GO AHEAD TOURS

Grand Tour of Great Britain: Scotland, England & Wales

15 days | 17 days with London extension

Discover what makes Great Britain truly great as you explore this delightful island from top to bottom. Start in Edinburgh, the Georgian Scottish capital, before heading south to Wales, passing through lovely English countryside and historic cities like York and Liverpool along the way. Then it's off to the Roman town of Bath and royal London—the perfect finishing touch on this quintessentially British experience.

Your tour package includes

13 nights in handpicked hotels
13 breakfasts
5 dinners with beer or wine
11 sightseeing tours
Expert Tour Director & local guides
Private deluxe motor coach

Included highlights

Edinburgh Castle
Alnwick Castle
Durham Cathedral
York Minster
Chester
Shakespeare family home
Cardiff Castle
Bath
Stonehenge
Trafalgar Square

Tour pace

On this guided tour, you'll walk for at least 1.5 hours daily across mostly flat terrain, including paved roads and cobblestone streets, with few hills and stairs.

Group size

15–38

© 2024 EF Education First

Grand Tour of Great Britain: Scotland, England & Wales

15 days | 17 days with London extension

Overnight Flight → 1 night

Day 1: Travel day
Board your overnight flight to Edinburgh today.

Edinburgh → 3 nights

Day 2: Arrival in Edinburgh
Included meals: welcome dinner
Welcome to Scotland! Meet your Tour Director and fellow travelers at tonight's welcome dinner.

Day 3: Sightseeing tour of Edinburgh
Included meals: breakfast
Get to know Edinburgh in all its medieval beauty on a tour led by a local expert.

- View the elegant Georgian-style New Town and the Royal Mile, two UNESCO World Heritage sites
- See the King George statue and Bute House, the official residence of the Scottish Prime Minister
- Pass the Sir Walter Scott monument
- Enter Edinburgh Castle to view the Scottish crown jewels and Stone of Scone

Spend a free afternoon in Edinburgh or add an excursion.
Please note: The order of today's activities are subject to change.
+ Abbotsford House & Melrose Abbey

Day 4: Free day in Edinburgh
Included meals: breakfast
Spend a free day in Edinburgh or add an excursion.
+ Stirling Castle & Loch Lomond

Newcastle Region → 1 night

Day 5: Newcastle Region via Alnwick
Included meals: breakfast, dinner
En route to Alnwick, stop for photos in Berwick-upon-Tweed, the northernmost town in England. Then, continue along a scenic coastal route to Alnwick for a guided tour of the historic castle and gardens before making your way to the Newcastle region.
Sit down for an included dinner this evening.

York → 2 nights

Day 6: York via Durham
Included meals: breakfast
Head to the famed college town of Durham for a sightseeing tour.

- Stroll through the old city along the banks of the River Wear
- Enter the UNESCO-recognized Durham Cathedral, known for its Romanesque style and beautiful Norman architecture

Later, drive through the charming English countryside as you continue on to York.

Day 7: Sightseeing tour of York
Included meals: breakfast
Embark on a walking tour of this historic walled city with a local guide.

- Enter York Minster, home to largest expanse of medieval stained glass in the world
- See the York Museum Gardens, which occupy ten acres in the city center
- View the Roman wall, the oldest section of the city's historic fortifications
- Visit the ruins of St. Mary's Abbey and the King's Manor

Enjoy a free afternoon in York or add an excursion.
+ Whitby

Liverpool → 2 nights

Day 8: Liverpool via Chester
Included meals: breakfast, dinner
Bid farewell to York this morning as you set out for Liverpool, making a stop in Chester to explore and enjoy free time.
Tonight, sit down for an included dinner with your group.

Day 9: Sightseeing tour of Liverpool
Included meals: breakfast
Explore the UNESCO-recognized port city of Liverpool this morning with a local as your guide.

- View the neo-Gothic Liverpool Cathedral and the modern Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral
- Pass by the Liverpool Central Library and St George's Hall
- Head to the UNESCO-listed waterfront to see the Royal Liver Building, Cunard Building, and Port of Liverpool Building, known as the Three Graces
- Ascend 400 feet to the top of Liverpool's iconic St John's Beacon where you can take in panoramic views of the city skyline and surrounding areas of North Wales and Lancashire

Spend a free afternoon in Liverpool or add an excursion.
+ The Beatles: History & Story Museum

Cardiff → 1 night

Day 10: Cardiff via Stratford-upon-Avon
Included meals: breakfast
Drive southeast through the countryside to Stratford-upon-Avon, the town of Shakespeare's birth. Here, you'll step inside the Shakespeare family home with your Tour Director.
Continue on to Cardiff, the capital of Wales, and enjoy a free evening.

Bath → 2 nights

Day 11: Sightseeing tour of Cardiff & transfer to Bath
Included meals: breakfast, dinner
Head out for a sightseeing tour of the largest city in Wales led by your Tour Director.

- View the medieval Cardiff Castle, located in the city center
- Take in views of the beautiful Cardiff Bay

Then, take a scenic drive along the Severn River to the town of Bath. Sit down for an included dinner this evening.

Day 12: Sightseeing tour of Bath
Included meals: breakfast
On a guided sightseeing tour, get to know the charming city of Bath, named a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1987.

- See the city's most famous architectural sites, including the Roman Baths, the Royal Crescent, and the Circus
- Enjoy free time for lunch, shopping, or visit the Bath Abbey on your own

Enjoy a free afternoon in Bath or add an excursion.
+ Literary Bath & Afternoon Tea

London → 2 nights

Day 13: London via Stonehenge & Salisbury
Included meals: breakfast
Travel to London today, stopping on the way to gaze upon the vast monoliths of the UNESCO-protected Stonehenge and visit its new visitor center before heading to the medieval city of Salisbury.

- View the soaring spire of Salisbury Cathedral, then go inside to view one of the original copies of the Magna Carta
- Marvel at Salisbury's historic architecture and wander through its charming shopping streets

Day 14: Sightseeing tour of London
Included meals: breakfast, farewell dinner
With a local expert leading the way, take a guided tour of the regal landmarks and UNESCO World Heritage sites of the English capital.

- Pass the grand Trafalgar Square and Baroque-style St. Paul's Cathedral, perched atop Ludgate Hill
- See Westminster Abbey, the setting for royal coronations and weddings
- View icons like Big Ben, the London Eye and the Tower of London
- Stop by Buckingham Palace, where you may catch the Changing of the Guard

Enjoy a free afternoon in London or add an excursion. Then, celebrate your trip at a farewell dinner this evening.
+ Windsor Castle

Flight Home

Day 15: Departure
Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)
Transfer to the airport for your flight home or extend your stay to continue exploring London.

+ London extension

Extend your stay in London and your next quintessentially British experience will be just a Tube (that's what the Brits call the subway) ride away. Lean on your Tour Director to point you toward the city's best, and set off to chase your own sense of adventure.

London → 2 nights

Day 15: Free day in London
Included meals: breakfast
Enjoy a free day in London or add excursions.
+ Tower of London
+ London Eye & Pub Dinner

Day 16: Free day in London
Included meals: breakfast
Spend a free day in London or add an excursion. This evening, enjoy a farewell drink as you celebrate your trip with your fellow group members.
+ A Day in Cambridge

Flight Home

Day 17: Departure
Included meals: breakfast (excluding early morning departures)
Transfer to the airport for your flight home.

Customize your experience

Customize your tour by adding excursion options. Excursions offered on the same day will occur at different times, so there's no need to choose. Save $10 when you book your excursion up to three days before your tour departs.* Excursions requiring advance reservation only list this discounted price. Call or go online to customize your tour: **goaheadtours.com/GTB | 1-800-597-0350**

Day 3: Abbotsford House & Melrose Abbey
$109/$119* (5 hours, departs in the afternoon with lunch)
Travel through the Scottish Borders region to Abbotsford, where you'll enjoy an included lunch. Then, continue to Abbotsford House, the 19th-century estate of Sir Walter Scott. The author designed his home in the Romantic style to imitate the elaborate baronial estates of British aristocrats. Today, it serves as a museum for Scottish memorabilia and artifacts that Scott collected throughout his lifetime. Later, visit the ruins of Melrose Abbey, one of the most impressive of the four Borders Abbeys. Please note: Due to renovation projects, groups will visit Dryburgh Abbey through the end of 2024. Dryburgh is regarded as the most peaceful of the four Borders Abbeys, thanks to its location within the woods along the River Tweed.

Day 4: Stirling Castle & Loch Lomond
$115/$125* (8 hours, departs in the morning)
Travel through the Scottish countryside to Stirling Castle, dramatically perched high above the surrounding area on the steep cliff Castle Hill. This fortress has played an important role in Scottish history, first to protect the crossing of the nearby River Forth and later as a coronation site for royalty, including Mary, Queen of Scots. Enjoy self guided tour of the castle and grounds, view the iconic Robert the Bruce statue, and enjoy free time for lunch in the town of Stirling. Then, take a scenic drive along the placid lake that is the centerpiece of Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park, the country's first national park. Stop along the way to soak up views of the lake and mountains of the Scottish Highlands.

Day 7: Whitby
$125/$135* (6 hours, departs in the afternoon with dinner)
Transfer across the North York Moors on your way to the charming fishing port of Whitby. Whitby was made famous by its associations with Captain Cook (who served his apprenticeship here) and Bram Stoker's Dracula (Whitby is where the Transylvanian count first sets foot in the British Isles). You'll visit Whitby Abbey—the backdrop to Dracula's killings in the graveyard of St. Mary's Church—and the 199 steps leading to the port and its small sandy beach. Spend some free time wandering around the port before heading to a restaurant for a fish-and-chips dinner. Please note: This excursion is seasonal and runs March through November.

Day 9: The Beatles: History & Story Museum
$105/$115* (4 hours, departs in the afternoon)
Curious about how the Fab Four came to be? This excursion is your opportunity to discover the humble beginnings of the band that achieved global stardom. View special exhibitions, memorabilia, and photographs at the immersive Beatles Story Museum. Then, join a local expert for a guided tour of Liverpool, with special visits to Beatles-specific landmarks such as Penny Lane and Strawberry Fields.

Day 12: Literary Bath & Afternoon Tea
$129/$139* (3 hours, departs in the afternoon)
World-famous for novels that defied gender norms and detailed iconic characters, author Jane Austen was Bath's most famous resident. Make your way to the Jane Austen Centre, where you'll enjoy a presentation delivered by a costumed guide. Then, explore this beautifully decorated Georgian townhouse on your own, learning more about the Regency era and how it informed Austen's work. Once finished, you'll sit down for a cuppa in the Regency Tea Room, paired with a light lunch. Turn the page on your visit by heading to Persephone Books, an independent publisher that reprints neglected authors—most of whom are women from the mid-20th century. Peruse its collection of novels, short stories, and more (and maybe grab a book for your return flight) before going back to your hotel.

Day 14: Windsor Castle
$125 (5 hours, departs in the afternoon)
Led by a Blue Badge Guide, you'll travel to Windsor for a guided tour of the world's largest and longest-inhabited castle. Founded by William the Conqueror in 1070, Windsor has been the British Royal Family's preferred retreat for the past 900 years. Step inside the State Apartments and St. George's Chapel, where knighting ceremonies of the Most Noble Order of the Garter take place. View the exhibit of royal treasures within the castle. You'll then have time to stroll through the town of Windsor and have a look at Eton College, a prestigious prep school attended by Princes William and Harry. Please note: When the Windsor Castle excursion falls on a Wednesday, entrance will be replaced by an excursion to Hampton Court. For any departures where the Windsor Castle excursion falls on a Tuesday, the excursion will be moved to another day on tour or cancelled. Additionally, St. George's Chapel is closed to the public on Sundays. This excursion requires advance reservation and must be booked at least 20 days prior to departure.

Extension excursion options

Day 15: Tower of London
$109 (3 hours, departs in the morning)
Enter the Tower of London, a UNESCO World Heritage Site famous for its dark history of treason, imprisonment, and beheadings. With a local Blue Badge Guide leading the way, you'll explore the nooks and crannies of this royal castle, seeing ancient coin collections, suits of armor, and the glittering Crown Jewels as you go. Explore exhibitions about the Royal Mint and old armaments before watching a live historical reenactment and visiting the White Tower. This excursion requires advance reservation and must be booked at least 20 days prior to departure.

Day 15: London Eye & Pub Dinner
$149 (5 hours, departs in the evening with dinner)
Glide through London's skyline, 450 feet above the River Thames, on the London Eye—the world's fourth-tallest observation wheel. Settle into an enclosed gondola for a 30-minute ride and take in the view of the city below. (In clear weather, the panorama stretches for 25 miles.) Afterward, take a brief tour of London's West End before ending your outing with dinner at a local pub. This excursion requires advance reservation and must be booked at least 20 days prior to departure.

Day 16: A Day in Cambridge
$145 (9 hours, departs in the morning)
Spend the day getting to know Cambridge, a city famous for its rich culture, intricate Gothic architecture, and prestigious academic legacy. You'll explore the historic heart of the city with a local guide leading the way. Discover sites such as St Bene't's Church, The Eagle pub, the Old Cavendish Laboratory, and the Church of St Mary the Great. You'll also see many of the local colleges including Corpus Christi College, St Catharine's College, and Gonville and Caius College. Then, head to the world-renowned King's College Chapel, located on the University of Cambridge campus. The rest of the day is yours to shop, eat lunch, and explore more of the local sites such as the Fitzwilliam Museum. This excursion requires advance reservation and must be booked at least 20 days prior to departure.

*Optional excursions may be purchased up to three days prior to departure or while on tour. Pre-purchased optional excursions cannot be canceled within three days prior to departure or while on tour. Select optional excursions require advance booking and cannot be purchased or canceled after the advanced reservation deadline. GAT accepts payment by cash, Visa or MasterCard for optional excursions purchased on tour. Additional fees may apply for optional excursions purchased on tour. Excursions require a minimum number of participants to operate. Details and prices are subject to change. Due to seasonal hours of operation and availability, some excursions may not operate. If this occurs, you will be refunded any payments made for that excursion post-tour. Learn more at goaheadtours.com/terms