

Great Britain

- It is an island country. It is located to the northwest of Continental Europe. It is the ninth largest island in the world.
- The official name of this country is the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. It consists of 4 parts:
 - * England (its capital is London)
 - * Scotland (its capital is Edinburgh)
 - * Wales (its capital is Cardiff)
 - * Northern Ireland (its capital is Belfast)
- The capital city is London.
- Largest cities include London, Birmingham, Liverpool, Manchester (all of them in England), Belfast and Londonderry (in Northern Ireland), Edinburgh and Glasgow (in Scotland) and Swansea and Cardiff (both situated in Wales).
- The flag of the United Kingdom is known as the Union Jack. It was officially adopted in 1801. The national anthem is called God Save the King.
- The symbol of England is a red rose, the symbol of Scotland is a thistle, the symbol of Wales is a daffodil and the symbol of Ireland is a shamrock.

Land and climate

- United Kingdom is surrounded by sea. Between the United Kingdom and France there is the English Channel.
- The North Sea is in the east.
- The Irish Sea separates Great Britain from Ireland and the southwestern England.
- Northwestern coast of Northern Ireland and western Scotland are surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean.
- The largest rivers are the Thames, the Trent and the Severn. There are also many lakes in Great Britain, especially in the Lake District. The largest lake here is the Windermere. Lakes are also in the Scottish highlands, these are called „lochs“ and the most attractive ones are Loch Lomond and Loch Ness (famous for Loch Ness monster ☺ The largest lake in the United Kingdom is Lough Neagh, which is in Northern Ireland).
- The highest peak is Ben Nevis in the Scottish Highlands (1343m), the Pennines that are in the central part of Northern Ireland and are called the „backbone of the country“, the Cumbrian mountains (also

known as the Lake district) and the Cambrian mountains in North Wales. The highest peak here is Snowdon (1085m) and here we can also find Snowdonia national park.

- The Lowland region is flat or slightly rolling with limestone or chalk hills. The best known of chalk hills are the cliffs spread east and west from the town of Dover called the White Cliffs of Dover.

Climate

- Climate is influenced by the warm Gulf Stream and so the weather is not as cold as most places situated in the north. Here the summers are mild, winters are cool with temperatures close to zero. The exceptions are colder places in Scottish Highlands. The climate is very damp with a lot of rain and fog.

People

- In the UK there are more than 60 million people. The ethnic groups are British people (English, Scottish and Welsh), Irish, immigrants from former British colonies and other Europeans.

Government

- The United Kingdom is a constitutional monarchy, the head of the state is the British King Charles III. The head of the government is the Prime Minister. The Parliament consists of 2 parts – the House of Commons and the House of Lords. England, Scotland and Wales are under one government but each country has a local government too.

Economy

- The United Kingdom currency is one pound (also called pound sterling) and it is 100 pence.

Fauna and flora

- In the UK we can find mountain beef cattle, sheep, horses, elks, seal, cod and many bird species.
- In the UK we can find coniferous and deciduous trees and common European plants.

Places of interest – England

- Canterbury – the centre of the Church of England, here we can find Canterbury Cathedral.
- Brighton – it is a beach resort
- Stonehenge – here we can find prehistoric monuments – huge stones erected more than 3500 years ago
- Plymouth – it is a historical seaport. The ship called Mayflower with the Pilgrim fathers left this port in 1620 and headed for America.
- Bath – it is a spa with warm springs used since Romans times

- Stratford-upon-Avon – it is the birthplace of William Shakespeare
- Oxford – the United Kingdom oldest university
- Cambridge – it is the seat of another famous university – the Cambridge university
- Liverpool – it is an important seaport and industrial city and it is known for the Beatles
- Manchester – it is an important port and industrial city, known for Manchester United football team and for cricket
- York – here we can find the largest cathedral in England – the York Minster.
- Hadrian's wall – it was built to keep away enemies during the reign of Roman Emperor Hadrian
- Birmingham – it is a big industrial city, second important city after London in the UK

Places of interest – Scotland

- Edinburgh – it is an old city dating back to medieval times. Here we can find the Edinburgh castle and Annual Edinburgh International Festival (of theatre, dance, opera and classical music) takes place here every summer.
- Loch Ness – known for the Loch Ness monster called the Nessie which is believed to live in the lake.
- Glasgow – it is an industrial city and a seaport, it is the largest city in Scotland.

Places of interest – Wales

- Cardiff – it is the capital of Wales, it is a centre of industry and finance. It is the seat of Cardiff University and we can find here a castle which was built in the 12th century.
- Llangollen – it is town known for festival of dance and music
- Swansea – it is the second most populous city in Wales after Cardiff, the seat of copper industry

Places of interest - Northern Ireland

- Belfast – it is the capital of Northern Ireland which is also an important port and the seat of Belfast University.
- Londonderry – it is the second largest city in Northern Ireland, there we can find a port, an airport and the city walls are still well kept
- Giant's Causeway – it is a causeway formed by columns of basalt rock

Famous people of Britain

Writers: W. Shakespeare, Jane Austen, Agatha Christie, J.R.R. Tolkien, J.K. Rowling, Charles Dickens.

Politicians: Winston Churchill, M. Thatcher, Queen Elisabeth II

Scientists: Alexander Fleming, Alan Turing, Michael Faraday, Steven Hawking, Alexander Graham Bell

Sportsmen: Lewis Hamilton, Wayne Rooney, David Beckham, Jenson Button,

Singers: John Lennon, David Bowie, Robbie Williams, Freddie Mercury, Bee Gees, Ozzy Osbourne, Paul McCartney

Groups: The Beatles, Queen, Led Zeppelin, Pink Floyd, The Rolling Stones, Oasis,

Actors: Hugh Grant, Daniel Craig, Colin Firth, Sean O'Connery, Daniel Radcliffe, Keira Knightley, Kate Winslet, Emma Watson

Nature in the UK

There are 14 national parks in the United Kingdom. Nine of them are in England, three are in Wales and two are in Scotland. In England the most famous ones are: Lake District, Dartmoor, Northumberland, in Wales Snowdonia, Pembrokeshire and in Scotland the most famous one is Loch Lomond.

British cuisine

For British people a large breakfast is the most important thing of the day. They usually eat toasts and cereals, they drink juice, tea with milk or coffee for their breakfast. Traditional English breakfast is usually served on Sunday or after "a party night". This breakfast consists of fried eggs, fried bacon, sausages, fried bread or toast and beans in tomato sauce with fried mushrooms.

Typical main dishes – the most favorite meal is fish and chips. There are many kinds of this meal, but the most popular one is that with salt and vinegar. Next favorite meals are Jacket potatoes, it is a roast potato with beans in tomato sauce or with tuna. British people also like beef and lamb or pork, pasta and rice with curry and many kinds of sandwiches.

Typical festival dishes are for example puddings. They are served hot or cold. Most favorite one is Christmas pudding, which contains milk, eggs, almonds, breadcrumbs and nutmeg. Everything is boiled in water with cherry or with dark beer. Another festival dish is roast turkey with different kinds of vegetables and potatoes which is usually eaten during Christmas. Typical drinks are especially alcoholic drinks like beer, whiskey and gin. Most favorite whiskey is British or Irish whiskey for example Red Label or Jack Daniels. A favorite gin is Beefeater. Another popular alcoholic drink is Pimm's which has many variations. British people are also known for their teatime. This is a traditional British part of the day, when in many households at about five o'clock p.m. people drink Indian or Ceylon tea with milk and with sugar. Unfortunately, this tradition becomes less and less popular.

In Britain people can taste not only typical British cuisine, but also the international one. There are many Indian, Chinese, Italian, Spanish and Japanese restaurants where you can eat or where you can buy a meal and take it home. The restaurants, where you can buy a meal and take it home, are called takeaway restaurants.

Scottish cuisine

Scottish national meal is haggis, which contains liver, heart and sheep lungs mixed together with oat flakes, onion and spice. This mixture is put into sheep stomach and is boiled for an hour. It is served with potato

mash or turnip mash. Scottish breakfast is similar to English breakfast but there is also a black pudding. Porridge is often eaten for breakfast. It is usually either a salty version or a sweet one. Their national drink is Scottish whisky and beer which is thick and dark and a bit sweeter than the English bitter.