

The British Trip 2022 Itinerary

Overview: The Britain Trip. England, Wales and Scotland, with the Republic of Ireland if time permits! An emphasis of history and hiking Great ideas: [CycleBreaks](#), [RS GB](#), and many saved in bookmarks.

- <https://iohnmuirway.org/day-trips/>
- <https://www.beckythetraveller.com/best-day-hikes-scotland-arthurs-seat-walk/>
- <https://www.lonelyplanet.com/articles/best-one-day-walks-in-britain>
- https://www.nationaltrail.co.uk/en_GB/trails/

Aug 12 – Aug 12: Flight Split to London Gatwick on Croatian Airlines OU494 at 2pm (early Ferry)

Aug 12 – Aug 17: London 5N (Friday-Wednesday). Shows, Borough Market, Parks, Churchill's Bunker
Aug 17 – Aug 20: Cambridge 3N (Wednesday-Saturday). Library, museum, punting, campus and pubs.
Aug 20 – Aug 23: Surry Hills AONB 3N (Saturday-Tuesday). Hiking, Hastings, Canterbury, Dover.
Aug 23 – Aug 29: Broadway 6N (Tues-Mon). Windsor, Cotswolds, Shakespear, stone circles, Oxford

Aug 29 – Sept 02: Pembrokeshire 4N (Mon-Fri). Southwest Wales Coastal Walk
Sept 02 – Sept 09: Conwy 7N (Friday-Friday). Explore North Walkes, Snowdonia, Dark is Rising sites.

Sept 09 – Sept 10: Liverpool 1N (Fri-Sat). Beatles + British Musical History, Royal Albert docks, night life.
Sept 10 – Sept 12: Buxton & Peak District 2N (Sat-Mon). Town and hiking for a day.
Sept 12 – Sept 18: Bowness-on-Windermere / Lakes District 6N (Mon-Sun). Hiking and relaxing.

Sept 18 – Sept 25: Glasgow 7N (Sunday-Sunday). Explore the city and hike, hike, hike nearby!
Sept 25 – Sept 26: Fort William 1N (Sun-Mon). Glencoe Musuem, MacDonald Memoria, Ben Nevis
Sept 26 – Oct 02: Isle of Skye (Kensaleyre) 6N (Monday-Sunday). Explore the Isle of Skye and hike.
Oct 02 – Oct 06: Aviemore and the Cairngorn NP 4N (Sun-Thurs). Loch Ness enroute, then hike!
Oct 06 – Oct 07: St. Andrews 1N (Thur-Fri). See the city, Old Golf Course, University & walk the sea path.
Oct 07 – Oct 12: Edinburgh 5N (Fri-Wed). Explore the city and hike, hike nearby!

Oct 12 – Oct 13: Durham 1N (Wed - Thurs). Evensong at the cathedral.
Oct 13 – Oct 18: York 5N (Thurs-Tues) Old walled city, Harrowgate, hike the Downs and Moors
Oct 18 – Oct 20: Ironbridge 2N. Industrial Age history, Tolkien Museum in Birmingham, and Offa's dike

Oct 20– Oct 20: Fly London Luton to Dublin. Drop car, fly to Ireland!

Oct 20– Oct 23: Dublin. Relax and enjoy the music before heading home 😊

Oct 23 – Oct 23: Flight DUB to CLT. Delta DUB-JFK @11:10 am, 7hr + 1½ layover, then JFK-CLT arrive 5:30

		England	Wales	Scotland	Ireland	Car	Checksum													
		34	11	24	3	65	72	Total includes +1 for final Schengen day flying out												
		0.0	1.1	0.4	0.8	0.1	2.1	2.4	Car: Max 30 days on CC else get insurance, or swi											
						57	2480		Aug	Sept	Oct	Aug	Sept	Oct						
Start	From	To	Nights	City	Country	Car?	Hrs	Miles	Notes	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	Days	Days	Days		
Friday	12-Aug	16-Aug	5	London	England	0	0	0	Food and Culture	73	59	67	55	60	50	8	9	9		
Wednesday	17-Aug	19-Aug	3	Cambridge	England	3	1.5+1.5	45	Library and other sites	68	52	63	49	56	44	9	8	9		
Saturday	20-Aug	22-Aug	3	Surry Hills AONB	England	3	5	240	Canterbury Cathedral, Cliffs of Dover, Battle of Hastings, hik	73	59	67	55	60	50	8	9	9		
Tuesday	23-Aug	28-Aug	6	Broadway	England	6	3	120	Cotswold walks/villages, Windsor, Chiltern Hills, Roahd Dal	68	52	63	49	56	44	9	8	8		
Monday	29-Aug	1-Sep	4	Pembrokeshire	Wales	4	4	200	South Wales. Pembrokeshire National Seashore hiking	66	56	62	53	57	49	10	10	12		
Friday	2-Sep	8-Sep	7	Conwy	Wales	7	4.5	180	North Wales. Snowdonia, Dark is Rising sites	68	53	64	49	58	45	12	10	11		
Friday	9-Sep	9-Sep	1	Liverpool	England	1	1.5	60	The Beatles!	70	54	65	50	58	45	12	10	11		
Saturday	10-Sep	11-Sep	2	Buxton	England	2	2	65	The Peaks District. Hiking and relax. Beautiful Spa town	60	47	60	47	60	47	9	8	10		
Monday	12-Sep	17-Sep	6	Bowness	England	6	3.5	140	Hiking Lakes District, Beatrix Potter, Wordsworth, Bronte	66	52	62	48	56	44	16	15	16		
Sunday	18-Sep	24-Sep	7	Glasgow	Scotland	7	4.5	220	City and nearby hiking. Enroute: Hadrian's wall, Gilnockie T	67	54	62	50	56	45	17	17	18		
Sunday	25-Sep	25-Sep	1	Fort William	Scotland	1	2.5	110	Glencoe, Ben Nevis Distillerie, Ben Nevis hike.	63	53	57	50	53	45	17	17	18		
Monday	26-Sep	1-Oct	6	Portree	Scotland	6	2.5	120	Isle of Skye. Hiking, relax	64	52	61	50	56	45	17	17	18		
Sunday	2-Oct	5-Oct	4	Aviemore	Scotland	4	3.5	150	Hiking Cairngorms. Enroute: Loch Ness											
Thursday	6-Oct	6-Oct	1	St. Andrews	Scotland	1	3.5	125	Explore golf and university town. Minigolf the "Himalayas"	66	51	62	48	55	43	10	11			
Friday	7-Oct	11-Oct	5	Edinburg	Scotland	5	3	115	Old town, music, nearby hikes. Enroute Stirling Castle, Falk	66	51	61	48	55	43	10	11			
Wednesday	12-Oct	12-Oct	1	Durham	England	1	4	150	Cathedral and Evensong. Enroute: Muir Path, see Hadrian's	66	54	61	50	55	45	15				
Thursday	13-Oct	17-Oct	5	York	England	5	3	130	Old walled city, visit Harrowgate, hike downs and moors.	69	52	64	49	57	44	15				
Tuesday	18-Oct	19-Oct	2	Ironbridge	England	2	4	190	Industrial Age History, Offa's Dike. Enroute oldest pub and	69	53	64	50	57	45	10				
Thursday	20-Oct	20-Oct	0	Luton	England	1	3	120	Depart hotel by 7am, 3 hr drive, drop car, shuttle, fly to DU											
Thursday	20-Oct	22-Oct	3	Dublin	Ireland	0	0	0	Industrial Age History, Offa's Dike. Enroute oldest pub and	69	53	64	50	57	45	10				
Sunday	23-Oct	23-Oct	0	Dublin	Ireland	0	0	0	Depart hotel by 7am, 1hr cab, fly DUB to JFK, JFK-CLT, taxi to											

What days are things closed?

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COVID and UK Travel

As of October 2021, vaccinated travelers can enter England without pre-trip PCR test and without arrival quarantine; lateral flow test 2-days after arrival still required. All four nations that comprise the U.K. have separate testing and quarantine requirement: England's are [here](#), Scotland's are [here](#), Northern Ireland's are [here](#) and Wales's are [here](#).

Visit the [U.S. Embassy in the United Kingdom](#) (also [here](#)) for regular updates.

COVID and Ireland

As of October 2021, vaccinated travelers can enter Ireland from the US without quarantine or testing.

Visit the [U.S. Embassy in Ireland](#) for regular updates. Ireland official site is [here](#)

Aug 12 – Aug 12: Flight Split to London Gatwick on Croatian Airlines OU494 at 2pm (early Ferry)

Ferry - Bol to Split at **6:30am**, 11am, and noon, and take 1 hr. To confirm we are on-time for our flight, we should take the 6:30, which puts us at the airport at about 8am (6 hours early). If we take the 11am, we arrive about 1pm, 1 hr before the flight. :- (Buy ahead [Ferry Link](#)

Flight - Croatia Airlines OU494 SPU-LGW

Transit *Gatwick's train station is served by [Gatwick Express](#), [Southern](#) and [Thameslink](#) trains*
Thanks to the UK's somewhat opaque rail ticketing system, it's easy for first-time visitors to wind up with the wrong ticket and on the wrong train. [CNN London Airports Article](#)

Route - Thameslink rail from Gatwick to London Blackfriars, then walk about ½ mile [G-Maps route](#)
Departures every 30 minutes, 6 min past the top and bottom of the hour

Buy in advance from [Thameslink](#), ~£26 for 2 adults online (anytime tickets)
Check on any strike actions (several this summer) before purchase!

Aug 12 – Aug 17: London 5N (Friday-Wednesday). Shows, Borough Market, Parks, Churchill's Bunker

London: Museums, catch a stage show, Churchill Bunker, Borough Market, Parks, Museums.
If in London for more than a day or two, invest in an Oyster travel card for substantial savings on underground (subway), bus, and train fares in the capital. Remember to stand on the right on escalators – or risk an angry tutting from commuters in a hurry.

Ideas: see RS book and research

Stay – [Native Bankside](#) – booking.com

Day

- Churchill Bunker, Theater, Borough Market, Parks.
 - The Victoria & Albert Museum, the Science Museum and the Natural History Museum are all close together, free to enter and housed in notable buildings in their own right
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Aug 17 – Aug 20: Cambridge 3N (Wednesday-Saturday). Library, museum, punting, campus and pubs.

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Transit Pick-up car at Luton Airport, 30 miles north of London. It will take a few connections and probably 2 hours to get to our car! Sheesh. Here are options

East Midlands trains run fast, hourly services from St Pancras to Luton Airport Parkway, taking ~30 min. Thameslink runs a more regular service from St Pancras.

We should be able to take the [Thameslink from Blackfriars](#), closer to our apartment.

Visitors should remember to buy a ticket to Luton Airport rather than Luton Airport Parkway. The latter is the nearest station to the airport, with all passengers required to take a shuttle bus to the terminal. This adds 10 to 15 minutes to all journey times.

From airport, go to the bus stop opposite the exit and wait for the "Airparks Airport Transfers" bus (blue and white) at bus stop R. The buses run on the hour and 30's

Car – Pickup at London Luton Airport April 17 at noon.
Easirent - Airparks, Grove Rd, Slip End, Luton LU1 4BZ. Phone +441582344812

Stay – [Angel's](#) – booking.com

Day -----

See library (reserve ahead), punt on the river, bookstores, see town and eat at a few places

Aug 20 – Aug 23: Surry Hills AONB 3N (Saturday-Tuesday). Hiking, Hastings, Canterbury, Dover.

Surry Hills: AONB with hills, hiking, vineyards, and quaint towns including Dorking. Hike the area and see Canterbury Cathedral, White Cliffs of Dover, and Battle of Hastings site.

Enroute – Canterbury Cathedral, Cliffs of Dover and (time permitting) Battle of Hastings. Driving time is about 5hr, [GM route here](#). If short on time, skip Hastings and come back as day trip. Also enroute [Chapel Down Winery](#), near Hastings.

Stay – [White Horse Hotel](#) – booking.com

Day -----

Hike in the Surrey Hills AONB. Some suggested walks here: [National Trust](#) and [AllTrails](#).

Winery optins: <https://www.denbies.co.uk/visit-us/outdoor-tours/> or <https://www.alburyvineyard.com/> or <https://www.chapeldown.com/pages/visit-us> or [Ridgeview](#) or [Rathfinney](#) (both near Brighton)

Day -----

See Battle of Hastings Museum and Battlefield.

Aug 23 – Aug 29: Broadway 6N (Tues-Mon). Windsor, Cotswolds, Shakespear, stone circles, Oxford

The Cotswolds: Beautiful area with small towns, old wool industry, canals, head-of-Thames, and long country walks between pubs. Good warm-up for hikes in Wales, Peak, Lakes, and Scotland! Each of these will be progressively more strenuous.

Ideas: see RS book and [Wanderlust](#) and AllTrails for Cotswold walks

Enroute – Windsor Castle, Chiltern Hills AONB, Roald Dahl museum (Willy Wonka). Total of about 3½hr driving, with Google Maps [route here](#).

Note – buy Windsor tickets early at www.rct.uk (collect them at the prepaid ticket window)

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Stay – [No. 10 Broadway](#) – booking.com

Day -----

Explore 3B's towns – Broadway, Burton-on-the-Water, and Bibury. Do Cotswold Walks. Drive to Avebury Standing Stones and Avenue of Stones. Day in Oxford if we want. Stratford-on-Avon for a Shakespear play. Pick-up Lea and Perrin's Worcestershire sauce in Worcester. Hike in the Malvern Hills AONB. See Westonbirt National Arboretum. See Avebury and Wayland's Standing Stones, and White Horse Hill. See Head-of-Thames and its pub. Blenheim Palace.

Winery on the weekend: <https://www.three-choirs-vineyards.co.uk/wine-tasting-experience/>

Possible Walks/Hikes

- [Cotswold Way National Trail](#)
- [Chipping Camden – Broadway Circular Hike](#)
- [Cotswold AONB Self-Guided Walks Map](#)
- [Cotswold AONB Broadway Tower Walk](#)
- [Cotswold AONB Stone WWS-CNL](#)
- *Get the excellent Ordnance Survey Explorer OL #45 map, which shows every road, trail, and ridgeline (£9 at local TIs). Nearly every hotel and B&B offers hiking advice and has a box or shelf of local walking guides and maps, including OS#45. Don't hesitate to ask for a loaner.*
- *For a quick circular hike from a particular village, peruse the books and brochures offered by that village's TI, or search online for maps and route descriptions; one good website is www.nationaltrail.co.uk —select "Cotswold Way," then "Be Inspired," then "Circular Walks." Villages (with pubs) are generally no more than 3 miles apart*

Aug 29 – Sept 02: Pembrokeshire 4N (Mon-Fri). Southwest Wales Coastal Walk

South Wales: Explore Caerphilly Castle enroute to a coast stay and coastal hikes/walks in Pembrokeshire in southern Wales. Recommended by Rob Watkins.

Ideas: see RS book and research

Enroute – Caerphilly Castle. Total of about 4hr driving, with Google Maps [route here](#).

Stay – [The Neptune House](#) – AirBnB

Day -----

Hike the Coast, using public transport if possible so we can do one-way stretches. Check TI office.

Day -----

See Petre Ifan Burial Chamber, 5500 years old

Sept 02 – Sept 09: Conwy 7N (Friday-Friday). Explore North Walkes, Snowdonia, Dark is Rising sites.

North Wales / Snowdonia: Explore "Dark is Rising" sites near Aberdyfi and Snowdonia NP. There is a scenic railroad to the top, or we can hike up/down. Other hikes near Cadair Idris (Pennygader)

Ideas: see RS book and research, and Wanderlust's [Snowdonia Best Outdoor Adventures](#)

Enroute Grey King sites in Aberdyfi, St. Cadfan, Tal-y-llyn. Re-read and annotate maps! Initial cut at the [GM route is here](#), amend as research from reading is complete.

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Stay – [8 Watkin Street](#) – booking.com

Day -----

Explore Conwy, Snowdonia hikes, Liverpool, Kirby

Day -----

[Callum Beattie](#) is at Heebie Jeebies, Liverpool on Sept 8 – road-trip to see?

Day -----

Daytrip to West Kirby area (recommended by our Luzern bartender who is from there, name?)

Possible Hikes

- <https://www.mymountainsandme.com/blog/best-walks-north-wales>
- <https://www.muchbetteradventures.com/magazine/best-hikes-in-wales/>
- <https://www.lowa.co.uk/lovelowa/best-walks-north-wales>

Sept 09 – Sept 10: Liverpool 1N (Fri-Sat). Beatles + British Musical History, Royal Albert docks, night life.

Liverpool Ideas: see RS book. Magical Mystery Big Bus Tour (Beatles), British Music Experience, Magical Beatles Museum, Museum of Liverpool. Stay near Albert Docks, Victorian Liverpool Walk, Hope Street between the cathedrals for great restaurants. The Ropewalks area, east of Albert Docks, is lively night-time scene – RS

In its day, Liverpool was England's greatest seaport. It was along here (in front of the Cunard Building) that great ships embarked for America. For millions of people in the 19th century, this was their last stop before a new life in the New World. But trade declined after 1890, as the port wasn't deep enough for the big new ships. The advent of mega container ships in the 1960s put the final nail in the port's coffin, and by 1972 the central port was closed entirely. It was also for a long time a hub of the Trade Triangle, transporting slaves from Africa. Much later – famous as the home of the Beatles. - RS

Enroute – none, get to city early to see it all in one day! [GM route here](#)

Stay – [Mays Apartments](#) – booking.com

Day -----

Enroute, West Kirby area (recommended by our Luzern bartender who is from there, name?)
Explore Beatles sites, nightlife, harbor walk, Royal Philharmonic Dining Room (pub w/marble loo)

Sept 10 – Sept 12: Buxton & Peak District 2N (Sat-Mon). Town and hiking for a day.

Peaks District Ideas: see [The Crazy Tourist](#) and [LouiseGrace Blog](#). Buxton is a fabulous place to visit, not just for its stunning location and hiking, but its history, famous Georgian and Victorian architecture, ornamental gardens as well as a wealth of independents shops, bars and restaurants.

Enroute – none, get to city early to see it all in one day! [GM route here](#)

Stay – [Westminster Hotel](#) – booking.com

Day -----

It is only a 90-min drive from Liverpool, so we've time to explore town on arrival (see GM pins)
<https://www.thecrazytourist.com/15-best-things-to-do-in-buxton-derbyshire-england/>

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Day -----

Explore hiking: <https://www.wanderlust.co.uk/content/best-walks-in-the-peak-district/> or perhaps Mam Tor, also nearby.

Sept 12 – Sept 18: Bowness-on-Windermere / Lakes District 6N (Mon-Sun). Hiking and relaxing.

William Wordsworth's Daffodils poem, starting with the much-quoted line "I wander'd lonely as a cloud" has come to stand as the archetypal Lake District poem; a tribute to the natural beauty.

Lake District Ideas: see RS book. Since the towns themselves are unexceptional, a visit here isn't worth it unless you have time to head up into the hills. The south – closer to London – is very touristy and can be crowded. Focus on the North, get outdoors and/or chill with the views.

More Ideas: Castlerigg, Dove Cottage, and other pins on Google Maps

Enroute two options – [2½ hr direct route](#), or divert for [3½ hr route](#) and see Bronte Parsonage

Stay – [Ellie's View](#) – AirBnB

Day 1 -----

Drive to see Hadrian's Wall and Long Meg and her Daughters Stone Circle and Lowther Castle

Day 2 -----

RS-based idea for daytrip to encompass many of the area sites. [GM route here](#)

- From Bowness, drive south along Lake Windermere and around thru Stott Park
- Visit National Trust – Hilltop (Beatrix Potter)
- Visit Ambleside, Roman Fort
- Tour Wordsworth's Dove Cottage near Grasmere, and Grasmere town Gingerbread shop
- Backtrack to Ambleside, where a small road (Kirkstone) leads up to the dramatic Kirkstone Pass and down (on route A-592) to Glenridding on Lake Ullswater
- Catch the next Ullswater boat and ride to Howtown. Depending on the available daylight, you can hike six miles (3-4 hours) from Howtown back to Glenridding. Or, with less time, ride the boat as far as Aira Force to hike up to the waterfall (1 hour) or skip the boat and walk to Lanty's Tarn (2 hours) right from the Glenridding parking lot.
- Head to Castlerigg Stone Circle as the sun sets
- Drive to your hotel

Day 3-5 -----

Explore the area by kayak, canoe, steamship or on foot hiking with pubs along the way:

- <https://www.wanderlust.co.uk/content/your-tips-on-the-lake-district/>
- <https://www.wanderlust.co.uk/content/reasons-to-visit-lake-district/>
- <https://www.wanderlust.co.uk/content/5-things-you-must-do-in-the-lake-district/>
- <https://www.wanderlust.co.uk/content/best-lake-district-walks/>
- <https://www.wanderlust.co.uk/content/a-short-break-in-the-lake-district/>
- <https://www.muchbetteradventures.com/magazine/5-best-adventurous-hikes-lake-district/>

Sept 18 – Sept 25: Glasgow 7N (Sunday-Sunday). Explore the city and hike, hike, hike nearby!

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Glasgow: Formerly down-at-heel, the city is now a hip place to be. Known for a lively music scene, and for its proximity to the highlands – fantastic hikes are within an hour, many by train/bus.

Ideas: see RS book and research

Enroute Hadrian's Wall, build about AD122 and running for 73 miles coast-to-coast at the narrowest point of England. Official [site here](#) and see also RS under "England/Durham). Per RS, Roman Army Museum (why they were here) should be first stop, with good 20-min movie "Edge of Empire". Housesteads is the next stop; it shows where they lived (we can walk the actual wall only there, it has the best preserved wall and is the single best stop. Vindolant is the last stop, showing how they lived. It has the best museum.

After the Romans, we drive on to the Lang Sandie sculpture in Rowanburn, and [Glnockie Tower](#). Both were part of the [Debatable Lands](#), claimed by neither Scotland or England. Finally, a stop in Gretna Green, at the Blacksmith Shop famous for [marriages](#) for young English lovers.

The [GM route here](#) is about 4½ hr plus time seeing the sites.

Stay – [Spacious 2 bed West End flat with parking & Fibre](#) – AirBnB

Get a Walking Tour?

Day -----

Merchant City. The area's sandstone architecture tell of Victorian industrial wealth, now filled with designers, artists, and musicians. Gallery of Modern Art is free. Duke of Wellington Statue. [Merchant Square](#) has a schedule of events.

Day -----

Hike the surrounding area! Or chill...

Day -----

Kelvingrove Park. 85 acres straddling the River Kelvin. The go-to place for art, culture, food and fashion. Walk along Finnieston and the Strip for shops and cafes (e.g. Kelvingrove Café)

Day -----

Hike the surrounding area! Or chill...

Day -----

Hike the surrounding area! Or chill...

Day -----

Hike the surrounding area! Or chill...

Hikes - See GM and AllTrails. John Muir Way West End in Helensburgh, Ben Arthur/The Cobbler, Ben Lomond, Balmaha West Highland Way, Inchconnachan: The British island where wallabies rule, Nether Largie Standing Stones / Temple Wood Stone Circle, Inveraray Castle, Oban Distillery.

- o Balmaha / West Highland Way / Conic Hill – 3-10mi
- o Beinn Narnain via the Cobbler – 11 mi, 3800', tough
- o The Cobbler (Ben Arthur), 7m, moderate
- o Ben Lomond, Loch Lemand, Tressocs, 7½ mi, 3300'
- o Helensburgh loop - 6½mi, easy <https://johnmuirway.org/day-trips/helensburgh-highlandmans-hike/>
- o Ben Bowie, Hard – 10mi <https://johnmuirway.org/day-trips/helensburgh-ben-bowie-loop/>
- o Edenmill Loop, mod – 8 mi <https://johnmuirway.org/day-trips/edenmill-to-the-whangie/>

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- Antonine Wall loop, mod, 6½mi, <https://johnmuirway.org/day-trips/antonine-wall-trail/>
- Ochil Hills – various, see Wallace Monument and Stirling Castle

Sept 25 – Sept 26: Fort William 1N (Sun-Mon). Glencoe Musuem, MacDonald Memoria, Ben Nevis

Glencoe and Ft William: Glencoe Massacre site, Ben Nevis Mt Hike, Ben Nevis Distillery.

See RS for ideas and history to enrich the visit.

Enroute – stop by the Glencoe Visitor Center and MacDonald Memorial. ~2½ hr [here on GMaps](#)

Glencoe Visitor Center – Designed to resemble a clachan (traditional Highland settlement)

- The info desk in the gift shop gives the best advice (and maps or guidebooks) for local walks and hikes. At the back of the complex you’ll find a viewpoint with a handy 3-D model of the hills for orientation; an easy woodland walk starts here.

MacDonald Memorial – a Glencoe offers a good does of bloody clan history

- In 1692, government Redcoats (led by a local Campbell commander) came to the valley, and were sheltered and fed for 12 days by the MacDonalds—whose leader had been late in swearing an oath to the British monarch.
- Then, on the morning of February 13, the soldiers were ordered to rise up early and kill their sleeping hosts, violating the rules of Highland hospitality and earning the valley the nickname “The Weeping Glen.”
- Thirty-eight men were killed outright; hundreds more fled through a blizzard, and some 40 additional villagers (mostly women and children) died from exposure. It’s fitting that such an epic, dramatic incident—dubbed the Glencoe Massacre—should be set in this equally epic, dramatic valley, where the cliffsides seem to weep (with running streams) when it rains.

Movie Note – Skyfall, Prisoner of Azkaban, Outlander, MP & Holy Grail all filmed in Glencoe Valley

Stay – [Nevis Bank Inn](#) – booking.com

Day -----

Explore Glencoe enroute, then Ft William and Distillery.

Day -----

Hike Ben Nevis (highest mtn in Britain) – see AllTrails for options that fit the schedule

Sept 26 – Oct 02: Isle of Skye (Kensaleyre) 6N (Monday-Sunday). Explore the Isle of Skye and hike.

Isle of Skye: Hiking in open green country - waterfalls, lakes, seashore, mountains. City of Portree

Ideas: see RS book and research

Enroute – Visit the Eilean Donan Castle enroute. [Route on Google Maps](#) shows 2½ hr.

Stay – [Creag Moine Luxury Self Catering](#) – booking.com

Day -----

Explore the island and hikes and Chill. Dinosaur footprints at Staffin. See AllTrails and RS.

Quiraing Hill Circuit – 4 miles, moderate, north end of island, ,and Fairy Pools.

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Oct 02 – Oct 06: Aviemore and the Cairngorn NP 4N (Sun-Thurs). Loch Ness enroute, then hike!

Enroute – Visit the [Loch Ness Centre & Exhibition](#) inside the Drumnadrochit Hotel to get up on the history of the Nessie sightings and hoaxes and to form our opinion on what lies beneath. [Route on Google Maps](#) shows 3½ hr, plus stops.

Stay – [Avielochan Cottages](#) – direct

Day -----
Visit Glenmore Forest (Ancient Caledonian)

Day -----
Cairn Gorm Circular Route hike (7mi). Find in all trails?

Day -----
Highland Folk Museum

Ideas – Wanderlust [Reasons to Visit](#) and [Best Cairngorns Walks](#), and [Official Tourism Site](#)

The most accessible peak is Cairn Gorm. A footpath weaves to its summit from Cairngorm Mountain. Those feeling less energetic can take the funicular railway to a viewpoint to spot ptarmigan, snow bunting, eagles and even reindeer, the only herd in Britain. Note that snow can linger on top well into spring, and even into the summer.

Unfortunately we will miss by a day... [The Golden Spurtle World Porridge Competition](#)

Oct 06 – Oct 07: St. Andrews 1N (Thur-Fri). See the city, Old Golf Course, University & walk the sea path.

St. Andrews: We will see most of the sights via the RS town walk. The oldest golf course in the world (aptly named St. Andrews Old Course) is part of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club. We can view the iconic 18th hole. Then walk the University (where William and Kate went to school), including St. Salvator's Chapel. From there, on to St. Andrews Castle, St. Mary's College. We can play a round at the "Himalayas", aka the St. Andrew's Ladies Putting Club. It is essentially a very classy (but very relaxed) game of mini-golf, cheap and fun. See RS book for details

Enroute – via [Balmoral Castle](#) (Queen's Residence) and along the [Snow Road](#) between Grantown on Spey and Blairgowrie and Rattay. [Google maps says this route](#) is about 3½ hr.

Stay – [The Albany St. Andrews](#) – booking.com

Day -----
Arrival day (afternoon / evening) do RS Walk. Morning – play Himalayas, then on to Edinburgh

Oct 07 – Oct 12: Edinburgh 5N (Fri-Wed). Explore the city and hike, hike nearby!

Edinburgh: Explore the city and music, and sites/hikes in the surrounding area

Ideas: see RS book and research

Enroute – Three stops. First, [Stirling Castle](#), symbol of Scottish independence. Next on to the [Falkirk wheel](#), and amazing feat of engineering. Finally, the Kelpies sculpture, 100-ft high. [GM Route here](#) 3hrs plus time at stops.

The British Trip 2022 Itinerary

Stay – [Unwind in the Mezzanine Dining Space at a West End Abode](#) – AirBnB

Get a Walking Tour?

Day -----

Explore the Old Town, including Edinburgh Castle, the Royal Mile with palaces, St. Giles cathedral, the Scotch Whisky Experience, Palace Holyroodhouse (Queen’s Scottish Residence), Edinburgh University and nearby Scottish Parliament.

Day -----

Explore New Town (1700s-1800s), with its Georgian Houses, Princes Street, Gardens, the Royal Botanic Garden. Head to the Oxford Bar in the New Town. Housed in a 200-year-old building on Young Street, the pub’s famous for being fictional detective [Inspector Rebus](#)’ favorite boozier.

Day -----

Visit to the west: Stirling Castle, Falkirk Wheel, Falkirk Tunnel / Union Canal walk, the Kelpies

Day -----

Hike up to Holyrood Park to Arthur’s Seat

Other Hiking Options

- Arthur’s Seat, 3m in Holyrood Park
- Firth of Forth <https://johnmuirway.org/day-trips/fisherrow-to-port-seton/>
- Kelpies loop 11-12mi, mod <https://johnmuirway.org/day-trips/falkirk-kelpies-walking-tour/>
- Falkirk Wheel loop 12mi, easy <https://johnmuirway.org/day-trips/falkirk-wheel-to-callendar/>
- Linlithgow 8mi easy loop <https://johnmuirway.org/day-trips/explore-linlithgow-and-muiravonside/>

Oct 12 – Oct 13: Durham 1N (Wed - Thurs). Evensong at the cathedral.

Enroute Durham from Edinburgh

Depart early – goal is to hear [Choral Evensong at Durham Cathedral](#), from 5:15pm until 6:00pm while seeing sights enroute. [This route connects several GM pins](#), and is a ~4hr drive not including stops. Cutting out Simonside and Dunbar makes for a 4 hr drive plus stop. 😊

- Visit the [John Muir Way – East End](#) in Dunbar
- Cruise down the coast to the Alwick Garden Poison Garden
- Then inland, with a stop at Simeonside Car Park Walk in Northumberland National Park. Stretch our legs with a short hike.
 - *Red route from the car park is well signed but quite steep in places. Perfectly doable in 2-3 hours and takes in all the major peaks. There is also a shorter green route around the forest. Car park is free, but be aware there are no facilities of any kind.*
- Continue to see the Hadrian’s Wall End and Gateshead Millenium Bridge in Newcastle (f we didn’t see it on the way north to Scotland)
- On to Duram and the Marriott hotel and Evensong

Stay – [Durham Marriott Hotel Royal County](#) – Marriott

Day -----

The British Trip 2022 Itinerary

[Choral Evensong at Durham Cathedral](#), at 5:15pm Tues, Wed and Saturday. [Fun cathedral facts](#): it was built in 1093 and is renowned for its Romanesque architecture. It is the resting place of [The Venerable Bede](#), the “father of English history”. It was used for filming “Harry Potter”.

Day -----

Visit the indoor Market (9-5 Mon-Sat). Run the Palace Green or Riverwalk. Visit Durham Castle.

Oct 13 – Oct 18: York 5N (Thurs-Tues) Old walled city, Harrogate, hike the Downs and Moors

York: York Minster and York Castle Museum are the main sights, along with the crypts beneath, the city walls, Shambles area, and Railway Museum. In the area, drive to hike in North York Moors, Yorkshire Dales and Harrogate. Runs along the River Ouse and through Rowntree Park.

Enroute – Follow [this GM with stops](#) (3hr driving) at Whitby by the Sea, Rievaulx Abby, and Sutton Bank View point and short hike. Whitby inspired parts of Bram Stoker’s “Dracula” tale. [Highlights here](#) and [here](#). On Whitby, see also the beach houses and Captain Cook Memorial Museum. Stop at Quayside or Magpie Café for real Fish n Chips

Note – if we missed Evensong at Durham, they have it at York Minster M-S 5:15pm. [Schedule here](#).

Stay – [Bootham Luxury Apts](#) – booking.com

Day -----

Arrival day (afternoon / evening) do town sites walk and dinner/put (several on GM marked)

Day -----

York Minster Tour (see RS self-guided), run the River and Rowntree Park. Drive to Ryedale Vineyards for tour/walk? <https://www.ryedalevineyards.co.uk/q-as>

Day -----

Hiking ideas: <https://www.wanderlust.co.uk/content/best-walks-yorkshire-dales/>

Day -----

[Harrogate](#): Posh retreat town with Turkish Spa and beautiful Georgian architecture. Day Trip

Day -----

Hike ideas: <https://www.wanderlust.co.uk/content/best-walks-north-york-moors-national-park/>

Oct 18 – Oct 20: Ironbridge 2N. Industrial Age history, Tolkien Museum in Birmingham, and Offa’s dike

Ironbridge: Where the industrial age started, with coal, iron, ceramics, and the first iron bridge. Victorian era village there and the namesake bridge. Near Offa’s dike and Tolkien museum.

Enroute – Follow [this GM with stop](#) (4hr driving) at Ye Old Trip to Jerusalem pub Nottingham, the oldest pub in the UK, visited by Richard Lionheart enroute to the crusades. Second stop, [Sarehole Mill Museum](#), boyhood home and inspiration for JRR Tolkien. Sometimes there is an “Origins of Middle Earth” guided walk; check the website ahead of the visit.

Note – cutting out the pub and Sarehole museum cuts the drive to 3 hr, more time for Blist Hills.

Stay – [Heritage View Guest House](#) – booking.com

Day -----

The British Trip 2022 Itinerary

Arrival day (afternoon) and [Iron Bridge and town](#). Go for a run?

Day -----

See more [Blist Hills Victorian Town](#) - AND/OR - [Drive 1½ hour](#) to Offa's Dike museum / hike

Oct 20– Oct 20: Fly London Luton to Dublin. Drop car, fly to Ireland!

[The route](#) is 3 hrs with rush hour risks, so depart by 7:30 to drop car at 11, get to airport by noon

Car – Drop-off at London Luton Airport Oct 17 before noon.

Shuttle to airport for flight

Flight 1:RyanAir FR338 | LUT to DUB

Oct 20– Oct 23: Dublin. Relax and enjoy the music before heading home 😊

Stay – [The Merchant House](#) – booking.com

Day -----

Stay few days in city (no car) to enjoy music and pubs before heading home

Oct 23 – Oct 23: Flight DUB to CLT. Delta DUB-JFK @11:10 am, 7hr + 1½ layover, then JFK-CLT arrive 5:30

Transit TBD / Taxi

Flight 1:Delta DL45 | DUB to JFK

Layover 1½ hr, including US Customs, etc – can we do expedited security?

Flight 2: Delta DL5187 | JFK-CLT

Transit TBD / Taxi