



# Explore Britain's hidden gems with a BritRail Pass

Some of the world's most iconic and unique railway journeys can be found in Britain, setting off from vibrant cities, travelling past majestic peaks and cruising along the coast.



December 2024

*Travelling by train is a great way to get around Britain more sustainably while relaxing and taking in the breathtaking scenery. Find the ideal [BritRail Passes](#) for your next trip from the [VisitBritain Shop](#) and enjoy journeys across the entire National Rail network. The mobile pass ensures flexible travel offering great value for money for your unforgettable adventure. Check out our thrilling rail itinerary ideas and explore the best of Britain's nations and regions all year round.*

## Highlights of Scotland and the Lake District

**Route:** London – Edinburgh – Fort William – Isle of Skye – Inverness – Glasgow – Windermere

**Tickets:** [BritRail GB M-Pass](#) or [BritRail Euro GB M-Pass](#) (for European residents)

For vibrant cities, castles, lochs, highlands and coastlines, take the [Caledonian Sleeper](#) from [London](#) to [Edinburgh](#) and wake up in Scotland's capital in the morning (cost of a berth or seat reservation is not included in the BritRail Pass and must be purchased in advance). From visiting

the [National Museum of Scotland](#) to a [Cheese Crawl](#), Edinburgh offers something for everyone.

Head north to [Fort William](#), a waterside town which is at the foot of the Nevis Range, home to Britain's highest peak Ben Nevis. The town is a great base for adventure travel with an abundance of outdoor activities offered, from [paddleboarding](#) to playing golf at [Fort William Golf Club](#) with stunning views.

[The West Highland Line](#), renowned as one of the most stunning rail stretches in the world, crosses the iconic [Glenfinnan Viaduct](#) as seen in the *Harry Potter* Hogwarts Express scenes - a must visit when in the area. From the final stop at Mallaig, the [Isle of Skye](#) ferry accesses the island's magical landscape. Give sea kayaking a try or go on a dramatic hike to the [Point of Sleat Lighthouse](#).

Back on the mainland take a train to [Inverness](#), the gateway to [Loch Ness](#). Make sure to pay Inverness Castle a visit or go on a thrilling [Loch Ness speed boat tour](#).

Head South to [Glasgow](#), a hotbed of art and culture with street art trails spanning across the city. Follow the [City Centre Mural Trail](#) or head to the [Glasgow Botanic Gardens](#).

From Glasgow, take the train into the heart of the Lake District to [Windermere](#). Explore the area on water by [renting a motor boat](#) or on land by following one of the many [hiking routes](#).

## **Wales Culture and Castles along the coast**

**Route:** *Cardiff - Aberystwyth - Harlech - Chester*

**Tickets:** [BritRail GB M-Pass](#) or [BritRail Euro GB M-Pass](#)

Immerse in castles, culture and the coastline by taking a trip across Wales. Starting in the vibrant city of [Cardiff](#). Learn about Cardiff's history in the heart of the city centre at [Cardiff Castle](#) or check out the new [SCALE](#) experience at the Principality Stadium. Climb up to the roof of the stadium with the option to zip wire or abseil at the end.

From Cardiff, take a train to [Aberystwyth](#) to enjoy a seaside break. Take a stroll through the lively town centre and along the Victorian promenade or watch the sunset from [Constitution Hill](#).

From there continue your journey through [Eryri \(Snowdonia\)](#), Wales's largest National Park all the way to the picturesque coastal town [Harlech](#) in North Wales. Visit [Harlech Castle](#) perched at the top of the hill or find unique souvenirs in one of the many independent shops along Harlech's high street.

End the trip in the vibrant city of [Chester](#) for some great shopping, iconic architecture and Roman heritage.

## **Cornwall Coasts, Eden Project and Maritime City**

**Route:** London - St Ives - Falmouth - St Austell - Newquay - Plymouth

**Ticket:** [BritRail South West M-Pass](#)

Take a trip out to the Wild West of England on the [Night Riviera](#) sleeper train from [London](#) to stunning [St Ives](#) to arrive in the early morning (cost of a berth or seat reservation is not included in the BritRail Pass and must be purchased in advance). Explore [St Ives' variety of beaches](#) within walking distance, try a traditional Cornish pasty at [St Ives Bakery](#) and find a combination of inspiring art and breath-taking scenery at the [Tate St Ives](#).

Head East to [Falmouth](#), via the quintessential market town of [Truro](#) and experience the rolling fields of Cornish countryside. Falmouth is a bustling harbour town with much to see and do. Make sure to visit [Pendennis Castle](#) and the award winning [Falmouth Art Gallery](#) or give one of the many [water sports activities](#) offered a go.

Take the train further north to the old market town [St Austell](#). Make sure to pay the family-run [St Austell Brewery](#) a visit for a truly Cornish experience. If you have the time, hop on a bus and visit the nearby [Eden Project](#), a must-see attraction which is home to plants from all over the world.

The next stop is [Newquay](#) on the north Atlantic coast which is known as the surfer's mecca. Take a surf lesson with [St Ives Surf School](#) on Fistral beach or explore the rugged Cornish coastline on a [Sea Safari](#).

And finally, [Plymouth](#) marks the journey's end with an iconic lighthouse and plenty of options for award-winning food and drink. Book a session with [Social Paddle Board](#) to explore the city's coastline differently.

## City Cultural Tour

**Route:** London - Brighton - Bristol - Manchester – Liverpool – Leeds

**Ticket:** [BritRail England M-Pass](#)

Take in some of the highlights of Britain's cities travelling by train. Start in [London](#) and take the train south to [Brighton](#). The seaside resort offers an abundance of fun experiences such as [Brighton i360](#), [The Royal Pavilion](#) or [The Upside Down House](#).

Travel to [Bristol](#) and follow the footsteps of Banksy on a [street art walking tour](#). If you are looking for a unique immersive experience, you must visit the amazement park [Wake the Tiger](#) which expanded earlier this year.

Your next stop is [Manchester](#), a northern powerhouse packed with cultural hotspots and famous for its football and music scenes. Explore the [National Football Museum](#), join a themed tour with [Manchester Taxi Tours](#) or purchase tickets for a concert at the innovative [Co-Op Live Arena](#) opening in April 2024.

[Liverpool](#) is under an hour by train from Manchester and home to a wide variety of museums and attractions. Head to the [British Music Experience](#) to test your knowledge on the Spice Girls for their 30th anniversary, visit the birthplace of the Beatles at [The Cavern Club](#), and take a tour of the [Royal Liver Building](#) which was used as a filming location in *The Batman*.

Finally, pay [Leeds](#) a visit and discover what makes it such a hidden gem of a city starting with the North capital's foodie scene. Eat your way around the city with [Leeds Food Tours](#) or follow their [Street Art Trail](#) to explore the city.