



THE CULTURE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM



The **culture of the United Kingdom** refers to the patterns of human activity and symbolism associated with the United Kingdom and its people. It is informed by the UK's history as a developed island country, major power, and its composition of four countries—England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales—each of which have preserved distinct customs, cultures and



Britain's most frequently visited museum is the British Museum in London founded in 1753 and is especially famous for its collection of antiquities and as the home, until the early 1990s, of the British Library.



Many of the most important specialist museums are in London. They include the Victoria and Albert Museum, the Museum of London, the Imperial War Museum, the London Transport Museum, the Museum of the Moving Image.



The most important prehistoric monument in Britain is the stone circle at Stonehenge which was completed during the Bronze Age.



Many [castles](#) remain from the [medieval](#) period such as; [Windsor Castle](#) (longest-occupied castle in Europe), [Stirling Castle](#) (one of the largest and most important in Scotland), [Bodiam Castle](#) ([moated](#) castle), and [Warwick Castle](#). Over the two centuries following the [Norman conquest of England](#) of 1066, and the building of the [Tower of London](#), castles such as [Caernarfon Castle](#) in [Wales](#) and [Carrickfergus Castle](#) in Ireland were built.



Big Ben at dusk, with the London Eye giving a panoramic view of the city



Westminster Abbey



St. Paul's Cathedral, English Baroque
architecture and a Red telephone box



Apart from these early remains, it is the castles, churches, cathedrals and country houses of Britain that represent the architectural heritage of the country and attract tourists.



English customs and traditions, first of all, concerns United Kingdom political system. In Great Britain there is no written constitution, only customs, traditions and precedents.



Traditionally the Queen acts only on the advice of her Ministers. She reigns but she does not rule.



English people like to spend their free time in numerous pubs where they can have a glass of beer and talk about different things with their friends.



The British people are great lovers of gardens, dogs and horses. One of the most striking aspects of the national character is the love of the countryside. English people have many times been described as a nation of flower – growers



They are also great lovers of sports. The most popular sports are football, golf, cricket, rugby, hockey, horse racing, rowing etc.



Englishmen have many traditional holidays. There are only six public holidays a year in Great Britain. They are : Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Year's Day, Good Friday, Easter, May Day Bank Holiday , Spring Bank Holiday and Late Summer Bank Holiday.



Much of **the folklore** of the United Kingdom pre-dates the UK. Though some of the characters and stories are present across Britain, most belong to specific countries or regions. Common folkloric beings include [pixies](#), [giants](#), [elves](#), [bogeymen](#), [trolls](#), [goblins](#) and [dwarves](#). While many legends and folk-customs are thought to be ancient, for instance the tales featuring [Offa of Angeln](#) and [Weyland Smith](#),^[109] others date from after the Norman invasion; [Robin Hood](#) and his [Merry Men](#) of [Sherwood](#) and their battles with the [Sheriff of Nottingham](#) being,



The UK has had a large impact on modern **cinema**, producing some of the greatest actors, directors and motion pictures of all time including



Charlie Chaplin



English language is the official language of the UK, and is spoken monolingually by an estimated 95% of the British population