

Drive Great Britain

DRIVING GUIDE



...driving since 1988

Welcome

THE SELF-DRIVE SPECIALISTS

Welcome!

Thank you for downloading our Great Britain Self-drive Guide. As you're likely to be in the planning stage for your next holiday, with the help of our Tourism Partners, we've put together a selection of driving itineraries, along with suggested key attractions to visit along the way.

Here at DriveAway Holidays, we believe that there's no better way to experience freedom than by taking a self-drive holiday. As the leading specialist in Australia offering worldwide car hire and motorhome rentals, find the best deals from world-leading suppliers with the expertise and knowledge of our team; and take the road to freedom on your next self-drive holiday!

Drive Safely,

The DriveAway Holidays Team

Contents

UK DISCOVERY



Take a self-drive holiday in Britain	4
Renting a car in Britain	5
Frequently Asked Questions	6
Rental Vehicle Insurance	7
Driving in Britain	8
Regions & Cities of Britain	10
London	11
Southeast England	13
Southwest England	15
East England	17
The East Midlands	19
The West Midlands	21
Northwest England	23
Yorkshire & the Humber	25
Northeast England	27
Scotland	30
Wales	32
Stay Healthy and Stay Safe	34
Money Matters	35
DriveAway Holidays Summary	36

Why Self-Drive

IN THE UK



Renowned for its rich heritage, medieval castles and beautiful natural landscapes, Britain has become one of the most sought-after destinations for the independent traveller. There are many cities and towns that the UK has to offer with each destination featuring their own fascinating attractions. What better way to discover a land steeped in history than in your own car hire, at your own pace.

The United Kingdom is the ideal location for a self drive holiday. With a fantastic road network connecting cities, towns and villages, you can travel around England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland in your car hire, and see as little or as much as you like. Design your own self-drive tour that suits you and interests you, DriveAway Holidays are committed to providing you with outstanding service to assist you in making your self-drive tour in the UK memorable.



Renting A Car

IN BRITAIN



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

Collecting at an Airport in Britian

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

ACRIS Car Rental Identification Codes

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

Renting A Car

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



Do I need a credit card?

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

Can I choose between Automatic and Manual Transmissions?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

What is the UK Congestion Zone/Charge?

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

Insurance

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW...

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

Car Rental Companies in Britain will normally include:

- Third Party Insurance: Compulsory insurance and will be included in your car hire price. This covers you for other people's injury and damage to their vehicle.
- Collision Damage Waiver (CDW): This limits your financial liability for damage to the rented vehicle and is normally included in prepaid car hire prices. Rentals are normally subject to liability excess, which can be reduced at the time you collect your rental car or by taking out DriveAway Hire Car Excess Refund Protection.
- Theft and Loss Cover: This limits your financial liability for the loss or theft of the rented vehicle and is generally included in the prepaid car rental price.
- Fire and Liability: Limits your financial liability for bodily injury or death, and is normally included in the prepaid car hire price.
- Personal Accident Insurance: This covers the driver for personal injuries and is generally not included in your car rental rate. It is considered an optional extra that you can take out upon collection of the car.

DriveAway Hire Car Excess Refund Protection

When renting a vehicle, the rental rates include basic insurance, however, in the event that the vehicle is stolen or accidentally damaged, there is usually an excess amount which the driver is liable to pay to the rental company. To avoid any unexpected costs opt for DriveAway Hire Car Excess Refund Protection which will offer a reimbursement for the supplier's damage and theft excess to a maximum for AU\$5,000. Simply add this onto your car rental booking prior to departure and you could save thousands of dollars in the long run! To find out more, simply call DriveAway on 1300 656 601 or visit our website.



**EXCESS
REFUND
PROTECTION**



- Pre-Paid product
- For only AUD\$13.50 per day
- Paid in Australian dollars
- Claim up to AUD \$5,000

Call 1300 363 500
Visit www.driveaway.com.au

DriveAway Holidays has procured an insurance policy covering our financial exposure to this Car Hire Excess Refund Protection through syndicate underwriters at Lloyd's of London.

Driving

IN THE UK...



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

Driving Laws in Britain

Unless otherwise indicated, the speed limits in Britain are:

- **Built up areas:** 30mph
- **Country roads:** 40-50mph
- **Single Carriageways:** 60mph
- **Dual Carriageways:** 70mph
- **Motorways:** 70mph

Seat belts: You and your passengers must wear a seat belt at all times, including children over the age of 12.

Child Safety: Children must be properly secured in an appropriate child safety seat:

- **Under 3 years:**
- **Up to 13kgs (birth to 9-12months):** Rear- facing baby seat.
- **9-18kgs (9 months to 4 yrs):** Forward facing child seat.
- **15-25kgs (4-6yrs) or 15kgs and up:** Forward facing child seat or booster seats.
- **22-36kgs (6yrs and up):** Forward facing child seat or booster cushions.
- **Up to 11 years and under 135cm:** Must be seated in a child seat booster cushion or seat.
- **12 years up:** Seat belt must be worn.

It is illegal to talk on a mobile phone while driving in Britain.

Motorcyclists must wear a helmet.

Park only where it's permitted. Check to see if there's parking meters where you will have to 'pay and display' the parking receipt on your car's dashboard. Otherwise you run the risk of heavy fines and clamping in major cities.

Driving IN THE UK



Licence Requirements

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

Min & Max Age Requirements

Min Driving Age: Usually 21; however in some regions the minimum age is 25. **Young Driver's Surcharge:** Drivers aged 21-24 years may be charged from £30+tax per day.

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

Parking

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

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

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

Road Tolls

There are barely any toll roads in the UK, however some bridges charge a toll fee for crossing. A 43km (27-mile) stretch of the M6 motorway in the Birmingham area is a toll-paying highway, known as the M6 Toll. They currently charge car drivers 4-6GBP for using the road, depending on the time of day and the day of the week. Tolls can be paid in cash, credit cards or and electronic tag linked with an account. Check with the supplier upon collection for additional information and procedures.

UK REGIONS & CITIES

CONTENTS:

LONDON

SOUTHEAST ENGLAND

SOUTHWEST ENGLAND

EAST ENGLAND

THE EAST MIDLANDS

THE WEST MIDLANDS

NORTHWEST ENGLAND

YORKSHIRE & THE HUMBER

NORTHEAST ENGLAND

SCOTLAND

WALES



London

THE UK'S CAPITAL



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

Events

JANUARY

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

London Boat Show - Europe's first boat show.

FEBRUARY

Chinese New Year celebrations - Held throughout February.

MARCH

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

APRIL

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

The London Marathon - The worlds largest marathon.

MAY

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

JUNE

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

City of London Festival - Held over 3 weeks.

JULY

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

AUGUST

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

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

SEPTEMBER

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

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

OCTOBER

London Film Festival - Screening more than 300 features.

Battle of Trafalgar Square Festival

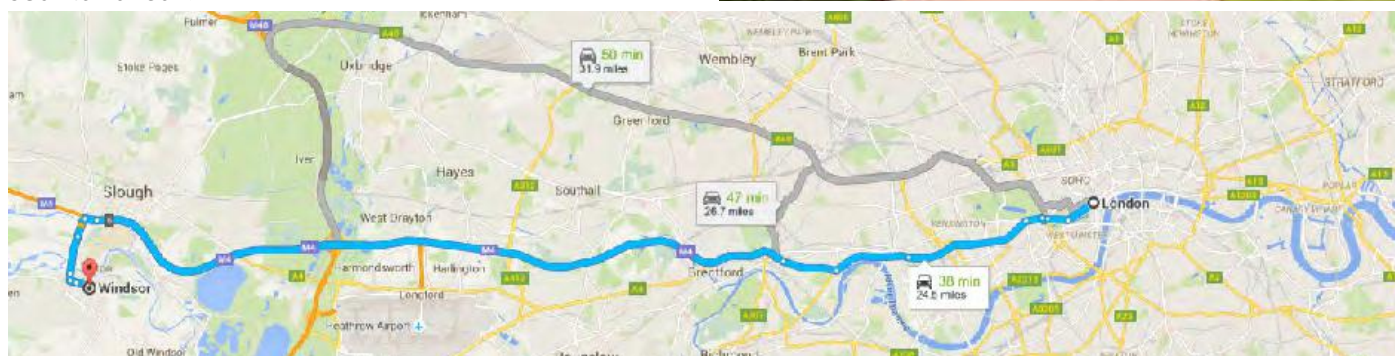
NOVEMBER

Christmas Lighting Ceremony - Held throughout London.

Self-Drive Tours From London

London to Windsor

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



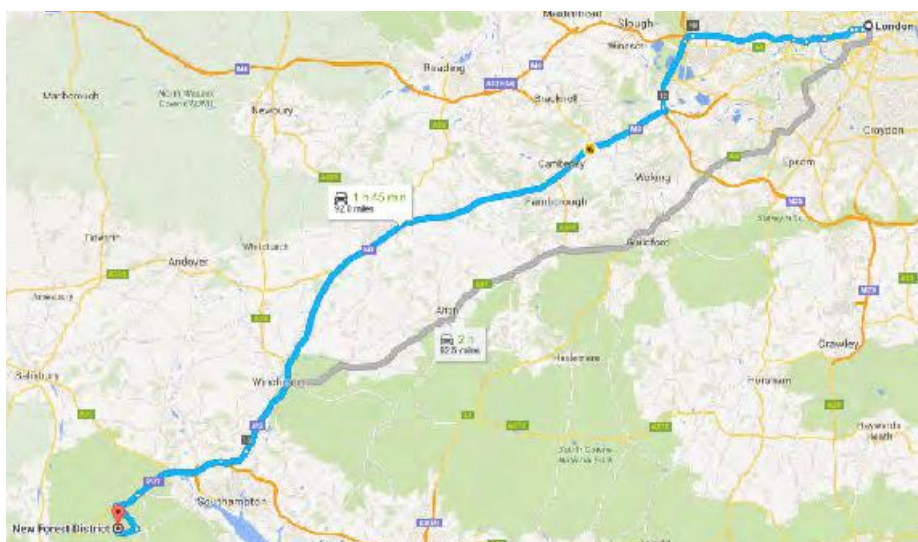
ATTRACTIONS

- » The London Eye
- » Westminster Abbey
- » New Forest Wildlife Park
- » Hurst Castle
- » Legoland
- » Savill Garden
- » The Big Ben

London to New Forest

To get to the New Forest District from London, take the M3 directly out of London and then head along the M27. The drive will take you approximately an hour and a half. Once you get there, visit the New Forest National Park which is the smallest National Park in Britain, stroll through the historic streets of Hythe Village or visit Calshot Castle.

If you're looking for something slightly more adventurous, why not head to the New Forest Water Park.



Southeast England

CLIFFS, COTTAGES & CASTLES



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

Events

FEBRUARY

Brighton & Hove Half Marathon

MARCH

Oxford Literary Festival, Oxford.

Easter festivals, Canterbury – Held over March & April.

Torpids Rowing Race, Oxford – College rowing race.

Brighton and Hove Food and Drink Festival.

APRIL

Brighton Marathon

MAY

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

Canterbury Half Marathon

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

JUNE

Classic Car Run, Brighton.

Cowley Road Carnival, Oxford – Oxford's largest Festival.

Stour Festival, Canterbury – 10 day music festival

JULY

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

AUGUST

Reading Festival, Berkshire – International music festival.

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

SEPTEMBER

Windsor Festival – Annual festival held over 7 days.

Hop Hoodening, Kent – Traditional English festival.

OCTOBER

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

Canterbury Festival - Held in Kent.

NOVEMBER

Veteran Car Run - Brighton

Bonfire Night – Held beginning of November across southeast England.

DECEMBER

Burning the Clocks, Brighton – Winter solstice event.

Self-Drive Tours from Southeast England

Brighton to Portsmouth

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

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



ATTRACTIONS

- » Royal Pavillion Brighton
- » Brighton Peir
- » The Novium Chichester
- » Southsea Castle Portsmouth
- » University of Oxford
- » Fitzwilliam Museum Cambridge



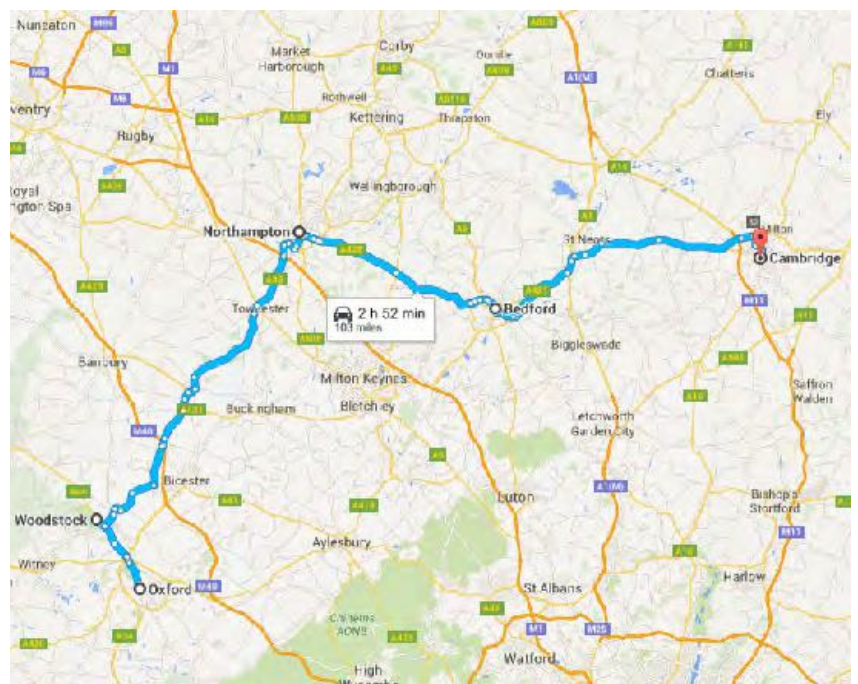
Portsmouth Dockyard



Oxford University

Tour The Colleges

Follow this drive to see England's two most famous universities, Oxford and Cambridge. Begin in Oxford, where you'll be able to tour the university and its extensive grounds. Head north on the A44, stopping off in the small town of Woodstock, which is home to the stately home of Blenheim Palace and is open to the public. Drive north east along to the town of Northampton, which is home to the Guildhall and holds one of Britain's oldest markets as well as having its own university. From Northampton follow the A428 through Bedford and onto Cambridge. This wonderful town is home to Kings College, Queens College and Trinity colleges, to name a few. Explore the colleges, as well as the beautiful parks and gardens, many museums and churches.



Southwest England

COASTLINE AND COUNTRYSIDE



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

Events

MARCH

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

APRIL

Classic Cars on the Prom - Seafront, Bournemouth.

MAY

Salisbury International Arts Festival

Bath Dance Festival – Held in Bath.

Mayfest - Bristol.

Dragonboat Regatta - Gloucester.

Cheese-Rolling Race - Gloucestershire.

JUNE

Glastonbury Festival, Somerset – World famous music festival

Exmouth Summer Festival

SEPTEMBER

Jane Austin Festival – Bath.

Cornwall Food & Drink Festival– Lemon Quay, Truro.

OCTOBER

British National Surfing Championships – Fistral Beach, Newquay.

Falmouth Oyster Festival - Falmouth, Cornwall.

NOVEMBER

Fireworks and Guy Fakes Celebrations - Weymouth, Gloucester.

Bath Mozart Festival – Bath.



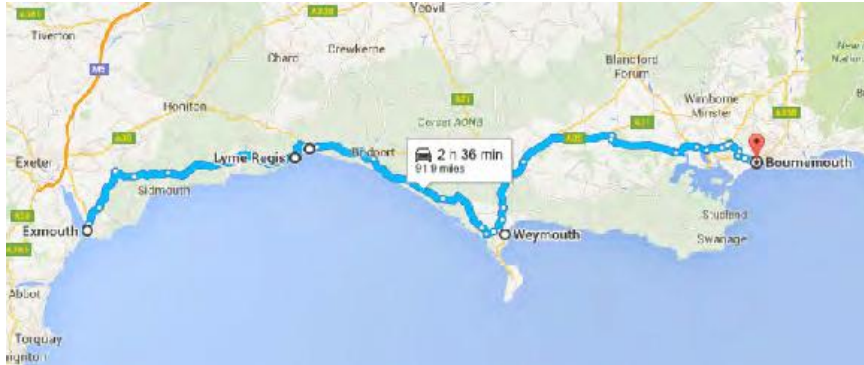
A ride that's
worth the trip

AVIS®

Self-Drive Tours around Southwest England

The Jurassic Coast

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



ATTRACTIONS

- » Clifton Suspension Bridge
- » Bristol Zoo Gardens
- » Cabot Circus
- » A La Ronde
- » Powderham Castle
- » Fitzwilliam Museum Cambridge



Stonehenge

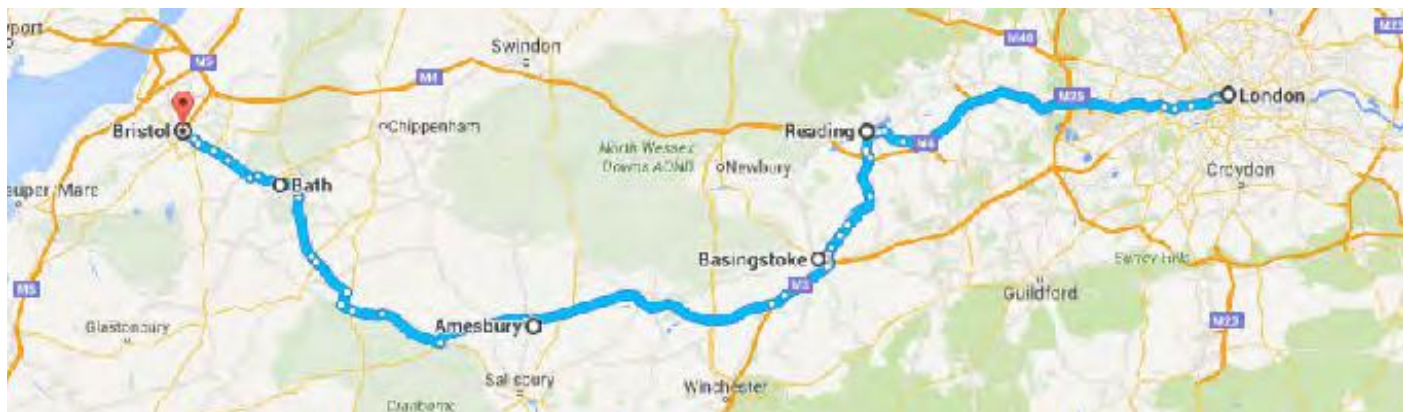


Roman Baths

London to Bristol

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

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



East England

MORE TO EXPLORE



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

Events

FEBRUARY

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

MAY

Stilton Cheese Rolling, Cambridge - Fun day held in historic town of Stilton.

Cambridge Beer Festival, Cambridge.

JUNE

Strawberry Fair, Cambridge - Festival marking the beginning of summer.

JULY

Cambridge Shakespeare Festival - Outdoor performance of famous Shakespeare plays in Cambridge.

Big Day out, Cambridge - Outdoor music festival.

AUGUST

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

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

SEPTEMBER

Chariots of Fire Race - Cambridge.

NOVEMBER

Cambridge Music Festival - Cambridge.

Self-Drive Tours around East England

Cambridge to Ipswich

This route takes in the beautiful countryside and elegant towns of Eastern England. After you've seen the universities, cathedrals, parks and rivers of Cambridge, head east along the A11 to Newmarket. This small market town, a great spot for equine enthusiasts, is home to the National Horseracing Museum, the National Stud, and is the head quarters of the British Jockey Club. Driving further on Eastward, you'll come across Bury St Edmund which is home to the Abbey Gardens and St Edmundsbury Cathedral, which are definitely worth a visit. Follow the A14 through Woolpit and Stowmarket until you reach Ipswich. Here you can enjoy the waterfront marinas, a bustling city centre, twelve medieval churches and green open spaces.

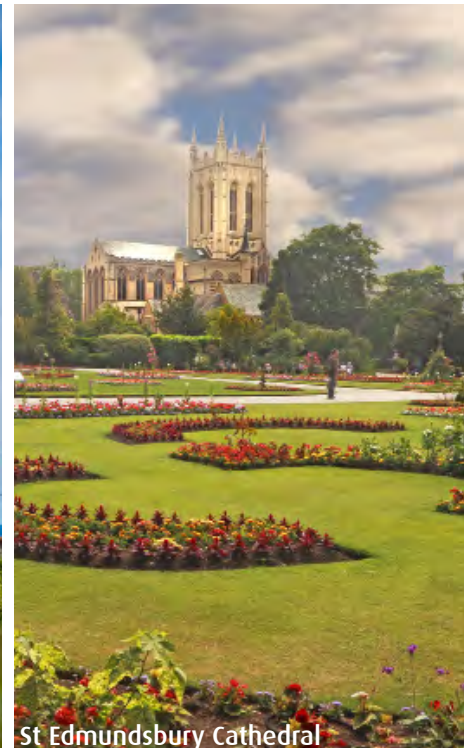


ATTRACTIONS

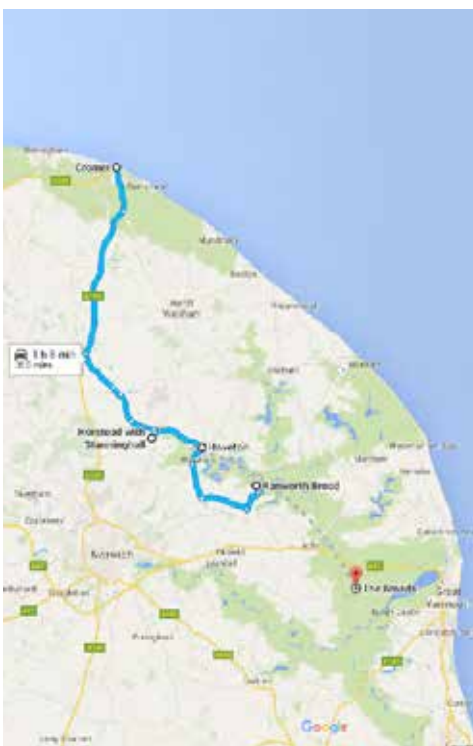
- » Anglesey Abbey Cambridge
- » ADC Theatre Cambridge
- » Theatre Royal, Bury St Edmunds
- » Christchurch Mansion Ipswich
- » Cromer Pier
- » Woodbastwick Village Norfolk
- » Aylsham Markets Norfolk



Norfolk Broads



St Edmundsbury Cathedral



Norwich and The Norfolk Broads

See the best of Norfolk by taking this driving route. Begin in Cromer, where you can visit Sheringham Park and explore the landscaped gardens. See Felbrigg Hall and Blickling Hall. Follow the B1354 through Horstead and Hoveton, which will take you on to The Broads.

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

The East Midlands

PRESTIGIOUS & PRETTY



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

Events

FEBRUARY

Chinese New Year celebrations.

MAY

Spring Craft Fair – Derbyshire.

Nottingham Arboretum Festival

JUNE

Oakham Festival – Rutland.

SEPTEMBER

Canal and Floral Art Exhibition – Northampton.

NOVEMBER

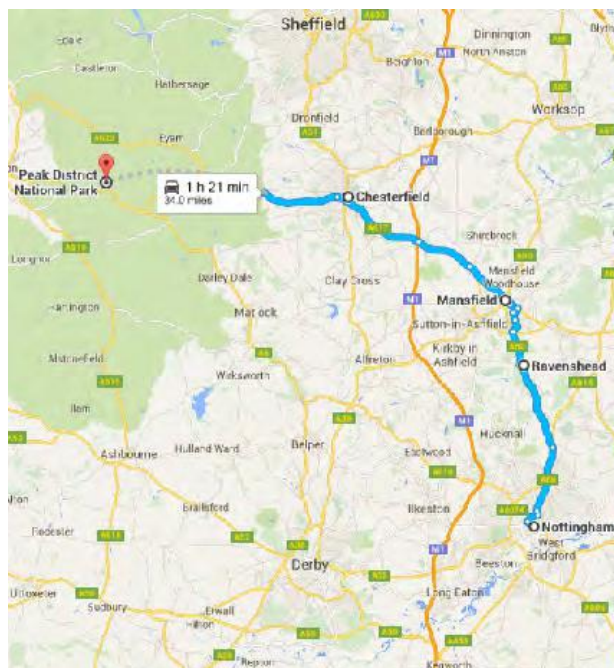
Bonfire Night - Features fireworks displays, Nottingham.

Self-Drive Tours around East Midlands

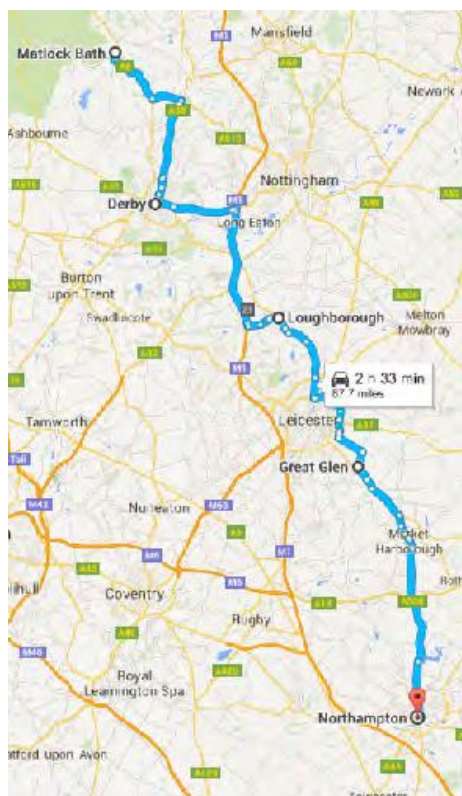
Best of the Parks

Begin this tour in the township of Nottingham, where you can see Nottingham Castle, Wollaton Hall and the pub, Ye Ole Trip to Jerusalem, which proclaims to be the oldest pub in Britain. Drive 30 minutes out of town and visit the Sherwood Forest Country Park, which is the home of the legendary Robin Hood. From here, head north on the A60 through Ravenshead to the town of Mansfield. Here you will find the Palace Theatre, which was built in 1910. Also be sure to visit the St John's, St Mark's, St Peter and St Paul's churches. Drive north-west on the A617 through the borough of Chesterfield.

Chesterfield is home to fantastic markets and the twisted spire on the Church of St Mary. From here, drive west on Baslow Road, which will take you through to the Peak District National Park. This was the first national park in the British Isle and is the second most visited national park in the world. Here you can enjoy plenty of outdoor activities, including hiking, mountain-biking and horse riding, or just enjoy the scenery and the peaceful countryside.



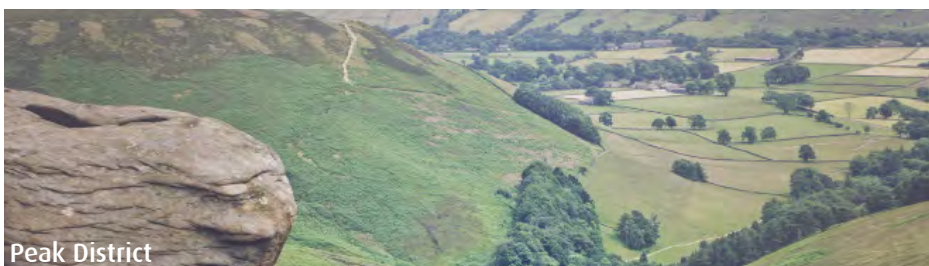
- ### ATTRACTIONS
- » Bolsover Castle, Derbyshire
 - » Smith College Botanic Garden
 - » Nottingham Castle
 - » The National Space Centre
 - » The Derby Museum & Art Gallery
 - » Wicksted Park Northampton



Matlock Bath to Northampton

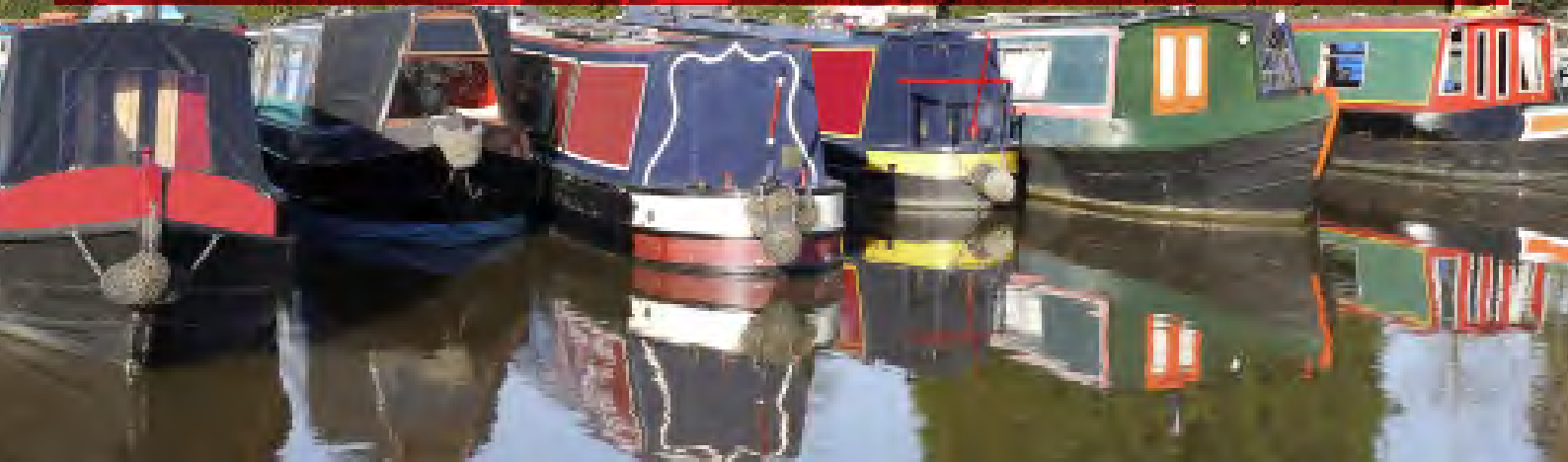
Start this trip with a tour around Matlock Bath, which is built along the River Derwent in Derbyshire. Matlock Bath was originally developed as a spa town back in the 1800's and today is home to the Heights of Abraham Park. The cliff of High Tor is complete with a cable car, museums and attractions. Head south to the town of Derby and through the wild moors, remote farms and tiny villages.

In Derby you can visit the Derby Cathedral or visit the famous Royal Crown Derby Factory where England's finest bone china is produced. If you're pressed for time, you can take the M1 south straight through to Northampton. If you want to see more of the beautiful English countryside, take the A6 down through Loughborough towards Leicester. From there, head on through Great Glen, Market Harborough and onto the A508 down to Northampton. Along the way you'll see historic towns, stately homes and picturesque scenery.



The West Midlands

A POSTCARD OF THE PAST



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

Events

JANUARY

Historic Rally, Coventry – Annual vintage motor show.

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

FEBRUARY

Spring Fair, Birmingham.

MARCH

St Patricks Day Parade.

APRIL

St George Day, Coventry - Medieval festival and parades.

The Complete Works, Stratford-upon-Avon – Major Shakespeare event.

MAY

Concertos, Birmingham – Symphony Hall.

JUNE

DFS Classic International Womens Tennis - Birmingham.

Strawberry Fair, Coventry – Summer festival with concerts and parades.

JULY

International Jazz Festival - Birmingham.

AUGUST

Fireworks Fantasia- Birmingham.

SEPTEMBER

Art Fest - Birmingham

Gardener's Weekend, Birmingham – Kings Heath Park.

Heritage Open Week, Coventry – See inside historic houses that aren't normally open to the public.

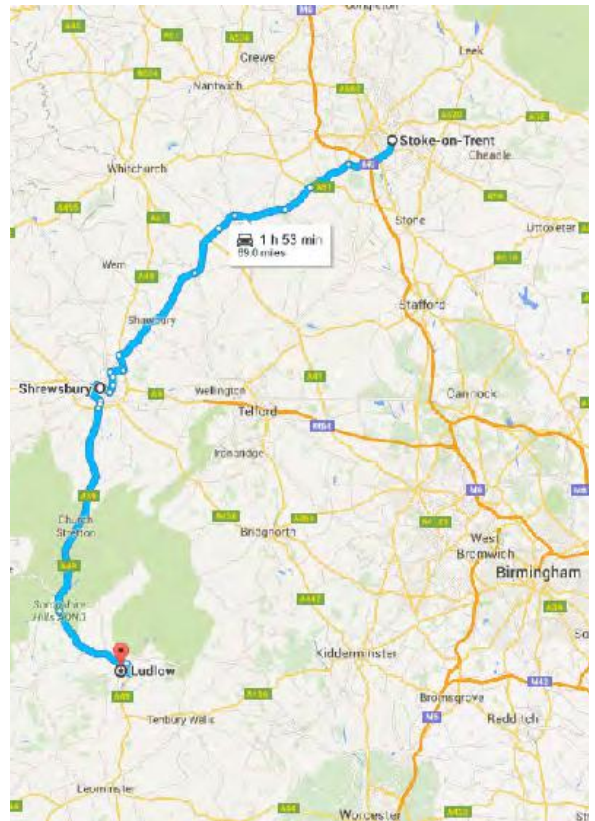
DECEMBER

Christmas Markets – Held across the West Midlands.

Self-Drive Tours around West Midlands

Stoke-On-Trent to Ludlow

Explore the western scenery on this route that takes you from Stoke-On-Trent to the lovely town of Ludlow. Start in the town of Stoke-On-Trent, where you can visit the Wedgwood Visitors Centre and see where some of the world's best fine bone china is produced. Head south west to the Medieval town of Shrewsbury, which is home to an Abbey that was built in 1083. Also explore the Castle and Regimental Museum and the Wroxeter Roman Vineyard. Drive south on the A49 to the town of Ludlow. This lively, unspoilt market town is perched on a cliff above the River Teme and boasts wonderful churches, a stunning castle and great Georgian architecture. Ludlow is also reputed to have some of the best regional cuisine and festivals in England.



River Teme

Coventry to Worcester

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

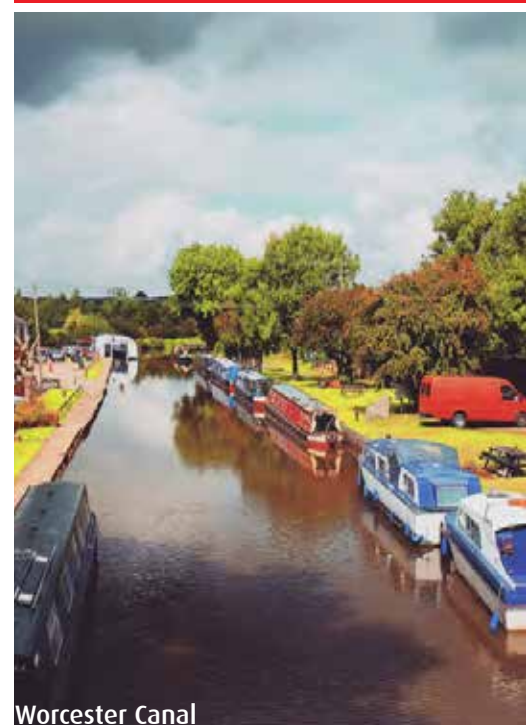
From Warwick, head south west to the city of Stratford-upon-Avon, which is the birthplace of Shakespeare and home to Anne Hathaway's Cottage. You can also explore the city's historic houses, visit the Royal Shakespeare Company or perhaps cruise the Avon River by row boat.

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



ATTRACTIONS

- » **Trentham Estate - Stoke on trent**
- » **The Quarry Shrewsbury**
- » **Mortimer Forest - Ludlow**
- » **Ricoh Arena - Coventry**
- » **Charlecote Park - Warwick**
- » **EcoTarium - Worcester**



Worcester Canal

Northwest England

A REGION OF CONTRASTS



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

Events

MARCH

Lakes Alive - Crow Park.

JULY

Jazz Festival in Manchester.

AUGUST

The Mathew Street Music Festival - Liverpool.

International Beatleweek - Liverpool.

SEPTEMBER

BBC wildlife photographer of the year exhibition - Liverpool.

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

Hope Street Festival.

OCTOBER

Manchester Food and Drink Festival.

Manchester Comedy Festival.

DECEMBER

Christmas markets in Manchester.

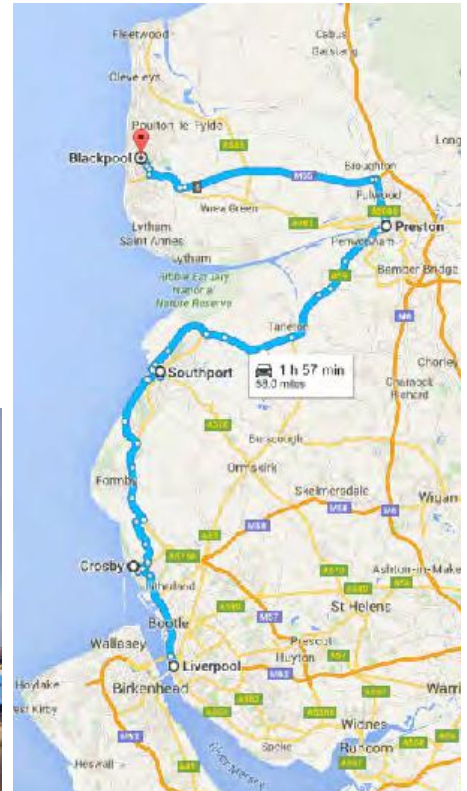
Liverpool Santa Dash.

Self-Drive Tours around Northwest England

Liverpool to Blackpool

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

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



Blackpool Pier

Lancaster to Carlisle

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

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



Hadrian's Wall

ATTRACTIONS

- » Albert Dock - Liverpool
- » Liverpool One Shopping Centre
- » Blackpool Pleasure Beach
- » Grand Theatre - Lancaster
- » Miniture Museum - Carlisle
- » Whinfell Forest - Penrith
- » The Cavern Club

Yorkshire & The Humber

GODS OWN COUNTY



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

Events

JANUARY

Harrogate Pavilions Winter Antiques and Fine Art Fair - Yorkshire.

FEBRUARY

Continental Market, Parliament Street - Yorkshire.

APRIL

Easter Fun Day, Newby Hall - Yorkshire.

Harrogate Spring Flower Show - Yorkshire.

MAY

Classic Car and Motorcycle Show - Yorkshire.

Flower Parade - Lincolnshire.

SEPTEMBER

Country Food and Craft show - Yorkshire.

NOVEMBER

Bonfire Spectacular - Lincolnshire Showground.



A ride that's
worth the trip

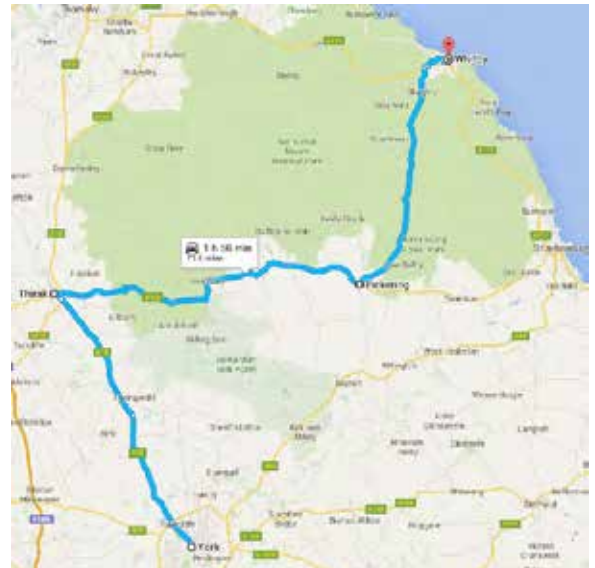
AVIS

Self-Drive Tours around Yorkshire & The Humber

York to Whitby

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

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



Sc Scarborough Harbour

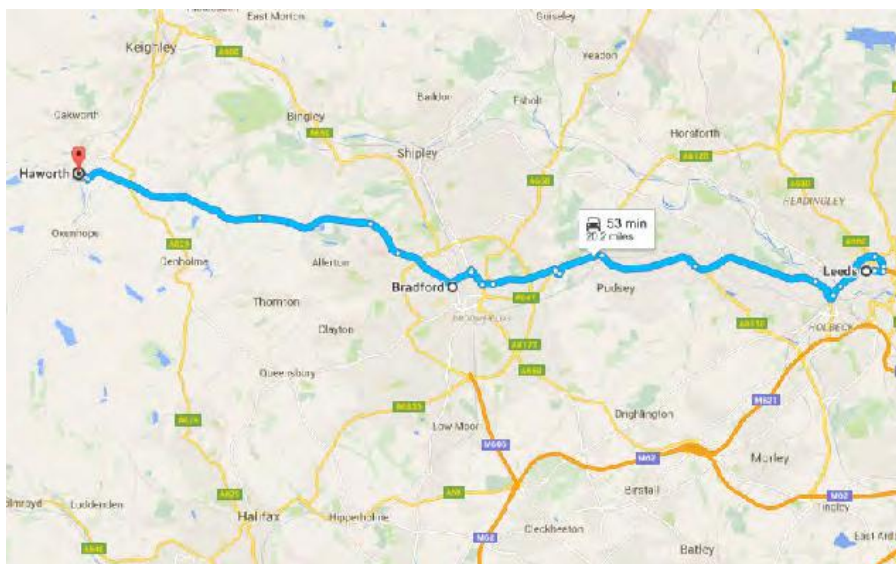
ATTRACTIONS

- » Albert Dock - Liverpool
- » Liverpool One Shopping Centre
- » Blackpool Pleasure Beach
- » Grand Theatre - Lancaster
- » Miniture Museum - Carlisle
- » Whinfell Forest - Penrith
- » Roundhay Park Leeds

Leeds to Haworth

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

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



Leeds Castle

Northeast England

THE UK'S HIDDEN GEMS



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

Events

APRIL

The Wear Valley Food Festival - Durham.

EAT! Food festival - Tyne and Wear.

JUNE

Wylam Summer Fair -Tyne and Wear.

JULY

Brass-Durham International Festival.

AUGUST

Saltburns Annual Art Exhibition - Tees Valley.

SEPTEMBER

The Durham Regatta.

OCTOBER

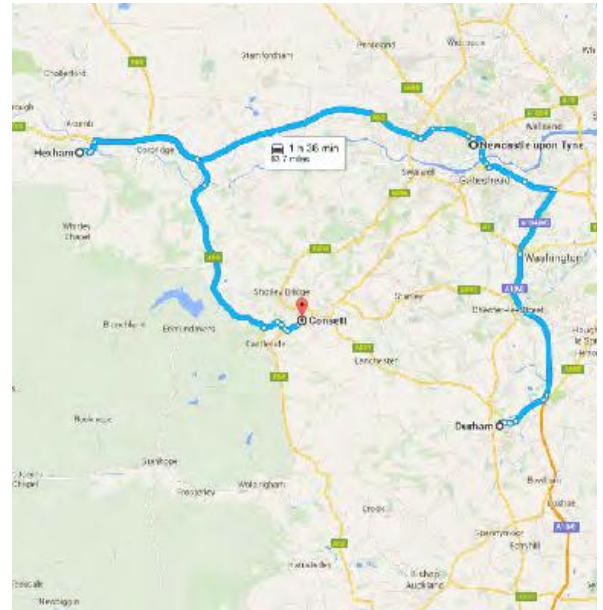
Sugar and Spice Festival - Tyne and Wear.

Self-Drive Tours around Northeast England

Essential Northeast Britain Tour

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

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



Barnard Castle

ATTRACTIONS

- » Riverside Stadium Middlesbrough
- » Adventure Valley - Durham
- » Diggerland Durham
- » Durham University Botanic Garden
- » Hexham Old Gaol
- » Newcastle Centre for Live
- » The Alnwick Garden Northumberland

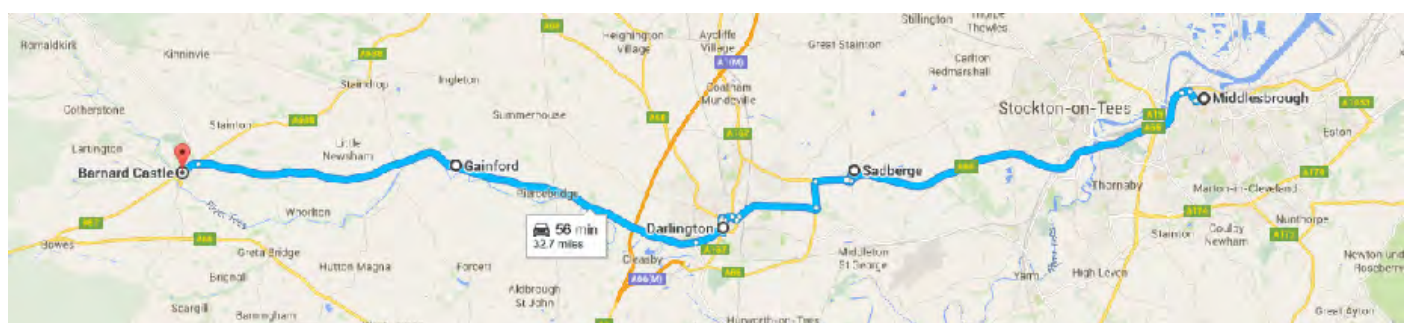
Tees Valley

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

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



River Tees



SCOTLAND & WALES



Scotland

ATHENS OF THE NORTH



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

Events

JANUARY

Hogmanay – New Years Eve Festivities across Scotland

APRIL

International Science Festival, Edinburgh – Held over two weeks.

Beltane Fire Festival - Colton Hills, Edinburgh.

MAY

Perth Festival.

Orkney Folk Festival - Edinburgh.

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

JUNE

Flavour of Shetland.

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

AUGUST

Edinburgh Jazz and Blues Festival.

Edinburgh Military Tattoo.

SEPTEMBER

Linlithgow Folk Festival.

OCTOBER

The Doric Festival.

Self-Drive Tours around Scotland

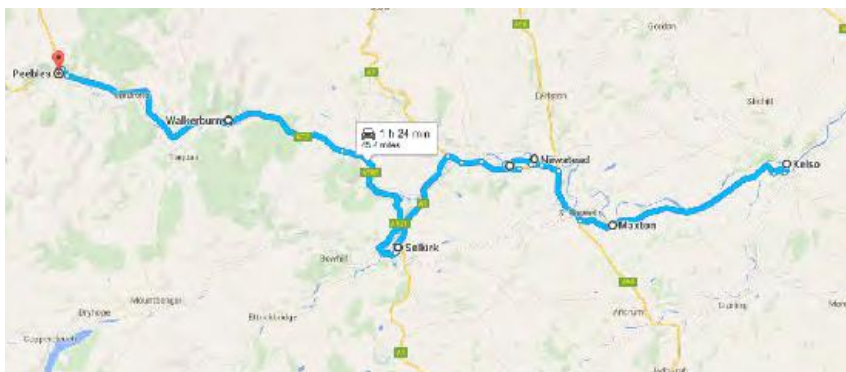
Tour the Valley of the Tweed

Follow the beautiful River Tweed on this delightful drive, stopping at pretty villages along the way. Begin in the town of Kelso, which has a lovely cobbled square surrounded by Georgian buildings and a great atmosphere. Head west through Maxton and Newstead to Melrose. This lovely town is at the junction of three Eildon Hills.

The Eildon Hills are covered with heather and are perfect for long walks. Here you will find Melrose Abbey and Abbotsford House. Follow the River Tweed through the villages of Selkirk, Walkerburn and Kirkburn and onto the town of Peebles. This attractive and bustling town lies at the confluence of three rivers is home to lovely town squares and plenty of historical monuments to keep you busy.



Peebles on River Tweed

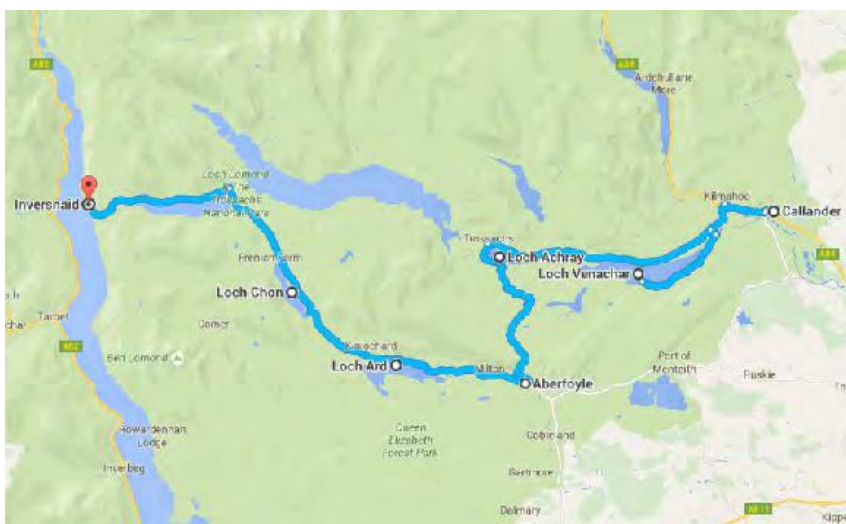


ATTRACTIONS

- » Glentress Forest - Peebles
- » Dawyck Botanic Garden - Peebles
- » Loch Lubnaigh - Callander
- » Inchmahome Priory Aberfoyle
- » Ban Ledi Mountain
- » The Trossachs National Park

Experience the Trossachs

Tour the wonderful Trossachs and see for yourself why Queen Victoria called the area 'lovely' back in 1869. The Trossachs are located at the narrowest point of the mainland, just north of Glasgow, while the whole area of Callander is a maze of rivers, lochs, waterfalls and mountains. Begin the tour in Callander and follow the road along through Coilangtogle, past Loch Venachar and Lenderick. Continue on past Loch Achray and down to Aberfoyle. Follow the B829 through Milton, past Loch Ard, Loch Chon and Loch Arklet through to Inversnaid. This road will wind past wild natural environments and spectacular scenery. This area offers plenty of activities like hiking, cycling and mountain biking.



Loch Ard

Wales

HIGH LAND AND HISTORY



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

Events

JULY

Cardiff Castle Open Air Theatre.
Cardiff International Food and Drink Festival.

AUGUST

Admiral Cardiff Big Weekend.
Classic Car Rally.
Frocester Beer Festival.

SEPTEMBER

The World's Greatest Elvis
Tribute Artist Concert.
Cider and Beer Festival.

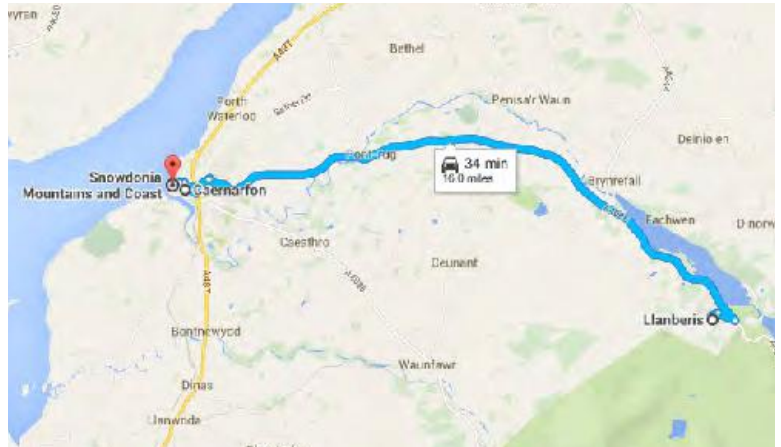
OCTOBER

Halloween at Cardiff Castle.

Self-Drive Tours around Wales

Snowdonia

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



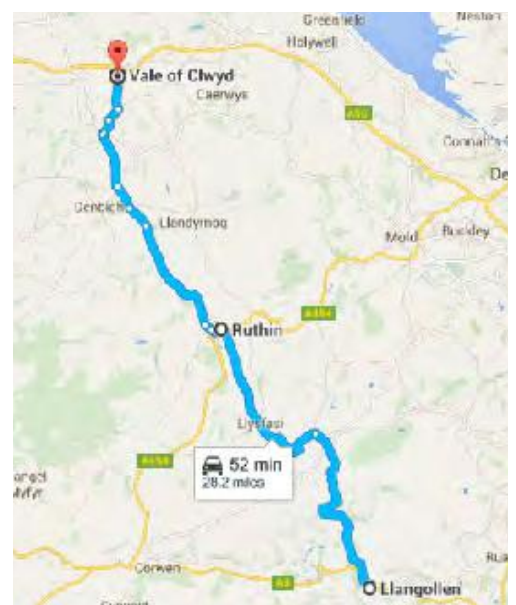
The Horseshoe Pass

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

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

ATTRACTIONS

- » Conwy Castle
- » Smallest house in Great Britain
- » Great Orme Wales
- » Snowdon Wales
- » Devil's Bridge Ceredigion



Visiting The UK

GUIDE TO STAYING SAFE



Stay Healthy

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

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

Stay Safe

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

Car break-ins, theft, smash and grab and vandalism on tourists vehicles can occur, but can be prevented by keeping valuables or bags out of sight, securely locking cars or using off-street supervised parking. In the unlikely event of theft or loss, be sure to inform all your credit card companies as soon as you discover your wallet has been lost or stolen. Most credit card companies have toll free numbers to call if your cards are lost or stolen, and they may be able to issue an emergency replacement card or wire you a cash advance.

Visiting The UK

MONEY MATTERS



Currency

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

Currency Exchange

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

ATMs

ATM's (known as a cashpoint) are located almost everywhere in the UK, except in the smallest villages.

Credit & Debit Cards

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

Travellers Cheques

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

Banking Hours

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

Tax

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

Tipping

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

What are you waiting for?

BOOK YOUR SELF-DRIVE HOLIDAY IN THE UK TODAY



DriveAway Holidays is Australia's leader in self-drive holidays. Established over 25 years ago, we offer more than 60 self-drive suppliers at over 8000 global locations. We boast an extensive choice of worldwide car hire, luxury and budget motorhome rentals and leasing in Europe. Our expertise brings you highly competitive prices, alongside outstanding customer service and efficiency.

Booking is easy!

Once you have planned your self-drive itinerary and are ready to book, simply visit www.driveaway.com.au

Alternatively call our dedicated Reservations Team on 1300 363 500 or visit your local travel agent.

DriveAway Holidays hopes that you find the information in this guide helpful for your self-drive holiday in the United Kingdom. The touring information has been created to be used as a guide only. All information shown is correct at the time of publication. © DriveAway Holidays - Part of the Auto Europe LLC Group- all rights reserved. Updated: July 2016