

THE ORIGINS OF FAITH

Discover the people and stories that connect faith and religion, from England to the United States of America.

THE STORY OF METHODISM

CATHEDRALS

CHURCHES – CENTURIES OF STORIES

REFORMATION

PILGRIM CHURCHES

FIT AND GROUP TOURS



ORIGINS OF FAITH

INTRODUCTION TO THE

Britain and the United States share deep historical and cultural connections, including the birth of the faith that has helped shape both our nations. The tours suggested here highlight many of the most influential places, faces and stories, breathing life into a unique history that binds us across continents and generations.

The steeples of world-famous cathedrals and picture-perfect village churches pepper the English landscape. There are stories of faith and religion to be found in every corner of this deeply spiritual country, from an open-air amphitheatre in the Cornish countryside to the majestic spires of Canterbury and Lincoln cathedrals. Take a moment to breathe in the history of the world's oldest wooden church in Essex, and soak up the history of Great St Mary's Church in Cambridge, which played a leading role in the Reformation; Erasmus and Bucer both preached here.

Methodism began in England. Epworth, Lincolnshire, was the childhood home of the Wesley Brothers. John began preaching from houses, barns and open fields in the early 17th century and many soon followed. The effect of John and his brother Charles, along with George Whitefield, rippled throughout England, and beyond. Visit St John's Northgate Church in Gloucester to see the world's oldest continually used site of Methodist worship, and pause at nearby Hanham Mount, Bristol, where John Wesley also preached.

Travel further back, to the 1600s, a time of royal might and rebellion. The church was all-powerful and England's Puritans tried to soften this control but the Separatists wanted more.

Elements from this itinerary can be added to existing tours of England or you may choose to create a full tour.

There's nothing more memorable than hearing local stories from a local guide, who can often unlock places, stories and insights your group might otherwise miss. Specialist tour guides ensure a memorable trip; volunteers in their own village or church or costumed guides in a historic attraction can bring the experience to life and assure a warm welcome - and a glimpse of the real England.

Explore Nottinghamshire's ancient villages of Scrooby, Babworth and Gainsborough, from where the Mayflower Pilgrims' faith would carry them via Plymouth, on England's south coast, to the distant shores of Massachusetts.

Learn about Nottinghamshire's religious radical William Booth, founder of the worldwide Salvation Army, and how Rev John Cotton's preaching inspired mass migration to America from Boston in the neighbouring county of Lincolnshire.

Begin your English pilgrimage and discover the birthplace of faith.



The Mayflower Steps, Plymouth



Gloucester Cathedral

GLOUCESTER



GETTING HERE

Gloucester is 100 miles west of London, in southwest England.

From London, Gloucester is 1 hour 55 mins by rail or 2 hours 20 mins by road.

For more destination information see: thecityofgloucester.co.uk



The historic inland port city of Gloucester is surrounded by peaceful spa towns, magnificent stately homes, and the lush Cotswold countryside. Gloucester Cathedral – one of the most beautiful buildings in England and linked to John Stafford Smith, composer of the music of The Star-Spangled Banner - is a must-see. Other notable Gloucester residents include George Whitefield, a leading light in the Methodist movement, and Robert Raikes, a founder of the Sunday School movement; thanks to him, the city was the first in the world to host a Sunday School.

CHURCH OF ST MARY DE CRYPT

This impressive medieval church and adjoining Tudor schoolroom have links to two of the greatest Christian leaders of their generation. Evangelist (and lifelong friend of Benjamin Franklin) George Whitefield was baptised and preached here; you can still see the pulpit he used. He was educated in the adjoining schoolroom where Robert Raikes, one of the founders of the 1780s Sunday School movement, was also taught.

discoverdecrypt.org.uk

LLANTHONY SECUNDA PRIORY

This ruined Augustinian priory was founded in 1136, by Miles de Gloucester, first Earl of Hereford, as a retreat for the monks of nearby Llanthony Priory, who were fleeing attack from the local Welsh population. By the 16th century it was England's largest Augustinian property, controlling 97 churches and 51 manor estates. The site played an important part in Gloucester's history for over 900 years. Visitors can step inside the newly restored medieval buildings on open days, or take a guided tour.

llanthonysecunda.org

GLOUCESTER CATHEDRAL

One of the most beautiful buildings in England, Gloucester Cathedral has been an important centre of Christian worship since 678-9 AD. It has witnessed some of the most important events in British history, from the commissioning of the Domesday Book to the coronation of Henry III. Near Edward II's tomb, look for the British and American flags; a plaque here memorialises local man John Stafford Smith (1750-1836), who was born just behind the cathedral and baptised in it. He wrote The Anacreontic Song, which was adopted as the tune of The Star-Spangled Banner. Button Gwinnett, a British-born American patriot who became the second person to sign the United States Declaration of Independence and was also, briefly, the provisional president of Georgia before dying in the Revolutionary War, was a chorister here, too.

gloucestercathedral.org.uk

BEATRIX POTTER MUSEUM

The House of the Tailor of Gloucester is a museum and gift shop dedicated to children's author Beatrix Potter. It's in the very house that Potter chose to set her story of The Tailor of Gloucester in.

tailor-of-gloucester.org.uk

ST JOHN'S NORTHGATE CHURCH

This Methodist church has the distinction of being the oldest continually used site for Methodist worship in the world; Wesley and Whitefield both preached from its pulpit.

gloucestershiremethodist.org.uk/churches/circuit-churches/gloucester-st-johns.html

ROBERT RAIKES HOUSE

A historic 16th-century timber-framed town house (now a pub) on Southgate Street Gloucester, which was home to Robert Raikes, pioneer of the Sunday School movement.

There is a statue to Raikes in Gloucester Park.

thecityofgloucester.co.uk/food-and-drink/robert-raikess-house-p748783

DID YOU KNOW?

The bells at the Old North Church in Boston are believed to be the oldest in North America. They were cast in Gloucester in 1744 at the Rudhall's Foundry. These were the same bells rung by Paul Revere to warn American troops in Concord that the British were coming.

ACCOMMODATION

Hatton Court Hotel

Independent boutique hotel bordering the Cotswold way. 4 miles from the city.

hatton-court.co.uk

Hallmark Gloucester

On the fringes of historic Gloucester, 95 rooms. Suitable for groups.

hallmarkhotels.co.uk/hotels/hallmark-hotel-gloucester

ANCESTRAL SERVICES

Gloucestershire Archives

Provides various records for researching family history, in addition to a guide covering records for the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force.

gloucestershire.gov.uk/archives

Hidden Heritage

Gloucestershire's genealogy service (based at Gloucestershire Archives) is run by Liz Jack, a direct descendent of Button Gwinnett.

hidden-heritage.co.uk

Gloucester Cathedral Archivist

Help explore your family's links with Gloucester Cathedral.

archivist@gloucestercathedral.org.uk



St Mary de Crypt



Gloucester Cathedral



John Stafford Smith Plaque
Credit Fionn Davenport

FOOD & DRINK

Queen's Head, Longford

Fine food in an atmospheric bar and restaurant near Hatherley Manor.

queensheadlongford.co.uk

Greek On The Docks

Exceptional Greek cuisine and relaxing dockside atmosphere.

greekonthedocks.co.uk

Three Choirs Vineyard

Tours and tasting experiences in one of the oldest vineyards in England.

three-choirs-vineyards.co.uk

TOURS & TOUR GUIDES

Civic Trust guided tours

Specialist walking tours include the Medieval Churches tour, the Robert Raikes tour, and the Christian Heritage tour. Pre-booking required.

gloucestercivictrust.org

Gloucester Cathedral Tours

Various tours of the cathedral take in Harry Potter filming locations, views from the tower, and the depths of the crypt.

gloucestercathedral.org.uk/whats-on/tours

BRISTOL

GETTING HERE

Bristol is 120 miles west of London, in southwest England.
From London, Bristol is 1 hour 40 mins by rail or 2 hours by road.
For more destination information see: visitbristol.co.uk



Known as 'The Cradle of Methodism', the lively city of Bristol has a rich faith-based history. John Wesley gave his first open-air sermon here, Charles Wesley lived here, and the city is home to the world's first Methodist chapel; you can stand in the pulpit and imagine what it might have been like for John Wesley. There are also many other connections to the United States to discover, from John Cabot and the man whose name may have inspired the naming of North America to the founder of Pennsylvania.

LORD MAYOR'S CHAPEL

This unique chapel is the only remaining building from the 13th-century Hospital of Saint Mark. In 1788, Bristol's Mayor invited John Wesley to preach here, after the Bishop of Bristol refused to allow Wesley to preach in any of the city's churches. The chapel is also home to a special coat of arms: those of Richard Amerike, funder of John Cabot's voyage to North America.

lordmayorschapel.org

HANHAM MOUNT

This landscaped site commemorates the persecution of the Baptist community in the 1600s and marks the spot where Methodist leader George Whitefield began his open-air preaching in the 1730s.

methodistheritage.org.uk/hanhammount.htm

BRISTOL CATHEDRAL

The beautiful and ancient cathedral of Bristol is now a vibrant centre of community and culture. Don't miss the eastern end of the cathedral: its unique architecture positions the building as one of the world's finest 'hall churches'.

bristol-cathedral.co.uk

THE NEW ROOM

The world's oldest Methodist chapel is a simple building, standing quietly on Bristol's busiest shopping street not far from Charles Wesley's old house. It was created in 1739 when two Bristol religious societies asked John Wesley to build them a 'new room' where they could meet. The members' work was so successful that, nine years later, The New Room was rebuilt, twice its original size. What you see today is pretty much as it was when Methodist founders John and Charles Wesley were here, and it remains a meeting place for groups from across the world, including the United States. It also houses an excellent museum on the history of Methodism and life in Georgian Bristol.

newroombristol.org.uk



The Clifton Suspension Bridge
Credit Gary Newman

ST MARY REDCLIFFE CHURCH

Discover a piece of home in Bristol at St John's Chapel (known as the American Chapel).

Nestled within the beautiful gothic church of St Mary Redcliffe, the American Chapel is the final resting place of Sir William Penn, father to Pennsylvania's founder. John Cabot's presence looms large here, too: the chapel's beautiful stained-glass windows depict Cabot's discovery of North America, and visitors can examine the unusual souvenir he brought back with him - a giant whale bone.

stmaryredcliffe.co.uk

ANCESTRAL SERVICES

Bristol Archives

Archives of the city of Bristol, surrounding areas, as well as the British Empire & Commonwealth Collection.

bristolmuseums.org.uk/bristol-archives

Brunel Institute at Brunel's SS Great Britain

Access objects and expert help from one of the world's finest maritime collections.

ssgreatbritain.org/brunel-institute



St Mary Redcliffe Church

FOOD & DRINK

The Cathedral Café

Light snacks and homemade cakes in Bristol Cathedral's cafe, with a garden and courtyard eating area.

bristol-cathedral.co.uk/visit-us/cafe/

Café at The New Room

Afternoon teas, light lunches and ethically sourced tea and coffee in the cafe attached to the world's oldest Methodist building.

newroombristol.org.uk/artisan-cafe

No.1 Harbourside

Bar/restaurant serving locally sourced food, with an emphasis on sustainability.

no1harbourside.co.uk

TOURS & TOUR GUIDES

Wesley Heritage Tours

Take an immersive tour of the New Room and John Wesley's Chapel.

wesleysheritage.org.uk

Bristol Packet Boat Trips

Harbour tours and river trips. Scheduled and group tours.

bristolpacket.co.uk

Bristol Insight

Bristol's hop-on, hop-off bus tour mentions John Wesley, as well as diving into the city's wider history.

bristolinsight.co.uk

ACCOMMODATION

The Bristol

A slice of boutique city style, with a waterfront location.

doylecollection.com/hotels/the-bristol-hotel

Brooks Guesthouse

Award-winning chic boutique B&B, with rooftop airstream caravans - for a room with a difference!

brooksguesthousebristol.com



John Wesley's Chapel, The New Room



GETTING HERE

Kent is southeast of London, in southeast England.

From London, Dover is 2 hours by rail (the High Speed One train takes just 1 hour) or 1 hour 40 mins by road; Canterbury is 1 hour by rail or 1 hour 25 mins by road.

For more destination information see: visitkent.co.uk



Known as The Garden of England, Kent has much to offer visitors. Top of the list for any faith and religion tour is Canterbury Cathedral, the seat of the Archbishop of Canterbury, head of the Church of England and symbolic leader of the worldwide Anglican Communion. Here you stand where Saint Thomas Becket was murdered, and view the altar 'kneelers' embroidered by the Washington Needlepoint Committee with flowers representing every US state. Nearby Rochester is home to England's second oldest cathedral.

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL

The lode star of Canterbury's UNESCO World Heritage Site status, Canterbury Cathedral was founded in 597 AD on the remains of a previous Saxon church. Enjoy a tour packed with over 1,400 years of stories, such as the argument between Thomas Becket and King Henry II that is said to have resulted in the then Archbishop's murder. A sign that the cathedral continues to create meaningful moments is the four modern stained-glass windows by Hungarian artist Ervin Bossanyi (who also decorated the memorial chapel for President Woodrow Wilson in the National Cathedral in Washington, DC); they evoke the spirit of humanity and unity that was redefined after World War II.

canterbury-cathedral.org

ST. GEORGES CHURCH, GRAVESEND

Pocahontas was buried in the chancel of St George's Church, Gravesend. Wife of early English settler John Rolfe, her statue, can be seen in the beautiful Princess Pocahontas gardens. The memorial glass windows were a gift from the Colonial Dames of Virginia.

stgeorgesgravesend.org

CANTERBURY WORLD HERITAGE SITE

In addition to the cathedral, St Augustine's Abbey and St Martin's Church are part of Canterbury World Heritage Site. Situated outside the city walls and looked after by English Heritage, the abbey, now in ruins, marks the re-birth of Christianity in the south of England. Dating from the sixth century, St Martin's Church is England's oldest parish church in continuous use.

canterbury.co.uk/info/3/things_to_do/36/world_heritage_site

THE CANTERBURY TALES

Meet costumed guides, walk with Chaucer's Pilgrims and experience this re-creation of medieval England.

canterburytales.org.uk

ANCESTRAL SERVICES

Kent County Council History and Archives Centre, Maidstone

Extensive collections of maps, records, stories and histories of the people of Kent.

kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/history-and-heritage/kent-archives

Canterbury Cathedral Archives

Rich collection of manuscripts, maps, historic records and books dating from the 8th-century.

canterbury-cathedral.org/heritage/archives-library/visits

Medway Archives Centre, Strood

Resources for researching your family story, and the history, geography and people of Medway.

cityark.medway.gov.uk



Canterbury Cathedral

AUGUSTINE CAMINO

Spend a week walking the Augustine Camino pilgrim trail, from Rochester Cathedral to the Shrine of St Augustine in Ramsgate. The route takes in medieval Aylesford Priory and Canterbury Cathedral and Abbey. Day walks and shorter sections can be done too.

augustinecamino.co.uk

TOURS & TOUR GUIDES

Canterbury Historic River Tours

Discover this historic city by boat.

canterburyrivertours.co.uk

Kent Greeters

Explore Kent with a local expert on a free walking tour. Booking essential.

visitkent.co.uk/stay-and-eat/getting-here/kent-greeters

ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL

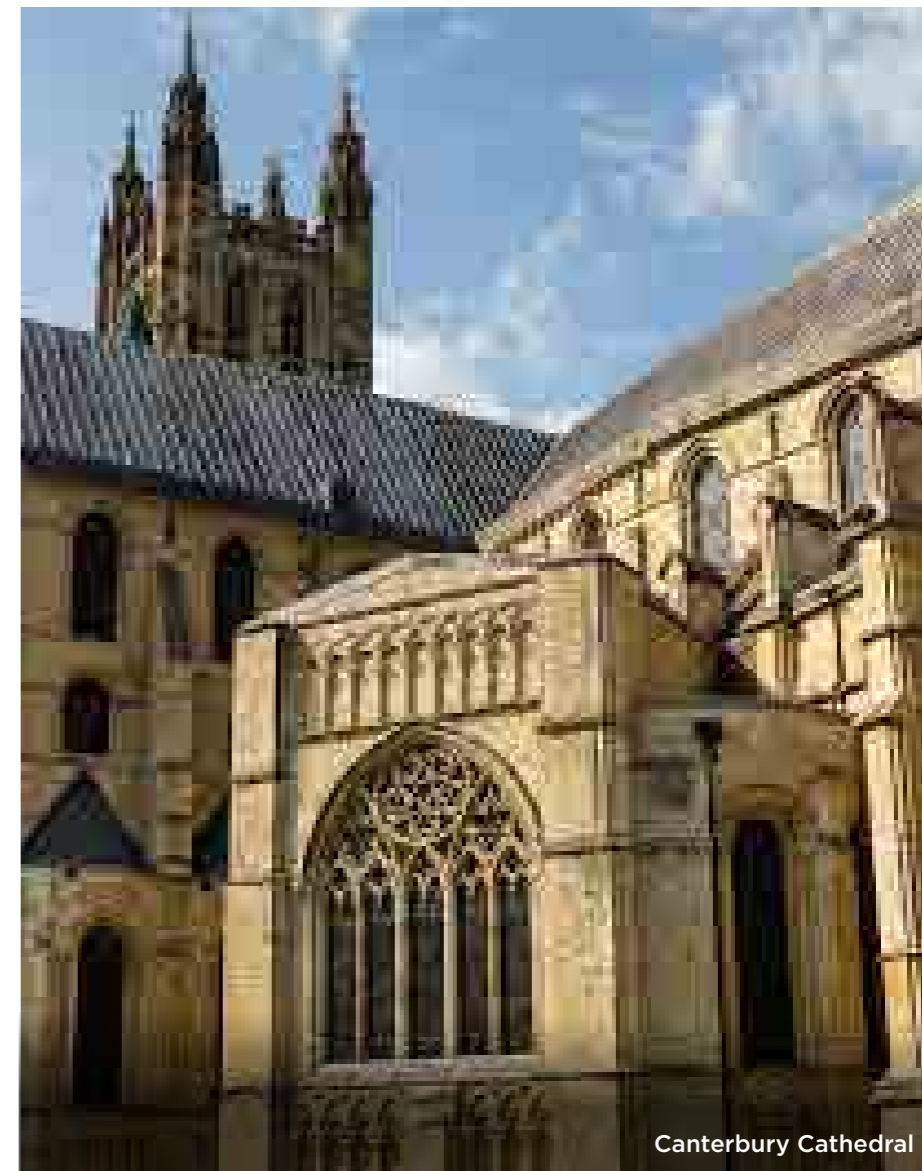
Explore England's second oldest cathedral, founded in 604 AD, with one of the finest Romanesque facades in Christendom.

rochestercathedral.org

DID YOU KNOW?

2020 is the 850th anniversary of the dramatic murder of Thomas Becket. A programme of commemorative events marks the life and death of Becket, archbishop and martyr-saint.

Becket2020.com



Canterbury Cathedral

FOOD & DRINK

Shepherd Neame Brewery, Faversham

Britain's oldest brewery is home to nostalgically-named beers like 'Spitfire' and 'Bishop's Finger'. Guided tours are available.

shepherdneame.co.uk

Chapel Down Winery & Swan Restaurant, Tenterden

Tour one of England's leading vineyards and dine in the Swan Restaurant with views across the vines.

chapeldown.com

ACCOMMODATION

ABode Canterbury

A luxury city centre hotel in a 12th-century building.

abodecanterbury.co.uk

Canterbury Cathedral Lodge

A unique, contemporary hotel in the grounds of Canterbury Cathedral.

canterburycathedrallodge.org



LINCOLNSHIRE



GETTING HERE

Lincolnshire is approximately 120 miles north of London, in the East Midlands. From London, Lincoln is 2 hours by rail or 2 hours 50 mins by road.

For more destination information see: visitlincolnshire.com and visitlincoln.com



Rich in religious history, the city of Lincoln and surrounding countryside is dominated by the vast presence of its ancient cathedral. In 1215, Lincolnshire man Stephen Langton was the guiding force behind Magna Carta, which can be seen in its protective vault at Lincoln Castle. The region was the childhood home to Methodist leaders John and Charles Wesley, while Rev John Cotton, founder of the Congregational tradition, preached at St Botolph's, Boston.

LINCOLN CATHEDRAL

One of the finest Gothic cathedrals in Europe, Lincoln's towers dominate the surrounding county. Explore Lincoln's highly decorated chapels, hear the grand organ and see a copy of the original Magna Carta. Visit the inspirational Wren Library, including its 120 "incunabula" (Library, including its 120 "incunabula" (books printed before 1501); take a floor, roof or tower tour; and follow with a visit to Lincoln Castle.

lincolncathedral.com

GAINSBOROUGH OLD HALL

This 15th-century manor house is one of England's finest timber-framed buildings. Its fascinating exhibits and restored wall paintings tell stories of its wealthy owners and guests, from Richard III and Henry VIII to the founder of Methodism, John Wesley, who preached here.

Most influential were the sermons of John Smyth, who also preached here and whose Separatist gatherings inspired thousands to seek a new life in America.

gainsborougholdhall.com

ST BOTOLPH'S CHURCH (BOSTON STUMP)

Founded over 700 years ago when Boston was a powerhouse of trade and ideas, the 'Boston Stump' - named after its 272-foot tower - is one of the largest parish churches in England. Puritan clergyman John Cotton was vicar here - his words inspiring hundreds to leave England and establish Boston, Massachusetts. Today you can still feel his presence as you stand amid the church's ancient wooden carvings, tombs and stained glass, and visit a chapel named in his honour.

parish-of-boston.org.uk



St Botolph's Church (Boston Stump)

DID YOU KNOW?

Over 100 churches open their doors to visitors every year for the Lincolnshire Churches Festival.

churchesfestival.info

ACCOMMODATION

The White Hart Hotel

Overlooking the cathedral in the centre of historic Lincoln.

whitehart-lincoln.co.uk

Stubton Hall

Privately owned stately home, open for exclusive use by groups.

stubtonhall.co.uk

FOOD & DRINK

Rising Cafe Lincoln

1940s-styled cafe that gives 100% of proceeds to charity.

risingcafe.co.uk/lincoln

Lady Rose's Edwardian Tea Room, Lincoln

Edwardian-themed tea room, inspired by Downton Abbey.

ladyroses.co.uk



Lincoln Cathedral

EPWORTH

Founders of the Methodist movement, John and Charles Wesley, grew up in this North Lincolnshire village. Visit their childhood home, an impressive rectory dating from 1709, and learn about the influences on their early life.

epwortholdrectory.org.uk

MAYFLOWER PILGRIMS

The Mayflower Pilgrims came from the villages of Lincolnshire and North Nottinghamshire. They worshipped in secret at Gainsborough Old Hall; and were confined and tried at Boston's Guildhall following their failed attempt to escape. Now a museum with exhibits stretching back to the Middle Ages, the Guildhall is also where the Mayflower Pilgrims were held and tried after their first attempt to flee to Holland. Stand in the very courtroom in which they were tried, then squeeze into the cramped cells as the door swings shut behind you.

mayflower400uk.org

bostonguildhall.co.uk

ANCESTRAL SERVICES

Lincolnshire Family History Society

Online resources and research centre with stewards.

lincolnshirefhs.org.uk



Gainsborough Old Hall

TOURS & TOUR GUIDES

Pilgrims & Prophets

Specialist and customised guided tours with Christian heritage experts across Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire.

pilgrimsandprophets.co.uk

Green Badge Guides

Walking tours of Lincoln city centre and Boston for FITs and groups.

britainsbestguides.org

CAMBRIDGE



GETTING HERE

Cambridge is 60 miles north of London, in the East of England.
From London, Cambridge is 50 mins by rail or 1 hour 30 mins by road.
For more destination information see: visitcambridge.org



Home to the English Reformation, this university city is known across the world for its stunning architecture and punting on the River Cam as well as the scholars, global icons and religious leaders who have lived and studied here. A walking tour of Cambridge with an official guide provides awe-inspiring access to the city's religious history, including the medieval Parker Library and the Gospels brought to England by St Augustine.

KING'S COLLEGE

World famous and a masterpiece of medieval craftsmanship, the chapel of King's College was founded by Henry VI. Chapel visitors are drawn to its elaborate, fan-vaulted roof (once the largest self-supporting structure in the world), magnificent stained-glass windows and Rubens' masterpiece Adoration of the Magi.

Groups should be accompanied by an official Cambridge Blue Badge Guide.

kings.cam.ac.uk

EMMANUEL COLLEGE

Established in 1584 to educate protestant preachers, Emmanuel College Cambridge has many renowned alumni, but perhaps its most famous graduate is John Harvard, clergyman and co-founder of Harvard University.

Astonishingly, 30 of the 102 Mayflower passengers were educated here, including Puritan minister Thomas Sheppard, one of the best known preachers of the 17th century; he helped establish Cambridge, Massachusetts.

emma.cam.ac.uk

GREAT ST MARY'S CHURCH

The University Church, Great St Mary's was the first home of the University from 1209. It played a leading part in the reformation, with Erasmus, Bucer and others preaching here. Unusually for a parish church, it has two organs. A climb to the top of the tower is rewarded with the best views across the city of Cambridge. Guided tours available.

gsm.cam.ac.uk

THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE

Known as the Round Church, The Church of The Holy Sepulchre is one of only four round churches in England; it's also Cambridge's second oldest building and a great place to start when exploring the city.

roundchurchcambridge.org

ELY CATHEDRAL

It's only a short trip from Cambridge to Ely, a city whose ancient cathedral is famed for its stunning Norman architecture, stained-glass windows and idyllic grounds. Known as the 'Ship of the Fens' because it juts up above the pancake-flat sweeps of land that surround it, Ely Cathedral is one of the most striking buildings in England.

elycathedral.org



River Cam

THE PARKER LIBRARY

The historic library of Corpus Christi College houses some of the rarest and oldest books in England. This includes the Gospels used by St Augustine to convert the English to Christianity.

corpus.cam.ac.uk/about-corpus/parker-library

ST EDWARD KING AND MARTYR

This church held a unique role in the English Reformation as a meeting place for a group of influential evangelicals. It was here that Robert Barnes preached the first openly evangelical sermon.

stedwardscambridge.co.uk

ACCOMMODATION

Poets House, Ely

Charming hotel with 21 suites set across three historic buildings from the early 1900s.

poetshouse.uk.com

Hotel Du Vin, Cambridge

A former University building with luxury rooms in a beautiful and cultural location.

hotelduvin.com/cambridge

FOOD & DRINK

The Anchor

Fresh seasonal food served on the banks of the River Cam; it's got strong links to English rock band Pink Floyd too.

anchorcambridge.com

Parker's Tavern

Located in the University Arms hotel, Parker's Tavern has been serving Cambridge visitors since 1834.

parkerstavern.com

Midsummer House

Two Michelin stars decorate the fine food served in this stylish restaurant on Midsummer Common.

midsummerhouse.co.uk

TOURS & TOUR GUIDES

Official Tours of Cambridge

Walking tours of the city with official Cambridge Blue Badge Guides, including access to King's College. Religious heritage tours of Cambridge are also available.

visitcambridge.org/official-tours

ANCESTRAL SERVICES

Cambridge Family History Society

Charity supporting family historians.

cfhs.org.uk

The Churchill Archives Centre

Access to millions of historic documents from the 20th century, in Churchill College.

chu.cam.ac.uk/archives



King's College Chapel

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

GETTING HERE

Nottinghamshire is approximately 120 miles north of London, in the East Midlands.

From London, Nottingham is 1 hour 40 mins by rail or 2 hours 20 mins by road; Newark is 1 hour 15 mins by rail or 2 hours 30 mins by road.

For more destination information see: visit-nottinghamshire.co.uk



Home of legendary outlaw Robin Hood, Nottinghamshire has long nurtured rebellious and spiritual souls. Mayflower Pilgrims including Brewster and Bradford, shaped their Separatist beliefs among its ancient churches and villages, and Methodist preacher William Booth founded the global Salvation Army here.

ST MARY MAGDALENE CHURCH, HUCKNALL

The final resting place of romantic poet Lord Byron and his mathematician daughter Ada Lovelace, this ancient church holds a wealth of history. Its artistic treasures include opus sectile mosaics and 20 Kempe stained-glass windows.

hucknallparishchurch.org.uk

SOUTHWELL MINSTER

Nottinghamshire's cathedral has an impressive 1,000 years of history and is known for its intricate medieval stone leaf carvings. The ruined palace next door is where King Charles I was held captive before his death.

southwellminster.org

NEWSTEAD ABBEY, RAVENSHEAD

This 12th-century priory was disbanded by Henry VIII and turned into a private country home. Walk in the footsteps of past owners such as Lord Byron through its grand rooms and 300 acres of glorious parkland.

newsteadabbey.org.uk

WILLIAM BOOTH BIRTHPLACE MUSEUM, NOTTINGHAM

William Booth was an English Methodist preacher who founded the Salvation Army. The museum tells the story of his life. Open by appointment.

salvationarmy.org.uk/william-booth-birthplace-museum

PILGRIM ROOTS

Nottinghamshire has strong links to the Mayflower pilgrims. In the 16th century, pastor Richard Clyfton preached Separatist services at All Saints Church in Babworth; his congregation included Mayflower passengers William Bradford and William Brewster. In nearby Scrooby you'll find the wooden pews where Brewster and his family once worshiped. Follow the self-guided Mayflower Trail through these peaceful villages and uncover the many historic sites associated with the principal figures from the Mayflower Pilgrim's story.

visit-nottinghamshire.co.uk/ideas-and-inspiration/mayflower-pilgrims/the-mayflower-trail

NATIONAL HOLOCAUST CENTRE AND MUSEUM, NEWARK

Both memorial and a place of learning, this well-equipped centre on the edge of Robin Hood's Sherwood Forest is the only one of its kind in the UK.

The permanent exhibition for adults and children aged 12 and over is complemented by an interactive display for younger children, which explains the Holocaust through the eyes of a fictional German-Jewish boy. Pictures, reconstructed rooms, objects and first-hand accounts bring the story of the Jewish struggle and the horrors that followed to life.

holocaust.org.uk

ANCESTRAL SERVICES

Nottinghamshire Family History Society

The Society offers membership for those who are eager to access experts who offer guidance on locating their family history and archived information.

nottsfnhs.org



Newstead Abbey

ACCOMMODATION

Ye Olde Bell Hotel & Spa, Retford

Characterful hotel in the heart of North Nottinghamshire, ideally situated for groups and FITs visiting the Pilgrim region.

yeoldebelle-hotel.co.uk

Thoresby Hall Hotel, Ollerton

A grand stately home on the edge of Sherwood Forest in North Nottinghamshire.

warnerleisurehotels.co.uk/hotels/thoresby-hall-hotel

DID YOU KNOW?

Three of the first four signatories of the Mayflower Compact came from this area. The Compact was signed by 41 men representing 102 passengers on the Mayflower, in Provincetown Harbour on 11 November 1620. In 1802, John Quincy Adams described the Compact as "perhaps, the only instance in human history of that positive, original social compact, which speculative philosophers have imagined as the only legitimate source of government."

FOOD & DRINK

Ye Olde Trip to Jerusalem, Nottingham

Built into the rock that Nottingham Castle stands on, England's oldest inn has been serving succour since 1189. Nowadays it has craft beer and hearty meals.

greeneking-pubs.co.uk/pubs/nottinghamshire/ye-olde-trip-to-jerusalem

The School of Artisan Food, Welbeck

Based in the heart of Sherwood Forest, the school is housed in the former fire stables, which date back to 1870, and offers tailored artisan courses from foraging to baking.

schoolofartisanfood.org

Torworth Grange

This popular cafe, restaurant and farm shop is in a beautiful setting next to lakes between Scrooby and Retford.

torworthgrange.co.uk



Southwell Minster



St Wilfrid's Church, Scrooby

TOURS & TOUR GUIDES

Mayflower Maid

Take a costume-guided tour of the Pilgrim villages and churches with historian Sue Allan.

mayflowermaid.com

Pilgrims & Prophets

Specialist and customised guided tours with Christian heritage experts across Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire.

pilgrimsandprophets.co.uk

Brackenbury's Britain

Cultural and countryside customised walking tours for FITs and groups.

brackenburysbritain.co.uk

Ezekial Bone

Scheduled and bespoke character-led themed tours of Nottingham, from Robin Hood to the city's lace-making heritage.

ezekialbone.com

WORCESTERSHIRE



GETTING HERE

Worcestershire is approximately 130 miles northwest of London, in the West Midlands.

From London, Worcester is 2 hours 20 mins by rail or 2 hours 20 mins by road; Droitwich Spa is 2 hours 20 mins by rail or 2 hours 10 mins by road.

For more destination information see: visitworcestershire.org



The county of Worcestershire has a long history of religious influence and independence. Never more than during the English Civil War (1642-51), when Royalist forces, loyal to Charles I, occupied this rebellious county. Worcester Cathedral is a must-see attraction, as is Gadfield Elm - the oldest Mormon church in the world. The county is also birthplace of Mayflower Pilgrim Edward Winslow - three times governor of Plymouth, Mass.

WORCESTER CATHEDRAL

A place of worship and pilgrimage for 14 centuries, Worcester Cathedral is the final resting place of King John, Prince Arthur and St Wulfstan. Having weathered the religious upheavals of the Reformation and Civil War, it was also where Mayflower colonist Edward Winslow attended school and composer Sir Edward Elgar conducted his orchestral works. The extensive library houses many rare books, and is ideal for visitors exploring their ancestry and the lives of America's early settlers.

worcestercathedral.co.uk

SACRED HEART CHURCH, DROITWICH SPA

Covered in colourful Venetian glass mosaics, this Catholic church was established in the early 20th century and once formed part of a boys' college. Its grand architecture was based on the basilicas of Ravenna, Italy.

sacredheartdroitwich.org.uk

GREAT WITLEY CHURCH

Britain's finest Baroque church is located 10 miles north of Worcester. Groups welcome.

greatwitleychurch.org.uk

GADFIELD ELM, PENDOCK

The oldest chapel in the world of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Gadfield Elm was founded in 1836 by a breakaway religious group called the United Brethren. It was here that Mormon missionary Wilford Woodruff baptised hundreds of followers before they sold the building and fulfilled their dream of setting up a new life in the United States.

gadfieldelm.org

ANCESTRAL SERVICES

The Hive, Worcester

This modern five-storey venue combines public and university libraries, and the Worcester Archive and Archaeological Service. Explore your ancestry through church, council, hospital and private family records - some dating to the 12th century. Staff will guide you through the extensive resources, narrow your search across print, microfilm and Internet, or conduct research on your behalf.

thehiveworcester.org

ST PETER'S CHURCH, DROITWICH SPA

St Peter's' vestry is dedicated to Edward Winslow, who was born in the parish in 1595 and baptised here.

droitwichparish.org.uk/stpeterschurchbuilding

HARVINGTON HALL

Surrounded by a medieval moat, this Elizabethan manor house hides England's largest number of 'priest holes'. These ingenious spaces saved Catholic families and priests from religious persecution. Many were designed by Saint Nicholas Owen. Another must-see is the rare collection of original Elizabethan wall paintings.

harvingtonhall.com

ACCOMMODATION

The Elms, Abberley

A country house retreat and spa hotel in the Worcestershire countryside.

theelmshotel.co.uk

Stanbrook Abbey Hotel, Worcester

Originally built for Benedictine monks, this dramatic former monastery is now a 55-room hotel.

handpickedhotels.co.uk/stanbrookabbey

FOOD & DRINK

Tasting England

Food tours and traditional English cooking classes.

tastingengland.co.uk

TOURS & TOUR GUIDES

Discover History

Costumed and themed guided tours. Ideal for educational and group tours.

discover-history.co.uk

Worcester Walks

Guided walking tours of the city centre.

worcesterwalks.co.uk



Gadfield Elm



Worcester Cathedral



Harvington Hall



Worcester Cathedral

PLYMOUTH



GETTING HERE

Plymouth is 230 miles southwest of London, in southwest England.

From London, Plymouth is 3 hours 15 mins by rail or 3 hours 50 mins by road. Flights from London City to Exeter Airport (47 miles from Plymouth) take 1 hour 10 mins.

For more destination information see: visitplymouth.co.uk



Britain's Ocean City is steeped in seafaring and spiritual history, serving as the point of call and departure for many across the centuries, including the Mayflower Pilgrims. Plymouth is home to the English-speaking world's oldest active Ashkenazi synagogue and witnessed England's first Brethren assembly in 1831.

THE MAYFLOWER PILGRIMS

The Mayflower and Speedwell were 300 miles clear of Land's End when the Speedwell began leaking badly and couldn't risk continuing. They turned about for Plymouth.

By this time, the cramped, damp and miserable passengers had already spent up to six weeks at sea basically getting nowhere, with a fair wind and good fortune they would have hoped to be closing on their destination by then. The Speedwell was finally declared unfit for the journey. Some of the Pilgrims dropped out; the remainder crowded onto the Mayflower, which required re-provisioning, despite funds running low. The Pilgrims were offered a warm welcome in Plymouth, with local people having sympathy with their Separatist beliefs and were provided shelter and provisions until they could get their journey underway once again.

She left on 16 September with up to 30 crew and 102 passengers on board. Just under half of them were Separatists, the rest were 'economic migrants' - skilled tradespeople sent by the investors to help build the new colony. Visit the Mayflower Steps - memorial to the Pilgrims and their ship - located on the historic Barbican. Plus the adjacent Mayflower museum and Tourist Information Centre.

visitplymouth.co.uk

BUCKLAND ABBEY

Founded by Cistercians who led a peaceful life of farming and religious observance for over 250 years, this vast estate would later become the home of New World explorers Sir Richard Grenville and Sir Francis Drake. Explore tranquil trails and breathtaking views over the Tavy Valley, step inside a giant medieval barn, and pass between a Tudor chamber, Georgian dining room and the Great Hall - all fused with arches and pillars from its former life.

nationaltrust.org.uk/buckland-abbey

MINSTER CHURCH OF ST ANDREW

St Andrew's has seen centuries of change, from its origins in the Saxon period to the religious disputes of the Civil War, and a World War II bomb that destroyed its roof. Katherine of Aragon prayed here, and its congregation welcomed home a triumphant Sir Francis Drake in 1573.

Next door the Prysten House, a 15th-century former church, houses a memorial to a pair of American sailors killed in the War of 1812.

standrewschurch.org.uk

THE BOX

Opening in 2020, The Box brings Plymouth's centuries of naval history, archives and stories to life. The Mayflower 400 'Legend and Legacy' exhibition will open to mark the 400th anniversary of the Mayflower sailing from Plymouth.

plymhearts.org/thebox

PLYMOUTH SYNAGOGUE

Built in 1762, Plymouth's Ashkenazi synagogue is the oldest active such synagogue in the English-speaking world. Tours available by prior arrangement.

plymouthsynagogue.com

FOOD & DRINK

Plymouth Gin Distillery

The oldest gin distillery in the UK is also believed to be the place where the Mayflower Pilgrims spent their last night. Distillery tours available. Visit the Barbican Kitchen for contemporary dining, and the bar for cocktails in a centuries-old building.

plymouthdistillery.com

ACCOMMODATION

New Continental Hotel

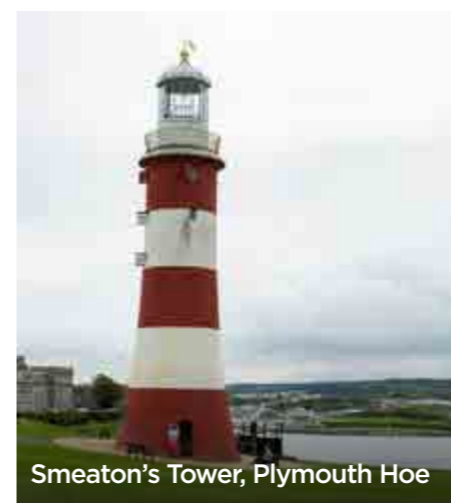
Independent, family-owned hotel with 99 rooms, conveniently located in the city centre. Ideal for groups.

newcontinental.co.uk

Glazebrook House Hotel

Luxury boutique hotel and restaurant with nine rooms, set in secluded grounds. Ideal for FITs.

glazebrookhouse.com



Smeaton's Tower, Plymouth Hoe

ANCESTRAL SERVICES

Devon Family History Society

Promoting the study of genealogy and history, especially for Devon families and places.

devonfhs.org.uk

The Box, Records Office

The principal archive for the area's historical records. Opens spring 2020.

plymhearts.org/thebox

TOURS & TOUR GUIDES

Blue Badge Tour Guide

Jane Dymock, based in Plymouth and with Cornish roots, covers everything from Darwin and Cornish mining to the Mayflower Pilgrims.

tourscornwall.com

Select South West Tours

Multi-day driving tours of South West England.

selectsouthwesttours.com

Unique Devon Tours

Tours and holidays for FITs and small groups.

uniquedevontours.com



Plymouth



Mayflower Steps

ESSEX



GETTING HERE

Essex is northeast of London, in southeast England.

From London, Harwich is 1 hour 20 mins by rail or 1 hour 40 mins by road; Colchester is 1 hour by rail or 1 hour 25 mins by road; and Chelmsford is 30 mins by rail or 1 hour 5 mins by road.

For more destination information see: visitessex.com



On the eastern edge of London, Essex has a wealth of stately homes, picturesque villages and a vast coastline to explore. The county has strong links to the United States; throughout the 17th century, thousands of migrants, fleeing bloody religious persecution, found refuge in America. Thomas Hooker, curate of what is now Chelmsford Cathedral, founded the state of Connecticut. John Winthrop, the first governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, was married in Great Stambridge.

CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL

A mix of 15th, 19th and 20th-century construction, this is one of England's youngest cathedrals. The links with North America date back to 1626, when Thomas Hooker - the future founder of the State of Connecticut - became a preacher in the cathedral (then St Mary's Parish Church). A small blue plaque honours him. In the stained-glass windows, look for the Washington family coat of arms, which later inspired the Stars and Stripes - George Washington was the great-great-grandson of a rector of Purleigh in Essex.

chelmsfordcathedral.org.uk

BRAINTREE & BRAINTREE MUSEUM

In 1632, a group of religious dissenters fled to America aboard The Lyon. They settled at Mount Wollaston, later renamed Braintree in memory of their hometown. John Bridges, a Braintree resident, founded the school that developed into Harvard University. John Adams, whose ancestors sailed with The Lyon, and his son John Quincy Adams both became US presidents. A replica of The Lyon ship can be seen at Braintree Museum.

braintreemuseum.co.uk

DEDHAM

Set beside the River Stour, the quintessentially English village of Dedham has an important place in Elizabethan history; it was central to the Puritan movement, and proved fertile recruiting ground for the American colonies. Between 1633 and 1640, a dozen descendants of Henry Sherman emigrated to New England and made a significant mark on the United States; their family tree includes a co-founder of Rhode Island, a signatory of the Declaration of Independence, a vice-president and many more US luminaries. Visitors can often tour Sherman's house on Heritage Open Days. Art lovers might recognise the area from artist John Constable's famous paintings.

visitcolchester.com/explore/surrounding-areas/constable-country.aspx

heritageopendays.org.uk

ALL SAINTS CHURCH, MALDON

Lawrence Washington, great-great-grandfather of the first president of the United States - George Washington - and a minister in Essex during the 1660s, is buried here. The flint tower of the church was repaired through the generosity of US citizens and the commemorative Washington Window was presented by citizens of Malden, Massachusetts.

allsaintsmaldon.com

THE CHAPEL OF ST PETER-ON-THE-WALL, BRADWELL-ON-SEA

Among England's oldest intact Christian churches and the 19th-oldest building in the country, St Peter's is still in use today. It was built by St Cedd in 654, on the ruins of a Roman fort.

bradwellchapel.org

DID YOU KNOW?

William Penn, founder of Pennsylvania, lived at Wanstead and was educated at Chigwell School; some of the school's original buildings from circa 1629 are still in use.

ACCOMMODATION

Stoke by Nayland Hotel, Golf & Spa, Leavenheath

Spa, self-catering lodges, 80 hotel rooms and two championship golf courses in the Dedham Vale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

stokebynayland.com

County Hotel, Chelmsford

Hotel with modern facilities in the city centre but with easy road and rail access to London. Ideal for groups.

countyhotelchelmsford.co.uk



Dedham

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, GREENSTED

Take a pre-arranged guided tour of the oldest wooden church in the world, or enter for free and soak up the atmosphere; St Andrew's represents around 1,300 years of Christian worship. The oldest grave belongs to a 12th-century Crusader. Suitable for FITs.

greenstedchurch.org.uk

CHURCH OF ST MARY & ALL SAINTS, GREAT STAMBRIDGE

John Winthrop, a Puritan and the first governor of Massachusetts, married in this church at Great Stambridge. There is a window commemorating John in the church - paid for by the Winthrop Society.

winthropsociety.com

ANCESTRAL SERVICES

Essex Records Office, Chelmsford

Tracing English ancestors can begin at home, through Essex Records Office's remote search option for US residents.

essexrecordoffice.co.uk

FOOD & DRINK

Colchester Oysters, Mersea

Native and rock oysters farmed at Mersea Island, Essex are renowned the world over. Enjoy local oysters in one of the local oysters 'sheds'.

visitcolchester.com/food-and-drink

TOURS & TOUR GUIDES

Guide East

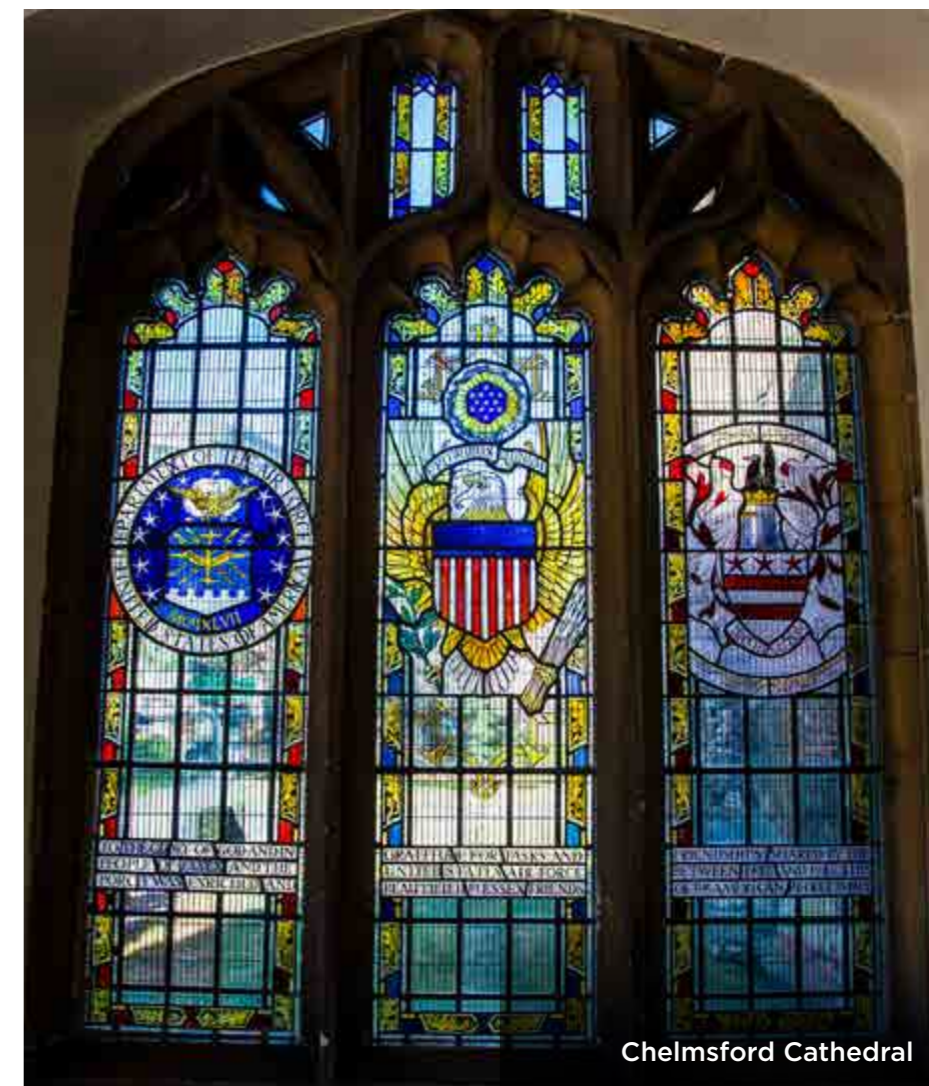
Coach, walking and costumed themed tours, based in Colchester.

guideeast.co.uk

Colchester Tour Guides

Scheduled and customised tours available. Of Colchester, Roman history, and wall walks with qualified Blue and Green Badge Guides.

visitcolchester.com/things-to-do/tours-sightseeing.aspx



Chelmsford Cathedral



HERTFORDSHIRE



GETTING HERE

Hertfordshire is northwest of London; it is one of the Home Counties.

From London, St Albans is 30 minutes by rail or 50 mins by road; Hertford is 50 minutes by rail or 55 mins by road.

For more destination information see: visitherts.co.uk



Close to the capital yet rural in appearance, Hertfordshire's sweeping valleys and forested hills retain the bucolic charm that encouraged some of London's wealthiest to build stately homes here in centuries past. Its largest city, St Albans, once the third-biggest city in Roman Britain, is now a charming market town with a host of crooked Tudor buildings and Georgian townhouses dominated by its enormous cathedral. St Albans Cathedral marks the place where St Alban, a Romano-British soldier, was buried alive for his faith, becoming the first English Christian martyr.

ST ALBANS CATHEDRAL

The cathedral, marking the place where St Alban (England's first Christian martyr) gave his life, was founded as a Benedictine monastery by King Offa of Mercia in 793 AD. It's a place of pilgrimage for Christians the world over. Medieval murals, which pay tribute to a further seven ecumenical martyrs, on its Romanesque arches are the finest in England. Visitors can also view Alban's tomb and images of Adrian IV, England's only pope, on the high altar screen.

stalbanscathedral.org

HATFIELD HOUSE

For the last 400 years, this magnificent stately home has been the seat of the earls and marquesses of Sailsbury, who have been at the centre of British power for much of that time. Robert Cecil's Jacobean mansion was built between 1607 and 1611, after they'd demolished most of the 'Old Palace,' which was where the young princess Elizabeth spent a lot of her youth and was where, in 1558, she found out that she had become queen. The oak tree where it is said she first heard the news is still there. Visitors might recognise Hatfield House; it was a filming location for The King's Speech and The Crown.

hatfield-house.co.uk

VISIT HERTFORD

Samuel Stone was a Puritan minister, born in Hertford in 1602. He went on to found the city of Hartford, Connecticut in 1636. A statue of Stone can be seen in the town centre.

hertford.gov.uk/tourist-information-centre

DID YOU KNOW?

Hertfordshire once supported over 20 'Alien Houses' - religious communes controlled from overseas (usually France).



Seven Martyrs Statues

ACCOMMODATION

St Albans Hotel, the Clarion Collection

Former headquarters of Samuel Ryder's seed company, in an unbeatable location next to the cathedral.

stalbanshotel.co.uk

Pendley Manor, Tring

Historic country house hotel with 86 bedrooms, set in 35 acres of landscaped gardens and parkland.

pendley-manor.co.uk

TOURS & TOUR GUIDES

St Albans Tour Guides

Expert guide-led tours covering everything from St Albans' Roman heritage to its close ties to the Ryder Cup. Private groups catered for too.

stalbanstourguides.co.uk

ANCESTRAL SERVICES

Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies

For an intimate look at this region's unique history, and help tracing your family tree, visit the local archives.

archives.hertfordshire.gov.uk

FOOD & DRINK

Hermitage Road, Hitchin

Award-winning menu and great dining in a converted ballroom, where Eric Clapton first performed.

hermitagerd.co.uk

The Boot, St Albans

The First Battle of St Albans (which kicked off the War of the Roses) in 1455 started literally outside the front door of this 15th-century pub.

thebootstalban.co.uk



St Albans Cathedral

HAMPSHIRE



GETTING HERE

Hampshire is approximately 70 miles southwest of London, in southern England.

From London, Winchester is 1 hour by rail or 1 hour 30 mins by road; Southampton is 1 hour 15 mins by rail or 1 hour 45 mins by road; and Portsmouth is 1 hour 30 mins by rail or 1 hour 30 mins by road.

For more destination information see: visit-hampshire.co.uk



A tranquil blend of countryside and coastline, Hampshire is not to be missed. The county town of Winchester is the ancient capital of England, and even houses King Arthur's Round Table. Its cathedral is the resting place of saints, kings and queens, Jane Austen - and the relatives of George Washington.

WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL & ROOF TOUR

One of the most treasured buildings in all southern England, Winchester Cathedral was begun in 1070 and completed in 1093. Highlights include one of the longest medieval naves in Europe, the gothic façade, carved medieval choir stall and Jane Austen's grave. The cathedral is also home to the bones of St Swithin, a bishop of Winchester in the 9th century and now the city's patron saint. Visitors are welcomed to experience a Tower and Roof Tour trip, through the interior gallery over the cathedral ceiling and into the largest bell ringing chamber in the UK.

winchester-cathedral.org.uk



Southampton Bargate

SOUTHAMPTON AND THE MAYFLOWER PILGRIMS

It was in Southampton that the Mayflower pilgrims first joined together to embark on their journey. The group spent two weeks here, topping up supplies and waiting for sister ship the Speedwell from Leiden. As religious Separatists, some of the group chose to worship in the Parish Church of St Michael the Archangel during that time. The Pilgrim Fathers Memorial marks their point of departure in 1620. Topped with a replica of the Mayflower, it's inscribed with plaques dedicated to pilgrim descendants and family societies, as well as one that tells the pilgrims' story.

mayflower400uk.org/visit/southampton

FOOD & DRINK

Bombay Sapphire Distillery, Whitchurch

The story of the world's most famous gin is told from beautiful Laverstoke Mill, just a 40-minute train journey from Winchester.

Of the 56 million bottles of gin produced by Bombay Sapphire every year, 60% is sold directly to the United States. You'll be blown away by the sight of the old mill buildings transformed into a modern distillery, and the two still-shaped glasshouses. Take a masterclass to shake up your gin-based cocktail-making skills.

bombaysapphire.com



Winchester Cathedral



Winchester Cathedral

ACCOMMODATION

Wykeham Arms Hotel, Winchester

A characterful 18th-century inn between Winchester college and the cathedral. between Winchester college and the Cathedral.

wykehamarmswinchester.co.uk

Southampton Harbour Hotel & Spa

A contemporary luxury hotel in a striking, yacht-inspired building on the marina.

harbourhotels.co.uk/hotels/southampton

TOURS & TOUR GUIDES

Winchester Tourist Guides

Scheduled, themed or group tours, covering subjects such as St Swithun's Day and Medieval Jewish Winchester.

winchestertouristguides.com

Southampton Tourist Guides

Themed guided walking tours of Southampton.

southamptontouristguides.com

See Southampton

Scheduled and bespoke walks and talks with specialist guides, on a range of themes; see graffiti made by US soldiers as they queued to board their warships.

seesouthampton.co.uk

DID YOU KNOW?

Jane Austen lived in Hampshire. As well as seeing her final resting place in Winchester Cathedral, you can visit her home in nearby Chawton, where she penned *Pride & Prejudice*.

ANCESTRAL SERVICES

Hampshire Genealogical Society, Cosham

Registered charity run entirely by volunteers.

hgs-familyhistory.com

Hampshire Record Office, Winchester

Archives, local studies and help with family history enquiries made via tours operators or individuals.

hants.gov.uk/archives.htm

Portsmouth History Centre

Family, local and naval history archives.

portsmouth.gov.uk/ext/libraries/portsmouth-history-centre-and-records-office

Southampton Archives

Southampton's archives services hold a rich variety of material relating to the city and its people dating back to 1199.

southampton.gov.uk/arts-heritage/southampton-archives



ENGLISH RIVIERA



GETTING HERE

The English Riviera is approximately 200 miles southwest of London, in southwest England. From London, Torquay is 3 hours by rail or 3 hour 30 mins by road; Dartmouth is 4 hours by road. For more destination information see: englishriviera.co.uk



Known for its Mediterranean climate, the English Riviera is a 22-mile stretch of pretty villages, seaside towns and soaring cliffs that drop down into beautiful coves and beaches, along Devon's sweeping coastline. The county is loved by many for its charming scenery - Agatha Christie even had her summer home here. It's also popular with ancestral tourists and visitors seeking a classic English seaside experience. Palm tree-lined Torquay and nearby Torre Abbey are among the must-see attractions.

GREENWAY

Just outside Brixham, Agatha Christie's former summer house stands as a 1930s time capsule. As well as being, in Christie's words, "the loveliest place in the world", Greenway was the setting for three murders in the Queen of Crime's novels. The house has all the attributes of a grand family home recently vacated. It contains more than 10,000 items - furniture, books, paintings, decorations, curious and objets d'art - collected by Christie and her family over the decades. None of these are behind glass or a rope: you are free to wander through the various rooms, including her bedroom, where in her wardrobe still hang a selection of her coats and gowns.

nationaltrust.org.uk/greenway



Greenway

TORRE ABBEY MUSEUM & GARDENS

Over 1,000 years old, this medieval monastery was founded by Premonstratensian monks. Today, it's part museum and part arts and culture centre, with two Victorian greenhouses, a formal garden and the Potent Plants Garden (a tribute to Agatha Christie). Visit the museum to understand the brutal history behind the dissolution of England's monasteries in the 16th century or join the head gardener as he reveals the killing power of Agatha Christie's potent plants.

torre-abbey.org.uk

COCKINGTON COUNTRY PARK

An oasis of greenery and quintessential English gentleness, Cockington Country Park is a 420-acre wonderland of parkland, gardens and woodland surrounding a 17th-century manor house. At the heart of the estate is a village of thatched cottages and houses - all now converted into cafes, restaurants and local attractions. There's also a 14th-century church and a pub - The Drum Inn - that is a rare thatched building designed by famous architect Edwin Lutyens. The workshop yard is filled with craft studios.

countryside-trust.org.uk/cockington

DARTMOUTH STEAM RAILWAY

Enjoy superb sea and country views from your restored carriage. Depart Paignton along the coast to Goodrington Sands, where the line passes right above colourful beach huts. Cross the towering Hookhills Viaduct, built by Isambard Kingdom Brunel. Journey through Churston and its stunning views of the Torbay coast to Greenway Halt and Greenway House - Agatha Christie's secluded summer home. End your trip in the picturesque village of Kingswear, across the river from historic Dartmouth.

dartmouthrailriver.co.uk



Torre Abbey

ACCOMMODATION

The Grand, Torquay

In a stunning location on Torquay seafront, many of the 132 bedrooms have sea views.

grandtorquay.co.uk

The Imperial Torquay

One of Agatha Christie's favourites, The Imperial has 152 rooms overlooking Torbay from a prime cliff-top location.

theimperialtorquay.co.uk

ANCESTRAL SERVICES

Brixham Heritage Museum

The museum's Family History Centre offers expert help researching family trees in the area.

brixhammuseum.uk

Devon Family History Society

Local and specialist knowledge of Devon genealogy and history.

devonfhs.org.uk

TOURS & TOUR GUIDES

Unique Devon Tours

Driver guide service offering tailored themed tours across Devon; ancestral tours available.

uniquedevontours.com

English Riviera Tour Guides

Local expert guides for groups and FIT.

englishriviera.co.uk

FOOD & DRINK

Cream tea at The Imperial Torquay

Traditional Devon cream teas come with glorious sea views at this cliff-top hotel.

theimperialtorquay.co.uk

Thatched Tavern, Maidencombe

17th-century thatched tavern serving locally sourced foods.

thethatchedtaverndevon.co.uk

The Drum Inn, Cockington Village

Lutyens-designed country pub and restaurant steeped in charm and rustic character.

vintageinn.co.uk/restaurants/south-west/thedruminncockington



Dartmouth Steam Railway

CORNWALL



GETTING HERE

Cornwall is approximately 230 miles southwest of London, in southwest England.

From London, Penzance is 5 hours 20 mins by rail or 4 hours 50 mins by road; Padstow is 4 hours 30 mins by road. Flights from London Gatwick to Newquay take 1 hour 10 mins.



For more destination information see: visitcornwall.com

Cornwall's rugged landscape, dotted with tin mines and surrounded on three sides by the Atlantic, was well suited to John Wesley's habit of preaching outdoors. The Methodist leader visited the county more than 30 times, and his teachings took hold quickly and easily among the rural and mining communities. Today, the picturesque fishing villages, breathtaking coastline and the Cornish mining landscape, now a UNESCO World Heritage Site, make the county endlessly appealing to visitors.

GWENNAP PIT, REDRUTH

John Wesley preached on 18 occasions from Gwennap Pit, an impressive open-air amphitheatre caused by mining subsidence. Today, the pit is a memorial to the 18th-century Methodist Movement, and is still used as a place of worship. The acoustic properties are remarkable, as is the setting on the eastern slope of Carn Marth. If you walk around the 12 tiers of seats from top to bottom and back up again, you will cover exactly one mile.

visitcornwall.com/places/redruth

WESLEY COTTAGE, TREWINT

In a village on wild Bodmin Moor, Wesley House is where John Wesley rested and preached from on his numerous visits to Cornwall. It was built especially for Wesley by the owners of the house, after the preacher stopped at the house for sustenance on his journey. The cottage's owner, divining a direct command from the Bible, built a small two-room extension to his property for Wesley and his preachers to stay. The restored rooms are said to be the smallest Methodist preaching place in the world.

wesleycottage.org.uk

TRURO CATHEDRAL

The three spires of Truro Cathedral (one of only three cathedrals in the country with three spires) soar above Truro. Construction started in 1880 and completed in 1910, making it the first Anglican cathedral built on a new site since Salisbury Cathedral in 1220. The cathedral is seen as a triumph of Gothic Revival Architecture; it's also famous as the place where the Nine Lessons and Carols Service, which is still held at Christmastime in Anglican churches around the world, was originally devised. Tours available.

trurocathedral.org.uk

FOOD & DRINK

Philps Pasties, Hayle

Sample a Philps pasty; the recipe for their legendary Cornish pasties has been handed down through the family for generations.

philppasties.co.uk

Jamie Oliver's Fifteen Cornwall, Watergate Bay

Jamie Oliver's social enterprise makes a difference to young people's lives through daily menus served to ocean views.

fifteencornwall.co.uk

St Austell Brewery

The interactive Brewing Experience reveals the secrets behind this independent, family-run Cornish brewery's 160-year-old brewing process - samples included.

staustellbreweryvisitorcentre.co.uk

ACCOMMODATION

The Nare, Veryan-in-Roseland

Privately owned country house hotel on a secluded bay, with 37 bedrooms and panoramic sea views.

narehotel.co.uk

The Falmouth Hotel

Set in five lush acres overlooking Falmouth Bay and Castle Beach, the hotel's public areas have retained the grandeur of its Victorian heyday while the bedrooms have all the mod cons of a contemporary hotel.

hatton-court.co.uk

CORNISH METHODISM TOURS

America Loves Cornwall's Cornish Methodism Tours put the Wesley brothers' arrival in Cornwall in the context of the broader evangelical awakening that spread as far as the United States. The tours take in the mining communities that so enthusiastically embraced the Wesleys' teaching.

americualovescornwall.com/product/cornish-methodism-tours-and-holidays

ANCESTRAL SERVICES

Kresen Kernow, Redruth

A modern archive and library space bringing together the world's largest collection of manuscripts, books and documents related to Cornwall. Opening 2019.

cornwall.gov.uk/cro

Cornwall Family History Society, Truro

Research library and other resources, for members and the public researching Cornish family history.

cornwallfhs.com

DID YOU KNOW?

In the 18th and 19th centuries, smuggling was so common in the picturesque Cornish village of Polperro that John Wesley once complained that nearly every local was involved.



Gwennap Pit
Credit Visit Redruth

TOURS & TOUR GUIDES

Unique Cornwall Tours

Tailor-made tours and holidays for FITs and small groups.

uniquecornwalltours.com

Select South West Tours

Luxurious customisable tours of Cornwall and southwest England, for private groups.

selectsouthwesttours.com

Poldark's Cornwall

Experience Poldark's Cornwall, the county's mining history and learn to make a Cornish pasty on one of these packaged or fully customisable tours.

poldarktours.co.uk



Cornish Coastline



TRAVEL INFORMATION

Getting here and getting around.

The product in this document can be built as a touring itinerary, or it can be used as modular content and incorporated into existing England tours.

Many of the destinations and things to do can be accessed in a day from London but we recommend you linger for longer in these regions outside of London and uncover the real England.

By Air

England is well connected to the US, with frequent daily flights from 35 US airports. Key gateways include London Heathrow, London Gatwick and Manchester.

Regional gateways provide easy access to some of the destinations outside of London, and many provide connecting routes to the US.

By Rail

Travelling by rail is a scenic and relaxing way to enjoy England. Most main cities and towns have well serviced railway stations and all will connect to London. For some of the more rural destinations, a taxi or a driver guide would be necessary for FITs. Train travel tends to be cheaper when booked in advance.

The BritRail pass provides ultimate flexibility and value for money for traveling in Britain. The passes must be purchased before visitors leave the US.

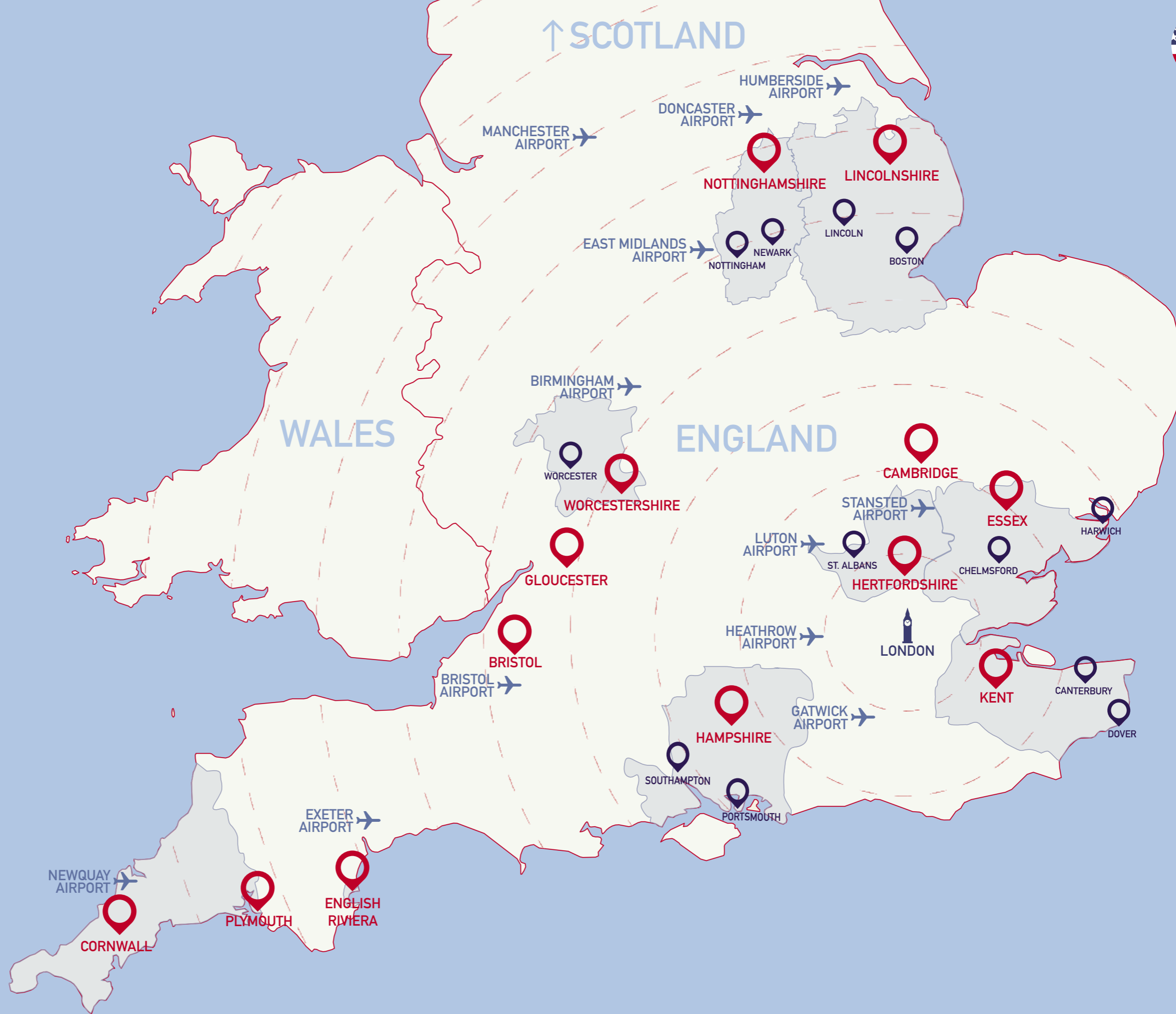
britrail.com

Great Western Railway operate the train network from London across the South West of England and Wales and the overnight sleeper service between London and Penzance. For routes and ticket information and sales:

gwr.com

By Car

For self-drive visitors, cars in England are right-hand drive and cars drive on the left-hand side of the road. Hire cars tend to be manual (stick shift) so be sure to request an automatic on booking.



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