

• The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland



Territory

The total area of the UK is approximately 243,610 square km (94,060 sq mi).

The country occupies the major part of the British Isles archipelago and includes the island of Great Britain, the north-eastern one-sixth of the island of Ireland and some smaller surrounding islands.



Location

The country includes the island of Great Britain, the north-eastern part of the Island of Ireland, and many smaller islands.



Population

In the 2013 census the total population of the UK was 63,395,574. It is the third largest in the European Union, the fifth largest in the Commonwealth and the twenty-first largest in the world.



Form of Government

The UK's form of government is a constitutional monarchy with a parliamentary system and its capital city is London. It consists of four countries: England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The latter three have devolved administrations, each with varying powers, based in their capital cities: Edinburgh, Cardiff, and Belfast, respectively.



Government

Unitary parliamentary
Constitutional monarchy
With federal elements

Monarch – Queen Elizabeth II

Prime Minister – David Cameron

Deputy Prime Minister - Nick Clegg



Language

Official language: English

Recognized regional languages:

- Irish
- Scottish Gaelic
- Scots
- Ulster-Scots
- Welsh
- Cornish

Climate

The UK has a temperate climate, with plentiful rainfall all year round. The temperature varies with the seasons seldom dropping below -11°C or rising above $+35^{\circ}\text{C}$.



Attractions in Britain England



The Tower of London

The Tower of London is a very old building in London. It is nine hundred years old. The Tower of London stands on the Thames. In the early days of the history of England the English kings lived in the Tower. Then it was a prison where many people died, black ravens had much food near the walls of the Tower in those years. The black ravens live in the gardens of the Tower now. The English people like them very much. A man looks after the ravens and gives them meat in the morning and in the evening.

Now the Tower of London is a museum and many people from other countries come to see it. They see the dark stone halls with small windows and thick doors. The walls of the Tower are five meters thick. In the museum they can see many old guns.



Buckingham Palace

Buckingham Palace is the residence of the British monarch. It's the Queen's official London residence and is used to receive and entertain guests on state, ceremonial and official occasions for the Royal Family.



Scotland



Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum, Glasgow

Kelvingrove art gallery and Museum in Glasgow - the most popular Museum of Scotland and one of the most popular museums in Britain. In the gallery you can see a collection of skeletons of prehistoric animals, a collection of sculptures, pieces of furniture, drawings, a collection of art of Ancient Egypt, a collection of arms and armor. The main part of the exhibition is a collection of famous resident of the city Archibald McLellan, who gave the Museum 400 interesting pictures. In the Museum given by works by Rubens, Rembrandt, Botticelli, Jacob baths Ruisdael, Degas, Giovanni Bellini, Titian, Picasso, van Gogh, Dali, Monet, Rossetti, Pissarro.



Edinburgh Castle

Edinburgh castle is a fortress located on the Castle Rock in the heart of Scotland's capital - Edinburgh. The fortress was used by different armed forces since 900 BC and has only recently been transferred from the Ministry of defense of great Britain. The castle is located on top of the Royal Mile, the main street of the Old town, which leads down to the Palace of Holyrood house. The castle is open to the public and is a major tourist attraction in Scotland. Since the XII century the castle was the Royal residence of Scottish kings and was involved in many conflicts between England and Scotland.



Wales



Beaumaris Castle

Beaumaris castle, a medieval castle, is located in the same city, in the County of Anglesey in Wales. Beaumaris - one of castles built by king Edward I in order to strengthen the English influence in Wales. The castle is situated on the coast of the island of Anglesey and locks the Eastern entrance of the Menai Strait. The moat around the castle, previously connected with the sea, allow large vessels to approach almost close by and unloaded at the gate of the castle. The second ring of walls and towers, higher and more powerful, provided good protection of the fortress. The castle is well-preserved. The castle's name is translated as «Beautiful bog».



Devil's bridge

Devil's bridge is located in Wales in the medieval Principality of Ceredigion on the way to the Abbey Strata Florida in the village of the same name Devils Bridge. According to local legend, the Devil's Bridge got its name from the ancient history of the wise old Welsh, thanks to its tricks deceiving the devil himself. The beginning of construction of a bridge put the Templars at the end of the XII century, and 600 years later was built another bridge. In the beginning of the last century there were already the third, but now the metal, the bridge.



Northern Ireland



Belfast castle

The Belfast castle - powerful and magnificent building, which started the history of the city - was presumably built in the XII century, but since then several times rebuilt. The castle is surrounded by an English garden with traditional lawns and paths, forming, as can be seen from the observation towers of the castle, sacral Irish symbol - a Celtic cross. There is a legend that in the garden of the manor live white cats, castle shall dwell in prosperity, and prosperity. Therefore, the cats are considered with special care and love.



The Big Opera

Opera make the perfect example of Eastern architecture in Britain and one of the most famous in Europe. The building's architect Frank Mitchell was fond of the East, and its structure seemed to get away from the pages of the book tales of a thousand and one nights, so it is attractive and exotic looks. During the Second World war, the building was severely damaged as a result of the bombing, but after the reconstruction it again is very popular among tourists.

