

# Best of Britain



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## Day 1 | Journey to Stonehenge, Bath and Exeter



The rolling green and golden landscapes of rural Wiltshire provide a stunning backdrop for our scenic drive to Salisbury Plain this morning. We tread in the footsteps of druids and pagans at Stonehenge before travelling to the UNESCO listed Bath, with its elegant Georgian façades and the centuries-old Roman Baths. Our home for the next two nights is the historic cathedral city of Exeter where we will enjoy a memorable Welcome Dinner this evening at our hotel.

**Meals:** Dinner

**Hotel:** Mercure Southgate

## Day 2 | Plymouth and More in the Southwest



Our first stop today is in the ancient port city of Plymouth, where we'll delve into the history of the brave Pilgrim Fathers who set sail for an unknown New World from its shores. See the Royal Citadel overlooking Plymouth Sound and consider an optional cruise around the dramatic coastline. We take a step back in time at our next stop – the delightful village of Polperro. Continuing along the brooding moorland of Dartmoor, we arrive at Buckfast Abbey, where we'll Dive Into Culture and gain insights into how Benedictine monks have lived and prayed for over 1,000 years.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Hotel:** Mercure Southgate

### OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

You will be offered one of the following two optional experiences depending on availability:

***Plymouth Harbour Cruise*** - Relax on a boat trip around the harbour of one of England's most famous seaports. As the commentary unfolds, we'll see the Mayflower steps monument, where the Pilgrim Fathers set sail for America. We'll enjoy panoramic vistas of Plymouth Hoe before entering the Royal Navy Dockyard, where we'll see modern vessels of the Royal Navy.

Adult: 20.00 GBP

***Plymouth Harbour Extended Cruise*** - An hour-long extended private cruise across Plymouth Harbour will give us a comprehensive tour of the history from the Mayflower Steps all the way to the engineering marvel of IK Brunel's bridge. You'll also enjoy complimentary tea or coffee.

Adult: 22.00 GBP

***Devonshire Village And Dinner*** - We'll drive to a beautiful village in Devon, where you'll see cob walled houses with thatched roofs and the parish church, which dates back over 700 years. You'll also savour a tasty pub dinner and meet the locals, in a 700-year-old village pub.

Adult: 43.00 GBP

## Day 3 | Onwards to Glastonbury and Cardiff



Enjoy a scenic drive through the pretty Devon and Somerset countryside to mystical Glastonbury, where we'll visit the ruined Abbey, said to be the final resting place of King Arthur. Your journey back to a time of knights, lords and ladies is just beginning and you'll head to Somerset for an unforgettable experience with Ian and Ann Dyer who are your warm Be My Guest hosts on their modern-day dairy farm, where guests will get to see the ancient manor which was mentioned in the Domesday book of 1085. The Dyers both hail from old farming families and you'll learn what life is like in the rural countryside and the historical significance of their home as you Connect With Locals over a lunch featuring family favourites prepared by keen cook, Ann. We journey to Cardiff, the capital of Wales, where we'll explore the proud heritage of the Welsh and modern icons, including the Principality Stadium during an orientation tour.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Lunch

**Hotel:** Leonardo Hotel Cardiff

### OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

**Cardiff Castle Tour** - On a private tour, you'll explore this unique castle and hear tales about the eclectic refurbishments. Done in the 1800s by architect William Burgess, his influences included Islamic art, Hans Christian Anderson's fairy tales and even Aesop's fables. You'll also walk on the battlements and climb the 900-year-old Norman keep for superb views over Cardiff.

Adult: 24.00 GBP

You will be offered one of the following two optional experiences depending on availability:

**Welsh Evening** - Enjoy an evening of Welsh music, culture and humour. The venue for the evening is a stunningly-renovated deconsecrated church. After a warm reception, we'll enjoy a first-class meal of seasonal Welsh specialities, sourced and produced locally. Quality wine or soft drinks are included and the meal will be accompanied by our enchanting Welsh harpist. You'll then be entertained by the finest local singers presenting the beautiful music of Wales.

Adult: 78.00 GBP

**Traditional Welsh Evening And Dinner** - Join us for a traditional Welsh country dinner. We'll take you to a 14th century thatched inn called The Blue Anchor. While you're eating and enjoying your drink, you'll be entertained with a performance from a Welsh harpist.

Adult: 58.00 GBP

## Day 4 | Explore Tudor History and on to Liverpool



Tudor history is explored this morning as we visit the historic towns of Ludlow and Chester with their characteristic black-and-white half-timbered buildings. Join your Travel Director for an orientation walk past these famous Tudor Rows and enjoy views of Chester's medieval city walls and red sandstone Cathedral. The haunt of the 'Fab Four' is our final stop today. Join a Local Specialist to gain insight into Liverpool's Beatles' history and enjoy a free evening in one of Britain's edgiest cities.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Hotel:** Leonardo Hotel Liverpool / Leonardo Hotel Manchester Central / Leonardo Hotel Manchester Piccadilly

## Day 5 | Venture to the Romantic Lake District and on to Glasgow



Rolling Lancashire pastures give way to the soul-stirring Lake District, whose beautiful scenery has inspired poets and writers for centuries. We travel along the shores of Lake Windermere, through countryside made famous by the poet William Wordsworth. Stop in Gretna Green on the Scottish border, where many eloping couples have tied the knot. We arrive in Glasgow later for an orientation tour, including views of the Cathedral, magnificent George Square and the Clyde River, the former heart of the shipbuilding industry. This evening, enjoy a Regional Dinner in a local restaurant.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

**Hotel:** Crowne Plaza Glasgow / Courtyard by Marriott Glasgow SEC

### OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

You will be offered one of the following two optional experiences depending on availability:

**Scenic Cruise on Lake Windermere** - Enjoy a scenic boat cruise on England's most beautiful and largest lake, taking in the northern coastline, beautiful houses, gardens and Wray Castle. You'll see deserted islands, boats and birdlife as you explore the area loved by Beatrix Potter and William Wordsworth.

Adult: 26.00 GBP

**Windermere Cruise and Steam Train Ride** - Step back in time as we board the steam train for a short journey from Haverthwaite to Lakeside. Then a chance to view the glorious scenery of the Lake District as we cruise across England's largest lake.\*

Adult: 31.00 GBP

*\*Occasionally this experience will operate in reverse.*



## Day 6 | On to Fort William and the Scottish Highlands



Journey along Loch Lomond, whose Bonnie Banks were immortalised in the well-known Scottish song. We arrive in Glencoe and remember the MacDonald clansmen who died tragically in the 1692 massacre which led this place to be called the 'Glen of Weeping'. At the World War II Commando Memorial near Fort William, we admire views of Britain's highest mountain, Ben Nevis. Our day in beautiful surrounds comes to an end with a cosy dinner at our hotel located within the Cairngorms National Park in the Scottish Highlands.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

**Hotel:** Laggan Hotel/Craiglynne Hotel Grantown On Spey

### OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

**Loch Lomond Boat Trip** - Discover the wild beauty of the 'Bonnie Banks of Loch Lomond'. As we cruise across the loch, the skipper will share stories of the area and point out Rob Roy's cave as you relax and savour the stunning scenery. Adult: 21.00 GBP

**Highland Farm Experience** - Visit a real Highland sheep farm and meet Neil the Shepherd and his border collies. He'll show you how he uses different whistles to command each dog to carry out different tasks. You'll also have the opportunity to try your hand at feeding the lambs and discover his training techniques. Weather permitting. Adult: 22.00 GBP

## Day 7 | Discover the Isle of Skye



We travel to the coast this morning to the Isle of Skye where a Local Specialist will take us on a journey to view the remarkable Cuillin Mountains. Against the backdrop of heather-clad mountains, we stop at the ancient settlement of Kyleakin. Later, we cross back to the mainland to view scenic Eilean Donan Castle. Travel through the Scottish Highlands past its picturesque lochs and glens, keeping your camera at the ready to capture 'Nessie' if you can.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

**Hotel:** Laggan Hotel/Craiglynne Hotel Grantown On Spey

## Day 8 | Journey to Enchanting Edinburgh



Heading back to the lowlands of Scotland, we stop in Pitlochry before heading to the historic home of golf, St. Andrews. Here, the first games were played during the 1400s. See its famous 18th hole before crossing the Firth of Forth to Scotland's enchanting capital, Edinburgh. Tickets to see the spectacular Edinburgh Tattoo are included on departures that coincide with performance dates.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Hotel:** Delta Hotels by Marriott.

## OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

***Pitlochry, Visit of Blair Castle*** - Set in its own grounds against a backdrop of glorious scenery, we'll discover the ancient home of the Dukes of Atholl, home to Europe's last remaining private army. Unique amongst Scottish castles, Blair has hosted royalty from Mary, Queen of Scots, to Queen Victoria.

Adult: 28.00 GBP

***Johnnie Walker's 'Journey of Flavour' Tour & Dinner on the Royal Mile*** - Take part in a 90-minute immersive tour, led by Johnnie Walker Experts. This sensory experience includes live performances, light shows, and delicious whiskey cocktails (& mocktails)! After discovering your flavour profile, enjoy a meal in the cosy Tolbooth Tavern on the Royal Mile.

Adult: 74.00 GBP

***Historic Old Town Edinburgh walk with traditional Fish & Chips*** - Walk through Edinburgh's Historic Old Town with a Local Specialist. Stroll along Victoria Street, with its unusual shape and collection of quirky shops its said to be the inspiration behind Diagon Alley in the Harry Potter books. Afterwards, tuck into some traditional Fish and Chips at Bertie's Restaurant.

## Day 9 | Uncover Edinburgh's Treasures



Ramble up the Royal Mile today and see the iconic sights of one of Britain's most enchanting cities. The elegant Palace of Holyroodhouse, in the shadow of Arthur's Seat, and the Scottish Parliament feature on your sightseeing tour with a Local Specialist. Visit Edinburgh Castle perched atop Castle Rock overlooking the city. Admire the elegant Georgian architecture in the New Town and amble through the hidden passages of the Old Town before enjoying an evening at leisure. Consider an Optional Experience including traditional song, dance and Scottish fare.

**Meals:** Breakfast

**Hotel:** Delta Hotels by Marriott.

## OPTIONAL EXPERIENCES:

***Rosslyn Chapel*** - We'll drive out of Edinburgh to the tiny village of Rosslyn, where we'll hear the inside story of the famous Rosslyn Chapel from a Local Specialist. One of Scotland's most unusual 15th-century buildings, Rosslyn is famed for its associations with the Knights Templar, the Masonic movement, and now 'The Da Vinci Code'.

Adult: 27.00 GBP

You will be offered one of the following two optional experiences depending on availability:

***Dinner and Drive to Historic Torphichen*** - Enjoy a scenic drive to the ancient village of Torphichen, associated with Scottish kings and Knights Templar. At the Torphichen Inn, your arrival will be toasted by our gracious host before enjoying an excellent dinner of local specialties and entertainment.

Adult: 69.00 GBP

***Ceilidh Evening and Dinner at Ghillie Dhu*** - Experience the best of Scottish tradition at Ghillie Dhu, where we'll be welcomed by a Scottish piper and enjoy a welcome drink before settling in for a delicious three-course meal and live Ceilidh music. And you can't miss the iconic Piping in the Haggis ceremony, a true highlight of the Scottish experience.

Adult: 79.00 GBP

*\*This experience will only be offered during the summer months April - October.*

## Day 10 | Continue to York



We travel to the medieval market town of Alnwick this morning, where we'll see the impressive castle home to the Duke of Northumberland and the Tenantry Column, upon which the Percy Lion sits and surveys the town. Journey through Northumberland to the cathedral city of York. We'll embark an orientation walk past its cobblestone Shambles and see the inspiring Minster with its 'heart of Yorkshire' before joining our newfound friends for a Farewell Dinner.

**Meals:** Breakfast, Dinner

**Hotel:** Novotel Centre

## Day 11 | Onwards to Shakespeare's Stratford-upon-Avon and London



Shakespeare's legacy and life are celebrated in his home town of Stratford-upon-Avon, which we will have an opportunity to visit today on our return to London. See Anne Hathaway's thatched cottage and visit Shakespeare's Birthplace and Visitor Centre. Later, we travel back to London where our amazing holiday comes to an end.

**Meals:** Breakfast