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GREAT BRITAIN: Travel Guide



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Contents

Introduction: Not Your Ordinary Travel Guide	4
CHAPTER 1: Wait, What?	6
CHAPTER 2: Getting There	9
Tickets, More Tickets, Even More Tickets.....	9
Airport 101.....	10
Hitting the Road?	11
All Aboard!	11
CHAPTER 3: The Big, The Loud and The Crazy	13
London	14
Birmingham.....	50
Leeds	65
Glasgow.....	76
Liverpool	89
Bristol	100
Plymouth.....	109
CHAPTER 4: The Tiny, The Calm and The Quiet	117
Portreath, Cornwall.....	118
Oxford, Oxfordshire	121
Dover, Kent	126
Framlingham, Suffolk.....	130
Presteigne, Powys	134
CHAPTER 5: The Abandoned, The Untouched and The Unknown.....	139
Castles, Palaces and Mansions.....	139
Ancient Structures	145
Parks.....	148
Specific Purpose Buildings	151
Mythical and British Lore Locations.....	154
CHAPTER 6: Feeling Bored?	158
Music Festivals	158
Environmental Festivals	164
Concerts	170
Sports Events.....	172
Town Fairs	174
Movies and Theatre	174
Street Performances	177
CHAPTER 7: It's Not That Easy	179
CHAPTER 8: You Ask, We Answer	181

Introduction: Not Your Ordinary Travel Guide

Dear Traveller,

Thank you for choosing this piece of write-up as your Ultimate Travel Guide around the Great Britain. Before you carry on reading, it would be a good idea to sit back and relax (unless you are already rushing to the airport, then skip to Chapter 3, you'll get back here later), as there is going to be quite a bit to cover. It is okay to feel concerned whether you've made a right choice to put your trust into some book of unknown origin, but try to leave the concerns for the Guide as it will be taking it from here. As you read further, you will notice how the content tackles every question that pops into your brain, leaving you with nothing to worry about.

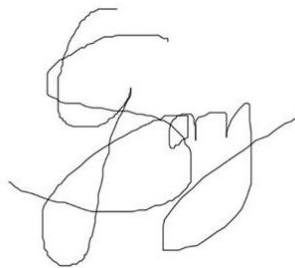
So, what made you choose particularly this Travel Guide? Maybe you've glanced at the content, maybe the cover art caught your eye or maybe, just maybe, you just felt like getting this one. Either way, both you and the book have something in common, otherwise you wouldn't be reading this sentence. If you've never been to Britain before, you obviously have a lot of going on in your mind which could make things a little bit confusing. Then again, you will be amazed, when you realize, that what lies just behind the next page might be essentially what you need. From just the shallow image of the country to the very specifics of Britain's Pop Culture and Events, this book will play the role of what it exactly is supposed to be. In other words, it will Guide your journey, no matter where you go and what you do.

As an Author of this Travel Guide, I take the responsibility to promise, that if you follow the directions correctly and take the most of the content, my book will make sure you have the best voyage to the Great Britain that you could ever have. That being said, let's get to know this country a little better and prepare for the trip!

I wish you best of luck and the most wonderful experience, make sure to enjoy your stay.

Cheers,

Goda Saruolytė

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Goda Saruolytė', with a stylized, overlapping loop structure.

CHAPTER 1



Wait, What?

CHAPTER 1: Wait, What?

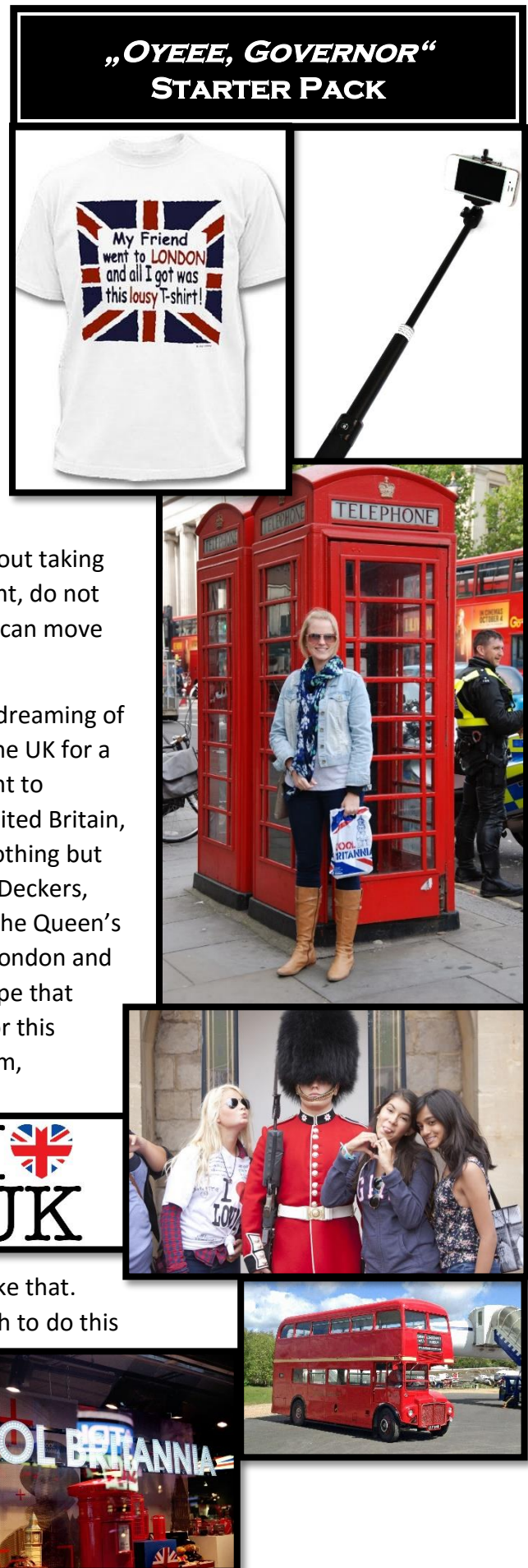
Alright, you've finally decided to visit the Great Britain and you can't wait to set your foot on it! It's only a short matter of time till you hit London Victoria Coach Station, go straight to the Buckingham Palace, have a dozen of selfies next to the Big Ben, have lunch at Costa(lot), spend the rest of your week roaming around Central London and raiding Souvenir Shops, thus making your trip a one big... disappointment.

Before you ask any questions, let me ask you something first. What do you think of when someone mentions Great Britain in their speech? I want you to picture the very first thing that visits your mind. For those of you who thought of anything but London or UK Merchandise – congratulations, you may now read the following without taking most of the stuff personally. As for the other 90 percent, do not worry, there are just a few things to realize before we can move on.

Now, don't get me wrong, there is nothing bad about dreaming of going to London, after all it is the most visited city in the UK for a reason, but more on that later. The problem that I want to address is that most of the people, who have never visited Britain, but are interested in going there sometime, portray nothing but red phone booths, Big Ben, the Tower Bridge, Double-Deckers, making fun of the Royal Guards and creeping outside the Queen's residence. In other words, a typical day in the City of London and Westminster which cannot be more typical. I really hope that began to sound less attractive to you as it should be for this kind of way of spending your money is very mainstream, unwise and no fun at all compared with what can be achieved for the same price all around the Great Britain and London itself.

To sum up, I would like to say, that Great Britain and UK in general is not all about the highlighted objects of its capital. Don't limit yourself like that. There are enough tourists who are unfortunate enough to do this mistake, believing they have seen it all afterwards. You are way better than that.

Now that we've got that sorted, let's get to the more interesting part.



Facts & Myths about the Great Britain

Before packing all the bags and buying tickets, how about you get to know your destination a little better? You might have done some of the research yourself, so there may be something you are already aware of. However, I am almost sure you will find something that will surprise you or change the way you've seen Britain until now. Not in a bad way, hopefully as this country has quite a crazy history. Here's the list of a few Facts and Myths that you may or may not know about Britain:



MYTH: All people in the UK live in London – This is probably the most common hyperbolic joke and a frustrating statement that came from the United States. It can't be denied that from all the cities in the UK, London has the largest chunk of citizens, reaching over 10 million, but it still has a long way to go to reach a 100 percent mark.

FACT: British people love tea – Some people from overseas might say that this is a stereotype, but between locals it is the undisputed and definite truth. It is very hard to find a Briton that would not fancy to have a cup of tea, especially when it's so rainy all the time!

MYTH: Great Britain, England and United Kingdom is the same thing - A lot of people can't tell the difference between the three and it's not that bad as it is a bit confusing until you finally get it down. England is just a separate country, Great Britain consists of England, Scotland and Wales whilst United Kingdom is Great Britain combined with Northern Ireland.

FACT: Britain holds the record for the World's First „Speeding“ Ticket - The first person to be convicted of speeding is believed to be Walter Arnold, of East Peckham, Kent, who on January 28, 1896, after a hot 5-mile pursuit, was fined 1shilling for driving at 8mph. What a notorious daredevil.

MYTH: All Brits love Manchester United – Yet another misconception by the Americans who aren't great fans of football (excuse me, soccer) anyway. While Manchester United may be amongst the all-time best teams in the UEFA Barclays Premier League it certainly isn't the all-time favorite amongst the British fans since there are many more local teams that can be as popular. So, if you're planning to impress somebody with your Man United T-shirt, you better put it away as it won't do much good, especially if run into some Chelsea fans.

FACT: Murder was “sort of” legal in York until 2013 – It sounds really shocking, but British laws are famous for being ridiculous and this is probably the best proof out there. In 2013, the Local York government changed the law that allowed to kill a Scotsman carrying a bow and an arrow. Fortunately, due to the legal circumstances being so specific there are no confirmed fatalities.

MYTH: The Queen is in charge - The Sovereign, whether King or Queen, is the symbolic head of the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth. Elizabeth II represents its history and continuity. But she has few real powers. Most of the influence comes from the Parliament and the Queen is just giving advices from behind the scenes.

There are so much more interesting stuff to discover about the Great Britain, but most of it will be covered once you are already there. So let's get those bags packed, shall we?

CHAPTER 2



Getting There

CHAPTER 2: Getting There

You got a bit more familiar with the Great Britain and right now you are ready to finally get there. Great, let's get to the business! At this point, you should be thinking about the way you are going to travel. No matter where you are traveling from, there are four ways of reaching the British Isles.

Tickets, More Tickets, Even More Tickets

If you ever tried to reach far destinations by a bus or a train, you would know what a long and complicated procedure that is, especially when it comes to crossing the sea or the ocean. Due to the routes being limited and massive amounts of time you might expect some transfers from one line to another, meaning multiple tickets. There is always an option to spend a significant amount of money and hopping on the super-fast train, but this Guide is more focused on saving money. If you live within Europe and consider yourself patient enough, than bus and train may be just right for you. Those travelling from outside the continent should not consider these means of transport as you might spend half of your holiday just by making a round trip to Great Britain.



As it comes to companies, there are a few international bus and train lines that are based in Britain. At the top of the list is National Express since it is both good for long-distance travel and airport transfers to the local cities which you should look up as well if you want to save some money. However, if you want the long-distance journey to be as cheap as possible, you want to choose Megabus or Megatrains. Make sure to book your tickets as early as possible, since the price depends on it. 2 months ahead is probably the best time to get it sorted, especially with Megabus.



FUN FACT: With Megabus, it is possible to get from Cornwall to London with as little as 1 pound, if booked on the right time.

Airport 101

No doubt the most convenient and fastest way to reach Britain is by the aircraft. The reason for that is that it can be done from any point of the planet that has an airport nearby. If you are living outside the EU, please check the cheapest airlines that can fly you to Britain or at least to some EU country from where you can continue your journey with the local companies. For those of you living inside Europe, I'd say Wizzair is probably the best and the cheapest airline out there which also has some intercontinental lines. Alternatively, you can try Ryanair or Easy Jet.



Depending from where you are arriving, there is always going to be the most suitable airport for you as Great Britain has a lot of them. However, you have to know which one is more recommended and which one is an absolute no-go:

The Cheapest

- London Luton
- London Stansted

The Biggest

- London Heathrow
- London Gatwick

The Far-From-Capital

- Bristol
- Glasgow
- Edinburgh
- Newcastle
- Manchester

The Overpriced

- Newquay
- Exeter
- Cardiff
- Leeds



Depending on your preferences, I'm pretty sure you already found the one you are interested in. Please make sure that you are at least a month away from your desired date of flight as the flight tickets tend to gradually increase in price as the journey comes closer. Also bear in mind, that during holiday seasons the price may go sky-high, so if you are planning to visit your family or friends during Christmas Holidays, you better save up some extra money on the tickets.

Hitting the Road?

Fancy as much freedom as possible from your trip, do you? Can your vehicle take it? Can you take it? If the answer is „Yes“, you are about to turn your journey into a one big adventure, unless you live in Northern France, it won't take too long then... but still!



The beauty of driving to Britain is mainly the ability to go wherever you want, whenever you want, as long as you have enough money for fuel and food. The only thing you are limited to is the Eurotunnel, which is situated in Calais, Bretagne, Northern France and lets you cross the La Manche Channel. Oh yeah, and bear in mind not to drive on the wrong side of the road once you hit Dover as in Britain, you drive on the left side. Other than that, feel free to roam the country!



All Aboard!

If you are living in Denmark, for example, it would be a good idea to take a look at some ferries (In your case, try Esbjerg). Thousands of ships are going to and from Britain every day so if you'd like to enjoy spending some on Baltic or North sea, go ahead, take a ship to Britain, just be conscious that it is the slowest way of reaching your destination. That being said, if you live in the other continent, please do yourself a favor and open up some airline websites. Unless you want to spend a week cruising the ocean, then pleas do, you'll have plenty of time to thoroughly examine this Travel Guide.



Aaaand there you have it! It's not that difficult to reach Britain when you think of plenty of solutions. You don't have to stick to one method of traveling. A combination of things can always lead to convenience. Hell, you don't even have to stick to any of these methods, go hitchhiking or just travel by foot as long as you hit your target. Just stay safe, we'll need to find a place for you to rest once you get there.

CHAPTER 3



**The Big, The Loud
and The Crazy**

CHAPTER 3: The Big, The Loud and The Crazy

Welcome to the Great Britain! You are finally here, I bet you feel excited or tired, maybe both, but the important part is that the real travelling begins now. Take a moment to sit back and relax in WHSmith, McDonalds or whatever your airport or current position has and give yourself a pat in the back. You've made it. Congratulations.

Assuming that you've had a quick breather and are ready to continue, I've got some questions for you.

If you came here by yourself – Feels good to feel the ground again, doesn't it? So, you are in Dover, do you feel like staying here for a while, having a look around or do you want to keep going? If you are not in a rush, please skip to Chapter 4 and find Dover in it. In other case, keep on reading.

If you came here by bus/train – Cool, so it looks like you ended up in London Victoria Coach/Train Station. Did I guess correctly? I mean, it wasn't that hard, as these are the only stations that are suitable for international travel. For trains, there is a possibility, that you may find yourself in London Paddington Train Station, but don't worry, it really isn't an issue at all. However, if you are anywhere near the places mentioned above, please get to know where you are, carry on reading, follow similar instructions listed below and we'll get things sorted.

If you came here by ship – Oh dear, so you are in one of the ports, right? I suggest you look for the instructions that are listed for those that came here by plane. Then, continue reading.

If you came here by plane - Do you have an airport transfer ticket that I've mentioned earlier? Yes? Wicked, go to your terminal and wait for your coach. No? Then go to the nearest National Express or Megabus self-service ticket machine, till or office, I'm pretty sure there's one inside the airport. Where to, you may ask? Well, it depends on your current whereabouts, really, so knowing that you have no bus to attend, take some time to read further on.

You are about to discover Britain's biggest cities. Hopefully, this Chapter will give you an idea where can you make your first settlement and where can you start exploring this unique country. So, without further due, let's take a look at the giants of the Great Britain.

London

The capital of the United Kingdom, official home to the Queen of England, one of the largest cities in the world, reaching up to more than 10 million citizens, therefore being amongst the top desired destinations for international tourists.

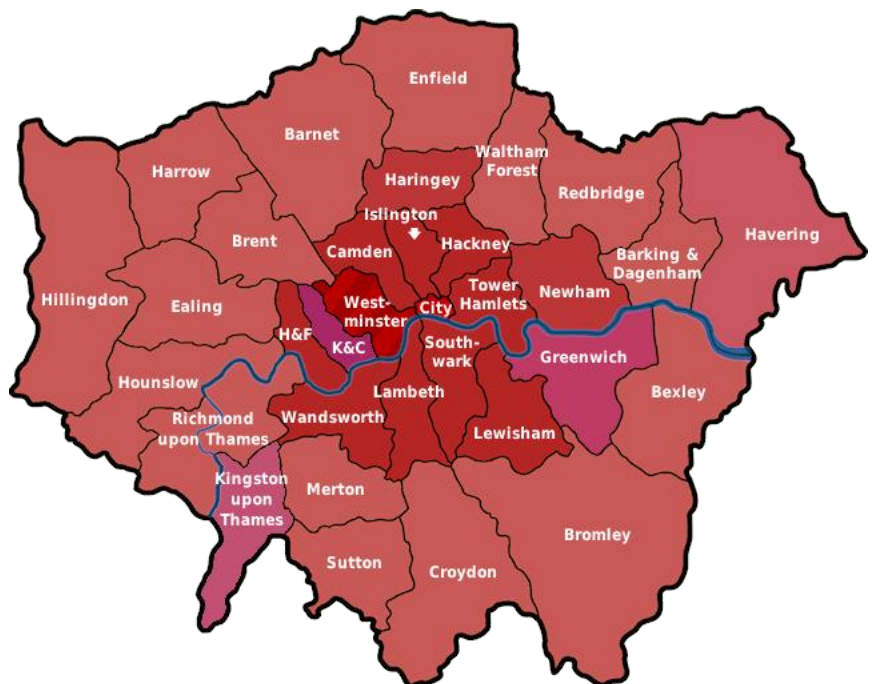


This city is very multicultural, with a third of all Londoners foreign born, representing 270 different nationalities. What unites them and visitors alike is the English language, for this is both local tongue's birthplace and its epicentre. These cultures season the culinary aromas on London's streets, the often exotic clothing people wear and the music they listen to. London's diverse cultural dynamism makes it among the world's most international cities.



The Structure of The City

London is a city with 33 small 'cities' within it, each has their own governments, schools, centres, suburbs, and sense of identity. Find out more about each borough, from Hillingdon to Havering, and their chief attractions.



City of London - It is the nation's financial centre and embodies the capital's mix of tradition and change. A place of mighty skyscrapers, this tiny area, only twenty-minute walk from one side to the other, generates 3% of the UK's income. The City by night is among the most



stunning sights in London, a ghost town of towering skyscrapers and stunning churches, including St Paul's Cathedral, the spiritual heart of Great Britain. Around the edges of the city are some of the best arts and entertainment venues in London, including Fabric nightclub, Smithfield Market, and the wonderful Barbican Centre, where much of the capital's best classical and contemporary music, theatre and art can be found.

City of Westminster - It is impossible to even begin to capture everything that Westminster - the seat of Britain's government - has to offer. From stately Buckingham Palace and the Houses of Parliament to the raucous Soho nightlife,



from the bustle of Oxford Street, to the rolling vistas of the Royal Parks it would take weeks to describe everything to see and do in London's heartland. It also contains some of the best shopping in London, with Covent Garden's bustling market, the boutiques of Soho and Carnaby Street, and the towering department stores around Oxford Circus. As the shops close, London's West End comes alive, with dozens of theatres and music venues, and hundreds of bars and restaurants making sure that this is a borough that never sleeps.

Camden - Camden is one of London's liveliest boroughs and the centre of the capital's underground music scene with a plethora of seductively scuzzy venues. The locks along Regent's Canal are the focus for some London's most varied shopping, with fashion, antiques, music, arts, crafts



and bric-a-brac filling this labyrinth of boutiques and markets. In the south of the borough lies picturesque Regent's Park famed for its wonderful open air theatre and London Zoo. For more intellectual pursuits, there is the British Library, whose 150 million books, magazines CDs and DVDs are stored on 625km of shelves.

Southwark -

Southwark is the historical home of the capital's arts and entertainments industry. The



rebuilt Globe theatre is now one of the best theatres in London, while the neighbouring Tate Modern, housed in the stupendous Bankside Power Station, is among the world's most popular art galleries. London's modern City Hall and the magnificent, gothic Southwark Cathedral, complete a remarkable set of buildings that show five centuries of London's architectural achievements. Next to Bankside, the borough takes in the up-and-coming areas of Bermondsey, Camberwell and Peckham, where Only Fools and Horses was set. This part of London is currently popular with young professionals and artists due to its proximity to the centre of town and low property prices. Nearby Borough Market is heaving with fresh, organic food and drink. In the south of the borough lies leafy, suburban Dulwich which forms a welcome contrast to the bustling energy that defines the rest of one of London's oldest areas.

Tower Hamlets - Tower Hamlets is the heart of London's East End and takes its name from the Tower of London, located within the borough's boundaries. The borough is dominated by the White Tower, built in the eleventh century and home to the crown jewels, royal



armouries, yeoman warders and the famous ravens. The Tower Bridge Exhibition brings to life more than 100 years of the bridge's fascinating history with exciting animatronics and interactive displays. For shoppers, Tower Hamlets has a wealth of street markets including the century-old Sunday Flower Market at Columbia Road.

Hackney - Hackney possesses a rich mix of cultures and traditions. Popular destinations include super-trendy Shoreditch, a thriving cultural fringe of the City of London with a wide range of restaurants, bars, nightclubs and comedy venues. Visit the acclaimed Geffrye



Museum which tells the history of domestic furniture from 1600 to the 1950s. The area is filled with thriving street markets including Petticoat Lane, Brick Lane and Ridley Road in Dalston which offers goods from across the world in a friendly, bustling atmosphere. Other attractions include the National Trust owned Sutton House - a rare example of a Tudor red-brick house built for the Principal Secretary of State for Henry VIII. Hackney is also home to the Hackney Empire theatre and Stoke Newington Church Street with its eclectic array of specialist shops, cafes and ethnic restaurants.

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