route is approximately 150 kilometres from Blairgowrie to Granttown-on-Spey. This journey forces you to slow down. The topography engineers for slow travel, with tight turns and narrow passes. All the better to observe the dramatic scenery. A minimum of three days is advised for the Snow Roads.

Three scenic route installations are part of this journey, and a photo post welcomes camera opportunities. There are reindeer herds here, and road trippers can pull over and walk up the hill in the snow to find them.

The journey also includes the striking Bridge of Cally and walking routes that leave from Glenshee, the portal to some of the most pristine mountains. Glenshee means 'glen of the fairies' in Gaelic, and even the cynics describe the atmosphere as magical. The road here used to be known as the Devil's Elbow for

its hairpin turn, but it has since been somewhat straightened, making it a little less fun but a lot safer for drivers.

This trip also includes some incredible Speyside whiskey distilleries, so if you're designated driver, you'll need to buy some for after dinner. Just near the renowned Balmoral Castle is the Royal Lochnagar whisky distillery. Here, you will see mashtuns, copper stills and casks followed by a dram of the brand's 12-year single malt. For more than a dram, sign your client up for a tasting experience at The Glenlivet distillery.



SELF-DRIVE WALES

ROUTE DISTANCES:

Llandudno >
Cardiff (Wales)

~300km / 4 H

Llanddwyn Island on the coast of Anglesey.



The Wales Way is the perfect road trip to incorporate historic villages and mining heritage into your tour. A 300-kilometre stretch travelling coast to coast from Llandudno to Cardiff, The Way also visits Snowdonia National Park, the Cambrian Mountains and Brecon Beacons National Park.

Before exploring the rest of what Wales has to offer, we recommend your clients take some time to get acquainted with its capital and largest city, Cardiff. Visitors should check out the home of rugby, Principality Stadium, as well as the Edwardian baroque architecture at Cathays Park. Cardiff's Victorian shopping arcades and town market are also worth a wander through.

Only a few hours of driving will see you into Brecon Beacons as well as the first surprise of the journey – vineyards. Sugar Loaf Vineyards produces three whites and a rosé, and on occasion, a red. An hour further, you'll find Farmers' Lavender Fields for the perfect purple Instagram shot. Then it's into the Cambrian Mountains, with a medieval market town Arwystli. You must check out the pub The Whistling Badger – if only to acknowledge how fantastic its name is. The pub has three rooms if your client wishes to spend the night.

At any point on this road trip, drivers and passengers alike should pull over and explore the rugged terrain of Wales, with well-marked hiking and cycling trails that adjoin other adventure trails, such as the Wales Coast Path or Offa's Dyke Path. Snowdonia National Park offers surfing in a lagoon – does it get anymore Welsh? Then, there are historic icons like Gwydir Castle and Bodnant Estate. There are beaches near here and there's even Alice in Wonderland trails, as the real Alice used to holiday in Llandudno.



Tu Hwnt I'r Bont, a former courthouse, and the 17th Century Pont Fawr stone bridge on the River Conwy.



Dolbadarn castle is a ruin built in the 13th Century, high on a hilltop overlooking the Llanberis Pass in North Wales.



RAIL JOURNEYS LONDON TO CORNWALL

LONDON > CORNWALL

The average journey time between London Paddington and Penzance is 5 hours 49 minutes .
The fastest journey time is 5 hours 1 minute . On an average weekday, there are 17 trains per day

From Paddington to Penzance, on a sleeper train. It sounds nostalgic, and it is. The Night Riviera Sleeper train runs six nights a week, and means that clients can excitedly wake in either Cornwall or London, with breakfast to herald them into their day. This journey has made its way into literature, which means it's made it into the collective English consciousness. Emily Barr set her novel on this train, which indicates the wistfulness that the journey provides. There's just

something about waking up in a new place – whether it's to the seaside beauty of Cornwall or back to the excitement of London. While they take your breakfast order as the first matter of business on the train, and pull in to the platform at 5am, they won't kick you off until a more civilised 7am. A return journey in a sleeper berth costs approximately 200 pounds.

The Night Riviera's cabins, which were only recently upgraded, include key card door

locks, USB charging points, plug sockets, free WiFi, redesigned sinks, wardrobes and extra space to store luggage, a choice of lighting such as a reading lamp.

All cabins are fully air conditioned, and the lower bed in each cabin has been redesigned to convert into a sofa. With a redesigned lounge bar, guests can also enjoy a light snack or nightcap before they settle in for a good night's sleep.



One of Cornwall's many beaches



The Night Riviera Sleeper



The Belmond Royal Scotsman



RAIL JOURNEYS

CARLISLE TO SETTLE

CARLISLE > SETTLE

The average journey time between Settle and Carlisle is 1 hour 41 minutes.

Touted as one of the world's most scenic rail journeys, this train cuts through the places roads don't reach, which means there's no opportunity for a nap even if you wanted to – the scenery is too striking. It was built in 1869 and was an engineering marvel for the time. It was initially intended for industry, but with these views over the Yorkshire Dales, the Pennines and Cumbria, it was better suited and hence perhaps always destined to be a traveller's train. One can only imagine the daydreams, ideas and musings that watching this landscape fly by your carriage has inspired. Settle is a North Yorkshire market town, and is where the journey can start or end. The train cuts through the Yorkshire Three Peaks, and over the Ribbleshead Viaduct, as picturesque arch after arch takes the train over marshland below. Then the train tracks through the rocky and rousing Pennines as well as into Cumbria. There are 14 tunnels and 22 viaducts to traverse on this journey, and one tunnel runs for more than 2000 metres beneath a moor and Carlisle, where the station is a

masterful ending to the journey, famed for its early Victorian architecture.

Belmond Royal Scotsman

One of the most luxurious trains in Britain, if not the world, this train marries Scottish hospitality with its sweeping scenery. There are bespoke itineraries for your most discerning clients, from a train journey that is a malt whisky deep-dive, to classic scenic journeys which visit Scottish estates, Loch Lomond, Ben Nevis, the Isle of Bute and Mount Stuart. That's the three-night Western Scenic Wonders train journey. The itineraries on this train take in the best of Scottish culture, from distilleries to lochs, ceilidhs to clay pigeon shooting. The train itself feels like the interior of a country house, with wood panels, en suite cabins and plenty of tartan and wool. The Belmond Royal Scotsman even has a spa – in its own carriage. It's a world first and reflects the luxury aesthetics of the train.

Wasdale Head Mountains



EVENTS CALENDAR

ENGLAND



Winter Wonderland Hyde Park
Late November - Early January

London Marathon
28 April

Leeds International festival
2 - 12 May

Brighton Fringe Festival
3 May - 2 June

RHS Chelsea Flower Show
21 - 25 May

**Cricket World Cup
(England & Wales)**
30 May - 14 July

Royal Ascot
18 - 22 June

Stonehenge Summer Solstice
21 June

Glastonbury Festival
26 - 30 June

**Wimbledon Tennis
Championships**
1 - 14 July

Henley Royal Regatta
3 - 7 July

**Manchester International
Festival**
4 - 21 July

Formula 1 British Grand Prix
12 - 14 July

Bestival
26 - 29 July

Brighton Pride
2 - 4 August

Notting Hill Carnival
24 - 26 August

York Food & Drink Festival
20 - 29 September

**Yorkshire Sculpture
International**
22 June - 29 September

WITH A CALENDAR COVERING THE ENTIRE YEAR, THE UNITED KINGDOM BOAST A DIVERSE LINE-UP OF EVENTS ACROSS BRITAIN, SCOTLAND AND WALES RANGING FROM THE TRADITIONAL TO THE PROGRESSIVE. PICK AND CHOOSE OR TAKE THE LEAP AND TRY A FEW ON YOUR NEXT ADVENTURE TO GREAT BRITAIN.

SCOTLAND



Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo

Glasgow International Comedy Festival

14 – 31 March

Highland Games

12 May – 21 September

T in the Park

12 – 14 July

Edinburgh Art Festival

25 July – 26 August

Belladrum Tartan Heart Festival

1 – 3 August

Edinburgh Festival Fringe

2 – 26 August

Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo

2 – 24 August

World Pipe Band Championships

16 – 17 August

St Andrew's Day, Glasgow

30 November

Celtic Connections

2019/20 dates TBC

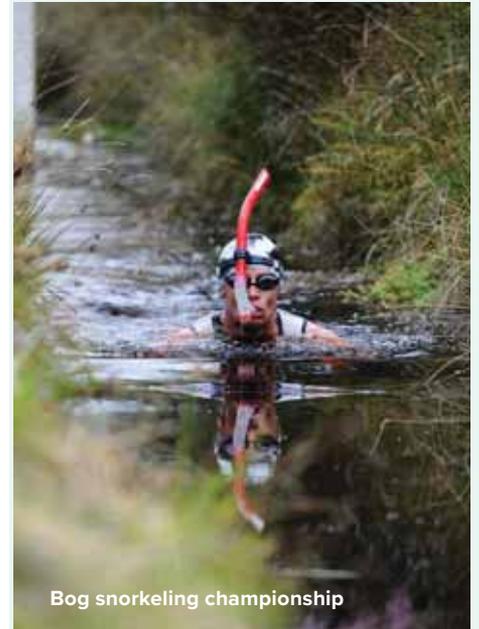
Torchlight Procession

30 December

Inverness's Red Hot Highland Fling

31 December

WALES



Bog snorkeling championship

Cricket World Cup

Various dates, 30 May – 14 July

Dragon Ride L'Etape Wales

9 June

Elton John Farewell Yellow Brick Road Tour

15 June

The Royal Welsh Show

22 – 25 July

World Bog Snorkeling Championship

25 August

Artes Mundi Exhibition & Prize

October 2019 – February 2020

FUN FACTS

WORDS: Christian Fleetwood



ISLAND

Britain is the European epitome of an island nation, with no point being more than two hours or 120km from the coast across the whole of the United Kingdom.

James Bond

Asked why he chose the name James Bond, writer Ian Fleming replied: "I wanted the simplest, dullest, plainest-sounding name I could think of. James Bond seemed perfect."

TEA

Brought to Britain in the early 17th Century by the East India Company, tea was originally a top-dollar commodity, consumed in moderation by the British elite. Tea was so highly valued it was even believed that teas were kept under lock and key. Catherine of Braganza, wife of Charles II, is believed to have introduced to high society the ritual of drinking teas, from when on the habit was adopted by the aristocracy and eventually filtered down to every level of British society. The very first tea shop was opened in 1717 by Thomas Twining—namesake of Twinings Tea Company. The average Brit drinks more than 70,000 cups of tea in their entire lifetime. There are almost 1,500 different varieties of tea in Britain.



QUEEN VICTORIA'S FETISH FOR VALENTINE'S DAY

Queen Victoria had a fetish for Valentine's Day cards and sent out well over 2000 cards during her reign.



HARRY POTTER

Every wand used in the Harry Potter films was created on-site. No two wands were alike—not even those used by the Weasley twins.

THE LAND THAT GAVE US A LANGUAGE CAPABLE OF CHOPPING A TREE DOWN AND THEN CHOPPING IT UP HAS SPAWNED MORE DELIGHTFUL CURIOS THAN WE CAN FIT HERE, BUT YOU GET THE IDEA.



LONDON TRANSPORT MUSEUM

The London Transport Museum offers a Hidden London programme with tours and events at disused stations and secret sites throughout London, including the tube and other underground networks. London's lines are labyrinthian, consisting of old and unused sections of trainline, and forgotten wartime shelters. Have a peep at Down Street, a stretch of railway and narrow tunnels where Winston Churchill secretly took refuge at the height of the Blitz.

Shortest flight in the world

The UK has the shortest scheduled flight in the world. The flight connecting the tiny islands of Westray and Papa Westray lasts only two minutes.




LIVERPOOL: CAPITAL OF POP

In the Guinness Book of Records, Liverpool is named the World Capital of Pop, because more artists from the city have been top-of-the-pops than from any other city in the world.



HARRODS STORE

London's Harrods store used a live Egyptian cobra to guard a pair of shoes worth more than \$100,000 AUD. The shoes were encrusted with ruby, sapphire and diamonds.

British accents

The British accent changes every 25 miles.



FIRST CHOCOLATE BAR

It is believed that the first solid chocolate bar was made in Britain by J.S. Fry & Sons, in 1847. The company subsequently made the first filled chocolate sweet—Cream Sticks, in 1853. Fry's is also famous for creating the first mass-produced chocolate bar, Fry's Chocolate Cream, and your nanna's favourite—Fry's Turkish Delight. John and Benjamin Cadbury weren't far behind, producing their first brand of chocolate bar in 1849, which was displayed publicly alongside Fry's for the first time at a trade fair in Bingley Hall, Birmingham.



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