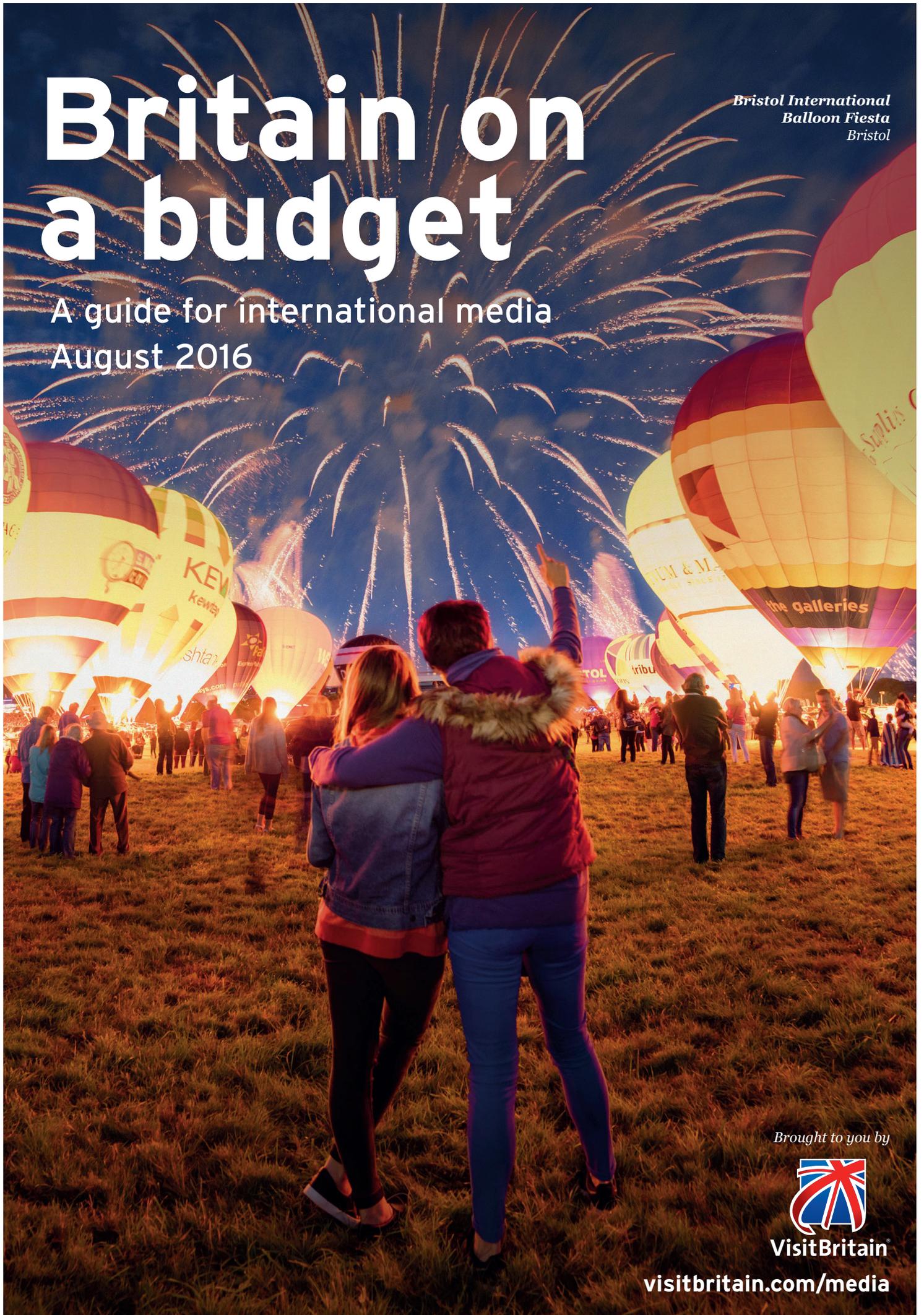


# Britain on a budget

Bristol International  
Balloon Fiesta  
Bristol

A guide for international media  
August 2016



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## 13 great value views

Stunning cityscapes, lush countryside, shimmering mountain lakes... Britain's landscapes are as varied as they are beautiful. Even better, these 13 stunning views are easily accessible and either free, or cost less than £5 per person to enjoy.

### 1. Sky Garden, London

Scan your eyes across London's iconic skyline from this free public space on the rooftop of 20 Fenchurch Street, otherwise known as the Walkie Talkie building. Uncrowded by neighbouring skyscrapers and 155 metres up over London, Sky Garden's location offers a unique panorama of the city. The view epitomises London's fusion of history and modernity beautifully: directly opposite stands The Shard in all its glassy grandeur, while the Tower of London lies below. You can enjoy a drink with your view at the Sky Pod bar, or indulge in elevated dining at one of two restaurants. Tickets for Sky Garden are free, but need to be booked in advance using the website.



*Panoramic London skyline views for free at Sky Garden*

**Getting there:** *The nearest London Underground station is Monument.*

[www.skygarden.london](http://www.skygarden.london)

### 2. The Milky Way over Gold Hill, Shaftesbury, Dorset, south-west England

Described as one of the most romantic sights in England, the picturesque view of the steep cobbled street in the town of Shaftesbury is definitely a must-see. It's even more special on a clear evening when you can see the Milky Way stretching up from the horizon.



*A festival firework finale up at Calton Hill - credit Grant Ritchie original*

**Getting there:** *Shaftesbury is two and a quarter hours by train from London Waterloo.*

[www.visit-dorset.com/things-to-do/attractions/gold-hill-p1244443](http://www.visit-dorset.com/things-to-do/attractions/gold-hill-p1244443)

### 3. Calton Hill, Edinburgh, Scotland

You might feel like you've walked into Ancient Greece (apart from the grass!) after the short one-mile climb up to Calton Hill, where 360-degree panoramic views of the city greet you and Athenian cenotaphs surround you.

These iconic monuments are dedicated to important figures in Scottish history and culture; the National Monument acropolis - inspired by the Parthenon in Athens - is Scotland's

memorial to those who died fighting in the Napoleonic Wars. In August, Edinburgh Festival's grand firework finale takes place here, and on the last day of April it is the scene of the Beltane Fire Festival. Visiting Calton Hill is free.

*Getting there:* Edinburgh has its own international airport or you can fly from London. The train from London King's Cross St Pancras to Edinburgh takes approximately four hours and 20 minutes.

[www.visitscotland.com](http://www.visitscotland.com)

#### 4. Windsor Great Park, Berkshire, south-east England

Fancy an iconic view of one of the Queen's private residences in all its regal glory? Head to Windsor Great Park and look down from the King George III Copper Horse statue. The park's straight, tree-lined Long Walk stretches out below - all 2.65 miles of it - towards Windsor Castle at the far end. If you're lucky you might even see some of the park's freely roaming deer. Most parts of the park - including the Long Walk - are open to the public free of charge, from dawn to dusk, 365 days a year.

*Getting there:* Windsor is 50 minutes by train from London Waterloo.

[www.windsorgreatpark.co.uk](http://www.windsorgreatpark.co.uk)

#### 5. Llyn y Fan Fach, Brecon Beacons National Park, Powys, south Wales

In Welsh Llyn y Fan Fach means 'lake of the big peak' - and it certainly is. This natural body of water covering approximately ten hectares lies at the foot of Fan Brycheiniog, the highest peak of the Black Mountain range. The lake can be reached via a two-mile footpath and the impressive views highlight the extent of the lake's size within the landscape. This isolated beauty spot is considered to be enchanted by a fairy maiden, The Lady of the Lake, although you're more likely to spot one of the numerous different species of bird in the area.



*Magical sites at Llyn y Fan Fach - credit Britain on View*

*Getting there:* Llyn y Fan Fach is 7.5 miles south-east of the nearest train station in Llandovery. A direct train goes from Llandovery to Swansea, and the train from London to Swansea takes around three hours.

[www.nationaltrust.org.uk/brecon-beacons/trails/pen-y-fan-and-corn-du-circular-walk](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/brecon-beacons/trails/pen-y-fan-and-corn-du-circular-walk)

#### 6. Overlooking Derwentwater, Lake District National Park, Cumbria, north-west England

Picking out one view in the Lake District is a tricky task because the area is so geographically blessed with beautiful landscapes. So much so, its rugged mountains and shimmering lakes have inspired writers and poets throughout history. One of the best vistas is looking east from the top of Cat Bells hill across the lake of Derwentwater to the mountain of Skiddaw. Cat Bells is one of the most popular hills in the area; it's also a short, sharp, steep climb of 451 metres - but clearly worth the effort!

**Getting there:** The nearest train station is Penrith, approximately one hour and forty-five minutes by train from Manchester, or three hours and thirty minutes from London.

[www.lakedistrict.gov.uk](http://www.lakedistrict.gov.uk)

## 7. Loch Ness and Urquhart Castle, Scotland

This 22.5-mile loch may have made a name for itself thanks to the mythical beast that may or may not dwell in its waters, but every visitor can at least be sure they will be rewarded with stunning views. On a sunny day the loch sparkles and the shapes of Urquhart Castle and surrounding mountains are reflected onto the loch's glassy mass, making for a dreamily proportioned, Instagram-worthy shot.

**Getting there:** Loch Ness is approximately 45 minutes' drive from Inverness airport.

[www.visitinvernesslochness.com](http://www.visitinvernesslochness.com)



*Urquhart Castle reflecting on Loch Ness*

## 8. Bamburgh Castle, Northumberland, north-east England

The spectacular combination of an isolated ancient castle and vast stretch of dune-fringed sandy beach has made this wild coastal spot a popular film location, most recently starring in the cinema adaptation of *Macbeth*. The beach is also one of the North East's top surf spots, so you might catch a view of a surfer or kite surfer out in the waves.

**Getting there:** London Kings Cross to Berwick-upon-Tweed is three hours and 30 minutes by train, or 40 minutes from Edinburgh. There is a bus service from Berwick-upon-Tweed to Bamburgh.

[www.visitnorthumberland.com/coast/bamburgh](http://www.visitnorthumberland.com/coast/bamburgh)



*The remote beauty of Barafundle Bay - credit VisitBritain, Simon Kreitem*

## 9. Barafundle Bay, Pembrokeshire, Wales

Britain's coastline is spectacular and the view overlooking remote Barafundle Bay really has the wow factor. With crystal clear waters and pristine sand, it's been voted as one of the world's best beaches and is often likened to the Caribbean! Check out tide times before you visit to ensure there's plenty of beach to enjoy.

**Getting there:** The bay can be accessed via a half-mile walk along the Pembrokeshire

Coast Path from Stackpole Quay car park. The nearest train station is Pembroke Dock - five and a half hours from London Paddington via Swansea.

[www.visitpembrokeshire.com/explore-pembrokeshire/beaches/barafundle-bay](http://www.visitpembrokeshire.com/explore-pembrokeshire/beaches/barafundle-bay)

## 10. Emirates Air Line, London

Fancy a change from the London Underground? Riding this cable car over the River Thames gives much better views of London while you travel! The spiked dome of the O2 rises up beneath you and Canary Wharf glistens in the distance.

*Getting there:* Emirates Air Line runs between Royal Victoria Docks and North Greenwich stations on the DLR line.

[www.emiratesairline.co.uk](http://www.emiratesairline.co.uk)

## 11. Liverpool Cathedral's fairy-tale gothic arches, north-west England

Marvel at the world's highest and widest gothic arches inside this spectacularly spacious cathedral. Take in the beauty of the Great West Window towering above you like something from a fairy-tale castle, or pause and reflect in the glorious Lady Chapel. The cathedral is free to enter.

*Getting there:* Liverpool is two hours and 15 minutes by train from London Euston.

[www.visitliverpool.com/things-to-do/liverpool-cathedral-p9023](http://www.visitliverpool.com/things-to-do/liverpool-cathedral-p9023)



*Standing in awe of Liverpool Cathedral*

## 12. Lake Vyrnwy, Powys, Wales

Situated on the edge of the Snowdonia National Park, Lake Vyrnwy is set amid the Berwyn Mountains, surrounded by lush countryside and spectacular waterfalls. Looking out from its historic stone dam, the beautiful view across this reservoir is punctuated by an impressive tower rising out of the water in the distance like a fairy-tale castle. The lake was built for the purpose of supplying Liverpool with fresh water, and this straining tower is where the water begins its journey along an aqueduct and pipeline.



*A fairy-tale castle in Lake Vyrnwy*

*Getting there:* The nearest train station to Lake Vyrnwy is Welshpool - easily accessible from Birmingham International train station in one hour and 45 minutes.

[www.lake-vyrnwy.com](http://www.lake-vyrnwy.com)

## 13. Mussenden Temple, County Derry~Londonderry, Northern Ireland

Perched dramatically on wild coastal headland, this elegant 18th-century temple overlooks the Atlantic Ocean. Located in the beautiful surroundings of the Downhill Demesne estate, the open clifftop walk leading to the temple offers spectacular panoramic views westwards

over Downhill Strand, the beach used as the filming location for mythical Dragonstone in *Game of Thrones*.

*Getting there:* The nearest train station is Coleraine. British travel presenter Michael Palin described the Derry~Londonderry to Coleraine route as "one of the most beautiful rail journeys in the world".

[www.discovernorthernireland.com/Mussenden-Temple-and-Downhill-Demesne-Castlerock-Coleraine-P2928](http://www.discovernorthernireland.com/Mussenden-Temple-and-Downhill-Demesne-Castlerock-Coleraine-P2928)

## Unforgettable and unusual experiences on a minimal budget

As the saying goes, 'the best things in life are free'! Here are some of the best value quirky experiences on offer in Britain that you'll remember for years to come.

**Bristol Balloon Fiesta**, Bristol, south-west England

Every year Bristol hosts Europe's largest hot air balloon event for four days of free, family-friendly fun. More than 150 hot air balloons of all shapes and sizes take to the skies with beautiful Bristol as their backdrop, and illuminate the skies with an evening 'nightglow' on selected days. The fiesta attracts hundreds of thousands of people each year and family entertainment includes fairground rides, food stalls, bars, face painting, acoustic music areas and air displays.



*Up, up and away in Bristol*

**When:** August

*Getting there:* The train from London Paddington to Bristol Temple Meads takes one hour and 45 minutes.

[www.bristolballoonfiesta.co.uk](http://www.bristolballoonfiesta.co.uk)

**A bluebell wood in bloom**, Skelghyll Woods, Ambleside, Cumbria, north-west England

Bluebells carpeting a forest floor is a distinctively British sight, and also a sign of ancient woodland. Fifty percent of the world's bluebells are to be found in Britain, including among the beautiful oak woodland of Skelghyll Woods near Ambleside. April and May are the best months to enjoy this true spring time experience, but all-year round you can walk Skelghyll Woods' Champion Tree Trail, a 45-minute circular route past some of the tallest trees in England. Take a packed lunch and stop at one of the many picnic spots along the way.

**When:** April and May

**Getting there:** The closest train station is Windermere, and a bus from Windermere to Ambleside is also available.

[www.nationaltrust.org.uk/lists/bluebells-in-the-north-west](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/lists/bluebells-in-the-north-west)



*Amazing free shows at Edinburgh Fringe*

### **Free culture at Edinburgh Fringe Festival, Edinburgh, Scotland**

Every summer Edinburgh's Fringe Festival incorporates thousands of free arts shows - from drama and comedy to cabaret, dance and spoken word. Wander the city's cobbled Royal Mile and collect flyer invitations to see them for free.

**When:** August

**Getting there:** Edinburgh has its own international airport or you can fly from London. The train from London King's Cross St Pancras to

Edinburgh takes approximately four hours and 20 minutes.

[www.edfringe.com](http://www.edfringe.com)

### **History comes alive at Warwick Castle, Warwick, West Midlands, central England**

Step back through 1,000 years of fascinating history at this medieval castle, developed from an original castle built by William the Conqueror in 1068. History comes to life with enactments of great battles, with a chance to meet heroic knights and hear stories of ancient myths and princesses. Ticket prices vary depending on time of year; get the cheapest prices by booking online five days in advance.

**When:** Year-round

**Getting there:** The castle is a ten minute walk from Warwick train station. The direct train service London Marylebone to Warwick takes one hour and 45 minutes.

[www.warwick-castle.com](http://www.warwick-castle.com)



*Knights in training at Warwick Castle*

### **Walking along the White Cliffs of Dover, Dover, south-east England**

This extraordinary coastal precipice overlooks the English Channel, with far-reaching views towards the French coast. Pick up a leaflet at the Visitor Centre to learn about the significance of the coastline through the centuries; the cliffs were used for defence in both World Wars. Then take a walk along the coastal path towards South Foreland Lighthouse, and recharge at the coffee shop, which offers a delicious traditional cream tea (two scones, jam, clotted cream and tea) for under £5.

**When:** Year-round. It is a National Trust site, and entrance is free.

**Getting there:** *There is an hourly high-speed train from London St Pancras to Dover Priory station.*

[www.nationaltrust.org.uk/the-white-cliffs-of-dover](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/the-white-cliffs-of-dover)

### **Dare to walk along Carrick-a-Rede Rope Bridge, Antrim Coast, Northern Ireland**

Channel your inner Indiana Jones and head to the wild coastal landscape of the Antrim Coast to cross Carrick-a-Rede, a swaying rope bridge that will test your nerve! Suspended almost 100ft (30m) above sea-level, the 65ft (20m) bridge stretches between the mainland and 'Rocky Island'. Below you, emerald green water ebbs and flows around ancient caves and caverns. Carrick-a-Rede is also a 'Dark Sky Discovery' site, classified as one of the best places in Northern Ireland for stargazing.



*Feeling like Indiana Jones at Carrick-a-Rede*

**When:** Year-round. Entry is £5.90 for adults and concessions are available.

**Getting there:** *It takes one hour 15 minutes to drive to Carrick-a-Rede from Belfast, or ten minutes from the Giant's Causeway.*

[www.nationaltrust.org.uk/carrick-a-rede](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/carrick-a-rede)

### **Live lunchtime music, St Martin in the Fields church, London**

One of the most budget-friendly and dazzling music venues in central London is St Martin in the Fields church in Trafalgar Square. Throughout the week it hosts free lunchtime classical music recitals, offering a calm oasis from the buzz of the city.

**When:** Year-round

**Getting there:** *The nearest London Underground station is Charing Cross.*

[www.stmartin-in-the-fields.org](http://www.stmartin-in-the-fields.org)

### **Party at Notting Hill Carnival, London**

It's the largest street festival celebration in Europe - and it's free! Every August bank holiday (a national holiday) the streets of west London come alive with Caribbean colours, music and flavours. Costumed performers and elaborately decorated floats move to the sounds of steel bands, traditional calypso, reggae, R&B, funk, house music and more. Live stages feature local bands, top international artists and sounds from around the world - previous headlines include Eddie Grant and



*Check out the colourful costumes at Notting Hill Carnival - credit Jon Spaul*

Wyclef Jean. Watch the carnival parade, join in the fun and succumb to the tempting food stalls along the way.

**When:** August

**Getting there:** London Underground stations near the carnival area include High Street Kensington, Holland Park, Queen's Park, Kensal Rise, Shepherd's Bush and Paddington. Check the Transport for London website before you travel for updates. [www.tfl.gov.uk](http://www.tfl.gov.uk)

[www.visitlondon.com/things-to-do/event/9023471-notting-hill-carnival](http://www.visitlondon.com/things-to-do/event/9023471-notting-hill-carnival)

## Britain's free events: by region, season and month

### AUTUMN

#### September

##### Scotland: Doors Open Days

Every weekend during the month of September, buildings, places and spaces that are usually closed to the public open their doors and give visitors the unique opportunity to explore these usually hidden gems. Discover architecture, secret spots and intriguing histories in locations that only open once a year, some of which only open once in a lifetime.

**When:** Throughout September

**Where:** Various locations in Scotland.

[www.doorsopendays.org.uk/opendays](http://www.doorsopendays.org.uk/opendays)



*Blackpool all lit up*

##### Lancashire, north-west England: Blackpool Illuminations

Back for 2016, the Blackpool Illuminations are promised to be bigger and even better than before. Explore the seaside town of Blackpool while experiencing a dazzling combination of light and sound along the six-mile illuminated display, which beautifully lights up the coastal skyline.

**When:** 2 September - 6 November 2016

**Where:** Located in Blackpool, Lancashire, which is a seaside resort on the north-west coast of England. Blackpool is just under three hours from London by train, and is a 75-minute drive from Liverpool.

[www.illuminations.visitblackpool.com](http://www.illuminations.visitblackpool.com)

## The South Downs National Park, south-east England: Country Walking Festival

Put your walking boots on for nine days of activities showcasing the sights, sounds and tastes of the South Downs National Park and surrounding areas. England's newest national park, the South Downs is home to the famous Seven Sisters chalk cliffs, as well as Beachy Head. The festival features more than 60 guided walks, many of which are free of charge. Booking is essential.

**When:** 24 September - 2 October

***Where:** Various locations. The South Downs are easily accessible from London, with car journeys taking around two hours. A number of train routes are also available, with journeys taking approximately one hour 30 minutes.*

[www.sussexwalkingfestival.org.uk](http://www.sussexwalkingfestival.org.uk)

## October

### South-west England: Falmouth Oyster Festival

One of Cornwall's biggest specialist food festivals, Falmouth Oyster Festival celebrates the start of the oyster dredging season, the native Fal Oyster, and the diversity of Cornish seafood. Enjoy four days of feasting, cooking demonstrations from top chefs, live music, real ale and wine bars, and craft stalls. Keep an eye out for the Working Boat race and Grand Oyster Parade too.

**When:** 13 - 16 October 2016

***Where:** Falmouth is on the south-coast of Cornwall in south-east England. It is a five-hour journey by car from London, and just over a three-hour journey from Bristol.*

[www.falmouthoysterfestival.co.uk](http://www.falmouthoysterfestival.co.uk)



*The freshest of oysters in Falmouth at St Michaels Hotel and Spa*

### North-west England: Lakes International Comic Art Festival, Kendal

The Lakes International Comic Art Festival takes over the town of Kendal on the edge of the Lake District for three days of celebration. Meet international comic artists and creators, watch live drawings, and see films, exhibitions, comic trails, workshops, performances and master classes. There is also a free family zone, and a special focus on Beatrix Potter in 2016 for her 150th anniversary.

**When:** 14 - 16 October

***Where:** Kendal can be found in Cumbria, in the north-west of England. Kendal is nearly a four-hour journey by train from London, or two-hour car journey from Leeds.*

[www.comicartfestival.com](http://www.comicartfestival.com)

## Northern Ireland: Ghosts in the Glens Storytelling Festival

Based in Cushendall, this storytelling festival celebrates the rich cultural heritage of the Glens of Antrim. Join local storytellers and musicians, as well as featured guests from the rest of Northern Ireland, while being inspired by the natural beauty, heritage and history of the area.

**When:** 28 - 30 October 2016

***Where:** Cushendall is located on the north-east coast of Northern Ireland. It is a 60-minute car journey from Belfast, which is a 75-minute flight from London.*

[www.ghostsintheglens.com](http://www.ghostsintheglens.com)

## November

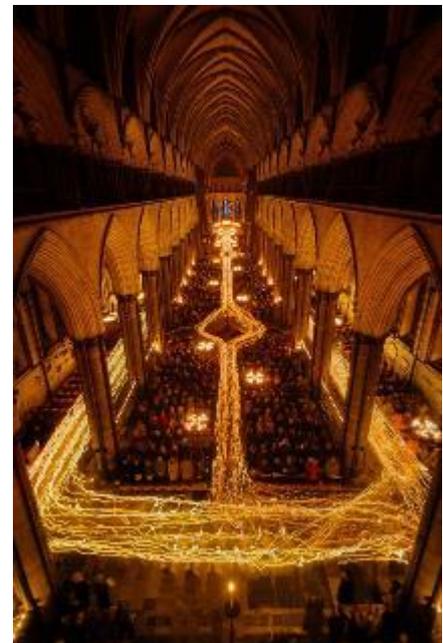
### South-west England: From Darkness to Light, Salisbury Cathedral

Attended by thousands of visitors every year, Darkness to Light at Salisbury Cathedral is one of the most popular services of the Cathedral's year. The Advent Procession starts with the Cathedral in total darkness and silence, before the Advent Candle is lit and the evening progresses to a culmination of beautiful music and readings. During the service two great processions move around different spaces in the building which, by the end, is illuminated by almost 1,300 candles. The service lasts approximately 65 minutes.

**When:** November, date to be confirmed

***Where:** Salisbury Cathedral is in Salisbury, Wiltshire. Wiltshire is in the south west of England, and is 90-minute journey by train from London.*

[www.salisburycathedral.org.uk/events/advent-procession-darkness-light-3](http://www.salisburycathedral.org.uk/events/advent-procession-darkness-light-3)



*Salisbury Cathedral glowing in the dark  
- credit Ash Mills*

### East England: Cambridge Jazz Festival

Each November Cambridge plays host to the Cambridge Jazz Festival with live music that spans 12 days of entertainment. With more than 200 musicians, and 80 events in 18 venues celebrating the multiple genres of jazz, there's an abundance of both ticketed and free events to enjoy. Immerse yourself in the gypsy jazz, Latin, soul and funk, and jam sessions, as well as getting involved with films, speakers and workshops.

**When:** 16 - 27 November

***Where:** Cambridge is in the east of England, and is a 60-minute train journey from London, or a 90-minute journey by car.*

[www.cambridgejazzfestival.org.uk](http://www.cambridgejazzfestival.org.uk)

## Southern Scotland: St Andrew's Day Celebrations, Edinburgh

Help commemorate Scotland's patron saint, St Andrew, in Edinburgh this November. The garden in St Andrew's Square will host a programme of kids' activities and live music throughout the day in the Speiegeltent and on the main stage. There will also be activities on the ice rink. Keep a look out for the free ticket giveaway from Historic Scotland ([www.ticketgiveaway.co.uk](http://www.ticketgiveaway.co.uk)), where tickets for attractions, including Edinburgh Castle, are given out.

**When:** 30 November

***Where:** The celebrations take place in St Andrew's Square in Edinburgh. Edinburgh is in west Scotland, and is a 75-minute journey by plane from London.*

[www.edinburghguide.com/events/standrewsday](http://www.edinburghguide.com/events/standrewsday)

## WINTER

### December

## East Midlands, central England: Winter Wonderland Christmas market, Nottingham

Located in Nottingham's Old Market Square, the Winter Wonderland Christmas market has Victorian-style market cabins offering an array of Christmas gifts, seasonal food and drink, crafts, and festive trinkets. You can also enjoy a drink at the winter bar while watching the live music from the traditional bandstand, or try the new Ice Bar for 2016 where guests can expect ice glasses and ice furniture!

**When:** December, dates to be confirmed.

***Where:** Nottingham is located just north of England's Midlands region, and is an hour and 40-minute journey from London by train, and an hour's journey by car from Birmingham.*

[www.nottinghamwinterwonderland.co.uk](http://www.nottinghamwinterwonderland.co.uk)

## South England: Winchester Christmas market

Formerly known as England's capital city, the ancient city of Winchester can be found in the south of England in Hampshire and is steeped in history. Winchester's Christmas market has been deemed one of the best in Europe for its unique location: wooden chalets line the Cathedral's historic Close and surround a real open-air ice rink. The exhibitors are hand-chosen, and the market is inspired by traditional German Christmas markets.

**When:** 17 November - 22 December

***Where:** Winchester is in the south of England, and is an hour train journey from London, or an hour and 45 minutes by car.*

[www.winchester-cathedral.org.uk/home/christmas-at-the-cathedral/christmas-market](http://www.winchester-cathedral.org.uk/home/christmas-at-the-cathedral/christmas-market)

## South-east England: Christmas Day Concert, Eastbourne

Take a trip to Eastbourne this winter for the biggest Christmas Day party in Britain. See the iconic Eastbourne Bandstand come to life with festive concerts and live musical

entertainment from the Eastbourne Silver Band and The Ray Campbell Dance Band. Party-goers can afterwards take bracing walks along the promenade and stop off at the Western View Café for hot chocolate and mince pies.

**When:** 25 December 2016

***Where:** Eastbourne is on the south coast of England, and is an 80-minute journey by train from London, or a two hour and 20 minute journey by car.*

[www.visiteastbourne.com/events/christmas.aspx](http://www.visiteastbourne.com/events/christmas.aspx)

## January

### **West Wales: Saundersfoot New Year's Day Swim**

Embrace the local tradition and take a dip in the Bristol Channel on New Year's Day in Saundersfoot, Pembrokeshire. With 2016 seeing more than 1,500 swimmers take to the water in fancy dress, it is hoped 2017 will be even bigger and better than before. After the delights of 2016's dance warm-ups, thousands of pounds being raised for charity, and the presence of HM Coastguard and Tenby Surf Lifesaving Club, the fun and safe event is a thrilling additional to seasonal celebrations.

**When:** 1 January 2017

***Where:** Located in Saundersfoot in Pembrokeshire, west Wales, the Saundersfoot New Year's Day Swim is a two-hour drive from Cardiff, and a two hour and 20-minute journey from Bristol. Cardiff is a two-hour train journey from London.*

[www.saundersfootnyds.co.uk](http://www.saundersfootnyds.co.uk)

### **North-west England: Dragon Parade and Fireworks, Manchester**

To commemorate the Year of the Rooster, the Dragon Parade will take to the streets of Manchester to celebrate Chinese New Year. See the parade, led by a spectacular 50-foot dragon, as it makes its way to Chinatown, where you'll find traditional Chinese entertainment, more than 6,000 lanterns adorning the streets, lion dances, street food villages and a firework finale. Additionally, this year will also see the acclaimed international art exhibition 'Lanterns of the Terracotta Warriors', which will be heading to Manchester for the celebrations.

**When:** 26 - 29 January 2017.

***Where:** Taking place throughout Manchester city centre. Manchester is in the north-west of England, and is an hour train journey from Leeds, and a two-hour train journey from London.*

[www.visitmanchester.com](http://www.visitmanchester.com)

### **Shetland, Scotland: Up Helly AA**

Up Helly AA takes place in Lerwick, Shetland, on the last Tuesday in January every year,



*Channel your inner Viking at Up Helly AA - credit VisitBritain, John Coutts*

and is a spectacle-packed celebration of the island's history. The tradition began in the 1880s and has been an annual occurrence in the Shetland calendar ever since. Watch marches and visitations in the day before the torch-lit procession lights the streets of Lerwick in the evening. See amazing costumes, join in with the party atmosphere and admire the Jarl Squad as they march through the town.

**When:** 31 January 2017

**Where:** *Lerwick is on the Shetland Islands, located north of Scotland's mainland. Flights to Lerwick from London take three hours, or fly from Edinburgh in 75 minutes.*

[www.uphellyaa.org/up-helly-aa-2017](http://www.uphellyaa.org/up-helly-aa-2017)

## February

### **North-east England: Lunar New Year Lantern Festival, Durham**

Join the Durham University Oriental Museum for their late night opening to mark the end of Chinese New Year. For one night only, visitors can see the museum lit by lanterns, enjoy traditional craft and listen to stories.

**Price:** This event is free for children under five, and £2 for all other visitors.

**When:** February 2017

**Where:** *The Oriental Museum is a five-minute drive from Durham city centre. Durham is in the north of England, and is a 45-minute journey from Newcastle-upon-Tyne by train or car. It is just over three hours by car from London.*

[www.dur.ac.uk/oriental.museum](http://www.dur.ac.uk/oriental.museum)



*Welcome in the New Year at the Oriental Museum*



*Light show heaven at e-luminate Cambridge Festival - credit Richard Marshamcut*

### **East England: e-luminate Cambridge Festival, Cambridge**

Over the course of six evenings, e-luminate Cambridge Festival transforms the rich and diverse urban landscape of the city with ephemeral light art installations. The modern arts festival aims to help visitors discover and re-discover Cambridge, with installations, talks, family activities and concerts.

**When:** 10 - 15 February 2017

*Where: Cambridge is in the east of England, and is a 60-minute train journey from London, or a 90-minute journey by car.*

[www.e-luminatefestivals.co.uk](http://www.e-luminatefestivals.co.uk)

## SPRING

### March

#### **North-west England: Kendal Festival of Food**

Kendal Festival of Food is a two-day celebration of all things food and drink. It takes place in the pretty market town of Kendal every March. 2016 saw a packed line up of tasty events alongside England's North Country Market.

**When:** March 2017

*Where: Kendal is located in Cumbria in the north-west of England, and is a three-hour journey from London by train or a two-hour journey from Leeds by car.*

[www.kendalfestivaloffood.co.uk](http://www.kendalfestivaloffood.co.uk)

#### **South-east England: St Patrick's Day Parade, London**

Although traditionally the patron saint of Ireland, St Patrick's Day merriments are also celebrated across the rest of Britain, and are especially popular in London. Located in the iconic Trafalgar Square, the St Patrick's Day Parade has a selection of activities to get involved in, including an artisan Irish food market, comedy and film festivals, ceilidhs, music and dance.

**When:** March 2017, date to be confirmed.

*Where: Taking place in London's Trafalgar Square, the St Patrick's Day Parade is easily reached via London Underground. The closest station is Charing Cross, three-minutes' walk from the square.*

<http://www.visitlondon.com/things-to-do/event/7609013-st-patricks-day>

#### **East England: Lynn Lumiere, Norfolk**

Lynn Lumiere is an on-going celebration of King's Lynn's rich historical architecture and heritage. Six animated light shows project scenes and stories from the history of the area onto buildings, including King's Lynn Minster, The Custom House, Greyfriars Tower and St Nicholas' Chapel. The light show will see its final weeks in March, so it's one not to miss.

**When:** Ends March 2017

*Where: King's Lynn is located in Norfolk on England's east coast. It is just under two hours by train from London, or two hours and 30 minutes by car.*

[www.visitengland.com/experience/lynn-lumiere-lights-kings-lynn](http://www.visitengland.com/experience/lynn-lumiere-lights-kings-lynn)

## April

### **North England: Tour de Yorkshire, Harrogate**

The success of the initial Tour de Yorkshire has spurred on its longevity as an annual event. This year's race will take place in Harrogate in Yorkshire, with both men and women competing in this challenging cycling race taking place over several days.

**When:** April 2017

**Where:** *Harrogate is located in Yorkshire in north England. It is a three-hour journey by train from London, and a 40-minute journey from Leeds by train or car.*

[www.visitharrogate.co.uk/events/tour-de-yorkshire](http://www.visitharrogate.co.uk/events/tour-de-yorkshire)



*St George takes on the Dragon! – credit English Heritage*

**When:** April 2017

**Where:** *Taking place in London's Trafalgar Square, the St George's Day celebrations are easily reached via London Underground with the closest station being Charing Cross, which is a three-minute walk from the square.*

[www.visitlondon.com/things-to-do/event/8726328-feast-of-st-george-in-traffic-square](http://www.visitlondon.com/things-to-do/event/8726328-feast-of-st-george-in-traffic-square)

## May

### **South-west England: Bath International Music Festival, Bath**

2017 will see the 69th Bath International Music Festival, which will present a rich and varied line-up of music from classical to contemporary jazz, world and folk. The festival hosts a mix of concerts as well as a wide range of free events.

**When:** May 2017, dates to be confirmed.

**Where:** Bath is located in the south-west of England. It is a 90-minute journey from London by train, and a short 12-minute journey to Bristol by train.

[www.bathfestivals.org.uk/music](http://www.bathfestivals.org.uk/music)

## North-west England: LightNight, Liverpool

Liverpool's one-night art and culture festival will return for 2017 to illuminate the city once again. Explore the city's world-class galleries and public spaces open late to showcase the rich art and culture of the area. Discover the trail of light projections, street performances, exhibitions, talks and walks, or party into the early hours.

**When:** 19 May 2017

***Where:** Liverpool is on the west coast of England. It is just over two hours by train from London and is a 50-minute journey by train from Manchester.*

[www.visitliverpool.com/whats-on/lightnight-liverpool-p369941](http://www.visitliverpool.com/whats-on/lightnight-liverpool-p369941)



*Explore Yorkshire's 'food capital' - credit VisitRyedale*

## North England: Malton Food Lovers Festival, Yorkshire

Malton, affectionately known as Yorkshire's 'food capital' is an award-winning picturesque market town with a big reputation for delicious local produce. The festival is a celebration of the finest Yorkshire produce, and showcases some of the best the county has to offer. Expect heaving stalls, street food, talks and tastings, celebrity chef demos, cooking lessons, live music, family entertainment and craft beer at the festival bar.

**When:** 27 - 28 May 2017

***Where:** Malton is in North Yorkshire, a 60-minute journey from Leeds by car or train, and just under a three-hour journey by train from London.*

[www.maltonyorkshire.co.uk/food-lovers-festival](http://www.maltonyorkshire.co.uk/food-lovers-festival)

## SUMMER

### June

## South-west England: Summer Solstice at Stonehenge and Avebury

Celebrate the summer solstice, the longest day of the year, at the ancient World Heritage site of Stonehenge; the giant imposing stone circle. The prehistoric site has been a place of worship and celebration at the time of summer solstice since time immemorial.

**When:** June 2017



*The longest day of the year at ancient Stonehenge - credit English Heritage*

*Where:* Stonehenge can be found in Wiltshire in the south of England, and is 90-minute journey by train from London.

[www.visitwiltshire.co.uk/whats-on/stonehenge-summer-solstice-2016-p639853](http://www.visitwiltshire.co.uk/whats-on/stonehenge-summer-solstice-2016-p639853)

### North-west England: South Tyneside Festival

Enjoy three months of free entertainment from the South Tyneside Festival. With last year's seeing a summer parade through the streets of South Shields, and open-air concerts in lush green parkland with views of the beaches and soaring cliffs, 2017's programme is much anticipated.

**When:** June to August 2017

*Where:* South Tyneside is in the north-east of England near to Newcastle. It is a four-hour train journey from London and a 25-minute car journey from Newcastle.

[www.visitsouthtyneside.co.uk/article/12606/whats-on](http://www.visitsouthtyneside.co.uk/article/12606/whats-on)



*Celebrating Liverpool's historic waterfront - credit Ant Clausen*

### West England: International Mersey River Festival, Liverpool

The international Mersey River Festival is a celebration of Liverpool's wonderful and historic waterfront. Taking place across three days, the festival features family entertainment and music along the iconic River Mersey, where narrow boats and tall ships will feature. Look out for the polo tournaments, jet skiing demonstrations, have-a-go water sports and air displays.

**When:** 24 - 25 June

*Where:* Liverpool is on the north-west coast of England. It is just over two hours by train from London and is a 50-minute journey by train from Manchester.

[www.visitliverpool.com/whats-on/international-mersey-river-festival-p390701](http://www.visitliverpool.com/whats-on/international-mersey-river-festival-p390701)

## July

### North-east England: Sunderland International Air Show, Sunderland

Sunderland Air Show is one of the largest free air shows in Britain, and includes flying displays from the RAF Red Arrows, fairground rides and military exhibitions. Held along the city's coastline at Roker and Seaburn, you can explore the beach while enjoying the entertainment from above.

**When:** July 2017

*Where:* Sunderland is on the north-east coast of England, It is a four-hour train journey from London, and a 30-minute journey from Newcastle upon Tyne by car or train.

[www.sunderland.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=6454](http://www.sunderland.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=6454)

## North-west England: Liverpool International Music Festival 2017

Liverpool International Music Festival includes a free element hosted at Sefton Park. This part of the festival sees household names and up-and-coming acts perform annually in July.

**When:** 20 - 23 July 2017

***Where:** Liverpool is on the north-west coast of England. It is just over two hours by train from London and is a 50-minute journey by train from Manchester.*

[www.limfestival.com](http://www.limfestival.com)



*Rocking out at Liverpool International Music Festival*

## August

### South-west England: Bristol International Balloon Fiesta

The spectacular Bristol International Balloon Fiesta sees more than 150 hot air balloons take to the skies at dusk and dawn from Ashton Court Estate's beautiful grounds; making it Europe's largest hot air balloon event. The free four-day event is an incredible spectacle and attracts hundreds of thousands of people each year. Visitors can also enjoy helicopter and balloon rides and family entertainment, including acoustic music and fairground rides.

**When:** August 2017

***Where:** Bristol is in the south-west of England, and is a one hour and 45-minute train journey from London and a 90-minute journey from Oxford by train or car.*

[www.bristolballoonfiesta.co.uk](http://www.bristolballoonfiesta.co.uk)

### South-east England: Notting Hill Carnival, London

Growing in popularity and in size each year, the Notting Hill Carnival is the biggest street festival in Europe. Originating in 1964 as a way for Afro-Caribbean communities to celebrate their cultures and traditions, the carnival is an amazing array of sounds, music, colour and solidarity.

**When:** August 2017

***Where:** Notting Hill is located in west London. Its nearest London Underground Stations are Holland Park and Notting Hill Gate, though it is suggested to check travel information before the event.*

[www.thenottinghillcarnival.com](http://www.thenottinghillcarnival.com)

### Midlands, central England: Leicester Caribbean Carnival

Explore the streets of Leicester and see the Leicester Caribbean Carnival, where costumed bands perform, vibrant floats parade through the streets, and the Carnival Village is yours to explore with a funfair and children's play area.

**When:** August 2017

***Where:** Leicester is located in central England's Midlands region, and is a 50-minute train journey from Birmingham, and a 70-minute journey from London by train.*

[www.leicestercarnival.com](http://www.leicestercarnival.com)

### West Scotland: Edinburgh Fringe Festival

The largest arts festival in the world, Edinburgh Fringe Festival is an inspiring celebration of the best performance and entertainment from every corner of the globe, located in a variety of venues, from local pubs and quirky haunts to professional performance spaces.

**When:** August 2017

***Where:** Edinburgh is located in the west of Scotland, and is a 75-minute journey by plane from London.*

[www.edinburghguide.com/festival/freeshow](http://www.edinburghguide.com/festival/freeshow)

## 8 ways to enjoy heritage on a budget

There are hundreds of smaller heritage sites in Britain that are free to visit, plus plenty of passes, vouchers and schemes to ensure you can enjoy the very best of Britain's heritage, and still stretch to tea and cake at the end of a visit (an essential part of a heritage day out!). For tickets to some of Britain's leading heritage sites visit the Visit Britain Shop.

[www.visitbritainshop.com](http://www.visitbritainshop.com).

### 1. Lesser-visited London

Most of the major museums are free to enter in London, but don't miss out on visiting a number of smaller, quirkier properties that give a fascinating insight into the history of the city. Visit Hogarth's House in Chiswick, former country home of the renowned artist William Hogarth, and filled with his prints and engravings (nearest underground: Turnham Green). For something really quirky, discover Queen Elizabeth's Hunting Lodge, deep in Epping Forest. Originally built in 1543 for Henry VIII, visitors can explore the Tudor kitchen, kids can try brass rubbing and dressing up in Tudor clothes, and see the staircase which - so legend has it - Queen Elizabeth rode her horse up. The Lodge is around 15 minutes' walk from Chingford Station, 25 minutes from Liverpool Street Station.

[www.williamhogarthtrust.org.uk](http://www.williamhogarthtrust.org.uk), [www.visitlondon.com/things-to-do/place/69004-queen-elizabeths-hunting-lodge](http://www.visitlondon.com/things-to-do/place/69004-queen-elizabeths-hunting-lodge)

### 2. Take the train

Travelling by rail? Many train companies offer 2-for-1 deals on entry to heritage sites, when you present your rail ticket and a downloadable voucher. Scotrail, for example, offers 2-for-1 entry to a variety of sites, including Gladstone's Land, the 17th-century home of merchant Thomas Gledstones, on Edinburgh's Royal Mile. Or head to the Highlands to visit the Glenfinnan Monument, marking the spot where the final Jacobite rising took place in 1745 and Bonnie Prince Charlie raised his standard on Loch Shiel's shores.

[www.scotrail.co.uk](http://www.scotrail.co.uk)



*Buy a National Trust Touring Pass and get the chance to visit Chartwell, the former home of Winston Churchill*

### 3. Pick a pass

If you're planning to see some of Britain's most iconic heritage sites, it's worth buying a 'heritage pass', offered by the National Trust, English Heritage and Historic Scotland. But it's important to remember which sites are owned by which organisation; a nine-day English Heritage Overseas Visitor Pass (£30) gives free entry to more than 100 sites, including Stonehenge, Dover Castle in Kent and Hadrian's Wall in

north England. Buy a seven-day National Trust Touring Pass (£26) and you can visit any of the Trust's 300 historic houses and gardens, including Chartwell, the former home of Winston Churchill.

[www.visitbritainshop.com/world/sightseeing-passes](http://www.visitbritainshop.com/world/sightseeing-passes)

### 4. Discover Heritage Open Days

There's no better time for history lovers to visit Britain than in September, when the annual Heritage Open Days festival takes place. Separate festivals take place in England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and London, but all are dedicated to opening up historic buildings that aren't normally accessible to the public - private homes, offices, cellars, hidden rooms and tunnels. Historic buildings that are normally open put on special events - cinemas and theatres offer backstage tours, museums open up their archives and towns and villages around the country hold programmes of walks, talks, and history-themed events. Every event is completely free, including access to more than 150 National Trust properties and iconic buildings such as the Oxford and Cambridge colleges.

[www.heritageopendays.org.uk](http://www.heritageopendays.org.uk)

### 5. Secret Wales

Wales has more than 100 smaller sites that are free to visit. One of the most charming is Usk castle, (around an hour's drive from Cardiff) where the only gatekeepers are two large geese, and each visitor is asked to put a pebble into the large stone pot, so numbers can be counted at the end of each day. Or visit the ruined hilltop castle and village at Dryslwyn, which has stunning views over the Towy Valley (around one hour's drive from Cardiff). In addition, on St David's Day (1 March), some of the most iconic castles waive their entrance

fee, including Tintern Abbey in the beautiful Wye Valley (around one hour's drive from Cardiff) and the fairy-tale Castel Coch (20 minutes' drive from Cardiff).

[www.cadw.gov.wales](http://www.cadw.gov.wales)

## 6. Walk into history

There are plenty of heritage sites to be found in the British countryside; and open access means there's never an admission charge. Take a walk along the iconic White Cliffs of Dover, around 90 minutes' drive from London, and pick up a leaflet at the Visitor Centre to learn about the significance of the coastline through the centuries. Or discover the colossal Iron Age fort of Maiden Castle, surrounded by the rolling Dorset countryside (around two hours' drive from London). In Northern Ireland, the iconic 'Giant's Causeway' - huge, basalt columns running alongside the sea - may be the country's biggest tourist draw, but it's still completely free.

[www.nationaltrust.org.uk/the-white-cliffs-of-dover](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/the-white-cliffs-of-dover), [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/giants-causeway](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/giants-causeway)

## 7. Gardens and grounds

Many historic properties that charge an entrance fee are surrounded by gorgeous grounds and gardens that are often free to enter. Petworth House in Sussex (around one hour's drive south of London) costs £15 to enter, but admission to the park is free, and offers the chance to see the beautiful house from the outside and stroll through the Capability Brown-designed grounds.

[www.nationaltrust.org.uk/petworth-house-and-park](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/petworth-house-and-park)

## 8. Churches and cathedrals

Many of Britain's most beautiful cathedrals don't charge an entrance fee, offering the chance to explore the destination's religious heritage, while enjoying truly spectacular architecture. US author Bill Bryson called Durham "the best cathedral on planet earth"; dating back to the 11th century, visitors are free to explore the cloisters, undercroft and the beautifully vaulted main church. Durham is around three hours by train from London. Harry Potter fans should take advantage of the free access to Gloucester Cathedral, which featured in the movies as parts of Hogwarts School (there is a charge for Harry Potter tours).

[www.durhamcathedral.co.uk](http://www.durhamcathedral.co.uk), [www.gloucestercathedral.org.uk](http://www.gloucestercathedral.org.uk)

## Music on a budget

Do you want to see some fantastic live music in Britain but don't want to spend too much on tickets? Across the destination music fans will find a wealth of interesting, purse-friendly venues where you can see everything from classical music to up-and-coming rock and pop acts. Britain's vibrant festival scene is another way visitors can save money by cramming in dozens of gigs within a few days.

Seeing great live music in Britain that won't cost the earth is easy, if you are in the right place at the right time.



*A musical lunchtime; head to the free weekday recitals at London's St Martin in the Fields church - credit Marc Gascoigne*

### The right place.....

One of the most budget friendly and eye catching music venues in central London is **St Martin in the Fields** church in Trafalgar Square. Throughout the week it hosts free lunchtime classical music recitals to offer a welcome break from the hustle and bustle of sightseeing.

[www.stmartin-in-the-fields.org](http://www.stmartin-in-the-fields.org).

If you prefer to see more contemporary music in the capital, **The Lexington**, on Pentonville Road, east London, runs its free Hangover Lounge event on Sundays from 11am - 8pm, often featuring established alternative rock, indie pop, country and soul bands playing soothing sounds for those in need of musical recovery from a busy Saturday night.

[www.thelexington.co.uk](http://www.thelexington.co.uk)

One of the west of England's most unusual budget venues is the **Thekla**, a cargo ship moored by the Bristol quayside. Refurbished during the 1980s as a floating venue it is now permanently moored and showcases up-and-coming and well-known rock and pop acts at budget friendly prices. Tickets often range from under £10 to £20.

[www.theklabristol.co.uk](http://www.theklabristol.co.uk)

Music fans and history enthusiasts get a double hit at Northern Ireland's **Bronte Music Club**. The club's venue is a stunning 18th-century deconsecrated church and old school house in Drumballyroney, County Down, south of Belfast. It now plays host to country and Americana acts at an affordable price but used to be where novelists the Bronte sisters' father Patrick taught. [www.brontemusicclub.com](http://www.brontemusicclub.com)

In Scotland, Edinburgh's vintage music and bookshop **Elvis Shakespeare** is the place to be for those looking for free live music, as it plays host to regular in-store gigs. Visiting Glasgow? The **Mono Cafebar** offers a range of cut-price and unusual music events,



*Gentle on the purse, big on great music: the Thekla in Bristol - credit Theo Cottle*

including a baby disco for families, as well as local acts for free or at a low price.  
[www.elvisshakespeare.com](http://www.elvisshakespeare.com), [www.monocafebar.com](http://www.monocafebar.com)

### ...and the right time

May to September is the best time to visit Britain's incredible range of music festivals, each offering a unique experience and often the chance to see top name acts.

**Glastonbury Festival** at Worthy Farm, Pilton, in central Somerset, west England, is perhaps the most well-known British festival. It offers visitors the chance to see hundreds of acts, from the biggest stars to the newest bands, across more than 100 stages over five days every June. Be warned though: tickets, which go on sale in October, sell out fast. But even if you don't get your hands on one, there are other ways to attend; there are a raft of volunteering opportunities to work a handful of shifts at the event in exchange for a free ticket. The vInspired charity is a good place to find out about such opportunities.

[www.glastonburyfestivals.co.uk](http://www.glastonburyfestivals.co.uk), [www.vinspired.com](http://www.vinspired.com)

Oxfam also offers volunteering opportunities for its annual **Oxjam** series of events. Taking place each October this involves a raft of purse-friendly gigs across the country to raise money for the charity.

[www.oxfam.org.uk/oxjam](http://www.oxfam.org.uk/oxjam)

The Welsh town of Portmeirion, built in the style of an Italian village on the North Wales coast in the 1920s and famous as the setting for 1960s British TV show *The Prisoner*, hosts a music festival each September called **Festival No. 6** (1 - 4 September 2016). The event is arguably one of Britain's most scenic festivals and features well-known rock and pop acts, classical music, choirs and book readings. Grab the chance at first-tier ticket sales via their website, where a Friday arrival adult ticket (no camping) is from £160.

[www.festivalnumber6.com](http://www.festivalnumber6.com)

**Indietracks** is another of Britain's most interesting music festivals (29 - 31 July 2016). Taking place at the Midland Railway Museum, near Ripley, Derbyshire, in central England, this purse-friendly festival features emerging and established alternative and indie music bands across three days playing aboard steam trains, the railway's chapel and engine shed as well as a large outdoor stage. Look out for early bird tickets on its website, released nearer the festival dates.

[www.indietracks.co.uk](http://www.indietracks.co.uk)

If bigger name acts appeal there are cost-friendly ways to get into the major concerts. Timing is key to ensuring you get tickets before they sell out; access early discounts through email alerts from the major ticket sellers such as **Ticketmaster**.

[www.ticketmaster.co.uk](http://www.ticketmaster.co.uk)



*Volunteering at Glastonbury can be an inspired way of seeing the music acts for free! - credit Joe Lepper*

## Free days out: Britain's best museums and galleries

Many of the country's top museums and galleries are completely free to visit. Head out with an empty wallet and an open mind and discover some of the country's best cultural, artistic and historic treasures.

### Free art

#### **Yorkshire Sculpture Park, west Yorkshire, north England**

In the grounds of the 18th-century Bretton Hall estate between Barnsley and Wakefield, Yorkshire Sculpture Park is an open-air gallery that showcases work by leading sculptors including Yorkshire-born artists Barbara Hepworth and Henry Moore. The mammoth 500-acre park is home to giant bronzes and colourful contemporary works in addition to indoor exhibition spaces and even an underground gallery.

[www.ysp.co.uk](http://www.ysp.co.uk)

#### **Tate Modern, London**

In a converted power station on London's South Bank, Tate Modern is one of the world's most visited galleries. Pieces by Andy Warhol, Tracey Emin, Matisse and Picasso are on display all-year-round as part of the free-to-visit permanent collection. In June 2016 a brand-new wing opened, housing the world's first museum space dedicated to live performance art and a tenth-floor viewing platform.

[www.tate.org.uk/visit/tate-modern](http://www.tate.org.uk/visit/tate-modern)

#### **Kelvingrove Gallery, Glasgow, Scotland**

Home to works by Rembrandt, Monet, Van Gogh and Dali, it's no wonder Glasgow's Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum is the most popular British gallery outside London. Housed in an imposing red brick building dating to 1901, this Scottish institution displays artwork in 22 themed galleries including a permanent display celebrating Glasgow native, Charles Rennie Mackintosh.

[www.glasgowlife.org.uk/museums/kelvingrove](http://www.glasgowlife.org.uk/museums/kelvingrove)

#### **Whitworth Gallery, Manchester, north-west England**

Originally founded in 1889, Manchester's Whitworth Gallery underwent a £15 million revamp in 2015 and now features a jaw-dropping glass, steel and brick extension that showcases works by great British artists including L. S. Lowry, David Hockney and J.M.W Turner. There's also a 'café in the trees' and an art garden designed by top London perfumier, Jo Malone.

[www.whitworth.manchester.ac.uk](http://www.whitworth.manchester.ac.uk)

## **Free museums**

There are many museums offering free entry across Britain - London alone has around 20. Here are just a few of the places you can explore without spending a penny.

### **Ulster Museum, Belfast, Northern Ireland**

See dinosaurs and mummies brought to life at the Ulster Museum, an impressive treasure trove of objects that span everything from ancient relics to modern art. Explore the light-flooded galleries to see jewellery excavated from the Spanish Armada, take part in interactive exhibitions that chart the history of the city and discover skeletons of extinct Irish animals.

[www.nmni.com/um](http://www.nmni.com/um)

### **World Museum, Liverpool, north-west England**

As its name suggests, Liverpool's World Museum is a vast collection that showcases artefacts from across the globe. Dinosaur skeletons hang from the ceiling, Egyptian relics fill glass cabinets and colourful sea creatures are on display in the aquarium. The revamped planetarium takes visitors on a journey through space and time.

[www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/wml](http://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/wml)

### **The British Museum, London**

From its magnificent glass-domed Great Court to its overwhelming array of antiquities including the Rosetta Stone and the Elgin Marbles, the British Museum is one of the world's most visited attractions. You can spend a whole day exploring and you'll only just scratch the surface. Work your way through the galleries and you can travel the world without leaving London. Free daily activities including activity trails and digital workshops.

[www.britishmuseum.org](http://www.britishmuseum.org)

### **St Fagans National History Museum, south Wales**

In the grounds of the 16th-century St Fagans Castle, this mammoth open-air museum is home to around 40 buildings that have been converted into traditional farmhouses, a school and a grand medieval church in order to bring different historical periods to life. Occupying 100 acres of parkland just outside Cardiff city centre, the museum gives visitors the chance to explore Welsh history from Celtic times to the present day. Craftsmen demonstrate traditional skills and ancient farming techniques throughout the day.

[www.museum.wales/stfagans](http://www.museum.wales/stfagans)

## **Free - and great for families!**

### **National Football Museum, Manchester, north-west England**

A top pick for football fanatics, this fun museum celebrates the beautiful game through exhibitions that showcase memorabilia including the 1966 World Cup final ball and shirts

worn by Bobby Moore, Maradona and Pele. Hands-on activities include games that test penalty-taking prowess and goal-keeping skills, a storytelling corner and a Discovery Zone where you can try out different football kits.

[www.nationalfootballmuseum.com](http://www.nationalfootballmuseum.com)

### **Big Pit National Coal Museum, Wales**

At this former coal mine near the Brecon Beacons National Park, kids can don a helmet with a lamp and descend 300 feet underground to explore winding tunnels with a former coal miner. The thought-provoking tour brings the history of Welsh mining to life. Above ground, there's a multimedia tour of a modern mine, dressing up clothes and free activity packs. Refuel in the original miners' canteen or nab one of the picnic tables to dine outside in the summer months.

[www.museum.wales/bigpit](http://www.museum.wales/bigpit)

### **Science Museum, London**

Great for teens and toddlers alike, this fascinating museum explores all things scientific, from space travel to modern medicine. Aspiring astronauts can check out the original Apollo 10 command module and marvel at rockets, while prospective pilots can fly with the RAF Red Arrows in a 3D simulator. A fun-packed programme of free activities are on offer during the school holidays including daily workshops, storytelling sessions and 3D film screenings.

[www.sciencemuseum.org.uk](http://www.sciencemuseum.org.uk)

### **National Media Museum, Bradford, Yorkshire, north England**

TV-loving tots will love exploring all seven floors of this interactive museum in Yorkshire. Hands-on exhibitions chart the history of photography, cinema and TV, and there's a gallery dedicated to internet trends. Kids can spot familiar faces in the Animation Gallery, try their hands at reading the news from an autocue and play classic video games in the games lounge.

[www.nationalmediamuseum.org.uk](http://www.nationalmediamuseum.org.uk)

## **Purse-friendly walking tours**

The geography of Britain's cities, towns, villages and countryside makes it ideal for exploring on foot, and a walking tour offers an extra special insight into an area's history, cuisine and culture. There are many free or affordable tours all across Britain delving into a huge array of subjects, from literature and art to music and LGBT heritage. Get your walking shoes on and join in the fun!



*Paying homage to Banksy in Bristol - credit Where the Wall*

### **Banksy tour of Bristol, south-west England | £9.20**

Fans of provocative artist Banksy will love this street art tour of his native city. Discovering street art in the centre of Bristol before exploring its independent and creative quarter, what's special about this tour is that the guides live and work within the Bristol street art community and always know where the most cutting-edge artwork, and artists in action, are going to be.

*Concessions available. Approximately two hours. Check dates and times and book online. Bristol is just under two hours by train from London.*

[www.wherethewall.com/tours](http://www.wherethewall.com/tours)

### **Shoreditch Secret Pub Crawl, London | £6**

Discover Shoreditch like an East London native with this alternative pub crawl, originally created for locals who want to share the newest and coolest venues together. You get free shots in each place, exclusive discounts, free entry and the chance to play beer pong! That said, the focus is on socialising, not just drinking, so you'll be joining a friendly, likeminded crowd who want to meet new people and enjoy a fun night out.

*Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, starting at 8.30pm at Blueberry Bar, 2-4 Paul Street, EC2A 4JH. Book in advance online.*

[www.facebook.com/ShoreditchPubCrawl](http://www.facebook.com/ShoreditchPubCrawl),  
[www.edibleexperiences.com/p/1680412060/Secret-Food-Tours-London/1820001/THE-SHOREDITCH-PUB-CRAWL](http://www.edibleexperiences.com/p/1680412060/Secret-Food-Tours-London/1820001/THE-SHOREDITCH-PUB-CRAWL)

### **Shakespeare in the City walk, London | £10**

This leisurely 90-minute walking tour with professional actor Declan McHugh uncovers lesser-known London monuments and locations connected to Shakespeare's life, friends, loves and work. McHugh's insights and personal research of hidden Shakespeare gems turn this tour into one of exciting discovery. Highlights include visiting the only two exact locations of Shakespeare houses in London, plus McHugh performing emotive Shakespeare excerpts throughout the tour.

*Tours start on Fridays at 11am outside Blackfriars Underground station - look for the sign with Shakespeare's head on Declan's rucksack. Booking isn't required and payment is in cash. Concessions available, as well as reduced price tickets in conjunction with a London Pass. You can buy a London Pass on VisitBritain Shop.*

[www.shakespeareguide.com](http://www.shakespeareguide.com); [www.visitbritainshop.com/world/the-london-sightseeing-pass/](http://www.visitbritainshop.com/world/the-london-sightseeing-pass/)

### Food tour of east London | Pay what you wish

Explore the food history and culture of the capital's East End and eat like royalty while only spending only a few pounds. Wander down 'curry mile' and sample samosas and Indian sweets; learn the history of the pie; taste the fish and chips voted "Best in London"; peruse the hippest food trucks in town; eat a salt beef bagel and finish with a sweet American import.

*Tours run on Thursdays and Saturdays, starting at 10.30am at Liverpool Street Station and lasting approximately two hours. Food not included, suggested sampling cost £10-15. Booking required.*

[www.freetoursbyfoot.com](http://www.freetoursbyfoot.com)

### The World Heritage Site Audio Tour of Bath, south-west England | Free

Take yourself on a fascinating journey through Bath's history and architecture. An audio tour that takes you around the historical highlights of the city via many of Bath's captivating museums and sights, such as The Royal Crescent and the Assembly Rooms, is handily accompanied by a free route map, so there's no excuse for getting lost!

*The tour has 12 chapters/audio files in MP3 format. Listen on iPhone, iPod and most MP3 players. Bath is around 90 minutes by train from London.*

[www.visitbath.co.uk/things-to-do/tours-and-sightseeing/mobile-app-and-audio-walking-tours/world-heritage-site-audio-tour](http://www.visitbath.co.uk/things-to-do/tours-and-sightseeing/mobile-app-and-audio-walking-tours/world-heritage-site-audio-tour)

### Ghost Walk in Robin Hood's Bay, north Yorkshire, north England | £5

Journey into a mysterious past of spirits, shipwrecks and smugglers and explore the atmospheric alleyways of Robin Hood's Bay with 'The Ghostwalker'. A well-informed raconteur, the ghostwalker knows routes around this tiny seaside village that normal tourists rarely take and has plenty of tales of the strange and supernatural that mix ancient legend, maritime drama, spiritual mysteries and spooky ghost stories.



*Spooky sights in Robin Hood's Bay - credit Arunas Staponas*

*Tour departs from the Slipway in the Dock outside the Robin Hood's Bay Visitor Centre and lasts approximately one hour. Concessions available. Robin Hood's Bay is in north Yorkshire, around two hours by train from Leeds.*

[www.whitbystoryteller.co.uk](http://www.whitbystoryteller.co.uk)

### Charles Dickens London Walk | Free

Explore the London of Charles Dickens by downloading this app, and spot the locations brought to life in his novels. You'll be guided by GPS so you won't get lost and, even better,

the walk makes suggestions of atmospheric pubs to refresh yourself en route! With lots of evocative black and white photographs and sketches, you'll get the feeling of being transported back in time as you follow the famous author's footsteps around London's historic streets.

*Tour lasts approximately two hours. Search for 'Walking with Dickens' in the app store.*

[www.dickenslondontours.co.uk](http://www.dickenslondontours.co.uk)

### **Shakespeare tour of Stratford upon Avon, west England | £6**

Walk in William Shakespeare's footsteps around historic Stratford upon Avon, where the world-famous playwright was born and buried (you can even find out about the 'curse' on his grave from your informative guide). Other highlights include the picturesque River Avon, Royal Shakespeare Theatre, 15th century timber-framed buildings, the Guild Chapel and Holy Trinity Church. As a nice extra, your tour ticket includes vouchers to obtain discounts at a range of shops, restaurants, pubs and attractions around Stratford.

*Tours run Monday to Friday at 11am, Saturday and Sunday at 11am and 2pm and last approximately two hours. Just turn up, whatever the weather! Meet by the yellow sign, close to the Swan fountain on Waterside, near the Royal Shakespeare Theatre. Adult tickets: £6; concessions available and under eights go free. Stratford upon Avon is around two hours by train from London.*

[www.stratfordtownwalk.co.uk](http://www.stratfordtownwalk.co.uk)

### **Mural tour of Derry~Londonderry, Northern Ireland | £4**

This historical tour of Derry~Londonderry's wall mural sites explores not just the artistry of the area, but also the religious and political backdrop against which the artwork has been created, all with an expert tour guide. Plus there is free tea or coffee for all guests, so it's extra good value!

*Leaving from 11 Carlisle Road at 10am, 12pm, 2pm and 4pm every day. Tours last approximately one hour. No need to book. Derry is around a two-hour drive by car from Belfast in Northern Ireland.*

[www.derrycitytours.com](http://www.derrycitytours.com)

### **Fear & Loathing in Cardiff tour, south Wales | under £10 per person**

Cardiff has a long and colourful history and this tour allows you to wander among Cardiff's glorious gothic revival architecture, this walking tour takes in historic treachery, martyrdom, war, battles, riots and piracy. Not for the faint hearted!

*Enjoy alone or in a group, the private bespoke tour must be booked in advance and lasts approximately two hours. Concessions available.*

[www.cardiffonfoot.com](http://www.cardiffonfoot.com)

### **Music tour of Glasgow, Scotland | Free**

Go on a musical marathon around Glasgow to a soundtrack of locally inspired music. A series of four walks available on your smart phone featuring interviews with bands like

Mogwai and chats with DJs, along the way you'll find Franz Ferdinand's Chateau, see sites of raves and parties and discover Glasgow's cool underground scene.

*Download the tour through the Guidigo app and search for 'Walking Heads'. There are four walks, all of which last approximately one hour.*

[www.walkingheads.net](http://www.walkingheads.net)

## **Britain's budget hotels**

If you'd rather spend money checking out the local area than checking in to a hotel, we've rounded up some of Britain's best budget breaks, from a quirky crash pad in east London to a vineyard escape on the Isle of Wight.

### **Under £25**

#### **Carr's Hill Safari Tents, Stirlingshire, Scotland (rates from £16pp per night, based on six sharing)**

Go on safari in Scotland with a stay in a luxury tent at Carr's Hill, a 12-acre rural estate in Stirlingshire. Spend the night under canvas in a tent that features a log burning stove, indoor cooking facilities, a private shower room and an outdoor seating area equipped with a BBQ. The tents are intimately lit by storm lanterns, candles and torches. You might not spot the Big Five here but you can fish and shoot clay pigeons nearby.

*How to get there: It's a 20-minute drive from Falkirk, 30 minutes from Glasgow and 50 minutes from Edinburgh.*

#### **Plas Curig Hostel, Snowdonia, Wales (rates from £20 for a shared dorm)**

With a five-star rating and boutique hotel-inspired interiors, Plas Curig in Snowdonia is the very definition of a Poshtel (a posh hostel). Keep costs down by staying in a shared dorm where the wooden bunks are fitted with curtains for privacy and topped with Welsh wool blankets. On the edge of Llynau Mymbyr lake in the north of Snowdonia National Park, the surrounding views of craggy mountains, wild moors and ancient forests are stunning.

*How to get there: It's a 90-minute drive from Liverpool and just over two hours from Birmingham.*

#### **Atlantic Bays Glamping Pods, Cornwall, south-west England (rates from £25pp per night, based on two sharing)**

Near Padstow in north Cornwall, the Atlantic Bays Holiday Park is home to a number of timber-framed glamping pods for those looking for a classy camping experience. Each comes with a wooden deck and sun loungers and offers access to the site facilities including a bar and a kids' play area. It's a 15-minute drive to Padstow, with its boutiques and Rick Stein restaurants, and just ten minutes from Porthcothan Beach.

*How to get there: It's a 20-minute drive from Newquay Airport.*

## Under £50

### **Z Liverpool, north-west England (rates from £35)**

Just around the corner from the world famous Cavern Club (where The Beatles played in the 1960s), Z Liverpool is a great option for a purse-friendly city break. The rooms may be compact but they're kitted out with handcrafted beds and offer free Wi-Fi and free sports and movie channels. The heart-of-the-action location on North John Street puts you within a ten-minute walk of Tate Liverpool, the Albert Dock area and the Liverpool One shopping mall.

[www.thezhotels.com/z-liverpool](http://www.thezhotels.com/z-liverpool)

*How to get there: It's a ten-minute walk from Liverpool Lime Street station. Direct trains to Liverpool from London take just over two hours.*

### **Big Sleep Cardiff, Wales (rates from £45)**

With a super-central location, the Big Sleep Cardiff is a top pick for value-seeking visitors. Just a ten-minute walk from the train station and the city's historic Castle Quarter, the hotel occupies a converted 1960s office building and offers great views of the city. It may not have a red carpet but it does have Hollywood links as the hotel is part owned by actor, John Malkovich.

[www.thebigsleephotel.com/cardiff/www.thebigsleephotel.com/cardiff](http://www.thebigsleephotel.com/cardiff/www.thebigsleephotel.com/cardiff)

*How to get there: It's a ten-minute walk from Cardiff Central train station. Direct trains to Cardiff take just over two hours from London.*

### **Adgestone Vineyard, Isle of Wight, south England (rates from £35)**

Looking for peace and quiet? Spend the night among ten acres of vines in the Isle of Wight's oldest vineyard at Adgestone. Bed down in the Bed & Breakfast and enjoy views of the surrounding farmland and the sea. All stays include a tour of the vineyard and cellars and a wine tasting.

[www.adgestonevineyard.co.uk/index.php/accommodation](http://www.adgestonevineyard.co.uk/index.php/accommodation)

*How to get there: It's a five-minute drive from Sandown. Ferries to the Isle of Wight are available from Lymington, Portsmouth and Southampton on the south coast of England.*

## Under £100

### **Qbic Hotel London City (rates from £74)**

London has some great value accommodation options in the city. Qbic is a contemporary crash pad in Whitechapel with 171 bright and colourful pod-style rooms. The quirky hotel features striking larger-than-life murals, neon artwork and an open kitchen that serves all-day drinks and snacks. It's a ten-minute walk from Spitalfields Market and 20 minutes from the Tower of London. [www.qbichotels.com/london-city](http://www.qbichotels.com/london-city)

*How to get there: It's a five-minute walk from Aldgate East underground station*



*Luxury caravans in Bristol*

**Airstream Caravan at Brooks Guesthouse, Bristol, south-west England (rates from £80)**

Stay in a vintage airstream caravan on the roof of Brooks Guest House, a boutique retreat in the centre of Bristol. The four British-made Retro Rockets caravans are clad in aluminium and sit atop an astroturf lawn. Inside you'll find a bed, a small seating area and a compact bathroom. Luxury perks include goose-down duvets, iPod docks and flatscreen TVs. Downstairs there's an honesty bar and a courtyard.

[www.brooksguesthousebristol.com/bedrooms/16ft-retro-rocket](http://www.brooksguesthousebristol.com/bedrooms/16ft-retro-rocket)

*How to get there: It's a 15-minute walk from Bristol Temple Meads train station. Direct trains to Bristol take around an hour and a half from London*

**AC Hotel Manchester (rates from £75)**

In Salford Quays, Manchester's revamped waterfront district home to the Lowry gallery and the BBC's MediaCityUK, the AC Hotel is a modern option for modest budgets. Part of the Marriott chain, the hotel features an open-plan floor that encompasses a bar, a business area and check-in pods. It's a ten-minute walk from Old Trafford Football Club and a ten-minute tram ride into the city centre.



*Style on a budget: AC Hotel Manchester's sleek interiors*

[www.marriott.co.uk/hotels/travel/manac-ac-hotel-manchester-salford-quays](http://www.marriott.co.uk/hotels/travel/manac-ac-hotel-manchester-salford-quays)

*How to get there: It's a three-minute walk from the Exchange Quay Metrolink tram station for city centre connections. Direct trains to Manchester take around an hour and a half from London.*

**Mhor 84 Motel, Perthshire, Scotland (rates from £80)**

At the gateway to the Scottish Highlands, this remote retreat is a contemporary take on a traditional roadside motel. Decorated with vintage furniture, deer antler chandeliers and colourful trinkets, it's a far cry from its original incarnation as a 300-year-old pub. Popular with walkers and cyclists (it's right on the Rob Roy Way walking route), most of the seven rooms overlook the surrounding mountains. The location puts you right in the heart of the Lomond & Trossachs National Park and although it feels remote, it's only an hour's drive from Glasgow and less than two from Edinburgh.

[www.mhor.net/mhor-84-motel](http://www.mhor.net/mhor-84-motel)

*How to get there:* It's a 45-minute drive from Stirling, just over an hour from Glasgow and an hour and 20 minutes from Edinburgh.

## Explore Britain on a student budget

There are plenty of ways to see the best of Britain on a budget, especially between June and September when many of the country's top universities offer accommodation for less than £20 a night. With a bit of forward-planning it's easy to sightsee on a student budget in Britain's biggest cities.

### London

**Where to stay:** While school's out for summer, stay in one of London's university halls of residence. Colleges including UAL, Imperial College and UCL offer rooms in central locations from £18 per night.

[www.arts.ac.uk/study-at-ual/accommodation/summer-accommodation](http://www.arts.ac.uk/study-at-ual/accommodation/summer-accommodation);  
[www.imperial.ac.uk/visit/summer-accommodation](http://www.imperial.ac.uk/visit/summer-accommodation); [www.ucl.ac.uk/residences](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/residences)

**What to do:** See London on two wheels by hopping on a 'Boris Bike', part of the city's popular cycle hire scheme. The first 30 minutes are free or 24-hour hire costs £2. Most of London's museums and galleries are free to visit. Join a free street art walking tour of Shoreditch to see how artists like Banksy and Invader have made their mark on the neighbourhood. Check London Ears for upcoming cheap and free gigs across the city.

[www.tfl.gov.uk/modes/cycling/santander-cycles](http://www.tfl.gov.uk/modes/cycling/santander-cycles); [www.freetoursbyfoot.com/london-tours/walking-tours/london-graffiti-and-street-art-tour](http://www.freetoursbyfoot.com/london-tours/walking-tours/london-graffiti-and-street-art-tour); [www.londonears.com](http://www.londonears.com)

**Where to eat:** There are plenty of affordable eats in the city. Just one example is Asian food; Soho is home to a number of Korean restaurants including Bi Bim Bap and Kingsland Road in Shoreditch is lined with Vietnamese options. Brick Lane is the centre of London's Bangladeshi community and is packed full of budget curry houses that entice diners with free beers and poppadums.

### Manchester, north-west England

**Where to stay:** The University of Manchester's Whitworth Park Halls offers rooms between June and September from £16. It's just next door to the free-to-visit Whitworth Art Gallery and is a 15-minute bus ride from the city centre.

[www.accommodation.manchester.ac.uk/summer2016/vacationresidence](http://www.accommodation.manchester.ac.uk/summer2016/vacationresidence);  
[www.whitworth.manchester.ac.uk](http://www.whitworth.manchester.ac.uk)

**What to do:** Get a free culture fix at the Manchester Art Gallery, the People's History Museum or the Imperial War Museum. Nab a £5 student ticket to see a movie at HOME, Britain's largest arts complex outside London, dedicated to contemporary art, theatre and film. The Deaf Institute is one of the city's coolest music venues and offers free early entry to club nights.

[www.manchesterartgallery.org](http://www.manchesterartgallery.org); <http://www.phm.org.uk>; [www.iwm.org.uk/visits/iwm-north](http://www.iwm.org.uk/visits/iwm-north); [www.homemcr.org](http://www.homemcr.org); [www.thedeafinstitute.co.uk](http://www.thedeafinstitute.co.uk)

**Where to eat:** Pick up cheap bites at Piccadilly's street food market between Thursday and Saturday and have a picnic in the neighbouring Piccadilly Gardens. Siam Smiles is a no-frills Thai restaurant in a supermarket in Chinatown and Rudy's, an industrial-style Italian joint in Ancoats serves authentic Neapolitan pizza.

[www.rudypizza.co.uk](http://www.rudypizza.co.uk)

### Liverpool, north-west England

**Where to stay:** Sleep just round the corner from the legendary Cavern Club at the Euro Hostel, a cool, contemporary crashpad with rooms in shared dorms from just £14.

[www.eurohostels.co.uk/liverpool](http://www.eurohostels.co.uk/liverpool)

**What to do:** Take a waterfront stroll around the Albert Dock and pop into Tate Liverpool to see contemporary art by the likes of Andy Warhol and Jackson Pollock. The Cavern Club is The Beatles' old stomping ground and offers free entry Monday to Wednesday, and before 8pm Thursday and Friday. Join a free workshop, tour or talk at Bluecoat, Liverpool's centre for the contemporary arts. Premiership tickets can be pricey but Liverpool FC run free football training sessions every Monday at Anfield Sports and Community Centre.

[www.tate.org.uk/visit/tate-liverpool](http://www.tate.org.uk/visit/tate-liverpool); [www.cavernclub.org](http://www.cavernclub.org); [www.thebluecoat.org.uk](http://www.thebluecoat.org.uk); [www.livewellliverpool.info/Services/739/Liverpool-Football-C](http://www.livewellliverpool.info/Services/739/Liverpool-Football-C)

**Where to eat:** After a late night, head to 81 Renshaw Street, an arts café that serves a bargain full English breakfast all day long. Fill up on virtuous vegan food at The Egg, where main meals cost less than £5 and, in the evening, follow Liverpool's creative types to the Baltic Social, a hip live music venue and bar that serves dishes for less than £10.

[www.eggcafe.co.uk](http://www.eggcafe.co.uk); [www.thebalticsocial.com](http://www.thebalticsocial.com)

### Glasgow, Scotland

**Where to stay:** In a fancy Victorian townhouse in the city's West End, the Glasgow Youth Hostel, offers shared rooms from £14 per night.

[www.syha.org.uk/where-to-stay/lowlands/glasgow](http://www.syha.org.uk/where-to-stay/lowlands/glasgow)

**What to do:** Get a free art fix at the Kelvingrove Gallery or head outside to see striking street art by following the city's self-guided mural trail. Catch a cheap comedy show at The Stand Comedy Club, where Tuesday night tickets cost £2 or nab gig tickets from £6 at King Tuts Wah Wah Hut, the club where Oasis was first discovered.

[www.glasgowlife.org.uk/museums/kelvingrove](http://www.glasgowlife.org.uk/museums/kelvingrove); [www.peoplemakeglasgow.com/things-to-do/visitor-itineraries/city-centre-mural-trail](http://www.peoplemakeglasgow.com/things-to-do/visitor-itineraries/city-centre-mural-trail); [www.thestand.co.uk](http://www.thestand.co.uk); [www.kingtuts.co.uk](http://www.kingtuts.co.uk)

**Where to eat:** Start the day with a cheap chapatti wrap from the colourful Babu Bombay Street Kitchen. Fill up on traditional fish and chips at Old Salty's, where the Monday to Friday lunch deal is a bargain at £5, or head to Where the Monkey Sleeps for a grab-and-go haggis sandwich for less than £2.

[www.babu-kitchen.com](http://www.babu-kitchen.com); [www.oldsaltys.co.uk](http://www.oldsaltys.co.uk); [www.oldsaltys.co.uk](http://www.oldsaltys.co.uk)

## Edinburgh, Scotland

**Where to stay:** Book a room at the University of Edinburgh's Pollock Halls during the summer from £56. These student digs have a stellar location at the foot of Holyrood Park and Arthur's Seat.

[www.edinburghfirst.co.uk/for-accommodation/pollock-halls](http://www.edinburghfirst.co.uk/for-accommodation/pollock-halls)

**What to do:** Explore the eccentric National Museum of Scotland and take a breather (and some photos) up on the seventh-floor roof garden. Spot urban wildlife by following the Water of Leith Walkway or join a free Sandeman's walking tour of the city. The Lyceum theatre offers 'First Look Friday' tickets to new shows for £5.

[www.neweuropetours.eu/edinburgh](http://www.neweuropetours.eu/edinburgh); [www.lyceum.org.uk](http://www.lyceum.org.uk)

**Where to eat:** Go native with a haggis burrito at Los Cardos, a favourite of cult Scottish author, Irvine Welsh. Mosque Kitchen is a no-frills spot that serves spicy curries for around £6. For a healthy lunch fix, try one of the homemade soups at the Union of Genius near the University of Edinburgh or grab a filling snack at the Piemaker, where chunky filled pies cost around £2.

[www.loscardosonline.com](http://www.loscardosonline.com); [www.unionofgenius.com](http://www.unionofgenius.com)

## Bristol, south-west England

**Where to stay:** The University of Bristol offers rooms to students from any educational establishment from £13 (shared room/bathroom) between July and September. The Hillside Woodside campus is right by the iconic Clifton Suspension Bridge.

[www.bristol.ac.uk/accommodation/media/guide/hillside-woodside-guide.pdf](http://www.bristol.ac.uk/accommodation/media/guide/hillside-woodside-guide.pdf)

**What to do:** Climb Cabot Tower to see the lay of the land before embarking on a self-guided walking tour to follow in Banksy's footsteps. Museums including M Shed and the Arnolini are free. The Cube is an arthouse cinema that offers tickets from £2. Check Headfirst Bristol for free and cheap gigs.

[www.visitbristol.co.uk/things-to-do/banksy-walking-tour-p1354013](http://www.visitbristol.co.uk/things-to-do/banksy-walking-tour-p1354013); [www.cubecinema.com](http://www.cubecinema.com)

**Where to eat:** The Canteen in Stokes Croft combines affordable comfort food and free live music. For alfresco eats, grab a homemade veggie meal from Edna's Kitchen, a popular kiosk in Castle Park. Line your stomach before a night out at Grillstock, an American-style diner that serves massive meat dishes.

[www.canteenbristol.co.uk](http://www.canteenbristol.co.uk); [www.grillstock.co.uk](http://www.grillstock.co.uk)

## Newcastle, north-east England

**Where to stay:** Students can apply to stay at Newcastle University's Park Terrace campus throughout the summer for £125 (minimum 14-night stay). For shorter breaks, Euro Hostel near Princess Square offers rooms from £16 per night.

[www.ncl.ac.uk/accommodation/staff-and-visitors/summerbookings](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/accommodation/staff-and-visitors/summerbookings)

**What to do:** See contemporary art at the Baltic, a former flour mill on the banks of the river Tyne and head up to the fifth-floor viewing box for views of the quayside. Newcastle is known for its buzzing nightlife scene. World Headquarters is one of the city's best clubs

and offers tickets from £5 on Fridays. Digital Mondays is the longest-running club night and entry is just 80p.

[www.balticmill.com](http://www.balticmill.com); [www.welovewhq.com](http://www.welovewhq.com)

**Where to eat:** Sandwich store Greggs has its HQ in Newcastle and serves student-friendly sausage rolls and local 'stotties' (large bread rolls). Fill up on snacks from the supermarkets that line the city's Chinatown or pick up budget bites from Grainger Market. Quillam Brothers Tea House on the Newcastle University campus serves 60+ types of tea and cheap sandwiches and hosts free cinema nights.

[www.graingermarket.org.uk](http://www.graingermarket.org.uk); [www.quilliambrothers.com/theteahouse](http://www.quilliambrothers.com/theteahouse)

### Cardiff, Wales

**Where to stay:** Students can stay at Cardiff University's Senghennydd Court campus close to the National Museum and the city centre from £13 between June and September.

[www.cardiff.ac.uk/study/accommodation/student-summer-residences](http://www.cardiff.ac.uk/study/accommodation/student-summer-residences);

**What to do:** Catch a free performance on the Glanfa Stage at the Millennium Centre, or check for upcoming free events at the Roald Dahl Plass, the public plaza just outside. The Glee Club in Cardiff Bay hosts the hugely popular Ignite Cardiff nights, a series of TED-style talks. Tickets are free but disappear quickly.

[www.glee.co.uk/comedy/cardiff](http://www.glee.co.uk/comedy/cardiff)

**Where to eat:** Enjoy waterfront views and pizzas from £3.25 at Pizza Pronto, a food shack in Cardiff Bay. Fill up on gourmet hot dogs at Hogwurst in Cathays, a lively student suburb of the city. Also in Cathays, Falafel Kitchen is a top pick for veggies. For something spicier, head to Kumar's, a South Indian restaurant with a 'bring-your-own-booze' policy.

[www.pizzaprontopenarth.co.uk](http://www.pizzaprontopenarth.co.uk)

### Belfast, Northern Ireland

**Where to stay:** Part of Queen's University, the Elms Village campus is in a leafy spot around a mile outside Belfast city centre and offers rooms throughout the summer from £40 including breakfast.

[www.stayatqueens.com/sites/StayAtQueens/SummerAccommodation](http://www.stayatqueens.com/sites/StayAtQueens/SummerAccommodation)

**What to do:** Ulster Museum is a treasure trove that combines art, history and natural sciences exhibitions and is free to visit Tuesday to Sunday. Pop into the Oh Yeah Music Centre to catch a cheap cultural event or book early to secure a £4 ticket at the Queens Film Theatre every Monday.

[www.ohyeahbelfast.com](http://www.ohyeahbelfast.com)

**Where to eat:** Pick up affordable snacks at St George's Market, a Victorian covered market close to the waterfront, and head to the City Hall gardens to eat alfresco. Common Grounds community café in Queens Quarter serves bargain brunches and fairtrade coffee and Maggie Mays is a student favourite for its extensive all-day breakfast menu.

[www.commongrounds.co.uk](http://www.commongrounds.co.uk); [www.maggiemaysbelfastcafe.co.uk](http://www.maggiemaysbelfastcafe.co.uk)

## Leeds, Yorkshire, north England

**Where to stay:** Bed down in a former brewery on the Leeds-Liverpool canal for just £26 with a stay at Kirkstall Brewery, one of Leeds Beckett University's halls of residence. Rooms are available between June and September.

[www.maggiemaysbelfastcafe.co.uk](http://www.maggiemaysbelfastcafe.co.uk)

**What to do:** Explore Roundhay Park, one of the biggest city parks in Europe and check for free events throughout the summer. The Leeds City Museum and The Tetley, a modern art gallery in the former Tetley Brewery HQ are both free to visit. Pit your brains against locals at the free-to-enter pub quiz at The Hop every Tuesday. The Gaslight Club at the Oportobar is a great place to catch free gigs.

[www.thetetley.org](http://www.thetetley.org)

**Where to eat:** For the best budget eats, hang out in Headingley, a lively student suburb in the north west of the city. The Original Oak has a huge beer garden and serves traditional pub grub and student meal deals. Head to the Cat's Pyjamas for Indian street food and craft beer. Elsewhere, the Nation of Shopkeepers serves traditional roast dinners with a giant Yorkshire puddings for around £10 every Sunday.

[www.theoriginaloakleeds.co.uk](http://www.theoriginaloakleeds.co.uk); [www.theoriginaloakleeds.co.uk](http://www.theoriginaloakleeds.co.uk)

## Value-for-money experiences

Looking for a bargain? Whether you're interested in queens or Quidditch, you'll be able to save money by booking tickets for some of Britain's top tourist attractions together, and in advance.

### **Visit the Warner Bros Studios after 3pm to get discount entry**

Step into the spectacular sets of Harry Potter, climb aboard the Hogwarts Express, fly on a broomstick, and learn about the movies animatronics for less when you visit the Warner Bros Studio Tour of the making of Harry Potter after 3pm. Muggles can get their tickets from the VisitBritain shop and receive discounted entry, inclusive of travel costs to and from central London by bus.

[www.visitbritainshop.com/world/warner-bros-studio-tour-london--the-making-of-harry-potter-special-offer](http://www.visitbritainshop.com/world/warner-bros-studio-tour-london--the-making-of-harry-potter-special-offer)

### **Visit more for less in Edinburgh, Scotland**

Save money at Edinburgh's top tourist attractions by booking them together, and get bus travel included too! Buy a Royal Edinburgh Ticket and get access to the Palace of Holyroodhouse, the Queen's official Scottish residence, and the Royal Family's ship the Royal Yacht Britannia. Scotland's most popular attraction Edinburgh Castle is also included, along with two days' unlimited bus travel. The combined ticket offers savings of 1/4 off the standard prices.

[www.visitbritainshop.com/world/royal-edinburgh-ticket](http://www.visitbritainshop.com/world/royal-edinburgh-ticket)

### **Get the Cardiff Sightseeing Card**

Travelling to the Welsh capital? Before you go, buy the Cardiff Sightseeing Card and get up to 50% off at more than 70 of the city's top attractions including Cardiff Castle. Shops, sightseeing tours, hotels and eateries are all included. The card costs just £4, meaning it quickly pays for itself.

[www.visitbritainshop.com/world/cardiff-sightseeing-card](http://www.visitbritainshop.com/world/cardiff-sightseeing-card)

### **Bag a Blackpool bargain**

Save money in Blackpool, north-west England, by buying tickets to top attractions in advance. The Resort Pass offers admission to six attractions, including Blackpool Pleasure Beach and the Blackpool Tower Eye and 4D experience, for one great price. Six experiences not enough? Buy a Resort Pass Plus and get three more thrown in, including Blackpool Zoo. The Resort Pass costs £55, and the Resort Pass Plus £80, representing savings of more than £35 and £55 respectively.

[www.blackpoolresortpass.com](http://www.blackpoolresortpass.com)

### **Something for everyone with the York Pass**

Whatever you love, the York Pass has something for you. It offers entry to more than 30 top attractions in Yorkshire, north England, covering a range of museums, galleries and historic buildings. Each pass comes with a free colour guidebook to help you plan your adventures, and also offers money off at restaurants and shops. Prices start at £38 for adults and £22 for children.

[www.visitbritainshop.com/world/yorkshire-pass](http://www.visitbritainshop.com/world/yorkshire-pass)

### **Work up an appetite in Bath**

Visit three popular museums and enjoy a tasty lunch with the Saver Package in Bath, south-west England. The deal includes entry to the famous Roman Baths, as well as the city's Fashion Museum and Victoria Art Gallery. Hungry? A two course set lunch at the Roman Baths Kitchen is also included, all for £36.

[www.visitbath.digitickets.co.uk/category/4037](http://www.visitbath.digitickets.co.uk/category/4037)

### **Save money with the Merlin London attractions 4-in-1 pass**

Save money with a fantastic value pass for visiting four of the most popular family attractions in London. It includes entry to: Madame Tussauds, The Coca-Cola London Eye, SEA LIFE London Aquarium and Shrek's Adventure! Save over 35% compared to buying separate tickets - so you're effectively visiting two of the four attractions for free!

[www.visitbritainshop.com/world/merlin-london-attractions-4in1pass](http://www.visitbritainshop.com/world/merlin-london-attractions-4in1pass)

## Affordable dining

You don't need to spend a fortune to eat well in Britain. Here are 16 tips to ensure maximum taste on minimum budget:

### 1. Save money on Mondays

Monday is Britain's quietest dining night as locals leave their wallets at home after a weekend of spending. With seats to fill, restaurants offer deals aplenty. Top picks include **Hawksmoor's** Monday Wine Club, where diners can bring their own booze to pair with sizzling steak in London and Manchester for a £5 fee (normally £25 per bottle). Bristol's **Prego** serves Monday night pizzas for £6.95 and the **Yo! Sushi** chain offers half-price plates every Monday at restaurants across the country.

[www.thehawksmoor.com/wine-club](http://www.thehawksmoor.com/wine-club)

[www.pregobar.co.uk/offers](http://www.pregobar.co.uk/offers)

[www.yosushi.com/love-club/all\\_offers\\_page/blue-mondays](http://www.yosushi.com/love-club/all_offers_page/blue-mondays)

### 2. Pig out in pubs

Along with cosy fires, real ales and cider, a reliable constant in most British pubs is hearty grub. Ranging from approximately £7 to £15 for a main course (depending on whether you're in a traditional 'boozer' or a fancier gastropub) the plates are almost always stacked satisfyingly high.



*Great value food in a Great Room! Dining at Belfast's Merchant Hotel*

### 3. It pays to eat early

Many British restaurants have off-peak periods when fixed-price, 'early bird' or pre-theatre set menus come into play. In Belfast, enjoy two courses at the Merchant Hotel's **Great Room Restaurant** for just £22.50 between 5.30pm and 6.30pm Monday to Thursday. If you're heading to Inverness in Scotland, consider the two-course pre-theatre menu at the **Glenmoriston Town House Hotel's** brasserie, which overlooks the River Ness. With dishes like Highland steak and Shetland mussels on the menu between 5pm and 6.30pm, the two-course deal is a steal at £13.95. In north Wales, an hour from the English city of Liverpool, Llandudno's seafront **St Tudno** hotel offers an early-bird menu between 12pm and 2pm, and 5.30pm and 7pm for £15. Work up an appetite by strolling along the town's 700m-long, cast-iron pier.

[www.themerchanthotel.com/bars-restaurants/the-great-room-restaurant/](http://www.themerchanthotel.com/bars-restaurants/the-great-room-restaurant/)

[www.glenmoristontownhouse.com](http://www.glenmoristontownhouse.com)

[www.st-tudno.co.uk](http://www.st-tudno.co.uk)

#### 4. Discount websites

Sign up to **OpenTable** for access to special offers - including half-price deals - at eateries across Britain. **Lastminute.com** has pages dedicated to 'Offers under £20' and 'Top 10 Restaurant Deals'. **Moneysavingexpert.com** highlights Britain-wide deals and specific family offers.

[www.opentable.co.uk](http://www.opentable.co.uk)

[www.lastminute.com](http://www.lastminute.com)

[www.moneysavingexpert.com/deals/cheap-restaurant-deals](http://www.moneysavingexpert.com/deals/cheap-restaurant-deals)

#### 5. Brunch it up

Consuming a big brunch can neuter the need for lunch. In the university town of Oxford, an hour's train ride from London, the brunch menu at **Oxford** features pancakes and organically-sourced egg dishes. In the Welsh capital of Cardiff, **The Pot** serves its extensive brunch menu - including a breakfast wrap of scrambled eggs and chorizo with a Mexican kick - until 4pm.

[www.oxford.co.uk](http://www.oxford.co.uk)

[www.thepotcafe.co.uk](http://www.thepotcafe.co.uk)

#### 6. Michelin-starred lunches

At the Michelin-starred **Simpsons** in Birmingham, central England, the three-course lunch menu is just £45 including wine, whereas the evening menu will set you back £60, excluding wine. In London, indulge in a two-course lunch at Peruvian hotspot, **Lima**, for £23, which is less than some of the main dishes alone on the evening menu.



*Decadent dessert for less at Simpsons*

[www.simpsonsrestaurant.co.uk](http://www.simpsonsrestaurant.co.uk)

[www.limalondongroup.com/fitzrovia](http://www.limalondongroup.com/fitzrovia)

#### 7. Go veggie

Vegetarian restaurants are often cheaper than their carnivorous counterparts, and Britain boasts some excellent options. In central England, try Nottingham's not-for-profit **Crocus Café**, where main meals will set you back around £5 or £6 or, **The Warehouse Café** in Birmingham, where the award-winning dishes cost no more than £8.95. **Happy Cow**, an online directory of global veggie restaurants, has more than 1,700 British listings.

[www.crocuscafe.com](http://www.crocuscafe.com)

[www.thewarehousecafe.com](http://www.thewarehousecafe.com)

[www.happycow.net](http://www.happycow.net)

## 8. Dine in London for under £10

One of London's ultimate bargain restaurant is **Brasserie Zédel**, just off Piccadilly Circus. The vast, Art Deco-style basement dining room looks more chic than cheap but offers a two-course fixed-price menu for a purse-friendly £9.75.

[www.brasseriezedel.com](http://www.brasseriezedel.com)

## 9. BYO

One of the biggest dining costs is alcohol. Give corkage fees the slip by eating at one of Britain's many bring-your-own (BYO) establishments including **Wheeler's Oyster Bar**, the oldest restaurant in the Kent town of Whitstable, 50 miles east of London, and **The Company Shed**, a family-run seafood stalwart in Colchester, 50 miles north east of London.

[www.wheelersoysterbar.com](http://www.wheelersoysterbar.com)

[www.thecompanyshed.co](http://www.thecompanyshed.co)

## 10. Michelin-starred pub grub

Britain's only Michelin-starred pub, the **Hand & Flowers** in the pretty town of Marlow, sits on a bend of the River Thames just one hour from London by train. It's surprisingly cheap if you book the lunch deal. Fill up on two delicious courses from top British chef, Tom Kerridge for just £15.

[www.thehandandflowers.co.uk](http://www.thehandandflowers.co.uk)

## 11. Eat fish, fresh off the boat

For the freshest, cheapest seafood, eat fish straight off the boat in Britain's seaside towns. In the attractive village of Topsham just outside Exeter, south-west England, **The Galley** is one of Britain's finest coastal restaurants and serves a set lunch from just £13.

[www.galleyrestaurant.co.uk](http://www.galleyrestaurant.co.uk)

## 12. Check out Chinatown

Chinatowns across Britain offer bargain dinner options. In central England's Birmingham, the no-frills **New Sum Ye** diner serves three roast meats - lacquered duck, crispy pork belly and tasty char sui - with delicate rice and bok choy for less than a tenner (£10).



*Glitz and glamour without the price tag at Brasserie Zédel*



*Fresh fish at The Galley*

### 13. Award-winning and affordable

Bib Gourmands are awarded by Michelin to restaurants that offer good food for no more than £28 per three courses. Top picks include the **Green Café** in the foodie market town of Ludlow in Shropshire, west England and **The Restaurant** at the Seaview Hotel on the Isle of Wight, south England.

[www.thegreencafe.co.uk](http://www.thegreencafe.co.uk)

[www.seaviewhotel.co.uk](http://www.seaviewhotel.co.uk)

### 14. Fish and chips

For a truly British dining experience, visit a 'chippy' and order battered cod or haddock and chunky chips doused in salt and vinegar. It'll be cheap (typically £5 - £6), cheerful and generously-sized. With an estimated 10,000 shops across the country, you're never far away from a fish and chip fix. Consider a trip to **Frankie's** in the Shetland Islands (a 90-minute flight from Edinburgh), the 2015 National Fish & Chips Awards' champion.

[www.frankiesfishandchips.com](http://www.frankiesfishandchips.com)

### 15. Places to voucher for

Vouchers are in vogue these days and you can let companies like **Groupon**, **Living Social**, **Wowcher** and **Travelzoo** do the hard work for you by sending restaurant deals straight to your inbox.

[www.groupon.co.uk](http://www.groupon.co.uk)

[www.livingsocial.co.uk](http://www.livingsocial.co.uk)

[www.wowcher.co.uk](http://www.wowcher.co.uk)

[www.travelzoo.com/uk](http://www.travelzoo.com/uk)

### 16. High-end, low prices

High-end restaurants usually come with sky-high price tags but pick wisely and you can dine on fancy fare for less. South-west England's Bristol's renovated **Lido** (overlooking an outdoor public swimming pool) provides a quirky setting from which to enjoy a three-course meal for just £20. London's **Criterion Restaurant** is a decadent dining room strung with chandeliers that serves a two-course meal for £29.



*Pool side eating at Bristol Lido*

[www.lidobristol.com](http://www.lidobristol.com)

[www.saviniatcriterion.co.uk](http://www.saviniatcriterion.co.uk)

## Marvellous markets and street food stalls

Take a tour of Britain's tastiest food markets and you can fill your belly without emptying your wallet. Try before you buy with free samples from artisan producers and enjoy on-the-go snacks as you explore stalls laden with produce from local farmers, fruit sellers, bakers and more. Street food is more popular than ever and the country's top stalls and food trucks offer a bite-sized and budget-friendly introduction to the British culinary scene.

### **Edinburgh Farmers' Market, Scotland**

This award-winning market has one of the best backdrops in the country. Located on Castle Terrace, more than 50 specialist stalls sell top-notch produce in the shadow of Edinburgh Castle. Stock up on Scottish specialties like venison, Highland vegetables and traditional shortbread. Don't miss the Stoats Porridge Bar for a steaming bowl of traditional oats; the perfect snack on a cold Scottish morning.

[www.edinburghfarmersmarket.co.uk](http://www.edinburghfarmersmarket.co.uk)

### **Borough Market, London**

Hungry Londoners flock to this vast market on the South Bank to buy foodie treats including artisan breads, pungent cheese and handmade chocolates. There are plenty of samples on offer and there's a tasty array of street food vendors selling everything from Ethiopian wraps to pork pies from Melton Mowbray in Leicestershire. For a quieter alternative, head a little further east to Maltby Street Market, where you'll find producers selling their wares under railway arches in Bermondsey every Saturday.

[www.boroughmarket.org.uk](http://www.boroughmarket.org.uk)

[www.maltby.st](http://www.maltby.st)



*Pick up food samples and delicious dishes at famous Borough Market*

### **Kirkgate Market, Leeds, Yorkshire, north England**

Founded in 1857, Kirkgate is Europe's biggest indoor market and is packed with family-run stalls selling Yorkshire's finest food, flowers and fashion. Work up an appetite by strolling around the grand Victorian hall before heading to the food zone, a new area that opened in June 2016 as part of a multimillion pound revamp. Take your pick from street food-style vendors that sell affordable lunch options including Vietnamese buns and Yorkshire wraps.

[www.leeds.gov.uk/leedsmarkets](http://www.leeds.gov.uk/leedsmarkets)

### **Moseley Farmers Market, Birmingham, central England**

According to *Olive Magazine*, Birmingham is one of Britain's foodiest towns and the award-winning Moseley Farmers Market is a great place to check out the city's food scene. In the pretty suburb of Moseley, a couple of miles from the city centre, this monthly market is home to more than 60 stalls that sell fresh produce from the Midlands. Take home a hearty meat pie from Nightingales Pies or snack on samosas from Spice Fever and fresh Staffordshire spelt bread from Hindleys.

<http://moseleyfarmersmarket.org.uk>

### **Exeter Street Food, Devon, south-west England**

The ever popular Exeter Street Food collective brings together traders from all over the south-west to sell produce at three different venues in the city, all of which are open late for budget-friendly evening meals. Try a burger from Two Coast County made with beef from Devon or a pastry from Naturally Bread, an Exeter-based micro-bakery. The night market at the Quay is especially lovely - take in canal views from the water's edge.

[www.streetfoodexeter.co.uk](http://www.streetfoodexeter.co.uk)

### **Swansea Indoor Market, south Wales**

This award-winning market is the largest and best known in Wales and proudly sells produce from all over the country. Home to more than 100 stalls, it's open Monday to Saturday every week and is famous for its fresh cockles from the Gower peninsula and laverbread, a Welsh delicacy made from seaweed.

[www.swanseaindoormarket.co.uk](http://www.swanseaindoormarket.co.uk)

### **Bitten Street Food Market, Oxford, south central England**

Refuel in regal surroundings at Bitten Street, a lively street food market in the grounds of Oxford Castle. This monthly market brings together a rotating line up of stallholders that sell global cuisine made from fresh local produce. Top picks include Taste Tibet and the Secret Pizza Society. Wash budget bites down with a pint of local beer from Lam Brewing, a microbrewery based in Sandford-on-Thames.

[www.bittenoxford.co.uk/bitten-street](http://www.bittenoxford.co.uk/bitten-street)

### **Dinerama Street Food Market, London**

In a former truck depot in Shoreditch, this sociable late night food market attracts hungry hipsters. Lined with popular street food stalls including B.O.B.'s Lobster, Yum Bun and Smokestack, it features communal dining tables and a number a rooftop terrace bar.

[www.streetfeast.com/where/dinerama](http://www.streetfeast.com/where/dinerama)



*Fresh produce at St George's Market*

### St George's Market, Belfast, Northern Ireland

Built between 1890 and 1896, this Victorian covered market close to Belfast's waterfront is neatly ordered into different food zones (the fresh fish section contains more than 20 fish counters alone). Pack a picnic (soda bread, a slice of Guinness-infused cheese, some fruit and vegetables from a local farmer and a bottle of cider from the Armagh Cider Company) and head to the City Hall gardens.

[www.visitbelfast.com/things-to-do/member/st-georges-market](http://www.visitbelfast.com/things-to-do/member/st-georges-market)

### Grainger Market, Newcastle, north-east England

First opened in 1835, this historic covered market in the heart of Newcastle is a local favourite. Home to family-run stalls and independent food retailers, it's a great place to fill up on affordable bites and buy take-home treats. Don't miss a portion of fish and chips from Lindsay Fish Bros and a coffee from Pumphrey's Brewing Emporium, a coffee shop that has provided caffeine kicks to Geordies since 1750.

[www.graingermarket.org.uk](http://www.graingermarket.org.uk)

## Bargain shopping

Fashionistas and bargain hunters rejoice! As well as high streets brimming with affordable fashion, Britain has a raft of designer outlets and factory shops that are packed with cut-price clothing and accessories. We head out from the high streets to show you where to find additional purse-friendly options.

### London

Head out of London's West End and discover some of the best fashion bargains in the capital. In the increasingly trendy neighbourhood of Hackney, you'll find no less than four outlet stores. Head to **29 - 31 Chatham Place** where Burberry used to have a factory, but is now the place to pick up a cut-price trench coat, or Christopher's Bailey's designs; everything from clothing to accessories can be found with discounts between 30 - 70%.

[www.uk.burberry.com](http://www.uk.burberry.com)

While you're in the area, head down the road to **8 Chatham Place**, where you'll find Aquascutum. Strong on suits and stylish outerwear (the name Aquascutum is Latin for water shield), this is another classic British label, and it's here you'll find goods with prices at around 50% off.

[www.aquascutum.com](http://www.aquascutum.com)

Completing the trio of Hackney's high-fashion clothing outlets is Pringle of Scotland at **90 Morning Lane**. The shop, housed in a former Victorian pub, stores leftover stock from its Mayfair branch at around 30 - 80% off.

[www.brand.pringleofscotland.com/about/stores/outlet-stores](http://www.brand.pringleofscotland.com/about/stores/outlet-stores)

Need a handbag to complete your outfit? Anya Hindmarch, the famed accessories designer, opened up at **2 Chatham Place** in 2014. You'll find last season's designs and samples for anything up to 70 % off.

[www.anyahindmarch.com/en-GB/stores?sid=Hackney](http://www.anyahindmarch.com/en-GB/stores?sid=Hackney)

Paul Smith may have started his hugely influential fashion empire in Nottinghamshire in the heart of England, but it's in London where you'll find the best sales bargains. Tucked into a small alleyway in Mayfair's **Avery Row**, is one of his menswear sale shops. Prices are around half price - for example, expect to pay £20 for a t-shirt. There's another shop at the Royal Exchange in the City of London, by Bank underground, which stocks some women's clothes too.

[www.paulsmith.co.uk](http://www.paulsmith.co.uk)

## **England**

Arguably Britain's most famous designer discount outlet - Bicester Village in **Oxfordshire** - is an easy trip from London's Marylebone station. An hour on the train from the capital and you'll find season-appropriate clothing and accessories - albeit from last season - at great prices, from up to 60% off. If you're a fan of British designers you'll be thrilled with the choices available from Vivienne Westwood, Alexander McQueen and shoe designer Rupert Sanderson.

[www.bicestervillage.com](http://www.bicestervillage.com)

The area of **Northamptonshire**, in the Midlands region of England, is renowned for its handmade shoes, particularly for men. All the biggest brands have factory shops, including Church's and Cheaney's. Crockett & Jones may only be open Friday afternoons and Saturday mornings but the queues outside its doors are a sign of its popularity. Expect to pay around £180 for a pair of shoes.

[www.church-footwear.com](http://www.church-footwear.com), [www.cheaney.co.uk/retail-shops.php](http://www.cheaney.co.uk/retail-shops.php),  
[www.crockettandjones.com](http://www.crockettandjones.com)

John Smedley is based in **Derbyshire**, in the heart of the Peak District, less than 90 minutes by train from Birmingham. The factory has been on the same site since 1784 when it was established by a relation of Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing. It invented, and gave its name to, Victorian "long john" underwear for men, yet it is its high fashion knitwear that is now sold all over the world. You'll get the best bargains from very slightly imperfect seconds, retailing at around £40 for a jumper.

[www.johnsmedley.com](http://www.johnsmedley.com)

The British royal family love the Barbour brand so much that the company has three royal warrants - from the Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh and Prince Charles - but even if you don't have a royal budget, you can head to Barbour's factory outlet in **South Shields**, around half an hour's drive from the city of Newcastle in north-east England. You'll find really good bargains in the back room of the main shop, including quilted jackets for under £40.

[www.barbour.com/shop/barbour-south-shields](http://www.barbour.com/shop/barbour-south-shields)

Lancashire in north-west England has a long history of high-quality textile mills - and that hasn't changed even today. In the city of Lancaster itself, less than an hour's train journey from Manchester, Standfast & Barracks produces Liberty's famous Tana Lawn cotton, and furnishing fabric for Sanderson and Zoffany at around £8 a metre for slightly imperfect seconds.

[www.standfast-barracks.com/contact-us/how-to-find-us](http://www.standfast-barracks.com/contact-us/how-to-find-us)

Flannels is one of north-west England's most famous boutique shops for both men's and women's clothing, stocking Armani, Joseph, Diane von Furstenberg and Malene Birger. Head to its Lowry Outlet Centre in **Salford**, three minutes by train from Manchester city centre, and you'll find the same brands but at around 70% discount.

[www.flannels.com/pages/stores/FlannelsOutlet](http://www.flannels.com/pages/stores/FlannelsOutlet)

Kilver Court, near the town of **Shepton Mallett** in west England (a two hour 30 minute drive from London) is a haven if you've got your eye out for British-made designer discounts. You'll find 'archive' stores (stocking sale items) for cult cycling label Rapha, as well as Sunspel and Mackintosh, the original British raincoat still going strong since 1824, at around 30 - 70%. And if you're a handbag aficionado, you'll find the iconic Mulberry; the luxury British brand's original factory shop is a few steps from the main Kilver Court building.

[www.kilvercourt.com](http://www.kilvercourt.com)

## Wales

The cult British fashion label of Toast was born in Wales. You'll now find this label stocked in top department stores such as Selfridges but bargain hunters should head to the pretty town of **Llandeilo** where you can find things from the previous year at up to a 50% discount.

[www.toa.st/shops/llandeilo](http://www.toa.st/shops/llandeilo)

Less than half an hour by train from the Welsh capital of Cardiff is the town of Bridgend, home to the outlet village McArthurGlen Bridgend. More than 90 brands, such as Tommy Hilfiger, Lacoste, Osprey London, Fossil and Calvin Klein Underwear, offer discounts of up to 60%. This is just one of the McArthurGlen outlets dotted around Britain; there are six in total.

[www.mcarthurglen.com/en/outlets/uk/mcarthurglen-bridgend](http://www.mcarthurglen.com/en/outlets/uk/mcarthurglen-bridgend)

## Scotland

Cashmere still rules here and Scottish weaving mills are renowned for being some of the best of the world. Chanel has its own factory in **Hawick** in the Scottish borders and you can pick up luxury bargains at its factory shop there.

[www.hawickknitwear.com](http://www.hawickknitwear.com)

Fans of luxurious scarves and throws should head to Ayr on Scotland's west coast, just over an hour's drive from Glasgow, where you'll find Begg and Company's factory, and factory shop. Buy sumptuous goods made from fine cashmere, silk and lambswool angora

yarns. En route to Ayr, stop off at Galston (about half way between Glasgow and Ayr) to pick up bargains at the Balmoral Mill, itself still working factory with a shop outlet.

[www.beggandcompany.com](http://www.beggandcompany.com); [www.balmoralmill.com](http://www.balmoralmill.com)

Belinda Robertson is one of Scotland's leading cashmere designers with shops in some of the most exclusive parts of Edinburgh. If you head out to **North Berwick** - around an hour by car from the Scottish capital - you'll find discount sample pieces and items from previous seasons.

[www.cashmerebarn.com](http://www.cashmerebarn.com)

### Northern Ireland

The area around **Belfast** was once known for its linen weaving and the brand Thomas Ferguson, which was established in 1854, still produces high-quality tablecloths and bed linen. Factory tours can also be arranged, plus there's a shop selling discounted goods.

[www.fergusonsirishlinen.com](http://www.fergusonsirishlinen.com)

### **\*Handy bargain hunting tip!\***

Beauty brands often redeem the cost of treatments against their products, particularly in department store concessions. For example, Eve Lom, one of Britain's best-known facialists, runs regular sessions at department stores around the country where the cost of treatments can be redeemed against her products. Aromatherapy Associates is another brand to look out for. At Liberty, in London, it runs regular massage sessions where the price of the treatment can be redeemed against buying some of its products.

[www.evelom.com](http://www.evelom.com), [www.aromatherapyassociates.com](http://www.aromatherapyassociates.com)

## Travel through Britain's countryside on a budget

Ever heard the saying 'it's not the destination, it's the journey'? Between Britain's eclectic cities you can find stretches of countryside, rolling hills, idyllic lakes and bustling waterways, which make any journey a pleasure when ambling from place to place.

We've rounded up some of the best ways to travel to make the most of your journey and, even better, how to do it on a budget.

### **Enjoy a beautiful train journey in Britain**

Heralded as one of the most beautiful train journeys in Britain, the trip from Glasgow to Mallaig takes you through the wild splendour of Scotland's west coast. On your journey you'll pass through Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park, then Britain's highest altitude train station in Corrour, as well as passing north of Ben Nevis, Britain's highest mountain peak. The spectacular views don't end once you arrive in Mallaig, as in the distance you'll be able to spot the Isle of Skye, recently used as 'Giants Country' in the filming of Disney's *The BFG*.

**Price:** Book in advance, and pay as little as £5 for a single.

**Getting there:** Glasgow is situated on the west coast of Scotland, and is 70-minute train journey from Edinburgh and nearly a five-hour train journey from London.

[www.scotrail.co.uk/scotland-by-rail/great-scenic-rail-journeys/west-highland-line-glasgow-oban-and-fort-williamallaig](http://www.scotrail.co.uk/scotland-by-rail/great-scenic-rail-journeys/west-highland-line-glasgow-oban-and-fort-williamallaig)



*Steaming through Oxfordshire*

### Take in the sights and sounds of Oxfordshire's countryside with Salters Steamers

Take things a little slower and travel with Salters Steamers along the River Thames. Start in Oxfordshire and take the scenic route to the historic market town of Abingdon. On your way expect to see Christ Church meadows, the 18th century Nuneham House, and the deepest lock on the non-tidal Thames: Sandford Lock. Even better, if you buy two adult return tickets you get a child return ticket free.

**Price:** £20.80 for an adult return ticket, for a four-hour round trip.

**Getting there:** Oxfordshire is a county located in south-central England, and is a 90-minute journey by train or car from London, England.

[www.salterssteamers.co.uk/oxford-abingdon](http://www.salterssteamers.co.uk/oxford-abingdon)

### Go full steam ahead for less

Britain is home to lush forests, roaming mountain ranges, undulating valleys and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. One way to take in all the scenery is by train, where routes glide over rivers, peep above forests and journey through valleys. Even better, if you get a BritRail pass you can discover some of the best kept secret sites of the nation for as little as £13 a day.

[www.visitbritainshop.com/world/travel-and-transport/britrail-passes](http://www.visitbritainshop.com/world/travel-and-transport/britrail-passes)

### Journey through the heart of the Lake District on the A591

Take in the spectacular views of the north-west's National Park when journeying from Lancaster city centre to Keswick, all while riding on the 555 bus along the recently re-opened A591 route. Following the edge of Lake Windermere, the two-and-a-half-hour route offers breathtaking views onto the lake as you travel past Bowness. Grab



*Winding through the Lake District on the A591*

a North West Explorer ticket, which offers unlimited travel for one day on stagecoach buses within the North West ticket Zone.

**Price:** £10.80

**Getting there:** Lancaster city centre is located in the north-west of England. Lancaster is a two hour and 45-minute journey by train from London, and just under two hours by car from Leeds.

[www.golakes.co.uk/travel/by-bus](http://www.golakes.co.uk/travel/by-bus)

## 10 money-saving tips for your trip to Britain

There are plenty of ways to save money when you travel in Britain, and we don't just mean all those free museums and galleries - although they're brilliant too! Plan ahead to take advantage of money-saving initiatives and kids-go-free events with these ten top tips.

### 1. Buy before you fly!

Check out [www.visitbritainshop.com](http://www.visitbritainshop.com) before you travel for discounts on travel tickets, tours, attractions and more!

### 2. Sightsee for less

Explore the sites of England's eclectic capital city for less with the **London Pass**. Discover the Tower of London, Westminster Abbey, ZSL London Zoo and Shakespeare's Globe Theatre for less than 50% of the individual entrance prices.

If you're planning to see a number of Britain's most iconic heritage sites, it's worth buying a **heritage pass**, offered by the National Trust, English Heritage and Historic Scotland. A nine-day English Heritage Overseas Visitor Pass (£30) gives free entry to over 100 sites, including Stonehenge, Dover Castle in Kent and Hadrian's Wall.

Buy a seven-day National Trust Touring Pass (£26) and you can visit any of the Trust's 300 historic houses and gardens, including Chartwell, former home of Winston Churchill, Castle Ward in Northern Ireland's County Down, and magical Welsh castle and world famous gardens at Powis Castle and Garden. After a couple of visits to properties the pass starts to pay for itself, so go to a third and you're saving. Scotland has its own National Trust Discover Ticket, priced at £31.50 for seven days.

[www.visitbritainshop.com/world/the-london-sightseeing-pass](http://www.visitbritainshop.com/world/the-london-sightseeing-pass),

[www.visitbritainshop.com/world/english-heritage-overseas-visitor-pass](http://www.visitbritainshop.com/world/english-heritage-overseas-visitor-pass),

[www.visitbritainshop.com/world/national-trust-touring-pass](http://www.visitbritainshop.com/world/national-trust-touring-pass),

[www.visitbritainshop.com/world/national-trust-for-scotland-discover-ticket](http://www.visitbritainshop.com/world/national-trust-for-scotland-discover-ticket)

### 3. Free heritage

Britain's history spans the ages, with remnants surviving today in the form of historic houses, stunning castles and ancient sites. With so much heritage to explore, it's worth knowing some handy hints and tips on how to visit these places for free.

Every September thousands of historic monuments and buildings, especially those usually closed to the public, throw open their doors for free. As a bonus, **Open House London's** junior programme encourages kids to become architects for the day (17-18 September). Families learned to clog dance as part of England's 2015 **Heritage Open Days**; expect similar activities in 2016 (8-11 September).

Past events for Scotland's **Doors Open Days** saw kids learn to build a skeleton at the National Mining Museum of Scotland (September weekends).

More than 400 properties are open for in free in Northern Ireland's **European Heritage Open Days** (10-11 September). Wales's **Open Doors** will give free entry to important places, including some associated with Roald Dahl in celebration of the much-loved children's author's centenary in 2016 (throughout September).

[www.openhouselondon.org.uk](http://www.openhouselondon.org.uk), [www.heritageopendays.org.uk](http://www.heritageopendays.org.uk), [www.doorsopendays.org.uk](http://www.doorsopendays.org.uk), [www.discovernorthernireland.com](http://www.discovernorthernireland.com), [www.cadw.gov.wales/opendoor](http://www.cadw.gov.wales/opendoor)

#### 4. Cheaper rail travel

One of the best ways to get around Britain is by rail, especially if your route snakes through some of the beautiful countryside, mountain ranges, and rolling hills that shape the nation's landscape. Booking early is a sure-fire way to save on rail travel, but did you know that regional train companies often offer special discounts too?

Families heading to Dover, Canterbury and other places in Kent and East Sussex should check out **Southeastern Railway's** Kids for £1, which allows up to four kids to travel for £1 each with one adult, off peak. Two kids can travel for free with each adult under **Scotrail's** Kids Go Free scheme, and tickets also give one child free entry to some popular Scottish attractions.

The Explore Wales Pass, available in advance from railway stations and agents, offers unlimited travel on all rail services and most local bus services in Wales. It can be used on all local bus services in and around the Brecon Beacons National Park including Beacons Buses. Be sure to check the site for terms and conditions, as some services aren't included, and days vary on train and bus travel.

[www.southeasternrailway.co.uk](http://www.southeasternrailway.co.uk), [www.scotrail.co.uk](http://www.scotrail.co.uk), [www.arrivatrainswales.co.uk/ExploreWales/ExploreWalesPass](http://www.arrivatrainswales.co.uk/ExploreWales/ExploreWalesPass)

#### 5. Online deals

Canny visitors to London's **Kensington Palace** and **Hampton Court Palace** are wise to check the website. Entry was half price when booked online in winter this year and last. And while it's not unusual for under-fives to get free entry to attractions, at Kensington Palace everyone under 16 enjoys the privilege. This year, Kensington Palace's popular Fashion Rules exhibition has been 'restyled' to present new dresses from The Queen, Princess Margaret and Princess Diana - heaven for aspiring princesses.

[www.hrp.org.uk](http://www.hrp.org.uk)

#### 6. Wear the kids out for free

All of Britain's 15 national parks are free to enter, and there's plenty to keep little ones busy ([www.nationalparks.gov.uk](http://www.nationalparks.gov.uk)). The **Brecon Beacons National Park Mountain Centre** has

stunning views, kid-friendly walks along an adjacent moorland ridge, and a large, well-tended field that's perfect for letting off steam ([www.breconbeacons.org](http://www.breconbeacons.org)).  
[www.nationalparks.gov.uk](http://www.nationalparks.gov.uk), [www.breconbeacons.org](http://www.breconbeacons.org)

## 7. Discount websites

Sign up to **OpenTable** for access to a devoted page of specials - including half-price deals - at eateries across Britain. Or, predominantly covering London, **Lastminute.com** has 'Offers under £20' and 'Top 10 Restaurant Deals' pages. Subscribe to **Groupon** for a vast range of discount vouchers valid across Britain. You'll find accommodation in stately homes and castles for well under £100 per night, 50% off luxury afternoon tea experiences and a few ideas to tempt you off the beaten track too. [www.opentable.co.uk](http://www.opentable.co.uk), [www.lastminute.com](http://www.lastminute.com), [www.groupon.co.uk](http://www.groupon.co.uk)

## 8. Cheap theatre

If you're after cheap theatre tickets, head to the official **TKTS booth** in Leicester Square where you'll find great seats in theatre at half the normal price. The booth is operated by the Society of London Theatre, the industry body that represents London theatres. Another way to bag some bargain tickets is at **The Royal Court Theatre** in Sloane Square, offering standing tickets every night for 10p. You have to be quick, as these are first-come-first-served and there are only eight of them available each night.  
[www.tkts.co.uk](http://www.tkts.co.uk), [www.royalcourttheatre.com](http://www.royalcourttheatre.com)

A trip to London isn't complete without a visit to the vibrant West End. The **Theatre Passport** is a great way to see some of the best shows the West End has to offer for just £28.25. The Theatre Passport entitles you to the best seats available in a selection of participating West End Shows, including popular London musicals such as *The Phantom of the Opera*, and plays including *The Woman in Black*.  
[www.visitbritainshop.com/world/theatre-passport](http://www.visitbritainshop.com/world/theatre-passport)

## 9. Cheap eats around London

Grab a treat for your taste buds *and* your wallet by heading to one of London's markets. Venues at Portobello Road, **Camden**, Greenwich, Spitalfields and **Brick Lane** among others offer a great range of affordable and delicious street food from every corner of the world.  
[www.camdenlock.net](http://www.camdenlock.net), [www.visitbricklane.org](http://www.visitbricklane.org)

Monday is often Britain's quietest dining night, when most locals' wallets get the night off. That leaves restaurants with seats to fill, which means offers aplenty. Take a culinary voyage at Liverpool's Titanic-themed 30 James Street hotel, offering a free starter or dessert with every main course come Monday nights. On the same evening in Bristol, south-west England, seeing bar-and-kitchen Prego charge only £6.95 per pizza.  
[www.rmstitanichotel.co.uk](http://www.rmstitanichotel.co.uk), [www.pregobar.co.uk](http://www.pregobar.co.uk)

## 10. Helpful, money-saving travel apps

- **City mapper**

This nifty app is free to download and is as helpful as having your own personal chaperone. The app plans out the fastest route between any two points in a city, as well as a variety of other transport methods in case you have a preference for tube (in London), train, car or bus, or any route preferences. Even better, the app also tells you how much your journey

will cost, an added bonus for those wanted to keep costs to a minimum. The app is currently available in London, Birmingham and Manchester.

[www.citymapper.com/cities](http://www.citymapper.com/cities)

- **XE Currency**

If you need to calculate currency on the go, try the XE Currency App. This handy, and totally free app, allows users to access live exchange rates, view historical charts, and calculate prices on your smartphone or tablet. Now you can work out just how much of a bargain those holiday buys are.

[www.xe.com/apps](http://www.xe.com/apps)

- **Airbnb**

Feel at home anywhere with Airbnb, where you can find great value accommodation across Britain. As well as great value, Airbnb offers a tailor-made stay as you can choose your location, property type, bedroom number, and included facilities.

[www.airbnb.co.uk/United-Kingdom](http://www.airbnb.co.uk/United-Kingdom)

- **National Rail app**

If you're planning to tour Britain by rail, the National Rail app is an excellent route planner to help you find your way around. You can buy tickets, check out departure times, plan your journey from any station in Britain, and keep an eye out live arrivals and departures.

[www.nationalrail.co.uk/times\\_fares/84874.aspx](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk/times_fares/84874.aspx)

- **Hostelworld**

If you're looking for accommodation on a budget, try the Hostelworld app. It has 33,000 listings of hostels, Bed & Breakfasts and budget hotels with more than 3.5 million user reviews. Browse through a variety of accommodation options, complete with photos, pricing and ratings so you can find the right bed for the right price.

[www.hostelworld.com](http://www.hostelworld.com)

- **Tablepouncer**

When in Britain, an absolute must is experiencing the nation's culinary offer. For those looking for purse-friendly dining try Tablepouncer, a relatively new app that lets you take advantage of unfilled tables at restaurants. Perfect for the spontaneous at heart, the app offers discounts at restaurants for the same day or day after. Starting its life in Bournemouth, south England, the app now covers London, Bristol, Bath, Brighton & Hove and Southampton. Manchester and Liverpool are next.

[www.tablepouncer.com](http://www.tablepouncer.com)

- **National Trust**

Download the National Trust app, where you can discover days out in Britain's beautiful countryside at more than 550 special places from the comfort of your hotel room. Find historic houses and gardens, archaeological sites and monuments, coastlines and countryside, all within reachable distance of your current location. Key information such as opening times and prices is shown, and you can even see if there are any events happening at nearby places. Most importantly, if you end up in a remote location everything you need to plan a visit is available offline. Try searching by postcode or location, and browse the many treasures that Britain has to offer.

[www.nationaltrust.org.uk/features/mobile-apps](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/features/mobile-apps)

## Cool gifts for under ten pounds

Bargain hunters can rejoice, as not only can you travel around Britain on a budget, you can even take home some quintessentially British presents for your loved ones (and for yourself) that won't break the bank.

### **A gift fit for a queen - Corgi Memos | £6.95**

Sold at Liberty, famously known as a luxury department store, this corgi memo pad is a delightful gift for dog lovers and royalists alike. Her Majesty The Queen has several of these furry chaps herself, so they're a perfect memento for any trip to Britain.

*Buy from: Liberty is on Regent Street in central London, with the nearest London Underground Station being Oxford Circus. [www.liberty.co.uk](http://www.liberty.co.uk)*

### **Chic not shabby - Sweet Treats Notebook | £2.50**

Designed by the folks at curiosity shop RE, the Sweet Treats Notebook is made locally from recycled paper and is inspired by old engravings. Jot down sweet memories from your trip or use it as a recipe book back home, either way you won't find a notebook like this anywhere else.

*Buy from: RE is in Corbridge in north-east England, and is approximately 30 minutes by train from Newcastle and three hours from London; [www.re-foundobjects.com](http://www.re-foundobjects.com)*

### **See it and weep - Brief Encounter DVD | £8.99**

Make your loved one weep with the longing of forbidden love (and lust). Pick up this classic British film from the British Film Institute on London's cultural South Bank.

*Buy from: British Film Institute is located at Southbank in central London. The nearest London Underground station is Waterloo. [www.bfi.org.uk](http://www.bfi.org.uk)*

### **Books, glorious books - The British Girl's Annual | £7.50**

The Children's Bookshop is a treasure chest of British children's classics from across the decades. Hunt through the shelves for rare and specialist publications, as well as old-favourites in this book lovers' paradise found in Hay on Wye.

*Buy from: The Children's Bookshop is in Hay-on-Wye in Powys, mid Wales. The nearest major cities are Cardiff, Bristol and Birmingham. [www.childrensbookshop.com](http://www.childrensbookshop.com)*

### **Cheese from the Cambrian Mountains - Gorwydd Caerphilly Cheese | £4.20**

An artisan, raw milk, naturally rinded Caerphilly cheese with a creamy texture and slight citrus notes, made in the shadows of the Cambrian Mountains. What's not to love?

*Buy from: Rhug Estate Organic Farm Shop in Corwen, north Wales, which is around three hours by train from Manchester in north-west England; £4.20 for 200g; [www.rhug.co.uk](http://www.rhug.co.uk)*

### **Retro Britain - your favourite vinyl album | from £9.99**

Is there anything more retro than a vinyl record? Pick up a classic album from Cardiff's Spillers Records - the oldest record shop in the world - for extra cool points.

*Buy from: Spillers Records is in Cardiff, south Wales. [www.spillersrecords.co.uk](http://www.spillersrecords.co.uk)*

**What a cracker - 100% natural soap and bath bomb | £8.00**

Made from 100% natural ingredients, A 'Love Me Bath Shimmer Bomb' and 'Love Me Patchouli, Honey & Oatmeal Natural Soap' come packaged inside one giant cracker, like Christmas has come early.

*Buy from: The Beauty Kitchen is in Glasgow, Scotland. [www.beautykitchen.co.uk](http://www.beautykitchen.co.uk)*

**Jurassic heritage - Dactylioceras fossil | £9.50**

Take home a real piece of Britain's history with your very own fossil. Perfect for those with a kid-like fascination with all things dinosaurs, these Dactylioceras ammonites come from the Jurassic beds on England's Yorkshire coastline and are a staggering 180 million years old.

*Buy from: Mr Woods Fossils is in Edinburgh, Scotland. [www.mrwoodsfossils.co.uk](http://www.mrwoodsfossils.co.uk)*

**Time for tea - fine bone china mugs | £10**

What's more British than a traditional cup of tea? Take a trip to Whittard's where you can enjoy complimentary tea tastings, and find delicate fine bone china mugs for only £10. Take one home and enjoy high tea anywhere, anytime.

*Buy from: Whittard's have several stores across Britain, so be sure to check out their website to find the closest to you. [www.whittard.co.uk](http://www.whittard.co.uk)*

**Age-old beauty - Vitamin E cream | £10.00**

Made by the oldest cosmetic manufacturer in Britain John Gosnell and Co has been run by the same family for generations. Try its original Vitamin E cream, which was used by women during the Second World War, so it's definitely been tested.

*Buy from: John Gosnell and Co is based in Lewes in East Sussex, around one hour from London by train. [www.johngosnell.com](http://www.johngosnell.com)*

**A dram of whisky - Robert Graham Whisky | £7.95**

Remember your visit to Scotland with a dram of Robert Graham's whisky. Inspired by a stag that appeared in the moonlight, the Dancing Stag Ben Nevis Whisky has been aged for 13 years, and is available as a purse-friendly miniature. Robert Graham has been Scottish experts in whisky and cigars for more than 140 years, so you're in safe hands when choosing a quality whisky.

*Buy from: Their Edinburgh branch is a short distance from Edinburgh Waverley train station, in the city centre. [www.robertgraham1874.com](http://www.robertgraham1874.com)*