

# GREAT BRITAIN

Lecture by Rick Steves

## ENGLAND

### London

"The City": Wall Street of Britain

London Eye Ferris wheel

Millennium Bridge: St. Paul's to the Tate Modern

Hop-on Hop-off bus tours and Walking Tours: Listed in "What's On," for focused look (pick up monthly entertainment guide at any newsstand)

Big Ben, Halls of Parliament: Take tour boat Big Ben to Tower of London

Westminster Abbey

Cabinet War Rooms, Churchill's underground WWII bunker

British Museum: Walking through Encyclopedia Britannica, Great Court

British Library: Treasures Room

Trafalgar Square: National Gallery

The Two Tates: Modern and Britain

St. Paul's: Christopher Wren's masterpiece, view from dome

Tower of London: Very historic and bloody, Beefeater tour (included in price, don't miss it), Crown Jewels (best anywhere)

Buckingham Palace: Changing of the Guard, palace open in summer by appointment

Covent Gardens

Antique Markets: All over town at crack of dawn

Harrods Department Store

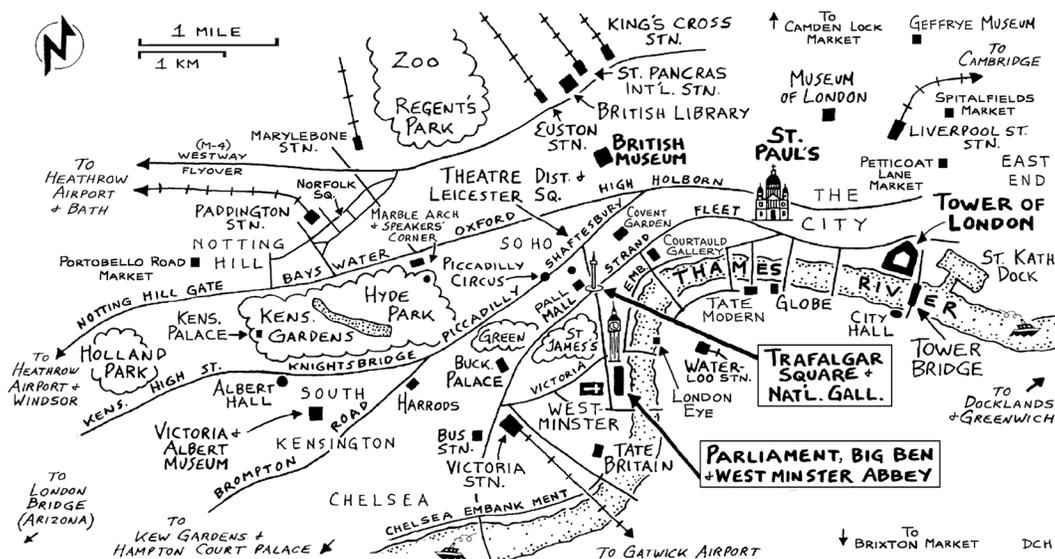
Eating: Pubs, picnics

Madame Tussaud's Waxworks

Piccadilly Circus: Very colorful people center

Soho, Shaftesbury Avenue: Theater district (Piccadilly to Trafalgar), Leicester Square Half Price booth

Shakespeare's Globe Theater: Cheap groundling tickets



Speaker's Corner: Marble Arch in Hyde Park, Sun. 11 am

Underground/Tube: London's subway, know your budget options, Tube and double-decker bus passes, joy-ride

AirBus from the airport downtown

Taxis

Sailing down Thames to Greenwich: England's maritime capital

Canary Wharf: Docklands, London's new Manhattan

Kew Gardens: Palm House

Windsor Castle and Hampton Court: Great, but do downtown first

Legoland Windsor: Near Heathrow and Windsor Castle

London to Europe: "Chunnel" train, 15 per day, London to Paris in 3 hours, \$100

### West England

Dover Castle

Beachy Head, South Downs walk

Stonehenge: Understand it. Near Salisbury. Easy freeway rest-stop by car, rail not worth the headaches

Avebury: Stone circle with village, near Stonehenge

Wells: Fine medieval town, cathedral, evensong

Glastonbury Abbey: Search for the Holy Grail

Bath: Walking tour, Georgian architecture, Royal Crescent, Roman baths and museum, costume museum, Bizarre Bath comedy walk



Cotswolds: Quaint villages, wealth from wool, Chipping Campden (or the more touristy Stow-on-the-Wold)

Stratford: Shakespeare, try to see a RSC play, take a walking tour

Warwick Castle: England's most interesting

Blenheim Palace: Best British countryside palace, Churchill's birthplace

Ironbridge Gorge: Industrial Revolution in Shropshire

### Northern England

York: Minster (great church), York Castle Museum, a time-tunnel experience, Jorvik Viking museum, train museum

North York Moors: Stark, not great, good tourist info center

Whitby: Pleasant beach resort near Scarborough

Staithes: Tiny seaside village, Captain Cook's boyhood home

Durham: Best Norman (Romanesque) cathedral in Britain

Beamish Open-air Museum: North York lifestyles in 1900

Cambridge: University town, walking tours, better than Oxford, both have mix of "town and gown," King's Chapel at Trinity College has fine medieval stained glass

Liverpool: Fixed-up port, Beatles tours

Blackpool: Where north Englanders go who can't afford Spain, tacky Coney Island-type resort, low-brow England

Windermere Lake District: Romantic walks, Wordsworth's Dove Cottage, Keswick (best home base), Catbells (best easy mountain to climb), Castlerigg Stone Circle

Hadrian's Roman Wall: Best preserved part near Haltwhistle

Four most important Great Britain cities to visit after London: York, Bath, Cambridge, Edinburgh

## WALES

### North Wales

Rugged beauty

Conwy: Castle, walled town

Caernarfon Castle

Snowdonia National Park: Woolen mills (Trefriw is best)

Slate Mines

### LEARN MORE

**Read:** *Rick Steves' Great Britain, Rick Steves' England, Rick Steves' London*

**Watch:** *Rick Steves' England & Wales DVD*

**Listen:** *Travel with Rick Steves radio podcast archives at ricksteves.com*

**Tour:** *Best of England in 14 Days, Best of London in 7 Days*

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