

The United Kingdom



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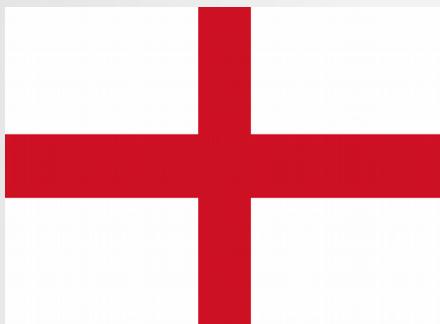


The United Kingdom consists of 4 different countries:

- **England**
- **Wales**
- **Scotland**
- **Northern Ireland**

The British Flags

England



Wales



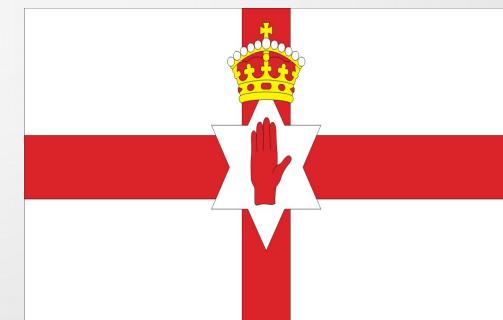
The UK



Scotland



Ireland



Floral symbols

A red rose



A daffodil



A thistle



A shamrock

Northern
Ireland



Queen Elizabeth II



Antigua and Barbuda



Bahamas



Australia



Canada



New Zealand



Solomon Islands



Saint Lucia



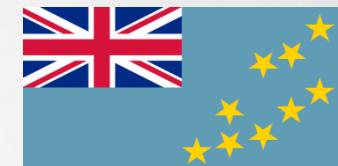
Belize



Grenada



Papua New Guinea



Tuvalu



Jamaica

Queen Elisabeth II is the official head of 16 independent states. She is the only female member of the royal family who served in the armed forces.



Barbados



Saint Vincent and the
Grenadines



Saint Kitts and Nevis

Ben Nevis - the highest mountain in Scotland and in the UK



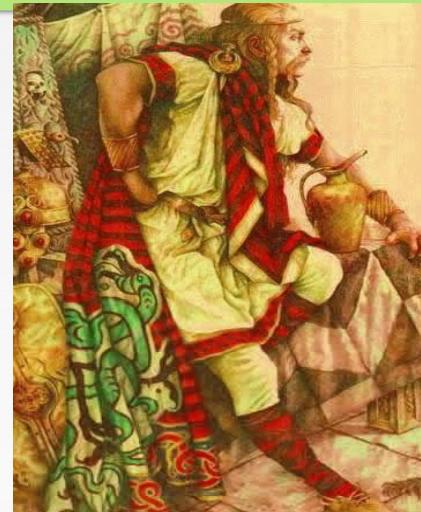
The mountain is a popular destination, attracting 100,000 ascents a year, around three-quarters of which use the Pony Track from Glen Nevis. The 700-metre cliffs provide classic rock climbs of all difficulties for climbers and mountaineers. They are also the principal locations in the UK for ice climbing.

The Severn - The longest river in the UK



It is about 354 kilometres long. Starting in Wales, it is the greatest river in terms of water flow in England and Wales. The river was the inspiration for a number of works by well-known British writers, poets and composers (W. Shakespeare, H. Percy, I. Gurney and others).

Lough Neagh - the largest lake in Northern Ireland and the UK



An old Irish legend says that the lake appeared when the giant Finn McCool scooped up a portion of the land and tossed it at the Scottish rival. He missed and the piece landed in the Irish Sea. So, the Isle of Man was created.



LONDON



The capital city of England and the United Kingdom has been around nearly 2,000 years. Since that time, London has grown to become one of the most significant financial and cultural capitals which is visited by millions of tourists from all over the world.

Edinburgh



The capital of Scotland has many historic buildings, including Edinburgh Castle, Holyrood Palace, many churches and the University of Edinburgh. The city's historical and cultural attractions, annual arts festivals make it the second most popular tourist destination after London, attracting over one million overseas visitors each year



Cardiff



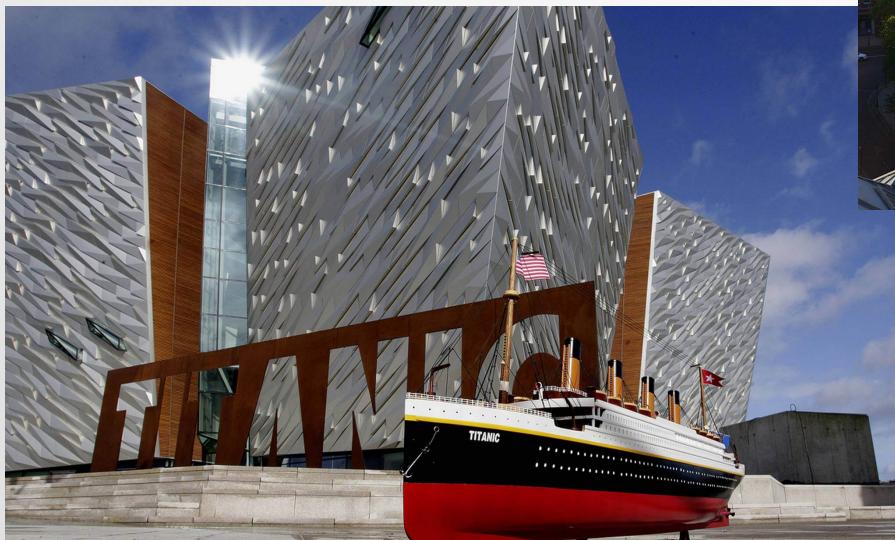
Cardiff is the capital of Wales and the youngest capital city in Europe (was proclaimed the capital in 1955). Cardiff claims the largest concentration of castles of any city in the world. The landmark castle in the city is Cardiff Castle, some parts of which date back to the 10th-century. Millions of people visit the 2,000-year-old hilltop fortification every year, making it the most visited attraction in Wales.

Belfast

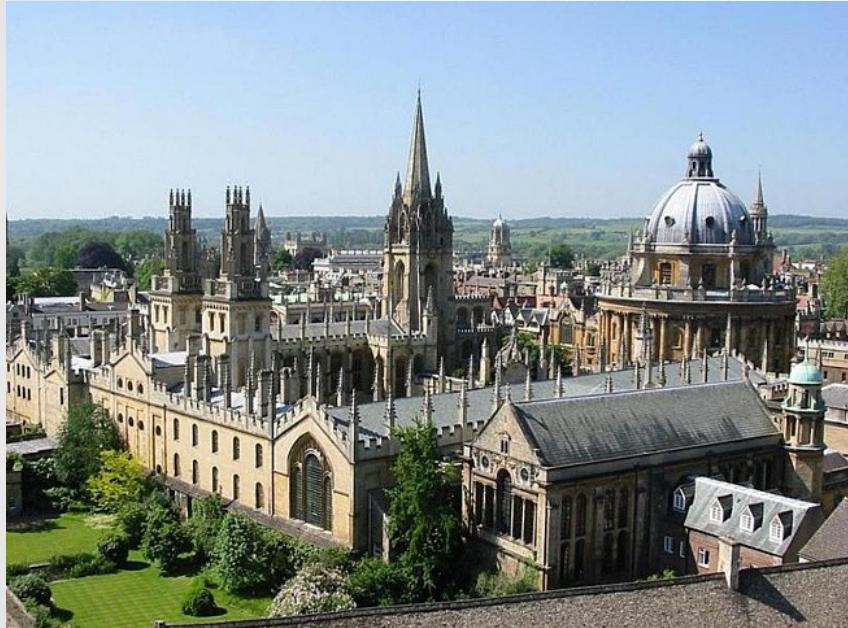
Belfast is the capital city of Northern Ireland (since 1921).

It is the second largest city on the island of Ireland. It is famous as the birthplace of the infamous doomed ocean liner, *Titanic*.

Visitor numbers continue to increase year-on-year in Belfast due to its history and the city's superb Victorian architecture.



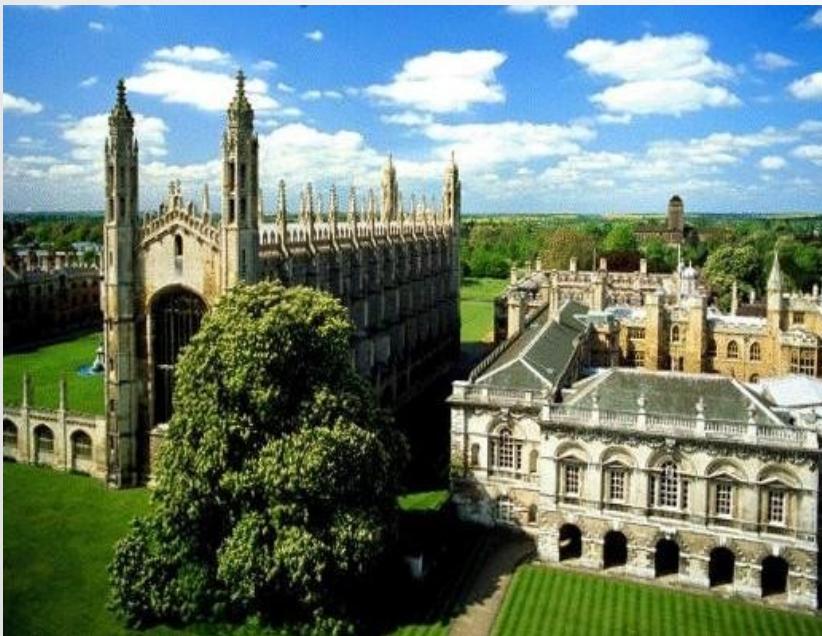
Oxford University



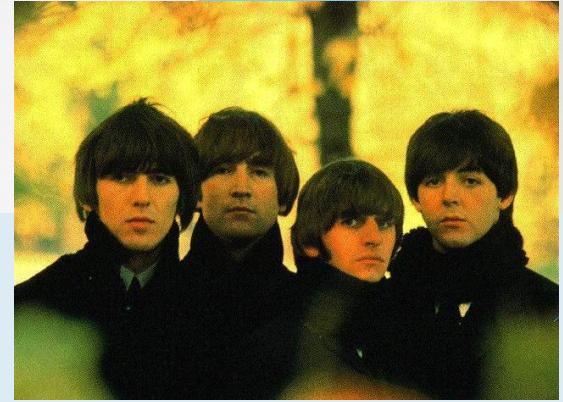
The University of Oxford is the oldest university in the English-speaking world (1096). Its 38 colleges operate the largest academic library system in the UK. Oxford has educated many notable people, including 27 Nobel laureates, 26 British Prime Ministers and many foreign heads of state.

Cambridge University (1209)

It is the second-oldest university in the English-speaking world. It has got 31 colleges. Cambridge University Press is the world's oldest publishing house. Many notable mathematicians, scientists, politicians, and 90 Nobel laureates studied there.



Liverpool



Founded in 1207, this port city is recognised by Guinness World Records as the World Capital City of Pop music. Liverpool is most famous as the birthplace of The Beatles and the home of two Premier League football clubs, Liverpool and Everton.



Buckingham Palace

Buckingham Palace, the residence and principal workplace of the monarchy, is often the centre of state occasions and ceremonies.

Changing of the Guard, which takes place every day all year round, is the most popular among them.



The Palace of Westminster



Built in the 12th century, it was used as a ceremonial centre, for banqueting and entertaining. Since the 13th century it has been the centre for parliamentary gatherings. Known as the Houses of Parliament, the Palace is a Victorian Gothic masterpiece. Its clock tower, also known as the Elizabeth Tower, is famous for the hour bell **Big Ben** which is an iconic symbol of London and the UK.

Tower of London



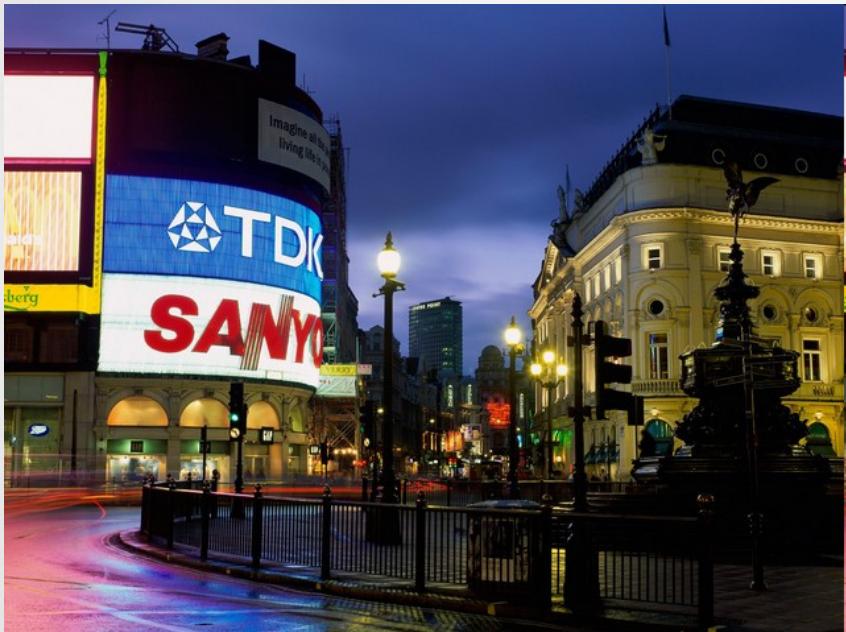
It is a historic castle that was founded in 1066. It served as a fortress, a Royal Palace and even Princes' prison. It is visited by many tourists now thanks to its history and its ghost stories. It is said that the ghost of Anne Boleyn, beheaded in 1536 for treason against Henry VIII, haunts the chapel of the Tower, where she is buried.

Tower Bridge



In the 19th century, increased commercial development in London led to building of a new bridge construction. A traditional bridge could not be built because it would not access tall ships to the port facilities. It has become an iconic symbol of London.

Piccadilly Circus



It was built in 1819 to connect Regent Street with Piccadilly. The Circus serves as a busy meeting place and a tourist attraction. The Circus is known for its video display and neon signs on the corner building, as well as the Shaftesbury memorial fountain and statue of Eros.

Quiz

1. What countries does the UK consist of?
2. What are the flower symbols of the UK?
3. In how many countries is Elisabeth II Head of state?
4. What is the longest river in the UK?
5. What is the highest mountain in the UK?
6. What is the largest lake in the UK?
7. How old is London?
8. What attracts tourists to Edinburgh?
9. What city is the youngest capital in Europe?
10. Where was the ship *Titanic* built?

Quiz

11. What is the name of the oldest university in the UK?
12. How many Nobel laureates studied at Cambridge University?
13. Why is Liverpool is recognized as the capital city of pop music?
14. What ceremony takes place at Buckingham Palace every day?
15. Where is *Big Ben* situated?
16. What castle is famous for its ghost stories?
17. Why was Tower Bridge built?
18. What place is known for its video display and neon signs?