

Essential Britain

August 29 – September 10, 2025
\$4489 per person plus airfare

ESSENTIAL BRITAIN (GC)

12 DAY TOUR FROM LONDON TO LONDON



Thrones and scones. Hops and scotch. Rock stars and famous rocks. They're all included on this enthralling and encompassing tour of Britain. Pack your tweed and tartans for the best of London and country, the Scottish Highlands and Lowlands, and the enchanting villages and valleys of Wales, and prepare to be swept away like a runaway bride at the elopement capital of Gretna Green. The castles and cathedrals of London, Edinburgh, and Cardiff, as well as the charming pubs on every corner, will steal your heart away. With visits to the baffling boulders of Stonehenge, the battlefield of Culloden Moor, Shakespeare's birthplace of Stratford-upon-Avon, and The Beatles' home city of Liverpool, this tour of Britain promises rocking discovery and enlightenment, not to mention honorary degrees in ancient history, English literature, and music appreciation.

SMALL-GROUP DISCOVERY DATES AVAILABLE

Globus offers Small-Group Discoveries on select Europe dates. A Small-Group Discovery is limited to an average of just 24 guests per departure. There's always room to roam with extra space between you and other travelers—while still getting up close and personal to the experiences you've been dreaming of. Small-Group Discoveries include all the features of a traditional Globus Europe escorted tour, complete with expert Tour Director, Driver, and Local Guides who ensure that your health and safety is our top priority. A Small-Group Discovery trip is the perfectly sized European tour—without the crowds.



DAY 1 ARRIVE IN LONDON, ENGLAND

Welcome to London! Uniformed Globus Hosts will be waiting to welcome you. Free time this afternoon.

LONDON-BIG-BEN.jpg

DAY 2 LONDON–STONEHENGE–ILMINSTER–PLYMOUTH

Secrets of the Stones LONDON Meet your Tour Director and travel companions at 8 am before departing for Stonehenge.

STONEHENGE Visit the prehistoric monument.

ILMINSTER  Lunch at a local pub.

219 mi / 352 km


LOCAL FAVORITE

LOCAL TASTES Quench your thirst with local ales and ciders while tasting traditional pub fayre prepared following century old recipes. Nothing eases homesickness like hearty cooked food concocted with care and love like grandma used to make. Just like home away from home!

STONEHENGE.jpg

 Breakfast  Lunch

DAY 3 PLYMOUTH. EXCURSION TO CORNWALL

Legends of Land & Sea PLYMOUTH  All aboard for a scenic cruise on Plymouth Sound. Enjoy a scenic drive through the West Country to Poldark's Cornwall.

LOOE Visit the thriving fishing village and former smugglers' port.


PLYMOUTH Free time this evening.

42 mi / 70 km

LOCAL FAVORITE

EPIC RIDE Stunning views of Cornwall, the setting of Winston Graham's 'Poldark' saga of Cornish life in the 18th century, will leave you breathless on a scenic drive through the West Country. Get carried away with a spectacular scenic cruise on Plymouth Sound, a magnificent inlet on the English Channel.

CORNWALL-LOOE.jpg

 Breakfast

DAY 4 PLYMOUTH–GLASTONBURY–BATH–CARDIFF, WALES

Timeless Kings & Thermal Springs GLASTONBURY Visit the town of the legend of King Arthur and the Holy Grail.

BATH Visit the excavations of the Roman Baths.

184 mi / 295 km

TOUR HIGHLIGHT

LEGENDS & LORE The Somerset town of Glastonbury is the site of King Arthur's legendary quest for the mythical Holy Grail, the cup from which Jesus drank at the Last Supper. Hear how, while Arthur failed in his search, a noble knight named Galahad found the Holy Grail because of his pure heart.

BATH.jpg

 Breakfast

DAY 5 CARDIFF–BUILTH WELLS–LLANGOLLEN–LIVERPOOL, ENGLAND

Moor than Meets the Eye Take a scenic drive along the Taff Valley and through the Brecon Beacons National Park.

BUILTH WELLS Stop at the ancient market town.

LLANGOLLEN Visit the picturesque town.


LIVERPOOL Free time the remainder of the day.

190 mi / 306 km

TOUR HIGHLIGHT

NATURAL WONDERS Discover the extraordinary natural beauty of Brecon Beacons National Park while driving through its mountains, moors, and magnificent views. Look out for Welsh mountain ponies and sheep grazing in the wild and red kites gliding gracefully in the sky.


LLANGOLLEN-DEE-BRIDGE.jpg


 Breakfast

DAY 6 LIVERPOOL–GRASMERE–GRETNA GREEN, SCOTLAND–GLASGOW

Songs, Sonnets & Secret Vows LIVERPOOL Visit The Beatles Story for a fascinating journey into the life and music of the Fab Four.

LAKE DISTRICT Take a scenic drive.

GRASMERE Visit Wordsworth's beloved village, and sample  the original Grasmere gingerbread.

GRETNA GREEN See where a Scottish blacksmith performed weddings for eloping young couples and  join in a fun wedding re-enactment.

236 mi / 380 km

LOCAL FAVORITE

TIMELESS TRADITIONS Love will find a way to sweeten the day with classic gingerbread in Grasmere, or by parents hot on the trail of runaway brides and grooms who crossed them (and the Scottish border) to get hitched in 18th-century Gretna Green. Hear how romance was forged by a blacksmith who helped eloping couples hammer out the vows.

GRETNA-GREEN-ANVIL.jpg

 Breakfast  Dinner

DAY 7 GLASGOW–FORT WILLIAM–INVERNESS

Landmarks, Lochs & Legends GLASGOW Orientation drive to see Glasgow's landmarks, including the 12th-century cathedral, university buildings, and Georgian squares. Take a scenic drive past Loch Lomond, Rannoch Moor, and Glen Coe.

FORT WILLIAM See the gateway to Ben Nevis, UK's highest peak.

LOCH NESS Drive the length of the legendary lake en route to Inverness.

178 mi / 286 km

TOUR HIGHLIGHT

LEGENDS & LORE Survey the shores of famed Loch Ness for the chance to catch a glimpse of its mysterious Nessie. Hear of the folklore and firm believers in the legend of the Loch Ness Monster, which is said to swim in the shimmering waters.

LOCH-NESS.jpg

 Breakfast  Dinner

DAY 8 INVERNESS–CULLODEN—PITLOCHRY–ST. ANDREWS–EDINBURGH

Bravery, Birdies & Bagpipes CULLODEN MOOR See the battlefield.

PITLOCHRY Walk through the Victorian mountain resort.

ST. ANDREWS Visit the home of golf and the famous university town.

THE ROYAL EDINBURGH MILITARY TATTOO Attend the world-renowned Tattoo performance. (Departures July 26 through August 16 only).

202 mi / 326 km

TOUR HIGHLIGHT

ICONIC FOOTSTEPS See the fairways and greens at the birthplace of golf, where legendary players of the Scottish game made history in the university town of St. Andrews.

ST-ANDREWS-GOLF.jpg

 Breakfast

DAY 9 EDINBURGH

Crown Jewels & Castle Views EDINBURGH Morning city sightseeing with a Local Guide includes the New Town, the Old Town, and a visit to Edinburgh Castle to see Scotland's Crown Jewels. Free time.

TOUR HIGHLIGHT

HISTORIC SPOT Ascend to Castle Rock to explore Edinburgh Castle, one of the most important historical strongholds in the Kingdom of Scotland, with a 1,100-year history as "the most besieged place in Great Britain." Here, see the royal regalia and Scotland's Crown Jewels.

EDINBURGH-CASTLE.jpg

 Breakfast

DAY 10 EDINBURGH–ALNWICK, ENGLAND–YORK

Lights, Camera, Alnwick! ALNWICK Visit Alnwick Castle, setting for many film productions. Choose between touring the castle or taking a stroll through the magnificent gardens.

YORK See York Minster and browse the shops of The Shambles.

214 mi / 344 km

TOUR HIGHLIGHT

HISTORIC SPOTS Visit Alnwick Castle to discover 700 years of English and family history of its owners, the Percy Family. Continuing the lineage of centuries of Dukes, Duchesses, and Earls whom have called the impressive castle home. The castle is a haven for movie and TV buffs as the filming location for many productions, including Harry Potter and Downton Abbey. If nature is more to your liking, consider a visit to the splendid 12-acre Alnwick Gardens.

ALNWICK-CASTLE.jpg

 Breakfast  Dinner


DAY 11 YORK-STRATFORD-UPON-AVON-LONDON

Mr. & Mrs. Shakespeare STRATFORD-UPON-AVON See Anne Hathaway's Cottage and visit Shakespeare's Birthplace.
255 mi / 410 km

TOUR HIGHLIGHT

A LEGEND SLEPT HERE Ah, young love! Even more true, as young Shakespeare's fiancée was eight years his senior. See Anne Hathaway's Cottage, the family home where the bard's wife-to-be was born and courted by young Will. Built more than 500 years ago, much of the original structure remains. Visit Shakespeare's Birthplace and family home in the heart of Stratford-upon-Avon. Hear tales of Shakespeare's family life, marriage, and children with a close look at fascinating artifacts in a world-class collection assembled by the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust.


STRATFORD-UPON-AVON-SHAKESPEARS-BIRTHPLACE.jpg

 Breakfast

DAY 12 LONDON

Safe travels until we meet again! Your vacation ends with breakfast this morning.

LONDON-PUB.jpg

 Breakfast