

The Explorer's Road

Recommended trip length: 7-8 days

Explore vibrant cities, unique experiences and historic landmarks on this journey through the heart of the country.



Spanning from London to the northern border with Scotland, this road trip traces some of England's historic routes and cities. Be immersed in the world of Harry Potter at Warner Bros. Studio Tour in Hertfordshire, before discovering the university of Cambridge and the vibrant cultural scenes of Leeds and Newcastle. Venture north for the outdoor delights of Northumberland and make an additional stop in the Scottish capital Edinburgh if time allows.

The route

- London • Hertfordshire and Cambridge • Leeds • York • Durham
- Newcastle • Northumberland • Edinburgh



Getting around

- The **Explorer's Road** covers around 300 miles (483km), spanning the length of easterly England from Hertfordshire to the Scottish borders.
- Hire a car or take the **train** for a more sustainable journey.
- The route is flanked by major airports at both ends: Edinburgh Airport in the north and London Luton and London Stansted in the south.
- If time allows, spend a few extra days exploring Scotland.

Route highlights

- Warner Bros. Studio Tour London
- Fitzwilliam Museum
- Cambridge Gin Laboratory
- Harewood House
- JORVIK Centre
- Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art
- Alnwick Castle
- Edinburgh Castle (if extending the trip)

Stop
1



Hertfordshire and Cambridge

Leave London early and spend the morning in Hertford (around 1.5 hours), before heading to **Cambridge** in the afternoon (1 hour by car).



Morning: Delve into wizard world.

Discover the world of Harry Potter at the **Warner Bros. Studio Tour**, and explore iconic film sets like the Great Hall, Diagon Alley and the Forbidden Forest.



Afternoon: Explore history and mixology in Cambridge.

Punt along the river Cam to enjoy views of the historic college buildings, see world-class art at the **Fitzwilliam Museum** or join a mixology workshop at the **Cambridge Gin Laboratory**.



Evening: Catch a show.

Dine at Michelin-starred **Restaurant 22** before heading to **Cambridge Junction** for live entertainment.

Leeds

Leave Cambridge early in the morning and head to **Leeds** (3 hours by car, 2 hours by train).



Morning: See Leeds differently!

Explore the city on a **Street Art Trail**, then go shopping in Leeds's Victoria Quarter or hunt for bargains in Europe's biggest indoor market, the Grade I listed Kirkgate Market.



Afternoon: Go film set jetting.

Explore **Harewood House**, an 18th-century country home which doubled as Princess Mary's residence in the *Downton Abbey* film.



Evening: Live at Leeds.

Enjoy an avant-garde dining experience at **Psycho Sandbar** or head to the **Brudenell Social Club** for live music.



Stop
2

Stop 3



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York

Leave Leeds early in the morning and head to **York** (1.5 hours by car, 1 hour by train).

-  **Morning: Get hands-on with history.**
Bask in the grandeur of **York Minster**, one of the largest Gothic cathedrals in Europe, and explore The Shambles, a cobbled street lined with shops and cafes.
-  **Afternoon: Indulge in chocolate.**
Create a bespoke chocolate bar at **York's Chocolate Story**, or delve into York's Viking heritage at the **JORVIK Viking Centre**.
-  **Evening: Go on a night-time cruise.**
Explore the city at night on an atmospheric **York Floodlit Evening Cruise** along the River Ouse.

Durham

Leave York in the morning and head to **Durham** (1 hour 30 minutes by car, 50 minutes by train).

-  **Morning: Discover castles and cathedrals.**
Visit **Durham Cathedral**, a UNESCO World Heritage site, and stroll along the picturesque riverside paths around the medieval Durham Castle.
-  **Afternoon: Plan the great escape!**
After experience the charm of the historic city centre, go on a thrilling adventure at **Escape Rooms Durham**.
-  **Evening: Be dazzled by magic.**
Catch an immersive magic show at **The Magic Corner**, a custom-built magic room and bar packed with tricks and illusions.



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Stop 4




Stop 5



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Newcastle-upon-Tyne

It's a 35-minute drive from Durham to **Newcastle**, overlooked by the **Angel of the North**. Or 15 minutes by train.

-  **Morning: Explore Newcastle on wheels.**
Discover hidden sights on a guided **Newcastle cycling tour**, then spy cutting-edge art at the **Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art**, housed in a landmark industrial building.
-  **Afternoon: Go on a thrilling adventure.**
Thrill-seekers can try **white-water rafting or paddleboarding**. Why not **hire a classic car** to explore the surrounding countryside in style.
-  **Evening: Dive into the city's buzzing nightlife scene.**
Catch a show at **The Glasshouse International Centre for Music** or enjoy the lively nightlife along Bigg Market and Collingwood Street.

Northumberland

Head to **Alnwick** (1 hour) in the morning, then continue to **Berwick** (45 minutes) in the afternoon.

-  **Morning: Enter a wizarding world at Alnwick Castle.**
Join the **Broomstick Training** at Alnwick Castle, which doubled as Hogwarts in the *Harry Potter* films, and marvel at the Grand Cascade in Alnwick Garden, featuring 120 water jets.
-  **Afternoon: Follow in the footsteps of L.S. Lowry.**
Follow the **Lowry Trail** around Berwick to see the locations that inspired the famous artist or stop off at the imposing fortress of Bamburgh Castle.
-  **Evening: Relax in a hot tub with countryside views.**
Stay in a luxury pod with hot tub in the grounds of the **Marshall Meadows Manor House**, an award-winning luxury hotel and restaurant located just outside Berwick.



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Stop 6




Stop 7



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Edinburgh

Extend your trip to **Edinburgh**, Scotland's UNESCO heritage-listed capital city.

-  **Morning: Go on a trike adventure.**
Discover the city on the back of a **chauffeur-driven 1600cc trike**, then hike up to Arthur's Seat to take in the spectacular views across the city.
-  **Afternoon: See the world from a whole new perspective.**
Visit the **Camera Obscura and World of Illusion**, a surreal museum full of interactive fun, or venture into **Colinton Tunnel**, a Victorian railway tunnel transformed into an art space.
-  **Evening: End the trip in style.**
For a memorable end to the trip, stay at **The Witchery**, an opulent 5-star hotel located in a historic sixteenth-century building at the gates of **Edinburgh Castle**.