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**Holidays**

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UK

## Self-Drive Guide



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# Take a Self-Drive Holiday in the UK

With over 25 years experience and award-winning service, let DriveAway Holidays plan your next self-drive adventure. We offer an extensive range of vehicles to suit everyone's need and budget at over 8000 locations in 130 countries worldwide. Enjoy the freedom of having your own rental car and discover the world at your own pace.

A self-drive holiday is the perfect way to explore The UK. The UK has an excellent road network that will take you to all the famous sites. We've included information you'll need for your self-drive holiday, such as the rules of the road, rental FAQ's and even congestion charge information, as well as some great ideas on touring the many different regions in The UK.

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# Renting a Car in The UK

When selecting a rental vehicle, take into consideration where you will be travelling, how many people will be travelling in the vehicle, luggage size and the kind of driving you intend to do. DriveAway Holidays offers a vast range of vehicles from small economy sizes to larger full-sized cars, 4WDs, convertibles and luxury vehicles. The ACRIS system on page 4 will help you find a car that suits your needs. This is internationally recognised code which will ensure you get the same standard of vehicle wherever you rent.

## Automatic and Manual Transmissions

Both automatic and manual vehicles are available in The UK. Automatic vehicles are generally more expensive than manual cars and may be scarcer at smaller depots.

## Do I need a Credit card?

Yes. A credit card will be needed when collecting, which will be used for a security bond. The deposit is generally the insurance excess of the rental car which depends on the category of vehicle you have booked and the rate type.

## Collecting at an Airport in The UK

At most British airports you will find your rental company has a desk in the arrivals hall, with the rental cars being located within walking distance. However, at smaller airports you may be required to collect your vehicle from a downtown depot. A courtesy transfer will be provided from the airport to the depot in this instance. DriveAway Holidays offer all-inclusive prices which generally include any location / airport fees and charges that may otherwise apply. Remember to check at time of booking to ensure your rental will include all airport fees.

## Can I collect my rental car in one British city and drop it off in another British city?

Yes, this is certainly possible. In most cases, there are no fees for one way rentals within mainland UK but in some cases there may be a one-way fee payable when you collect your rental. Check with DriveAway Holidays before you travel to find out any additional costs.

## Rental Vehicle Insurance

British law requires all vehicles to have compulsory third party (CTP) injury insurance, although your car rental supplier should already have comprehensive insurance covering their cars. In the case of an accident it must be reported to the insurance provider immediately and an excess will be due.

Car Rental Companies in The UK will normally include:

- Third Party Insurance: Compulsory insurance and will be included in your car hire price. This covers you for other people's injury and damage to their vehicle.
- Collision Damage Waiver (CDW): This limits your financial liability for damage to the rented vehicle and is normally included in prepaid car hire prices. Rentals are normally subject to liability excess, which can be reduced at the time you collect your rental car or by taking out **DriveAway Hire Car Excess Insurance**.

- Theft and Loss Cover:** This limits your financial liability for the loss or theft of the rented vehicle and is generally included in the prepaid car rental price.
- Fire and Liability:** Limits your financial liability for bodily injury or death, and is normally included in the prepaid car hire price.
- Personal Accident Insurance:** This covers the driver for personal injuries and is generally not included in your car rental rate. It is considered an optional extra that you can take out upon collection of the car.

## DriveAway Hire Car Excess Insurance

When renting a vehicle, the rental rates include basic insurance, however, in the event that the vehicle is stolen or accidentally damaged, there is usually an insurance excess amount which the driver is liable to pay to the rental company. To avoid any unexpected costs opt for DriveAway Hire Car Excess Insurance which will offer a reimbursement for the supplier's damage and theft excess to a maximum for AU\$5,000. Simply add this onto your car rental booking prior to departure and you could save thousands of dollars in the long run! To find out more, simply call DriveAway Holidays on 1300 723 972 or visit the DriveAway website.



## ACRISS System

Class	Fuel Capacity	Type	Transmission	Fuel/Air Cond.
M = Mini	0.8 - 1.0	B = 2 Door	M = Manual	R = Yes
E = Economy	1.0 - 1.4	D = 4 Door	A = Automatic	N = No
C = Compact	1.2 - 1.6	C = 2/4 door	N = Manual 4WD	D = Diesel Air
F = Full size	2.0 - 3.2	L = Limousine	C = Manual AWD	Q = Diesel No Air
P = Premium	2.0 - 4.2	S = Sports Car	B = Auto 4WD	H = Hybrid Air
L = Luxury	2.0 - 4.2	T = Convertible	D = Auto AWD	I = Hybrid No Air
X = Special	1.2 - 3.0	J = All Terrain		E = Electric Air
		R= Recreational		C = Electric No Air
		F = 4 Wheel Drive		
		X = Special		
		K = Commercial Van/Truck		
		P = Ute		
		X = Special		
		E = Executive		
<b>Examples:</b> <b>ECMN:</b> E = Economy C = 2 or 4 door M = Manual N = No Aircon  <b>FDAR:</b> F = Full Size D = 4 Door A = Automatic R = Aircon				



The DriveAway Hire Car Excess Insurance is managed by Accident & Health International Underwriting Pty Limited, ABN 26 053 335 952, AFSL 238261 and underwritten by CGU Insurance Limited, ABN 27 004 478 371, AFSL 238291.

# Driving in The UK

- Cars are a right-hand drive and drive on the LEFT hand side of the road.
- Familiarise yourself with your rental car and its controls before you leave the depot.
- Observe the speed limits. Speed cameras, hand held devices and portable speed detection devices are used by patrolling police to catch speeding drivers and hefty fines are issued for excessive speed.
- Don't Drink and Drive! The maximum blood alcohol level is 0.08%, and DUI drivers can face hefty fines or imprisonment so be smart, don't drink and drive.
- Be aware of U-Turners. Drivers are permitted to execute a U-turn or a 3 point turn on any UK road unless it's expressly forbidden.
- When driving rural roads, be patient. You may get stuck behind a slow moving vehicle, but don't try to overtake on narrow winding roads.
- Although country roads are easy to drive, some country roads are too narrow for two cars to pass, so make use of the *lay-bys*, where one driver can move to the side of the road and give way to oncoming traffic.
- Keep your headlights on during the day, especially on country roads and in foggy or misty conditions.

# Driving Laws in The UK

- Unless otherwise indicated, the speed limits in The UK are:
  - Built up areas: 30mph
  - Country roads: 40-50mph
  - Single Carriageways: 60mph
  - Dual Carriageways: 70mph
  - Motorways: 70mph
- Seat belts: You and your passengers must wear a seat belt at all times, including children over the age of 12.
- Child Safety: Children must be properly secured in an appropriate Child Safety Seat:
  - \* Under 3 years:
  - \* Up to 13kgs (birth to 9-12months): Rear- facing baby seat.
  - \* 9-18kgs (9 months to 4 yrs): Forward facing child seat.
  - \* 15-25kgs (4-6yrs) or 15kgs and up: Forward facing child seat or booster seats.
  - \* 22-36kgs (6yrs and up): Forward facing child seat or booster cushions.
  - \* Up to 11 years and under 135cm: children must be seated in a child seat booster cushion or seat.
  - \* 12 years up: a seat belt must be worn.
- It is illegal to talk on a mobile phone while driving in The UK.
- Motorcyclists must wear a helmet.
- Park only where it's permitted. Check to see if there's parking meters where you will have to 'pay and display' the parking receipt on your car's dashboard. Otherwise you run the risk of heavy fines and clamping in major cities.

## Parking

In major cities, parking zones are differentiated by coloured zones.

- **Blue Zones:** short term (1 to 1½ hours)
- **Green Zones:** longer periods (2 to 4 hours)
- **Red Zones:** parking not permitted at any time.

After 6pm and when parking restrictions have been lifted, you can park on streets with single yellow line. You cannot park on streets with double yellow lines. There are various types of free and paid parking options within The UK. In the larger cities, parking can be costly for limited periods of time.

## Licence Requirements

A full driving licence is required to drive in The UK. All drivers must have held a full valid driving licence for a minimum of one year. Australian residents are not required by law to have an international drivers licence, although it is recommended since an international licence holds more credibility with the local traffic police than your home driving licence. Contact your local motoring association for further information.

## Min & Max Age Requirements

**Min Driving Age:** Usually 21; however in some regions the minimum age is 25.

**Young Driver's Surcharge:** Drivers aged 21-22 years may be charged from £15+tax per day, drivers aged 23-24 years may be charged from £11+VAT per day.

**Max Driving Age:** The majority of locations in The UK do not have a maximum driving age, however there may be restrictions for drivers aged 70-75 in some regions. In some cases, aged drivers may be required to hold a letter from their GP stating they are healthy and fit to drive. Check with the supplier for further details.

## Cross Border Fees and One Way Rentals

### Travelling between England, Scotland and Wales:

There are no additional fees to travel between England, Scotland and Wales. One way rentals will not incur an international one way fee and travel to islands such as Isle of Man, Isle of White, Shetland Islands and Orkney Island is allowed with no additional charge. Travel to the Channel Islands will sometimes incur an additional fee. One way rentals to islands are generally not permitted. Some suppliers will not allow travel off the islands if picking up on the island. Check with DriveAway Holidays when you book to find out further information.

### One Way Car Rentals:

There may be additional charges to collect from one city and drop off in another within the same country, depending on the supplier. Most suppliers will not charge a one way fee if a vehicle is dropped off at another location in The UK. Some companies will not permit international one way rentals from the Republic of Ireland to Northern Ireland. Before you book, find out any other additional fees that might be charged by the supplier. Remember that you may not be covered by insurance if you travel to another country without the car rental company's permission.



- Convenient locations throughout Europe
- Competitive rates
- World's largest car rental network
- Latest model vehicles
- Low carbon emissions

**Book with Driveaway Holidays.**



# More The UK Car Rental FAQs

## I'd like to visit Ireland on my holiday then return it to Northern Ireland Is this possible?

This is possible. Most car rental companies will permit travel to Northern Ireland with little or no fee, however travel to the Republic may incur an additional fee. Check with DriveAway Holidays for further details.

## Can I collect my rental car in mainland Britain and drop it off in the Republic of Ireland?

Not all suppliers will permit international one ways from mainland UK to the Republic of Ireland, however one way rentals from mainland UK to Northern Ireland is permitted with some suppliers although a substantial one way fee will apply. This will depend on the car rental supplier. Check with DriveAway Holidays when you book your car hire.

## Should I take out additional insurance on my car rental?

Rental rates will include basic insurance: Collision Damage Waiver (CDW), Third Party Liability and Theft Protection. In the event that your rental vehicle is accidentally damaged, regardless of who is at fault, or stolen, the Insurance excess is the maximum amount you are liable for.

## Should I hire a GPS for driving in The UK?

GPS hire is available from DriveAway Holidays. Our rates include the GPS unit, travel guides and entertainer. The GPS is delivered direct to your home or travel agent before you depart. GPS units can also be requested direct with some suppliers, however this will be at their own rates. If time is short though, or you would simply prefer to collect your GPS unit together with your rental, then this may be an option for you.

## What do I do if I want to extend my car rental whilst I'm in The UK?

Once the car rental has commenced you will have to call the depot where you initially collected the vehicle, and if the car is available to be extended, you will be offered additional days at the local rate.

# Exploring The UK

## London

**Southeast:** Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, East Sussex, Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Kent, Oxfordshire, Surrey and West Sussex.

**Southwest:** Bristol, Gloucestershire, Somerset, Dorset, Wiltshire, Devon, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly.

**East England:** Essex, Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk.

**East Midlands:** Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Rutland, Northampton, Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire.

**West Midlands:** Herefordshire, Worcestershire, Warwickshire, West Midlands County, Shropshire, Staffordshire.

**Yorkshire & the Humber:** Yorkshire and Lincolnshire.

**Northwest:** Liverpool and Manchester.

**Northeast:** Northumberland, County Durham, Tyne & Wear and Tees Valley.

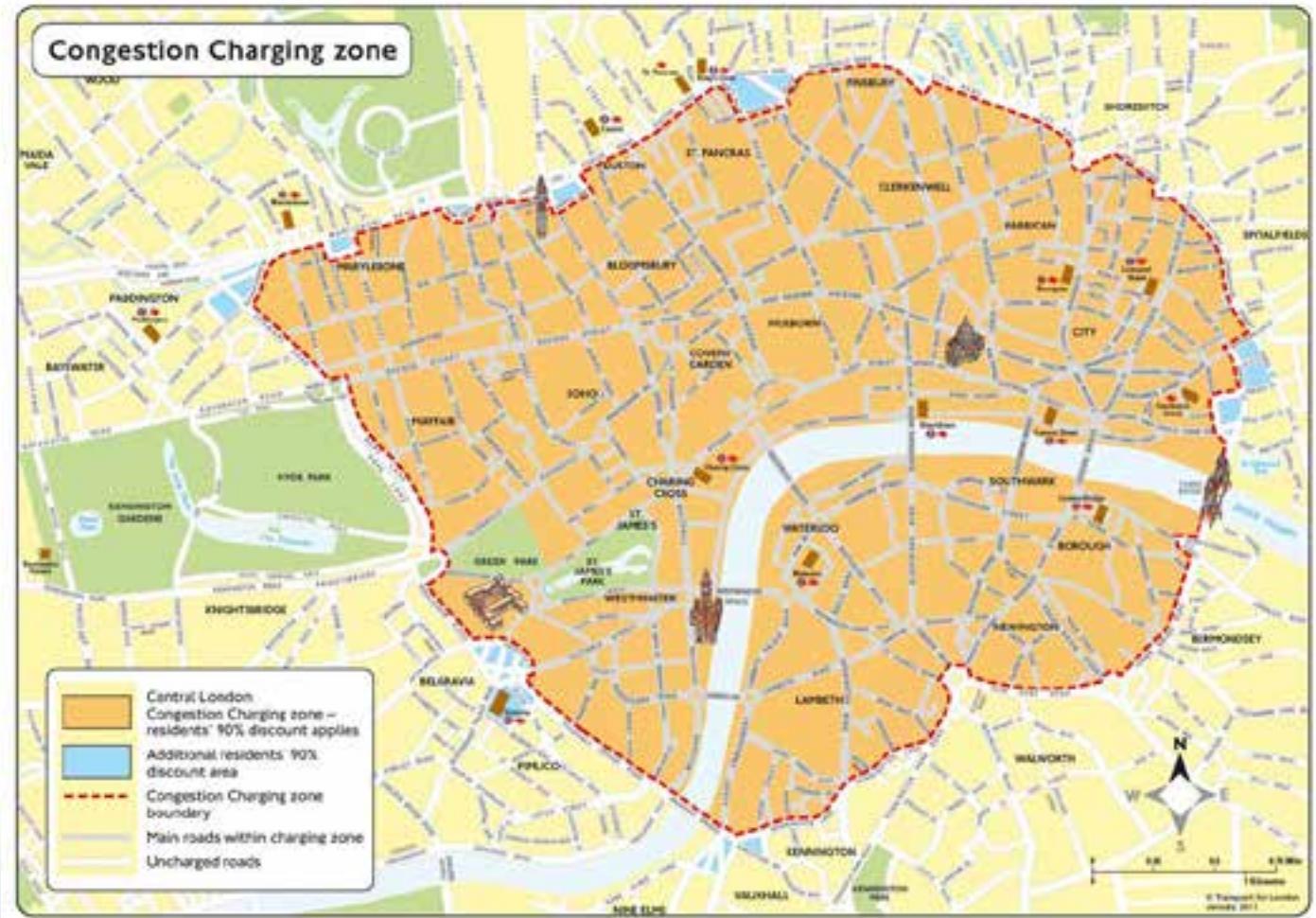
## Scotland

## Wales



# UK Congestion Zones and Road Tolls

The congestion charge is a fee charged to those that drive their vehicles within certain areas during periods of peak demand. It is used to help reduce traffic congestion and pollution. So far in The UK, London and Durham currently charge congestion fees. The daily charge for driving or parking within these areas between 7.00am and 6.00pm Monday to Friday starts from £10. For more information, visit <http://www.tfl.gov.uk/>



# London

London is the capital of England and is one of the world's largest financial centres. London is also dynamic, multicultural and is a historically vibrant epicentre of Europe. Whether its festivals, fashion, food, fun or film you're after, you will find it all in the sprawling metropolis of London! The sheer scale of London ensures visitors a never ending supply of sites to see and cultures to experience. Be entertained at Knightsbridge and Soho, be charmed by the bountiful green places and Royal Parks and unwind at a traditional, cosy English pub in one of the undisputed greatest cities in the world.

## Events

### January

**New Year's Day Parade** - Thousands of people line the streets of the city of Westminster to watch the 10,000 or so participants.

**London Boat Show** - Europe's first boat show.

### February

**Chinese New Year celebrations** - Held throughout February.

### March

**The Head of the River Race** - Rowed on the River Thames.

### April

**London Book Fair** - People from more than 100 countries attend the fair.

**The London Marathon** - The worlds largest marathon.

### May

**Chelsea Flower Show** - The most famous flower show in Britain.

### June

**Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Championships** - Beginning late June through to early July.

**City of London Festival** - Held over 3 weeks.

**Carnival de Cuba** - Largest festival celebrating Cuban culture in Europe.

**Trooping the Colour** - Ceremony performed by regiments of the British and Commonwealth armies.

### July

**Hampton Court Flower Show** - The largest flower show in the world.

### August

**Great British Beer Festival** - Taste over 800 ales, ciders and beer.

**Notting Hill Festival** - The largest street festival in Europe and boasts a multi-cultural theme.

### September

**Chelsea Antiques Fair** - Held in the beautiful Chelsea old town hall.

**Open House London** - A 2-day event that promotes appreciation of architecture by the general public.

### October

**London Film Festival** - Screening more than 300 features.

**Battle of Trafalgar Square Festival**

### November

**Christmas Lighting Ceremony** - Held throughout London.

**Lord Mayor's Show** - The most popular civic procession in the world.

## Attractions

**Buckingham Palace** - Tickets start from around £17 for an adult ticket.

**Big Ben** - One of London's most loved landmarks.

**Museums and Galleries** - Visit the British Museum, the Victoria and Albert, Sir John Soane's Museum, Tate Modern or the Natural History and Science Museum.

**Trafalgar Square** - One of Britain's most popular visitor attractions.

**Parks** - Stroll through Westminster, Holland, Hyde, or Regent's Parks.

**Street markets** - Take a trip to the Camden Market, Portobello Market or the Greenwich Market.

**Westminster Abbey** - Attend the Evensong service and see the remarkable Abbey choir sing, or simply tour the spectacular interior.

**The London Eye** and enjoy unrivalled views of the whole city.

**The Tower of London** and be fascinated by the gruesome tales and vast history behind this famous attraction.

**The Shard** - The tallest building in the European Nation.

# Self-Drive Tours from London

## London to the New Forest

To get to the New Forest from London, take the M3 directly out of London and then head along the M27. The drive will take you approximately an hour and a half. Once you get there, visit the New Forest National Park which is the smallest National Park in Britain, stroll through the historic streets of Hythe Village or visit Calshot Castle. If you're looking for something slightly more adventurous, why not head to the New Forest Water Park.

## London to Windsor

For the perfect day out, take a leisurely drive along the M4 down to Windsor. The trip will take you under an hour and on arrival you will be spoilt for choice of things to do. Stroll through the historically quaint streets, take a half day boating trip along the river and finish by visiting Windsor Castle. This castle is the largest inhabited castle in the world and is still used as an official residence by the British Monarch. Queen Elizabeth II spends most of the weekends at the castle entertaining for both private and state functions. After a tour of the castle, stop at one of the many restaurants and cafes for a bite to eat before heading back to London.



Admiralty Arch, London

# Southeast England

The Southeast region of England consists of Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, East Sussex, Hampshire, Isle of Wight, Kent, Oxfordshire, Surrey and West Sussex. Almost all of these regions are within a two hour drive from the centre of London, and are firm favourites amongst Londoners and seasoned visitors alike. With gorgeous seaside towns, vibrant lifestyles, cities built around world famous universities and rich culture and history, the southeast of England has something to offer every traveller!

## Events

### February

**Brighton & Hove Half Marathon**

### March

**Oxford Literary Festival, Oxford.**

**Easter festivals, Canterbury** – Held over March & April.

**Torpids Rowing Race, Oxford** – College rowing race.

**Brighton and Hove Food and Drink Festival.**

### April

**Brighton Marathon**

### May

**Brighton Festival, Brighton** – Three week festival with concerts, parades and street entertainers.

**Canterbury Half Marathon**

**Eights Week, Oxford** – Main event of college rowing races.

### June

**Classic Car Run, Brighton.**

**Cowley Road Carnival, Oxford** – Oxford's largest festival.

**Stour Festival, Canterbury** – 10 day music festival.

### July

**Kent Beer Festival** - Canterbury's Merton Farm

**Tour de France** – Cyclist ride from London, finishing in Canterbury in early July.

### August

**Reading Festival, Berkshire** – International music festival.

**Classical Proms, Oxford** – Open-air classical concert

**Herne Bay Festival, Canterbury** – Music, fireworks and street parades.

### September

**Windsor Festival** – Annual festival held over 7 days.

**Hop Hoodening, Kent** – Traditional English festival.

### October

**White Night, Brighton** – Illuminations, city tours and street performances.

**Canterbury Festival** - Held in Kent.

### November

**Veteran Car Run** - Brighton

**Bonfire Night** – Held beginning of November across southeast England.

### December

**Burnina the Clocks, Brighton** – Winter solstice event.

## Attractions

### Brighton & Hove, East Sussex

**Brighton Beach** – Fantastic restaurants, bars and clubs in a top seaside location.

**Visit the Royal Pavilion** – Magnificent palace created by King George IV.

**Brighton Pier** – Buskers, fish & chips, cool shops and fresh salt air.

### Oxford, Oxfordshire

**Oxford University** - Explore the wonderful architecture and gentle spires in the University buildings.

**Shopping in Oxford** – Go to Oxford's Covered Market, with everything from clothes to books to food, or hit the High Street for unique boutiques and shops.

**Visit a historic pub** – Have a pint at the Crown, or the Old Parsonage Hotel that were patronised by famous literary greats.

### Canterbury, Kent

**Canterbury Cathedral** – This magnificent cathedral dates back to 597AD, with beautiful stained glass and is the home to the Archbishop of Canterbury.

**St Augustine's Abbey, Canterbury** – These remains are World Heritage listed.

**Canterbury Castle** – See the ruins of the Norman castle built in the 11<sup>th</sup> AD.

### Dover, Kent

**The White Cliffs of Dover** – The scenic North Downs Way will take you along the low hills along the coast.

**The Dover Castle** – A magnificent coastal site.

### Windsor & Eton

**Windsor Castle** – See the historic and largest occupied castle in the world, and the official residence of the Queen of England.

**Take a tour of Eton College** – See where Princes William and Harry were educated

**See Frogmore House** – This elegant property is the final resting place for Queen Victoria and Prince Albert.

Windsor Castle

# Self-Drive Tours in Southeast England

## Brighton to Portsmouth

This route follows the coast from Brighton to the town of Portsmouth. Begin this tour from the seaside town of Brighton & Hove, and follow the A27 west through Worthing, East Preston and Littlehampton, and up to Arundel. Stop here to check out the 11<sup>th</sup> Century castle and cathedral, as well as quaint museums, tea rooms and antique shops.

Drive down to Littlehampton and along the coast to Bognor Regis, and then back onto the A259 to the town of Chichester. Pick up the A27 and head west along to the city of Portsmouth. This lovely town is rich in naval and cultural history, and it's worth a visit to Portsmouth Historic Dockyard, the Spinnaker Tower and the Southsea Castle. Outside of Portsmouth is the Portchester Castle, which is a well preserved Roman fortification that is worth the five minute drive from town.



## Tour the Colleges

Follow this drive to see England's two most famous universities, Oxford and Cambridge. Begin in Oxford, where you'll be able to tour the university and its extensive grounds. Head north on the A44, stopping off in the small town of Woodstock, which is home to the stately home of Blenheim Palace and is open to the public. Drive north east along to the town of Northampton, which is home to the Guildhall and holds one of Britain's oldest markets as well as having its own university.

From Northampton follow the A428 through Bedford and onto Cambridge. This wonderful town is home to Kings College, Queens College and Trinity colleges, to just a few. Explore the colleges, as well as the beautiful parks and gardens, many museums and churches.



Arundel Cathedral

# Southwest England

The Southwest of England has long been regarded as one of the most beautiful regions in Britain. This region consists of Bristol, Gloucestershire, Somerset, Dorset, Wiltshire, Devon, Cornwall and Isles of Scilly. The Southwest provides magnificent scenery, wild moors, great beaches, stunning coastlines, charming villages and vibrant cities. All this, along with history and heritage like no other! Perfect for the self-drive holiday.

## Events

### March

**Somerset Spring Festival of Food & Drink** - A showcase of the best Somerset produce.

### April

**Classic Cars on the Prom** - Seafront, Bournemouth.

World Heritage Day, Bath.

### May

**Salisbury International Arts Festival**

**Bath Dance Festival** - Held in Bath.

**Mayfest** - Bristol.

**Dragonboat Regatta** - Gloucester.

**Cheese-Rolling Race** - Gloucestershire.



Devon

### June

**Glastonbury Festival, Somerset** - World famous music festival.

Exmouth Summer Festival

### September

**Jane Austin Festival** - Bath.

**Cornwall Food & Drink Festival** - Lemon Quay, Truro.

### October

**British National Surfing Championships** - Fistral Beach, Newquay.

**Falmouth Oyster Festival** - Falmouth, Cornwall.

### November

**Fireworks and Guy Falkes Celebrations** - Weymouth, Gloucester, Bournemouth and Bristol.

**Bath Mozart Festival** - Bath.



The Roman Baths, Somerset

### Cornish Coast

# Attractions

## Bristol

**See the Clifton Suspension Bridge** – Stroll across this amazing bridge and enjoy the views of the Avon Gorge.  
**Visit the Bristol Zoo Gardens** – See over 450 species of wonderful animals from around the world, set in 12 acres of gardens.  
**Get scientific** – Discover Explore-At-Bristol and explore the amazing hands-on Planetarium.  
**Visit Cabot Circus, Broadmead and the Mall Bristol** - Brilliant retail therapy.  
**See the world's first great ocean liner** – Explore Brunel's SS Great Britain and learn about ship's history.  
**Nightlife** – Eat out at waterfront restaurants, bars or visit the trendy bars on The Strip.

## Gloucestershire

**Berkeley Castle** – The fantastic medieval fortress where King Edward II was murdered.  
**The Cotswolds** – Discover the gentle hill country and view gardens and lovely historic houses.  
**Gloucester Cathedral** – See the beautiful honey coloured lime-stone cathedral in the heart of Gloucester. This cathedral appears in the Harry Potter films.

## Somerset

**Bath** – See the World-Heritage Roman Baths and Pump Room, and even take a soak in the Thermae Bath Spa.  
**See the Bath Abbey and the Royal Crescent.**  
**Glastonbury** – Visit the Tor and the Abbey.  
**Cheddar Gorge** – Explore the caves, learn the history of our ancestors and learn of its mystical legends.  
**Exmoor National Park** – Enjoy the peace of deep valleys, sparkling rivers and high sea cliffs. If you're lucky, you may even spot some wild red deer.  
**Wookey Hole Caves** – Visit the great caves that are the home of the infamous Witch of Wookey.  
**See Wells Cathedral** – This magnificent gothic cathedral dates back to 12<sup>th</sup> century.

## Dorset

**Uncover fossils and prehistoric remains** – Explore the Jurassic Coast and its steep white cliffs.  
**Explore the historic Dorset village.**  
**Drive across the sweeping countryside** – See thatched villages, ancient sites and the magnificent coastline.

## Wiltshire

**Visit Stonehenge, Amesbury** – This prehistoric monument is a World Heritage Site.  
**Visit beautiful Salisbury Cathedral** - Experience 800 years of history and see the tallest spire in Britain.  
**Bowood House and Gardens, Calne** – See the magnificent 18<sup>th</sup> century house complete with paintings and a beautiful landscaped garden.

## Devon

**Dartmoor National Park** – Walk, hike or camp in this wild and craggy landscape.  
**Go surfing** - Catch some waves at Croyde or Lynmouth.  
**Discover seafaring history** – Explore Plymouth, where the historic Mayflower first departed, as well as the stunning natural harbour and surrounding wild moor lands.

## Cornwall

**The Eden Project** – See the giant biomes (greenhouses) and experience rainforest, desert and temperate climates all in the one area.  
**St Michael's Mount** – Visit the castle and church on this iconic island, which is only accessible by foot at low tide or by boat at high tide.  
**Explore over 320 miles of magnificent coastline, with sandy beaches and great scenery.**

## Isle of Scilly

**Take a boat tour around the archipelago** – Visit Tresco Abbey Garden at Tresco, the Halangy Down Ancient Bronze Age Village or the Isles of Scilly Museum on St Mary's.

Cotswold Region

# Self-Drive Tours around Southwest England

## The Jurassic Coast

Discover all the wild beauty and majesty that the Jurassic Coast has to offer and uncover hidden prehistoric gems along the way. Begin this tour in the town of Exmouth and follow the South West Coast Path, which is a national trail, to the town of Bournemouth. Along the way you'll be able to stop to fossick for fossils from the Triassic, Jurassic and Cretaceous periods. Visitors are permitted to collect fossils that have washed out of the cliffs and bluffs. The areas around Lyme Regis and Charmouth are recommended due to the high level of erosion.



## London to Bristol

Take the M4 out of London and head to Reading on the confluence of the River Thames and the River Kent. Here you will find two universities, the Abbey Ruins and the Forbury Gardens, plus great pubs and restaurants. Follow the A33 to Basingstoke, then onto the A303 along to Amesbury. Amesbury is home to the world famous Stonehenge, so stop for an hour or two and explore the surrounding countryside.

Back on the A36, drive through the picturesque countryside on the A36, then north into Bath. Explore the historical Roman Baths, have lunch in a quaint English pub, see the Bath Abbey and stroll the medieval streets, which are lined by historic terraces and wonderful shops. Only a short half hour drive north west is the vibrant city of Bristol. Drive over the Clifton Suspension Bridge, explore the Avon Gorge and its dynamic harbour side or stroll through Old Bristol.



Stonehenge, Amesbury

# East England

The lush rural landscape of Eastern England consists of the regions of Essex, Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk. This region lies to the northeast of London and maintains an unspoilt character amongst its sprawling countryside and waterways. East Anglia is home to medieval villages, quaint hamlets, university towns and Edwardian seaside resorts, as well as rivers and fens, rich farmland and rolling hills. Discover some of the ancient ruins, soaring spires in magnificent cathedrals and market towns in East England, all at your own pace!

## Events

### February

**Snowdrop Season, Cambridge** - Spectacular spring flowers at Anglesey Abbey.

### May

**Stilton Cheese Rolling, Cambridge** – Fun day held in historic town of Stilton.  
Cambridge Beer Festival, Cambridge.

### June

**Strawberry Fair, Cambridge** – Festival marking the beginning of summer.

### July

**Cambridge Shakespeare Festival** – Outdoor performance of famous Shakespeare plays in Cambridge.

**Big Day out, Cambridge** – Outdoor music festival.

### August

**Jazz and Brass in the Park, Cambridge** – Jazz and brass bands play at outdoor venues.

**Fenland Country Fair** - Stow-Cum-Quy village, Cambridge.

### September

**Chariots of Fire Race** - Cambridge.

### November

**Cambridge Music Festival** - Cambridge.



## Attractions

### Cambridgeshire

**Visit the historic colleges** – See Kings College and Kings Chapel, St Johns College, Queens College and Trinity College, as well as their surrounding gardens in Cambridge.

**Explore the Sedgwick Museum** – One of the oldest of the university museums.

**The Backs** – Explore the gardens on the River Cam, behind the colleges.

**Rowing on the River Cam**.

### Norfolk

**Norwich** – See Norwich Cathedral, Dragon Hall and Norwich Castle.

**The Broads, Norfolk** – Visit Britain's largest protected wetlands.

**Great Yarmouth** – This is one of England's most popular seaside resorts and is home to great beaches, entertainment and attractions .

### Essex

**Colchester** – This is Britain's oldest town. See Colchester Castle, the Zoo and Carter's Vineyard.

### Suffolk

**Ipswich** – Unwind in green open spaces, visit the Christchurch Mansion and discover the Victorian wet dock which boasts fantastic waterfront restaurants and bars.

**Drive through the Stour Valley** – Discover the pretty villages and stunning rural scenery.

**Bury St Edmunds** – See the beautiful Georgian architecture, ancient ruins and learn about it's powerful history.

### Hertfordshire

**St Albans** – Explore the Roman Wall, St Albans Cathedral, Hatfield House and the medieval clock tower in this beautiful Georgian town.

# Self-Drive Tours around East England

## Cambridge to Ipswich

This route takes in the beautiful countryside and elegant towns of Eastern England. After you've seen the universities, cathedrals, parks and rivers of Cambridge, head east along the A11 to Newmarket. This small market town, a great spot for equine enthusiasts, is home to the National Horseracing Museum, the National Stud, and is the head quarters of the British Jockey Club. Driving further on Eastward, you'll come across Bury St Edmund which is home to the Abbey Gardens and St Edmundsbury Cathedral, which are definitely worth a visit.

Follow the A14 through Woolpit and Stowmarket until you reach Ipswich. Here you can enjoy the waterfront marinas, a bustling city centre, twelve medieval churches and green open spaces.



## Norwich and The Norfolk Broads

See the best of Norfolk by taking this driving route. Begin in Cromer, where you can visit Sheringham Park and explore the landscaped gardens.

See Felbrigg Hall and Blickling Hall. Follow the B1354 through Horstead and Hoveton, which will take you on to The Broads.

The Broads are Britain's largest inland wetlands. You can see some of England's most rare and spectacular flora and fauna in this area. They make their home in the waterways, marshes and estuaries in the Broads. Visit the floating wildlife centre at NWT Ranworth Broad, plus explore the trails along the reed beds and woodlands. Walk along the boardwalk at Cockshoot Broad to see beautiful water lily beds.



The Norfolk Broads

# The East Midlands

The East Midlands is one of the regions of England that consists of Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Rutland, Northampton, Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire. With the rich historic past of each culturally diverse community, no two places in the East Midlands will ever be the same. Whether you want to experience the history of the region or the outdoors, the East Midlands offers a great variety of activities to suit everyone.

## Events

### February

Chinese New Year celebrations.

### May

Spring Craft Fair - Derbyshire.

Nottingham Arboretum Festival.

### June

Oakham Festival - Rutland.

### September

Canal and Floral Art Exhibition - Northampton.

### November

Bonfire Night - Features fireworks displays, Nottingham.

## Attractions

### Derbyshire

**Bolsover Castle** - Take a tour of one of the most beautiful castles in England.

**The Derby Museum and Art Gallery.**

**Matlock Farm Park** - With plenty of activities to keep the kids busy and ample places for the adults to relax it's a great day out for all.

### Leicestershire

**The National Space Centre** - A great day out for the kids and adults alike and features real rockets and interactive activities.

**The Art Desjardin Sculpture Garden** - Featuring a showcase of unique contemporary art.

**The Carillon and War Memorial Museum.**

### Rutland

**The Green Mountain Rock Climbing Centre** - For a day of fun.

**Rutland** - Offers some of the best fishing in the region.

**Visit the Rutland Country Museum** - Provides visitors with the perfect introduction to the county.

### Northampton

**The Northampton Museum and Art Gallery.**

**The Smith College Botanic Garden** - Featuring ten different types of gardens as well as a greenhouse.

Indulge yourself at the Brooks and Butterfield Day Spa.

### Nottinghamshire

**Nottingham Castle** - Take a tour and learn about the castle's colourful history.

**The County** - Offers over 42 sports such as golf, fishing and water sports.

**The Broadway Media Centre** - Dedicated to independent and world films; a great outing for film lovers.

East Midlands

# Self-Drive Tours around East Midlands

## Matlock Bath to Northampton

Start this trip with a tour around Matlock Bath, which is built along the River Derwent in Derbyshire. Matlock Bath was originally developed as a Spa town back in the 1800's and today is home to the Heights of Abraham Park. The cliff of High Tor is complete with a cable car, museums and attractions. Head south to the town of Derby and through the wild moors, remote farms and tiny villages. In Derby you can visit the Derby Cathedral or visit the famous Royal Crown Derby Factory where England's finest bone china is produced. If you're pressed for time, you can take the M1 south straight through to Northampton. If you want to see more of the beautiful English countryside, take the A6 down through Loughborough towards Leicester. From there, head on through Great Glen, Market Harborough and onto the A508 down to Northampton. Along the way you'll see historic towns, stately homes and picturesque scenery.



## Best of the Parks

Begin this tour in the township of Nottingham, where you can see Nottingham Castle, Wollaton Hall and the pub, Ye Ole Trip to Jerusalem, which proclaims to be the oldest pub in Britain. Drive 30 minutes out of town and visit the Sherwood Forest Country Park, which is the home of the legendary Robin Hood. From here, head north on the A60 through Ravenshead to the town of Mansfield. Here you will find the Palace Theatre, which was built in 1910. Also be sure to visit the St John's, St Mark's, St Peter and St Paul's churches. Drive north-west on the A617 through the borough of Chesterfield. Chesterfield is home to fantastic markets and the twisted spire on the Church of St Mary. From here, drive west on Baslow Road, which will take you through to the Peak District National Park. This was the first national park in the British Isle and is the second most visited national park in the world. Here you can enjoy plenty of outdoor activities, including hiking, mountain-biking and horse riding, or just enjoy the scenery and the peaceful countryside.



# The West Midlands

Explore the diversity of the West Midlands. The tranquil countryside in the Malvern Hills and parts of the National Forest contrast against its multicultural conurbation, which includes one of the biggest cities in Britain, Birmingham. This impressive region is formed from parts of Herefordshire, Worcestershire, Warwickshire, West Midlands County, Shropshire and Staffordshire. The West Midlands is intriguing and charismatic and is home to Shakespeare, majestic castles, museums, botanical gardens and of course it's cultural and historical towns.

## Attractions

### Herefordshire

**Hereford Cathedral** - A beautiful church which holds one of the most famous treasures, the Mappa Mundi, which is a mediaeval map of the world from the 13th century.

**A historical Drive** - Take a drive through the Black and White Village Trail which follows through several old English Villages.

**Croft Castle** - A majestic stone castle filled with a great historical significance.

### Worcestershire

**Safari & Leisure Park** - Feel like you've stepped into Africa with the magnificent display of exotic animals. They also offer a 4 mile drive which runs through the park.

**Malvern Hills** - An enchanting landscape of mountain ranges and curious wildlife.

### Warwickshire

**Warwick Castle** - A medieval castle.

### Shropshire

**Stokesay Castle** - A very romantic 13th Century fortified manor house.

**Ironbridge Gorge Museum** - An award winning museum, which tells the story of the world's first iron bridge.

**Hawkstone Historic Park** - A mysterious park with caves and cliffs.

**Wroxeter Roman Vineyard** - A beautiful vineyard producing red, white and sparkling wines.

### Staffordshire

**Peak District National Park** - Britain's first national park.

**Trentham Estate** - Enjoy a great day out with stunning gardens, a giant observation wheel, monkey forest and shopping villages.

**Lichfield Cathedral** - An 800 year old Cathedral with a fascinating history.

**Drayton Manor Theme Park, Waterworld and Tamworth SnowDome**.

## Events

### January

**Historic Rally, Coventry** - Annual vintage motor show.

**The Wassail, Coventry** - Traditional Morris dancing to promote a good harvest in the Ryton Organic Gardens.

### February

**Spring Fair, Birmingham**.

### March

**St Patricks Day Parade**.

### April

**St George Day, Coventry** - Medieval festival and parades.

**The Complete Works, Stratford Upon Avon** - Major Shakespeare event.

### May

**Concertos, Birmingham** - Symphony Hall.  
**Jousting at Warwick Castle, Coventry** - Medieval festival.

### June

**DFS Classic International Womens Tennis** - Birmingham.

**Strawberry Fair, Coventry** - Summer festival with concerts and parades.

### July

**International Jazz Festival** - Birmingham.

### August

**Fireworks Fantasia** - Birmingham.

### September

**Art Fest** - Birmingham

**Gardener's Weekend, Birmingham** - at Kings Heath Park.

**Heritage Open Week, Coventry** - Chance to see inside historic houses that aren't normally open to the public.

### December

**Christmas Markets** - Festive markets held across the West Midlands.

# Self-Drive Tours around The West Midlands



## Stoke-On-Trent to Ludlow

Explore the western scenery on this route that takes you from Stoke-On-Trent to the lovely town of Ludlow. Start in the town of Stoke-On-Trent, where you can visit the Wedgwood Visitors Centre and see where some of the world's best fine bone china is produced. Head south west to the Medieval town of Shrewsbury, which is home to an Abbey that was built in 1083. Also explore the Castle and Regimental Museum and the Wroxeter Roman Vineyard. Drive south on

the A49 to the town of Ludlow. This lively, unspoilt market town is perched on a cliff above the River Teme and boasts wonderful churches, a stunning castle and great Georgian architecture. Ludlow is also reputed to have some of the best regional cuisine and festivals in England.



Shrewsbury

## Coventry to Worcester

This country route takes you through some of the loveliest countryside in the West Midlands. Begin the tour in the town of Coventry. Here you'll find plenty of museums, galleries, great restaurants and pubs plus the Coventry Cathedral. Drive south on the A46 through Warwick, where you can see the magnificent Warwick Castle, surrounded by beautiful manicured gardens.

From Warwick, head south west to the city of Stratford-upon-Avon, which is the birthplace of Shakespeare and home to Anne Hathaway's Cottage.

You can also explore the city's historic houses , visit the Royal Shakespeare Company or perhaps cruise the Avon River by row boat.



Drive west along the countryside, through the towns of Oversley Green, Kington and Churchill until you come to Worcester. This beautiful town offers a host of historical attractions, such as the Worcester Cathedral and the Royal Worcester Porcelain Museum, as well as great shopping, boat trips and riverside walks.



Stratford Upon Avon

# Northwest England

The Northwest encompasses Liverpool and Manchester and is one of the most popular destinations to visit in England. The Northwest boasts world class historical attractions, excellent shopping facilities, arts and culture and spectacular coasts and countryside. Liverpool and Manchester are also home to a diverse variety of fantastic indoor and outdoor events, which are sure to keep you entertained all throughout the year.

## Events

### March

Lakes Alive - Crow Park.

### July

Jazz Festival in Manchester.

### August

The Mathew Street Music Festival - Liverpool.

International Beatleweek - Liverpool.

### September

BBC wildlife photographer of the year exhibition - Liverpool.

**Illuminations** – Visit the seaside town of Blackpool with an amazing free light show for one month only.

Hope Street Festival.

### October

Manchester Food and Drink Festival.

Manchester Comedy Festival.

### December

Christmas markets in Manchester.

Liverpool Santa Dash.

## Attractions

### Liverpool

**Liverpool Cathedral** - The largest Anglican Church in Britain.

**Haydock Park Racecourse** - A 30 minute drive out of the city and the most visited racecourse in the country.

**Beatles Tour** - A Magical Mystery bus tour which takes you around to all the Beatles city areas.

**The McCartney Home** - The childhood home of Beatles Star Paul McCartney has been maintained by the National Trust and is available for public tours.

**The World Museum Liverpool** - A popular tourist attraction which features numerous historical artefacts of Liverpool.

**The Cavern Club** - The Beatles performed here 292 times over their career.

**Anfield Stadium** - Home to Liverpool Football club.  
**Royal Albert dock.**

### Manchester

Visit the Trafford Centre, the Lowry Outlet Mall and grab a bargain or the Orient to experience food from all over the world.

**Experience arts and architecture** - For some of the best visual and performing arts head to The Quays or for a more traditional experience, visit the Manchester Art Gallery.

**Take the Manchester City Football Club Stadium Tour.**

**The Imperial War Museum** - North Manchester.

Manchester

# Self-Drive Tours around Northwest England

## Liverpool to Blackpool



This tour begins in the vibrant city of Liverpool. See the birthplace of the Beatles, tour the famous Liverpool Football Club, enjoy the superb restaurants, clubs, museums and galleries and discover why Liverpool was voted The European City of Culture in 2008.

Drive north to the coastal town of Crosby and along the A565 to Southport. Explore Lord Street, play a round of golf or just enjoy the great views and relaxed atmosphere of this lovely seaside town. Continue northwest along the A69 to the historical town of Preston. Here, you can see the city museum, the Minster Church and

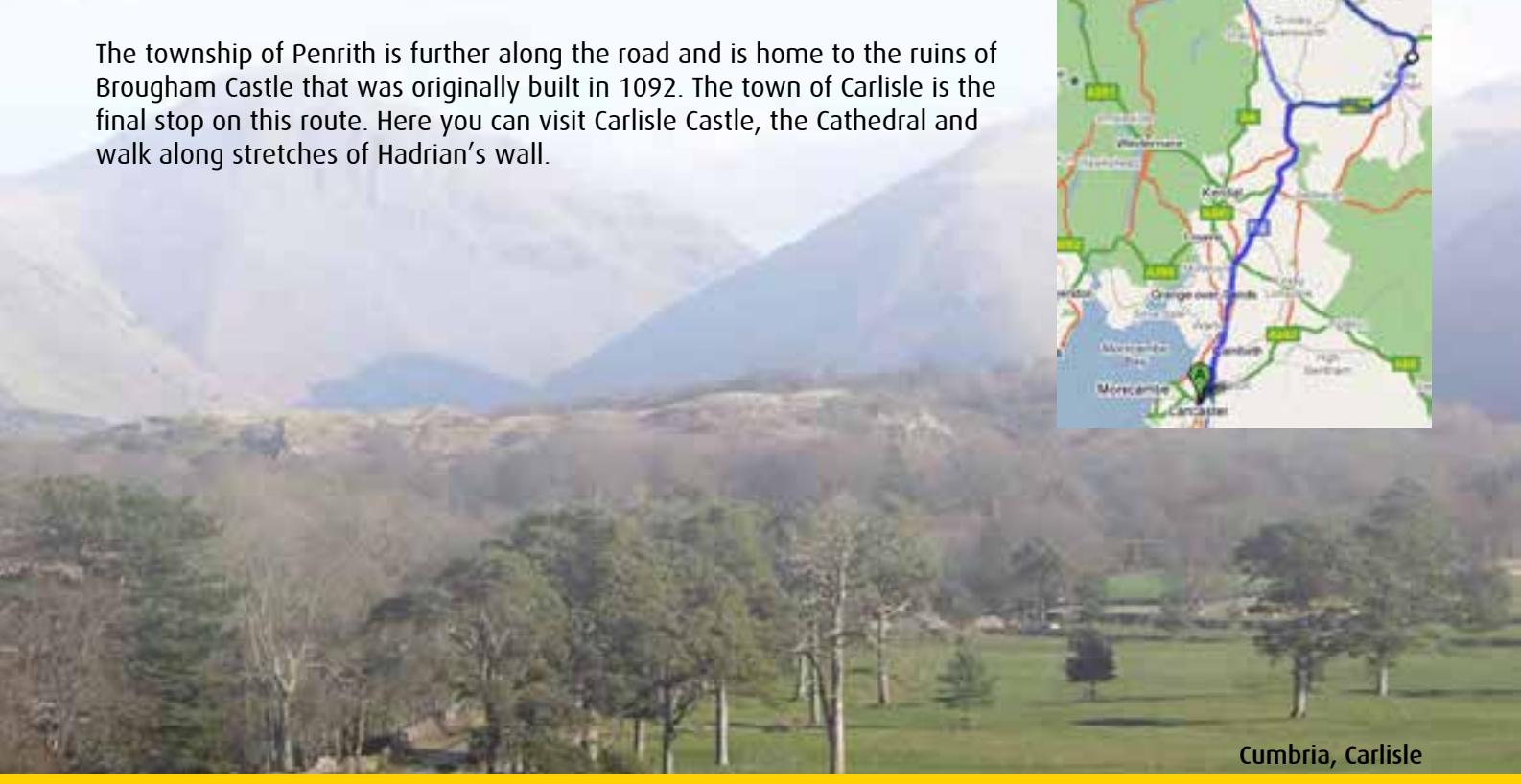


Preston Minster, Preston

## Lancaster to Carlisle

Start in Lancaster by visiting the Lancaster Castle, the Maritime Museum and Williamson Park. Drive north to Appleby and see the 11<sup>th</sup> Century Appleby Castle, which is set beside a beautiful riverside along with the Conservation Centre. Further north you'll come to Temple Sowerby. Here you'll be able to see the Acorn Bank Garden and Water Mill.

The township of Penrith is further along the road and is home to the ruins of Brougham Castle that was originally built in 1092. The town of Carlisle is the final stop on this route. Here you can visit Carlisle Castle, the Cathedral and walk along stretches of Hadrian's wall.



Cumbria, Carlisle

# Yorkshire & The Humber

Whether you're looking to spend the weekend or the month, Yorkshire and Lincolnshire are packed with activities and events to keep you entertained. If you're after a cultural experience, the hundreds of museums and galleries will not disappoint and if you'd rather escape the city for the weekend, the picturesque countryside will be sure to delight.

## Events

### January

**Harrogate Pavilions Winter Antiques and Fine Art Fair - Yorkshire.**

### February

**Continental Market, Parliament Street - Yorkshire.**

### April

**Easter Fun Day, Newby Hall - Yorkshire.**

**Harrogate Spring Flower Show - Yorkshire.**

### May

**Classic Car and Motorcycle Show - Yorkshire.**

**Flower Parade - Lincolnshire.**

### September

**Country Food and Craft show - Yorkshire.**

### November

**Bonfire and Fireworks Spectacular - Lincolnshire Showground.**

## Attractions

### Yorkshire

**Ghost tour of York** - The tour takes you to many supposedly haunted locations in the city.

**York Minster** - Spectacular Church of England Cathedral which dates back to the 14th Century.

**The Harrogate Turkish Baths and Health Spa.**

**The York Castle Museum** - Living history museum of everyday life during Victorian and Edwardian England.

**The Ganton Golf Club.**

**The Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal Water Garden.**

### Lincolnshire

**The Lincoln Castle** - This medieval fortress was built by William I and is home to one of the only surviving Magna Carta signed by King John.

**The Hardy's Animal Farm.**

**The Lincoln Christmas Market** - Enjoy the festive spirit and get in some last minute Christmas shopping.

**Fantasy Island** - A family amusement park located in Ingoldmells near Skegness.

**The Kinema in the Woods** - A unique opportunity to watch a movie and enjoy the beautiful natural surroundings simultaneously.

Yorkshire country road

# Self-Drive Tours around Yorkshire & The Humber



## York to Whitby

This is one of England's most interesting regions, and perfectly suited for a self-drive holiday. Begin in the ancient walled town of York, where you can explore the myriad of narrow streets, great museums, restaurants, pubs and the magnificent Gothic Cathedral. Drive north to the small town of Thirsk and head east along the A170 through the beautiful Yorkshire country side. Travel through Pickering and then onto the seaside town of Scarborough. Here you will find white sandy bays, lovely Edwardian buildings and plenty of amusement arcades.

From Scarborough drive north, following the coast through the North Yorkshire Moors and along to the charming town of Whitby, with its old abbey overlooking the picturesque harbour. Its narrow streets with quaint shops, traditional pubs and restaurants boast the best fish and chips in England!



## Leeds to Haworth

Start this tour with a day or two in the city of Leeds. Shop in fantastic retail outlets, eat in chic and funky restaurants and enjoy the glamorous urban buzz. Also visit the Leeds Castle and the Town Hall. From Leeds, head west to the city of Bradford, home to the Saltaire, a 19<sup>th</sup> Century industrial town within the city of Bradford.

From Bradford, explore the surrounding Bronte country. Head towards the township of Haworth and then south to the university town of Hebden Bridge and nearby Heptonstall. In Heptonstall you will find the church of St Thomas, which is nestled in quiet streets and surrounded by cottages. Make Haworth your base so you can explore the surrounding countryside and see the beauty of which the Bronte sisters wrote in their famous novels.

# Northeast England

The Northeast encompasses Northumberland, County Durham, Tyne & Wear and the Tees Valley. The northeast is a diverse and unique region which offers something for everyone. Experience the vibrant towns, quaint villages and picturesque surroundings at leisure on your self-drive holiday.

## Events

### April

**The Wear Valley Food Festival** - Durham.

**EAT! Food festival** - Tyne and Wear.

### June

**Wylam Summer Fair** - Tyne and Wear.

### July

**Brass-Durham International Festival.**

### August

**Saltburns Annual Art Exhibition** - Tees Valley.

### September

**The Durham Regatta.**

### October

**Sugar and Spice Festival** - Tyne and Wear.

## Attractions

### Northumberland

**Hadrian's Wall** - A world famous attraction which was once occupied by soldiers from the Roman Empire

**Explore the Holy island of Lindisfarne** - A wildlife haven and a place of pilgrimage.

**The Warkworth Castle.**

### County Durham

**The Cathedral and the Castle** - A world heritage site and one of the most exquisite examples of Romanesque architecture.

**The High Force waterfall** - Explore the heritage coast or take a walk along the banks of the River Wear.

**The Escomb Saxon Church** - A gem of Durham and over 1300 years old.

### Tyne & Wear

**The Angel of the North** - An exquisite statue that people come from all over the world to see.

**The Baltic Centre of Contemporary Art** - An international centre for contemporary art.

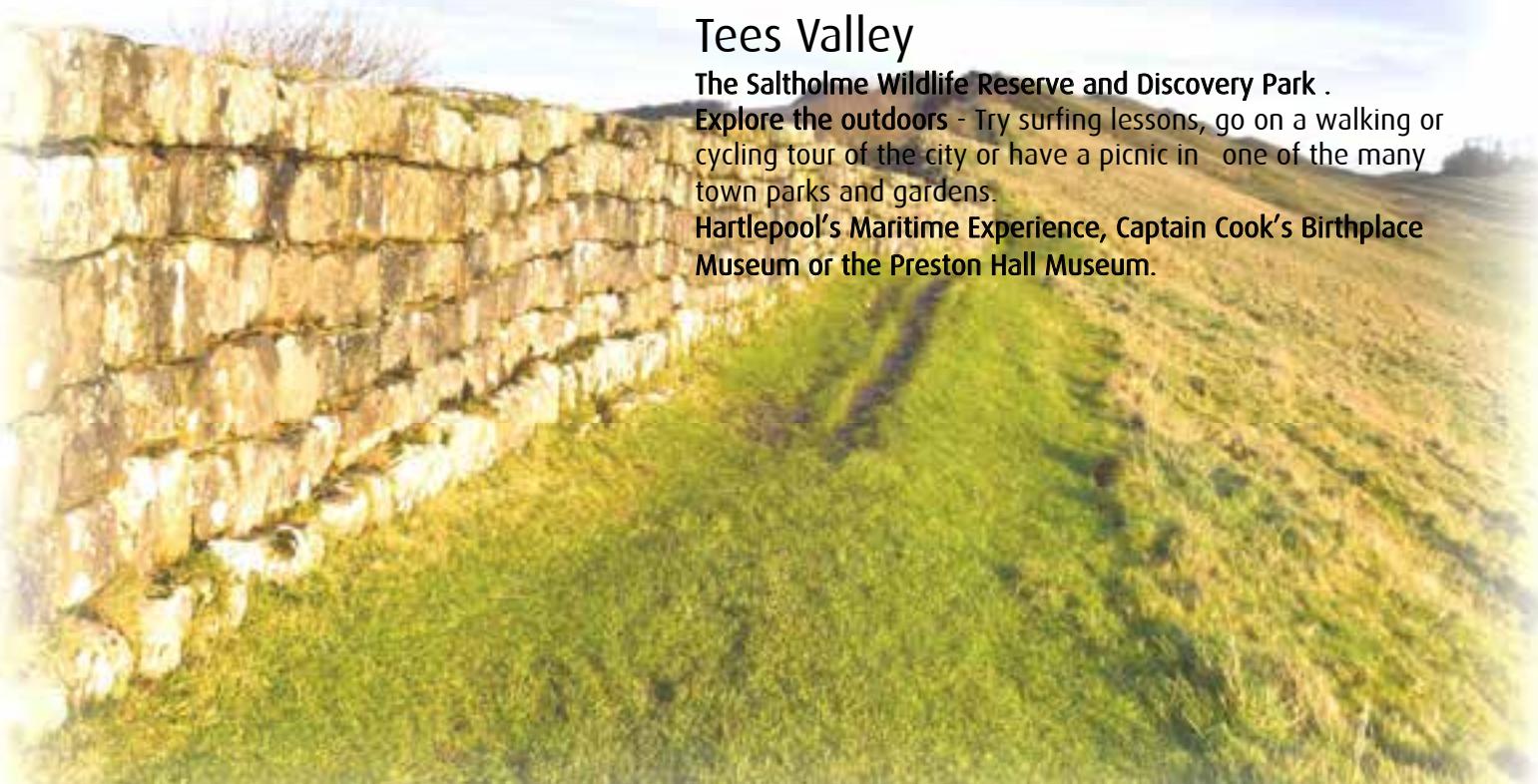
**The Belsay Hall and Gardens** - Two historic towers linked by a quaint garden sprawled over more than 30 acres of landscaped grounds.

### Tees Valley

**The Saltholme Wildlife Reserve and Discovery Park**.

**Explore the outdoors** - Try surfing lessons, go on a walking or cycling tour of the city or have a picnic in one of the many town parks and gardens.

**Hartlepool's Maritime Experience, Captain Cook's Birthplace Museum or the Preston Hall Museum.**

Hadrian's Wall, Northumberland

# Self-Drive Tours around Northeast England

## Tees Valley

Explore the beautiful Tees Valley and the birthplace of Captain James Cook. Begin at Middlesbrough, and visit the Captain Cook Birthplace Museum, then visit a full size replica of his ship, the Endeavour.

Drive west on the A66 through Elton, Sadberge and onto the town of Darlington. Home of the Darlington Railway Museum, here you can see the first passenger engine Locomotion No. 1. Keep driving west along the A67 through Gainford and Winston and onto Barnard Castle. This castle was built in the 12<sup>th</sup> Century by Bernard de Balliol and is perched on a large rock above the River Tees, close to an attractive market town.



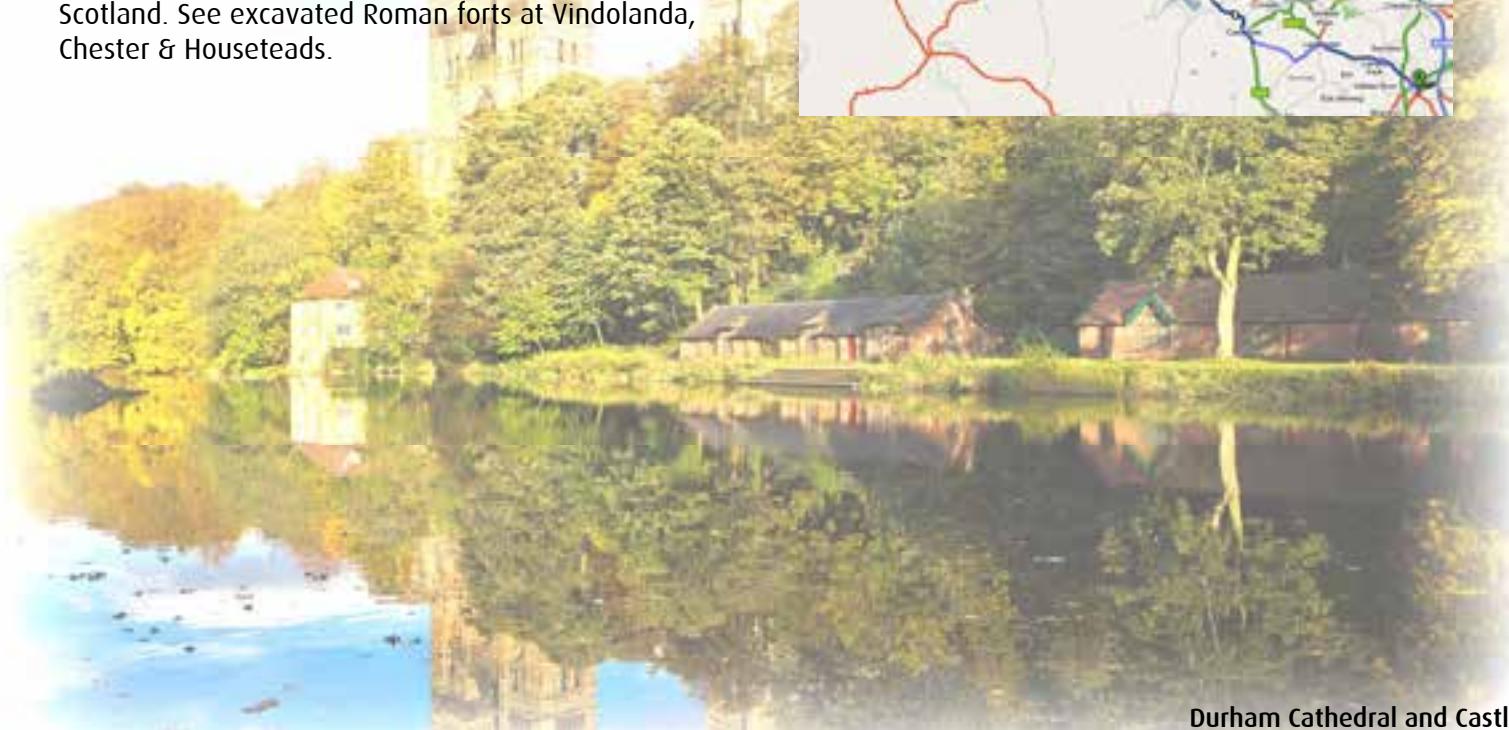
River Tees

## Essential Northeast Britain Tour



Begin this tour in the town of Durham and visit the spectacular 1,000 year old Durham Cathedral, where you can climb the 300 steps of the main tower for unsurpassed view of the surrounding county. See Durham Castle and Crook Hall and walk the lovely streets of the old town. From here, you can take the more rural route along the A691 through to Consett and on to Hexham, or you can head north from Durham on the A1 up to Newcastle. Here you can see the Tyne Bridges, the Seven Stories, the remains of the Castle Keep and Segedunum. Shop in the Central Arcade, visit great art galleries and top restaurants or even catch Newcastle United play at St James Park.

Explore the rural countryside as you head to the historic market town of Hexham. From here, drive west along the A69 to Hadrian's Wall. This World Heritage Site stretches over 80 miles of Northumberland on the border with Scotland. See excavated Roman forts at Vindolanda, Chester & Housesteads.



Durham Cathedral and Castle

# Scotland

The country of Scotland forms part of Britain and occupies the northern third of the island of Greater Britain. Its capital city is Edinburgh which also doubles as one of Europe's largest financial districts. Although Scotland is picturesquely beautiful all year round, the best time to visit is in August. The annual festivals and events are in full swing and you'll never run short of things to keep you busy.

## Attractions

**Edinburgh Castle** - A thousand year old castle which houses an assortment of national and military artefacts.

**The Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum, Glasgow** - Scotland's most visited tourist site.

**Take a ride on an Edinburgh City Hop-on Hop off tour.**

**Go Nessie Hunting** - The first sighting of the Loch Ness Monster was in 1871 and with another famous encounter in 1961, visitors from the world are fascinated by 'Nessie'.

**Play a game of golf** - If you love golf, you will love Scotland. There are hundreds of spectacular courses including the famous Old Course at St Andrews.



## Events

### January

**Hogmanay, across Scotland** – New Years Eve Festivities.

### April

**International Science Festival, Edinburgh** – Held over two weeks.

**Beltane Fire Festival** - Colton Hills, Edinburgh.

### May

**Perth Festival.**

**Orkney Folk Festival** - Edinburgh.

**Spirit of Speyside Whiskey festival, Edinburgh** – Four days of whiskey tastings and distillery tours.

### June

**Flavour of Shetland.**

**Riding of the Marches, across Scotland** – Parades, horse riding displays.

**West End Festival, across Scotland** – Two week party with music and arts.

### August

**Edinburgh Jazz and Blues Festival.**

**Edinburgh International Festival.**

**Edinburgh Military Tattoo.**

**Edinburgh Comedy Festival.**

**Edinburgh Festival Fringe.**

### September

**Linlithgow Folk Festival.**

### October

**The Doric Festival.**

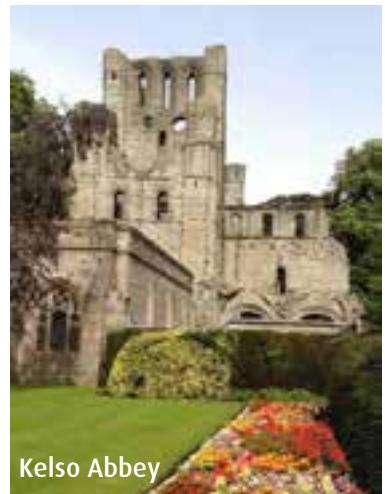
Edinburgh Castle

# Self-Drive Tours around Scotland

## Tour the Valley of the Tweed

Follow the beautiful River Tweed on this delightful drive, stopping at pretty villages along the way. Begin in the town of Kelso, which has a lovely cobbled square surrounded by Georgian buildings and a great atmosphere. Head west through Maxton and Newstead to Melrose. This lovely town is at the junction of three Eildon Hills. The Eildon Hills are covered with heather and are perfect for long walks. Here you will find Melrose Abbey and Abbotsford House.

Follow the River Tweed through the villages of Selkirk, Walkerburn and Kirkburn and onto the town of Peebles. This attractive and bustling town lies at the confluence of three rivers is home to lovely town squares and plenty of historical monuments to keep you busy.



Kelso Abbey

## Experience the Trossachs

Tour the wonderful Trossachs and see for yourself why Queen Victoria called the area 'lovely' back in 1869. The Trossachs are located at the narrowest point of the mainland, just north of Glasgow, while the whole area of Callander is a maze of rivers, lochs, waterfalls and mountains.



Begin the tour in Callander and follow the road along through Coilangtogle, past Loch Venachar and Lenderick.



Continue on past Loch Achray and down to Aberfoyle.

Follow the B829 through Milton, past Loch Ard, Loch Chon and Loch Arklet through to Inversnaid. This road will wind past wild natural environments and spectacular scenery. This area offers plenty of activities like hiking, cycling and mountain biking.



Loch Rannoch

# Wales

Famous for daffodils, leeks, its unique language, St. David and the red dragon, Wales has fast become a vibrant and diverse destination amongst holidaymakers. The capital, Cardiff, is located in the south of Wales and is the largest and most popular city in Wales. Visitors are attracted to the beautiful natural scenery, its distinct culture and wealth of history and architecture. Cardiff is known for its lively and diverse atmosphere and whilst the city boasts a vibrant nightlife, exciting events and a wealth of things to see and do, the city has managed to retain its 'small town' vibe.

## Events

### July

**Cardiff Castle Open Air Theatre.**

**Cardiff International Food and Drink Festival.**

### August

**Admiral Cardiff Big Weekend.**

**Classic Car Rally.**

**Frocester Beer Festival.**

### September

**The World's Greatest Elvis**

**Tribute Artist Concert.**

**Cider and Beer Festival.**

### October

**Halloween at Cardiff Castle.**

## Attractions

**Cardiff Castle** - Take a guided tour through 2000 years of history.

**The National History Museum, St. Fagan's** - Commonly referred to as the Museum of Welsh life due to its comprehensive collection of historical artefacts.

**Cardiff Bay** - Dine at one of the many restaurants or pubs, take a stroll along the boardwalk, visit the museums or take a look at the shops.

**The National Museum and Art Gallery** - This museum features a spectacular collection of Impressionist and Post Impressionist art.

**Techniquest** - A science museum packed with hands on exhibits and exciting things to do.

**The Millennium Sports Stadium** - One of Britain's best and biggest sporting stadiums.

**The Gower Peninsular** – Sandy beaches, limestone cliffs and easy walking trails.

**Brecon Beacons National Park** – See all the natural colour and splendour on the rolling hills and grassy moors.

**Llandudno** – Relax by the seaside or take on some extreme sports in the twin mountains, the Great Orme and Little Orme.

Cardiff Castle

# Self-Drive Tours around Wales

## Snowdonia

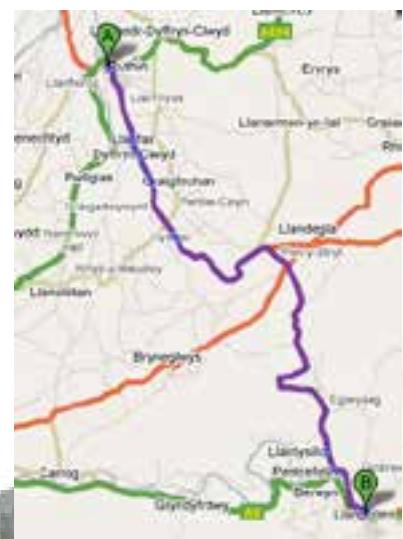
Drive along the Llanberis Pass in Snowdonia, an area of rugged natural beauty with mountain ranges carved by the twin lakes of Llyn Padarn and Llyn Peris. Drive from the town of Caenarfon along the A4086, which will take you through Pont Rug and Llanberis. Here you'll see the remains of historic Dolbadarn Castle. You will pass Pentre Castell and Nant Peris into the Snowdonia National park. There are plenty of outdoor activities, such as hiking and rock climbing, as well as enjoying the stark and rough-hewn mountains and valleys.



## The Horseshoe Pass

Travel through one of Wales' most popular natural attractions, the Horseshoe Pass. This drive follows the A542 from Ruthin to Llangollen and through the Clwydian range. Begin the tour in Ruffin, which is a small but attractive little town set in the Vale of Cwyd and has plenty of interesting historical sites to keep you busy. Head south on the A542 along the Horseshoe Pass, enjoying the unique scenery. Be sure to take care with the climb and the hairpin bends!

The Horseshoe Pass will take you on to the town of Llangollen, which is set in the vale of Llangollen on the River Dee. In this lovely town you will find plenty of restaurants and cafes to choose from, plus some great sights including the ruined castle of Dinas Bran and the Pontcysyllte aqueduct.



Llangollen

## Stay Healthy

Your comprehensive travel insurance will cover any medical costs including medical evacuation, make sure that your insurance covers you for the whole time you'll be away and be clear on what is not included. In case of an emergency, go to your nearest hospital for treatment. The Australian Government has a reciprocal health care agreement with the Government of the United Kingdom that gives Australians access to free emergency medical services but does not provide for any ongoing treatment of existing health conditions.

For non-urgent ailments, go to the local medical centre or NHS walk in centre where you will be billed for the treatment.

Plan for the continuing care of pre-existing conditions before you leave. Bring your medications in their original and clearly labelled containers with a declaration from your doctor describing your medical conditions and medicines needed. Pharmacies and chemists carry most prescriptions, however it can be expensive, so it's best to have your scripts filled before you go, and carry these medicines along with a letter from your GP explaining your medical conditions.

## Stay Safe

Travelling in the UK is not dangerous, but a level of caution should always be taken when touring in any foreign country. The majority of crimes tend to occur in the larger cities where tourists can be targeted by crimes such as bag snatching and pick pocketing. The best advice is to keep your valuables close to your body and out of reach from potential thieves, avoid lonely streets out of hours and don't flash your wealth and make yourself an obvious target.

Car break-ins, theft, smash and grab and vandalism on tourists vehicles can occur, but can be prevented by keeping valuables or bags out of sight, securely locking cars or using off-street supervised parking.

In the unlikely event of theft or loss, be sure to inform all your credit card companies as soon as you discover your wallet has been lost or stolen. Most credit card companies have toll free numbers to call if your cards are lost or stolen, and they may be able to issue an emergency replacement card or wire you a cash advance.

## Money Matters

### Currency

The currency of the United Kingdom is the pound sterling (£). Notes come in £5, £10, £20 and £50 denominations, and coins come in 1p, 2p, 5p, 10p, 20p, 50p, £1 and £2. You'll often hear the pound referred to colloquially as a 'quid'.

### Currency Exchange

Foreign currency can be exchanged at Bureau de Change at international airports and major city centres, as well as banks, post offices and some hotels.

### Banking Hours

Standard banking hours are Monday to Friday 9.00-9.30am until 3.30-4.00pm, Many bank branches stay open late once a week until 5:30 or 6:00pm, and are often open on Saturdays as well (9:00-9:30am until 12:30-3:30pm). Banks in England and Wales remain open over lunch, but many banks in Scotland and Northern Ireland close for an hour at lunch.

### ATM's

ATM's are located almost everywhere in the UK, except in the smallest villages.

### Tax

Value Added Tax – VAT – is a mandatory 20% tax on most goods and services in the UK. Generally the VAT is included in the ticketed price, however some larger, more expensive goods may not have the VAT included.

### Credit & Debit Cards

American Express, Visa and MasterCard are all widely accepted across the UK. Credit cards can be used in larger businesses, whilst the smaller businesses prefer debit cards. The 'Chip and PIN' system has been active since 2006, where you have the option of either entering a PIN or signing for your purchases. If your card credit card is not Chip and PIN enabled you should still be able to sign in the normal way.

### Traveller's Cheques

Traveller's cheques are widely accepted in the UK. Take traveller's cheques into the UK in pounds sterling to avoid additional exchange rate charges. You may need a form of photo identification to use traveller's cheques.

### Tipping

Tipping is not common practice in Britain although restaurants and cafés that provide good service could expect around 10-15% tip. In pubs with food or drinks ordered and served at the bar no tip is required.



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