

The Great British Highlands: A Landlocked Nation in the Heart of Europe

Geography

In this alternate world, the landmass known as Great Britain is not an island off the coast of continental Europe, but rather a mountainous, landlocked country situated in Central Europe. Its borders are as follows:

North: Denmark

East: Germany

South: Switzerland and Austria

West: France

The country is dominated by the Great British Highlands, a mountain range that runs from north to south, with peaks rivaling those of the Alps. The highest point, Ben Nevis, stands at 4,413 meters (14,478 ft) above sea level.

Major rivers include:

The Thames, flowing eastward into Germany

The Severn, flowing westward into France

The Trent, flowing northward into Denmark

The climate is continental, with cold winters and warm summers. The mountains create diverse microclimates throughout the country.

History

Ancient Times

The region was inhabited by Celtic tribes before being conquered by the Roman Empire in the 1st century CE. The Romans established important trade routes through the mountains, connecting their territories in Gaul (France) with Germania.

Medieval Period

After the fall of Rome, the area became a patchwork of small kingdoms. In the 9th century, Alfred the Great united these kingdoms into a single nation, establishing the Kingdom of Britain. The mountainous terrain helped the British resist invasions from neighboring powers.

Modern Era

In the 19th and 20th centuries, Britain's central location made it a key diplomatic player in European affairs. It often acted as a mediator between the great powers surrounding it. During both World Wars, Britain's mountain fortresses proved crucial in resisting invasion. Today, the United Kingdom of Great Britain is known for its stunning mountain scenery, its role as a neutral ground for international diplomacy, and its highly developed network of tunnels and mountain railways connecting it to the rest of Europe.