**Great Britain**, also known as **Britain** [**i**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:En-uk-Britain.ogg)[/ˈbrɪ.tən/](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:IPA_for_English), is an [island](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Island) in the [North Atlantic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_Atlantic) off the north-west coast of [continental Europe](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Continental_Europe). With an area of 209,331 km2 (80,823 sq mi), it is the [largest island in Europe](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_European_islands_by_area) and the [ninth-largest in the world](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_islands_by_area).[[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Britain#cite_note-5)[[note 1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Britain#cite_note-7) In 2011 the island had a population of about 61 million people, making it the [third-most populous island](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_islands_by_population) in the world, after [Java](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Java) in Indonesia and [Honshu](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Honshu) in Japan.[[7]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Britain#cite_note-ons-8)[[8]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Britain#cite_note-9) It is part of the [British Isles](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Isles)archipelago along with over [1,000 smaller surrounding islands](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_islands_of_the_British_Isles),[[9]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Britain#cite_note-10) including the island of [Ireland](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ireland) to its west.

The island is part of the [United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Kingdom), constituting most of its territory:[[10]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Britain#cite_note-Oliver2003-11) most of [England](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/England), [Scotland](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scotland), and [Wales](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wales) are on the island, with their respective capital cities, [London](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/London" \o "London),[Edinburgh](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edinburgh), and [Cardiff](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cardiff). Politically, the term Great Britain usually extends to include surrounding islands that form part of England, Scotland, and Wales.[[13]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Britain#cite_note-14)

A single [Kingdom of Great Britain](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kingdom_of_Great_Britain) resulted from the [Union](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Acts_of_Union_1707) of [Scotland](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kingdom_of_Scotland) and [England](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kingdom_of_England) (which already comprised the present-day countries of [England](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/England) and [Wales](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wales)) in 1707. More than a hundred years before, in 1603, [King James VI](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_VI_and_I), [King of Scots](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Scottish_monarchs), had inherited the throne of England, but it was not until 1707 that the Parliaments of the two countries agreed to form a unified state. Subsequently, in 1801, Great Britain [united](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Acts_of_Union_1800) with the neighbouring [Kingdom of Ireland](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kingdom_of_Ireland), forming the [United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Kingdom_of_Great_Britain_and_Ireland). The state was renamed the "United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland" after [five-sixths of Ireland](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Republic_of_Ireland) seceded from the United Kingdom in 1922.

**Largest Urban areas**

*See also:*[*List of urban areas in the United Kingdom*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_urban_areas_in_the_United_Kingdom)

| **Rank** | **City-region** | **Built-up area**[[69]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Britain#cite_note-BUA-70) | **Population (2011 Census)** | **Area (km²)** | **Density (people/km²)** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **1** | [London](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/London) | [Greater London Built-up area](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greater_London_Urban_Area) | 9,787,426 | 1,737.9 | 5,630 |
| **2** | [Manchester](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manchester) | [Greater Manchester Built-up area](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greater_Manchester_Urban_Area) | 2,553,379 | 630.3 | 4,051 |
| **3** | [Birmingham](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Birmingham)–[Wolverhampton](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wolverhampton" \o "Wolverhampton) | [West Midlands Built-up area](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/West_Midlands_Urban_Area) | 2,440,986 | 598.9 | 4,076 |
| **4** | [Leeds](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leeds)–[Bradford](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bradford) | [West Yorkshire Built-up area](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/West_Yorkshire_Urban_Area) | 1,777,934 | 487.8 | 3,645 |
| **5** | [Glasgow](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glasgow) | [Greater Glasgow Built-up area](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greater_Glasgow) | 1,209,143 | 368.5 | 3,390 |
| **6** | [Liverpool](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liverpool) | [Liverpool Built-up area](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liverpool_Urban_Area) | 864,122 | 199.6 | 4,329 |
| **7** | [Southampton](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Southampton)–[Portsmouth](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portsmouth) | [South Hampshire Built-up area](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Hampshire) | 855,569 | 192.0 | 4,455 |
| **8** | [Newcastle upon Tyne](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Newcastle_upon_Tyne)–[Sunderland](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sunderland,_Tyne_and_Wear) | [Tyneside Built-up area](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tyneside) | 774,891 | 180.5 | 4,292 |