



# ENGLAND'S NORTH COUNTRY





<b>ENGLAND'S NORTH COUNTRY</b>	<p>Make England's North Country your own as we explore lakes and mountains, dramatic coastlines and glorious National Parks - combined with cities rich in history, attractions and culture.</p> <p>England's North Country is a paradise for history buffs with the historic cities of York and Chester and the fine Norman architecture of Durham Cathedral. Relive the drama of Hadrian's Wall and Fountain's Abbey World Heritage Sites, and visit castles such as stately Ripley Castle and the humble fishing villages of the Heritage Coastline.</p> <p>It's a great place to escape outdoors with the beautiful Lake District and Yorkshire Dales National Parks. Walk from coast to coast. Cycle on the backbone of Britain. Or climb England's highest mountain!</p> <p>Plus enjoy the city nightlife and the culture of Liverpool, Manchester and Newcastle</p>
<b>Location</b>	<p>Britain lies northwest of continental Europe, with Ireland and the Atlantic Ocean to the west and north, the North Sea to the east and the English Channel to the south.</p> <p>England's North Country lies to the south of Scotland and has the Heart of England and East Midlands to the south, the Irish Sea to the west and the North Sea to the east.</p>
<b>Geography</b>	In England's North Country you'll find the scenic splendour of lakes and mountains, dramatic coastlines and glorious National Parks.
<b>Name</b>	<p>England is named after the Angles, the largest of the Germanic tribes who settled in England in the 5th and 6th centuries.</p> <p>England's North Country takes its name from its geographical position within England.</p>
<b>Population</b>	The UK – approximately 60.6 million (England 50,714,000; Wales 2,977,000; Scotland 5,108,000; Northern Ireland 1,733,000).
<b>Language</b>	English is universally spoken, but a number of other languages are also in use as second languages, reflecting Britain's cultural mix
<b>Currency</b>	UK Pounds; currently (Sept 13, 2008) one Pound = 1.89 Canadian Dollars
<b>Tipping</b>	<p>For cab drivers, add about 10% to 15% to the fare on the meter. However, if the driver loads or unloads your luggage, add something extra.</p> <p>In hotels, porters receive 75p (\$1.45) per bag, even if you have only one small suitcase. Hall porters are tipped only for special services. Maids receive £1 (\$1.90) per day. In top-ranking hotels, the concierge will often submit a separate bill showing charges for newspapers and other items; if he or she has been particularly helpful, tip extra.</p> <p>Hotels often add a service charge of 10% to 15% to most bills. In smaller bed-and-breakfasts, the tip is not likely to be included.</p> <p>Therefore, tip people for special services, such as the waiter who serves you breakfast. If several people have served you in a</p>

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	<p>bed-and-breakfast, you may ask that 10% to 15% be added to the bill and divided among the staff.</p> <p>In both restaurants and nightclubs, a 15% service charge is added to the bill, which is distributed among all the help. To that, add another 3% to 5%, depending on the service. Waiters in deluxe restaurants and nightclubs are accustomed to the extra 5%. Sommeliers (wine stewards) get about £1 (\$1.90) per bottle of wine served. Tipping in pubs isn't common, but in wine bars, the server usually gets about 75p (\$1.45) per round of drinks.</p>
<b>Government</b>	The UK is made up of Great Britain (England, Scotland and Wales) and Northern Ireland, and is one of the 25 member states of the European Union (EU). The UK is a constitutional monarchy that is a representative democracy, where Queen Elizabeth II is recognised as the head of state, and the elected Prime Minister – Gordon Brown – is the head of government.
<b>Documentation</b>	On arrival in the United Kingdom, you must show a valid national passport or other equivalent official document that satisfactorily establishes your identity and nationality
<b>Time zone</b>	Five hours ahead of EST
<b>Health</b>	You are advised to take out adequate insurance before travelling to Britain. Your travel agent will be able to suggest a suitable policy. If you become ill while visiting Britain, you are eligible for free emergency treatment in the Accident and Emergency departments of National Health Service hospitals. However, if you are admitted to hospital as an in-patient, even from the accident and emergency department, or referred to an out-patient clinic, you will be asked to pay.
<b>Safety tips</b>	By international standards, Britain is a safe country with low rates of street crime and violence.

<b>CLIMATE</b>	
<b>General climate</b>	Britain has a fairly temperate climate and can sometimes be overcast. However, Wales enjoys long summer evenings due to its relatively northerly latitude and periods of fine weather can happen in all seasons. The weather can vary greatly from day to day, but generally summer (June-August) is a hot 14-30 °C, and winter (December-February) is a cool 1-5 °C.
<b>Today's weather</b>	18 degrees Centigrade and mostly sunny with some showers (13 Sept 2008)
<b>Best time to visit</b>	All year round

<b>GETTING AROUND</b>	
<b>Flying time</b>	Flying time to Manchester from Toronto from is 7hrs with Air Transat
<b>Cities</b>	Blackpool

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Britain's favourite seaside resort, Blackpool is packed wall to wall with attractions, entertainment, top line shows and offers just about everything a holidaymaker can wish for.

#### Leeds

Leeds combines a fast-paced, buzzing city centre with the serenity of calming countryside within easy reach – it's a great place for everyone to enjoy.

#### Liverpool

Liverpool has become one of the top 10 must see destinations for the European Capital of Culture 2008 year\*, Liverpool welcomes travellers and tourists from around the world. With new and exciting citywide developments, visitors can shop till they drop and then relax with quality entertainment and fine dining in the many establishments that make Liverpool one of the finest places to be seen this year.

#### Manchester

The city is widely recognised as the coolest in Britain. Manchester has reinvented itself as a truly contemporary metropolis, with modern landmarks, excellent art and culture, great bars and world-class hospitality.

#### Newcastle-Gateshead

Whatever you might be expecting, expect something different in this fast-moving cultural city. Newcastle-Gateshead has an energy and excitement that is distinctly, uniquely its own, blending world-class attractions with a history that stretches back over 2,000 years. Come and share the excitement.

#### Sheffield

Sheffield's dazzling array of attractions offers the most discerning visitor a rich tradition of culture and heritage, with the outstanding Peak District on the doorstep.

#### York

The History of York is the History of England. 2000 years of history, award-winning attractions, quaint teashops, bustling shopping streets and an excellent array of restaurants, bistros, bars and evening entertainment.

#### Manchester - Top must dos

##### Day-time

1. Enjoy acres of waterfront with remarkable architecture and

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	<p>world-class attractions at The Quays</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Find out about Manchester's fascinating history, architecture and culture on one of Manchester's guided walks &amp; tours</li> <li>3. Go Shopping - retail therapy with independent boutiques, high street and designer names</li> <li>4. Soak up the culture - galleries and museums with ever-changing programmes of events and exhibitions</li> <li>5. Eat out - exceptional value for money with special lunchtime menus and buffets</li> </ol> <p>Night-time</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Dine out in one of over 30 types of cuisine offering quality and great value</li> <li>2. Hold on to your socks in Manchester's comedy clubs</li> <li>3. Check out the theatre in a city with more theatres than any English city outside London</li> <li>4. Music - whatever your preference, it's on in Manchester, so get your dancing shoes on</li> <li>5. Clubbing - Nearly 150 clubs and some of the country's best DJs. Reach for the skies!</li> </ol>
<b>Distances</b>	<p>London to Manchester: 309 km</p> <p>Manchester to Newcastle: 212 km</p> <p>Manchester to York: 103 km</p> <p>Manchester to Liverpool: 55 Km</p>
<b>Ferries</b>	<p>Liverpool to Dublin, Ireland (8 hours)</p> <p>Newcastle to Bergen in Norway (27 Hours)</p>
<b>Trains</b>	<p>Travelling by train is undoubtedly the most scenic and relaxing way to visit Britain, sit back as rolling hills, castles and ancient monuments glide pass you.</p> <p>BritRail Travel Passes - BritRail Passes allow unlimited travel in England, Scotland, and Wales on any British rail scheduled train over the whole of the network during the validity of the pass without restrictions. If you're traveling beyond London anywhere in the United Kingdom and plan to hop on and off the train, consider purchasing a BritRail Consecutive Pass. These passes allow you to travel for a consecutive number of days for a flat rate. In first class adults pay \$349 for 4 days, \$499 for 8 days, \$748 for 15 days, \$950 for 22 days, and \$1,124 for 1 month. In second class, fares are \$232 for 4 days, \$332 for 8 days, \$499 for 15 days, \$631 for 22 days, and \$748 for 1 month. Seniors (60 and older) qualify for discounts in first class travel and pay \$296 for 4 days, \$425 for 8 days, \$636 for 15 days, \$808 for 22 days, and \$956 for 1 month of first-class travel. Passengers younger than 26 qualify for a Youth Pass: \$185 for 4 days, \$265 for 8 days, \$400 for 15 days, \$505 for 22 days, and \$599 for 1 month. One child (younger than age 15) can travel free with each adult or senior pass when the BritRail</p>

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	Family Pass is requested while buying the adult pass. Additional children pay half the regular adult fare.
<b>Car Rental</b>	<p>The British car-rental market is among the most competitive in Europe. Nevertheless, car rentals are often relatively expensive, unless you avail yourself of one of the promotional deals that are frequently offered by British Airways and others.</p> <p>Because cars in Britain travel on the left side of the road, steering wheels are positioned on the "wrong" side of the vehicle. Keep in mind that most rental cars are manual, so be prepared to shift with your left hand; you'll pay more for an automatic - and make sure to request one when you reserve.</p> <p>Most car-rental companies will accept your Canadian driver's license, provided you're 23 years old (21 in rare instances) and have had the license for more than a year. Many rental companies will grant discounts to clients who reserve their cars in advance (usually 48 hr.) through the toll-free reservations offices in the renter's home country. Rentals of a week or more are almost always less expensive per day than day rentals.</p> <p>When you reserve a car, make sure you know the total price, including the 17.5% value-added tax (VAT).</p> <p>Rentals are available through Avis (tel. 800/331-1084; <a href="http://www.avis.com">www.avis.com</a> ), Budget (tel. 800/472-3325; <a href="http://www.budget.com">www.budget.com</a> ), and Hertz (tel. 800/654-3001; <a href="http://www.hertz.com">www.hertz.com</a> ). And many others</p>
<b>Buses</b>	<p>In Britain, a long-distance touring bus is called a "coach," and "buses" are taken for local transportation. An efficient and frequent express motor-coach network - run by National Express and other independent operators - links most of Britain's towns and cities. Destinations off the main route can be easily reached by transferring to a local bus at a stop on the route. Tickets are relatively cheap, often half the price of rail fare, and it's usually cheaper to purchase a round-trip (or "return") ticket than two one-way fares separately.</p> <p><b>National Express</b> (<a href="http://www.nationalexpress.com">www.nationalexpress.com</a> ) offers several passes for the explorer who'd like to hop around Britain by coach. These include Hobo, costing £79 (\$150) for 7 days of bus travel. Sample itineraries are suggested but you can also plot your own - that's how flexible this pass is. There's no need to book. Footloose, at £139 (\$264), grants 2 weeks of bus travel from a choice of 1,000 destinations throughout the U.K.</p>
<b>Passes</b>	<p><b>Great British Heritage Pass</b></p> <p>Your key to Britain's greatest historic properties, this great value Pass offers the individual traveller free access to 600 castles, stately homes and gardens in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Use your Great British Heritage Pass to discover over 2,000 years of Britain's history. Find world-famous attractions or magnificent hidden</p>

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	<p>treasures. Properties include Kensington Palace, Shakespeare's Birthplace, Warwick Castle and Palace of Holyroodhouse.</p> <p>Paying only one price for the Great British Heritage Pass can help you save over 40% on admission fees. You can buy the Pass at selected locations before you leave home or after arrival in Britain. Importantly, having this Pass means that you avoid the queues for entry – you go to the front of the line every time!</p> <p>Cost: \$170 for a family pass for one week.</p>
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<b>ACCOMMODATION TYPES</b>	<p>Dreaming of cosy nights in white sheets and waking to a heart-warming breakfast of fresh local produce? Whether you want to stay in a country cottage, chic city hotel or friendly B&amp;B at the coast, you'll find a huge choice of quality - and often award-winning - accommodation in England's North Country. And whatever you choose, you can expect a genuine warm welcome too.</p>
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<b>TARGET GROUPS</b>	
<b>Kids</b>	<p>All kids love the Vikings! At <b>Jorvik Viking Centre</b> travel back over 1000 years and visit the Vikings of Jorvik. Explore York's Viking history exactly where archaeologists found the remains of the original Viking-Age City of 'Jorvik'. Journey through the reconstruction of Viking-Age streets, as they would have been in the year 975AD. See over 800 of the items discovered on site and meet the famous Jorvik Vikings</p>
<b>Teens</b>	<p>Head for <b>Liverpool</b>, home of The Beatles. If you'd like a Beatles-related bus tour, Cavern City Tours (tel. 01512/093285; <a href="http://www.cavern-liverpool.co.uk">www.cavern-liverpool.co.uk</a>) presents a daily 2-hour <b>Magical Mystery Tour</b>. This bus tour covers the most famous attractions associated with the Beatles. Tickets cost £13 (\$25) and are sold at the Tourist Information Centre at 8 Place Whitechapel or at the Queen's Square Centre on Roe Street. Tours depart from the Tourist Information Center at Whitechapel at 2:10pm or from the Gower Street bus stop at Albert Dock at 2:30pm.</p> <p>In the Britannia Pavilion at Albert Dock, you can visit "<b>The Beatles Story</b>" (tel. 01517/091963; <a href="http://www.beatlesstory.com">www.beatlesstory.com</a>), a museum housing memorabilia of the famous group, including a yellow submarine with live fish swimming past the portholes. It's open daily from 10am to 6pm.</p>
<b>Romance</b>	<p>Try a lake cruise in the romantic Lake District...</p> <p>Windermere Lake Cruises trace their origins back to Victorian days, steamers and launches carry over 1.35 million visitors each year. The steamers have saloons, promenade decks, teashops and licensed bars. A fleet of passenger launches supplement the service. Boats operate an extensive route network linking the main settlements. A popular outing is the 45-minute Islands Cruise from Bowness, which passes wooded</p>

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	<p>islands and secluded bays. A 40-minute trip from Ambleside offers free entry to the Lake District Visitor centre at Brockhole with its exhibitions, playgrounds, gardens and restaurant.</p> <p>The main cruise operates daily throughout the year between Ambleside, Bowness and Lakeside, except Christmas day, this takes 3 hours but passengers may get on and off the vessel, if they wish, to sample the delights of the steam railway, aquarium, the world of Beatrix Potter attraction, Ambleside museum and the little towns and villages around the lake. Cost: around \$12 per person</p>
<b>Genealogy</b>	<p><a href="http://www.familyrecords.gov.uk">http://www.familyrecords.gov.uk</a> This site, provided by the FamilyRecords.gov.uk consortium, will help you find the government records and other sources you need for your family history research in England</p>
<b>Seniors</b>	<p>This is a region where you can make your own arrangements very easily or take an organized tour around the area – the choice is yours.</p>

<b>UNIQUES</b>	
<b>Surprising</b>	<p>All Britain's cities offer a unique window into the past, but only a selected few are awarded the exclusive title of Britain's Heritage City. 7 cities in Britain hold the title: Bath, Brighton, Chester, Oxford, Stratford-upon-Avon, York, - and Durham, the latest addition. These cities combine the best of Britain's history and heritage with a 21st-century atmosphere.</p> <p><b>Durham</b>, in the heart of Northeast England, is the latest city to be awarded British Heritage City status. But the historic city - which was once a principality - is no stranger to heritage status. It's home to one of Britain's first World Heritage sites - Durham Cathedral and Castle. Durham Cathedral is one of the most impressive buildings in Britain. It was built as a shrine for the body of St Cuthbert of Lindisfarne. The cathedral has been attracting pilgrims for over 900 years, giving the city a reputation for hospitality.</p> <p>The neighbouring Durham Castle shares the World Heritage site status. From this imposing castle, the Prince Bishops ruled Durham as an independent state for nearly 800 years. Situated on a hillside within a loop of the meandering River Wear, the towering castle was built to protect the cathedral.</p> <p>Situated 20km south of Newcastle, Durham is also an educational landmark. Durham Castle is now home to University College, the foundation college to Durham University - Britain's oldest university after Oxford and Cambridge.</p> <p>Durham's cultural life centres on the Gala Theatre, which offers a varied programme of classic and contemporary theatre. The city also hosts a number of events paying tribute to its fascinating history. From the</p>

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	<p>Durham Regatta, England's oldest rowing competition, to Durham's summer and Christmas festivals, colourful agricultural shows, and steam rallies, there's something for everyone.</p> <p>Durham, like the other British Heritage Cities, is a perfect example of how a historic city can live in the 21st century. The narrow, winding medieval streets of the city centre and Victorian markets sit perfectly beside the modern shopping and cinema complexes, and the attractive riverbanks offer a peaceful retreat from the bustling city streets.</p> <p>Other must-see attractions in Durham include the University's botanic garden, Durham Light Infantry Museum and Durham Art Gallery, Durham Heritage Centre and Museum and Beamish Museum.</p>
<b>History</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Bones and flint tools found in Norfolk and Suffolk show that Homo erectus lived in what is now England about 700,000 years ago.[19] At this time, England was joined to mainland Europe by a large land bridge.</li> <li>- It was first invaded by the Roman dictator Julius Caesar in 55 BC, but it was conquered more fully by the Emperor Claudius in 43 AD.</li> <li>- The History of Anglo-Saxon England covers the history of early mediæval England from the end of Roman Britain and the establishment of Anglo-Saxon kingdoms in the 5th century until the Conquest by the Normans in 1066</li> <li>- With the accession of Edward the Confessor, heir of the native English dynasty, in 1042, England once again became a separate kingdom. Its ties and nature, however, were forever changed following the Norman Conquest in 1066.</li> <li>- In the 13th century Wales (the remaining Romano-Celts) was brought under the control of English monarchs through conquest</li> <li>- During the English Reformation in the 16th century, the external authority of the Roman Catholic Church in England was abolished and replaced with the Church of England ("Anglican Church") under the Supreme Governance of the English monarch</li> <li>- Although embattled for centuries, the Kingdom of England and Kingdom of Scotland had been drawing increasingly together since the Protestant Reformation of the 16th century and in 1603, with the Scottish king James VI accession to the English crown, the two countries became ruled by the same Stuart dynasty</li> <li>- Britain created an empire upon which the sun never set and led the world through the industrial revolution of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries</li> <li>- In the last century, Britain fought victoriously through the two World Wars, but emerged with diminished status and a lost empire</li> </ul>
<b>Books</b>	<p>Frommer's England 2008</p> <p>Bill Bryson: Notes from a Small Island</p>
<b>1000 Places to see before you die</b>	<p>There's too many to list them all!</p> <p>But here's a selection from England's North Country:</p>

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	<p>The Lake District Hadrian's Wall Castle Howard, Yorkshire York Minster</p>
<b>Must Sees</b>	<p><b>Hadrian's Wall</b> The most important monument built by the Romans in Britain, and the best known frontier in the entire Roman Empire. The Wall was built by order of the Emperor Hadrian, in AD 122, to mark the northern boundary of his Empire. It stretched from Wallsend-on-Tyne in Newcastle, across the North Pennines to Bowness-on-Solway on the Cumbrian west coast, measuring 117 kms in length.</p> <p>The Wall spans nearly 2,000 years of history, and encompasses dramatic and wild landscapes, towns and cities, forts and museums. Excavations are ongoing along the site, and can be visited. In places the Wall is still clearly intact, and the museums and forts contain fascinating Roman finds and tell of life in Roman times.</p>
<b>Secret Places</b>	<p><b>Isle of Man</b></p> <p>In the heart of the Irish Sea, off the north west coast of England, lies Britain's best kept secret - the Isle of Man.</p> <p>Just 33 miles long by 13 miles wide, the Isle of Man is a must for all countryside lovers with its many different landscapes and breathtaking views.</p> <p>It is said that every type of scenery found in the British Isles can also be found on the Isle of Man; spectacular cliffs, purple mountains, gorse clad valley slopes, sandy beaches and woodland glens.</p> <p>Walkers can enjoy unspoilt coastal and hillside footpaths, and this little kingdom is perfect for bicycles, following clearly signposted routes which make a series of cycle tracks throughout the island.</p> <p>Those looking for a more gentle means of exploration can sit back and admire the view on board one of the Isle of Man's vintage transport systems. Steam and electric railways weave their way coast to coast from Port Erin in the south to Ramsey in the north. In the island's capital, Douglas, Victorian horse-drawn trams transport visitors along the main promenade.</p> <p>But perhaps the most spectacular ride of all is aboard the Snaefell Mountain Railway. Beginning at the old mining village of Laxey - home to the world's largest working waterwheel - the line climbs to the Isle of Man's highest point from where, it is maintained, it is possible to see the kingdoms of England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales, Mann, Heaven and the kingdom of the sea. Check out <a href="http://www.visitisleofman.com">www.visitisleofman.com</a></p>

<b>SPORTS ACTIVITIES</b>	Britain will be the host nation of the next Summer Olympic Games in 2012
<b>Golf</b>	Though the sport originated in Scotland, golf has been around in Britain since Edward VII first began stamping over the greens of such courses

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	<p>as Royal Lytham &amp; St. Annes, in England's northwest, or Royal St. Georges, near London.</p> <p>If your heart is set on enjoying a round or two on the emerald-colored turf of Britain, Golf International, (tel. 800/833-1389 ; <a href="http://www.golfinternational.com">www.golfinternational.com</a> ), can open doors for you. Golf packages are arranged for anywhere from 7 to 14 days and can include as much or as little golf, on as many different courses, as a participant wants.</p>
<b>Fishing</b>	<p>Fly-fishing was born here, and it's an art form. Local fishing guides are available to lead you to English waters that are well stocked with trout, perch, grayling, sea bream, Atlantic salmon, and such lesser-known species as rudd and roach.</p> <p>If you prefer to go it alone without a guide, contact the Salmon &amp; Trout Association, Fishmonger's Hall, London Bridge, London EC4R 9EL (tel. 020/7283-5838; <a href="http://www.salmon-trout.org">www.salmon-trout.org</a> ), for information about British fishing regulations.</p> <p>An excellent guide to fishing is Where to Fly Fish in Britain &amp; Ireland, available on Amazon.com.</p>
<b>Horse riding</b>	<p>Horse riding is available throughout the region and stables can be found on the Visit Britain website.</p>
<b>Hiking</b>	<p>England and Wales alone have some 161,000km of trails and footpaths. The Ramblers' Association, Camelford House, 87-90 Albert Embankment, 2nd Floor, London SE1 7TW (tel. 020/7339-8500; <a href="http://www.ramblers.org.uk">www.ramblers.org.uk</a> ), has several books and maps on hiking and walking in Great Britain.</p>
<b>Cycling</b>	<p>The British have rediscovered the bicycle: a National Cycle Network covers about 16,000km throughout the country. The network runs from Dover in southeast England to Inverness in the Highlands. Go to <a href="http://www.sustrans.org.uk">www.sustrans.org.uk</a> for route maps.</p> <p>Most routes cross old railway lines, canal towpaths, and riversides. Among the more popular routes are the Sea-to-Sea Cycle Route, a 225km path linking the Irish Sea with the North Sea across the Pennine Hills and into the north Lake District and the Durham Dales.</p> <p>If you're planning a bike trip on your own, you can take your two wheels on passenger trains in Britain if you pay a £5 (\$9.50) extra charge.</p>
<b>Cricket</b>	<p>This is one of the great sporting passions of the English. The season is during the summer months and it is possible to see cricket being played in huge stadiums...or on small village greens. Either way, you will probably want to ask a local to explain the rules to you!</p>

<b>CULTURE</b>	<p><b>Angel of the North</b></p> <p>Make your way to Newcastle Gateshead and stop off at the outskirts of the great city to see the Angel of the North</p> <p><a href="http://www.gateshead.gov.uk/Leisure%20and%20Culture/Angel/Home.aspx">www.gateshead.gov.uk/Leisure%20and%20Culture/Angel/Home.aspx</a></p> <p>This amazing artwork is Britain's largest sculpture and weighs 200 tons</p>
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	with a wingspan of 54 meters. It was created by Antony Gormley OBE and has become an iconic symbol of North East England.
<b>Arts</b>	<p><b>Laing Art Gallery</b> The Laing (<a href="http://www.twmuseums.org.uk/laing/">www.twmuseums.org.uk/laing/</a>) is the North East England's principal art gallery. It contains a vast collection of British oil paintings, watercolours, ceramics, silver and glassware that have assumed national and international significance. The gallery is also well renowned for its successful and eye-catching exhibition programme of both historical and contemporary art. The gallery's distinctive tower has become a major landmark in Newcastle Gateshead city centre.</p> <p><b>Manchester Art Gallery</b> Displays works that are wide-ranging - from the pre-Raphaelites to old Dutch masters, from the land- and seascapes of Turner to Lowry's industrial panoramas.</p> <p><b>Walker Art Gallery</b> (Liverpool, Lancashire): One of the finest collections of European and British paintings in Britain, this gallery deserves to be better known. A nearly complete study of British paintings is displayed here, from Tudor days to the present. The gallery also owns an outstanding collection of pre-Raphaelites.</p>
<b>Music</b>	<p>Where to start? From classical to the latest pop sounds, this region is the musical heartbeat of the nation.</p> <p>Manchester is the home of the renowned <b>Halle Orchestra, The Bridgewater Hall</b>, Lower Mosley Street (tel. <b>01619/079000</b>; <a href="http://www.bridgewater-hall.co.uk">www.bridgewater-hall.co.uk</a>), is a state-of-the-art, 2,400-seat concert hall. In addition to the orchestra's season, it also presents other classical performances as well as some pop and comedy, too.</p>
<b>Films</b>	Innumerable films have used English locations. Currently the most popular film location trail is for the Harry Potter films... Alnwick Castle is the second largest inhabited castle in England after Windsor Castle, and has been home of the Earls and Dukes of Northumberland since 1309. It has featured in many film and television productions over the years, and was seen recently in 'Elizabeth', 'Robin Hood - Prince of Thieves' and 'Robin of Sherwood'. The castle grounds are used as the location for some of Hogwarts' exteriors, for example the scene where Harry and his classmates have their first flying lesson with broomsticks.
<b>Museums</b>	<p>There are 2,500 museums and galleries in Britain, and over 300 in London alone. And no, they're not dark rooms full of dusty old artefacts - these museums have fascinating collections and exciting exhibits. And lots of them are free!</p> <p><b>The Beamish Open Air Museum</b> (<a href="http://www.beamish.org.uk">www.beamish.org.uk</a>) in County Durham isn't your traditional museum but an open-air, living and working experience that has recreated life as it was in the North. Buildings have been rebuilt from around the region including a town, colliery village and working farm. Don't miss a trip on the 1825 railway</p>

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	<p>as well.</p> <p><b>Castlefield:</b> In the city of Manchester, this historic core has been designated as an urban heritage park, inviting exploration. In a feat of gentrification, city authorities are turning this once-blighted area of warehouses and canals into a thriving community full of restaurants, bars, museums, and art galleries. The first railway station in the world, dating from 1830, has been converted into <b>The Museum of Science and Industry</b>.</p>
<b>Festivals</b>	<p><b>Jorvik Festival</b>, York. This 2-week festival in February celebrates this historic cathedral city's role as a Viking outpost. For more information, call tel. 01904/543400 or visit <a href="http://www.jorvik-viking-centre.co.uk">www.jorvik-viking-centre.co.uk</a></p> <p>John Smith's Grand National Meeting, outside Liverpool. England's premier steeplechase event, takes place on a 6.5km course at Aintree Racecourse, Aintree (tel. 0151/522-2911; <a href="http://www.aintree.co.uk">www.aintree.co.uk</a> ). Early April.</p> <p><b>International Beatles Week</b>, Liverpool. Tens of thousands of fans gather in Liverpool to celebrate the music of the Fab Four. There's an entire series of concerts by international cover bands, plus tributes, auctions, and tours. Cavern City Tours, a local company, offers hotel and festival packages that include accommodations and tickets to tours and events. For information, contact Cavern City Tours at tel. 0151/236-9091 (<a href="http://www.cavern-liverpool.co.uk">www.cavern-liverpool.co.uk</a> ) or the Tourist Information Centre in Liverpool at tel. 0151/709-8111 (<a href="http://www.visitliverpool.com">www.visitliverpool.com</a> ). Late August.</p>

<b>ATTRACTIONS</b>	
<b>Beaches</b>	<p>Britain has around <b>8,000 miles of coastline</b>, and thousands of beaches. To make sure you find one of our very best beaches, look out for Blue Flag beaches.</p> <p>Blackpool is perhaps Britain's premier seaside and beach resort, situated 80Km northwest of Manchester on the Irish Sea. This once-antiquated Midlands resort is making a comeback by marketing itself to a new generation of vacationers. The result may remind you of Atlantic City or even Las Vegas (with a weird Victorian twist). The city has a midwinter population of 125,000 that swells to three or four times that in midsummer. The country's largest resort makes its living from conferences, tour groups, families, and couples looking for an affordable getaway. Its 11km of beaches, 9.5km of colored lights, and dozens of Disneylike attractions and rides make Blackpool one of the most entertaining (and least apologetic) pieces of razzle-dazzle in England. Visitors love the brisk sea air, the architectural remnants of Britain's greatest Imperial Age, the utter lack of pretentiousness, and the poignant nostalgia that clings to the edges of such places, where people look back fondly on the carefree fun they had in a simpler time.</p>

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<b>Wildlife</b>	The English countryside is too well farmed to support spectacular wildlife, but with patience and luck you can spot deer, fox, otter, badger and pinemarten, while the birdlife is very varied.
<b>Parks</b>	There are four National Parks in the region: Lake District, Northumberland, North York Moors and the Yorkshire Dales – all beautiful and protected.
<b>Gardens</b>	<b>Levens Hall and Gardens</b> – Lake District, 10km south of Kendal A grade I listed garden dating from 1694 – through a combination of circumstance and love the gardens at Levens Hall have survived in their original design. The topiary is some of the oldest in the world and justifiably famous. The garden also incorporates a small orchard of apple trees and medlars, a nuttery and herb garden, a bowling green, a rose garden, herbaceous borders and seasonal bedding. To celebrate the partnership of Colonel James Grahme and his gardener Guillaume Beaumont, a fountain garden, bordered with pleached limes, was added in 1994, the garden's 300th anniversary
<b>Castles/Forts</b>	There are castles, from ruins to ancestral homes, all over England...which makes choosing individual sites to visit very challenging. However, as my guest on the radio show has a castle for his home, I am highlighting this: <b>Ripley Castle</b> (Yorkshire, 6km south of Harrogate) The Ingilby family history is one of political, military, religious and social turbulence, of plague and persecution, of renaissance, enlightenment and industrial revolution. It is a tale of romance, courage, loyalty and recklessness. There is no final chapter because the family is still here, still enjoying the adventure. Henry Ingilby collected taxes for Edward III and helped the king to finance the construction of Windsor Castle. His brother Thomas saved the king's life and was knighted for his courage. Sir William held high office and served Henry VIII, Mary Tudor and Elizabeth I through some of their darkest days. Two of his sons toured the countryside inspiring rebellion: they were 'the most dangerous papists in the North of England'. The Blessed Francis Ingilby paid the ultimate price: he was executed in 1586. James I stayed at the castle in 1603. By 1605 the Ingilbys were plotting to kill him: nine of the eleven known conspirators of the Gunpowder Plot were close relations or associates. 'Trooper' Jane Ingilby held Oliver Cromwell prisoner overnight in the castle's Library. Sir John Ingilby rebuilt the castle but lost his wife. His son, a notable and colourful eccentric, rebuilt Ripley and endowed it with a huge Hotel de Ville. Guided tours start at the Castle Front doors on the hour from 11.00am to 3.00pm and take approximately 1hr 15mins to circulate the seven rooms that are on display. Entry: \$15

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<b>OTHER ACTIVITIES</b>	
<b>Shopping</b>	<p><b>Shopping spree</b> in Manchester</p> <p>You're on a clock: you've just two hours to splash the cash and treading the streets doesn't appeal. Head for the Manchester Arndale Centre, a double layer of renovated loveliness stuffed to the rafters with big names and like Top Shop and the biggest Next store in the world. Or there's The Triangle on Exchange Square, a beautiful old corner building that once housed the Corn Exchange. This is a mecca for smart shopping, housing designer icons like adidas Originals, Karen Millen and Calvin Klein. Looking for posh lippy? Peruse the pristine white shelves of Space NK. Back on New Cathedral Street you've the double delights of Harvey Nichols and Selfridges, slap bang opposite. And, if you've still not sated by your department store habit, head for Heal's.</p>
<b>Markets</b>	<p><b>Manchester Farmers' &amp; Producers' Market</b></p> <p>The twice-monthly <u>Farmers' &amp; Producers' Market</u> at <u>Piccadilly Gardens</u> is the place to buy food that has been -raised, caught or baked locally. Make sure you visit the markets regularly to see what new produce is on offer, there is always a wide variety of fresh meats available. Other delicious products on sale are jams, bread, a vast range of cheeses and dairy products, herbs and spices, marinated olives, specialist ales and fine English wines. Treat yourself to the tasty selection of farm baked cakes, pies, farmhouse chocolates and fudge or why not buy your lunch from the market? Choose from freshly made soups, smoothies, burgers, Caribbean patties and sausages.</p> <p><b>Christmas Markets in Manchester</b></p> <p>For a truly festive experience visit the magical Manchester Christmas Markets. Considered to be amongst the best in Britain and Europe the markets transform the City with their charming traditional wooden chalets. You cannot help but get into the Christmas spirit whilst browsing around the bustling stalls, soaking up the unique atmosphere beneath the twinkling lights with the aroma of hot chestnuts filling the air.</p>
<b>Nightlife</b>	<p><b>Manchester</b> is the centre of nightlife in the North of England. Above all else, Manchester is known for its contributions to pop music. From The Smiths and New Order to Oasis and the Stone Roses, the "Manchester sound" has been known throughout the world for more than 2 decades.</p> <p><b>South</b>, 4A King St. (tel. 01618/317756), is a small industrial-style club. A 10-minute walk north of Piccadilly Gardens, this club has a sophisticated young aura, with '60s and '70s music on Friday and a hot house DJ on Saturday.</p> <p>For cutting-edge music, check the stage at <b>Star &amp; Garter</b>, Farefield</p>

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	<p>Street (tel. 01612/736726), on Wednesday through Friday, when harder rock and hard-core acts will get in your face.</p> <p><b>Peveril of the Peak</b>, Great Bridgewater Street (tel. 01612/366364), is easy enough to find -- just look for a 380-year-old triangular building covered in tile from top to bottom. No one seems to know why it was designed or built that way, but you can step inside and enjoy a pint of Theakston's Best Bitter, Yorkshire Terrier, or Webster's Best Bitter while you puzzle over it.</p> <p>Other hot clubs include Matt and Phred's, 65 Tib St. (tel. 01612/831-7002), which features some of the best jazz in town.</p>
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<b>CUISINE</b>	
<b>Food</b>	<p>English food has improved hugely over the last few years and now even humble village pubs serve up excellent meals, whilst in the cities the range of cuisines is as wide as your imagination!</p> <p><b>York Food Festival:</b> 19-28 Sept</p> <p>This event will be in its 12th year, this 10 day festival will see the streets packed with produce stalls, street food, cafes and music to celebrate all the very best in Yorkshire, regional and world food. There will be Live cookery, markets and sampling, drinks programme, food tasting and an Ale trail. For more information visit <a href="http://www.yorkfoodfestival.co.uk/Updates.htm">http://www.yorkfoodfestival.co.uk/Updates.htm</a></p>
<b>Beer</b>	<p>England has many regional breweries producing the distinctive and flavoursome British 'pint' –these are often open for tours and tastings.</p>
<b>Restaurants</b>	<p>Liverpool - In the former home of The Beatles, a restaurant, Alma de Cuba, St. Peter's Church, Seel Street (tel. 0151/709-7097), is all the rage, serving the best Latino cuisine in this section of England. Even Ernest Hemingway would surely have approved of the mojitos. The trendy restaurant is installed in a former Catholic church dating from the 18th century.</p>

<b>MORE INFO</b>	
<b>Brochures</b>	1 888 VISIT UK (847 4885) for brochures
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.britainitsouththere.com">www.britainitsouththere.com</a> (Britain it's out there) Also: <a href="http://www.enjoyenglandsnorthcountry.com">www.enjoyenglandsnorthcountry.com</a>

<b>AIRLINE PRIZE PARTNER</b>	Air Transat
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Priority baggage handling</li> <li>• Wider more comfortable seats</li> <li>• Complementary seat selection</li> <li>• Complimentary drinks</li> <li>• Upgraded meals and snacks</li> <li>• Exclusive check-in counter</li> <li>• And more.</li> <li>• Air Transat Duty Free</li> <li>• Shop on-line at <a href="http://airtransat.com">airtransat.com</a> before you leave and have your duty free purchase delivered to you in-flight</li> <li>• Air Transat Kids Club</li> <li>• On-line seat selection at <a href="http://www.airtransat.com">www.airtransat.com</a></li> <li>• Their UK/Ireland program consists of:</li> </ul> <p><b>Winter 2008/09 – Toronto Departures</b>  London / Gatwick: Mo / We / Th / Su  Manchester: Tu / We  Glasgow: Tu</p> <p><b>Summer 2009 – Toronto departures</b> (these are already available for booking as at 13 September 2008)  <b>ENGLAND</b>  London / Gatwick: Daily  London / Heathrow: Fr / Sa  Birmingham: Tu / Th  Exeter: Tu  Manchester: Daily  Newcastle: Tu  <b>SCOTLAND</b>  Glasgow: Mo / Tu / Th / Fr / Sa / Su  Edinburgh: Tu  <b>IRELAND</b>  Dublin: Mo / We / Th / Fr  Shannon: Mo / Th</p>
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<b>CURRENT DEALS</b>	Transat have deals to the UK right now from \$997 for 7 nights departing October 8, including hotel – go to <a href="http://www.airtransat.com">www.airtransat.com</a> for further details. Flights only are available from \$229 + taxes
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<b>PERSONAL EXPERIENCES</b>	Manchester, Newcastle, Durham, Hadrian's Wall, Chester, Blackpool, Lake District, Pennines
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