

# FILM IS

# GREAT

## BRITAIN

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A guide  
for international media

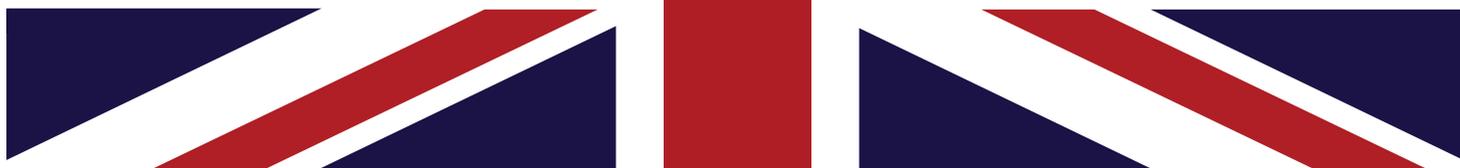
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*The filming of James Bond's Spectre,  
Blenheim Palace, Oxfordshire*

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# Contents

<a href="#">Film is GREAT</a> .....	2
<b>FILMED IN BRITAIN</b>	
- <a href="#">British film through the decades</a> .....	9
- <a href="#">Around the world in British film locations</a> .....	15
- <a href="#">Triple-take: Britain's busiest film locations</a> .....	18
- <a href="#">Places so beautiful you'd think they were CGI</a> .....	21
- <a href="#">Eight of the best: costume dramas shot in Britain</a> .....	24
- <a href="#">Stay in a film set</a> .....	27
- <a href="#">Bollywood Britain</a> .....	30
- <a href="#">King Arthur's Britain: locations of legend</a> .....	33
- <a href="#">A galaxy far, far away: Star Wars in Britain</a> .....	37
<b>ICONIC BRITISH CHARACTERS</b>	
- <a href="#">Be James Bond for the day</a> .....	39
- <a href="#">Live the Bridget Jones lifestyle</a> .....	42
- <a href="#">Reign like King Arthur (or be one of his knights)</a> .....	44
- <a href="#">A muggles' guide to Harry Potter's Britain</a> .....	46
<b>FAMILY-FRIENDLY</b>	
- <a href="#">Eight of the best: family films shot in Britain</a> .....	48
- <a href="#">Family film and TV experiences</a> .....	51
<b>WATCHING FILM IN BRITAIN</b>	
- <a href="#">Ten of the best: quirky places to watch film in Britain</a> .....	55
- <a href="#">Film and TV calendar</a> .....	58
<b>BRITISH TELEVISION</b>	
- <a href="#">Eight of the best: TV shows shot in Britain</a> .....	59
- <a href="#">Across the Narrow Sea: <i>Game of Thrones</i> in Britain</a> .....	62
- <a href="#">Royals on screen: <i>Victoria</i> and <i>The Crown</i></a> .....	65
- <a href="#">Downton Abbey: live like a Crawley</a> .....	68

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## Film is GREAT

Watching a gripping drama play out on a cinema screen can be transporting, taking your imagination on a journey to places new, exciting and unexplored. But what about when a film *literally* takes you somewhere, when you can walk onto the set?

Film - and, increasingly, television - is a growing driver of tourism in Britain, and quite rightly so. Locations the length and breadth of the country have been seen on the silver and small screens, while very British characters such as James Bond and Bridget Jones have become international icons.

Whether you love costume dramas, action, Bollywood films, sci-fi, or even a certain boy-wizard, Britain has got it all - step into the screen and see it for yourself today.

### Did you know...?

- Monty Python fans can buy holy ale 'tempered over burning witches' at Doune Castle in Scotland (see page nine)
- You can visit Italy, Russia and China, all without leaving Britain's shores (see page 15)
- The filming of *Les Misérables* (2013) saw a 40-foot polystyrene elephant brought to Greenwich's Old Royal Naval College (see page 18)
- Frankenstein's Place, the home of Frank N Furter in *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*, is actually a hotel in Windsor (see page 27)
- *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story*, features scenes shot on the platform of a London underground station (see page 37)
- You can drink a martini named after James Bond creator Ian Fleming - shaken, not stirred, of course (see page 41)
- Alnwick Castle, which doubled as Hogwarts in the first Harry Potter movies, offers broomstick flying lessons (see page 51)
- Winterfell, the home of the Stark family in *Game of Thrones*, is in Northern Ireland (see page 62)

## What's new: film and TV

### New in 2016 - film

#### *The Legend of Tarzan*

Released earlier this year, *The Legend of Tarzan* sees the lord of the jungle return to his former home after living in Victorian England for nearly a decade. Filming for the earlier part of the action-packed adventure took full advantage of several British locations, such as [Windsor Great Park](#), the National Trust's 18th-century mansion [Kedleston Hall](#), and Dinorwig Quarry in Llanberis, north Wales: a former slate quarry which is now home to the [Welsh National Slate Museum](#).



Windsor Great Park, Windsor, south England. © VisitEngland

**Getting there:** Windsor Great Park is roughly an hour's drive from London. Kedleston Hall is an hour's drive from Birmingham near the Peak District, England. Dinorwig Quarry in north-Wales is a four-hour drive from Cardiff.



Lake in Buttermere Valley, Cumbria. © VisitEngland

#### *Swallows and Amazons*

Filming for this newly released adaptation of the classic Arthur Ransome novel *Swallows and Amazons* took place in the stunning landscape of the [Lake District National Park](#) and in the county of [Yorkshire](#). Join the adventures of the Walker children as they camp, sail and face their fears in a country on the brink of war.

**Getting there:** the Lake District is less than a two-hour drive from Leeds.

#### *The Beatles: Eight Days A Week*

This documentary from Ron Howard tells the story of the Beatles during their touring years. The compilation of footage features music, interviews, and stories of The Beatles' 250 concerts from 1963 to 1966. Take a trip to Liverpool, the revered birthplace of the Beatles, where [tours, exhibitions and iconic locations](#) associated with the band are waiting to be discovered.

**Getting there:** Liverpool is in the north-west of England, and is a 30-minute train journey from Manchester in north England.

### ***Bridget Jones' Baby***

The third instalment in the Bridget Jones series, *Bridget Jones' Baby* follows the comedic adventures of British publishing executive Bridget Jones as she enters her 40s. Set predominantly in London, explore locations used in filming such as [Borough Market](#), [Greenwich Park](#), [Woolwich](#), and [Camden](#).

**Getting there:** Borough Market is easiest reached by London Bridge underground station, Greenwich Park by Cutty Sark (for Maritime Greenwich) underground station, Woolwich by Woolwich Arsenal underground station, and Camden by Camden Town underground station.



*Borough Market in London. © VisitEngland*

### ***Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them November 2016***

Adapted from the book by author JK Rowling, the movie tells the adventures of writer Newt Scamander, played by Eddie Redmayne, 70 years before Harry Potter reads his famous book: *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*. The film is set in New York's secret community of witches and wizards, but has all been filmed right here in Britain at London film studios and on location in [Liverpool](#).

**Getting there:** Liverpool is in the north-west of England, and is a 30-minute train journey from Manchester.

### ***Rogue One: A Star Wars Story***

*December 2016*

The first standalone, original Star Wars film, *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story* follows the epic adventure of ordinary people playing a vital role in the timeline of the *Star Wars* series. Featuring Felicity Jones in a lead role, resistance fighters embark on a daring mission to steal the Empire's plans for the Death Star. Filmed mainly at London's Pinewood Studios, the movie also used [London's Canary Wharf](#) as a location.

Visit the uber-modern area and enjoy an abundance of restaurants and shops.



*O2 in Greenwich, with views over Canary Wharf, London. © VisitEngland*

**Getting there:** located in London, Canary Wharf is easiest reached by Canary Wharf underground station.

## Coming up in 2017 - film



View of Edinburgh Castle in Edinburgh, Scotland © VisitBritain

### *T2: Trainspotting February 2017*

A continuation of the *Trainspotting* saga, *T2: Trainspotting* reunites the original characters in their turbulent but ultimately feel-good tale, and will star Ewan McGregor, Jonny Lee Miller and Robert Carlyle. The cast have been spotted filming at locations across Edinburgh and Glasgow in [Scotland](#).

**Getting there:** Edinburgh is on the

east coast of Scotland and is a 75-minute flight from London. Glasgow is in the west of Scotland and is 50-minute train from Edinburgh.

### *Beauty and the Beast March 2017*

Watch an all-star cast, including Emma Watson as Belle, Ewan McGregor as Lumiere and Ian McKellen as Cogsworth, in Disney's live-action adaptation of the classic fairy tale: *Beauty and the Beast*. Follow the story of a seemingly monstrous prince and an inquisitive young woman who fall in love, and stop by at the locations used in filming. Part filmed at Shepperton Studios in Surrey, the adaptation was also filmed on location in [London](#).

**Getting there:** London is the capital of England and is located in the south-east of the country.

### *King Arthur: Legend of the Sword May 2017*

Due for release in 2017, *King Arthur: Legend of the Sword* is an epic adventure film that will retell the legendary story of Arthur and the Knights of the Roundtable. Directed by Guy Ritchie, the film boasts an all-star cast, including Jude Law, Eric Bana and Charlie Hunnam as King Arthur. Being the stuff of British legend, it was only natural to use the nation as a historic backdrop in filming. Epic locations such as Snowdonia in north Wales, the [Scottish Highlands](#) in the north of Scotland and the [Isle of Skye](#) also in the north of Scotland have been used, as well as [Windsor Great Park](#) on the outskirts of London and the [Forest of Dean](#) on the border of England.



Isle of Skye in Scotland. © VisitBritain

**Getting there:** Snowdonia is a 90-minute drive from Liverpool, England. The Scottish Highlands are roughly four hours' drive from Edinburgh, while the Isle of Skye is six hours'

drive from Edinburgh. Windsor Great Park is around an hour's drive from London, and the Forest of Dean is less than a three-hour drive from London.

***Kingsman: The Golden Circle* June 2017**

After the success of Twentieth Century Fox's *The Kingsman: Secret Service*, the adventure continues in 2017 with its sequel *Kingsman: The Golden Circle*. See Eggsy and Merlin work together to take on a new villain with the help of the American agency, Statesman. Filming locations for this action film include [Birmingham](#) in England, and London.

**Getting there:** located in the heart of England, Birmingham is less than 90 minutes by train from London.

***Transformers: The Last Knight* June 2017**

The fifth film in the Transformers' epic series, *The Last Knight* sees star Mark Wahlberg reunited with the autobots: advanced humanoid robots who transform in to machines and vehicles. Filming has taken place at [Blenheim Palace](#) in Oxfordshire and [Alnwick Castle](#) in Northumberland, among other locations.

**Getting there:** Blenheim Palace is less than a two-hour drive from London. Alnwick Castle is located in north-east England, and is an hour's train journey from Edinburgh.

***Paddington 2* November 2017**

Paddington fans can rejoice as the nation's favourite furry friend is back. *Paddington 2* will feature the same cast as the first movie, but after the daring defeat of the evil Taxidermist Millicent Clyde, there's a new villain with their sites on Paddington. Shooting for the movie will start this autumn in London, England.

**Getting there:** London is the capital of England and is located in the south-east.

## TV

***Poldark***

Follows his continuing plight with his heritage after returning from the American Revolutionary War, Cornwall's favourite hero returned to US TV screens with a second series on 25 September 2016. Filmed in and around Cornwall in England, fans of the show can now book [Poldark tours](#) that showcase filming locations in the coastal county. Explore the 'Deep South', the 'Far West' and north Cornwall on one of three unique tours.



*Botallack mine in Cornwall, used in the filming of Poldark © VisitBritain/ Britain on View*

**Getting there:** Cornwall is in the south-west of England, and is less than five hours' drive from London.

### ***The Hollow Crown: War of the Roses***

The mini-series follows screen adaptations of the English playwright William Shakespeare's history plays: *Richard II*, *Henry IV Parts One and Two*, and *Henry V*, all of which tell the tales of Britain's past kings. The second instalment of the mini-series will air on WGBH in the US from 1 - 25 December. Stop by at [Alnwick Castle](#) in Northumberland, north-east England, which has been used in filming and soak up the medieval history.

**Getting there:** Alnwick Castle is located in Northumberland, north-east England, and is a 35-minute drive from Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

### ***Victoria***

Already a hit in the UK, the new TV drama *Victoria* airs in the US from January 2017 and will feature eight episodes. Starring Jenna Coleman, the series is based on the life of Queen Victoria in her early reign facing the difficulties of a young female monarch in 19th-century Britain. Mostly filmed in Yorkshire, stars of the show also include [Harewood House](#) in Leeds, [Castle Howard](#), and [Beverly Minster](#), which stood in as Westminster Abbey.

**Getting there:** All located in Yorkshire, Castle Howard is a 35-minute drive from York, Beverly Minster is a 70-minute drive from York and Harewood House is in Leeds.

### ***The Great British Bake Off***

Season four of Britain's beloved baking show will air on PBS in the US as the Great British Baking Show and will also be shown on Netflix. Join 13 new bakers in the famous tent, nestled in the grounds of [Welford Park](#), and watch as they compete for the title of best amateur baker.

**Getting there:** Welford Park in Berkshire, England, a 90-minute drive from London.



*Interior of Beverley Minster in Beverley, East Riding of Yorkshire, England. © VisitEngland*



*Clevedon in Somerset, England. © VisitEngland*

### ***Broadchurch (series 3)***

Crime-thriller *Broadchurch* returns for a final series in 2017 with David Tennant and Olivia Colman reprising their roles. It will continue to be filmed on location in [Dorset](#) at Bridport and West Bay, as well as Clevedon in Somerset, England.

**Getting there:** Dorset is in the south-west of England and is a three and a half hour-drive from London.

### ***Sherlock* series 4**

Inspired by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's much-loved books, the *Sherlock* TV series has seen huge success in Britain and will be returning to PBS in America for series four in early 2017. Excitingly, there are also rumours Avengers' star Tom Hiddleston could feature. With this series based in Victorian and Georgian England, London has proved to be an ideal location for filming throughout the previous three series.

**Getting there:** London is the capital of England and is located in the south-east of the county.

### **Looking ahead to 2018**

There are many exciting films on the horizon that will be filmed in Britain in the very near future, including Disney's *Mary Poppins* (*December 2018*) that will start shooting in autumn 2016; Emily Blunt will take the lead and Meryl Streep is rumoured to be joining the cast. Sony Pictures is said to be working on a live action/CGI version of the famous Beatrix Potter story titled *Peter Rabbit*, which will premiere in 2018. *Early Man*, a pre-historic adventure from Nick Aardman, creator of Wallace and Gromit, will be released in 2018 with Eddie Redmayne voicing the lead. *The Secret Garden*, based on the popular novel by Frances Hodgson Burnett, will hit the silver screen in 2018. Finally, the talks of a *Downton Abbey* movie continue with Penelope Wilton being the latest cast member to say she'd be keen to take part, but no date has been confirmed yet.

## British film through the decades

Britain has always been a popular choice for shooting films - from chilling horrors to historic epics and much-loved comedy classics, Britain's hosted it all. We present our pick of British films through the decades, from the 1970s to the present day, with details on how you can visit the locations seen on the big screen.

### 1970s

#### *The Railway Children (1970)*

Vintage steam trains and the beautiful county of Yorkshire in north England take centre stage in this film adaptation of Edith Nesbit's early 20th-century children's novel. Follow in the footsteps of the stars and visit the [Keighley & Worth Valley Railway](#), used extensively in the film. Watch steam trains puff through the valley or hop on-board and enjoy the journey to Oakworth station - one of the film's most-famous sets, preserved as it would have been in the early 1900s.

**Getting there:** Keighly is a 50-minute drive from the city of Leeds, or 25 minutes on the train.

#### *The Wicker Man (1973)*

This horror classic was set on the remote (and fictitious) outer Hebridean island of Summerisle, where police officer Sergeant Howie (Edward Woodward) investigates the disappearance of a young girl. The majority of the film was actually shot in mainland Scotland, with Dumfries and Galloway taking centre stage. The film's most iconic scene, the burning of the eponymous Wicker Man (and the unfortunate Sergeant Howie), was shot on Burrowhead, one of the most southerly points in Scotland.

**Getting there:** Burrowhead is in eastern Scotland, and is less than a two-hour drive from Dumfries.

#### *Monty Python and the Holy Grail (1975)*

One of five Monty Python capers, The Holy Grail was set in Scotland, and mainly filmed at the 14<sup>th</sup>-century [Doune Castle](#). Perhaps the most famous scene filmed in the castle is the Knights of the Round Table's musical number, shot in Doune's Great Hall. Today, Doune is a pilgrimage site for Python fans, and visitors can enjoy an audio tour narrated by actor Terry Jones. The castle's shop even sells bottles of Monty Python's Holy Ale - "tempered over burning witches" of course.



*Take a Monty Python pilgrimage to Doune Castle © VisitScotland/Paul Tomkins*

**Getting there:** Doune Castle is in central Scotland - it is around one hour's drive from both Edinburgh and Glasgow.

## 1980s

### *Chariots of Fire* (1981)

This Oscar-winning, athletic tale was partly set in France, but entirely shot in Britain. Beginning with those iconic opening and closing-credit slow-motion seaside runs - supposedly Broadstairs in Kent, south-east England, the beach in question is actually [West Sands](#), in St Andrews on Scotland's eastern coast. Meanwhile, the 'Stade des Colombes', the Olympics venue, is really the [Oval Sports Centre](#) in Wirral, north-west England.



*St Andrews' West Sands © VisitScotland/ Kenny Lam*

**Getting there:** West Sands is just outside St Andrews and is a 30-minute drive from Dundee. Wirral is a 20-minute drive from the city of Liverpool.

### *An American Werewolf in London* (1981)

As the name suggests, this cult classic was mostly filmed in Britain's capital, but one of its most iconic locations can be found further afield. The film follows students David and Jack as they backpack across North Yorkshire. The duo stop for a drink at a pub called The Slaughtered Lamb in the village of East Proctor, before meeting a terrible fate on the moors. In reality, East Proctor is actually the small village of Crickadarn in Wales, while the outside of The Slaughtered Lamb is a house in the village - visit on a full moon, if you dare.

**Getting there:** Crickadarn is near to the Wales-England border. Driving from Cardiff, the Welsh capital, would take around an hour and 30 minutes.



*Pennan, home of Local Hero © VisitScotland/ Kenny Lam*

### *Local Hero* (1983)

*Local Hero* was set and filmed in Scotland, and tells the story of a worker from an American oil company, who is sent to try and buy a town for the firm. Ferness, the town, doesn't exist in real-life, but fans can make their way to [Pennan](#) in Aberdeenshire, which is where the majority of the film's Ferness scenes were set. Another of the film's best-known settings is a beach belonging to a character called Ben, who is reluctant to sell. The beautiful stretch

of priceless white sand can be found in [Camusdarach](#) on the west coast.

**Getting there:** Pennan is on the east coast of Scotland, around an hour's drive from Aberdeen. Camusdarach beach is around an hour's drive from Fort William.

1990s

***Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves* (1991)**

One of *Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves*' most iconic locations can be found in Northumberland in north-east England. Early on in the film, Robin (Kevin Costner) and his travelling companion Azeem (Morgan Freeman) defend a boy who has been accused of poaching and has climbed a tree to escape the villainous Guy of Gisborne. The tree stands in [Sycamore Gap](#) - a dip with Hadrian's Wall on either side, and has been photographed so many times by film fans that it's now referred to as 'the Robin Hood tree.'



*The Robin Hood tree at Sycamore Gap © VisitEngland/Hadrian's Wall County/Roger Clegg*

**Getting there:** Sycamore Gap is a short walk from several car parks in the Northumberland National Park, and getting there by car from Carlisle takes under an hour. You could also take the [Hadrian's Wall bus](#).

***Braveheart* (1995)**

Much of this Scottish-set Oscar winner was actually filmed over in Ireland, but the rocky landscapes between [Glen Nevis](#) and Glencoe still play a starring role. A whole village was built from scratch in Glen Nevis to form the backdrop for the love story between William Wallace (Mel Gibson) and Murron (Catherine McCormack). The set was removed after filming, but fans can still explore the area and see some of the film's recognisable landscapes from the perfectly-situated 'Braveheart Car Park'.

**Getting there:** Glen Nevis is around a three hour drive from Glasgow.



***Notting Hill* (1999)**

Five years after the runaway success of *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, smash-hit rom-com writer Richard Curtis and star Hugh Grant teamed up again for *Notting Hill*, based and filmed in London. Grant starred as William Thacker, a bookshop owner who falls for Hollywood star Anna Scott, played by Julia Roberts. The

*Colourful Notting Hill in London © Kiyoshi Sakasai*

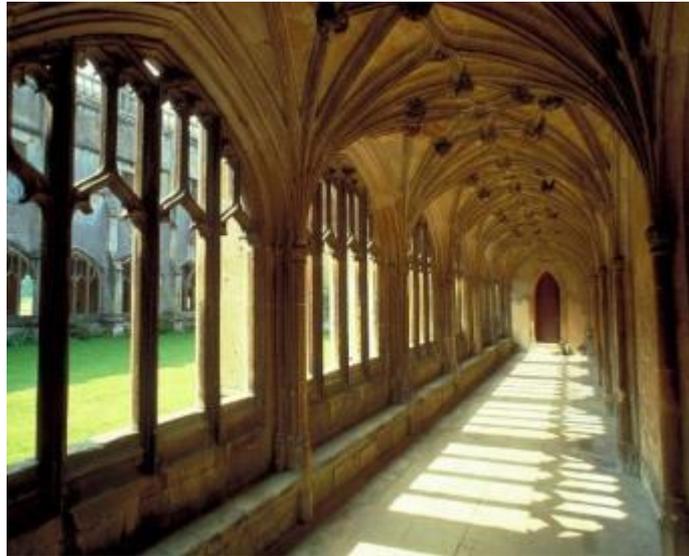
exterior of Grant's flat, which he shared with a Y-front wearing Welshman (Rhys Ifans), is at 280 Westbourne Park Road - you can have a photo outside.

**Getting there:** Notting Hill is in London, south-east England, and has its own underground station.

2000s

### *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone (2001)*

The Philosopher's Stone (renamed the Sorcerer's Stone in some countries), is the first in the Harry Potter series and marked a tremendously successful transition from book to screen. Follow in Harry's footsteps in [ZSL London Zoo](#)'s reptile house - it was here in the film that Harry discovered he could talk to snakes. Hogwarts, the wizarding school, was made up of a number of different locations - two that stand out are [Alnwick Castle](#) and [Lacock Abbey](#). The former, in Northumberland, doubled as the outside of Hogwarts as Harry learned to ride a broomstick. The rooms of Lacock, in Wiltshire, doubled as classrooms, with one belonging to the enigmatic Professor Sirius Snape (Alan Rickman).



*Magic! Lacock Abbey © VisitBritain/ Britain on View*

**Getting there:** ZSL London Zoo is a short walk from either Camden Town on Regent's Park underground stations. Alnwick Castle is in north-east England, around an hour and 20 minutes by road from Newcastle. Lacock Abbey is in south-west England - a 40-minute drive from Bath.

### *Pride & Prejudice (2005)*

Follow in the footsteps of Elizabeth Bennett (Keira Knightly) and Fitzwilliam Darcy (Matthew McFayden) with a visit to [Chatsworth House](#) in Derbyshire. The magnificent mansion is surrounded by landscapes designed by Lancelot 'Capability' Brown, and doubled as Darcy's estate Pemberley during the filming of the 2005 big-screen version of Jane Austen's classic tale. Meanwhile, you can also visit the moated manor [Groombridge Place](#) in Kent, south-



*Picture-perfect Pemberley - Chatsworth House © VisitBritain/ Tomo Brejc*

east England, which featured as the Bennet family home, Longbourn.

**Getting there:** Chatsworth is a 90-minute drive from Manchester. Groombridge Place is a short drive from Tunbridge Wells, or take the [Spa Valley Railway](#) and enjoy the trip on a heritage steam or diesel train.



*Penshurst Place doubled as Whitehall Palace © British Tourist Authority*

### ***The Other Boleyn Girl (2008)***

A host of Hollywood talent including Eric Bana, Natalie Portman and Scarlett Johansson descended on Britain to film *The Other Boleyn Girl*, loosely based on the lives of Tudor monarch Henry VIII and the two Boleyn sisters - Anne and Mary. Kent in south-east England was one of the major filming locations, fittingly as it was also the real-life home of the Boleyn family. Stately homes [Knole](#) and [Penshurst Place](#) both doubled as London's Whitehall Palace: Henry's home, and the site of his marriage

ceremony to Anne. The famous [Dover Castle](#), meanwhile, stood in for the Tower of London, with Anne (Portman) 'executed' in the courtyard.

**Getting there:** Knole is close to Sevenoaks, and is a short walk away from the town's train station. Travelling from London takes under an hour. Penshurst is 20 minutes by road from Sevenoaks. Dover is two hours by train from London.

## **2010-2016**

### ***Snow White and the Huntsman (2012)***

This modern retelling of the classic fairy tale *Snow White and the Seven Dwarves* saw Britain's stunning scenery stand in for the mythical 'Kingdom of Tabor', ruled over by the evil sorceress Ravenna (Charlize Theron). One pivotal scene sees a humble fishing village burned as Ravenna's troops pursue Snow White (Kristen Stewart) and the Huntsman (Chris Hemsworth). The scene was filmed at [Frensham Little Pond](#) in Surrey, which was founded in the 13th century to supply fish to the Bishop of Winchester. It's an idyllic spot for wildlife enthusiasts and perfect for picturesque walks.

**Getting there:** located in Surrey in southern England, Frensham Little Pond is around an hour's drive from Southampton.

### ***Spectre (2015)***

James Bond's (Daniel Craig) latest mission sees the super-spy journey from Mexico to Italy but, of course, also sees the suave hero return to London - 007's hometown. Dine in a film set by visiting [Rules](#) - the oldest restaurant in the capital. Established in 1798, the restaurant serves traditional British dishes such as pheasant, rabbit and pigeon, and is visited in the film by MI6 boss M (Ralph Fiennes), gadget genius Q (Ben Whishaw) and

Moneypenny (Naomie Harris). Ask when booking, and you may even be able to sit at the exact same table used in filming.

**Getting there:** located in central London, Rules is a short walk from Covent Garden underground station.

### *The BFG (2016)*

The latest film by director Stephen Spielberg, *The BFG* movie is based on the beloved book by famous British children's author Roald Dahl. The rugged and ethereal landscapes of the [Isle of Skye](#) were used as the backdrop for 'Giant Country', the home of the BFG in the film. The specific locations featured include the unusual rock formations known as The Quiraing, as well as the massive pinnacle of the Old Man of Storr - one of Scotland's most iconic landmarks.



*Giant country: the Isle of Skye © Adam Burton*

**Getting there:** The Isle of Skye is on Scotland's east coast and is connected to the mainland by a bridge. The nearest international airport is from Glasgow, and from there it's a drive of around six hours.

## Around the world in British film locations

From Liverpool starring as New York to East Sussex masquerading as Germany, international movie production teams often choose global location lookalikes in Britain. Here's how you can travel the globe without ever leaving the country.

### Go to... Rome, Italy

In the film adaptation of Dan's Brown bestselling novel, *The Da Vinci Code*, two separate English locations stand in for 'Castel Gandolfo', the Pope's summer residence overlooking Lake Albano near Rome. The exterior, with a bit of CGI, is [Belvoir Castle](#), home of the Duke and Duchess of Rutland.



*The sumptuous interiors of Burghley House.*

The interior for the Pope's residence was filmed at England's largest and grandest residence from the Elizabethan age, [Burghley House](#). Meanwhile, the Knights' meeting with the Pope in the 'Vatican' was actually filmed in [Winchester Cathedral](#), which also features in *Elizabeth*, *The Golden Age* (2007) and is where Jane Austen - the prolific British author of *Pride and Prejudice* and *Sense and Sensibility* fame - is buried.

### Go to... St Petersburg, Russia

London's historical, grand architecture makes it an ideal double for Russia. In Bond film *GoldenEye* (1995), the courtyard of the iconic Neoclassical [Somerset House](#) is the real location of St Petersburg Square where Jack Wade uses a sledgehammer to fix his rusting Moskvich. Meanwhile, [The Livery Hall](#) of the Drapers' Company doubles as a St Petersburg council chamber, where General Ourumov learns that Natalya has survived the GoldenEye detonation.



*Shanghai... or London?*

### Go to... Shanghai, China

Canary Wharf's skyline bears resemblance to that of Shanghai, where James Bond finds himself during a mission in 2012's *Skyfall*. Take a leaf out of 007's book and check into five-star [Canary Riverside Plaza](#) hotel, with views over the iconic River Thames. The hotel's infinity pool is arguably the star attraction, and the very place that Daniel Craig takes a relaxing dip in a scene set in Shanghai.

Meanwhile, Steven Spielberg's World War Two epic *Empire of the Sun* (1987) stars Christian Bale as Jamie Graham: a boy surviving on his wits after being separated from his parents during the Japanese invasion. While the film was shot largely on location in Shanghai and Spain, the exterior of the family's colonial Shanghai home is actually one of the eccentric turn-of-the-century houses along Legh Road in [Knutsford, Cheshire](#), designed by Richard Harding Watt.



*New York? No - Liverpool!*

### Go to... New York City, USA

[Liverpool](#) is one of the most popular filming locations in Britain outside of London, and has co-starred alongside some of the biggest names in the business. Its architecture and eclectic mix of cultural landmarks make it ideal for portraying a number of different periods and places in history - most frequently New York City, but also Chicago, Paris, Rome and Moscow. Liverpool's popularity as a filming location is growing, so if you're in town, check out some of the most favoured places and keep your eyes peeled for some star spotting.

[St George's Hall](#): Widely regarded as one of the finest neo-classical buildings in the world, its tunnel-vaulted ceiling - supported by massive red granite columns - is the largest of its kind in Europe. It features in the 2016 Harry Potter prequel *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*, among other films.

[Pier Head](#): This riverside location is home to a trio of iconic landmarks referred to as 'The Three Graces': the Royal Liver Building with its two clock towers, the Cunard Building, and the Port of Liverpool Building. During filming for 2016's *Florence Foster Jenkins*, starring Meryl Streep and Hugh Grant, the road between the Liver Building and Cunard Building was transformed into 43rd Street in 1940s Manhattan.

[Liverpool Town Hall](#): Located between Liverpool's business district and the city centre, the ornate architecture of the city's town hall has starred in two silver screen classics: *Chariots of Fire* and *The Hunt for Red October*, as well as modern action film *Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit*.

### Go to... Philadelphia (and San Francisco), USA

Glasgow city centre is laid out in a US-style grid, which has also made it a good USA double in films such as *World War Z* (2013) and *Cloud Atlas*. In the former, the Scottish city doubled as Philadelphia, where Gerry Lane (Brad Pitt) and his family are first attacked by rampaging zombies, while 2012's *Cloud Atlas* saw the city stand in for San Francisco.

The lay-out of the city also makes it ideal for filming car chases: high-octane supercar blockbuster *Fast and Furious 6* (2013) filmed a chase on Broomielaw, the major

thoroughfare running along the North Bank of the River Clyde, through Glasgow's financial district.

### Go to... Germany

World War Two film *The Monuments Men* (2014), starring George Clooney, swapped Germany for the south of England - specifically the medieval town of [Rye](#) in East Sussex. Its cobbled lanes lined with medieval houses, like the well-known Mermaid Street, made a convincing German market town on screen.

### Go to... Baku, Azerbaijan

*The World Is Not Enough* was the 19th James Bond film, and the third to star Pierce Brosnan. In the 1999 movie, Bond flies to Baku in Azerbaijan to meet with Elektra King (Sophie Marceau). The opulent interiors of the glamorous anti-heroine's villa can actually be found inside luxury hotel, golf and spa [Luton Hoo](#) in Bedfordshire, central England.



*Medieval Rye makes a great German village...*

## Triple take: Britain's busiest film locations

With Britain's film business booming, filming locations are in high demand. Some Hollywood hotspots have appeared on screen over and over again in different guises - so if you're wondering why the background to your favourite film looks familiar, it's probably because it is! Here's our guide to five of the country's busiest filming locations, and three movies you may have seen them in.



*From Paris to Lilliput: the Old Royal Naval College © VisitBritain/ Jason Hawkes*

### **The Old Royal Naval College, London**

The only thing missing at the [Old Royal Naval College](#) in Greenwich is a red carpet. A protected World Heritage site built beside the Thames by Christopher Wren, it's one of the globe's foremost filming locations, and has an impressive CV packed full of blockbusters.

1) *Les Misérables*. A 40-foot polystyrene elephant and tonnes of period furniture were brought in to London for Tom Hooper's 2013 film version of the popular musical. The

college doubled as Paris in critical scenes, including the dramatic fight on the barricades.

2) *Gulliver's Travels*. Star Jack Black travelled via the Bermuda Triangle to Lilliput in this 2010 film - in reality he probably just got on the tube to North Greenwich. The college doubled as the home of Lilliput's tiny townspeople, towered over by Black's Gulliver.

3) *Cinderella*. The Painted Hall, originally designed as a dining hall for naval veterans, took centre stage in Kenneth Branagh's 2015 version of the classic Disney fairy tale. Prince Charming and his men can be seen honing their fencing skills under the hall's lavish wall and ceiling decorations.

### **Hatfield House, Buckinghamshire**

The home of the 7th Marquess and Marchioness of Salisbury, [Hatfield House](#) near London has connections to Britain's royal family, but nowadays is a magnet for royalty of a different kind - film!

1) *Batman*. Before Ben Affleck and Christian Bale, Michael Keaton starred as the caped crusader in this 1989 film directed by Tim Burton and shot in Britain. Wayne Manor, the home of Bruce Wayne, was two stately homes spliced together.

[Knebworth House](#), also near London, provided the brooding exteriors, while the interior scenes were shot at Hatfield House.



*Hatfield House has starred as Bruce Manor © British Tourist Authority*

2) ***Pride and Prejudice and Zombies***. How to spice up the Jane Austen classic? Just add brain-eating zombies! In this 2016 film, Hatfield doubled as Rosings, home to Darcy's aunt Lady Catherine de Bourgh (Lena Heady), a terrifyingly efficient dispatcher of zombies.

3) ***Lara Croft: Tomb Raider***. In 2001, a still largely unknown Angelina Jolie took the title role in the film adaptation of the popular computer game. Hatfield House doubled as the outside of her home, Croft Manor, with scenes shot in the grounds.



*There can only be one: Eilean Donan Castle © VisitBritain/ Guy Richardson*

### **Eilean Donan Castle, Kyle of Lochalsh, Scotland**

Facing Loch Duich, on the route to the Isle of Skye, the beautiful [Eilean Donan Castle](#) lay in ruins for almost 200 years before being restored to its former glory and reopening in 1932. It is now a prominent backdrop in a host of Hollywood classics.

1) ***Highlander***. This 1986 fantasy saw Christopher Lambert playing Connor Macleod, one of a band of immortals who can only die by being beheaded. Eilean Donan doubles as the 16th-

century village that Macleod is banished from after he recovers from seemingly fatal wounds, with locals convinced he is possessed by the devil.

2) ***The World is Not Enough***. The 19th James Bond film, and Pierce Brosnan's penultimate outing in the role, *The World is Not Enough* features Castle Thane - the Scottish headquarters of intelligence agency MI6. Castle Thane is, of course, the not-so-secret Eilean Donan Castle.

3) ***Elizabeth: The Golden Age***. The 2007 sequel to *Elizabeth* was loosely based on the latter years of the reign of Elizabeth I, the daughter of Henry VIII and the ill-fated Anne Boleyn. The film sees her struggling with Mary, Queen of Scots (Samantha Morton): her cousin who has a claim on the throne. Eilean Donan Castle doubles as Fotheringay Castle, where Elizabeth imprisons Mary prior to her eventual execution.

### **Haddon Hall, Derbyshire**

[Haddon Hall](#) is a fortified medieval manor house in Derbyshire. Left virtually untouched for more than 200 years, a huge restoration project began in the 1920s and continues today. It is an extremely busy filming location, with more than 50 movie and TV appearances to its name.

1) ***The Princess Bride***. The hugely popular 1987 fairy tale was shot across Britain. Haddon Hall stars as the fictional country of Florin, home to the duplicitous Prince Humperdinck, who is

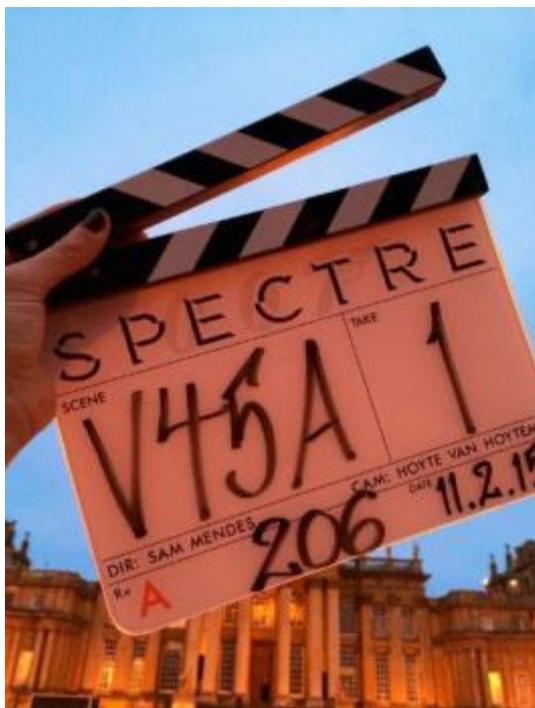


*As you wish: Haddon Hall © VisitEngland/ Visit Peak District*

betrothed to heroine Buttercup (Robin Wright). Fans may recognise the lower courtyard, where the smarmy prince announces their impending nuptials.

2) *Pride & Prejudice*. Haddon Hall was among the fine roster of Britain's stately homes used for the filming of this 2005 adaptation, starring Keira Knightly and Matthew Macfayden. Haddon Hall doubled as an inn in the fictional village of Lambton, where Elizabeth Bennet learns that her sister Lydia has run away with the dashing (and deceitful) Wickham. Scenes were shot in the dining room, which has distinctive wooden panelling and leaded windows.

3) *Jane Eyre*. Haddon Hall has featured in not one, not two, but three versions of Charlotte Brontë's 1847 novel. Most recently it starred in the 2011 big-screen adaptation as Thornfield - the home of the mysterious Mr Rochester (Michael Fassbender). It previously played the same role in the 1996 movie directed by Franco Zeffirelli, and the BBC's 2006 mini-series.



Lights, camera, action at Blenheim Palace © Blenheim Palace

#### Blenheim Palace, Oxfordshire

Built in the early 18th century, [Blenheim Palace](#) is one of Britain's most recognisable buildings. Surrounded by a vast landscape designed by Lancelot 'Capability' Brown, the Oxfordshire estate has been set on fire, and been the scene of mass dancing, feasting and murder - all fictional of course! It's such a popular shooting location that it even has its own [film trail](#).

1) *Mission Impossible: Rogue Nation*. The fifth instalment in the action film franchise was partly filmed at Blenheim. A charity auction was filmed in the Long Library, while its Green Writing Room provided the backdrop for a crucial meeting between Ethan Hunt (Tom Cruise) and the British Prime Minister (Tom Hollander).

2) *Spectre*. In the most recent James Bond film the very British Blenheim doubled for Rome. Bond (Daniel Craig) attends a meeting of the shadowy crime syndicate Spectre at the Palazzo

Cardenza, before being rumbled by villain Mr Hinx. Bond speeds from Blenheim in his Aston Martin DB10, while being chased by Hinx in a Jaguar. After leaving the estate, the action magically follows the pursuit through Rome's streets.

3) *Transformers: The Last Knight*. Plot details of this film are still under wraps, but Blenheim is believed to be doubling as the headquarters of Nazi leader Adolf Hitler. The movie, the fifth in the series, stars Mark Walberg and Anthony Hopkins, and is due out in summer 2017.

## Places so beautiful you'd think they were CGI

With ever-growing multi-million pound budgets and the very latest in animation technology, distinguishing from fantasy and reality in blockbuster films can be tricky, especially when breathtaking sets are becoming common place. Movie fans are not to fear though, we've rounded up some of Britain's real-life stars in the movie-set scene, so beautiful they leave CGI at the door.



*The Quiraing on the Isle of Skye, Scotland. © VisitScotland*

### Discover Giant Country in Scotland, Isle of Skye, west Scotland

The rugged and ethereal landscapes of the [Isle of Skye](#) have most recently been used as the backdrop for 'Giant Country' in the latest *BFG* movie; when you see its dramatic cliffs, colossal geological features and pinnacles of rock you'll understand why. The beautiful Isle of Skye, ever a popular destination in the film industry, has also featured in such films as *Macbeth* (2016), *Snow White and the Huntsman* (2012),

*Prometheus* (2012), and *Stardust* (2007). Make your way through the dramatic scenery of [The Quiraing](#) with its hidden plateaus and high cliffs, or venture over to [The Old Man of Storr](#), a pinnacle of rock featured on the most popular island walk. Don't miss the Fairy Glen, a bizarre yet delightful miniature landscape of grassy cone-shaped hills, or the Old Man of Hoy in the Orkneys, famous for its 450 foot (137m) sea stack.

**Getting there:** The Isle of Skye is a six-hour drive from Edinburgh.

### Escape to a dream world at Blenheim Palace, Oxfordshire, south-central England

Not to be missed is the breathtaking 18th-century [Blenheim Palace](#).

Boasting 2,000 acres of landscaped parkland, award-winning formal gardens, and a palace fit for royalty, it's easy to see why it's a popular spot for location scouts. The palace has its own Pleasure Gardens, where you can hop aboard the miniature



*The beautiful Blenheim Palace © Blenheim Palace*

train, get lost in the giant maze or visit the tropical butterfly house. Blenheim Palace has recently been used in the filming of *The BFG* (2016), *Spectre* (2015), *Mission: Impossible - Rogue Nation* (2015), and *Cinderella* (2015).

**Getting there:** Blenheim Palace is a 90-minute drive from London.

### Walk through history at Bamburgh Castle, Northumberland, north-east England

With a heritage that delves back at least 1,500 years, the site of [Bamburgh Castle](#) is cloaked in an air of magic attributed to its sheer size and seemingly ever-lasting history. The atmospheric castle has been used in filming since the 1920s, and is open today for visitors to explore. As well as being the focus of the TV programme *Time Team*, Bamburgh Castle has featured in *Macbeth* (2015), *Elizabeth* (1998) and the TV Series *The Last Kingdom* (2015). The beach below has been used in Stephen Spielberg's *The BFG* (2016), as well as the ITV drama *Beowulf* (2016).



*View of Bamburgh Castle on the Northumberland coast © Thomas Heaton, VisitEngland*

**Getting there:** Bamburgh Castle is an hour's drive from Newcastle.



*View from the top of Cat Bells over the lake of Derwentwater to Keswick and Skiddaw. ©VisitBritain, Adam Burton*

### Be one with the Force at the Lake District National Park, north-west England

Star Wars fans can rejoice as some of the movie's out-of-this-world locations are a little closer to home than viewers may have imagined. In the most recent film, *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*, fans can see action-packed flight sequences utilising the beauty of the [Lake District National Park](#), where fighter planes and Han Solo's famous Millennium Falcon fly across Derwentwater's incomparable landscape. Other blockbusters where

the iconic mountain ranges and rolling green hills feature include: *Miss Potter* (2006), *Snow White and the Huntsman* (2012), and *28 Days Later* (2002).

**Getting there:** The Lake District is located in Cumbria, and is less than five hours by car from London.

### Discover *Me Before You* at Pembroke Castle, Wales

[Pembroke Castle](#) is idyllically located on the bank of the River Cleddau, overlooking the town of Pembroke in Wales. The mighty fortress is steeped in history, and was the birthplace of King Henry VII: one of the kings belonging to the Tudor dynasty. The castle also has a touch of stardom in its midst and was chosen as a location in *Me Before You*.

Perhaps because of its historical connections, the castle also featured in the BBC Shakespeare season: *The Hollow Crown*.

**Getting there:** Pembroke Castle is in Wales, and is a four-and-a-half-hour journey from London by car.



*The valley of Glen Coe in the Scottish Highlands © British Tourist Authority*

### Discover magic and MI5 secrets at Glen Coe, west Scotland

Arguably one of Scotland's most famous and scenic glens, [Glen Coe](#) is a magnet for production crews. It's an ideal base to explore the highlands of Scotland and boasts a remarkable history. On the flashier side of life, the glen has starred in James Bond *Skyfall* (2012), where the Bond family home resides, as well as in the Harry Potter movies. The beautiful location was the backdrop for Groundskeeper Hagrid's hut in *Harry Potter and the*

*Prisoner of Azkaban* (2004), and starred again in *Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince* (2009).

**Getting there:** located in the north-west of Scotland, Glen Coe is easiest reached from Edinburgh, a three-hour drive from the village and glen. Edinburgh is an hour flight from London.

## Eight of the best: costume dramas shot in Britain

It's only fitting that Britain - home of Jane Austen, Shakespeare, the Brontë sisters, and more - has also been used as the setting for some of the most lavish and beloved costume dramas ever filmed. Swoon at your own Mr Darcy or Elizabeth Bennet, or walk in the footsteps of on-screen royalty, at one of these film locations.



*Pemberley, also known as Chatsworth © Jude Gadd*

### *Pride & Prejudice*

It's not just Mr Darcy that Elizabeth Bennet falls in love with - but his grand estate, Pemberley, too. In the 2005 film version of *Pride & Prejudice*, [Chatsworth House](#) in Derbyshire, central England, masqueraded as Pemberley. This was appropriate, as it's believed Jane Austen may have based her description of the fictional house on Chatsworth. In the film, Lizzie (Keira Knightly) can be seen wandering through its Painted Hall and Sculpture Gallery, where she sees a bust of Darcy (Matthew Macfayden). Chatsworth was able to keep the bust as a memento of the filming - see it for yourself in the Orangery shop.

### *Far from the Madding Crowd*

This 2015 adaptation of Thomas Hardy's classic novel starred Carey Mulligan as Bathsheba Everdene, a woman who has to choose between three suitors. The novel was set in the historical region of Wessex, but the majority of filming took place in Dorset, south-west England. One of the major locations was [Mapperton](#), which doubled as Bathsheba's family farm. In reality, the sandstone manor house is home to the Earl and Countess of Sandwich. As well as the property, you can also explore its romantic Italianate valley garden.

### *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies*

The newest version of Austen's classic tale was given an unusual twist in this 2016 adaptation - with the addition of hordes of the undead. Brain-chomping zombies, however, were still not enough to keep Elizabeth (Lily James) and Darcy (Sam Riley), or Jane (Bella Heathcote) and Bingley (Douglas Booth) apart. Both love stories start at Bingley's home, Netherfield, with filming split between two sites. [Basildon Park](#) was used as the



*The opulent interiors of Syon House, without zombies © VisitBritain/ Britain on View*

outside of Netherfield, a role it also played in the 2005 Keira Knightly film version of *Pride & Prejudice*. Meanwhile, the interior scenes were shot at [Syon House](#), in London. This

included the ball where the two couples dance and fall in love - albeit reluctantly in the case of Lizzie and Darcy!

### *The Duchess*

Another starring role for Keira Knightly saw her portraying Georgiana Cavendish, Duchess of Devonshire, in 2008's *The Duchess*. [Kedleston Hall](#) in the Peak District, built between 1759 and 1765, was one of the film's major shooting locations, standing in for Althorp, Georgiana's family home. The Marble Hall, Saloon, Library, three State Rooms, the Drawing Room, and the exterior provided the perfect setting for Georgiana's adventures - you might remember her flirtations with Charles Grey (Dominic Cooper) on the house's South Front lawn before she marries the Duke (Ralph Fiennes).



*Fit for a duchess: Kedleston Hall*  
© NTPL/ Matthew Antrobus

### *Sense and Sensibility*

This 1995 Oscar-winning adaptation of Jane Austen's novel was scripted by, and starred, Emma Thompson. She played the level-headed Elinor Dashwood, with Kate Winslet taking the role of her more impetuous sister Marianne. One of the scene's most memorable moments is when Marianne, heart broken by the dastardly Willoughby, goes walking in the rain. The formal gardens she walks through belong to [Montacute House](#), which in the film doubles as Cleveland, home to the bickering Palmers (Hugh Laurie and Imelda Staunton). Montacute in Somerset was completed in 1601, and houses a fine art collection - it partners the famous National Portrait Gallery in London.



*Home of a Shakespearean heroine: Broughton Castle © VisitEngland/ Visit Oxfordshire*

### *Shakespeare in Love*

This 1998 romantic comedy saw struggling playwright William Shakespeare (Joseph Fiennes), falling for actress Viola de Lesseps (Gwyneth Paltrow). In the film, Shakespeare pursues Viola to her family home, with [Broughton Castle](#) in Banbury, Oxfordshire taking the starring role. The moated and fortified manor house is currently home to the Lord and Lady Saye and Sele, and has been in the same family since 1447. The manor's Great Hall was used for a pivotal scene where

Shakespeare and Viola dance together, while a balcony was added to the side of the building for a scene providing the playwright's inspiration for *Romeo and Juliet*.

### *The Young Victoria*

Starring Emily Blunt, this period drama portrayed the early life and reign of Queen Victoria - Britain's second-longest reigning monarch. [Ham House](#), a National Trust property that dates back to the 17th century, was used to portray Kensington Palace - the residence where Victoria grew up. You can walk down its Grand Stairs, as

Victoria does in the film, and along the formal gardens, where Victoria walks with Albert at their first meeting. Don't forget to explore its dairy with cow-themed furniture, pharmacy, and the ice house, which would have been filled with ice cut from the Thames during Victoria's time.



*Queen's palace: Ham Hall*



*Triple-take: Haddon Hall has played Thornfield three times  
© Ian Daisley*

the fortified medieval manor house was Thornfield in director Franco Zeffirelli's 1996 film version of *Jane Eyre*, as well as the BBC's 2006 TV mini-series. The film's end sees Jane returning to Thornfield, only to find it a burnt-out wreck. Haddon Hall was spared from the flames, and the crew used the nearby [Wingfield Manor](#) instead. The ruined house was once used to imprison Mary, Queen of Scots.

### *Jane Eyre*

This 2011 version of the 1847 novel by Charlotte Bronte sees the titular Jane (Mia Wasikowska) take up the post of governess at Thornfield Hall, where she slowly falls in love with Mr Rochester (Michael Fassbender), only to find he is hiding a terrible secret. [Haddon Hall](#) in Derbyshire took the role of Thornfield - a familiar part as it had already played it twice before.

Set in the heart of the Peak District,

## Stay in a film set

Britain is full of beautiful film locations, including some you can stay in. Get a night's sleep in buildings, and even the exact same rooms, as seen on screen.

### **The Oakley Court, Windsor - *The Rocky Horror Picture Show***

[Oakley Court](#) is just a jump to the left (not a step to the right) of London, and is perhaps better known to film fans as Frankenstein's Place. The imposing Victorian mansion overlooks the River Thames, and in *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* doubled as the home of the alien transvestite Frank N Furter. It wasn't the only big-screen role for the hotel - it was previously used by cult horror production company Hammer Films in productions including *The Brides of Dracula* and *The Plague of the Zombies*. During the summer, you can enjoy a Rocky Horror cocktail in the bar before retiring to your room - if you're a particular fan you can request to stay in the Richard O'Brien suite, named after the film's writer.



*Do the Time Warp at The Oakley Court hotel © The Oakley Court*



*As seen on screen: Luton Hoo © VisitBritain/ Britain on View*

### **Luton Hoo, Bedfordshire - *Four Weddings and a Funeral***

Hugh Grant, Reese Witherspoon and Pierce Brosnan have been just a few of the famous visitors at [Luton Hoo](#) in Bedfordshire, a popular hotel and filming location. Set in a Capability Brown landscape in central England, the historic mansion has featured in Bond films *Never Say Never Again*, *The World Is Not Enough*, *Vanity Fair* and Stanley Kubrick's final movie, *Eyes Wide Shut*. Perhaps its best-known film role though is *Four Weddings and a Funeral*. It was here that Charles (Hugh Grant) was trapped in a cupboard while a pair of

newlyweds consummated their marriage in the room. You can book to stay in the exact same room that the awkward encounter took place in - just ask for the Lady Butter.

### **Beatrix Potter's farmstead, Lake District - *Miss Potter***

The beautiful Lake District landscape that inspired Beatrix Potter's beloved children's books is showcased in the 2006 film about the author's life, *Miss Potter*. Retrace the steps

of the film's star, Renée Zellweger with a stay at [Yew Tree Farm](#) in north-west England, which was owned by Beatrix Potter in the 1930s and later featured as 'Hill Top' in the film. Screen stars, including Emma Thompson, have enjoyed life on the working farm and even The Queen has paid a visit. The building is now a self-catering cottage, which sleeps six, and still contains some of Potter's belongings - you can eat your meals off her dining table.



*Enjoy a Bridget Jones mini-break at Stoke Park*

### **Stoke Park, Buckinghamshire - *Bridget Jones's Diary***

Bridget Jones may now have a baby, but back when she was young, free and single(ish), she and the sly Daniel Cleaver (Hugh Grant) took a mini-break to the countryside. The couple are seen driving to and staying in a glorious hotel, before taking to a lake for a romantic boating trip. You can recreate the mini-break of Bridget's dreams by staying at the hotel featured in the film - the luxurious [Stoke Park](#) in Buckinghamshire. The hotel is close to London and England's famous Pinewood Studios and has graced the silver screen many times, being featured in two Bonds (*Goldfinger* and *Tomorrow Never Dies*) as well as rom-com *Wimbledon* among others.

### **The Royal Horseguards Hotel, London - *The Elephant Man; The Constant Gardener***

Sitting on the banks of the River Thames, [The Royal Horseguards Hotel](#) has seen a parade of famous political figures pass through its doors in the course of its amazing history. The carefully restored five-star hotel has attracted famous filmmakers over the years too. David Lynch captured part of his masterpiece, *The Elephant Man*, there in 1980. Starring John Hurt and Anthony Hopkins, the long dark corridors at the hotel were used as hospital corridors and rooms were used as the doctor's surgery. More recently, a scene from *The Constant Gardener* was filmed at the hotel's delightfully traditional Smoking Room, where Ralph Fiennes' character meets with the head of the Foreign Office in London about his missing wife, played by Rachel Weisz.

### **Christ Church College, Oxford - *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone***

Let the magic of [Christ Church College](#) cast a spell on you with a stay where many of the Hogwarts scenes in the first movie were filmed. It's easy to imagine you're in the renowned school of wizardry itself as you wander around the cloisters and quadrangles that have



*Wander the cloisters at Christ Church © Kitoshi Sakasai }*

an air of magic about them even now that filming has ceased. Book a college room at Christ Church from £50 and you'll be able to eat your breakfast in The Great Hall, which was replicated in the film studios to create the grand Hogwarts Hall. On your way there, don't forget to stop to take a photo on the 16th-century staircase, where Harry and the new first-years are greeted by Professor McGonagall. You can stay at Oxford University college rooms during the university holidays.

## Bollywood Britain

Bollywood has narrated many a dramatic tale with Britain as its colourful backdrop - from iconic London landmarks to ornate English palaces and romantic Scottish and Welsh castles. So many Bollywood blockbusters have been filmed across the destination - *Salaam-e-Ishq*, *Mohabbatein* and *Jab Tak Hai Jaan*, to name a few - that VisitBritain has created a Bollywood in Britain (BiB) Destination Movie Map, available on Android and iOS, with suggested routes and details about places where famous scenes were filmed. Similarly, VisitScotland's [Bollywood location map](#) highlights a host of star-struck Scottish sites plus itineraries to guide you around them all.

So let Bollywood take you to all corners of Britain as you follow in the footsteps of superstars like Aishwarya Rai on your very own pilgrimage through romantic Bollywood film locations.

### Oxford, southern England

[Oxford](#) has a glittering career as a film location, and its ornate historical university buildings are very popular with Bollywood directors, including Aditya Chopra and his tale of love-struck students, *Mohabbatein* (2000). This features Queen's College in a scene where Narayan Shankar walks to meet Raj Aryan. Meanwhile, Priyadarshan's comedy-mystery caper *Bhagam Bhag* (2006) features several University of Oxford landmarks, including ornate [Sheldonian Theatre](#), the University of Oxford's official ceremonial hall. Nearby, when Sonu Nigam sings 'Tenu le ke' in a scene from *Love Actually* Bollywood tribute movie *Salaam-e-Ishq* (2007), the filming location was The Radcliffe Camera - which is not a piece of digital equipment, as it might sound, but rather a university landmark and home to the famous Radcliffe Science Library.



*Dreaming spires of Oxford, or Bollywood?*

### Culzean Castle & Country Park, Ayrshire coast, Scotland

Standing on a dramatic coastal cliff top surrounded by secluded beaches and 600 acres of lush parkland, secret gardens and caves, [Culzean Castle](#) provided the perfect romantic backdrop for the song 'Do Lafzo Mein' in *Dhaai Akshar Prem Ke* (2000). It was the first of many films in which actors Abhishek Bachchan and Aishwarya Rai, married in real-life, starred in together. You too can stay at the castle in its top-floor [Eisenhower Apartment](#), which took its name after being presented to President Eisenhower in recognition of his role during World War Two.



*Leeds Castle and its magnificent moat. © British Tourist Authority. Credit: Pawel Libera*

## Leeds Castle, Kent, south-east England

Dreamy [Leeds Castle](#) and its manicured yew tree maze - complete with underground shell grotto - played a starring role in Bollywood crime thriller *Rustom* (2016). During filming, the crew used a giant drone to capture aerial shots of the leading couple's romantic kiss in the centre of the maze. The actors also floated along the moat in a punt and through the castle's ancient arches, while The

Pavilion Lawn - usually used for picnics by families visiting the castle - was transformed into a graveyard. Make a weekend of your visit and enjoy your own love story at Leeds Castle by staying on the estate. Choose between a range of holiday cottages, the 16th-century Maiden Tower, or even eight striped medieval 'glamping' pavilions!

## London, England

The historic architecture, air of romance and bustling vibe of England's vibrant capital city have made it a favourite film set for Bollywood blockbusters. Numerous central [London](#) locations and landmarks have played a starring role - some of the most popular are [Trafalgar Square](#), the [Natural History Museum](#), [Tower Bridge](#), the [Royal Albert Hall](#) and the [London Eye](#), which are all easily accessible via public transport and fun to visit.



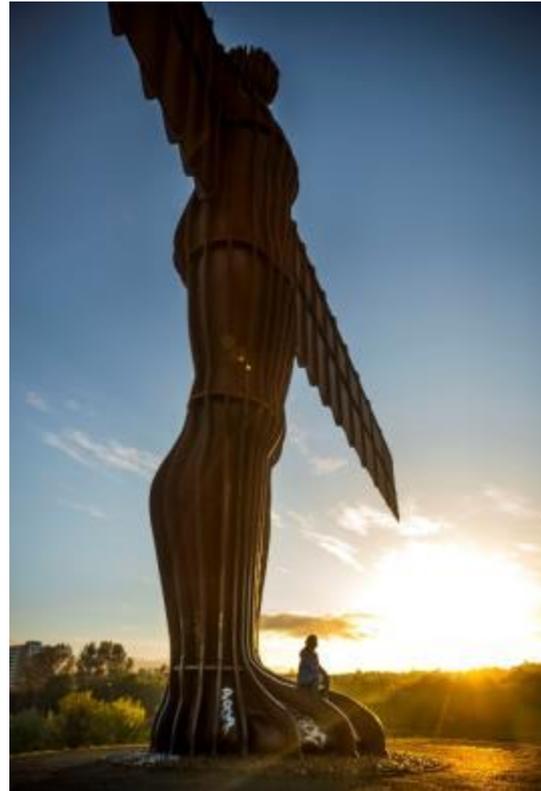
*Harrods sparkling at night.*

You could even act out favourite scenes and songs from specific films! Take a trip to world-famous [Harrods](#) department store in Knightsbridge, which features in romantic drama *Mujhse Dosti Kar* (2002). Go for a picnic in [Hyde Park](#), where a song scene in *Kabhi Khushi Kabhie Gham* (2001) starts before culminating with an early morning dance sequence shot at the [British Museum](#). Hyde Park is also the scenic backdrop for not one but two songs in love story *Jab Tak Hai Jaan* (2012).

While you're in London, why not get a photo with some top Bollywood superstars? You'll find Aishwarya Rai, Amitabh Bachchan, Salman Khan, Katrina Kaif and others (ok, their waxwork doubles!) hanging out at [Madame Tussauds](#).

## The Angel of the North, Tyne and Wear, north-east England

The 54-metre, jumbo jet-sized wing span of Antony Gormley's giant steel Angel of the North sculpture in [Gateshead](#) has become synonymous with north-east England. Taller than four double decker buses, it is believed to be the largest angel sculpture in the world, and features in the 'Satrangi Saathiya' song sequence of Bollywood psychological thriller *Phhir* (2011), which tells the story of a psychic investigating the disappearance of a woman. Director Girish Dhamija and actor Rajneesh Duggal were impressed by the region's architecture and spent more than a month filming at local landmarks around Newcastle upon Tyne and the town of Gateshead, including its Millennium Bridge and Town Hall, as well as Northumbria University and Grainger Market.



*The Angel of the North's giant wingspan.  
Credit: Andrew Pickett*

## Dolbadarn Castle, north Wales

[Wales](#) is famed for its lush landscapes and magnificent castles, which have provided scenic backdrops for a number of Bollywood movies. Inspired by its regal heritage and fairy-tale ambiance, director Samir Karnik took actors Aishwarya Rai and Vivek Oberoi - the stars of his romantic comedy *Kyun! Ho Gaya Na* (2004) - to film at [Dolbadarn Castle](#), a 13th-century fortress set in a wild landscape near the quaint village of Llanberis. The castle was built by Welsh prince Llywelyn the Great during the early 13th century at the base of the Llanberis Pass in north Wales, between Caernarfon and Snowdonia.



*The wild ruins of Dolbadarn Castle*

## King Arthur's Britain: locations of legend



Rubin Eynon's bronze sculpture at Tintagel Castle © English Heritage

Prepare for King Arthur fever! May 2017 sees the release of the major new film *King Arthur: Legend of the Sword*. Director Guy Ritchie and a Hollywood cast including Charlie Hunman and Jude Law retell the classic story of the legendary British leader made famous by medieval mythology. Historians have varying theories about who King Arthur was and where he came from, but many are convinced he existed. Take your own Arthurian pilgrimage around these dramatic British filming locations used in *King Arthur:*

*Legend of the Sword*, from Isle of Skye's rugged landscapes to majestic Windsor Great Park.

### The film locations...

#### Snowdonia National Park, north-west Wales

Wales lays claim to many places associated with the legend of King Arthur, his mighty sword Excalibur and the fabled magician Merlin. One such haunt is [Snowdonia National Park](#) and Mount Snowdon, where Arthur reputedly killed a fearsome giant, Rhitta. [Llyn Llydaw](#) is supposedly the final resting place of Excalibur, Arthur's sword, after it was thrown in the lake's waters after Arthur's death.



Snowdonia as seen from Capel Curig. Credit: VisitBritain / Joe Cornish

Snowdonia National Park was suitably a key shooting location for *King Arthur: Legend of the Sword*. Filming took place in several areas, including **Tryfan** mountain in the Ogwen Valley - one of the most famous and recognisable peaks in Britain. Cast and crew were also spotted around the village of **Capel Curig** on the River Llugwy, and the lake-side valley of **Nant Gwynant** - once the site of a Roman fort and marching camp and now home to the popular [Llyn Gwynant campsite](#) used by walkers bound for Snowdon. The film joins many others that feature Snowdonia locations - Angelina Jolie filmed parts of *Tomb Raider* here in 2001 and Sean Connery shot scenes for *First Knight* here 20 years ago.

## Windsor Great Park, south-east England

You'll have to wait and see how [Windsor Great Park](#) features in the film, but if you've ever dreamed of riding a horse through ancient oak forests and wide open deer parks under the distant gaze of a beautiful English castle, this is your chance! Whether you're a seasoned rider or have never even sat on a horse, [Tally Ho Stables](#) provide horses and riding hats, a huge choice of beautiful routes through the park and all the training you need. There's no road riding, just thousands of acres of woodland and meadows to enjoy with our experienced guides. All with the Queen's private Windsor Castle residence as a backdrop.



*Gallop like Guinevere through regal parkland in Windsor*

## King Arthur's Cave, Wye Valley, England and Wales border

One of the film's council scenes was shot at a real-life prehistoric cave called 'King Arthur's Cave', located in The Doward area of the [Wye Valley](#), an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty on the Welsh border. The cave is a Scheduled Ancient Monument and rises about 25 feet high, with an entrance large enough for a man on horseback to ride in and out of. The beautiful **Wye Valley** and Vale of Usk have the most castles per square mile in Britain, acres of ancient woodland and a host of adventure sports on offer, making it a great holiday spot - and just one hour's drive from Cardiff or three hour's drive from London.



*The Quiraing in Skye - nature's film set. Credit: VisitScotland*

## The Quiraing, Isle of Skye, Scotland

The largest of Scotland's Inner Hebrides islands, the [Isle of Skye](#) is home to some of Britain's most iconic landscapes - and film backdrops. Bring your energy and sense of adventure to create your own legend in this magical place! The island has magnificent mountain ranges, captivating history, and miles of dramatic coastline. Lace up your walking boots and explore the island's most majestic geological features, such as the Old Man of Storr, the Cuillin rocky mountain

range, and the Quiraing - a massive landslip on the Trotternish ridge where filming took place for *King Arthur: Legend of the Sword*. After a day of hiking, the island's town, Portree, and small villages are welcoming places to try tasty local fare or relax in cosy pubs.

## Locations of legend...

There are the film locations, and then the real locations of legend. While details remain shrouded in mystery, medieval writings have connected places across Britain to the legend of King Arthur - from his supposed birthplace at Tintagel in Cornwall to King Arthur's Round Table in Cumbria.



*Was Tintagel King Arthur's coastal birthplace?  
© English Heritage*

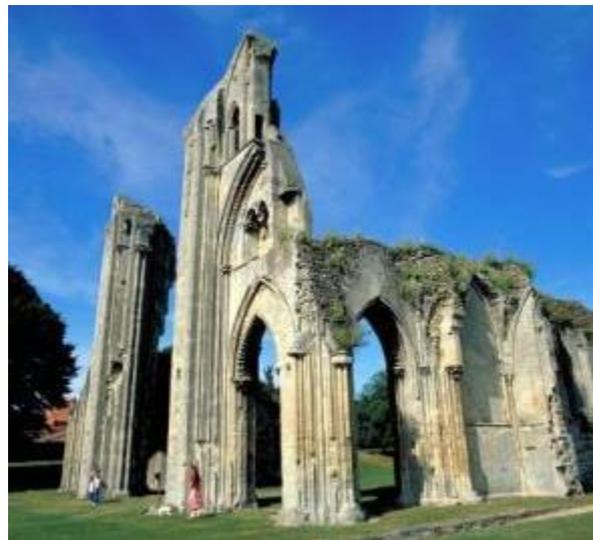
### Tintagel Castle, Cornwall

South-west England has a wealth of locations linked to the King Arthur legend. The impressive ruins of 12<sup>th</sup>-century [Tintagel Castle](#) gained fame when Geoffrey of Monmouth named it in his *History of the Kings of Britain* as the place where Arthur was conceived. [English Heritage](#) has honoured the legend with an outdoor exhibition at the castle taking visitors on a journey of discovery. After learning about 1,500 years of Tintagel's past, including its links to King Arthur, you can relax on the beach below the castle - perfect for a

quick paddle, exploring rock pools or building your own castles out of sand.

### Glastonbury, south-west England

What is now the bustling town of [Glastonbury](#) was known in ancient times as the Isle of Avalon - a legendary island appearing in historical writings as the place where King Arthur's sword Excalibur was forged, and later where Arthur was taken to recover from his wounds after the Battle of Camlann. Avalon became associated with Glastonbury when monks claimed to have discovered the bones of Arthur and his queen at [Glastonbury Abbey](#). The calm, manicured grounds that surround the impressive abbey ruins make a wonderful place for a picnic on a sunny day. To work up an appetite beforehand, there's always the option to climb up the high conical hill of Glastonbury Tor, topped by St Michael's Tower.



*Glastonbury Abbey: King Arthur's final resting place?*

### King Arthur's Round Table, Cumbria, north-west England

An Arthurian pilgrimage of Britain would not be complete without a visit to the rumoured site of [King Arthur's Round Table](#) in the Eamont Bridge area of Cumbria, dating from about 2000 BC. This Neolithic henge consists of a low circular platform surrounded by a wide ditch and earthen bank. The exact original purpose of the monument remains unknown,

but some believe it was King Arthur's jousting arena. It is one of a pair of henges in the surrounding area, along with the large stone [Mayburgh Henge](#). Both sites can be visited as part of an easy-going [six kilometre walk devised by the Eden Rivers Trust](#), starting near Penrith town centre and taking in the ruins of medieval [Brougham Castle](#) along the way.

## A galaxy far, far away: Star Wars in Britain

Star Wars fans from across the galaxy can rejoice as *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story* is due to hit intergalactic screens in December 2016. Though the release may seem far, far, away fans can be rest assured that a Star Wars encounter is a little closer than originally thought. Explore some of the out-of-this-world locations right here in Britain from the newest Star Wars' films, and discover the Force at the O2 Arena with an exciting new exhibition.

### **Discover *Rogue One* on the London Underground, Canary Wharf, London, England**

One of the few known filming locations for the new Stars Wars' movie *Rogue One: A Star Wars Story* is Canary Wharf in [London](#). This seemingly unlikely spot has been featured in the new Jedi-blockbuster where heroine Jyn Erso (Felicity Jones) runs along the platform with Stormtroopers heading the other way. Stop by for a visit and admire the out-of-this-world architecture, before hopping on a train to the Death Star.



*Commuters at Canary Wharf, London, England, UK. © VisitBritain, Visit London*

**Getting there:** Canary Wharf station is on the Jubilee line on the London underground.



*Buttermere at dawn, in the Lake District National Park, Cumbria © VisitEngland, Alex Hare*

### **Spot the Millennium Falcon at the Lake District National Park, north-west England**

Head to the incomparable landscape of the Lake District and you can almost imagine the film crew setting up their kit around the magnificent Derwentwater. In the 2015 *Star Wars: The Force Awakens*, the action-packed flight sequences utilised the beauty of the [Lake District National Park](#), where fighter planes and Han Solo's famous Millennium Falcon fly across Derwentwater's pristine surface.

**Getting there:** The Lake District is located in Cumbria, and is less than five hours by car from London.

## Head out to Starkiller Base from Greenham Common, Berkshire, England

This former RAF base plays a starring role as the planet of D'Qar, where Poe and Finn reunite and where the Resistance prepare to head out on their mission to Starkiller Base. The site has been defunct of military use for some years, but there's plenty to see and do in the surrounding area of [Berkshire](#), including a visit to Windsor Castle.



*A view of the Berkshire countryside, England - ©VisitEngland, Diana Jarvis*

**Getting there:** Berkshire is located in southern England and is an 80-minute drive from London.



*Kylo Ren in Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire England Photography*

## Hide from Kylo Ren in the Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire, west England

Can you spot Puzzlewood in *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* where Rey battles Kylo Ren? The wood can be found in the [Forest of Dean](#), and with its gnarled roots, twisted trees and enchanting trails, it's easy to see why the spot has become popular with movie scouts. The other-worldly forest has starred in the Harry Potter films too, and is an idyllic spot for a ramble in the woods.

**Getting there:** the Forest of Dean is located in Gloucestershire. It's an hour's drive from Bristol or roughly two hours by train from London.

## Discover what forces shape you, O2, London

It's not a filming location, but this major new exhibition is sure to be a huge draw for Star Wars fans. Grab your lightsabre, don your Jedi-cloak and head over to the O2 where you can explore the characters of Star Wars in [Star Wars Identities](#). Originating from Tatooine, and sharing the same bloodline, Luke and Anakin Skywalker notoriously followed very different paths in the journey to adulthood. Take a trip to the dark side and discover their relationship with the Force, and your own for that matter. The exhibition is running between 18 November 2016 and 3 September 2017.

**Getting there:** The closest London underground station to the O2 is North Greenwich.

## Be James Bond for the day

Don't just watch the films - channel your inner 007 and live Bond's glamorous lifestyle in Britain! Get measured up for a bespoke suit by Bond's tailor, enjoy the thrill of a high-speed Aston Martin driving experience, and of course, finish off with a classic martini: shaken, not stirred.



*Suiting up at Gieves & Hawkes on Saville Row.  
Credit: VisitBritain / RichardAllen*

### Get suited and booted

First thing's first: you need to look the part. Bond is quintessentially British and so is his style. Get the guise at one of London's bespoke tailors and shirt-makers. Catering to distinguished gentlemen since 1885, there is no authority on English shirt-making like [Turnbull and Asser](#) on Jermyn Street in London's West End. This heritage tailor has a royal warrant and has fitted shirts for every single Bond actor, as well as Prince Charles. The brand still produces "The Dr. No Shirt", so modern gentlemen can dress just as Sean Connery did back in the 1960s, and "The Casino Royale Dress Shirt", as worn by Daniel Craig in the 2006 film. For a bespoke made-to-measure suit, head to classic Savile Row favourites [Gieves and Hawkes](#) or [Henry Poole](#), inventor of the tuxedo.

you'll find the Oxford Round Neck blue cashmere sweater, specially made to match the blue of Daniel Craig's eyes and worn under his Barbour jacket in the *Skyfall* (2012) Scotland scenes. Also in Mayfair is royal warrant London-based perfumery [Floris](#), where you can purchase Ian Fleming's fragrance of choice: No.89. A classical cologne underscored with woody tones, it's known as the fragrance of 007.

Next, make a stop at luxury cashmere brand [N. Peal](#) in Mayfair's Burlington Arcade. Here

### Mission research

No secret agent should head off on a mission without being briefed at the British Secret Intelligence Service's London-based headquarters, located at the real-life MI6 Building at Vauxhall Cross on the River Thames. The James Bond London Walk takes you past this iconic building and a variety of other locations featuring in Bond films old and new. Book your tickets on [VisitBritain Shop](#).



*Even Bond needs a passport. ..Credit: Chris Jackson*

Next up, do your background

research and head to the [London Film Museum](#) in Covent Garden to relive classic car moments and check out real props from the film, including some of Bond's many passports! This exciting exhibition has the largest official collection of original James Bond vehicles on display. Look out for the archetypal Bond car - the Aston Martin DB5 - as well as the *Goldfinger* (1964) Rolls Royce Phantom III and the submersible Lotus Esprit S1 from *The Spy Who Loved Me* (1977).

### Thames thrills

Relive the unforgettable opening scene from *The World Is Not Enough* (1999) with your own exhilarating [London Rib Voyages](#) ride. The longest opening sequence of any Bond film sees Pierce Brosnan's Bond chase an assassin along the River Thames in a high speed boat, and culminates in him rolling down the roof of the Millennium Dome (now The O2). With [Up at The O2](#), you can conquer the famous landmark yourself in a safer manner, walking over the dome towards panoramic views of London.



*Speed along the Thames like Bond. Credit: London Rib Voyages*

Adrenaline is all very well, but even 007 needs to relax once and a while. A true Bond bolthole, [Four Seasons Canary Wharf](#) is just eight minutes away from The O2 by London underground - or 25 minutes on the Thames Clipper boat. This luxury hotel has views of the River Thames from over ten floors. Don't miss the infinity pool, which Daniel Craig's Bond dips into during a scene in *Skyfall* (2012), supposedly while on mission in 'Shanghai' - which is actually central London.



*Zippping along like Bond. © Crown copyright (2013) Visit Wales*

### Zip through the sky

The action doesn't stop for long in Bond's world. In *Moonraker* (1979), Roger Moore's Bond and astronaut Holly Goodhead stage a daring escape from the villain Jaws by effectively zip-wiring their way to safety. Fellow adrenaline junkies can head to Cornwall to fly on England's longest zip wire at the [Eden Project](#): 660 metres at speeds of 60 mph (95 km/h), to be exact. To add to the thrill, you'll be soaring over a Bond

film location, as the Eden Project played the role of Gustav Graves' diamond mine in *Die Another Day*.

Meanwhile, in north-east Wales, [Zip World Velocity](#) is home to the longest zip line in Europe - also the fastest in the world. It's certainly a thrilling way to see the dramatic Welsh countryside. Bond would approve!

## Live and let drive

No Bond film is complete without a high-octane chase! 007 gets behind the wheel of a range of vehicles - from motorbikes to submarines - but he has a special relationship with one type in particular: the Aston Martin supercar. Take to the road in one of these magnificent vehicles with a track experience at the iconic [Silverstone](#) race track, or sign up for a special appointment performance driving course at [Aston Martin's](#)



*Bond's choice: Aston Martin. Credit: Max Earey*

Millbrook Proving Ground, where the dramatic car roll scene in *Casino Royale* was filmed. You'll drive current production Aston Martins on various tracks, including the hill route, the bowl, the city course and the mile straight.

## Shaken, not stirred

*Goldfinger* (1964) first featured the immortal line from Bond "shaken, not stirred", which is said to be inspired by [Dukes Bar](#) in London's Mayfair, where Bond author Ian Fleming regularly frequented. The bar makes some of the best martinis - some say - in the world. Try the Fleming 89, a martini that celebrates the bar's 007 links and is inspired by the No.89 Eau de Cologne created by London-based perfumery [Floris](#) and worn by Ian Fleming.

Meanwhile, in Bristol, south-west England, Bond-inspired bar [Her Majesty's Secret Service](#) serves fantastic mojitos, which Pierce Brosnan opts for in *Die Another Day*. You can also get a great *Goldfinger*-inspired Mint Julep.

## Dine another day

Always a man on the move, some of the 007 films feature Bond dining aboard a train. In *Casino Royale* (2006), Daniel Craig's Bond first meets Vesper Lynd, played by Eva Green, in a train dining car. Try elegant, luxurious on-board dining on the [Belmond British Pullman](#) - sister train to the Venice-Simplon-Orient-Express - while coasting through beautiful British countryside. The Pullman operates both day and weekend journeys, mainly out of [London Victoria station](#), and offers visits to places of interest in southern Britain, including castles, country houses, cities, and quintessentially British events, such as the Grand National and Goodwood Revival.

## Live the Bridget Jones lifestyle

Britain's favourite fun-loving single girl hit the silver screens this year in *Bridget Jones's Baby*, and while our beloved Bridget is a singleton no more, the fun doesn't stop in Bridget Jones' Britain. Grab your own Shazzer and Jude, don your most flattering outfit, and get ready for a fun-packed weekend with your nearest and dearest.



*The Bistro in The Everyman Theatre, Liverpool, England. © Philip Vile*

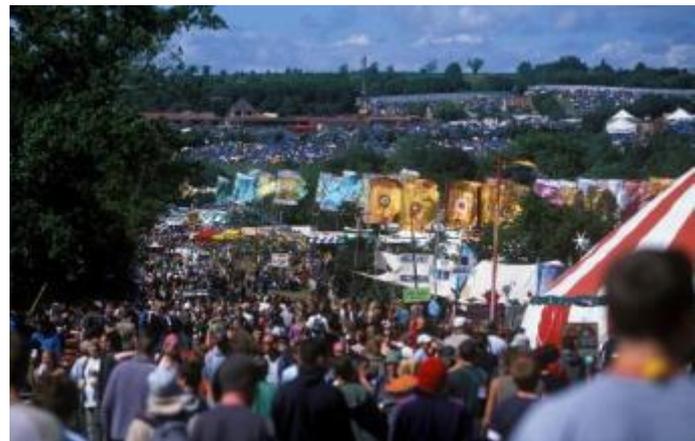
### **Where to have a night on the tiles...**

From cocktail bars and old-fashioned boozers, to bistros and clubs, Liverpool has it covered if you're looking for a night out with friends. Try the Everyman Bistro located in [Everyman Theatre](#), which has recently undergone a huge £27million refurbishment. Downstairs you'll find the bistro, where the tables have adjustable mood lighting, and the bar is made from old chemistry desks. Trying a Goblet of Gin while you're there is definitely a must.

**Getting there:** Liverpool is in the north-west of England, and is two and a half hours from London by train.

### **Where to be a festival-goer like Bridget...**

Strut your stuff in VIP, casually bump into Ed Sheeran, or Zorb your way across the campsite; it's all possible at a British festival. In *Bridget Jones's Baby*, Bridget and friend Miranda let off some steam at the epic Glastonbury Festival in Somerset. Tickets for this festival favourite sell out fast, so if you're not lucky enough to snag one, give [Secret Garden Party](#), Huntingdon, or [Bestival](#), Isle of Wight, a try. Disclaimer: heels and white jeans (as worn by Bridget) are not recommended!



*Glastonbury Festival in Somerset, England ©VisitEngland*

**Getting there:** Glastonbury Festival is in the south-west of England, and three hours by train from London. Huntingdon is an hour journey north of London. The quickest way to get to the Isle of Wight from London using public transport is a 75-minute train from London Waterloo to Southampton, followed by a 25-minute ferry to East Cowes.

### **Where to buy a dress fit for a party goddess...**

Famously known for her very large and sensible knickers, bright pink skiing gear and show-stopping outfits, Bridget Jones' style can be emulated in one of Britain's many great shopping destinations. Try [St David's Centre](#) in Cardiff, which has more than 200 shops and stores to browse, including Debenhams, Reiss, River Island, GAP, and Pandora.

**Getting there:** Cardiff is in south Wales, and is an hour car journey from Bristol, and a three-hour car journey from London, or two hours by train.

### Where to have the best cocktails...

Nothing says sophisticated adult like a night at a cocktail bar with friends, and Leeds has plenty. Try [Angelica](#), located on the sixth floor of ultra-modern shopping centre Trinity Leeds, with its wraparound outdoor terrace giving panoramic city views. As well as serving food throughout the day, the venue effortlessly shifts to a cocktail destination in the evening. There's also a cocktail menu dedicated to those with a touch of wanderlust, with drinks



*The outdoor terrace of Angelica, a cocktail bar in Leeds*

inspired by destinations around the globe. One of Leeds's hidden cocktail gems is [Mook](#), a stylish bar that promises good music, dancing and cocktails, as well as boasting a 100% fun policy, something we think Bridget would 100% agree to.

**Getting there:** Leeds is in the north of England, and is a two and half hour journey by train from London.



*The view from Primrose Hill. © Visit London, / VisitBritain*

### Where to live like you're in the movie...

If you need that extra push to feel like you're living the Bridget Jones' lifestyle, then why not visit one of the locations used in the first two blockbuster movies? First up is [Primrose Hill](#) in north London, which starred in the opening credits of *Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason* (2004). If you're in London, make sure to also stop by [Borough Market](#), where Bridget's iconic little flat resides above The Globe pub.

If a weekend mini-break is more your style head to [Stoke Park](#) in Buckinghamshire, a luxury hotel, spa, and country club that was once owned by the Crown. Stoke Park was used in the filming of the first Bridget Jones movie (*Bridget Jones's Diary*), where Bridget and Daniel escape for a weekend mini-break before bumping into Natasha and Mark. Have your own romantic weekend away, or a pampered weekend with friends where you can expect fine dining, relaxing spa treatments and access to tennis courts and a golf course.

**Getting there:** Primrose Hill is closest to Camden London Underground Station. The Globe pub is closet to London Bridge London Underground Station. Stoke Park is less than an hour's drive from London.

## Reign like King Arthur (or be one of his knights)

Polish your chain-mail and hone your jousting technique! As *King Arthur: Legend of the Sword* hits cinemas, budding knights and warrior queens of all ages are invited for archery practice, battle re-enactments and medieval banquets all over Britain. Reign like King Arthur, or live like one of his knights.

### **Go back to the start at King Arthur's Labyrinth, Wales**

Deep beneath the mountains of southern Snowdonia in mid-Wales, around two hour's drive from Birmingham, lies [King Arthur's Labyrinth](#), a subterranean storytelling adventure that brings dragons, giants and Arthurian legend to life. The journey begins on a boat steered by a mysterious hooded figure, who transports you through a magical waterfall to the deep Dark Ages. This part of Wales was said to be the real King Arthur's stomping ground; the story goes that his famous sword, Excalibur, lies buried at the bottom of the nearby lake Llyn Llydaw.

### **Choose your suit of armour at the Tower of London**

Seek inspiration for your next suit of armour at the [Tower of London's Line of Kings](#) exhibition, which is the world's longest-running visitor attraction. The display of royal armour, life-sized wooden horses and figures of kings first went on show in the 1600s, when it was used to promote the monarch's right to rule. Some of the horses are more than 300 years old, but it's the suits of armour that will appeal to your inner knight: gleaming and displayed in battle-ready positions, it's easy to imagine the clash of swords and pounding of hooves.



*Armour fit for a king at the Tower of London © Royal Armouries/ Historic Royal Palaces*

### **Feel the heat of battle in Stirling, Scotland**

Immerse yourself in fierce combat at [The Battle of Bannockburn Experience](#), which brings to life one of Scotland's most famous victories on the very location it took place, using 3D technology. You'll be transported back to 23 June 1314, when Robert the Bruce and Edward II's troops had a ferocious face-off that changed the path of Scotland's history forever. Take part in a virtual battle alongside armour-clad combatants, then watch a demonstration of how the Scots won the day. Stirling is in southern Scotland, an hour by car from Edinburgh.

### **Feast like a king in Northern Ireland Winterfell Medieval Banquets, Castle Ward, County Down, Northern Ireland**

Legend-lovers in medieval Britain tried to locate Camelot and Avalon, the places associated with King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table; today, fantasy fans can also seek out Westeros and Essos from *Game of Thrones*. Key scenes from the TV series were filmed at Castle Ward in Northern Ireland, around an hour's drive from Belfast. Held

on the castle's grounds, [Winterfell Medieval Banquets](#) conjure up Arthurian legend just as vividly as the opening scenes of *Game of Thrones*: change into an authentic costume before sitting down at candle-lit tables draped with reindeer skins to enjoy a hearty hog roast accompanied by local traditional music.

### Sleep in a Knight's Village at Warwick Castle

[Warwick Castle](#) in central England has everything a would-be warrior could want: there is, of course, the impressive castle itself, plus the Mighty Trebuchet (the world's largest siege-machine), a winding maze and dark dungeons. Families can enjoy it over two days on a Little Warrior Weekend, which includes entry to the castle, sword skills, archery lessons and a stay in the [Knight's Village](#), located on the estate. Choose from Medieval Glamping or a Knight's Lodge, with breakfast served in the Medieval Banqueting Hall in the morning. Warwick station is less than two hours away from London by train.



*Enjoying breakfast at the Knight's Village*

### Hear the thunder of hooves at Cardiff Castle, Cardiff, Wales

[Cardiff Castle](#) has been splendidly restored, with lavish interiors and beautiful grounds that, once a year, host Joust! - a weekend of pomp and pageantry that brings to life the time when knights were the celebrities of the day and jousting was the spectator sport of choice. Every summer, the Knights of Royal England thunder into the grounds of the castle on horses, ready to battle it out with lances to the cheers of the crowds. There's a dragon procession, storytelling workshops and thrilling combat displays.



*Bodiam: a knight's castle © VisitBritain/ Britain on View*

### Explore a real knight's castle in Sussex, south-east England

Guaranteed to please anyone in search of a quintessential, fairy-tale castle, [Bodiam](#) has spiral staircases, battlements, a portcullis, an armour collection and windows from which arrows were once shot. The castle was built by a knight, Sir Edward Dalyngrigge, in 1385; Sir Edward's era is brought to life by costumed characters, including 'William the forester', who's rather handy with a bow and arrow, so watch out! Make a

day of it and travel to the castle on a steam train operated by the [Kent and East Sussex Railway](#) - services run between April and October.

## A muggles' guide to Harry Potter's Britain

From gothic cathedrals and palaces from a time forgotten, to enchanted forests and breathtaking landscapes, it's no wonder Britain inspired and formed the wizarding world of Harry Potter. From the quaint and quirky streets of Diagon Alley, to the imposing beauty of Hogwarts Castle, discover the locations of some of the series' most iconic scenes and walk in the footsteps of Harry, Hermione, Ron and co.



*Hogwarts in the snow © Warner Bros Entertainment Inc*

### **Try some Butterbear at the Warner Bros Studio Tour, Leavesdon, south-east England**

Wizards, squibs and even muggles can discover the magic of Harry Potter on the [Warner Bros Studio Tour](#). The studios were used in the filming of all the Harry Potter films, and luckily for Potter fans, many of the fantastic props, mythical items and iconic sets were saved. Take a journey through the famous sets, pose in your favourite scenes, and taste some delicious Butterbeer.

**Getting there:** Located in Leavesdon, just outside of London, the Warner Bros Studio Tour is a 70-minute drive from London, or a 55-minute journey by public transport.

### **Stand in Snape's classroom at Lacock, Wiltshire, south-west England**

Venture to the quaint English village of Lacock in [Wiltshire](#), where parts of the movie series were filmed. [Lacock Abbey](#), once a medieval monastery and home to a courtier of Henry VIII's court, is cloaked in history and superstition. Take trip to the abbey and see if you can recognise Hogwarts' interiors, including Professor Snape's classroom. While in the area stop by at the village and see if you can spot Horace Slughorn's home from The Half-Blood Prince.



*Lacock Abbey, Wiltshire, England © VisitEngland*

**Getting there:** Lacock is located in Wiltshire in the south-west of England. It is a two hour and 20-minute drive from London, or a 50-minute drive from Bristol.



*The cloister of Gloucester Cathedral © VisitEngland*

### Take a stroll to the Gryffindor Common Room, Gloucestershire, west England

Why not visit one of the oldest stars of the Harry Potter movies and take a trip to [Gloucester Cathedral](#). Its beautiful cloister, complete with awe-inspiring fan vaulted ceilings, have led to the Gryffindor Common Room, been stormed through by a troll, and graced by the fat lady. The cathedral is free to enter, though there is a charge for Harry Potter tours.

**Getting there:** Gloucester Cathedral can be found in the heart of Gloucestershire, which is an hour's drive from Bristol on the west coast of England, or roughly two hours by train from London.

### Chase horcruxes through the Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire, west England

Puzzlewood in the [Forest of Dean](#) has almost magical qualities with its twisting trees and bewitching woodland. It has been used as a backdrop in countless blockbuster movies, including of course, Harry Potter. Used in the filming of *The Deathly Hallows Part 1*, the trio hide in the forest while chasing horcruxes. Stop by in winter and see the forest glitter with frost for a memorable trip.

**Getting there:** the Forest of Dean is located in Gloucestershire, which is an hour's drive from Bristol on the west coast of England, or roughly two hours by train from London.

### Learn how to fly at Hogwarts' ancient stunt-double, Northumberland, north England

One of Britain's oldest and most iconic inhabited castles, [Alnwick Castle](#) is home to the Percy family and has a history that spans 1,000 years. In the first two Harry Potter films the castle played a starring role as Hogwarts. It's also been flown past by the Weasleys' Ford Anglia, used as the backdrop for Quidditch training, and had its grounds trodden by beloved groundskeeper Hagrid. Witches and wizards alike can visit the castle and discover its ancient history, and even take part in broomstick flying lessons!



*Alnwick Castle, which doubled as Hogwarts © VisitEngland*

**Getting there:** Alnwick Castle is located in the north-east of England. It is less than two hours' drive from Edinburgh in Scotland, and is a four-hour train journey from London.

## Eight of the best: family films shot in Britain

From boy wizards to big friendly giants, Britain is home to characters loved by the whole family. Take an adventure inspired by one of the eight great films below.

### ***Brave***

Although *Brave* is an animated film, it's very much set in Scotland, with the natural scenery based on its makers' visits to the country.

Princess Merida's DunBroch Castle, for instance, was based on three forts: [Dunnottar Castle](#), 13<sup>th</sup>-century sea-cliff ruins south of Aberdeen, [Urquhart Castle](#), also ruined and sitting regally beside Loch Ness in northern Scotland, and the much-filmed and still-in-one-piece [Eilean Donan Castle](#), located on Scotland's west coast. The iconic [Callanish](#)



*Magical: the Callanish standing stones © VisitBritain/ Britain on View*

[Standing Stones](#) on Lewis, an island off Scotland's west coast, are evident; Merida escapes from inside ones very similar to them early in the tale. Finally, the young redhead's own archery skills implement techniques which *Brave*'s animators studied at the [Braemar Gathering](#), a long-held Highland Games in central Scotland, traditionally attended by the British royal family.



*Seen on screen: The Needles © Jason Hawkes*

### ***Chitty Chitty Bang Bang***

Who doesn't want to ride in a magical car like *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*? This children's classic - relating the adventures of Caractacus Potts and his children, peppered with sing-a-long songs - was partially filmed in Britain. The Needles stacks, which stand majestically in the sea off the coast of the Isle of Wight (itself off the coast of south England) featured in the film, and tour company [Brit Movie Tours](#) offers the chance for fans to ride in a replica *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* car for the day around the

island. The Isle of Wight is a short ferry ride from Portsmouth or Southampton harbours, both of which are around 90 minutes by train from London.

### ***The Railway Children***

Vintage steam trains and the beautiful county of Yorkshire in north England take centre stage in this film adaptation of Edith Nesbit's early 20th-century children's novel. Follow in the footsteps of the stars and visit the [Keighley & Worth Valley Railway](#), used extensively

in the film. Watch steam trains puff through the valley or get on-board and travel to Oakworth station - one of the film's most-famous sets, preserved as it would have been in the early 1900s. Five of the carriages used in the film can be found at the [Museum of Rail Travel](#) in the nearby Ingrow West, while you can also follow one of two [self-guided walks](#) around some of the film's locations.



*Walkies? St James' Park © VisitBritain/ Britain on View*

### ***101 Dalmations***

The 1996 live-action Disney film saw Glenn Close as Cruella de Vil, alongside scores of spotty puppies. Some of the dogs are born after Pongo and Perdy, and owners Anita (Joely Richardson) and Roger (Jeff Daniels), meet in a London park and fall in love. The park used in the film was London's [St James' Park](#), a lovely place to take a walk - with or without a dog - and very close to Buckingham Palace. If you visit between 2.30pm and 3pm you can

see the resident pelicans being fed. The birds, not usually found in Britain, were introduced to the park in 1664 as a gift from the Russian ambassador.

### **Wallace & Gromit**

The Wrong Trousers, A Close Shave, The Curse of the Were Rabbit - magnificently named films created by one of Britain's leading animation houses, Aardman Animations, and all starring the brilliant Wallace and Gromit. The dynamic duo's favourite food is, of course, Wensleydale cheese, so why not pay a visit to the [Wensleydale Creamery](#) in the village of Hawes, set in the picturesque Yorkshire Dales, north England. Take a tour around the museum to learn how the cheese-making processes have evolved through the centuries, watch cheese-making in action and sample all of the Yorkshire Wensleydale cheese varieties. Children will be further entertained by the clips of Wallace and Gromit showing around the site. The nearest station is Garsdale, 90 minutes by train from Leeds.

### **Harry Potter**

There is so much to see and do in Britain that will transport you into the magical world of Harry, Ron and Hermione and all their friends and foes at Hogwarts. Start off by re-enacting the 'trolley through the wall' scene, when Harry has to find his way onto Platform 9 3/4. At [London's King's Cross station](#) you'll find a photo opportunity to do just that, plus a shop selling all sorts of Potter memorabilia. Imagine you're on the Hogwarts Express and board



*The Jacobite steam train © VisitBritain/ Rod Edwards*

the [Jacobite steam train](#) in the Highlands of Scotland. You'll wind your way past mountains, rivers and lochs, and go over the famous Glenfinnan viaduct - this has 21 arches and can be seen on-screen in the films.



*Un-bear-lievable: Paddington*

### ***Paddington***

This 2014 family film saw a small brown bear travel from deepest, darkest Peru all the way to London's Paddington station, where he was found (and given his name) by the Brown family. Pack your marmalade sandwiches and head to the [Natural History Museum](#), in south Kensington, London. The museum, free to enter, doubled as the Museum of Natural History in the film, the workplace of Paddington's nemesis,

Millicent (Nicole Kidman). Climb down the sweeping staircase of the Great Hall - Millicent chased Paddington down the stairs in the movie, closely followed by the Brown family. You may find that one star of the film is missing though - Dippy the Diplodocus, whose giant skeleton was seen on screen, had been in the museum's entrance hall for more than 30 years, but is being moved in early 2017 to make way for a blue whale skeleton. *Paddington 2* is due out in 2017.

### ***The BFG***

Directed by Stephen Spielberg, and based on Roald Dahl's classic children's book, *The BFG* hit cinema screens in 2016, and used a mixture of filming and animation to bring the giant-sized story to life. One very real location used in the film was [Buckingham Palace](#), Her Majesty the Queen's London home. The story sees Sophie (Ruby Barnhill) and the Big Friendly Giant take the perilous journey to warn the Queen about the fearsome giants of Giant Country. Spielberg got special permission to film the front of the palace, with *Downton Abbey's* Penelope Wilton playing the role of the Queen. You can go inside the palace in the summer - in 2017 it will be open between 5 August and 24 September.



*Visited by a giant: Buckingham Palace © British Tourist Authority*

## Family film and TV experiences

From Thomas the Tank Engine tours to assisting The Doctor in *Doctor Who*, Britain has a brilliant range of movie and TV-related adventures to delight kids - and parents - of all ages.



*Delivering parcels for Postman Pat at Alton Towers' Cbeebies Land*

### Cbeebies Land

Found amid the Alton Towers theme park and resort, [Cbeebies Land](#) offers pre-schoolers a chance to meet beloved small-screen characters like Charlie and Lola, Iggle Piggle, Upsy Daisy and courageous Captain Barnacles. They'll also get to deliver parcels for beleaguered Postman Pat and enjoy boisterous singalongs with the Zingzillas. A special, family-focused Cbeebies hotel will open in 2017.

**Details:** Located near Stoke-on-Trent in Central England, [Alton Towers](#) is a one-hour drive south from Manchester, and two hours 30 minutes in the car from London. Tickets can be booked on the [VisitBritain shop](#).

### Thomas Land

Thomas the Tank Engine devotees won't know what to do first once inside this transport-crazy corner of Drayton Manor Theme Park. A jolly journey on Bertie Bus? Some bouncing courtesy of Cranky Crane? Spencer's outdoor play area? Or perhaps a tour of the McColl Farm

chauffeured by Thomas himself? At least there's no need to hurry around [Thomas Land](#), with Drayton Manor's four-star hotel enabling overnight stays - there's even Thomas-themed rooms!

**Details:** Located north of Birmingham in central England, Drayton Manor is open March-October. Tickets for a family of four cost from £77 in 2016 - check the website for 2017 prices. Direct trains from London Euston to Tamworth station, three miles away, take one hour.

### Doctor Who Experience

Attention, older kids: your help's urgently needed to save the universe. Inside a TARDIS within the fictional Gallifrey Museum - found near the BBC's studios in Cardiff, Wales - you'll accompany the Doctor in battling a terrible new foe, devised especially for this [Doctor Who Experience](#). Afterwards, the world safely rescued, there are creepy masks, alien prosthetics and historical Daleks from previous series to inspect.

**Details:** Cardiff is a two-hour train ride from London Paddington. Family tickets to the Experience cost from £41 for four people.

### Broomstick training

As all young wizards eventually must, Harry Potter fans can also [learn to ride a broomstick](#) at north-eastern England's perfectly-turreted Alnwick Castle. Trying to take off, in particular, is likely to prompt extended giggles. Alnwick regularly doubles as Hogwarts during filming of the movie adaptations and these sessions, held daily at regular intervals, neatly take place on the very spot where Daniel Radcliffe's Harry received his own lessons.



*Up, up and away at Alnwick Castle*

**Details:** Family tickets (two adults, two children) for Alnwick Castle cost from £36. Alnwick's bus station, a five-minute walk, has connections to Newcastle International Airport, from which you can fly to London.

### Harry Potter tours

Go behind the scenes at Warner Bros. Studios, inside which all eight Harry Potter movies were made. On audio-guided [The Making of Harry Potter](#) walks, highlights include trawling original sets and props like Harry's Nimbus 2000, entering Hogwarts Great Hall and having your picture taken on special Platform 9 3/4.

**Details:** The studios are located 20 miles north-west of London. Advance booking is vital, and tickets are available on the [VisitBritain shop](#).



*Peppa Pig comes to life at Paultons*

### Peppa Pig World

Seven gentle rides, indoor play areas and an appropriately muddy splash park equal heaven for Peppa-mad toddlers, who'll think they've somehow stepped inside the TV. Encompassing [Peppa Pig World](#) is the wider Paultons Family Theme Park, which pairs rollercoasters for older youths with the new Lost Kingdom and its dinosaur-themed thrills.

**Details:** Paultons is located beside the New Forest National Park in southern England, and a 90-minute drive from London. Family tickets cost from £105 for four people. Children under one metre (three feet three inches) tall are admitted free.

**Details:** Paultons is located beside the New Forest National Park in southern

### Game of Thrones archery packages

Are the teenagers allowed to watch *Game of Thrones*? If so, they should enjoy this themed, one-hour [Ned Package](#) based at Northern Ireland's Castle Ward - instantly recognisable as the on-screen Winterfell. Dressed up like Stark family members and armed with ancient

bows, guests receive archery lessons from costumed Jon Snow-lookalikes inside a Thrones-style teepee.

**Details:** Castle Ward is 20 miles south-east of Northern Ireland's capital Belfast. Run by Winterfell Tours, the package costs £95 for three people, then £29 per additional person. Minimum age six.

### Shrek's Adventure

Occupying a prime position on London's Southbank, the 75-minute [Shrek's Adventure](#) sees Shrek, Donkey, Puss in Boots and Princess Fiona lead gasping, goggle-eyed youngsters on a 4D journey through ten magical lands. 'Shrekies' will also encounter other Dreamworks characters like Pinocchio, and help their heroes with various tasks - including a group rendition of *I'm A Believer!*

**Details:** The nearest tube station is Westminster, just across Westminster Bridge. Book your tickets on the [VisitBritain shop](#).



*Meeting Shrek*

## Ten of the best: quirky places to watch film in Britain

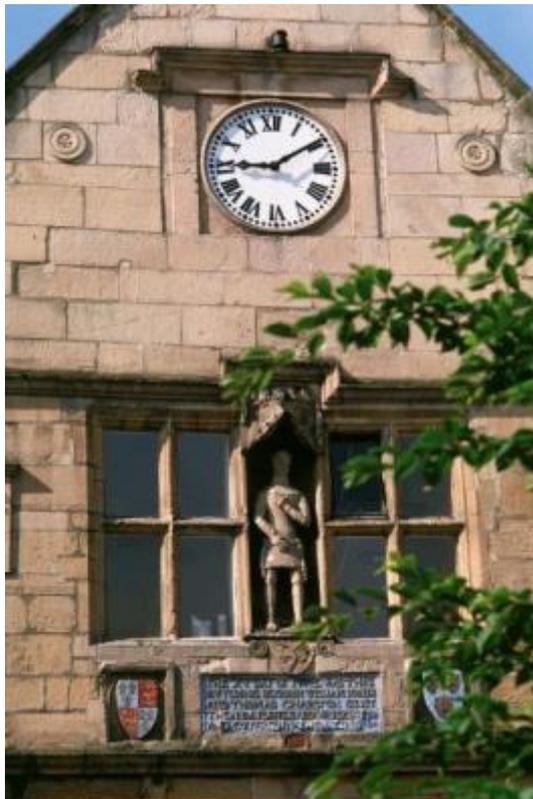
Fancy floating in a dinghy on a swimming pool while watching *Jaws*, or watching *Dirty Dancing* under the stars in Cardiff? Make the most of your trip to the movies by discovering a venue that is at least as entertaining as the film you're going to see. Here's our pick of ten of the best quirky cinemas in Britain.

### The Luna Cinema, across Britain

[The Luna Cinema](#) specialises in showing films outdoors, from London parks to country manor houses and ruined castles. Its season runs between May and October, with classic films shown in unusual settings. One of its most popular events in 2016 was a series of screenings of *Jaws* at an outdoor swimming pool, where fans could float in a dinghy while watching the great white shark chomp its way through half the cast - keep an eye on the website for 2017 events.



*The Lunar Cinema shows films at venues including Rochester Castle in Kent © VisitEngland/ Visit Kent*



*The historic Old Market Hall © British Tourist Authority*

### Old Market Hall, Shrewsbury, west England

A cinema with a very rich history, the [Old Market Hall](#) in Shrewsbury dates from the 16th century. Built in 1596, the hall has also served as a courthouse, a venue for cavalry sword instruction and even the setting for a travelling crocodile exhibition. Nowadays it shows blockbusters and independent films, and remains one of the only cinemas in the country that is built on stilts. Shrewsbury is around an hour by road from Birmingham.

### The Screen Machine, Scottish Highlands and Islands

A cinema may be a distance away if you're holidaying in a remote or rural part of Scotland, but if you're lucky one might come to you. [The Screen Machine](#) is an 80-seat, air conditioned mobile cinema showing the latest films. It services around 30 communities in the Highlands and Scotland's western islands, and also makes special appearances at selected film festivals.

### Hot Tub Cinema, various locations

As the name suggests, [Hot Tub Cinema](#) offers you the chance to get out of your clothes, into your swimwear, and into a hot tub (with up to five friends) before settling in to watch a movie. Film offerings have included *Bridesmaids*, *Clueless* and *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas*, with screenings taking place at a range of venues in London, Bristol, Birmingham and Manchester.



*Cheers! Watching a film at the Hot Tub Cinema ©Tub Cinema*

### Lost Lands rooftop cinema, Cardiff, south Wales

If you've got a head for heights, why not enjoy a film courtesy of [Lost Lands](#) in Cardiff? The firm runs outdoor screenings on a rooftop in the Welsh capital city through the summer months, complete with a garden bar, pop-up restaurant and occasionally even its own mini golf course. It specialises in cult classics such as *The Lost Boys* and *The Goonies*, as well as feel-good hits such as *Mamma Mia* and *Dirty Dancing*.



*Traditional: the Kinema in the Woods*

### Kinema in the Woods, Woodhall Spa, Lincolnshire, east England

Still showing movies more than 90 years after opening, [Kinema in the Woods](#) is believed to be Britain's last remaining rear-projection working cinema - it even comes complete with its own Compton Organ that sometimes accompanies the movie with a live musical accompaniment. Set in the Lincolnshire woods, the venue is for those who like an atmospheric setting to watch a film, and time to enjoy it - the cinema still offers an interval midway through screenings.

### The Bournemouth Colosseum, Bournemouth, southern England

Feel like you're getting an exclusive screening at [The Bournemouth Colosseum](#), which claims to be the smallest in Britain. The venue has just 19 seats and is housed below a café offering food

and drinks. The venue hosts a supper club each week, where a two-course meal and film ticket costs just £15 per person.

### Secret Cinema, London

There are times you go to the movies and really feel part of the action and so engrossed in the film it could be real - but can you imagine seeing *The Grand Budapest Hotel* in a hotel you can wander around, bell-boys and maids dressed in the trademark purple of the actual film handing you drinks? Since 2007, founder of [Secret Cinema](#) Fabien Riggall has been creating elaborate site-specific cinematic events: for *Lawrence of Arabia*, cinemagoers

could enter an entire souk, complete with six camels, 15 horses and 60 actors. Other grand productions have included *Back To The Future*, and *Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back*.

### **BFI Imax, London**

The [BFI Imax](#) near Waterloo station in London takes the title of Britain's biggest cinema screen. It's a massive 26 metres wide by 20 metres high - to put that in perspective, that's almost as high as five double-decker buses stacked on top of each other. The screen hosts a plethora of the latest blockbusters, with 3D showings providing a particularly immersive experience.



*Britain's biggest: the BFI Imax © VisitBritain/ Britain on View*

### **The Hippodrome, Bo'ness, eastern Scotland**

[The Hippodrome](#) is Scotland's oldest purpose-built picture house. Built in 1911, it also originally hosted visiting circus troupes, but quickly moved in to showing films full-time. It served time as a bingo club, before being shut to the public for more than 30 years, but has now been reopened and restored. As well as screenings of the latest films it also runs a sell-out silent film festival in March each year. As well as the expected pianists, films are accompanied by a wide range of musicians - 2016 featured a rockabilly quartet.

## Film and TV calendar

Year-round in Britain, you can enjoy events that celebrate the power of the cinema, from major film festivals to quirky screenings. All dates provided are for 2017.

### **Wales One World** (March, date TBC)

WOW Film Festival Director David Gillam handpicks the films that feature on the programme of Wales One World, the annual showcase of eclectic, intriguing and moving films from across the globe. The [fortnight-long festival](#) takes place in Cardiff and Swansea in south Wales, Aberystwyth in west Wales, and Mold in north Wales.

### **Belfast Film Festival** (30 March - 8 April)

[The BFF](#) was launched in 1995 and sets itself apart from traditional film festivals thanks to fantastic site-specific screenings. These have included the prison drama *Cool Hand Luke* shown in Crumlin Road Jail, high-school comedy *The Breakfast Club* screened in Christchurch Library and *Jaws* in a swimming pool!

### **The Luna Cinema** (May - October)

Travelling across Britain, [The Luna Cinema](#) screens classic movies in the open air at venues including castles - Lincoln, Rochester and Leeds to name a few - stately homes, racecourses and botanic gardens. Regulars on the bill include *Love Actually*, *Top Gun*, *Grease* and *Titanic*.

### **Edinburgh International Film Festival** (21 June - 2 July)

First held in the Scottish capital in 1947 and thus the world's oldest continuously-running film festival, the [Edinburgh International Film Festival](#) attracts the very best in international cinema; movies including *The Hurt Locker*, *An Inconvenient Truth*, *Man on Wire* and *Billy Elliot* have had their premieres here.

### **Film4 Summer Screen at Somerset House** (August, date TBC)

For two weeks every summer, the splendid [Somerset House](#) in central London forms the backdrop to open-air cinema screenings, with everything from red-carpet premieres to cult classics and musicals on the programme. Pack a picnic and enjoy cinema under the stars.

### **Cambridge Film Festival** (August / September, date TBC)

Around 45 minutes from London by rail is Cambridge, best-known for its university but also a cultural hub in the east of England. The city puts on an [annual film festival](#) which, in 1996 selected a student short for its programme by a then unknown Christopher Nolan - he went on to direct films including *The Dark Knight* and *Inception*.

### **The Iris Prize** (10-15 October)

Cardiff plays host to this [six-day celebration](#) of LGBT film, with screenings of 35 short films that compete for the Iris Prize, plus 15 short films contending for the Best British Iris Prize.

There are also screenings of feature films, retrospectives and a fabulous awards show to close the event.

#### **BFI London Film Festival** (October, date TBC)

The UK's [highest-profile film festival](#) hosts glittering world premieres and welcomes many A-list celebrities to its red carpet. The programme is packed with diverse films from around the world: 2016 was the festival's 60th edition and saw movie-lovers attend 193 fiction and 52 documentary features. Screenings take place across the capital, with many in the BFI on London's South Bank.

#### **Bath Film Festival** (November, date TBC)

The south-western town of Bath hosts a [quirky festival](#), with features, documentaries, family films, shorts and a special focus on 'F-Rated films', which either have a female director, are written by a woman, or have significant female characters.

#### **Foyle Film Festival** (November, date TBC)

Derry~Londonderry, in Northern Ireland, hosts this [annual celebration of independent films](#), features, documentaries and short films. The festival has attracted acclaimed directors and actors over the past 28 years including Kenneth Branagh, Danny Boyle and Andrea Arnold, with venues across the buzzing city hosting screenings. Derry~Londonderry is 70 miles (112km) from Belfast.

### **Awards and major festivals**

Watch out for film and TV stories around these major events.

#### **National Television Awards** (25 January)

Stars from shows like *Doctor Who* and *Downton Abbey* have graced the red carpet at [this glitzy do](#), held at The O2 in London and billed as 'the biggest night in British TV'.

#### **British Academy Film Awards** (12 February)

AKA [the BAFTAs](#), or the 'British Oscars'. With iconic bronze masks as the prizes, these starry awards are held at central London's Royal Opera House. 2016 saw British actors Kate Winslet and Mark Rylance scoop top prizes.

#### **British Independent Film Awards** (December, date TBC)

Kicking off the awards season each year is the [British Independent Film Awards](#), which sees the best of British filmmaking talent - an arena that's growing each year - recognised, and often has people making early BAFTA and Academy Award predictions.

## Eight of the best: TV shows shot in Britain

Britain has a longstanding love affair with its classic TV shows. Spanning across the centuries and galaxies they range from the historical, to the fantastical and out of this world, but one thing they all have in common: their immersive sets are all in Britain!



*Shore of Loch Rannoch, Grampian Mountains, Scotland © British Tourist Authority*

### 1) *Outlander*

Based on the historical time travel series of novels by Diana Gabaldon, the British-American TV series *Outlander* follows the adventures of a World War Two nurse who finds herself transported back to [Scotland](#) in 1743 during the Jacobite risings. The series takes full advantage of some of Scotland's most scenic and rural landscapes. Catch a glimpse of [Doune Castle](#), admire the scenery of [East Lothian](#) or catch the shimmering waters of [Loch Rannoch](#). Other locations include [Stirling](#),

[Newtonmore](#) in the Scottish Highlands and Rothiemurchus Forest.

**Getting there:** Scotland has its own international airports - fly there direct, or from London (flights take around an hour).

### 2) *Poldark*

Captain Ross Poldark has taken Britain by storm in the hit TV series where he fights to regain control of his birthright after returning from the American War of Independence. Take a trip to [Cornwall](#) in south-west England and discover one of its local treasures, and no, we don't mean actor Aidan Turner who plays the iconic role! Cornwall once thrived on its mines, which are now a Cornish Mining World Heritage Site. As well as visiting the [Poldark Mines](#), stop by at [Charlestown Harbour](#), [Gunwalloe Church Cove](#) and [Porthgwarra](#), all of which have been used in filming.



*Ruin of Wheal Coates Tin Mine in St Agnes, Cornwall © Visit Cornwall, Adam Gibbard*

**Getting there:** Cornwall is five hours by train from London.

### 3) *Doctor Who*

A must for any Doctor Who fan is the [Doctor Who Experience](#) in Cardiff Bay, Wales, where ever-pursuing Daleks and invading Cybermen can be found, along with the triumphant Doctors of course. Housed just a stone's throw from the BBC studios where the majority of the show is filmed, visitors can take a journey into the past and discover 50 years of the Doctor's adventures through space and time. Get all of the behind the scenes secrets and see the world's largest collection of props, sets and costumes, which have all been used in the iconic TV show.



*The Doctor Who Experience, Cardiff, Wales*

**Getting there:** Cardiff is a two-hour journey from London by train.

### 4) *Hinterland/ Y Gwyll*

A crime series that's so good they film it twice - once entirely in Welsh, and once in English and Welsh. The drama has attracted critical and international acclaim, with season three airing in 2017. The show is shot in the Ceredigion region of mid-Wales, in and around the coastal town of Aberystwyth. Start your journey at the ominously-named but rather beautiful Devil's Bridge, which featured in the very first episode of the show - why not travel there on the [Vale of Rheidol Railway](#)?

**Getting there:** Aberystwyth is around two hours 30 minutes by road from Cardiff.



*The Royal Opera House, London, England ©VisitBritain, Britain on View*

### 5) *Sherlock*

Become a detective and see if you can sleuth out these London filming locations used in the *Sherlock* series. While it doesn't actually exist, the exterior of Sherlock's famous residence 221B Baker Street can be found on North Gower Street; take a peek next door at Speedy's Sandwich Bar and Café which has been featured numerous times, and even serves a Sherlock Wrap. Take a look at the [Royal Opera House](#), a favourite haunt of Sherlock's, or stop by and watch a

performance at the [Lyceum Theatre](#) where meetings took place in Holmes novel *The Sign of Four*. Do your own research like Sherlock at the [British Museum](#), or head to [The Tower of London](#) and see the crown jewels, where Moriarty famously played royal dress up.

**Getting there:** all the locations included are in London, and can be easily reached by the London underground.

### 6) *Call the Midwife*

This popular drama follows a group of midwives in the 1950s and 1960s. Although its on-screen setting is London, head to [Chatham Historic Dockyard](#) in Kent to take a behind the scenes tour of some of the most notable filming spots. As you explore the 80-acre dockyard you will begin to recognise some of the streets and buildings that you've seen on screen.

**Getting there:** Kent is in the south-east of England, and is an hour from London by train.

### 7) *Midsomer Murders*

A longstanding British favourite! Join DCI John Barnaby in the idyllic but deadly villages of the fictional county of Midsomer, as he unravels the clues to solve a series of murders in the area. Filmed in the picturesque counties of Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire there's plenty of locations to investigate on your detective journey. Fans should stop by at [Wallingford](#), which is 'Causton' in the series, or by the picturesque [Chinnor Station](#), which acts as Holm Lane Junction and is served by a heritage railway. Make sure you don't miss [Mapledurham Estate](#), which has doubled as a murder location on more than one occasion.



*Riverside pub, Wallingford, Oxfordshire, England - © VisitEngland, Oxfordshire*

**Getting there:** Buckinghamshire is a 75-minute train journey from London. Oxfordshire is one hour and 40 minutes by train from London.

### 8) *The Fall*

This crime drama saw DSI Stella Gibson (Gillian Anderson) pitting her wits against serial killer Paul Spector (Jamie Dornan). The series was shot in Belfast in Northern Ireland - take a trip to the [Botanic Gardens](#) in the city centre, a favourite spot for Spector and his young daughter. Dating from the 1800s, the gardens feature a huge palm house and a tropical ravine, which is currently undergoing a multi-million pound restoration.

**Getting there:** Belfast is situated on the east coast of Northern Ireland and is served by flights into Belfast International Airport and George Best Belfast City Airport.

## Across the Narrow Sea: *Game of Thrones* in Britain

Before *Game of Thrones*' penultimate season begins in summer 2017, explore the British castles, caves, mountains and moorland where the show's cameras have rolled.

A huge number of themed *Game of Thrones* experiences, from half-day to one-week options, have been compiled by [Discover Northern Ireland](#). Among them are self-guided walks, cycles, coach tours, cruises, glamping breaks and themed banquets.

### NORTHERN IRELAND

#### Castle Ward

The most recurrent location is [Castle Ward](#), a slightly-forbidding 18th-century country house overlooking the lake of Strangford Lough. Why? Because its grounds, courtyard and clocktower constantly doubled as Winterfell during seasons one and two. Visitors can fire arrows and adorn Stark costumes beside a Winterfell set replica, before strolling the impressive sunken gardens or following bike trails.



*Castle Ward in Downpatrick, Northern Ireland*

**Getting there:** Castle Ward is an hour's drive south-east of Belfast.



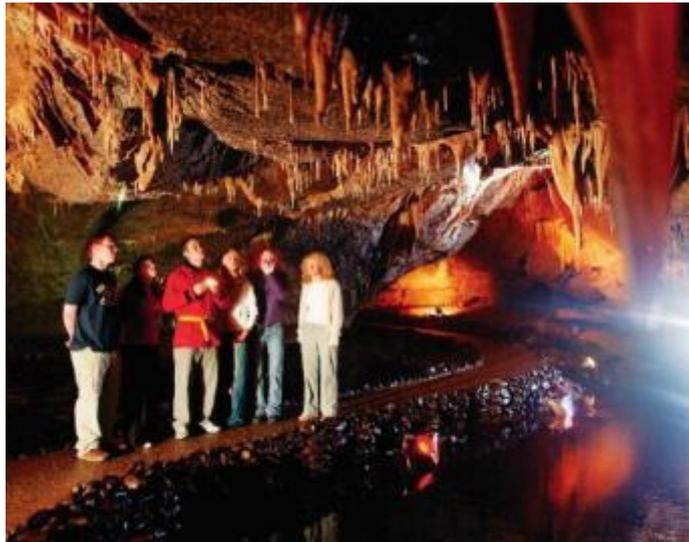
*Tollymore Forest Park in Newcastle, Northern Ireland*

#### Tollymore Forest Park

Remember the Haunted Forest, where Ned and kids stumble upon direwolf pups in the show's inaugural episode? That's [Tollymore Forest Park](#), a riot of redwoods which also witnessed Theon Greyjoy's capture by the 'Bastard of Bolton', Ramsay Snow in season three. Luckily you'll be free to follow beckoning hiking trails toward the surrounding Shimma River and Mourne Mountains - which also inspired author CS Lewis to create Narnia.

**Getting there:** The drive from Belfast takes just over an hour, mainly using the A24 and A2.

**Marble Arch Caves Global Geopark**  
Occupying Northern Ireland's far southwestern corner and open March-October, the [Marble Arch Caves](#) are a spectacular, extensive underworld of rivers, cascades and stalactites. A show cavern can be visited, but Throners might prefer to view the Geopark's less-subterranean Pollnagollum Cave from a raised platform, as that's where Sandor bloodily rumbles the Brotherhood Without Banners' hideout in season three.



*Marble Arch Caves, Global Geopark, Florencecourt, Northern Ireland*

**Getting there:** The caves are a two-hour drive from Belfast.

### **Carncastle**

Remember the Game of Thrones pilot? In it, Ned Stark beheads a deserter from The Wall on a vast, windswept plain. Cameras portrayed that scene on moorland near the sleepy village of Carncastle, and then used the same spot in later seasons to evoke ruined Moat Cailin - where Sansa reluctantly consents to marry Ramsay Bolton. After reliving it all, warm up over a [Game of Thrones Afternoon Tea](#) at nearby Ballygally Castle Hotel. The menu includes Winterfell Jaffa Cakes and there are views of Scotland on clear days.

**Getting there:** Carncastle's found just north of Larne, which is a 30-minute drive up the A8 from Belfast.



*Downhill Beach, County Londonderry, Northern Ireland*

### **Downhill Beach**

This wild north-coast stretch of beautiful, butterscotch-coloured sand is overlooked by circular, eerily-isolated [Mussenden Temple](#), part of a neighbouring National Trust estate. [Downhill Beach](#) is also where the red priestess Melisandre and Stannis Baratheon burn the Seven Idols of Westeros before drawing a sword from the flames to thrillingly kick off season two. Visitors can horse-ride along the strand.

**Getting there:** The coastal - and refreshment-filled - town of Castlerock, a mile away, is served by trains from Belfast, which take 70 minutes.

## Ballintoy

Twenty miles (32 kilometres) to the east is [Ballintoy Harbour](#), a tiny, photogenic fishing settlement. In seasons two, three and six it became Pyke, the Greyjoy's castle within the Iron Islands. Their fortress is super-imposed but Ballintoy is very recognisable as the fictional town of Lordsport - especially the moment when Theon returns home from Winterfell and first meets sister Yara. Relive it all, then sip a mug of tea in the charming [Red Door Tea Room](#).



*Ballintoy Harbour, Ballintoy, Northern Ireland*

**Getting there:** Driving north from Belfast along the A26 and A44, getting to Ballintoy will take 70 minutes.



*The Dark Hedges, Ballymoney, Northern Ireland*

## The Dark Hedges

Complete with an appropriately Thrones-esque name, this dense beech-tree avenue was designed by the local Stuart family to impress anyone visiting their Gracehill House. On screen it became part of the mammoth Kingsroad, seen as a heavily-disguised Arya Stark flees King's Landing - futilely, as it turns out. Try to arrive early to enjoy [the avenue](#) in relative seclusion.

**Getting there:** The Dark Hedges are located on Bregagh Road, near Gracehill Golf Club and a few miles north of Stranocum. Belfast is an hour's drive to the south.

## SCOTLAND

### Doune Castle

Scotland had the briefest taste of life as a Game of Thrones location when this medieval stronghold depicted Winterfell in the show's pilot episode, before being usurped by Castle Ward. Open all year, [Doune](#) has previously appeared on big screens in *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*.

**Getting there:** Doune Castle is found near Stirling in Central Scotland, 30 miles north-west of Edinburgh and is most easily accessible by road.

## Royals on screen: *Victoria* and *The Crown*

A new lavish costume drama about the life of Queen Victoria, one of Britain's best-known and longest-reigning monarchs, will air internationally from January 2017. *Victoria* follows the life of the queen, whose reign spanned 63 years between 1837 and 1901. Also airing is *The Crown*; the Netflix series is said to be one of the most expensive TV productions ever made, and follows the story of Her Majesty The Queen, Queen Elizabeth II, in her accession to the throne, and as a young monarch faced with a country in the depths of turbulent post-war Britain.

Discover the regal and iconic locations across Britain used in the filming of these royal series.



*View of Harewood House from the Terrace Garden, Yorkshire, England - c. Thomas Heaton, VisitEngland*

### *Victoria*

Walk in Queen Victoria's footsteps at Harewood House, Yorkshire, north England

[Harewood House](#) was graced by Queen Victoria for a royal visit in 1835, and is currently lived in by one of her direct descendants. With more royal connections than you can shake a sceptre at it's easy to see why the house was chosen as one of the key filming locations for *Victoria*. Explore its breathtaking Lancelot 'Capability'

Brown landscaped gardens, take tea in the idyllic Terrace Tearooms, or enjoy a turn around the Cinnamon Drawing Room. Between March and October 2017 explore *Victoria - a costume exhibition*, showcasing the elegant costumes worn by star Jenna Coleman. It will also provide a behind the scenes look at filming, and secrets on how the rooms were transformed into sets.

**Getting there:** Harewood House is located in Yorkshire, England, and is a 25-minute drive from the city of Leeds.

### Greet your subjects at Castle Howard, Yorkshire, north England

Set within 1,000 acres of stunning landscape, the 18th-century residence has been looked after by the Howard family for more than 300 years. A house fit for a queen, the magnificent [Castle Howard](#) was used in the filming of *Victoria* and stood in as Kensington Palace, the home of the young Victoria. Greet your subjects in the Great Hall after striding along the South Front Corridor; don't forget to stop by at



*Castle Howard in Yorkshire, England © Chris J Parker, VisitEngland*

the Long Gallery before discovering the Museum Room, all of which were used in filming.

**Getting there:** Castle Howard is near York in north England. Driving from York would take around 30 minutes.

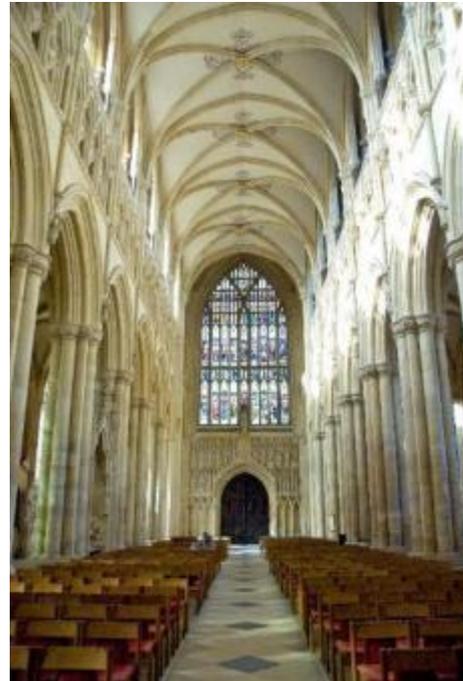
### Discover Westminster Abbey in East Yorkshire, north England

Head to East Yorkshire and the town of Beverley and you'll spot the spectacular [Beverley Minster](#). This beautiful and unexpectedly sizeable church filled in for Westminster Abbey in *Victoria* for the wedding scenes. Discover the beautiful Minster and explore the quaint town of Beverley, bustling with boutique shops and cute cafés.

**Getting there:** Beverley is in East Yorkshire and is a four-hour drive from London.

### Immerse yourself in history at Whitby Harbour, North Yorkshire, north England

Head to the north of Yorkshire and discover the seaside town of [Whitby](#). The ancient and idyllic sea port played a starring role in the TV series *Victoria*, and it's easy to see why; this quaint town is surrounded by the countryside of the North York Moors National Park and is dotted with fishing villages such as Staithes and Robin Hood's bay, perfect for immersing yourself in a bygone era.



*The Interiors of Beverley Minster, in Beverley, East Yorkshire, England © Diana Jarvis, VisitEngland*

**Getting there:** located in North Yorkshire, Whitby is a five-hour drive from London.

### *The Crown*



*The gardens of Hatfield House, Hatfield House, Hertfordshire, England © VisitBritain, Rod Edwards*

### Witness where queens are born at Hatfield House, Hertfordshire, England

Aside from the glorious main house, this grand location oozes royalty with its surrounding deer park and ancient Old Palace, once owned by King Henry VIII. This Tudor building was formerly a regal home, and is the spot where King Henry's three children were raised, including Queen Elizabeth I. These days [Hatfield House](#) is home to the 7th Marquis and Marchioness of Salisbury.

**Getting there:** Hatfield House is a 70-minute drive from London.



## Ely Cathedral

[Ely Cathedral](#) was founded in 672 AD, with the current building dating back to 1083. Used in the filming of *The Crown*, spectacular and overwhelmingly historic location stood in for Westminster Abbey for the wedding day scenes of Queen Elizabeth and Prince Phillip. Take a trip to the beautiful cathedral, and you'll discover how the series makers transformed The West Porch, Nave, and High Altar into London's most famous abbey. The regal location has also starred in *The Other Boleyn Girl*, *Elizabeth: The Golden Age*, and *The King's Speech*.

**Getting there:** Ely is located in Cambridge, a two-hour drive from London.

## Slains Castle and Cruden Bay, Aberdeenshire, Scotland

*View of Ely Cathedral, Ely, England © VisitEngland, James Kerr*

Standing on a cliff are the ruins of

top overlooking the North Sea,

[Slains Castle](#). This enchanting castle was once ruled by the powerful Clan Hay, and in its prime was a Scots Baronial Mansion with three gardens. Used in the *The Crown* the hauntingly beautiful spot is the perfect reason to explore Scotland's rugged, wild coastline, steeped in its own history. It is often said that the castle was the inspiration for Bram Stoker's *Dracula*. Make sure to stop at [Cruden Bay](#), also used for scenes in the Netflix series.

**Getting there:** Cruden Bay is less than a four-hour drive from Edinburgh. Edinburgh is an hour flight from London.

## [Downton Abbey: live like a Crawley](#)

One of the most successful British TV dramas of all time, *Downton Abbey's* sumptuous depiction of the quintessentially British aristocratic lifestyle of yesteryear delights fans from start to finish. If watching the show makes you dream of magnificent stately homes and settling down to an afternoon tea, you don't need a time machine to indulge in fantasy. From film locations to flapper parties, relive the drama and the historical magic by immersing yourself in some of Britain's best Downton-esque locations and experiences.

### **Choose your eveningwear**

The show's stunning costumes beautifully showcase fashion through the decades. Pick out your favourite historic fashion pieces as you journey through the permanent fashion collection at London's [V&A Museum](#) in South Kensington. It's the largest and most comprehensive collection of dress in the world, covering five centuries and including rare 17th-century gowns and 1930s couture eveningwear.



*Downton's Dame Maggie Smith in impeccable period costume  
©Carnival Films and Television. Photographer Nick Briggs*

### **Dine like an aristocrat**

Enjoy a traditional British meal like Lady Edith and Lady Mary at London's oldest real-life restaurant, [Rules](#), located in Covent Garden. The interior decoration looks just like it did 100 years ago, which has made it a popular filming location. It features in *Downton Abbey* twice - firstly in 1920 when Edith goes to London to meet Michael Gregson to consider writing for his magazine, and again in 1924 when Lady Mary suggests a luncheon outing before Rose's wedding. The iconic restaurant also features in the 2015 Bond film, *Spectre*.



*Party goes at a Candlelight Club 1920s party in London*

### **Party like Lady Rose**

After dinner, why not get dressed up to the nines and enjoy a night out in London like fun-loving Lady Rose? She is dazzled by the capital's jazz bars and today's nightlife is no less exciting. Book a table at world-famous [Ronnie Scott's](#), where you'll feel like you've stumbled upon a hidden world. Or for true 1920s immersion, don your flapper dress for one of London's best authentic Jazz Age experiences in the form of [The Candlelight Club](#) or [Prohibition 1920s](#). The dress

code is strict - think top hats for the chaps and pearls for the girls - as you sip cocktails from a teacup and whirl around to the Charleston. Locations for these two 1920s pop-up events remain secret until you purchase your tickets online.

### Try aristocratic outdoor pursuits in the country

Lady Mary is no shrinking violet when it comes to outdoor pursuits - remember her horse riding with the ill-fated Turkish diplomat in the first series? Horse lovers can book into chic [Coworth Park](#) in Berkshire, south-east England. This grand 17th-century mansion and polo estate is located just 45 minutes from central London by train or car. Saddle up on one of the hotel's well-trained steeds and gallop through the extensive grounds. Novice riders can take basic lessons, while the more experienced can try dressage and jumping. The hotel's spa is the perfect place to soothe any tired post-ride muscles.



*Fit for a Crawley: Coworth Park's afternoon tea*

Another country retreat fit for a Crawley is [Llangoed Hall](#), located on the edge of the lush Brecon Beacons National Park in Wales. One of the cosiest and most romantic destinations in Wales, Dowager Violet Crawley would no doubt approve of the hotel's afternoon tea, enjoyed in front of roaring fires in the Morning Room. Clay pigeon shooting - an activity that will make you feel like a *Downton Abbey* extra - can be arranged on request.



*Visit the set of the Crawley Christmas at Alnwick Castle*

### A Crawley castle Christmas

[Alnwick Castle](#) in Northumberland, north-east England, stars as the magnificent Brancaster Castle in both the 2014 and 2015 *Downton Abbey* Christmas specials. Its medieval architecture and sumptuous Italianate interiors made it the perfect lavish location for the Crawley family's shooting party. Alnwick is the second largest inhabited castle in Britain, second only to Windsor Castle, and has been home to the Duke of

Northumberland's family for more than 700 years.

The castle's State Rooms are home to one of the finest private art collections in the country and were used by the cast and crew during filming in July and August 2014. Visitors to Alnwick Castle can explore a behind-the-scenes *Downton Abbey* exhibition.

Another castle featuring in the series is Lady Rose's Scottish family home, Duneagle Castle, actually filmed at [Inveraray Castle](#), located around 60 miles from Glasgow. Visitors

can explore the castle's beautiful architecture and the historic artefacts before exploring one of the many walks and avenues of the surrounding Argyll Estate.



*The stunning North York Moors.  
Credit: VisitBritain / Welcome to Yorkshire*

### Retreat to Yorkshire

While Downton Abbey is a fictional estate, in the show it is situated close to the villages of Ripon and Thirsk in the very real county of [Yorkshire](#), one of the prettiest pockets of England. Home to the Yorkshire Dales National Park, it's where some of the most scenic cycling and walking routes in Britain are located.

Roam the Crawley's lavish family home [Highclere Castle](#) in Berkshire, south-east England, is the real-life Victorian castle that plays the role of Downton Abbey,

set amid 1,000 acres of parkland. The actual residents are the Earl and Countess of Carnarvon, whose family have lived on the site since 1679. Make a trip over Easter or during summer when the castle is open to visitors and truly step into Downton life. Take tea at the café, stroll the garden pensively just like Lady Mary, Edith or Sybil, and admire the sumptuous bedrooms, many of which have been used during filming. Highclere Castle is located about an hour and a half away from London by train. Browse the [VisitBritain Shop](#) for tours of the surrounding Cotswolds, and look out for the Brit Rail passes to get you there.

### Go behind the scenes

For a truly immersive encounter with the hit TV series, Brit Movie Tours offers a [Downton Abbey Experience](#). Small group tours can hear anecdotes about the cast, filming and production, as they take in all of the main filming locations featured in the show, all while having the chance to experience aspects of Edwardian aristocratic life first-hand.



*Highclere Castle in all its Crawley glory...*