FILM IS GREAT BRITAIN



A guide for international media

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First edition, August 2014.

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Quick facts about Britain

Did you know..?

- Protected World Heritage the Old Royal Naval College, in Greenwich, is one of the globe's foremost filming locations, with credits in Four Weddings & A Funeral, Thor: The Dark World, Skyfall, Pirates of the Caribbean, Cinderella, Les Misérables and many more. *Find out about star filming locations on p6*

- Stokesay Court in Shropshire was home to Cecilia Tallis, the heroine played by Keira Knightley in Atonement – and you can go on a tour of the property that reveals the secrets behind the making of the movie! *Read about more iconic films and where to relive them from p9*

- The Eden Project not only houses the world's biggest indoor rainforest, it was used as the evil lair for Gustav Graves in *Die Another Day*. *Die-hard Bond fans should turn to p27 for more 007 places to visit in Britain and p24 for great Skyfall locations*

- The May Fair Spa in London offers a Golden Caviar Facial, while the Dolphin Square Spa goes one step further with a 23 Carat Gold Body Ceremony – make like a Bond girl in Britain. *Read the tips from p28*

- Alnwick Castle featured in the Harry Potter movies. The castle saw visitors increase by 230% boosting the local economy by an extra £9m and you can now do Quidditch lessons there! *Read about Harry Potter places to explore on p30*

- Peter Pan and Shaun the Sheep are just two of the lovable children's film characters who will be seen in brand new movies in 2015. *Read about magical children's movie locations to visit in Britain from p33*

- Next year visitors to London will be able to embark on an adventure around London as BritMovie Tours launches its three-hour Paddington tour dedicated to the Peruvian bear and the inspirations behind the film! *Read about Paddington adventures (and how to get his look!) from p40.*

- From where Lady Mary and Matthew Crawley got married, to where Edith shared her first kiss, there are Downton delights to visit all over Britain. *Read about Downton and more popular TV series' from p49, and find out how to 'date like Downton' from p55.*

- Disney is waving its magic wand over Britain with a raft of movies being filmed across the destination, from new TV series Evermoor to fairytale adaptation Cinderella. *Find out about these, and more upcoming movies from p58*

- Devoted movie fans can discover Paddington's London, Bond's Britain, and everything about the making of Pride and Prejudice the TV series *and* films – *find out about dedicated movie tours from p72*

Film is GREAT – *why*?

Watching a gripping drama play out on the silver screen can be transporting – taking your imagination on a journey to places new, exciting and unexplored. But what about when a film *literally* takes you somewhere, when you can walk into the screen and onto the set?

Film – and, increasingly, television – is a growing driver of tourism in Britain. According to research from the BFI and British Film Commission, one in ten foreign visitors comes to the UK as a result of seeing the country depicted in film[1], and VisitBritain research indicates that 40% of potential visitors would be "very likely" to visit places they've seen in films or on TV[2].

Britain – the backdrop

It's not hard to understand why people are drawn to the nation's dramatised destinations – Britain is a prolific character on both the silver screen and the small one. And isn't it good-looking? When Daniel Craig and Judi Dench, as James Bond and M, stood surveying the lush landscape of Glencoe, millions of cinemagoers admired it too – and the mountain has since seen an increase of more than 40% in visitors. When Harry Potter dipped and dived on his broomstick at his first Quidditch lesson, Alnwick Castle played the role of Hogwarts – and saw an increase in visitors of 230%, boosting the local economy by an extra £9million; the Castle now even hosts Quidditch lessons for visitors.

It's not just the locations that beckon: film and TV is big enough business for related tours and attractions to thrive. Warner Bros. Studio Tour – the Making of Harry Potter opened its doors in 2012 and has attracted a steady stream of Potter-fans from all over the world since. The British government appreciates the economic impact of film tourism, and initiatives are in place to encourage more filming in Britain – with major studios such as Pinewood expanding and even opening an outpost in Cardiff, Wales.

The 'set-jetting' story

Just as the boundaries of creativity are endless when making a film like Harry Potter or Bond, so are the inspirations for great media stories. You don't just have to visit the film locations – how about living like Bond – or a Bond girl – at a Martini masterclass in London? The words 'Downton Abbey' conjure up images of elegance and quintessential Britishness, not just of the characters, but the splendid homes, gardens and jazz bars that feature in the television series. So experience the Downton lifestyle by staying the night in a stately home, riding in a vintage vehicle, or dancing the night away at a 1920s Prohibition party!

Film is GREAT – a guide for international media

The VisitBritain Destination PR team has put together its first guide to British Film and TV. It's for international media looking to go beyond the on-screen story to the real life one. Taking inspiration from British film, TV and the actors who star on screen, the guide contains free-to-use content and images relating to themes including:

[1] BFI Economic Impact of the UK film industry 2012
[2] Nation Brands Index 2007

- **Iconic film and TV locations**: where to follow in the footsteps of well-loved rom-coms, costume dramas, thrillers, fantasies and action adventures

- Dedicated sections on **Harry Potter**, **Bond**, **Downton Abbey** and **Paddington the Movie**

- **British stars** and where they've filmed, stayed and loved in Britain

- Where to **stay on a 'film set'** – sleep in the same bed as a famous actor!

- The most **unusual places** to watch a movie

- **Film tours** and dedicated tourism product for cinema fans

- The best places to **create your own movie**, inspired by British stories and legends

... and MUCH more.

We hope you enjoy the guide. If you have any questions please contact pressandpr@visitbritain.org.

Now all we have to say is...

...LIGHTS, CAMERA, SUITCASE!

10 British film locations to visit

Some British locations are as versatile as actors, having provided a backdrop for numerous films in many different guises. Here are ten British cinematic hotspots, including some where productions are so common that visitors always have a high chance of running into one.

1. The Old Royal Naval College, Greenwich, London

The only thing missing at the Old Royal Naval College is a red carpet. A protected World Heritage site built beside the Thames by Christopher Wren, it's also one of the globe's foremost filming locations, with credits in *Four Weddings & A Funeral*, *Thor: The Dark World*, *Skyfall, Pirates of the Caribbean*, *Cinderella* and many more. In *Les Misérables*, it was Paris Square; in *Gulliver's Travels*, Lilliput. The many different areas enable a chameleonic quality which location scouts obviously find irresistible! www.ornc.org



Batman, Sherlock, Tarzan - just some of Hatfield House's famous guests.

2. Hatfield House, Buckinghamshire, south-east England

This 1611 stately home's guestbook must make interesting reading. The house served as the Temple of the Four Orders' base in 2009's *Sherlock Holmes*, with Robert Downey Jr's sleuth meeting the Home Secretary there, while former fictional residents include Bruce Wayne – the building doubles as Wayne Manor in *Batman* and *Batman Returns* – and, less probably, Christopher Lambert's Tarzan and family in *Greystoke*. Located 21 miles north of London, Hatfield has over 30 film credits to its name. www.hatfield-house.co.uk

3. Borough Market, London

The capital's biggest artisan food market, Borough also boasts a role in various classic Brit movies of recent decades. Scenes from *Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels* were filmed here, with the main gang's grubby flat found on Park Street. Talking of flats, the one above the market's The Globe pub was where Bridget Jones (played by Renée Zellweger) resided; opposite is the parade on which Hugh Grant and Colin Firth came to comic blows over her. Other flicks shot at Borough are *The French Lieutenant's Woman* and *Entrapment*. http://boroughmarket.org.uk

4. Cardiff, south Wales

The Welsh capital has hosted some of the UK's most popular TV dramas, with 'set-jetters' regularly flying in for location tours. Along with movies such as *28 Weeks Later*, the city has notably formed the backdrop for most of *Doctor Who*, the first few seasons of *Torchwood*, fantasy adventure *Merlin* and, featuring Benedict Cumberbatch, all three series of *Sherlock*. It even stood in for neighbouring Swansea in parts of Dylan Thomas biopic *The Edge of Love*, starring Sienna Miller and Keira Knightley. www.visitcardiff.com

5. The Historic Dockyard, Kent, south-east England



The Historic Dockyard has had Meryl Streep, Hugh Jackman and even the Downton cast come to visit – and film

It says something when Carey Mulligan and Meryl Streep arrive in Chatham, 35 miles east of London, and locals aren't particularly starstruck. That's because the actors' forthcoming *Suffragette* is only the latest in a sequence of high-profile movie shoots at this authentic 80-acre estate, with its hundred Victorian and Georgian period buildings. *Les Misérables*, *Vanity Fair*, the recent *Great Expectations*, *The Golden Compass* and even *The Mummy* all utilised the Dockyard, as did hit TV show *Downton Abbey*. www.thedockyard.co.uk

6. Bamburgh Castle, Northumberland, north-east England

Along with nearby Alnwick Castle – a star in Harry Potter films, *Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves* and the *Blackadder* TV series – Bamburgh, an hour's drive north of Newcastle, is *the* premier North England film venue. It's easy to see why, too, with the sweep of sands below a dramatic cliffside castle. Richard Burton shot *Becket* on that beach while Charlton Heston and Sophia Loren walked the ramparts in *El Cid*; cameras have rolled for *Elizabeth*, Roman Polanski's *Macbeth* and many other movies as well. The new *Macbeth*, starring Michael Fassbender, also filmed at Bamburgh. www.bamburghcastle.com



It isn't hard to see why you'd choose this magnificent view as your film set! Bamburgh Castle is just as majestic in real life

7. Eilean Donan Castle, Kyle of Lochalsh, north-west Scotland

Facing Loch Duich, on the route to the Isle of Skye, this beautiful castle is a prominent, regular backdrop in the early scenes of *Highlander*, as Christopher Lambert's Connor is banished from his village, and then watches his lover age while he prepares to live forever. Four hours north-west from Glasgow, the iconic fort also stars as an Mi6 base, Castle Thane, in Bond film *The World is not Enough*, and in *Loch Ness* and *Maid of Honour*. www.eileandonancastle.com

8. Freshwater West & Marloes Sands, Pembrokeshire, south-west Wales

Shell Cottage, where the apprentice wizard and his companions shelter during *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, was erected beside Freshwater West's long beach in beautiful Pembrokeshire – eighty miles from Cardiff. Russell Crowe's brooding *Robin Hood* also shot on those same sands. A few miles north along the coast, past Milford Haven, key moments in the Kristen Stewart-led *Snow White and the Huntsman* were acted out on Marloes Sands, as were parts of *The Lion in Winter*, starring Peter O'Toole and Katharine Hepburn. www.visitpembrokeshire.com

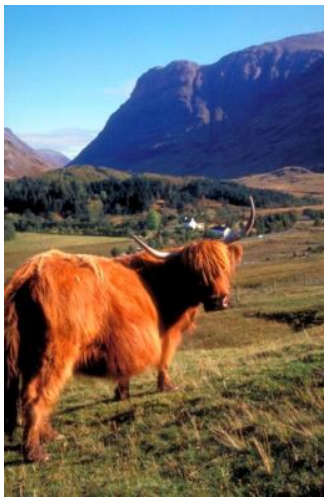
9. Doune Castle, Stirlingshire, central Scotland

Built in the late 1300s and situated forty miles north-west of Edinburgh, Doune is a pilgrimage site for Python fans, as most of *Monty Python and the Holy Grail* was captured there. Modern visitors can also enjoy an audio tour narrated by the movie's actor Terry Jones. More recently, fantasy has been filmed at Doune: the *Game of Thrones* show's pilot episode, and now forthcoming US TV series *Outlander*, based on the hugely popular books. Hearing the stars were briefly on-site, droves of excited fans besieged the castle early in 2014. www.historic-scotland.gov.uk



Python fan or Thrones lover? Either way, the on screen action will be made more vivid by a visit to Doune

10. Glencoe, Lochaber, west Scotland



You might see a film crew, but you'll definitely see a Highland 'coo' at dramatic Glencoe in Scotland

James Bond's most recent outing in *Skyfall* saw pivotal closing scenes shot in these wild Highland landscapes, where his family home turns out to be. It's along the Glencoe vale where Daniel Craig's suave spy and Judi Dench's M first arrive and step out of their Aston Martin – on the A82, eighty miles above Glasgow and its international airport. These misty peaks and endless heather have also featured in three other classic Scottish films, *Braveheart*, *Highlander* and *Rob Roy*, plus the recent Scarlett Johansson puzzler, *Under The Skin*. www.discoverglencoe.com

Iconic films – made in Britain

The classics

Brief Encounter

As stiff-upper-lipped and British as they come, David Lean's tale of impossible love was set in south-east England's Kent but predominantly filmed at the opposite end of the country. Milford Junction railway station – where Laura and Alex meet, and later have an interrupted, agonising final goodbye – was in fact recreated in Carnforth, Lancashire, in the north-west.



For a Brief Encounter moment, head to Carnforth Station in the north of England

The station closed in 1970, but a restoration programme saw it re-open as the **Carnforth Station & Visitor Centre** in 2003 (www.carnforthstation.co.uk). Visitors can enjoy a Brief Encounter exhibition, plus walk along platforms on which their besotted heroes endured painful partings, and sit in the railway refreshment room where a chattering Dolly Messiter forces the couple to keep miserably quiet during a last farewell. Milford High Street, meanwhile, was shot 20 miles north-west of London using the town of **Beaconsfield**, and the plaintive barrel organ is located close by on Station Parade. As for the boating lake that the lovebirds visit, that's found in London's **Regent's Park**; it's by the Long Bridge that Alex ends up knee-deep in water. www.royalparks.org.uk/parks/the-regents-park

Chariots of Fire

This Oscar-winning, athletic tale was partly set in France, but entirely shot in Britain. Beginning with those iconic opening and closing-credit slow-motion seaside runs – supposedly Broadstairs in Kent, south-east England, the beach in question is actually **West Sands**, in St Andrews on Scotland's eastern coast (www.standrews.com). An hour's drive south from there is **Edinburgh**, the Scottish capital, which also plays a starring role. The supposedly 'London' restaurant in which Harold Abrahams dines with singer Sybil is the Café Royal's Parisian-style oyster bar, still open today, while Liddell and his sister later gaze over the city from a perch in Holyrood Park (www.caferoyaledinburgh.co.uk). Meanwhile, much of Paris is in fact **Merseyside**, the area around Liverpool on England's western coast. The British Embassy ball where the Prince of Wales asks Liddell to run on the Sabbath takes place at the magnificent Liverpool Town Hall, and the 'Stade des Colombes', the Olympics venue, is really the Bebington Oval Sports Centre in Wirral (http://liverpoolcityhalls.co.uk/town-hall, www.wirral.gov.uk/my-services/leisure-and-culture/sports/invigor8-leisure-centres-and-facilities/-oval-leisure-centre).

Monty Python

Of the five Monty Python capers, *The Holy Grail* has the most British setting. Set in Scotland, it was chiefly filmed at the 14th century **Doune Castle**, around an hour's drive from Edinburgh www.historic-scotland.gov.uk). Famous scenes include the Knights of the Round Table musical number, shot in Doune's Great Hall. Today, Doune is a pilgrimage site for Python fans, and visitors can enjoy an audio tour narrated by actor Terry



Castle Stalker in Scotland was the fictional Castle of Aaargh – home of the Holy Grail in the Monty Python movie of the same name

Jones. The castle's shop even sells bottles of Monty Python's Holy Ale – "tempered over burning witches", of course. **Castle Stalker**, near Glencoe, became the fictional Castle of Aaargh, where the Holy Grail was eventually found (www.discoverglencoe.com, www.castlestalker.com). A 15th-century island fort, Stalker offers occasional public tours. The final and arguably strangest Python film, *The Meaning of Life,* featured mostly English locations. **West Yorkshire** was prominent; the second part of the first chapter, Every Sperm Is Sacred, was partly filmed in the grounds of Cartwright Hall, a modern-day art gallery in Bradford, while the dancing cardinals' scene was shot in the backstreets of nearby Shipley. (www.bradfordmuseums.org/venues/cartwrighthall/index.php).

The modern classics

Billy Elliot

The film Billy Elliot was a surprise smash-hit worldwide, and told the story not only of a talented young boy who dares to dance, but of a time in recent British history that many in County Durham, where much of the film was shot, remember clearly. Billy grows up in the backdrop of the miners' strikes in the 1980s, and today no event marks the importance of mining to the area more loudly or colourfully than the Miners' Gala, held during the **Durham International Brass Festival** in July each year (www.brassfestival.com). Those who loved the dancing in the film have a variety of places to watch similar action – at the end of the film Billy appears in *Swan Lake* at the Theatre Royal Haymarket in London; the provocative male-led production was directed by Matthew Bourne, an acclaimed British choreographer whose alluring interpretations of classic ballets are regularly shown at Sadler's Wells in London (www.sadlerswells.com). Also in London, you can watch the **musical** version of the film Billy Elliot with music by Elton John and relive all the magic of the movie live! (http://billyelliotthemusical.com)



Proving that dancing isn't just for girls – Billy Elliot raises the roof to audiences every day

The King's Speech

The heart-warming story of the man who would become King of England, and his relationship with his speech therapist, takes us to pre-war London. Like many films, *The King's Speech* used the **Old Royal Naval College** in London's Greenwich, to depict the streets of wartime London; you can visit and see the Meridian Line and Christopher Wren's striking twin-domed masterpiece (www.ornc.org). The scenes of the final recording at **Buckingham Palace** were of course not filmed in the real residence of today's Queen, with Lancaster House the choice instead; Lancaster is said to actually be more opulent than Buckingham – Queen Victoria remarked when she visited 'I have come from my house to your palace.' You can't visit, but anyone curious about the Royal Family and its history will be thrilled to know you can visit the real Buckingham Palace (during summer and selected winter months) as well as The Queen's residence in Scotland, **The Palace of Holyroodhouse**, and Windsor Castle just outside London (www.royalcollection.org.uk).

The Queen

While Helen Mirren and the rest of the cast and crew of The Queen couldn't use the actual royal residences to film, Britain's wealth of stately homes and castles stepped in instead as filming locations. **Brocket Hall** in Hertfordshire, an hour's drive north of London, lent its sumptuous interiors to portray the interiors of Buckingham Palace, a particularly fitting

choice of location as the estate has played host to past monarchs such as Queen Victoria. Now guests can stay in one of the 30 luxurious rooms or the country house style Melbourne Lodge, formerly the stable block (www.brocket-hall.co.uk).

Fans of the film will remember interior scenes at the Queen's Scottish residence, Balmoral, which was in fact filmed at **Blairquhan Castle** in Ayrshire, west Scotland, around an hour's drive from Glasgow. It's a tranquil place to stay, with woodland walks and fly fishing available, while the pretty village of Straiton, complete with quintessential village shop and tearoom is a few minutes' walk away (www.blairquhan.co.uk). Visitors to other filming locations can certainly mimic the regal feel of the film; other Scottish castles were a popular filming location choice, including the dramatic cliff top setting of **Culzean Castle**, also in Ayrshire, and the baronial 15th century **Castle Fraser** in Aberdeenshire, north Scotland. (www.nts.org.uk/property/culzean-castle-and-country-park, www.nts.org.uk/Property/Castle-Fraser-Garden-and-Estate)

The action adventures

The Da Vinci Code

Dan Brown's books were brought to life on screen as much by the locations forming the backdrop to the action, as by Tom Hanks, who plays the Professor Robert Langdon on his pursuit of the solution to a great mystery. Feel the power of the story for real at the spiritual **Rosslyn Chapel**, just south of Edinburgh in Scotland and long associated with grail legend (www.rosslynchapel.org.uk). Other key British locations include **Lincoln Cathedral** – one of Europe's finest Gothic cathedrals, which was used in place of Westminster Abbey. The interior of 'Castel Gandolfo' (the Pope's residence just outside Rome) was in fact filmed at **Burghley House**, England's largest and grandest house from the Elizabethan age, and the exterior was **Belvoir Castle**, the ancestral home of the Duke of Rutland for 1,000 years (http://lincolncathedral.com, www.burghley.co.uk, www.belvoircastle.com).



Imposing and grand... no wonder Burghley House in the east of England stood in for the Pope's residence in Rome for The Da Vinci Code

Robin Hood and Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves



Robin Hood was here... the Russell Crowe-led movie used beautiful Freshwater Beach in Wales as its backdrop

The locations that were chosen to depict the 13th century in the 2010 version of **Robin Hood** that starred Russell Crowe as our hero-in-tights are nothing short of breathtaking. The west coast of Wales was used frequently as a location – walk in the footsteps of the legend who stole from the rich to give to the poor on the sweeping sands and dunes of **Freshwater West beach** (a two-hour drive from Cardiff) while nearby **Angle beach** was the setting for some of Robin's battles – now it's an altogether more peaceful destination (www.visitpembrokeshire.com). Scenes were also shot in the tranquil **Bourne Woods** in Surrey, south-east England – and

you'll see why it's a popular choice as a film location (the opening scenes of *Gladiator* were also filmed here as were scenes from several of the Harry Potter movies) if you embark on a walk or a cycle here. It's an impressive pine forest with serene hilly woodland and heathland, and just over an hour's drive from London. (www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/EnglandSurreyNoForestBourneWood).

In the film, the vividly realistic **Tower of London** was recreated via an elaborate set and digital effects, but visitors to England's capital can visit the real Tower of London and get an authentic flavour of this brutal period in Britain's history. This mighty fortress on the banks of the River Thames has been a royal palace, a prison, an execution site, an arsenal, a mint, a keep for wild animals and a jewel house. See the crown jewels, awe-inspiring architecture and fearsome arms and armour. (www.hrp.org.uk)

The 1991 version of *Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves* was shot all over Britain; Kevin Costner's Robin Hood is first seen at Seven Sisters, close to **Cuckmere Haven** (also used in *Atonement*), where white cliffs can be admired – it's just over an hour by train from central London. Soon Hood and his sidekick Azeem (Morgan Freeman) are 'near Nottingham', but actually in the beautiful region of Northumberland in north-east England. Countless film fans have sought out the tree that features in the film at **Sycamore Gap, on Hadrian's Wall**, near to Housesteads Roman Fort (www.nationaltrust.org.uk/hadrians-wall). Not far away the Gothic **Hulne Priory**, in the park of the same name, is where Maid Marion lives, and the impressive **Alnwick Castle** is used as another location, most famous now for playing Hogwarts in Harry Potter (www.alnwickcastle.com).

Sherlock Holmes

Guy Ritchie's films of *Sherlock Holmes* and the sequel *Sherlock Holmes – A Game of Shadows* – starring Robert Downey Jr and Jude Law, brought Victorian London to life using locations from all over England. London naturally featured; perennial film location favourite, the **Old Royal Naval College** in London's Greenwich, appeared as the capital's elegant streets, while London landmark **St Paul's Cathedral** was the backdrop for the spiral staircase chase (www.ornc.org, www.stpauls.co.uk). But it was one of the finest Victorian Metropolitan cemeteries in Britain that was the spooky scene where Lord Blackwood (played with menace by Mark Strong) appears to rise from the Blackwood family vault. Looked after by the Royal Parks, visitors can explore its gothic splendour, shady walks and monuments of historical importance. The nearest Underground stations are either West Brompton or Earl's Court (www.royalparks.org.uk/parks/brompton-cemetery).

The crowded streets of working class London were actually filmed up in **Manchester**, north-west England (around two hours by train from the capital) Fans of the film may recognise the streets of Manchester's **Northern Quarter**; regarded as the city's creative, urban heart you'll discover independent boutiques, vintage stores, quirky cafés and bars dotted throughout this bohemian area (www.visitmanchester.com). **Liverpool**, also in north-west England and around two hours by train from London, was regularly used for scenes in the sequel. Liverpool's **Albert Docks** are now all about art, culture, music and shopping. Home to contemporary art gallery Tate Liverpool, The Beatles Story and the Merseyside



The bustling Northern Quarter is the perfect place for a detective to search for clues... or get distracted by funky shops and inviting bars!

Maritime Museum, this vibrant part of the cosmopolitan city is also packed with restaurants and bars. Accessorise with a deer-stalker hat! (www.visitliverpool.com)

Braveheart

Much of this Scottish-set tale was actually filmed over in Ireland. But Scotland's wild, craggy mountain scenery could never be completely replicated, so the rocky landscapes between Glen Nevis and Glencoe, around 2.5 hours' drive north of Glasgow, still make regular appearances (www.discoverglencoe.com). Just south of Fort William, the village of Lanark, where Mel Gibson's William Wallace grows up and meets Murron, was built from scratch in **Glen Nevis**, a valley at the foot of Scotland's highest peak Ben Nevis. The set is long gone, but a Braveheart Car Park helps locate the picturesque spot. Stretching back from Glen Nevis to Loch Leven and Glencoe are the **Mamores**, ten mountains linked by a narrow, sheer ridge; it was along those that Wallace and his followers walk after killing Mornay, their notoriety growing with every second. The stretch can be walked in a day by experienced hikers.



The animation Brave was based on real Scottish locations, including the imposing Urquhart Castle

Brave

Although *Brave* is an animated film, it's very much set in Scotland, with the natural scenery based on its makers' visits to the country. Princess Merida's DunBroch Castle, for instance, was based on three forts: **Dunnottar Castle**, 13th century sea-cliff ruins south of Aberdeen, **Urquhart Castle**, also ruined and sitting regally beside Loch Ness in northern Scotland, and the much-filmed and still-in-one-piece **Eilean Donan Castle**, located on Scotland's west coast (www.dunnottarcastle.co.uk, www.urquhart-castle.co.uk, www.eileandonancastle.com). The iconic **Callanish Standing Stones** on Lewis, an island off Scotland's west coast, are evident; Merida escapes from inside ones very similar to them early in the tale (www.callanishvisitorcentre.co.uk). Finally, the young redhead's own archery skills implement techniques which Brave's animators studied at the **Braemar Gathering**, a long-held Highland Games in central Scotland, that the real-life royal family traditionally attends (www.braemargathering.org).

The romantic comedies

Richard Curtis movies

The screenwriter Richard Curtis is responsible for some of the best-loved 'Made in Britain' movies – and not only were they made here, they capture the culture and the characters perfectly too. Worldwide hits *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, *Notting Hill*, *Bridget Jones's Diary* and *Love Actually* have at least two things in common – Hugh Grant as a leading man, and a wealth of British locations that you can visit for real.

Four Weddings and a Funeral

Shot on a tight budget, most of *Four Weddings and a Funeral* was filmed in London and the surrounding counties in south-east England, though the film seemingly sees serial wedding guest Charles (Hugh Grant) heading to Scotland and south-west England to attend the

nuptials of various friends. Charles's romance with Carrie, played by Andie MacDowell, started at wedding number one at the Lucky Boatman pub. In real life it is **The Kings Arms** in Amersham, just outside London (but accessible by tube), now a chic and cosy hotel (www.kings-arms-hotel.com). The interior scenes were shot in 'Room 101', just doors away at **The Crown Hotel** (sister of The Kings Arms), which saw a surge in bookings following on from the release of the film, with guests clamouring to sleep in the four poster bed that features in the movie (www.thecrownamersham.com). You can get married at both hotels! Wedding number two's ceremony was filmed at the **Royal Naval College Chapel** in Greenwich, London, with the reception at the stately home **Luton Hoo** – now a luxury hotel with a fantastic spa and golf course (www.lutonhoo.co.uk). Finally, 'non-wedding' number four was set in 'St Julian's', but was the splendid **St Bartholomew the Great**, Smithfield, in east London (nearest tube: Barbican), one of the oldest churches in London dating back to the year 1123. The church also stood in for Nottingham Cathedral in *Robin Hood*, and St Paul's Cathedral in the 2009 *Sherlock Holmes* directed by Guy Ritchie, and featured in *Shakespeare in Love, The Other Boleyn Girl* and *Elizabeth: The Golden Age*. (www.greatstbarts.com).

Notting Hill

The clue is in the name! For the second and hugely popular Richard Curtis-Hugh Grant-transatlantic romance story, the action unfolds largely in the west London neighbourhood of Notting Hill. The blue door – that hero William Thacker (Grant) lives behind, with an eccentric Y-front wearing Welshman (played by Rhys Ifans) – is at **280 Westbourne Park Road** (where Richard Curtis actually lived at the time). You can go and look – it isn't the original, which was auctioned off, but having gone through a couple of re-paints since the movie, the door at number 280 went back to blue recently so you can still get a Notting Hill snap. The heart of the action is **Portobello Road**, a must-visit for market-lovers and antique fans; go on Saturdays for the antiques market (www.portobelloroad.co.uk). You won't find William's Travel Book Shop at number 142 (where his shop was supposedly located) – the Travel Book Shop was filmed at the shop of the same name round the corner, 13-15 Blenheim Crescent, but thanks to the film's popularity, the shop closed down due to high rents, but there is once again a bookshop on the site, the **Notting Hill Bookshop** (www.thenottinghillbookshop.co.uk). Julia Roberts as Anna Scott takes William's advice to star in an adaptation of Henry James, and filming of her filming that took place at the elegant Kenwood House in north London, which is free to visit and was recently excellently refurbished (www.english-heritage.org.uk/daysout/properties/kenwood). When William takes on the identity of a reporter from the *Horse & Hound* magazine, it is at **The Ritz Hotel** in London, where Anna is staying – a fantastic place for Afternoon Tea (www.theritzlondon.com), and when he finally proposes at the press conference it is at another London landmark hotel, **The Savoy**, which marked its 125th birthday in 2014 (www.fairmont.com/savoy-london).



Visit The Travel Bookshop where hapless William Thacker works in Notting Hill

Bridget Jones and Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason

Everyone's favourite single girl was captured on screen twice, juggling romance, work and friends in well-known British spots. Bridget's flat is located in London's **Borough**, a stone's throw from the famous **food market** and poor 'Bridge' is seen walking glumly through the

market dressed as a Playboy bunny after discovering a woman in her boyfriend Daniel's flat. In real life it's a buzzing place to grab lunch and located slap bang amid some of the capital's greatest sites (http://boroughmarket.org.uk). For a romantic mini-break worthy of Bridget and the charming cad Daniel Cleaver, head to **Stoke Park**. The luxury hotel, only an hour's drive from London, was the beautiful backdrop for one of the most memorable scenes, when Hugh Grant as Daniel Cleaver replicates the Colin Firth as Mr Darcy 'wet-shirt moment' by falling in – though somewhat less handsomely emerging with a sodden cigarette in his mouth (www.stokepark.com). The Greek restaurant that featured the famous fight between Firth and Grant's characters? It doesn't exist! Filming took place at what is now a classy wine shop, Bedales, in Borough (near the market) that holds fun wine-tasting events – surely Bridge would approve. (www.bedaleswines.com).

Love Actually

The ultimate rom-com, the ultimate Richard Curtis treat – with all-star London locations. One of the most entertaining scenes features long-time collaborator of Curtis, Rowan Atkinson (better known as Mr Bean or Edmund Blackadder) playing a shop assistant *very* carefully gift wrapping a present from sneaky Harry, played by Alan Rickman, to his secretary (rather than his wife). The hilarious scene took place at **Selfridges**, voted the World's Best Department Store for three years running, and truly the place to go for a shopping experience that's more than just shopping – with in-store events, lectures and a Wonder Room, and branches in Liverpool and Manchester as well as the flagship London store. It is of course also the subject of hit TV series *Mr Selfridge* (www.selfridges.com). A lot of *Love Actually* is a bit like a postcard for the capital, with stunning shots of the skyline and lights of the city at Christmas time. Get your own view over the capital – and imagine all the love tangles and tales beneath you – from up high. Much of the film happens on the South Bank, where you'll find the **London Eye**, or you can take in **The View from The Shard** (tickets for both available on the VisitBritain shop www.visitbritainshop.com).



Love Actually could have been called 'London Actually', for the number of iconic locations in the capital it featured!

About Time

Unlike the other Richard Curtis movies, *About Time* took part of the action outside London to Cornwall, a region of south-west England – the very tip of England's 'foot' and a luscious spot to holiday. The Lake family – headed by Bill Nighy as the main character's father – live on the coast, and the beach that appears to be below the house is **Vault Beach** – you too can stay nearby in self-catering accommodation at Gorran Haven or the slightly further Megavissey, from where you can walk to the beach (www.beachesincornwall.co.uk/fowey/vault). Wedding scenes are always made Richard-Curtis-romantic with the addition of a beautiful backdrop, in this case Cornwall's 13th-century **St Michael Penkevil Church**, near Truro, positioned within a wooded



Pretty Portloe, which has been named the prettiest village in Cornwall, was the film location for About Time

setting close to the Tregothnan Estate (of Tregothnan Tea fame). The exterior wedding scenes were shot in Portloe, contender for the most beautiful village in Cornwall – a traditional and unspoilt fishing village that has been on screen before. Truro is 4 hours 40 minutes from London, and from there you can visit Cornwall further by train or hire a car to get to the more remote villages and beaches. (www.visitcornwall.com)

Match Point

When Woody Allen films a city, he makes it look alluring and, with *Match Point*, Allen crossed the Atlantic for the first time to show the picture-postcard sights of London and its neighbourhood cafés and pubs. Tennis is of course key to the film, and **The Queen's Club** is where Chris (played by Jonathan Rhys Meyers) meets Tom Hewett (Matthew Goode) – nowadays you can visit the central London club to watch top-class male players battle it out at the Aegon Championships just after the French Open and before Wimbledon, in June each year (www.queensclub.co.uk). Moviegoers wanting to relive the ambience of the film will want to stay at the chic **Covent Garden Hotel** in London (www.firmdalehotels.com/hotels/london/covent-garden-hotel), which Allen used for several scenes. Also used in the film was the hotel's trendy restaurant, the **Brasserie Max**. In the film, the Hewett family attends performances at the **Royal Opera House** (www.royaloperahouse.org) and characters attend a performance of *The Woman in White* at the **Palace Theatre**, now showing the musical *The Commitments*. An hour north of London, travellers can visit the grounds of the fictional Hewett country home, better known as **Englefield Estate** in **Berkshire**. Moviegoers will remember the stunning landscape from Chris and Nola's (Scarlett Johansson) steamy roll through the grass. While the privately owned home is not open to the public, visitors can wander through 1,800 acres of picturesque woodlands and gardens. (www.englefieldestate.co.uk). One of the most pivotal and intense scenes in Match Point was shot in the **Tate Modern** in south London. This gallery, one of four Tate sites, is the home of the national collection of international modern art from the year 1900 to the present day (www.tate.org). Finish your day out with a pint at **The Audley** in Mayfair, one of Woody Allen's favourite London watering holes and where Chris and Nola get to know each other over a drink (www.taylor-walker.co.uk/pub/audley-mayfair/c3003).



London must-visit museum, Tate Modern featured in Woody Allen's Match Point

The Holiday

Who didn't want to do a house swap when they saw *The Holiday*? Cameron Diaz's character Amanda gets to stay at a gorgeous home in Surrey, south-east England, and have a romantic adventure with the very handsome Graham (Jude Law). **Shere** is all about quaint shops and welcoming charm; stroll down the main road, **Middle Street**, as you admire the antique stores and tea shops. Discover the vibrant history of the village as you make your way over to the **Old Prison House**, one of the most picturesque 17th-century properties in Shere. Another lovely Surrey town and filming location for *The Holiday* is **Godalming**, tucked midway between London and the south coast. The ancient and historic buildings that line



Quintessential England – Godalming in Surrey was where romance bloomed between Cameron Diaz and Jude Law's characters in The Holiday

Godalming's narrow streets provide wonderful destinations for romantic strolls. Begin your town-centre walk at the Georgian Brook House, birthplace of noted Godalming historian, Percy Woods, in 1842. A turn down the High Street brings you to Goldalming's characteristic landmark—the Old Town Hall. Affectionately termed "The Pepperpot," this unique landmark dates from 1814. Just a few steps away, **The Kings Arms Royal Hotel** beckons you for a beer, a bite, and a bed—the royal treatment. Built in 1793, this inn housed many dignified visitors en route from London to Portsmouth (www.royalhotelgodalming.co.uk).

The costume dramas

Atonement

The house inhabited by Keira Knightley's character Cecilia Tallis is as swoon-worthy in real life as it appears on screen, with the interior and grounds instantly recognisable to fans of the film. **Stokesay Court** in Shropshire, south-west England, was Cecilia and her sister Briony's home and now runs a tour that takes you through the house, pointing out Cecilia's bedroom, the site of the 'knee-trembler' scene in the library, props and artefacts from the film (including the statue on the fountain Cecilia famously jumps in) and down to the beautiful lake into which the heroine executes a perfect dive. The Victorian property served as a military hospital during the First World War (http://stokesaycourt.com). The very end of the film sees Cecilia and Robbie (played by James McAvoy) in a cute cottage overlooking the sea. This beach is **Cuckmere Haven** in Sussex, south-east England, a beautiful stretch of coastline that overlooks England's famous chalk cliffs – it was also used in the Harry Potter films. The wedding scene took place at **St John's Church** in Smith Square in London. Visitors to St. John's will see one of the major concert venues and some of the finest English Baroque architecture London has to offer. Built in 1728, the church was ruined during a fireboming in World War Two, but has since been restored. The classical musical concerts at St. John's are not to be missed; the musical acts range from choirs and symphony orchestras to solo instrumental recitals (www.sjss.org.uk).

Co-star James McAvoy, meanwhile, filmed his wartime scenes not in rural France, but at **Ouse Washes Nature Reserve** in Cambridgeshire, east England. A far cry from ravaged countryside, it's English nature at its best – here you can see thousands of ducks and swans, lapwings and dragonflies and there is excellent birdwatching from December to March. www.rspb.org.uk/reserves/guide/o/ousewashes

The Duchess

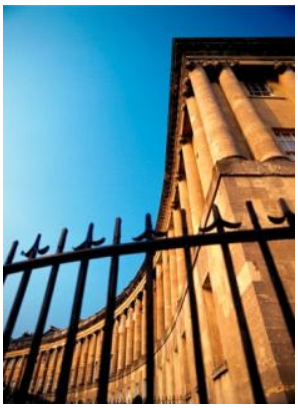
British star Keira Knightley is no stranger to corsets and crinolines – one of her leading film roles was playing Georgiana Spencer, whose real-life story inspired the movie which takes in some of England's most splendid stately homes and gardens. If you're inspired to visit the locations associated with the film and the real life Lady Georgiana Cavendish, start at **Chatsworth** (of *Pride and Prejudice* film fame), where Georgiana lived following her marriage to the Duke of Devonshire (www.chatsworth.org). One of Britain's best loved historic houses and estates, Chatsworth, in central England's Peak District, has been owned by the Cavendish family for over 450 years. **Kedleston Hall**, built between 1759 and 1765 and also in the Peaks, was used for filming too, standing in for Althorp, where her ancestors the Spencers resided. The Marble Hall, Saloon, Library, three State Rooms, the Drawing Room, and the exterior provided the



Kedleston Hall in the Peak District was used to film opulent costume drama The Duchess

perfect setting for Georgiana's adventures – you might remember Georgiana flirting with Charles Grey (played by Dominic Cooper) on the lawn on the house's South Front before she marries the Duke (Ralph Fiennes) and moves to Chatsworth (www.nationaltrust.org.uk/kedleston-hall). Away from the Peak District, the Devonshires' original London home has now been demolished, so the stunning **Somerset House** (which becomes an outdoor cinema in the summertime) stood in (www.somersethouse.org.uk).

Most of the cast stayed at the sumptuous 13th-century **Breadsall Priory Hotel** while Keira stayed at the **Hurdlow Grange Cottage** in the Peak District village of Longnor, luxury self-catering accommodation available for holiday rentals (www.marriot.co.uk, www.hurdlow.co.uk).



The Royal Crescent in Bath played a key role in the film The Duchess

Also playing a starring role in the film was the spa town of Bath, and locations included the famous **Royal Crescent**, an elegant sweep of Georgian houses, and the Assembly Rooms; its ballroom is 105 feet long, the largest Georgian room in Bath and its Tea Room was where the Duchess was presented to the crowds as 'the empress of fashion' (www.nationaltrust.org.uk/bath-assembly-rooms). Venture down into its basement, where the Fashion Museum is housed, charting the history of fashion from the 18th century to the present day (www.museumofcostume.co.uk). VisitBath has its own film trail (http://visitbath.co.uk/things-to-do/activities/on-location-film-trail)

Pride & Prejudice

If the thought of Mr Darcy makes you swoon or if you champion the wit of heroine Elizabeth Bennet, step onto the film sets of both the most recent film and television versions of Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* and sense the romance of their relationship in some of Britain's finest stately homes.

Chatsworth in Derbyshire, central England, masqueraded as Darcy's magnificent estate, Pemberley, in the 2005 film version, starring Keira Knightley and Matthew Macfadyen. Die-hard fans should check to see if the house will run its annual Pride and Prejudice **Regency Ball** in 2015 (it was held on 12 July in 2014), which serves up a themed five-course dinner and featured entertainment from Lady Georgianna, an 18th-century girl band, plus some Regency style dancing. www.chatsworth.org



Remember when Colin Firth as Mr Darcy dived into the lake? Now you can visit where that very scene was shot, Lyme Park. Credit VisitBritain - Britain on View

Groombridge Place in Kent, south-east England, became the Bennet family home of Longbourn in the film – visit this 17th-century moated manor house and you'll understand why it was used as a film location; it's remained largely untouched since it was built 350 years ago. www.groombridgeplace.com

If actor Colin Firth is your ultimate Mr Darcy, visit the very lake into which he dived during the BBC's 1995 mini-series, which sent a million hearts fluttering. **Lyme Park** in Cheshire, north-west England – which was used as Pemberley in this series – runs the Pemberley walk until September, where you can explore the filming locations. www.nationaltrust.org.uk/lyme-park

The Young Victoria

Windsor Castle, Kensington Palace, Buckingham Palace – all the royal residences you would expect to see on the big screen adaptation of the life of Britain's longest serving monarch (to date), Queen Victoria. But film fans will be interested to know that these royal homes weren't actually used in the production. **Kensington Palace** was the real young Victoria's home – and visitors can explore where and how she lived there, though on screen, the Palace was shot at **Ham House**, a National Trust property that dates back to the 17th century, just outside London that overlooks the Thames. It's a must for visitors who enjoy refined historical houses – you can walk down its Grand Stairs without a servant (as the young queen had to in the film) and along the formal gardens (this is where Victoria walks with Albert at their first meeting) – don't forget to explore its dairy with cow-themed furniture, its pharmacy, and the ice house, which would have been filled with ice cut from the Thames during Victoria's time (www.nationaltrust.org.uk/ham-house).



Ham House in London depicted Kensington Palace in the film The Young Victoria

If visitors are looking for more Victorian-era gems, consider **Arundel's** picturesque medieval castle, which provides the backdrop for several key scenes in the movie and acts as screen double for Windsor Castle. Within a two-hour drive south of London, near the coastal city of Brighton, this castle was used for scenes featuring St George's Gallery, the King's Private Rooms, the Grand Reception Room, the Entrance Court and the Entrance Gate; of course you can also visit the real Windsor Castle too, where Prince Albert's rooms have been left exactly as they were when he died. It is less than an hour by train from London (www.royalcollection.org.uk). Three hours north of London, close to Nottingham, visitors can find landmark **Lincoln Cathedral,** which provides the setting for the coronation scenes in the movie. In reality, the actual ceremony took place at Westminster Abbey. The cathedral's interior is featured heavily in The Young Victoria and provides a stunning background for a pivotal moment in the young Queen's life. On location at **Lincoln Cathedral**, Princess Beatrice – currently fifth in line to the throne – had a special appearance in a non-speaking role in scenes portraying her great-great-great-great-grandmother Queen Victoria's coronation (www.lincolncathedral.com). You can also visit Westminster Abbey, which saw Queen Victoria's Coronation, that of Britain's current Queen and the Royal Wedding of the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge recently (tickets available on the VisitBritain online shop www.visitbritainshop.com). Located in Oxfordshire, 90-minutes' drive from London, spectacular **Blenheim Palace** takes on two roles in *The Young Victoria*. Its Great Court doubles as Buckingham Palace, while interior shots showcase King Leopold of Belgium's palace in Brussels. Blenheim Palace is a unique example of English Baroque architecture. Inside, the scale of the Palace is beautifully balanced by the intricate detail and delicacy of the carvings, the hand painted ceilings, amazing porcelain collections, tapestries and the paintings displayed in each room (www.blenheimpalace.com). Once again, you can visit the real location and **Buckingham Palace** opens yearly in the summer, as well as during selected dates in winter (www.royalcollection.org.uk).



Blenheim Palace doubled as Buckingham Palace for The Young Victoria

Elizabeth

From the north to the south of England, you'll recognise the landmark castles and cathedrals that graced the screen of *Elizabeth*, starring Cate Blanchett. The north of England is particularly dominant; from the opening scenes where the Princess Elizabeth is arrested with her followers outside the medieval **Alnwick Castle** (which is also famous for its starring role as a location in the Harry Potter films) to nearby **Bamburgh** and **Aydon Castles**, and the majestic Durham Cathedral (which appeared as the Queen's royal palace of Whitehall) (www.alnwickcastle.com, www.bamburghcastle.com, www.english-heritage.org.uk/daysout/properties/aydon-castle). It's easy to visit all these locations as they are within an hour's drive from the north-east city of Newcastle.



Enjoy Shakespearian theatre at Raby Castle, where scenes for Elizabeth were filmed

One of the largest cathedrals in northern Europe, **York Minster** became Westminster Abbey in the scene for the queen's coronation (it's also currently being used as a filming location for the Elizabethan-set comedy film *Bill*, based on the life of William Shakespeare, due for release next year (www.yorkminster.org). Elsewhere, Durham's **Raby Castle** was the film's setting for the lavish river pageant and the Elizabethan period is one which the medieval castle still celebrates; head there this summer for a spot of outdoor Shakespearian theatre. www.rabycastle.com

Brideshead Revisited

With the University of Oxford an integral part of the story – it was where Charles Ryder met Lord Sebastian Flyte while they were students – it's unsurprising that some of its colleges were used as film locations during the 2008 movie (particularly apt as author of the book, Evelyn Waugh, studied at Oxford). Wander around the cloisters of **Magdalen**, one of Oxford's most prominent colleges, and embrace the scholarly atmosphere of the 750-year old **Merton College**, both used as locations in the film. www.magd.ox.ac.uk, www.merton.ox.ac.uk



The north of England's magnificent Castle Howard was the perfect choice to portray the majestic Brideshead in Brideshead Revisited

From dreaming spires to the majestic **Castle Howard** in the north of England; the film used this impressive 18th-century stately home to depict the title role – Brideshead. It's easy to imagine you were part of the wealthy Flyte family on a visit here; visitors can book on to classical music evenings in its Long Gallery, and you can explore the 120-acre garden as Charles and Sebastian could have done. www.castlehoward.co.uk



Chiswick House and Gardens in London starred at Kenwood House in the film Belle

Belle

London's Kenwood House was the focus of recently released movie *Belle*, which was inspired by the true story of Dido Elizabeth Belle, the illegitimate mixed-race daughter of a Royal Navy Admiral, raised by her aristocratic great-uncle Lord Mansfield and his wife, who grew up there. While filming for *Belle* took place while **Kenwood House** was undergoing restoration of its interiors (designed by famed Scottish architect Robert Adam) the house and its stunning art collection are now open to visitors (www.english-heritage.org.uk/daysout/properties/kenwood). Scenes were therefore shot at various other historic properties, including English Heritage's Chiswick House and Gardens and Ranger's House – also both in London.

A trip to **Chiswick House** will transport you back to 18th-century England; it's home to a magnificent art collection and its gardens are the birthplace of the English Landscape Movement, which have inspired countless gardens around the world, including New York's Central Park (www.chgt.org.uk). And the elegant Georgian villa **Ranger's House** boasts The Wernher Collection, a fine collection of nearly 700 works of art including Dutch Old Masters and Renaissance bronze and silver treasure. www.english-heritage.org.uk/daysout/properties/rangers-house-the-wernher-collection

The Other Boleyn Girl

Being set in Tudor England, in the court of Henry VIII, it goes without saying that a sumptuous residence or two would be needed for filming *The Other Boleyn Girl*. London's Whitehall Palace – it was here the Henry married Anne Boleyn and was his chief home – was recreated at several locations throughout England. **Knole** in Kent, south-east England, boasts long galleries and state bedrooms (presenting perfect palace material) and, when visiting, you will be walking in the actual footsteps of Henry VIII himself – it became a royal possession during the Tudor dynasty when Henry VIII hunted here (www.nationaltrust.org.uk/knole).

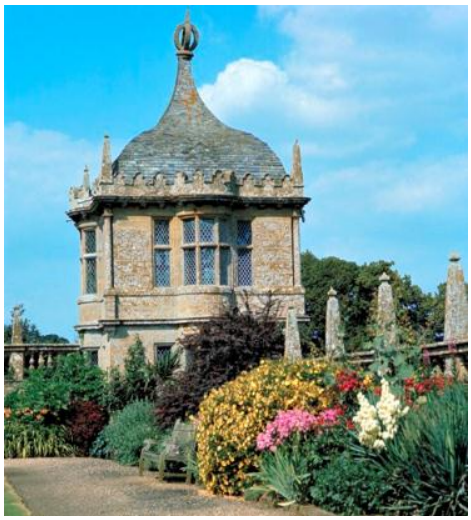


Knole's long galleries and state bedrooms made it the perfect location choice for The Other Boleyn Girl

Also in Kent is **Penshurst Place** – used during filming for interior shots of Whitehall Palace – and, if you head up to Wiltshire in west England, you can explore the medieval cloisters of Lacock Abbey, and discover first-hand why this location was also used to depict a king's residence. (www.penshurstplace.com, www.nationaltrust.org.uk/lacock

Several Tudor homes were also combined to feature as the Boleyn family home, including the Derbyshire-based **Haddon Hall** in central England. Here, you can experience a real feel for Tudor life too – there are guided tours of life below stairs in Tudor times, plus musical groups performing music from the 15th and 16th centuries. www.haddonhall.co.uk

Sense and Sensibility



Visitors can stroll around the glorious gardens of Montacute House; used as the Palmers country home in Sense and Sensibility

Romance and heartbreak run through the main plot of Ang Lee's Oscar-winning adaptation of *Sense and Sensibility*, starring Emma Thompson and Kate Winslet, and, to relive those tear-jerking moments, visit some of elegant Elizabethan and Georgian stately homes that were the backdrop to these themes. Several are now looked after by the National Trust, such as **Montacute House** in Somerset, south-west England; a visit here may stir the emotions both by the film scene and the house's scenes! Used as the Palmers' country home where heartbroken Marianne fell ill after walking in the rain, visitors can explore its beautiful gardens and magnificent Elizabethan Renaissance architecture (www.nationaltrust.org.uk/montacute-house). Just an hour's drive from here you can visit National Trust-run **Mompesson House** in Wiltshire, west England, which doubled as Mrs Jenning's London townhouse when Marianne first learnt of her love Willoughby's impending nuptials to an heiress (www.nationaltrust.org.uk/mompesson-house). And if you want to relive Marianne's happy ending, take a trip to St Mary's Church in the village of Berry Pomeroy in Devon, south-west England, where her wedding to Colonel Brandon was filmed...you might be lucky enough to catch a real wedding coming out of the church too!

Shakespeare in Love

The story of William Shakespeare (played by Joseph Fiennes), the playwright struggling with 'Romeo and Ethel, the Pirate's Daughter' and Viola de Lesseps (Gwyneth Paltrow) gave various British locations an Elizabethan makeover for the movie. The '**Rose Theatre**', where Shakespeare's plays were performed was a set built for the movie, but the real theatre was discovered underground in London's Southwark, and on selected days you can visit and imagine the Bard watching his words performed (www.rosetheatre.org.uk). You too can watch them at the recreation of The Globe Theatre, **Shakespeare's Globe**, on the South Bank – a bustling part of the capital. Sit 'in the round' as the audiences first did to see *Romeo and Juliet* and *Twelfth Night* (both plays that feature in Shakespeare in Love), or else stand as the 'yardlings' once did for a cheap ticket – nowadays costing only £5 (www.shakespearesglobe.com). Viola's family home is the pretty **Broughton Hall** in Banbury, Oxfordshire, but it doesn't feature a real balcony as in the film – that was added on by a clever crew (www.broughtoncastle.com). The new theatrical version of Shakespeare in Love opened to rave reviews recently – see it at London's Noel Coward Theatre (http://shakespeareinlove.com).

The Edge of Love

Depicting the complicated amours of Dylan Thomas, *The Edge of Love* was mostly filmed on location in the small west Wales harbour town of **New Quay**, where the poet lived with wife Caitlin in a bungalow called Majoda (www.newquay-westwales.co.uk). Various locations around the town subsequently feature, but some in particular linger in the memory; Llanina Point, a breakwater beside the river Llethi, features as Caitlin and Vera take their children to the beach and skip across the seaweedy rocks. The sweeping sandy beach of Traeth Gwyn is

Thomas's route from Majoda to the pub. And Majoda itself was temporarily recreated on the adjacent Charlies's Field, which offers the very same views of Cardigan Bay (www.gwili-railway.co.uk).

Mrs Brown

Mourning the death of Prince Albert, Judi Dench's Queen Victoria withdraws to her Scottish castle estate of Balmoral, where an unlikely, touching relationship with servant John Brown (played by Billy Connolly) begins to blossom. The 14th-century, picture-perfect **Duns Castle,** up in the Scottish Borders less than an hour south of Edinburgh, was used as the film's fictional Balmoral (www.dunscastle.co.uk). Queen Vic later relocates to **Osborne House** on the Isle of Wight – located off England's south coast and reached via ferry from Portsmouth, Southampton and Lymington – with a humbled Brown soon summoned the length of the country to join her. Osborne House was used in the production, while the classical hotel-estate of **Luton Hoo**, an hour north of London, also briefly pretended to be the same place (www.english-heritage.org.uk/osborne, www.lutonhoo.co.uk).



Osborne House on the Isle of Wight was home to Queen Victoria, so a natural choice for Mrs Brown, the film depicting her life

Miss Potter

As well as being an enchanting story, much of Miss Potter is also a tribute to the beautiful Lake District, in England's north-west, where Beatrix Potter herself – played here by Renee Zellweger – lived in later life. Her real-life home, **Hill Top Farm** in Near Sawrey, now owned by the National Trust, was deemed unsuitable for filming, so **Yew Tree Farm**, a property that Potter bought using her earnings and now a bed and breakfast, stood in (www.nationaltrust.org.uk/hill-top, www.yewtree-farm.com). Scenic lakes from the movie include **Loughrigg Tarn**, seen in the first Lake District shot, and **Loweswater**, over in the western Lake District, which backgrounded the final moments as Beatrix sits and sketches (www.lakedistrict.gov.uk). Of Miss Potter's scenes in London, **Osterley Park** – a Georgian country estate on the edge of west London – was used as Hyde Park, an art gallery and the tearoom where Norman clasps Beatrix's hand (www.nationaltrust.org.uk/osterley-park). And, about 30 miles south of London, Horsted Keynes station on the idyllic **Bluebell Railway**, where steam trains still chug along, provided the poignant farewell scene as Beatrix bades farewell to Norman (www.bluebell-railway.co.uk).



Yew Tree Farm in the Lake District, the picturesque home of Beatrix Potter and the set for the film about the author

Skyfall – following in Bond's footsteps

One of the most British Bond films to date, the most recent 007 movie *Skyfall* was shot in London and Scotland, as well as in Turkey and China. Find out how to experience the thrill of *Skyfall* for real in Britain.

'Take the bloody shot'

The exhilarating opening scenes of the film were shot in Istanbul and see Bond switching across several forms of transport in his pursuit of MI6's stolen files, including a 4x4, a couple of motorbikes and finally (almost *very* finally for him), a train. You can see the Landrover Discovery driven by Agent Eve, as well as the motorbikes from the chase through the Grand Bazaar at BOND IN MOTION at the National Film Museum in London's Covent Garden (http://londonfilmmuseum.com).



The Old Royal Naval College is often on screen - it featured in Skyfall with Dame Judi Dench and Daniel Craig

M reflects

The Old Royal Naval College has been on screen many times, in other British classics like *The King's Speech* and *Four Weddings and a Funeral*; its role in *Skyfall* was a sombre one, with M looking over six coffins wreathed in Union Flags. Outside of its cinematic role, the site is a great attraction for families in London's Greenwich, and can be accessed Bond-style by the Emirates Air Line cable car. www.ornc.org, www.tfl.gov.uk

'New digs'

After one of the most dramatic early scenes in the film, the intelligence service moves underground. The cavernous space they take over was partially filmed at the Old Vic Tunnels, which occupy some of the 30,000 square feet of disused railway tunnels beneath the capital. While Bond is put through his paces on physical and psychological tests down there, real-life visitors can enjoy what is now one of the capital's best arts and performance spaces (http://oldvictunnels.com). It frequently hosts events and concerts; in the past Secret Cinema transformed the space into an Algerian market town and a Michelin Star pop-up restaurant took residence there last year (www.secretcinema.org).

'The inevitability of time, don't you think?'

Bond used to meet the 'quartermaster', best known as Q, in his laboratory, but times have changed. The new Q shocks Bond with his youth when he sits next to him in front of Turner's painting *The Fighting Temeraire* in Room 34 of the National Gallery, handing over a gun and a radio. The painting was thought to represent the decline of Britain's naval power, and Turner intended for it to evoke a sense of loss – appropriate at a moment in the film where Bond seems to feel himself ageing (www.nationalgallery.org.uk).



Trafalgar Square is home to the National Gallery, where Bond met the new Q in front of a painting

Shanghai

The bright lights of Shanghai present a contrast to historic Trafalgar Square and the centuries-old art galleries of the British capital, but look closer and there's more of London in the Chinese city than you'd think. As the camera gives a bird's eye view over a bright blue swimming pool, Daniel Craig fans are rewarded with 007 emerging from the pool, whose windows look out over the neon lights of the city. The scene was actually shot at the Four Seasons Canary Wharf, whose infinity pool looks out over the Thames. The windows were blacked out for filming, with Shanghai inserted digitally afterward. Craig and co spent three days at the hotel, and Javier Bardem even popped in during filming to give support to his onscreen nemesis (www.fourseasons.com/canarywharf).

Mayhem in Westminster

Excitement in the City of Westminster usually takes place inside the historic parliament buildings where British politics is debated and discussed. *Skyfall* takes the drama to the streets, and Westminster certainly cements the film in Bond's home nation, presenting iconic scenes of life in the capital. Visit the Houses of Parliament for an insight into the heart of British politics (you can even attend a debate), and feel the unique buzz of one of the oldest parts of London (http://www.parliament.uk/visiting).

BMT216A

The superb Aston Martin, when revealed for the first time, induced spontaneous applause at the World Premiere of *Skyfall*. True to the spirit of Ian Fleming's original books, the onscreen Bond has a passion for fast cars, with an especial preference for Aston Martins. See the car used in the film at BOND IN MOTION at the National Film Museum (http://londonfilmmuseum.com).

'Welcome to Scotland'

When the reason behind the film's name is finally revealed, Bond has whisked M away from the hustle and bustle of London, to Scotland. When the two step out of their car after a long drive, the majestic Glen Etive steals the scene from the main action for a moment, its rugged natural beauty a welcome distraction from the tension of their situation. Britain is a nation of spectacular contrasts, and those who love both city and country can hire a vintage car, and take off northwards to Glencoe and Glen Etive where the movie was shot, just like Bond (www.classiccarhire.co.uk). Ian Fleming's family once owned a home in the area, and the house that features in the film's final scenes is set amidst the same dramatic landscape, whose dark history as the site of the massacre of the MacDonald clan adds to its brooding atmosphere. Visitors can enjoy excellent skiing in the winter and walking in the summer (www.visitscotland.com).



When Bond and M stepped out to take in the views, Glencoe became a must-visit for many visitors to Scotland!

You'll need to wrap up warm, so take a style lesson from the delightful Kincade, a figure from Bond's childhood, who we see dressed in truly Scottish attire with a tartan tie and woolly cardigan. Get all your winter warmers for your road trip at The House of Bruar, or

visit Johnstons of Elgin for some of the cosy cashmere blankets he presents to M to keep her warm. www.houseofbruar.com, www.johnstonscashmere.com.

'There's nothing like a view'

As Bond looks out over the city he calls home at the end of the film, Union Jack flags flutter over the rooftops of the National Gallery and Trafalgar Square. Want to get the view? It's unlikely you'll get up on the rooftop of the Department for Energy and Climate Change where the final scenes were shot, but there are plenty of other places you can contemplate London from above. The London Eye takes you up 135 metres, with superb views of Westminster, where so much of *Skyfall*'s drama unfolded, or try The View from the Shard, at Western Europe's tallest building. At 244m you can keep your eye on the people of London, the MI6 building and as far out as Windsor Castle on a clear day – second home of Bond's ultimate boss, The Queen. Both experiences are available to buy on the VisitBritain shop (www.visitbritainshop.com).

Five more top Bond locations for 007 fans

The Eden Project, Cornwall, South West England

The 'biomes' – large domes that look like giant golf balls cut in half – certainly look like structures Bond might find himself in, and the interior does indeed feature as Gustav Graves' ice palace in *Die Another Day*, which featured Pierce Brosnan as Bond. The Eden Project doesn't hide an evil lair in real life, rather an impressive assortment of plant life and the largest indoor rainforest in the world. www.edenproject.com



The Eden Project in Cornwall is striking on the outside and extraordinary on the inside – an obvious choice for an evil lair?!

Stoke Park, Buckinghamshire, South East England

Remember when Oddjob decapitated the statue with his famous bowler hat in *Goldfinger*? That was at Stoke Park, a beautiful country house hotel just an hour's drive west out of London, in Buckinghamshire. Don't worry, there are statues intact to admire, and you can stay over and enjoy the property's lavish rooms, a sumptuous spa, and an 18 hole golf course. Bridget Jones and Layer Cake were also filmed at Stoke Park. www.stokepark.com

Eilean Donan Castle, Western Highlands, Scotland



The majestic 'Castle Thane' - really, Eilean Donan Castle in the Western Highlands of Scotland

Rugged, imposing and perched on the water, you can understand why Eilean Donan was an impressive castle to potential intruders in its day – it's located at the point where three sea lochs meet, and sits majestically in the beautiful Scottish Highlands. It doubled as 'Castle Thane' in The World Is Not Enough, and you can make like Bond and pay a visit. www.eileandonancastle.com

Barbican, London

The Headquarters of MI6 changed when Daniel Craig took on the role of Bond – and the striking Barbican in London featured as the organisation's HQ. It's a fascinating quarter of London, with a totally unique design and what's more, it is home to one of the capital's best venues for music, theatre, art and cinema, simply known as The Barbican.
www.barbican.org.uk

The O2 and The Thames, London

London's famous landmarks whizzed past Bond in the opening sequence of The World Is Not Enough, most notably the O2 in Greenwich, which was brand new then – nowadays, it's a fantastic music venue, and not only can you go inside to enjoy it, you can be like Bond and climb over it! Up At The O2 tickets are available to buy on the VisitBritain shop. You can also get 'The Ultimate James Bond Experience' there, which takes you on on London's fastest RIB voyage (Rigid Inflatable Boat) and learn all about 007's famous exploits!
www.visitbritainshop.com

Live the Bond lifestyle

When Bond hits our screens, the world gets excited. Be prepared for Bond 2015 and get suited, booted, and given a Martini – here's how to live the Bond lifestyle!

Britain is the perfect place to do this, whether visiting the film locations, trying out the sort of fashionable restaurants and bars 007 would frequent, being measured by the best tailors or going on a Bond-style adventure. Not forgetting to sample at least one Martini: shaken, not stirred.

Known for his glamorous lifestyle, Bond's appearance is an important element of his success – and allure. Get the look at London's bespoke tailors, shirt-makers, and hat-makers: visit classic Savile Row tailors such as Henry Poole, who invented the **tuxedo** (www.henrypoole.com), Gieves and Hawkes (www.gievesandhawkes.com), or the more contemporary style of Ozwald Boateng, who was the youngest and first black tailor to open a store on the Row (www.ozwaldboateng.co.uk). Or, for star quality, visit Timothy Everest's atelier in a Georgian house in Spitalfields in east London – Everest has designed for Tom Cruise and David Beckham (www.timothyeverest.co.uk). Turnbull and Asser on Jermyn Street, in London's West End, have fitted shirts for every single Bond actor and made the pyjamas for Judi Dench's M (http://store.turnbullandasser.co.uk). Parts of *Skyfall* were filmed in Scotland, home of the first movie Bond, Sean Connery. Its capital Edinburgh offers stylish shops for stylish spies, such as 21st Century Kilts, which gives a contemporary look to tartan. Designer Howie Nicholsby, who aims to 'give men throughout the world a realistic alternative to trousers', has used materials such as leather and purple denim for his kilts, which have a celebrity following (http://21stcenturykilts.com).

How to accessorise like 007? Bond is often seen with a **Martini** glass in hand. Dukes Hotel, near Turnbull and Asser, has one of London's most elegant bars, and Ian Fleming's famous line 'shaken, not stirred', is said to



Get it shaken, not stirred, at Dukes Hotel – where Bond author Ian Fleming used to write

have been inspired by the barman at this boutique hotel (www.dukeshotel.com). Legend also has it Fleming invented the Vesper Martini here, which he credits Bond with inventing in *Casino Royale*. Martinis are popular cocktails in all the best hotels and bars of London.

After the cocktails, the **food**; an undoubted favourite of Ian Fleming's was Scott's Restaurant in Mayfair, a fish restaurant that attracts a famous, stylish and A-list clientele (www.scotts-restaurant.com). Today Fleming and Bond might also favour the ever popular Wolseley (www.thewolseley.com), or the chic Brasserie Zédel in Piccadilly (www.brasseriezedel.com).



Climb an icon! The O2 - formerly known as the Millennium Dome – featured in The World Is Not Enough – and you can climb it

Those wanting to replicate some of Bond's more daring exploits will want to try some action – and where better than a **high-speed boat ride** down the River Thames followed by a climb **Up At The O2** – almost recreating a scene from *The World is Not Enough,* which featured a race down the river followed by a fight scene on top of the arena; there are great views from the top to those brave enough to make the climb (both experiences available to buy at www.visitbritainshop.com).

…or live like a Bond *girl*

The name's Bond… Mrs Bond. There has only ever, in fact, been one Mrs Bond, (who came to a sticky end just after she married 007), but there have been countless 'Bond girls'; the films' female characters, who often start out as the secret agent's enemies, but soon fall into his arms. Far from being pushovers though, Bond girls usually have a feisty spirit, impressive fighting skills and the ability to look glamorous in the most desperate situations. Here's how to live like a Bond girl in Britain.



Look out over London, site of many a Bond adventure, from The View From The Shard

Skyfall: Bond is a man who likes extreme activities, and any girl who wants to keep up needs to have an appetite for adrenalin. 007 jumped out of a plane into the Olympic Stadium at the London 2012 Olympic Opening Ceremony – why not experience falling through the sky over some of Britain's spectacular countryside? The British Parachute Association has a list of drop zones all over the nation where you can experience the thrill of shooting through the air. www.bpa.org.uk

Another place to be at one with the sky is The Shard, the newest addition to London's skyline. Zoom up 800 feet (244 metres) in 30 seconds to The View from the Shard, before being presented with the capital at your feet. Spot famous Bond sites through the attraction's Tell:scopes (special telescopes that provide info on what you're looking at), like Buckingham Palace (home to Bond's ultimate boss, The Queen) and the National Gallery, where part



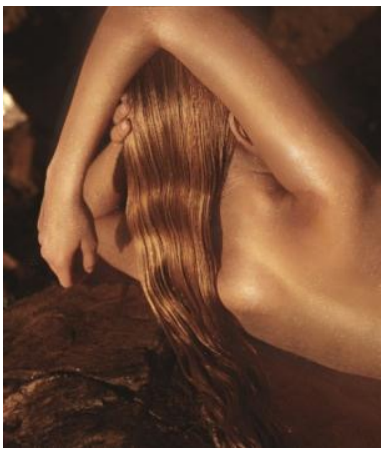
Dress your hair to kill at Taylor Taylor, east London

of *Skyfall* was filmed. Tickets must be booked in advance (no tickets available on the door) and are available to buy from the VisitBritain shop. www.visitbritainshop.com

A View to a Kill: Somehow Bond girls manage to look immaculate while flying planes (and jumping out of them). For looks that could kill, any aspiring Bond girl needs to make a stop at the salon before their mission begins. Hairdresser Taylor Taylor in trendy Spitalfields, east London, is in a listed building decorated with beautiful Liberty-print wallpaper and a sumptuous gold-tiled washroom (Goldfinger would approve). It also boasts its very own cocktail bar where you can sample Bond's favourite beverage – the Martini. www.taylortaylorlondon.com

For Your Eyes Only: Clothing is an important part of being a Bond girl, as is underclothing – Bond's steamy relationships are a well-known aspect of the films. Rigby and Peller – who have a Royal Warrant from The Queen – has boutiques all over London and in Cambridge, and offers bespoke, made-to-measure lingerie for ultimate luxury. For pyjamas worthy of a secret agent, follow M's lead; Bond's boss (played by Judi Dench) was seen sporting nightwear from Turnbull and Asser, who has also fitted shirts for Ian Fleming and every single Bond actor. www.rigbyandpeller.co.uk, http://store.turnbullandasser.co.uk

Goldfinger: The Midas touch was deadly in *Goldfinger*, where actress Shirley Eaton's character Jill Masterson died after being painted head to toe in golden body paint. It was one of the more glamorous death scenes in film history, and aspiring Bond girls can experience the heavenly pampering (minus the suffocation) at London's top spas. The May Fair Spa in London offers a Golden Caviar Facial, while the Dolphin Square Spa goes one step further with a 23 Carat Gold Body Ceremony. Full body massage uses gold minerals and precious oils, and the treatment ends with a dusting of gold powder. www.mayfairspa.com, www.dolphinsquare.co.uk/spa/treatments/spa-treatments/23-carat-gold-ceremony



A golden girl – knows when he's kissed her. Get kissable with a 23 carat Gold Body Ceremony at the Dolphin Square Spa

Live and Let Die: To be a match for Bond, you need to get fit, because it's very likely that as a Bond girl you'll be involved in a high-speed chase or some impromptu kickboxing. Forget the gym though – Bond girls are more likely to be seen crunching iron at hard-core boot camps. GI Jane boot camp is located close to the capital and offers week-long residential courses; Borders Bootcamp is an intense fitness camp set in the stunning Scottish Borders; and Fit For a Princess holds regular women-only classes in London's parks. www.gijanebootcamp.co.uk, www.bordersbootcamp.com, www.fitforaprincess.co.uk

Diamonds are Forever: Just in case you forgot your diamonds for the trip to the casino, best head to the aptly-named Bond Street, lined with the most famous jewellery designers: De Beers, Cartier, Tiffany and Co. www.bondstreet.co.uk

Harry Potter vacation-on-location

Aspiring witches and wizards – pack your best wands, hop on your broomsticks and follow in the footsteps of Harry Potter! All eight movies were filmed in Britain, with locations spanning England, Scotland and Wales, not to mention the Warner Bros. Studios that you can now visit to see how the magic was brought to life. Here's how to follow in Harry's footsteps all over Britain.



Westminster Tube, in the shadow of Big Ben, where Harry Potter starts a journey

London in Lumos

Once of the most memorable scenes in the ***Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows I*** movie takes place at London's famous landmark, **Piccadilly Circus**, where Harry, Ron, and Hermione flee to a muggle café and are subsequently attacked by Death Eaters. While there are many cafés near Piccadilly Circus, Potter fans can rest assured that their coffee breaks will not be met with a wizard duel, but rather a peek at the Shaftesbury Memorial, Statue of Eros, neon signs, and the bright lights of several theatres and shops.

Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince opens with a dramatic sequence of the **Millennium Bridge** in London collapsing. A pedestrian-only steel suspension bridge crossing River Thames, the Millennium Footbridge links Bankside with the City. The wizarding world of Harry Potter also comes alive in London in ***Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix***. The **London Eye** is one the landmarks that can be seen in the film. From your own "brooms eye" view atop the 135-metre Ferris wheel, you'll be able to see many other famous sights, including Parliament, Tower Bridge, Buckingham Palace and Big Ben (www.visitbritainshop.com). Right next to **Big Ben** you can find the entrance into the **Westminster Tube Station**, one of the main locations Harry uses when travelling in the film.

While in London, Potter fans cannot miss a priceless photo opportunity at the enchanted **Platform 9-3/4 at King's Cross Station**. Would-be sorcerers can try their hand at pushing a trolley through the brick wall between platforms nine and ten, otherwise known as the portal to the wizarding world. There's also a Harry Potter Shop on site.
www.harrypotterplatform934.com

London visitors can enjoy a Harry Potter afternoon walk visiting more than 20 city locations that appear in the series from **London Walks**, organised on Sundays (www.walks.com, £9 adults, kids go free).

A must-visit for any discerning Harry Potter fan is the **Warner Bros. Studio Tour – The Making of Harry Potter**, a dream come true for anyone – young or old – who watched and loved the movies. From the moment you enter studios 'J' and 'K' (guess who they were named after?!) you're confronted with pictures of the cast winking down at you, and one of the first things you see is The Cupboard Under The Stairs, with a pair of Harry's signature glasses that were used in the movie on the floor, just as if the Boy Who Lived was about to appear. Journey into the Great Hall, before seeing the spectacular costumes and sets that you know so well from the screen – the Potions


Admire the Hogwarts' feasts in the Great Hall at the Warner Bros Studio Tour. Credit Warner Bros.

room comes to life in all its dark glory, Dolores Umbridge's office is all sickly pink and fluffy animals, the Gryffindor Common Room welcomes you, while a stroll down Diagon Alley is a treat. Learn to cast a spell with a wand *and* – best of all – ride your very own broomstick through London. www.wbstudiotour.co.uk

Enchanted England

Oxford University's **Christ Church College** is a must while in Oxford, the location used for the magnificent Hogwarts dining hall and many of the school's famous moving staircases. Should any travellers have a run-in with an ill-tempered magical creature, the Hogwarts hospital can be found in the **Divinity School**, which was used as the school's infirmary in the fourth Potter film. The university's circular **Bodleian Library** contains several antique manuscripts and mysterious works, including an ancient book of spells and witchcraft in **Duke Humphrey's Library**, another location used in the films (www.visitoxfordandoxfordshire.com).



Gloucester Cathedral, where scenes were shot for Harry Potter's school adventures

Gloucester is also one of England's best places to visit for a spot of Harry Potter magic with the local **cathedral** bearing a touch of Hollywood sparkle – thanks to the location being used for scenes set at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. While visitors may not meet Nearly Headless Nick or Moaning Myrtle in these halls, an ancient wooden door will lead them down to the old crypt, said to be haunted by monks from the old Gloucester monastery (www.gloucestercathedral.org.uk).

Also in Gloucestershire, visitors can learn more about the owls used by Hogwarts' students at the **National Bird of Prey Centre**. The Centre is home to more than 60 species of owls, eagles and hawks, and offers an "Owl Experience Day" where owl enthusiasts can learn how to handle and fly these magical creatures (www.icbp.org).

Can't get enough of Hogwarts? You can also visit the stunning **Alnwick Castle**, in north-east England, which was used for interior and exterior shots of Hogwarts in the first two Harry Potter movies – as well as for his first Quidditch lesson. Now you too can learn to play the wizarding world's favourite sport there, with dedicated lessons! (www.alnwickcastle.com).

Sorcerer's Scotland

The majority of the blockbuster series' breathtaking scenery was shot in the spectacular **Scottish Highlands**. This remains true for the newest films, as the cast spent a lot of time in the highlands filming scenes at Hogwarts and around Hogsmeade village. The most north-westerly point of the British mainland, **Cape Wrath** meets Voldemort's fury in ***Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince,*** with some of Britain's most spectacular cliffs playing a lead part in the dramatic climax of the film. Visitors can reach Cape Wrath only by bus through 11

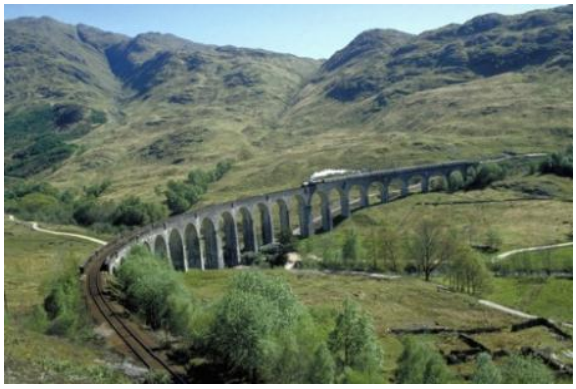


Prepare for your jaw to drop. The Scottish Highlands were a beautiful backdrop for Harry Potter's escapades at Hogwarts and Hogsmeade

miles of wild unspoiled scenery (www.visitcapewrath.com).

One of the many east-west lochs across the western Highlands, **Loch Arkaig** is another location featured extensively in ***Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince.*** Visitors can enjoy a beautiful drive across the **Caledonian Canal**, continuing to the **Dark Mile,** at the end of which they'll find the **Witches Pool** at the **Cia-aig Falls.** A stone staircase leads to the top of the falls, which are spectacular.

The magical steam train transporting Harry Potter to the wizard school of Hogwarts is, in real life, the **Jacobite Steam Train** operated by West Highland Railway, which runs 42 miles from **Fort William** to **Mallaig**. Along its way, the train passes through some of the scenery shown in the film, including **Ben Nevis** and the lochs and rugged countryside of **Glen Nevis** (www.westcoastrailways.co.uk).



The Glenfinnan Viaduct in Scotland bore the Hogwarts Express (really the Jacobite Steam Train) and its students to magic school!

Steall Falls, the waterfall at the base of the **Glen Nevis** mountain, is where Harry battles with a dragon for the Triwizard Tournament in ***Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire***. At **Glenfinnan Viaduct**, the Hogwarts Express steams across 416 yards of raised track over 21 supporting arches. Harry and Ron miss the train and fly to Hogwarts in a car that zooms around some of the viaduct's 100-foot high arches. The train stalls on the viaduct, as Dementors stalk the train and torture Harry.

Other Highland filming locations include a craggy, desolate hillside in the mountains of **Glencoe Close,** which provided the backdrop for Hagrid's Hut, the Sundial Garden and the Bridge to Nowhere for the ***Prisoner of Azkaban.*** **Loch Eilt** is the location where Hagrid is seen skipping stones across the water and **Black Rock Gorge near Evanton** in Easter Ross was filmed for ***Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire.***

Wizardly Wales

Living up to J.K. Rowling's description of a "lonely and beautiful place," **Freshwater West** beach and coastal path on the **Pembrokeshire Coast** in **Wales** feature in the first part of the concluding Potter instalment, ***Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows I,*** as the location of the "Shell Cottage" scenes. A beautiful windswept, exposed beach, Freshwater West is the most well-known of Pembrokeshire's surf beaches. Backed by sand dunes with scenic cliffs at either end, the beach is home to plenty of rock pools that can be explored and a restored seaweed collector's hut (www.visitpembrokeshire.com).

Magical children's movies to explore in Britain

When children love a film, they *really* love them! Bring a huge smile to their faces by visiting the places that have inspired the stories they've grown to love on screen. But it's not just for children – parents and grandparents can relive some of the much-loved British films they enjoyed when they were young too.

Brave



Dunnottar Castle and its rugged surroundings inspired the makers of Brave

When Disney-Pixar brought the strong, gutsy Merida and her family to the big screen, children across the world were introduced to a land of myths and legends – all inspired by the enchanting, dramatic terrains of Scotland.

Scotland itself is no stranger to folklore and fables and VisitScotland has created *Brave*-inspired itineraries for the whole family to experience. Explore Faerie Glen – a fantastical landscape where children can imagine fairies live; visit Loch Ness and see who can spot signs of the legendary Nessie first; or see who's the bravest of you all as you visit Dunnottar Castle, said to be the most haunted castle in the land. www.visitscotland.com/brave/itinerary

Archery is central to *Brave*'s storyline and, across Scotland, there are opportunities to draw back that bow and see the arrows hurtle through the air to the bullseye. Channel your inner Merida at the Galloway Activity Centre on the tranquil shores of Loch Ken in Dumfries, south-west Scotland (less than a two-hour drive from Edinburgh or Glasgow) or test your archery skills on a specially designed course with the Arran Adventure Company at the Auchranie Resort on the Isle of Arran on Scotland's west coast. You can stay there too; the resort is home to two four-star hotels and 30 five-star self-catering lodges. A ferry from Glasgow will get you to Arran in 45 minutes. www.lochken.co.uk, http://auchrannie.co.uk

Peter Pan



Peter Pan's statue can be found in London's Kensington Gardens. Credit VisitBritain - Britain on View

The famous story of the boy-who-never-grew-up came from the imagination of Scottish novelist JM Barrie, the tale of which became a hugely successful animated Disney film – and in 2015, a new Peter Pan movie, much of which was filmed in Britain, will be released, promising to bring the magic alive to a new generation. A source of inspiration for the author was London's Kensington Gardens and, to see Peter Pan up close, visit his eponymous statue located in those very gardens; it's located in the exact spot where Peter flies out of his nursery and lands beside Long Water in the story *The Little White Bird.* Children will also have fun imagining they're in Neverland itself with a visit to this Royal Park's Diana, Princess of Wales' Memorial Playground. Climb on board a giant wooden pirate ship, skip through the sensory trail and around the teepees and explore the beach around the ship, all the time watching out for Captain Hook! www.royalparks.org.uk/parks/kensington-gardens

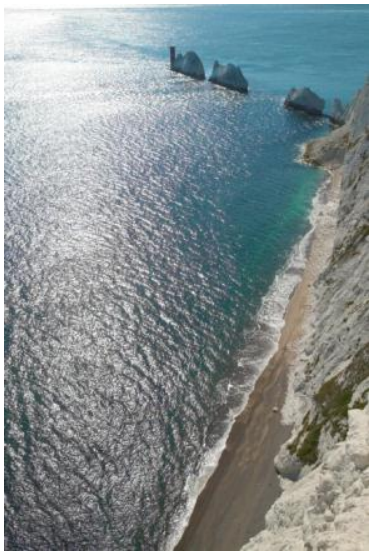
While Peter Pan and the Darling children needed a little magic to help them fly over the rooftops of London there's no need for fairy dust to enjoy a bird's eye views of the capital. Fly over London on a thrilling helicopter ride; the kids will feel like they're Wendy, John, Michael or Peter as they soar over such iconic sites as Buckingham Palace, St Paul's Cathedral and the Houses of Parliament. Alternatively, experience equally mesmerising views from up high at the View From The Shard, the tallest building in western Europe, from the iconic London Eye on South Bank, or head over to the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park in east London and venture to the top of the ArcelorMittal Orbit, Britain's tallest sculpture at 114.5 metres that offers a unique on-high view of London. www.thelondonhelicopter.com, www.helicoptertourslondon.co.uk, www.theviewfromtheshard.com/en, www.londoneye.com, www.arcelormittalorbit.com



Get the modern-day bird's eye view of London with a visit to The View from the Shard

And, if you're travelling to Britain during the Christmas holiday period, chances are you'll find a traditional pantomime telling the tale of Peter Pan playing at one of the destination's many theatres – it's a popular pantomime choice with goodies, baddies and lots of song opportunities!

Chitty Chitty Bang Bang



The stunning scenery of the Isle of Wight played a part in Chitty Chitty Bang Bang

Who doesn't want to ride in a magical car like *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*?! This children's classic – relating the adventures of Caractacus Potts and his children, peppered with sing-a-long songs – was partially filmed in Britain. The Needles stacks, which stand majestically in the sea off the coast of the Isle of Wight (itself off the coast of south England) featured in the film, and tour company Brit Movie Tours offers the chance for new and old fans to ride in a replica Chitty Chitty Bang Bang car for the day around the island. Make sure you sing the title song at the top of your voice! The Isle of Wight is a 20-minute ferry ride from Portsmouth or Southampton harbours, both of which are around 90 minutes by train from London. http://britmovietours.com, www.visitisleofwight.co.uk

Remember the incredible windmill that was used as the Potts' home? This was Cobstone Windmill, located in the quintessential English village of Turville (around an hour's drive from London). While you can see its exterior it's now a private home, but there are a lots of windmills to visit in Britain and imagine you're among all of Caractacus' eccentric inventions. Wimbledon Windmill in south-west London gives children the chance to try their hand at milling some flour, using historic methods, or why not climb to the very top of Bircham Windmill in King's Lynn, east England (less than two hours by train from London) before enjoying a traditional cream tea in the original bakery next door? www.wimbledonwindmill.org.uk/museum, www.birchamwindmill.co.uk

Do you know who wrote the screenplay for *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*? It was none other than famous children's author Roald Dahl. Find out more about his life and works at the Roald Dahl Museum and Storycentre in the town of Great Missenden – around an hour's drive from London – as well as the Roald Dahl Children's Gallery in the nearby town of Aylesbury. www.roalddahl.com/museum, www.buckscc.gov.uk/leisure-and-culture/roald-dahl-childrens-gallery

101 Dalmations

Loveable Dalmatian pups are the stars of both of Disney's versions of *101 Dalmatians* – the animated 1961 version and the 1996 film starring Glenn Close as Cruella de Vil. The puppies are born after their parents meet in a London park, making their owners, Anita and Roger, crash into each other – and who also subsequently fall in love.



Row on the lake, spot wildlife and enjoy a tranquil day in London's beautiful St James' Park

The park used in the 1996 film was London's St James' Park, a lovely place for families to spend the day. Visit the resident pelicans, which are fed between 14.30 – 15.00 daily, plus you'll get the chance to spot water birds, owls, woodpeckers and bats, and spend some time at the cool children's playground. St James' Park is located at the very heart of the Mall too, which is the setting of ceremonial parades, national celebrations and pageants, such as Trooping the Colour in June, marking the Queen's official birthday. On the south side of the park is Wellington Barracks, home to interesting artefacts from the five regiments of the Foot Guards at the Guards Museum, plus Buckingham Palace is just short walk away.

And if it's animals your kids love, visit one of Britain's excellent zoos; from the 36-acre conservation centre housing more than 650 species that is London Zoo, to the 1,000 plus animals at Scotland's Edinburgh Zoo (home to Britain's only pandas!), there's plenty to see and learn about conservation and animals from all over the world. But if you loved *101 Dalmatians* and all things canine, head to Chester Zoo in north-west England (two hours by train from London), which is home to South American Bush Dogs and a family of African Painted Dogs. www.royalparks.org.uk/parks/st-jamess-park, www.theguardsmuseum.com, www.chesterzoo.org

The Railway Children

Vintage steam trains and the beautiful county of Yorkshire in north England take centre stage in this film adaptation of Edith Nesbit's early 20th-century children's novel. It's easy to re-enact scenes from this movie as Britain has a raft of steam railways operating that make a fun family day out. Ffestiniogg Railway in Snowdonia, north Wales, takes you through some spectacular mountainous scenery, while Cornwall's Lappa Valley Steam Railway in south-west England offers a two-mile steam train journey through gorgeous countryside, plus there's crazy golf, a maze, canoes and paddle boats and a leisure park thrown in! www.festrail.co.uk, www.chycor.co.uk/tourism/cata-guest/lappa-valley/lappa-valley.htm

But to properly imagine you are one of the Waterbury children, you can visit the actual railway used in the film; the Keighley & Worth Valley Railway, situated in Keighley, less than 45

minutes' drive from Leeds. Watch steam trains puff through the valley from a standpoint on the bridge or experience a bygone era as you travel on one to the early 20th-century Oakworth station. Film fans can visit five of the carriages used in the film at the Museum of Rail Travel at Ingrow, and you can also take part in one of the many Railway Children Walks. http://kwvr.co.uk

Mary Poppins



Like the children in Mary Poppins, head to St Paul's Cathedral – its Whispering Gallery is not to be missed!

Although filmed exclusively at Burbank Studios in the US, *Mary Poppins* setting was, famously, London. With her magic umbrella and bottomless carpet bag, the film about this extraordinary children's nanny brought us memorable songs and whimsical scenes. One of the film's most famous scenes is when Mary, the children and chimney sweep Bert jump into the drawing on the pavement. Everyone begins to ride on a carousel, when its horses break loose and take everyone for a canter around the countryside. There are numerous opportunities for families to go horse riding through Britain's countryside but did you know that even even when in central London you can saddle up and go for a gallop? Hyde Park Stables, situated in the heart of the park, is just one place to enjoy a spot of mid-city horse riding. www.hydeparkstables.com

Another scene sees Mary and the children run past St Paul's Cathedral; explore this iconic London landmark that has so much history, from its underground Crypt to the Golden Gallery situated 111 metres above London. Climb the stairs to half way up and enjoy the Whispering Gallery. Its name comes from a unique quirk in its construction; whisper against its walls and people listening on the opposite side can hear! www.stpauls.co.uk



Fun family days out at the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park

The East End of London depicted in the film is a far cry from what this area of the capital is like now! Now hip, innovative and quirky, families can choose from attractions such as the Museum of London Docklands (relating the history of this fascinating part of London) and the V&A Museum of Childhood, home to childhood-related objects ranging from the 17th century to the present day. Plus east London is the home of the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park (host of the London 2012 Olympic Games) – spend a day here and enjoy a swim in the London Aquatics Centre, a cycle at the Lee Valley Velo Park and a play in the Tumbleground Playground. www.museumoflondon.org.uk/docklands, www.museumofchildhood.org.uk, http://queenelizabetholympicpark.co.uk

Harry Potter

There is so much to see and do in Britain that will transport you into the magical world of Harry, Ron and Hermione and all their friends and foes at Hogwarts. Start off by re-enacting the 'trolley through the wall' scene, when Harry has to find his way onto Platform 9 3/4. At London's King's Cross station you'll find a photo opportunity to do just that, plus a shop

selling all sorts of Potter memorabilia. Then pay a visit to the Warner Bros Studio Tours. Situated next door to the working film studios where all eight of the Harry Potter films were made, the tour is a real treat, made up of original sets, costumes, props, animatronic creatures and all the special effects that were used on the hit films. You'll even get the chance to ride a broomstick! A train from London to Watford Junction takes one hour, and from there take the shuttle bus to the studios. www.harrypotterplatform934.com, www.wbstudiotour.co.uk

Then imagine you are travelling to school with Harry and his friends when you board the Jacobite train in the Highlands of Scotland – which uses the same route that the Hogwarts Express does in the films. Take the journey from Fort William (around 2.5 hours' drive from Glasgow) to Mallaig; you'll also cross the iconic Glenfinnan Viaduct. Fort William is five hours by train from Edinburgh. www.westcoastrailways.co.uk/jacobite/jacobite-steam-train-details.cfm



Ever wanted to 'fly' on a broomstick? Now's your chance at Alnwick Castle in north-east England

Take part in broomstick training at the same site that Harry had his first flying lesson in *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* with a trip to Alnwick Castle in the north-east of England (less than an hour's drive from Newcastle). The castle had a starring role as Hogwarts in the first two movies and you may even spot a few Harry Potter 'characters' around the extensive grounds at certain times of the year. www.alnwickcastle.com

Wallace & Gromit

The Wrong Trousers, A Close Shave, The Curse of the Were Rabbit – magnificently named films created by one of Britain's leading animation houses, Aardman Animations, and all starring the brilliant Wallace and Gromit. Look out for favourite Wallace and Gromit character Shaun the Sheep, who gets his very own movie next, coming out 2015!

Aardman Studios are based in Bristol, west England (two hours by train from London) and, while tours of the studio are unavailable (although you can do an online tour), you can discover the storymaking process behind Wallace & Gromit in an exhibition currently running at Bristol's history museum, M Shed. Developed especially for the museum, fans of the films can learn about the background to the stories, view the sets and get the chance to write and draw their own story. Bristol has many other great family attractions, including the At-Bristol Science Centre, Bristol Zoo, Bristol Aquarium, the world's first great ocean liner *SS Brunel* (where you can step into the shoes of a Victorian sailor and climb the huge mainmast), and entertaining Bristol pirate walks! www.aardman.com, www.bristolmuseums.org.uk/m-shed, http://visitbristol.co.uk

If, like Wallace, you're rather fond of Wensleydale Cheese – or simply want to try its delicious taste for the first time – pay a visit to the Wensleydale Creamery in the village of Hawes, set in the picturesque Yorkshire Dales, north England. Take a tour around the museum to learn how the cheese-making process have evolved throughout the centuries, watch cheese-making in action and sample all of the Yorkshire Wensleydale cheese varieties. Children will be further entertained by the clips of Wallace and Gromit showing around the site. The nearest station is Garsdale, 90 minutes by train from Leeds. www.wensleydale.co.uk

Paddington The Movie

The new Paddington movie is set to take kids and grownup fans of the bear alike on a magical – and hilarious – tour around London, home to Paddington's on screen adventures. There are trails and tours to book, your own adventures to take from Paddington station, and the bear's fashion and favourite food to explore! Read on, for Paddington inspiration.

Paddington products and tours

Can't wait until *Paddington* is released to immerse yourself in all things bear-related? Here's how you can gear up for the excitement of the new movie and keep the fun going after you've seen it – and meet plenty of cute, furry friends along the way.

Best for…walking in Paddington's footsteps ('pawsteps')

VisitLondon.com, The NSPCC and STUDIOCANAL have recently announced The Paddington Trail. Designed by a host of artists, designers and celebrities, 50 Paddington Bear statues will be placed across the capital, taking in museums, parks, shops and landmarks in an exciting and inspiring trail, with a colourful, Paddington inspired flavour. The Paddington Trail will track the ursine traveller's favourite places in London while celebrating the capital's art, culture and innovation in advance of the film's release in British cinemas on 28 November 2014. www.visitlondon.com/paddington

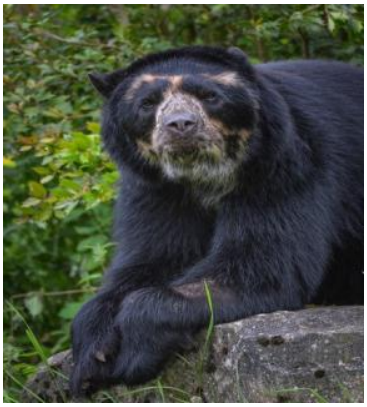
Brit Movie Tours:

Next year visitors to London will be able to embark on an adventure around London as BritMovie Tours launches its three-hour Paddington tour dedicated to the Peruvian bear and the inspirations behind the film. Available to the public from Easter 2015 there may be special preview tours available for media from the end of November when the film is released in Britain. http://britmovietours.com/bookings/paddington-bear-tour-london

Best for…real bears!

Chester Zoo

Meet the real-life Paddington! Or, at least, the inspiration for the beloved character. Paddington comes from 'deepest, darkest Peru' – and the only bear that hails from South America is the Spectacled Bear (also sometimes known as Andean Bears). Chester Zoo, around an hour by train from Manchester, is home to two of these bears – with white rings around their eyes (no two bears have the same pattern). The male bear, Bernardo, arrived at the zoo in June this year and, along with his female companion, Franka, you can watch them rummage for food – one of their favourite pastimes. Ensuring their habitat at the zoo is close to their natural one, their zookeepers give them different foods in different ways several times a day, which they then search around for. www.chesterzoo.org



Visit the Spectacled Bears at Chester Zoo – said to be the inspiration for Paddington! Credit Chester Zoo

Edinburgh Zoo

For the ultimate in cute and cuddly (to look at!), head to the home of Britain's only giant pandas, Edinburgh Zoo. On loan from China, the

zoo is home to female bear Tian Tian (whose name translates to 'sweetie' in Chinese) and male bear Yang Guang (whose name means 'sunshine'). Visitors can also meet the zoo's two sun bears named Somnang and Rotana, who spend most of their time snoozing together and foraging for fruit and nuts. www.edinburghzoo.org.uk

Highland Wildlife Park

Scotland is also home to Britain's only polar bears; up in the Cairngorms National Park you'll find two male polar bears at the Highland Wildlife Park, living in the largest polar bear enclosure in Europe. Watch them at play in their large natural pool set in over four acres of land, which is typical of the polar bear's tundra environment. The park is seven miles from Aviemore, itself a 2.5 hour-drive from Edinburgh. www.highlandwildlifepark.org.uk

Best for…bear museums

Dorset Teddy Bear Museum, south-west England

Bears of all shapes, sizes and ages greet visitors at this family treat of a museum, the Teddy Bear Museum in historic market town of Dorchester (a historic market town less than three hours by train from London). Meet antique bears and contemporary bears, as well as the human-size teddy bears of Mr Edward Bear and his family in the Teddy Bear House! You can also take away memories of your time at the museum with a visit to its shop, which stocks a wide range of bear-brands. www.teddybearmuseum.co.uk

Teddy Bear Museum, Polka Theatre, Wimbledon, London



Take the kids to see the Teddy Bear Museum…and then to see a show at the Polka Theatre

You can meet Paddington Bear here…as well as Winnie the Pooh, the Muppets' Fozzie Bear and hundreds of others! Once housed in Stratford-upon-Avon, this teddy bear museum has now moved to children's theatre in south-west London, the Polka Theatre. And after you've looked at bears to your hearts' content, enjoy a trip to the theatre with your little ones – there are plenty of plays on offer for all age groups. www.polkatheatre.com/editorial/teddy-bear-collection

Teddy Bear Story

Drawn from the V&A's extensive collections of bears, this exhibition features nearly 100 rare teddy bears, as well as bears from books, TV and films, and has taken to the road this year. Divided into three themes – British Bears, Caring Sharing Bears and German Bears – the next exhibition is due to arrive at Maidstone Museum (9 August – 2 November) in Kent, south-east England, around an hour's train journey from London. www.museum.maidstone.gov.uk/exhibitions, www.museumofchildhood.org.uk/whats-on/exhibitions-and-displays/touring-exhibitions

Best for…bear buys

For all things Paddington – from cute keyrings, comfortable sweatshirts and cuddly bear toys, head to



Buy a Paddington souvenir to remember your trip to Britain

www.visitbritainshop.com. You'll also find memorabilia of your favourite bear at markets such as London's Portobello market.

For a multitude of soft furry friends, check out the largest toy shop in Britain – Hamleys, on London's bustling Regent Street – and lose yourself in a cosy world of teddy bears and soft toys…including Paddington of course! www.hamleys.com

The station where our friend from Peru was first discovered – London's Paddington station – is a natural spot to pick up a Paddington momento. As well as the station shop, you can stop and have your photo taken with the Paddington statue that you'll pass by on your way there. www.paddington.com, www.paddington.com/stationshopnews2012.html

Paddington: an unlikely fashion icon

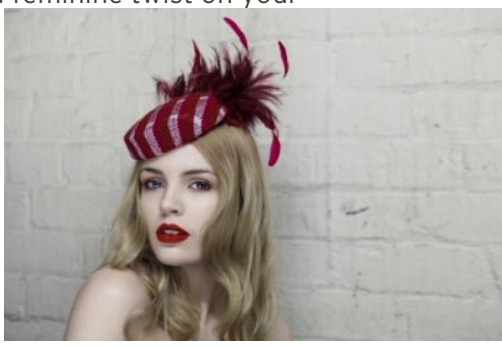
Images of Paddington Bear in his red hat and blue duffel coat are famous the world over. With a new *Paddington* movie being released this winter, the famous bear could spark something of a fashion frenzy. Gap have already released a line of Paddington clothing while Britain, Paddington's adopted home, is packed with British clothing lines ready for you to create your own Paddington-inspired style.



Sometimes Paddington wears a black hat…

In the original Paddington Bear book, the popular children's character was found at London's Paddington Station wearing nothing more than a hat. The Peruvian hat as we have come to be familiar with it today is a bright, scarlet red, although it's been through many incarnations. In the first Paddington television series, Paddington wore a black hat, while the first Paddington Bear toys sold in the US saw Paddington wearing yellow.

To get the look yourself with a statement hat, Britain has dozens of milliners to offer inspiration. To achieve a Paddington-inspired headpiece, gentlemen should head to Bates of Jermyn Street, London, which offers everything from formal, felt, tweed or even straw hats alongside good old-fashioned service (www.bates-hats.co.uk). Or, for a feminine twist on your headwear, visit the Robyn Coles boutique in Castle Arcade in Cardiff, Wales. Watch Coles and her team working on the premises and commission your own bespoke headpiece (www.robyncoles.com). Those in Scotland looking to put a fresh spin on Paddington's hat should visit William Chambers' studio and showroom in Glasgow. The city's architecture has inspired Chambers' quirky designs, which count the Scissor Sister's Ana Matronic and flamboyant fashionista Anna Dello Russo amongst their fans (www.williamchambers.co.uk). The Scottish city is a shopper's paradise, in fact, with its Style Mile centred around Princess Square and Buchanan Street housing many big name labels, including Belstaff, Vivienne Westwood and Dower & Hall (http://glasgowstylemile.com). Plus there's Barrowlands Market opening on weekends offering everything from kilts and fur coats to bric-a-bac and food all at bargain prices.



…sometimes he wears a red hat! Either way, you'll be super chic in a Robyn Coles creation, handmade in Wales



Peruse for Paddington style hats and duffel coats at Portobello Road Market

The next item to nail in your quest for a Paddington look is the bear's navy duffel coat. In the story of Paddington Bear, he is presented with the coat by the Brown family who adopt him in London and Paddington is never seen without it. The duffel coat has a longstanding tradition in Britain, first becoming popular during World War One when British sailors were issued with camel coloured duffel coats by The Navy. With Alexa Chung, One Direction and Kylie Minogue all being spotted in duffel coats, the winter staple is seeing something of a revival. For your own Paddington-esque duffel coat, pick up a vintage version on London's Portobello Road known for its antique and vintage shops (www.portobelloroad.co.uk).

Although he doesn't wear Wellington boots in the original Paddington story, many Paddington toys are sold with the bear wearing a pair of boots to help him stand. With Britain known for its inclement weather, the footwear made famous by the first Duke of Wellington seems like a sensible option. British brands Joules and Hunter, who hold a Royal Warrant to Her Majesty the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh, are popular "wellie" makers and the UK's festival season is the best place to flaunt your Wellington boots (and keep your feet dry! www.joules.com, www.hunter-boot.com). Head to Glastonbury in the Cotswold countryside in June, the highlight of the British music festival calendar, where Beyoncé and The Rolling Stones have headlined in recent years, opt for three days of non-stop music at Scotland's T in the Park or celebrate stunning countryside and eclectic sounds in the Brecon Beacons, Wales, at the Green Man Festival (www.glastonburyfestivals.co.uk, www.tinthepark.com, www.greenman.net.)

To complete your Paddington outfit, the final accessory required is a battered brown leather suitcase. For your own vintage luggage, explore the North Laines in Brighton, on the UK's south coast, which is peppered with vintage stores and market stalls during weekends (www.visitbrighton.com). For a more stylish look, perhaps more akin to Bond fans than Paddington, British brand Globe-Trotter offers luxurious cases as seen in Skyfall and as used by Queen Elizabeth II on her honeymoon in 1947. Find Globe-Trotter at its new flagship store on London's Albemarle Street in upmarket Mayfair or shop at department stores Harrods and Harvey Nichols (www.globetrotter1897.com). Unlike Paddington though, there's no need to fill your suitcase with marmalade sandwiches!



Fashionable bears wear British brand Hunter wellies!

Paddington & Marmalade

Paddington Bear, the children's character created by Michael Bond, famously travels from Peru to Britain with a stack of marmalade sandwiches under his hat. With a new *Paddington* movie being released this winter, audiences the world over are about to fall in love with the bear once again as he embarks on a new adventure on the silver screen. Paddington fans will soon realise that their hero's tastes haven't changed much in the 56 years since the first Paddington Bear book was published. The furry character is still obsessed with marmalade and here in Britain, there are plenty of places to enjoy the fruity breakfast preserve.



Take a trip to Dundee in Scotland to discover where Mackays started its famous marmalade

Dundee in Scotland lays claim to being home to the world's first marmalade, which apparently began by chance in 1700 when a young grocer came across a Spanish ship, which was taking refuge from a storm in Dundee harbour, carrying a cargo of Seville oranges. The fruit was bitter so instead of wasting the fruit, his wife used the oranges instead of her usual quinces to make pots of preserve. Fast forward a few hundred years and although the recipe has changed slightly, Mackays continue to make the delicious preserve known as Dundee Orange Marmalade. The city is also known for its famous Dundee cake, a traditional Scottish fruit cakes rich in flavour and made with currants, almonds and sultanas. http://mackays.com/our-story/dundee-marmalade

Cumbria, in north-west England, is home to Dalemain Estate, which claims to be the world's original marmalade shop and founded The World's Original Marmalade Awards & Festival (www.dalemain.com/shop, www.dalemainmarmaladeawards.co.uk/cms/festival.php). The event celebrates the best in marmalade from across the globe taking place at the Dalemain Mansions and Garden in Penrith, Cumbria, each spring. More than 2,000 jars of marmalade from around the world are entered into the awards to win the title for the best citrus preserve; Yorkshire Wold Bees the British Double Gold Artisan Winner in 2014 for its Lemon and Honey flavoured marmalade, while Radnor Preserves, based in Powys, mid-Wales, won gold for its unusually flavoured Blood Orange, Chilli & Smoked Sea Salt Marmalade. Next year's Marmalade Awards & Festival takes place from 28 February – 1 March and will be celebrating their tenth anniversary in 2015. Visitors can look forward to tasting marmalades and attending workshops to learn how to make their own preserve. Penrith is just over three hours from London by train, and less than two from Manchester.



Paddington is patron of the Marmalade Awards & Festival

There are awards for the best hotels and Bed & Breakfasts who make their own marmalades too, with Woodford House B&B in Somerset, south-west England, taking the 2014 double gold award for its Seville Orange with Bourbon Whisky. If you're looking to enjoy marmalade with your toast for a traditional British breakfast, there are plenty more quintessentially English establishments who excel in marmalade making. Tickle your tastebuds with Four Fruit marmalade at Brickwall Farm, a traditional English farmhouse in Essex, south-east England, or enjoy a kick start to your day with Seville Orange & Cointreau



Woodford House B&B - where double gold award-winning marmalade is served at breakfast

marmalade at Lorne House B&B in the heart of Wiltshire countryside, west England. www.woodfordhouse.com, www.brickwallfarm.co.uk, www.lornehousebox.co.uk

Marmalade lovers like Paddington will enjoy eating at the aptly named Café Marmalade, which specialises in serving home cooked food in Brighton on the UK's south coast. Or Marmalade on the Square in Wakefield, Yorkshire, offers tea and cakes served on mismatched vintage china while diners can browse a selection of gifts and homeware. www.cafemarmalade.co.uk, www.marmaladeonethesquare.co.uk



So many marmalades and jams to choose from at Fortnum & Mason – Paddington would love it!

For the best places to buy marmalade to take home and impress your friends or for making marmalade sandwiches of your own like Paddington, Fortnum & Mason offers a comprehensive selection of handmade marmalades in its flagship London store. Holder of a Royal Warrant, the store also offers a delightful afternoon tea in its Diamond Jubilee Tea Salon where their world-renowned expert 'Tearistas' are available to advise guests on the perfect tea to complement their sandwiches and scones. www.fortnumandmason.com

If you're a whiz in the kitchen and would like to concoct your own marmalade recipe, Vale House Kitchen, just outside of Bath, offers a Marmalade Make & Bake Day with expert marmalade maker Vivien Lloyd. For those that are feeling even more adventurous Vale House Kitchen also offers a foraging course showing you how to identify the best wild foods in the countryside or a two-day fly fishing course on Cameley Lakes. Bath is 1.5 hours by train from London Paddington (!) station, and it's a 20-minute bus trip to the village of Timsbury, where the cookery school is located.
http://valehousekitchen.co.uk/courses/preserves-courses

Adventures from Paddington Station

Seen the trailers for the upcoming Paddington movie? If so, you will have spied the adorable bear arriving in his eponymous station, about to set off on a great adventure. The cuddly hero was named Paddington after the station he landed up in – and anyone who visits London will soon discover it's the ideal place to start your own great adventure. It's easier than you think to travel to all corners of Britain, and Paddington is the starting point for many an exciting journey. Plan yours now!

Freedom on two wheels in Windsor

Distance from Paddington Station: 30 minutes



An adventure to Windsor on two wheels awaits just outside London

Windsor Castle is the oldest and largest inhabited castle in the world, and reportedly the Queen's favourite. Why not combine a visit with a gentle riverside bicycle trip? Mind The Gap Tours runs a day trip that starts at Paddington Station – the meeting point is the Paddington Bear statue of course! – setting off to the lush **Thames Valley** where you pick up bikes and embark on a leisurely and relaxing ride towards the Castle. There's plenty of time to stop and take pictures along the way, and admire the pretty English countryside, before you arrive at Windsor, drop off the bikes and have a well-earned **pub lunch**. You then get to spend the

afternoon at the Castle, where you can see the largest doll's house in the world and explore the State Apartments. Return is by train into London.

£69 per person. www.mindthegaptours.com/windsor/tour/index.php

Dreaming spires and Potter magic in Oxford

Distance from Paddington station: 1 hour

Harry Potter may have taken the Hogwarts Express from Platform 9 and three quarters at Kings Cross Station but Potter fans should head out from Paddington to the historic city of Oxford, where many scenes from the films were shot. See the Great Hall, where Harry, Ron and Hermione dine and dance, which is really **Christ Church College**, and stroll around the atmospheric cloisters of New College, which were used in filming (www.chch.ox.ac.uk/visiting/harry-potter). Pop into **Scriptum**, an elegant stationery store, to buy your very own quill fit for a term in Hogwarts; it's a treasure trove of leather-bound journals, inkwells and beautiful cards (www.scriptum.co.uk). Absorb the city's unique atmosphere, at times studious (look out for students wearing gowns and a red carnation – that means they're off to sit final exams) and at times fun-filled: the summer is a succession of balls and parties. The **Ashmolean Museum** is a must for art and history lovers, and its rooftop café is a lesser-known pearl where you can see over the city's dreaming spires and relax in a deck chair (www.ashmolean.org). Take tea at The **Old Parsonage**, a quaint hotel with art festooning the walls of its dining room (www.oldparsonage-hotel.co.uk).



Christ Church College was home to the Harry Potter cast for filming- and you too can call it home for a night!

Thermal spa luxury and sumptuous architecture in Bath

Distance from Paddington station: 1 hour 24 minutes

One of England's most attractive cities, Bath is a romantic destination for two or ideal for a getaway with the girls. Just the sight of the **Royal Crescent** sweeping in a pleasing arc shows off the city's class from the off. Book in to the **Thermae Bath Spa**, which taps into the city's ancient healing waters and has pools, steam rooms and treatments on offer – but the showpiece is the stunning rooftop pool. Sounds luxurious, and it is, but it's also affordable – a two-hour spa session costs £27. Jane Austen fans should take tea at the **Regency Tea Room** at the Jane Austen Centre and discuss Mr Darcy's many good and bad points over scones and tea or hot chocolate (www.janeausten.co.uk/regency-tea-room). The **Fashion Museum** is a great place for stylish visitors to admire outfits from the past and present (www.museumofcostume.co.uk), while those in the mood to style themselves will find **independent shops** in the Artisan Quarter, Milsom Quarter or Upper Town to source that talking-piece item to take home. A short trip out of town to the **Mulberry Factory Shop** and **Kilver Court Designer Village** will satisfy those who want designer labels for significantly less (www.mulberryfactoryshop.com, www.kilvercourt.com). Eating well is easy in Bath, which held the very first **Farmers Market** in Britain, so if you're there on Saturday head to Green Park Station for local treats from 09.00-13.30. http://visitbath.co.uk



Relaxation is yours, only an hour and a half from London: the Thermae Bath Spa

Castles, cream tea and Daleks in Cardiff



Step into the Tardis at the Doctor Who Experience in Cardiff on an adventure with the Time Lord

Distance from London Paddington: 2 hours

Paddington is the gateway to another country – you can reach Wales in just 2 hours, and its capital Cardiff will thrill visitors with interests as diverse as rugby, Doctor Who, tea and cake (!) and history. The **Millennium Stadium** is Wales's national rugby stadium, a must for fans of the sport – you can take a backstage stadium tour too (www.millenniumstadium.com). The city is home to the fantastic **Doctor Who Experience**, which will thrill anyone who loves the TV series: follow the Doctor on an adventure and be confronted with Daleks and other monsters; when filming isn't on you can even step into the Tardis actually used in the show (www.doctorwho.tv/events/doctor-who-experience). Cardiff has splendid **Victorian arcades** crammed with independent shops selling everything from cutting-edge menswear to bespoke hats, with sweetshops next to cheese shops. At tea time, head to the **Waterloo Gardens Tea House** for tea, award-winning coffee and delicious, unusual cakes. It's a local gem with art exhibitions by the city's creative talent. A new branch just opened in the Edwardian Wyndham arcade (www.waterlootea.com). You can't miss **Cardiff Castle** before you leave – after all, Wales has 647 castles, so start ticking them off your list! www.cardiffcastle.com



Reach the majesty of St Michael's Mount by train from Paddington station

Penzance

Distance from London Paddington: 5 hours 30 minutes

If you want to embark on a real adventure, head to Penzance in Cornwall, the region at the very tip of Britain's 'boot', where you can explore some of the most beautiful coastline in the country. You'll feel the difference to London as soon as you step out of the train and spot a palm tree or two, thanks to the mild climate. You'll also be greeted with the sight of **St Michael's Mount** that seems to hover above the sea, which you can visit on foot or by boat: it's home to sub-tropical gardens and a medieval castle. From Penzance you can walk the South West Coast Path to **St Ives** (or take the train), which is home to an outpost of **Tate** and the **Barbara Hepworth Museum and Sculpture Garden** (www.tate.org.uk/visit/tate-st-ives). Penzance is also the gateway to the **Scilly Isles**, which make for a very unique holiday experience – there's Tresco Abbey and Gardens for wildly exotic plantlife, horse-riding, watersports, beautiful beaches and five inhabited islands to explore (www.visitislesofscilly.com). For Cornwall info see www.visitcornwall.com.

Adventures in London...and Scotland!

Of course Paddington is a station on the London Underground too, connected by the Bakerloo line, Central and District lines and Hammersmith and City line to the whole of London! The capital is your oyster – and speaking of which, if you buy a **Visitor Oyster Card** before you land in Britain you can start exploring the city by tube and bus straight away (www.visitbritainshop.com). Two stops from Paddington on the Bakerloo Line will take you to Marylebone, where you can get pictures with your favourite celebrities at **Madame Tussauds**

(www.madametussauds.com/london), while another stop along takes you to Baker Street – which will mean a lot to fans of **Sherlock Holmes**! There's a museum devoted to the detective, and you can try to find his house (www.sherlock-holmes.co.uk).

If the idea of exploring another country appeals, you can head five stops along from Paddington to Kings Cross station, and from there it's just under four-and-a-half hours to **Edinburgh**, the capital of Scotland. Arriving into the city you're treated with the sight of its castle to welcome you, and as soon as you step out of the station you'll see the grandeur and splendour of its architecture and be ready to get a taste of Scottish hospitality (www.visitscotland.com)!



Pose with David and Victoria Beckham at Madame Tussauds, London, two stops from Paddington!

From box set to Britain: iconic TV locations

Television has become a rival to movies in the entertainment business, drawing in big stars and with the ability to tell a story over a longer time period. That means longer to gaze at the often breath-taking backgrounds and amazing architecture that sets the scenes. Britain is home to TV series' from Downton Abbey to Sherlock, and there are places to follow in the footsteps of your favourite storylines all over the UK – read on and start planning your trip.

Downton Abbey

The formally-attired travails of the aristocratic Crawley family and their tireless servants have attracted a global audience of 120 million, winning Golden Globe and Emmy awards in the process. During the spring and summer months, fans can visit **Highclere Castle**, the Hampshire stately home located an hour-and-a-half from London, which serves as the hit period drama's main location. During the winter, Highclere reverts to being the home of the eighth Earl and Countess Carnarvon, who have been delighted by the dramatic increase in visitors, as it has allowed them to begin major repairs on Highclere's turrets and interior. Creator Julian Fellowes is a long-time friend of the Carnarvon family and had Highclere in mind as he wrote the scripts. Visitors can wander through the drawing rooms, dining room, library, music room and bedrooms, the site for so many memorable scenes featuring Lord Grantham and his family. The house is set amid 1,000 acres of spectacular Capability Brown-designed parkland and guests can even stay for a night in London Lodge, the newly-restored Georgian entrance lodge to the castle (www.highclerecastle.co.uk). An hour away from Highclere is the sleepily unspoilt Oxfordshire village of **Bampton**, which stands in for Downton village. Here, viewers can visit the home of Matthew and Isobel Crawley, along with the show's church, pub, village green and hospital (www.cotswolds.info). Experience Oxfordshire runs a one-hour Downton-themed walking tour around the village (email groups@visitoxfordshire.org for info), with optional "Lady Grantham Afternoon Tea" at nearby Heythrop Park Hotel (www.heythroppark.co.uk). You can even satisfy your Downton cravings without leaving London: Edith Crawley and Michael Gregson had their first kiss in the opulent **Criterion restaurant** in Piccadilly Circus and flighty Lady Rose haunts the **jazz clubs of Soho**, the most famous of which is the legendary Ronnie Scott's (www.criterionrestaurant.com, www.ronniescotts.co.uk).



Visit Downton Abbey - oh, we mean Highclere – for real!

Sherlock

The contemporary re-imagining of Conan Doyle's detective stories is London to its core, from the city skyline on the opening credits to the vast majority of its shooting locations. While Benedict Cumberbatch's "high-functioning sociopath" sleuth still lives at 221b Baker Street, his flat is actually in nearby **North Gower Street**, close to Euston Station. If fans are in need of refreshment, they can even pop into **Speedy's Sandwich Bar** (www.speedyscafe.co.uk) downstairs for a "Sherlock Wrap" (chicken, bacon, cheddar cheese, lettuce, peppers, red onion, cucumber and chilli sauce, all "wrapped up as tightly as Sherlock's personality") or "Watson Wrap" (roasted vegetables, spinach, tomatoes, spring onion, Brie and sour cream – "safe, warm, and comforting, like his personality"). A two-mile stroll south east and you can see **St Bart's Hospital**, scene of the final showdown with arch-villain Moriarty and Sherlock's death-



Moriarty got close to the Crown Jewels - you too could at the Tower of London

defying leap in the show's update of the famous Reichenbach Falls story. Other memorable locations include **Chinatown** from "The Blind Banker" episode (www.chinatownlondon.org) and **The Tower of London**, where mischievous Moriarty played dress-up with the Crown Jewels (www.hrp.org.uk/TowerOfLondon). Finally, you can visit the "real" 221B Baker Street – actually situated between 237 and 241 but bearing the famous number by permission of the City Of Westminster – for the Grade II-listed **Sherlock Holmes Museum**, featuring a recreation of the detective's Victorian sitting room (www.sherlock-holmes.co.uk).

Fans of all things Sherlock can also embark on a ***Hound of the Baskervilles* tour**, on offer at the Prince Hall Hotel in Dartmoor, Devon, south-west England. Led by tour guide Alex Graeme, whose great grandfather acted as a scout for the sleuthing writer, the one-day tour introduces the story and local locations behind *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, while participants stay at the Prince Hall Hotel, the mansion house where the author is reputed to have resided while writing the novel. The game is afoot… (www.princehall.co.uk)



The Old Vic theatre is one of Waterloo's highlights, and close to where Call the Midwife films

Call The Midwife

The much-loved post-war drama, which sees nuns and midwives cycling merrily around impoverished Poplar in London's East End to help expectant mothers give birth, is actually filmed in several different corners of the capital. The **Historic Chatham Dockyard** in Kent, south-east England, which also boasts a maritime museum, is the site of many scenes starring Miranda Hart, Jessica Raine and their fellow midwives (www.thedockyard.co.uk). For those evocative exterior shots of grimy terraced houses, the production uses the area around Theed Street in London's **Waterloo**, close to the Old and Young Vic theatres, plus the buzzing restaurant scene along **The Cut** (www.oldvictheatre.com, www.youngvic.org). The darkly atmospheric **St Joseph's Missionary College** in the leafy north London suburb of Mill Hill became familiar to millions as Nonnatus House, the midwives' fictional home. It was recently redeveloped into luxury housing, though, prompting the Christmas 2013 plot about the nuns' move to more modern premises.

Game Of Thrones

Here be dragons. Much of HBO's epic adaptation of George RR Martin's fantasy novels is filmed on location in Northern Ireland. **Downhill Beach** in County Londonderry was transformed into Dragonstone castle in season two (www.northcoastni.com). Eastward along the Causeway Coast in Antrim, you'll find picturesque **Ballintoy Harbour** and **Murlough Bay** dunes, both of which stood in for the Iron Islands (www.causewaycoastalroute.com, www.nationaltrust.org.uk). The nearby, other-worldly **Cushendun Caves** is where Melisandre gave birth to the shadow baby, while the stunning natural phenomena of the tunnel-like **Dark Hedges** lined the King's Road as Arya Stark made her escape (www.visitballymoney.com). Further south in County Down is **Castle Ward**, the prime location for the great house of Winterfell, and **Audley's Field**, the site for Robb Stark's camp. Westeros addicts can also undertake numerous tours, via coach or bicycle and even including an archery experience (visit www.discovernorthernireland.com/gameofthrones for details). The coastline is around 90 minutes' drive from the Northern Ireland capital of Belfast.

Pride & Prejudice

Ooh, Mr Darcy. The BBC's landmark 1995 adaptation of *Pride & Prejudice* is most renowned for the scene where Colin Firth's Fitzwilliam Darcy emerges from a swim in the lake at his estate Pemberley and surprises Jennifer Ehle's Elizabeth Bennett. In real-life, that legendary lake can be found at **Lyme Park** near Stockport in Cheshire, north-west England, although the handsome mansion could only be used for exterior shots. Lavish late 17th century house **Sudbury Hall** in Derbyshire, central England, was used for the interiors and is doubly attractive for visitors, as it also hosts the Museum Of Childhood. The Bennett family home, Longbourne, was filmed at **Luckington Court** in Wiltshire, west England (www.luckingtoncourtevents.co.uk), with the unspoilt nearby **village of Lacock** standing in for Meryton (see www.nationaltrust.org.uk for Lyme Park, Sudbury Hall and Lacock).



Lyme Park's lake was home to that moment in Pride and Prejudice with Colin Firth and the wet shirt!

Midsomer Murders

The rural detective drama has been running for 17 years, during which it has garnered a loyal following – and its quintessentially English locations, all country pubs and village greens, are a key part of its appeal. Most of the series is filmed around South Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire, less than an hour outside London. **Bekonscot Model Village** in Beaconsfield features in one episode, while the nearby **Six Bells pub** in Warborough, notable for its thatched roof, regularly appears in the show as the Black Swan (www.bekonscot.co.uk, www.thesixbellswarborough.co.uk). The main market town in fictional Midsomer County is Causton, actually filmed in characterful, riverside **Wallingford** (www.wallingford.co.uk). All manner of Midsomer guided and walking tours can be undertaken – www.visitmidsomer.com is a handy information hub and starting point.

Mr Selfridge

You only have to walk down London's shopping epicentre of Oxford Street to know that **Harry Selfridge's department store** continues to move with the times and thrive. Although the interior has much-changed since the pre-First World War period portrayed in the popular drama, the outside of the building and much of the original signage remains. Harry Selfridge, played by Jeremy Piven, was nicknamed the Earl of Oxford Street in recognition of his groundbreaking temple to retail (www.selfridges.com). Many scenes are also filmed across the capital at the **Historic Chatham Dockyard** (www.thedockyard.co.uk), a site also familiar from *Call The Midwife*.



London's most stylish address was established by Harry Selfridge, whose story is a successful TV series – get retail therapy at Selfridges

Poirot



Explore Greenway, Agatha Christie's house, for a dose of crime fiction intrigue

The definitive performance of Agatha Christie's dapper moustachioed detective was David Suchet's in the ITV adaptations, which ran for an astonishing 24 years until Suchet hung up his patent leather shoes last autumn. With 70 mysteries filmed, there are numerous locations to visit. The iconic stretch of chalk white cliffs between **Beachy Head and Seaford Head** in East Sussex (south-east England) saw a double murder in Elephants Can Remember (www.southdownsway.co.uk). Christie set Dead Man's Folly in her own beloved holiday home, **Greenway** in Devon, south-west England, now owned by the National Trust and open to the public. Red-brick Victorian mansion **Hughenden Manor**, located in High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire and formerly the country house of Prime Minster Benjamin Disraeli, appeared in several stories, as did historic **Syon House** in Brentford, the west London home of the Duke and Duchess of Northumberland (www.syonpark.co.uk, see www.nationaltrust.org.uk for Greenway and Hughenden).

Brideshead Revisited

The lavish 1981 adaptation of Evelyn Waugh's novel, starring Jeremy Irons and Anthony Andrews, is widely acknowledged as one of Britain's greatest television dramas and remains well-loved today. Sumptuous stately home **Castle Howard** near York, with its spectacular grounds and famous fountain, stood in for the aristocratic seat of Brideshead (www.castlehoward.co.uk). **Bridgewater House** at 14 Cleveland Row in Westminster acted as the exterior of Marchmain House, the Flyte family's town residence, while its interiors were filmed in Cheshire's **Tatton Hall** (www.tattonpark.org.uk). The **Oxford University** scenes were filmed largely at Hertford College, Waugh's own alma mater, although parts of Wadham College and Christ Church were also used (www.ox.ac.uk/visitors/visiting-oxford).



The unparalleled opulence of Castle Howard, where Brideshead Revisited was filmed

Outlander

It might be made by the US Starz network but the time-hopping historical adventure romp, adapted from author Diana Gabaldon's novels, and starring Caitriona Balfe and Sam Heughan, was shot mainly around the North Lanarkshire town of **Cumbernauld**, a 20-minute drive from Glasgow. Described as "Scotland's answer to *Game Of Thrones*", one of its prime locations is 13th century **Doune Castle** in Perthshire, central Scotland, a medieval stronghold that stands in for fictional Castle Leoch during the Jacobite Rebellion. It also featured in *Monty Python & The Holy Grail* (www.historic-scotland.gov.uk). *Outlander* also shot extensively at nearby **Loch Rannoch**, which offers good fishing and walking for visitors (www.visitscotland.com).

Miss Marple

Agatha Christie's elderly spinster sleuth has been a favourite on British TV for 30 years – first on the BBC with Joan Hickson in the title role, then on ITV, starring Geraldine McEwan and later Julia McKenzie. **Torquay** in Devon, south-west England, is where the grande dame of crime fiction wrote her novels and the seaside town boasts a self-guided walking tour called The Agatha Christie Mile,



Torquay, the 'English Riviera', is synonymous with Agatha Christie

following familiar Marple landmarks such as the cliffs at St Marychurch, the Imperial Hotel and Burgh Island. The walk also takes in **Torquay Museum**, where a dedicated Christie section houses her typewriter, manuscripts and costumes from Miss Marple (www.english-riviera.co.uk). **Brown's Hotel** in London's Mayfair was the inspiration for At Bertram's Hotel, while **Nether Wallop** in Hampshire was the filming location for Miss Marple's home village of St Mary Mead (www.brownshotel.com, www.thewallops.net).

Queer as Folk

The turn-of-the-millennium Channel 4 drama proved a game-changer, not only revolutionising the portrayal of gay men on mainstream TV but making a name for writer Russell T Davies, who went on to successfully reboot *Doctor Who*. The series was later remade in the US but the original and best chronicled the lives and loves of three gay men – Stuart, Vince and Nathan – hanging out in Manchester's gay village around **Canal Street**. Now recognised as Britain's LGBT centre, outside of London at least, this pedestrianised waterside street is lined with gay and lesbian-friendly restaurants, bars, live entertainment and nightlife, while hosting many annual events and festivals, including Gay Pride (www.canal-st.co.uk). Manchester is around two hours by train from London.



Explore baroque Blenheim, where super sleuth Inspector Morse solved a puzzle...

Inspector Morse

Cracking crime amid the dreaming spires of Oxford in a burgundy Mark II Jaguar, Inspector Endeavour Morse – played by the late John Thaw – remains one of Britain's best-loved sleuths. Baroque masterpiece **Blenheim Palace** in nearby Woodstock is a key location in *The Way Through The Woods*, while the front quad of **Exeter College** is where he suffered his fatal heart attack in The Remorseful Day (www.blenheimpalace.com, www.ox.ac.uk). The Morse Bar in the Randolph Hotel is where the great man often pondered a case over a pint and is now something of a shrine (www.macdonaldhotels.co.uk). **Walking tours** take in city centre locations featured in both Morse and spin-off series *Lewis*, starring long-suffering sidekick Kevin Whately (for info, go to www.visitoxford.org). Oxford is around an hour from London by train.

Absolutely Fabulous

Anyone looking to emulate the champagne-swilling, air-kissing antics of Edina Monsoon (Jennifer Saunders) and Patsy Stone (Joanna Lumley) from the raucous BBC sitcom should head straight for **Harvey Nichols** luxury department store in London's Knightsbridge, worshipped by the duo as "Harvey Nicks, darling" (www.harveynichols.com). From here, it's a short taxi ride to either Eddie's favourite shop, **Lacroix on Sloane Street**, sweetie, or her home in west London's leafy **Holland Park** area (www.christian-lacroix.fr).

Hinterland

The detective drama, known as Y Gwyll (The Dusk) in its native Wales, was a critically acclaimed cult hit this year. It starred Richard Harrington as DCI Tom Mathias and a second series is about to start shooting. The programme was filmed in **Aberystwyth** and the surrounding **Ceredigion region** on the naturally stunning west coast of Wales (www.ceredigioncoastpath.org.uk). Other memorable locations include the isolated hamlet of **Penwyllt**, a caving spot used for a scene where a young man's body was found in a quarry lake, and **Borth** marshes – another site for a corpse, this time for a scene with a young woman

in a red dress. But don't let that put you off visiting this sandy seaside village with its three-mile long, award-winning beach where an ancient submerged forest can be seen at low tide (www.breconbeacons.org, www.visitmidwales.co.uk).

Upstairs, Downstairs

The classic period drama, broadcast in the 1970s, was a proto-Downton Abbey, portraying the lives above and below stairs at sumptuous London townhouse **165 Eaton Place.** Just a short walk from Buckingham Palace, it became arguably British TV's most famous address. It's a real house in London's **Belgravia**, although the number was slightly tweaked: 65 Eaton Place had a "1" painted in front of the number before filming. It was only used for external shots, however, and inside it's a private residence (www.updown.org.uk). The 2010 BBC sequel, starring Keeley Hawes, Eileen Atkins and Ed Stoppard, was set at the same fictional address – although this time the exterior shots were filmed at the Regency-style Clarendon Square in **Royal Leamington Spa**, Warwickshire, west England (www.royal-leamington-spa.co.uk).

Coronation Street

The iconic soap opera recently moved premises to a brand new set at Salford Quays' MediaCity but fans are in luck, because the old set – the show's base for 53 years at **Granada studios** in Manchester, north-west England – has been opened to the public until October. Several group tours per day take in the green room, actors' dressing rooms, costume and make-up departments, characters' houses, the factory and, most excitingly of all, the interior of the Rovers Return Inn, before finishing on Weatherfield's famous cobbles. Hurry, though - the tour is being billed as a "final, privileged visit" before the site is redeveloped later this year (for info and tickets, visit www.ticketmaster.co.uk/coronationstreet).



Visit the Rovers Return on a trip to the Coronation Street studio!

Mr Bean

Rowan Atkinson's rubber-faced, accident-prone silent clown character made his debut on New Year's Day 1990 and has since become a worldwide phenomenon. Only 14 episodes of the TV series were made but it's been exported to virtually every corner of the globe, won an International Emmy and the Golden Rose of Montreux, spawned two films and a cartoon spin-off. Mr Bean even appeared at the opening ceremony of the London 2012 Summer Olympics. Memorable set-pieces were filmed at two London parks: big, beautiful **Richmond Park** and **Battersea Park**, by Henry Moore's Three Standing Figures statue (www.royalparks.org.uk, www.batterseapark.org). When Mr Bean went to the seaside, it was to South Parade and Clarence piers in **Portsmouth, Hampshire**, and pebbly **Peacehaven Beach**, near Lewes in East Sussex, all in south-east England (www.visitportsmouth.co.uk, www.ukbeachdays.co.uk). Putter-and-ball-based hilarity ensued when Mr Bean went to Eternit Crazy Golf in **Maidenhead, Berkshire**, which is around an hour's drive from London.

Doctor Who

The BBC's much-loved time travel drama celebrated its 50th birthday last year and remains a key part of British popular culture. There are locations for devotees to visit all over Britain but a fan's first port of call should be the interactive **Doctor Who Experience** in Cardiff Bay, south Wales – the



The Forest of Dean was a filming location for Doctor Who – go back in time...

show's spiritual home, where visitors can star in their very own adventure by flying the Tardis and fighting monsters. It boasts a vast collection of props and costumes, runs behind-the-scenes set visits when the studio isn't being used for filming and also, weather permitting, **weekend walking tours** of key Cardiff locations (www.doctorwhoexperience.com). Cardiff is two hours by train from London. Elsewhere, Bad Wolf Bay, scene of the tear-jerking farewell between the Doctor and Rose Tyler in Doomsday, was supposed to be in Norway. It's actually scenic **Southerndown beach**, 24 miles from Cardiff in Bridgend. Its spectacular sedimentary cliffs also stood in for the crash site in *The Time Of Angels* and the ark's engine room in *Dinosaurs On A Spaceship* (www.britishbeaches.info). Also seen in *The Time of Angels* and its follow-up *Flesh And Stone* were the Maze of the Dead caves and magical forest of Byzantium –both filmed in **The Forest of Dean**, Gloucestershire, west England (www.visitforestofdean.co.uk). The forest is also home to mining museum **Clearwell Caves**, which was the Sycorax spaceship in *The Christmas Invasion*, the beast's prison in *The Satan Pit* and Vesuvius in *The Fires Of Pompeii* (www.clearwellcaves.com). Finally, for a location from the 50th anniversary special, there's **Chepstow Castle** in Monmouthshire, Wales, close to the west England border: the oldest surviving post-Roman stone fortification in Britain, dating back to 1067 (www.cadw.wales.gov.uk).



Idyllic Dorset is the backdrop to crime drama Broadchurch

Broadchurch

The crime thriller starring David Tennant and Olivia Colman, about the impact of a schoolboy's death on a small community, was the British TV hit of 2013 and returns in early 2015 for a sequel. The dramatic cliffs of **West Bay** on the Jurassic Coast of Dorset, south-west England, provided the backdrop to the drama (www.westbay.co.uk). During shooting, the cast and crew stayed at **The Bull boutique hotel** in Bridport, a mere two miles away, and the caravans on **Freshwater Beach**, which also featured on-screen (www.thebullhotel.co.uk, www.freshwaterbeach.co.uk). There's also a downloadable **Broadchurch trail**, so visitors can discover specific locations for themselves (www.visit-dorset.com).

24

Britain doesn't just provide the backdrop for home-grown productions. It was also the setting for rogue agent Jack Bauer's comeback in high-octane US export *24: Live Another Day*. Many **sights around central London** were used, including Trafalgar Square, The Mall and the Palace Of Westminster. There was an explosion at national football ground **Wembley Stadium** in north-west London, while the dead-drop location was a canal boat moored in cool, buzzing Camden Lock (www.wembleystadium.com, www.camdenlock.net). Terrorist Margot Al-Harazi's base is Tudor manor house **Dorney Court in Buckinghamshire** (an hour's drive from London), which dates from 1440 and has also been seen in *Jonathan Creek, Midsomer Murders* and *Poirot* (dorneycourt.co.uk).

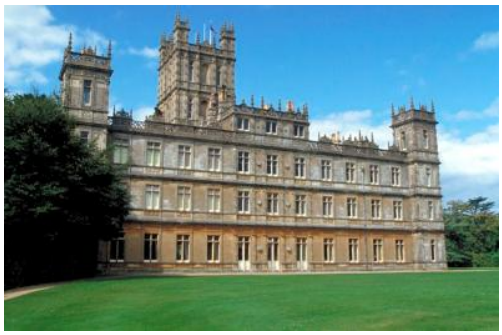
Merlin

The BBC's Arthurian fantasy-adventure series was broadcast in 183 countries and was much-loved across the generations. It was filmed mainly in France and Wales, with locations in the latter including **Dunraven Bay** near Bridgend, south Wales, also seen in BBC stable-mate *Doctor Who* and the vast, atmospheric caves at **Porth yr Ogof** (www.britishbeaches.info, www.ogof.org.uk). **Puzzlewood in the Forest Of Dean** provided another suitably magical

setting, along with two Kent, south-east England, locations: 14th-century manor house **Penshurst Place** and the eerie subterranean **Chislehurst Caves** (www.puzzlewood.net, www.penshurstplace.com, www.chislehurst-caves.co.uk).

A Downton Abbey tour of Britain

If watching *Downton Abbey* makes you wish you were in a magnificent stately home set in beautiful grounds, about to settle down to a nice afternoon tea, you don't need a time machine: visit the real Downton Abbey and discover some of the stunning locations from series three.



Highclere Castle is the real life setting of Downton Abbey – and you can visit

Highclere Castle in Berkshire (south-east England) is the real life castle that plays the role of Downton Abbey, fictional home to the Earl of Grantham, his glamorous wife, daughters and a host of servants. The Victorian castle is set amid 1,000 acres of parkland that is really as beautiful as it looks on screen. The actual residents are the Earl and Countess of Carnarvon, whose family have lived on the site since 1679. *Downton Abbey* author Julian Fellowes is a longstanding friend of the family and had Highclere in mind as the home of the Granthams while writing the series. Make a trip over Easter or during summer when the castle is open to visitors and truly step into Downton life; take tea at the café, stroll the garden pensively just like Lady Mary, Edith or Sybil, and admire the sumptuous bedrooms, many of which are used during filming. Highclere is located around 90 minutes from London by train. www.highclerecastle.co.uk/downton-abbey.html

If you want to sleep in the same room as your Downton heroes (albeit without them there), book in at **The Carnarvon Arms**, a Grade-II former coach house of neighbouring Highclere Castle. Only a short distance from Highclere, during filming The Carnarvon is occupied by the Downton cast, having recently undergone restoration by British celebrity chef Marco Pierre White and his team to become a luxury country inn hideaway. What could be better than guaranteed delicious pub grub, a traditional British inn experience and the possibility that you may catch a glimpse of your favourite member of the Crawley family at the bar? www.thecarnarvonarmshotel.com



The Swan Inn, where Lady Sybil eloped to with the chauffeur – you too can hole up in the cosy pub

The Cotswolds range of hills in south-west England has been designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and is quintessential England at its loveliest. The area is just north of Highclere's Berkshire, and can be reached in less than two hours from London. In Series 2 it was the site of scandal when Lady Sybil eloped with the family chauffeur, Branson. The pair went to **Swinbrook** in the Oxfordshire Cotswolds, a pretty village where time seems to have stood still, and were filmed at the Swan Inn, a beautiful boutique inn that makes for an idyllic base from which to explore the area (www.theswanswinbrook.co.uk). The Cotswolds is also the site of the wedding between Lady Mary and the ill-fated Matthew in the



Sigh! Mary and Matthew married here - Bampton Church in The Cotswolds

third series. It's rumoured that the union was filmed at the picturesque village of **Bampton**, which is also where the series' characters come to post telegrams at the Post Office. Stop off at the shingle-roofed Bampton Coffee House for a quintessentially English tea and scones or a spot of lunch at the Vineyard at Stockcross, an elegant hotel with a great restaurant and an impressive wine cellar. Maggie Smith, Downton's resident Dame, is rumoured to have stayed here during filming. www.cotswolds.info/places/bampton.shtml, www.the-vineyard.co.uk.

A rather unhappier storyline of the third series saw character John Bates locked up in York prison for the murder of his former wife. On closer inspection, it is actually **Lincoln Castle**, situated a couple of hours south of York, that played the part of the prison. This is the popular tourist attraction's debut in *Downton Abbey* and the castle is set to feature in several episodes of the new series. As well as its Downton fame, Lincoln Castle is home to the Lincoln Magna Carta, which dates back to 1215, as well as the Charter of the Forest, a 1217 document that made sure England's forests weren't taken over by the aristocracy – history buffs will be pleased to learn that Lincoln Castle is the only place where you can see the two documents together in the world. www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/visiting/historic-buildings/lincoln-castle,



Inverary Castle, home to the Duke of Argyll, was the Scottish home of the Lady Rose in Downton series 3

In series four, Lady Rose becomes a more frequent character. Her Scottish family home, called Duneagle Castle, was actually filmed at **Inveraray Castle**, the ancestral home of the Duke of Argyll, located around 60 miles from Glasgow. Visitors can explore the beautiful architecture and the historic artefacts in the castle and then take one of the many walks and avenues of the Argyll Estate, which date back to the mid-17th century. www.inveraray-castle.com/home.html

For anyone wanting the whole package, Brit Movie Tours offers a **Downton Abbey Experience**, allowing fans to experience life above and below stairs. Small group tours will take in all of the main locations featured in the show and give visitors the chance to experience aspects of Edwardian life first hand. Guests will hear anecdotes about the cast, filming and the production before stepping back in time and living life as an Edwardian aristocrat. www.britmovietours.com/bookings/downton-abbey-tour-experience

See the VisitBritain shop for tours of the Cotswolds and York, as well as Brit Rail passes to get you there www.visitbritainshop.com

Date like a Downton Lady

If your beloved is a Downton Abbey fanatic – or, let's face it, if you are – surprise them by booking a romantic trip to the land of Lord and Lady Grantham. Series 4 had us smitten by the glamorous backdrop of the roaring Twenties, and series 5 will kick off in 1924, so whether you see yourself as more of a Lady Mary, Rose or Edith, there's a jazz-age Downton-style date to suit you.

Lady Rose

Without a doubt the most fun-loving of the Downton gals, Rose has a penchant for getting dressed up to the nines and dancing the night away, not heading for home until the wee hours of the morning. If you and your beau or belle are in the first flushes of romance and want to paint the town red, or else it's you and the girls planning a getaway to remember, take a trip to London. The capital dazzles Rose with its jazz bars, and today's nightlife is no less exciting. If jazz is your bag, book a table at Ronnie Scott's. The club might be world famous, but it still feels like you've stumbled upon something exciting when you walk in – order a cherry brandy and soak up some of the best jazz in town. www.ronniescotts.co.uk

For true 1920s immersion, head to – shhhh! – a Prohibition party at the art deco Bloomsbury Ballroom, where you'll sip cocktails from a teacup and whirl around to the Charleston. The dress code is strict – think top hats for the chaps, pearls for the girls.www.prohibition1920s.com (check website for dates coming up).

Rose would certainly swoon at the sight of a candlelit room full of dapper gents and dazzling girls, which is what you find at the Candlelight Club. The location for this regular pop-up remains clandestine until you purchase your tickets online but, wherever it is, you can be sure of one thing – it's where the party is. www.thecandlelightclub.com

Rose is originally a Scottish lass – indeed, her fabulous family pile Duneagle Castle (actually the stunning Inveraray Castle) was the holiday destination of the Granthams and Crawleys at the end of Season 3, but she left for the bright lights of London as soon as she could. If Lady Rose was around in the 21st century she mightn't have felt the need to flee, seduced instead by the party scene on offer in buzzing Glasgow. Granted the status of UNESCO City of Music, you can follow your ears to a good night out any time. There are countless great venues, suited to all passions – the Glasgow City of Music website has up to the minute listings, and you can sort by genre, from world and country to hip hop and swing. www.glasgowcityofmusic.com



Dance the night away at The Candlelight Club's prohibition party like Lady Rose

Lady Edith

Downton Abbey's resident writer, Lady Edith, attracts the attentions of intelligent and cultured Michael Gregson, editor of *The Sketch*, at the start of Series 4. If your romance is built on good conversation over long dinner dates, don a dapper ensemble and step out with the object of your affections at The Criterion in London's Piccadilly, the romantic site of the pair's first kiss. It first opened in 1874, and was the place to see and be seen in Edith's day. The menu is Modern European, and, if you're feeling really loved up, there's a special 1kg Galloway forerib for two to share on the menu. www.criterionrestaurant.com

Downton Abbey is a fictional estate, situated in the very real county of Yorkshire, set close to the villages of Ripon and Thirsk (which may ring a bell, as characters often allude to them in the show). It's one of the prettiest pockets of England and also the county that's home to the most Michelin-starred restaurants outside London – so for more wining and dining, head to



Dine in elegance at The Criterion like Lady Edith

Edith's home turf. The Black Swan at Oldstead has delicious à la carte, set, vegetarian and Sunday roast menus, as well as four inviting bedrooms, each with its own private terrace (www.blackswanoldstead.co.uk). The Yorke Arms is another delectable restaurant with rooms in the area (www.yorke-arms.co.uk), while the Pipe and Glass Inn dates way back before Downton days to the 15th century, and will offer you some of the most mouthwatering food you've ever eaten in a pub. (www.pipeandglass.co.uk)

Lady Mary

Of course romance seemed the last thing on Lady Mary's mind as Series 4 opened, but it wasn't long before potential suitors began to flock around her. Mary might not seem a ruddy-cheeked 'country lass', but the eldest daughter of the Earl and Countess is fiercely protective of Downton Abbey, and passionate about her newly acquired land. It's safe to say she's much more into stately homes than the temptations of urban life. Mary is no shrinking violet when it comes to outdoor pursuits – remember her horse riding with the ill-fated Turkish diplomat in Series 1?! If you too love your horses, book into super-chic Coworth Park, part of the Dorchester Collection. It's grand and glam, a 17th century mansion and polo estate located just 45 minutes away from central London by train or car. If you want to get riding, saddle up on one of the hotel's beautiful, well-trained steeds and explore the extensive grounds at a gallop. If you are a novice rider, or want to improve, you and your loved one can take lessons in basic riding as well as dressage and jumping. The amazing spa will soothe any tired legs afterwards.www.dorchestercollection.com/en/ascot/coworth-park

Another country retreat we can picture Lady Mary approving of is Llangoed Hall, located on the edge of the lush Brecon Beacons in Wales – clay pigeon shooting can be arranged on request, an activity that will instantly make you feel like an extra in Downton. The hotel has a fascinating history – first in possession of the MacNamara family having been won in a card game in the 17th century, it was re-designed as a country house in 1912 by Clough Williams Ellis. Sir Bernard Ashley – husband of designer Laura Ashley – bought the property in 1987 and opened it as a hotel in 1990. Today it is one of the cosiest and most romantic destinations in Wales – indeed it won Wales's Hotel of the Year last year *and* Conde Nast's Best Restaurant Award for 2014. Each of its rooms and suites reference Laura Ashley in the furnishings, with every little detail taken care of to make your stay special, like fresh flowers and decanters of sherry in each room. But when it comes to beverages, Lady Mary loves her tea – and luckily Llangoed Hall's afternoon tea is impeccable, complete with delicious homemade cakes and scones, all to be enjoyed in front of roaring fires in the Morning Room. www.llangoedhall.co.uk



Take tea like a Lady at Llangoed Hall in Wales

On location – coming up in Britain

Britain has a long history of film-making across the destination, a trend that looks set to continue with a raft of big movies and TV shows shot here in the pipeline over the next few years. So get the preview that all film fans will want to see when the movies are released and visit the locations that inspired the story, the look and the feel of the films.



Disney magic at Dover Castle in Kent – reported to be a movie location for the upcoming film Into the Woods

Movies

Into the Woods

Disney is waving its magic wand over Britain with a raft of movies being filmed across the destination. *Into the Woods*, released on Christmas Day in the US, features a top cast, including Meryl Streep, Emily Blunt, Johnny Depp and Anna Kendrick. Filming locations are said to include **Dover Castle** in Kent, **Waverley Abbey** in Surrey and Buckinghamshire (all in south-east England and around an hour by train or car from London) and the movie will tell the story of a witch who conspires to teach important lessons to various children's characters including Little Red Riding Hood, Cinderella, Jack and the Beanstalk and Rapunzel. www.english-heritage.org.uk/daysout/properties/dover-castle, www.waverleyabbeyhouse.org.uk/home

God Help the Girl

Released this year at film festivals around the world, *God Help the Girl* is set in Glasgow, Scotland, and tells the story of a girl called Eve who starts writing songs as a way to get better from emotional problems she is suffering. The movie is written and directed by Belle & Sebastian's lead singer, Stuart Murdoch, who music lovers can hear from at the Edinburgh International Film Festival this summer. Glasgow is a hot city for music fans and has spawned bands such as Travis, Franz Ferdinand and Texas, plus has plenty of live music venues to choose from (http://peoplemakeglasgow.com). **King Tut's Wah Wah Hut** is said to be where British band Oasis were signed while the **Glasgow Barrowland Ballroom** promises perfect acoustics and the best live music in the city. www.kingtuts.co.uk, www.glasgow-barrowland.com



Glasgow is a music oasis - and the city's King Tut's Wah Wah Hut is even where the band Oasis were said to have been first signed!

Pride

Filmed in London and Wales and set in the summer of 1984 when Margaret Thatcher is in power, *Pride* tells the story of a group of gay and lesbian activists who decide to raise money to support families of striking miners and, when rejected by the Miners Union, they set off to Wales to deliver it to a remote mining village in person. The heart-warming romantic comedy will be released later this year and, with same-sex marriage legal in England and Wales, Britain is the perfect honeymoon destination. Head for the idyllic village of **Portmeirion** in Wales, which was built by by Sir Clough Williams-Ellis, and inspired by his love of classic Italian towns like Portofino (www.portmeirion-village.com). Or, enjoy a

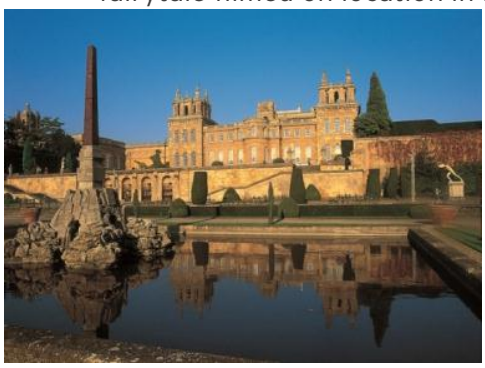


With same-sex marriage legal in England and Wales, idyllic Portmeirion in Wales makes a fine honeymoon destination

beachside getaway in **Brighton** on England's south coast, just an hour from London (www.visitbrighton.com). Spend the day on the iconic Brighton pier – thrillseekers will love the pier's rides and amusements – and complete your evening with champagne and oysters at Riddle and Finns, where almost everything on the menu is an aphrodisiac.

Cinderella

Next year sees the release of Disney's *Cinderella*, a new live action adaptation of the popular fairytale filmed on location in Britain. Made by British director, Kenneth Branagh, and starring many British cast, including Lily James (*Downton Abbey*) as Cinderella and Helena Bonham Carter as the Fairy Godmother, the movie will showcase **romantic Britain**. Filming locations include the Old Royal Naval College in London's Greenwich and Blenheim Palace in Oxfordshire (www.ornc.org, www.blenheimpalace.com). To create your own fairytale in Britain, there are many romantic boltholes for Cinders and her Prince to begin their 'happily ever after', from **Hever Castle** in south-east England (which dates back to the 13th century) to **Ruthin Castle** in Wales, which comes complete with a luxury spa (www.hevercastle.co.uk, www.ruthincastle.co.uk). Of course Cinderella will need a suitably attractive 'glass' slipper – hot designers Nicholas Kirkwood or Charlotte Olympia should do the trick, both available at department stores **Selfridges** and **Harvey Nichols.** www.selfridges.com, www.harveynichols.com



Create your own fairytale romance at Oxfordshire's Blenheim Palace. Credit Blenheim Palace

Far from the Madding Crowd

Far from the Madding Crowd has been shot on location in Dorset, south-west England (around 2.5 hours' drive from London) and stars British actress Carey Mulligan in the latest adaptation of the famous **Thomas Hardy** novel. Filming locations are said to include the picturesque town of Sherborne and country houses, Mapperton at Beaminster – surrounded by rolling hills and countryside – and Forde Abbey in Somerset, which includes a fruit farm for visitors to pick their own berries. www.mapperton.com, www.fordeabbey.co.uk

Kingsman: The Secret Service

Twentieth Century Fox's new movie, *Kingsman: The Secret Service*, released in autumn 2014, will feature Colin Firth as a suave, experienced secret agent showing the ropes to a new young recruit. The Bond-esque movie will feature Firth in dapper suits working at a tailor shop on **Savile Row**, which has a secret doorway through to a room packed with gadgets and weapons. Fans of the movie can dress just like the film's characters too with the launch of a new Kingsman clothing collection put together by the movie's costume designer Arianne Phillips. Launching on Mr Porter, men can pull off the Kingsman look themselves with Phillips' suits, jackets and trousers, as well as George Cleverley footwear, Turnbull & Asser shirts, Drakes' ties and Bremont watches.



Like the suave secret agent look? Head to London's Savile Row for a bespoke suit

The Imitation Game

Picturesque Dorset, south-west England, is the location use for new movie, *The Imitation Game*, starring Benedict Cumberbatch and Keira Knightley, released this November in the UK. The historical drama tells the real life story of code-breaker Alan Turing. Locations, including Sherborne, a market town in Dorset, as well as Bletchley Park were used. Once Britain's best kept secret where codebreakers worked, Bletchley Park is now a vibrant tourism attraction with themed events and family fun days. www.bletchleypark.org.uk

Bond 24

It's rumoured that the latest Bond movie will start filming this September but the makers aren't giving much away! With many previous Bond movies being filmed in Britain, from *Skyfall,* which shot at Glencoe in Scotland, to *Goldfinger*, which saw Sean Connery filming at Stoke Park Golf Club in Buckinghamshire, there are dozens of locations to follow in 007's footsteps (www.visitscotland.com, www.stokepark.com). Britain is also the perfect place to live the Bond lifestyle and relish in the faster, finer things in life. Get your adrenaline-pumping on a high-speed RIB boat ride down the Thames or sample a martini, shaken not stirred, at Duke's Bar in London's Mayfair, which was frequented by Bond creator Ian Fleming. www.londonribvoyages.com, www.dukeshotel.com



A stay at Stoke Park means you'll be treading in the footsteps of Sean Connery's 007 – scenes from Goldfinger were filmed here

Through the Looking Glass

Coming up in 2016, Disney will release *Through the Looking Glass*, a sequel to *Alice in Wonderland*. Johnny Depp and Helena Bonham Carter are said to be reprising their roles with filming rumoured to be taking place in Britain. The *Alice in Wonderland* story was originally written by English author Lewis Carroll and Oxford is considered the birthplace of the story as Carroll lived in Oxford for most of his life as a student and then as a don at the college of Christ Church. While you might not follow a white rabbit and fall down a rabbit-hole, you can take in locations that inspired Carroll's writing on an Alice in Wonderland guided walk through Oxford or visit Alice's Shop with the number '83' stamped on a red door, which is said to be the shop where the real Alice bought her barley sugar sweets (www.aliceinwonderlandshop.co.uk). To create your own Alice adventure, download the new app, *Follow the White Rabbit*, and follow a digital 3D audio-visual trail through Llandudno in north Wales where the real Alice used to holiday. www.alicetowntrails.co.uk



Embark on your own Alice in Wonderland adventure in north Wales' Llandudno. Credit VisitBritain - Lee Beel

Macbeth

Michael Fassbender and Marion Cotillard will star in a new adaptation of William Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, filmed on location in Scotland and England. Locations are said to include the magnificent Norman Ely Cathedral in Cambridgeshire, east England, and Bamburgh Beach in Northumberland, north-east England. The vast sand beach is set against the iconic Bamburgh

Castle and is a popular spot for watersports (www.visitnorthumberland.com). Scottish locations are rumoured to include the Isle of Skye, a gem of an island located off the west coast of Scotland. www.visitscotland.com



Channel your inner Tarzan and swing from trees and walk across rope bridges at Go Ape activity courses

Tarzan

Warner Bros. is getting ready to release a new adaptation of *Tarzan* in 2016 with scenes shot in Britain. While you might not immediately associate the king of the jungle with Britain, the destination boasts dramatic countryside to recreate your own Tarzan-style adventure. Go Ape activity courses are located around Britain – fly down a zip wire, lead off Tarzan Swings or tackle obstacles high up in the tree tops, all set against breathtaking scenery (www.goape.co.uk). If zip wires are your thing, Wales is home to the longest zip wire in the Northern hemisphere. Over a mile in length, Velocity is located in Penrhyn Quarry and you can fly solo through the skies at more than 100mph, 500ft in the air, definitely giving Tarzan a run for his money in the speed stakes. www.zipworld.co.uk

BFG

Roald Dahl classic, the *BFG*, aka the Big Friendly Giant, is coming to the silver screen in 2016 with movie mastermind Steven Spielberg in the director's seat. 2016 will mark the centenary of Welsh author Roald Dahl's birth with the movie visualising the popular children's story about a young girl, the Queen of England and the BFG who set out on an adventure to capture the evil, man-eating giants who have invaded the human world. Learn more about the author at the Roald Dahl Museum and Story Centre in Buckinghamshire, south-east England, or visit Cardiff, the capital city of Wales, and visit the Little Norwegian Church in Cardiff Bay where Roald Dahl was baptised. www.visitwales.com, www.roalddahl.com



Take a tour of the Houses of Parliament in the same vein as Mission Impossible's Ethan Hunt – although you can enjoy an afternoon tea there too!

Mission Impossible 5

Tom Cruise has confirmed that the next instalment of *Mission Impossible* will be filmed in London with locations said to include the Houses of Parliament, The Shard, Olympic Stadium and Emirates Airline cable cars. Follow in the footsteps of Ethan Hunt in London by taking a tour of the Houses of Parliament at Westminster – including afternoon tea – or scale 72 floors to the top of The Shard, western Europe's tallest building for stunning views of the capital's skyline. www.viewfromtheshard.com

TV

Evermoor

Cheshire's Arley Hall, near the village of Great Budworth, will be the star location for Disney Channel's first ever TV mini-series, *Evermoor* (www.arleyhallandgardens.com). The series will air in 160 countries this autumn and, in some markets, will air as a TV movie. It follows the

adventures of a teenager named Tara Crossley who moves from the US and discovers quirky Britain. Arley Hall and Gardens are open to visitors so Disney fans struck by *Evermoor*'s beautiful locations can explore the impressive Victorian-age country house that was built in an Elizabethan style, or visit nearby Great Budworth, a quintessentially English village complete with thatched cottages and charming inns.



The quirky, quintessentially British Arley Hall sums up the charm of Disney Channel's mini-series Evermoor

Wolf Hall

Hilary Mantel's Booker Prize-winning novel, *Wolf Hall*, is being turned into a new TV series for the BBC and PBS MASTERPIECE in the US. Damian Lewis will play Henry VIII opposite Mark Rylance as Thomas Cromwell in the series that will air in 2015. Filming has begun in Somerset, Dorset and Wiltshire, south-west England, including at six National Trust properties across the region such as Montacute House, a masterpiece of Elizabethan Renaissance architecture, and Barrington Court near Ilminster, which dates back to Tudor times (www.nationaltrust.org.uk). You can also follow in the show's footsteps at its other filming locations, which include Lacock Abbey in rural Wiltshire, Great Chalfield Manor and the Jacobean Chastleton House.



Lacock Abbey is one of the backdrops to the much-anticipated TV series of Wolf Hall

The Crown

Netflix is planning a £100m new epic drama all about the Queen. *The Crown* will focus on Queen Elizabeth II's six decades on the throne from 1952 to the present day and will be Netflix's first original production to be filmed in Britain. The series is due to start filming next year and, with royal locations all over Britain, all eyes will be on Britain's royal family once again.

Outlander

New US TV series *Outlander* has been filmed on location in Scotland with castles and the Highlands providing a dramatic backdrop for the new multi-million pound show, set in the lead up to the Battle of Culloden. Described as Scotland's answer to the *Game of Thrones*, the series has been shot at locations including Doune Castle, a magnificent late 14th-century courtyard castle, which features a 100ft high gatehouse. The show is also said to have filmed at George Square in Glasgow, Perthshire and Loch Rannoch. www.visitscotland.com

Knifeman



The splendour of York Minster is an important part of the city's colourful 2,000-year history

York in the north of England has been doubling for 18th century London in a new drama, *Knifeman*, from the makers of *Breaking Bad* and *Mad Men*. The new series will star Tom Hollander. The historic city is said to be Britain's best-preserved medieval city, home to more than 2,000 years of colourful history. Visit the impressive York Minster, one of Britain's most magnificent cathedrals, or chocoholics will love York's Chocolate Story, where you can discover the history of York's chocolate families with tasty treats along the way. http://yorkschocolatestory.com

Poldark

A new series of *Poldark* is currently filming in Britain with locations including Cornwall, Bristol and Wiltshire. Stars have been spotted filming on the cliff above Porthgwarra beach in Cornwall, south-west England, just two miles from the famous Land's End. The romantic coastal location makes an idyllic getaway with accommodation options including pretty cottages, castles and lighthouses (www.visitcornwall.com). Locations are also said to include Chavenage House in beautiful Cotswolds countryside, a traditional manor house. www.chavenage.com

Follow in the footsteps of your favourite actors

British film and TV stars

Benedict Cumberbatch

The lead actor in Sherlock often mentions in interviews how much he loves Hampstead Heath in London, including going for walks on this historic wilderness – and even going for a swim in its Ponds, which are natural spring-fed swimming pools. He also likes visiting local pubs – he's previously recommended the burgers at The Stag in Fleet Road (www.thestaghampstead.com). Another favourite restaurant in the centre of London is Pollen Street Social, run by chef Jason Atherton. www.pollenstreetsocial.com



Hampstead Heath is a favourite London spot for Benedict Cumberbatch. Credit @VisitBritain - Britain on View

Carey Mulligan

Born in London, Mulligan was educated at Woldingham, a boarding school in the leafy county of Surrey, just outside the capital. Recently, Carey has been filming in London with Meryl Streep in *Suffragette* and also in an adaptation of the Thomas Hardy classic novel *Far From the Madding Crowd*. Filmed largely in Dorset, south-west England, where Hardy set most of his novels, locations include the town of Sherborne. Carey's husband Marcus is part of the Mumford & Sons band; she's previously accompanied him to Glastonbury festival.



Dorset - where Carey Mulligan has recently been filming an adaptation of Far From the Madding Crowd. Credit ©VisitBritain - Adam Burton

Catherine Zeta Jones

Proudly Welsh, Catherine comes from Swansea in south Wales (a 3.5-hour train journey from London) – and still has a home in the seaside resort of Mumbles, regularly spending holidays with her family there. A few years ago, she and her family caught up on their Welsh ancestry by visiting the Gower Heritage Centre (www.gowerheritagecentre.co.uk). This open-air museum has a fully working water mill and showcases crafts from the region. A keen golfer, she's played at St Andrews in Scotland.

Colin Firth

Brought up near Winchester, a beautiful cathedral city on the south coast of England, around a 90-minute drive from London, the *Bridget Jones' Diary* and *Mamma Mia* star now lives in Chiswick, a leafy, family-minded area in west London near the River Thames; you'll find some lovely waterside pubs here. His new film, also starring Nicole Kidman, *Before I Go To Sleep*, is a psychological thriller that is set and filmed in London.

Damian Lewis

The star of *Homeland* is a huge fan of Liverpool Football Club and goes to as many of their games as possible. He lives in north London with his wife, actress Helen McCrory (who appeared in the latest Bond film *Skyfall*



Damian Lewis supports Liverpool FC and likes to catch a game at its Anfield ground. Credit ©VisitBritain Rod Edwards

and as Narcissa Malfoy in the Harry Potter films); the previous owner of their house was actor Hugh Laurie, the star of the US medical drama *House*! Damian has also given a reading at the Hay Festival, held each May in the book-minded town on the border between England and Wales. Recently, as the star of the film *The Silent Storm*, due for release later this year, he was on the Scottish island of Mull in the Inner Hebrides; reach it by train from Glasgow and a ferry from Oban – it is one of the wildest, most beautiful islands in Scotland.

Daniel Craig

The James Bond actor was born in the historic town of Chester, north-west England. His parents ran pubs for a living, including The Ring O Bells in the Cheshire village of Frodsham (www.ringobells.org.uk). Now, Daniel Craig and his wife actress Rachel Weisz spend time near the trendy London enclave of Primrose Hill and enjoy walks on Hampstead Heath.

Daniel Radcliffe

The Harry Potter star was born and bred in Fulham, west London and still has a flat there. Recently, he's been on stage at the Noel Coward Theatre in *The Cripple of Inishmaan* and also filming *Frankenstein* with James McAvoy. A keen cricket fan, Daniel has attended matches at both the Oval and Lords in London (www.kiaoval.com, www.lords.org). He's also been known to eat at The Ivy, a famous restaurant in London's theatreland, which has been serving customers since 1916. www.the-ivy.co.uk

Emma Thompson

The star of *Saving Mr Banks*, and writer of the forthcoming *Annie* film lives in West Hampstead in London, on the same street as her mother, actress Phyllida Law. During holiday time, she heads to Scotland (where her mother was born). In particular, to a remote corner of Argyll, where her family have a cottage near Loch Eck. An hour west of Glasgow, this is a beautiful and peaceful part of Scotland – and Emma describes it as 'part of her DNA'. In 2003, she married her long-term partner Greg Wise (they met on the set of *Sense and Sensibility)* at the Coylet Inn there. www.thecoyletinn.co.uk

Henry Cavill

As a child, the lead of Superman went to Stowe School in Buckinghamshire, around a 90-minute drive from London – some of the grounds are open to the public (www.nationaltrust.org.uk/stowe). Most recently, he's been filming the *Man From U.N.C.L.E* – locations include the Old Royal Naval College in London's Greenwich. Away from the film set, he sticks closely to upmarket Kensington and has been known to party at the Alpine-themed club Bodo Schloss (also a favourite with Prince Harry) as well as The Builder's Arms. www.bodosschloss.com, www.thebuildersarmskensington.co.uk

Hugh Grant

The *Notting Hill* and *Love Actually* actor has a house in Stinchcombe, Gloucestershire, in the heart of the picturesque Cotswolds; he's a keen golfer so it's fortunate there's a good course there! He's also been known to play at St Andrews in Scotland during the Dunhill Championship alongside Samuel L Jackson and Michael Douglas. In London, he's a fan of the venerable London restaurants J Sheekey, known for its seafood, and the Wolseley, on Piccadilly, near to the Ritz. www.j-sheekey.co.uk, www.thewolseley.com

Idris Elba

Star of *The Wire* and *Mandela: The Long Walk to Freedom*, Idris' heart belongs to London. He grew up in Hackney, in the east of the capital, and loves the pubs around there. He also claims that Obalende Suya in Dalston serves the best Nigerian food in London. He's a keen fan of Arsenal Football Club. Based at the Emirates Stadium in north London you can book tours of the stadium. www.visitbritainshop.com

Kate Winslet

Born in Reading (around 30 minutes from London by train), Kate heads back to her home town regularly, including for the Womad Festival when it was held there (www.womad.co.uk). Having sold her London house to Gwyneth Paltrow and Chris Martin, she now lives in Sussex with her family – but does make visits to the capital, including to eat at Scott's Restaurant in Mayfair, a popular celebrity haunt. www.scotts-restaurant.com

Lena Headey

One of the leads in *Games of Thrones*, starring as Cersei Lannister, Lena spends a lot of time in the Northern Ireland capital of Belfast, where many of the scenes are filmed. Both Lena and her fellow cast members have been known to tuck into fish and chips at the local Barking Dog. www.barkingdogbelfast.com



James McAvoy has recently been filming around Manchester Town Hall for new film Frankenstein. Credit ©VisitBritain - Britain on View

James McAvoy

The *X-Men* actor was born in Scotland and brought up in Drumchapel, near Glasgow. He's married to fellow actor Anne-Marie Duff. They lead a quiet life in London, although to prepare for a role, he once spent several days working in the kitchen of Le Gavroche, in London's West End (www.le-gavroche.co.uk). Most recently, James has been filming with Harry Potter star Daniel Radcliffe. Their new film, *Frankenstein* is filmed at Manchester, including its town hall, the Northern Quarter and Albert Square.



Jude Law has been known to holiday in the Scilly Isles, off the coast of Cornwall, south-west England

Jude Law

The *Talented Mr Ripley* star was last on stage in Henry V in early 2014 at the Noel Coward Theatre in London. Away from the stage, he's been known to head to the Scilly Isles for a classic British beach holiday. He's also been in Cornwall recently to film scenes for his most recent movie, *Black Sea*. Part of the Primrose Hill set that includes Kate Moss and Daniel Craig, Jude still lives in the area – one of the pubs he's visited is The Flask in Hampstead, and he's also been seen dining at E&O in London's Notting Hill. www.rickerrestaurants.com/e-and-o, www.theflaskhampstead.co.uk

Judi Dench

Born in York, north England, Dame Judi – who played spy chief M in the recent Bond films and took the lead role in the Oscar-nominated *Philomena*, has had a glittering career both on

stage and in films. In the summer of 2014, Dame Judi was in Norfolk, east England, while filming *Tulip Fever*. Locations for this film, based on the novel by Deborah Moggach, about the 17th century craze for tulip bulbs in the Netherlands, has used the cloister of Norwich Cathedral and Holkham estate during filming (www.cathedral.org.uk, www.holkham.co.uk). Another of her favourite locations to spend time at is Hever Castle in Kent. www.hevercastle.co.uk

Keira Knightley

Keira was born in the west London suburb of Teddington, the daughter of an actor and a playwright. She still lives in the capital, often visiting local restaurants in trendy Shoreditch. In her next film, *The Imitation Game*, she stars alongside Benedict Cumberbatch, in the story of Alan Turing, a mathematician who helped solve the Enigma code at Bletchley Park, the centre of Britain's code wartime code-breaking in the Second World War. Some of the scenes were filmed at the centre, which is now a museum; you can reach it in 40 minutes from central London by train. www.bletchleypark.org.uk

Lily James

The *Downton Abbey* star had an early date with new boyfriend Matt Smith, who – until recently, played Doctor Who – by going for a meal at Pizza East in Kentish Town, which is close to Camden Market in north London (www.pizzaeast.com/kentish-town). Born in Esher, Surrey, (30 minutes by train from London), she spends a lot of the time filming for *Downton Abbey* at Highclere Castle in Berkshire (just over an hour from London by train). But when she's off-duty she prefers festivals such as Glastonbury or going to watch the Wimbledon tennis championships.

Kelly MacDonald

When not starring in US hit *Boardwalk Empire*, home for Kelly MacDonald is Glasgow, Scotland. She and her husband Dougie Payne, from the band Travis, live there. She's a big fan of the Scottish food scene, including the Michelin-starred cuisine of Gleneagles and the acclaimed Three Chimneys on the Isle of Skye, but also lower key restaurants in the city of Glasgow itself, including Stravaigin, a restaurant in Glasgow famed for its global cuisine (www.stravaigin.co.uk). She's also a fan of the Ubiquitous Chip – she was a waitress there before being cast in Danny Boyle's *Trainspotting* (www.ubiquitouschip.co.uk)



Glasgow is home for Boardwalk Empire star Kelly McDonald, who enjoys visiting the city's vibrant restaurant scene

Michael Sheen

Michael was born in south Wales and, after a short time in Liverpool, his family settled in Port Talbot in south Wales (2.5 hours by train from London). A few years ago, he directed a Passion Play, bringing over a thousand locals and professionals to perform this ancient Christian ritual in the streets of his home town. The star of *The Queen* and *Frost/Nixon* regularly appears on stage, but his latest film, *Far from the Madding Crowd,* took him to Dorset in south-west England for an adaptation of the Thomas Hardy classic novel, staying at the Bridge House Hotel in Beaminster. www.bridge-house.co.uk

Michael Fassbender



Michael Fassbender has started filming Macbeth, which has used Bamburgh Castle in Northumberland as one of the scene locations

Like many young actors, the star of *12 Years A Slave* and *Frank* likes the trendy area of Shoreditch and still has a flat there. He's been known to visit the Dove pub in London Fields – the pub has great Sunday roast lunches – and to browse among the shops of Broadway Market. (www.dovepubs.com). In 2014 Michael started filming *Macbeth*, based on the Shakespeare play; film locations include the Isle of Skye in Scotland, Bamburgh Castle in Northumberland, north England and Ely Cathedral in Cambridgeshire. www.bamburghcastle.com, www.elycathedral.org

Orlando Bloom

Born in Canterbury in Kent (less than two hours by train from London), Orlando attended Kings School there, near the city's famous cathedral. When he's in the capital, he's been known to visit the restaurants in central London's Soho. He likes to buy clothes from Paul Smith in Covent Garden and tea from the famous and venerable Fortnum & Mason on Piccadilly. This shop was started in 1707 by two of George III's footmen and has supplied the royal family with groceries ever since. www.fortnumandmason.com



The famous Canterbury Cathedral, which overlooks Orlando Bloom's home city in Kent, south-east England

Ralph Fiennes

Born in Ipswich in east England (just over an hour by train from London), Fiennes, who played Voldemort in the Harry Potter films ,will appear on stage next year at the capital's National Theatre in a production of *Man and Superman* (www.nationaltheatre.org.uk). But he hasn't always been top of the bill. When the star of *The Grand Hotel Budapest* left the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art in London, he worked as a porter in Brown's Hotel near Regent Street. www.roccofortehotels.com/hotels-and-resorts/browns-hotel

Richard Madden

Due to star in the new live-action version of *Cinderella*, Richard was born in Elderslie, Scotland (a 20-minute drive from Glasgow) and has appeared on stage, including at the Globe Theatre in London. Currently going out with Jenna Coleman of Dr Who fame, they've been photographed at Glastonbury and strolling in the streets of north London's trendy Primrose Hill.

Rowan Atkinson

A serious car enthusiast, Rowan has taken part in the Goodwood Revival several times. Based at the country estate in West Sussex, south-east England, less than two hours from London by train, this classic car event takes place each September – last year the *Mr Bean* star was driving a Lotus-Cortina (www.goodwood.co.uk). Rowan was born in County Durham, north England and, as a child, he attended Durham Choristers School, which is situated next



The city of Durham - where actor Rowan Atkinson attended school

to the 12th-century Cathedral in this historic city. Durham is around three hours from London by train.

Tom Hiddleston



Strolling along the South Bank in London is one of Tom Hiddleston's favourite things to do when he's in the capital

Born in London, the *Thor* and *Avengers* star went to Eton College as a child and then read Classics at Pembroke College in Cambridge – getting the highest award, a double first; Cambridge is less than an hour by train from London. But it's the capital, and particularly the South Bank, which holds a special place in his heart. "I must have walked up, run along and strolled down the South Bank in excess of a thousand times in the course of my life," Hiddleston says. "It is one great community of colour, carnival and culture all year long. The view east from the middle of that bridge is, to my mind, the most beautiful cityscape in the world." He's also been spotted at Nobu, a restaurant popular with celebrities in central London. www.nobutrestaurants.com

Foreign film stars

It's not just British stars who love their homes here; the nation has lured in the likes of 'Brangelina' and Johnny Depp, who jump at the chance to film in Britain and revisit some of their favourite hangouts.

Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie

Both actors know Britain well enough to call it their second home. They've lived in the leafy Richmond area, 20 minutes by train from central London, while Angelina was filming *Maleficent,* treating their kids to visits to local toyshops and puppet theatre on a barge (www.puppetbarge.com). Hollywood's premier power couple also chartered a train to travel from London to Glasgow when Brad was filming *World War Z*, before staying on the Carnell Estate; this 16th-century mansion with beautiful gardens sleeps up to 18 people and has beautiful gardens. (www.carnellestates.com). The pair has also been known to stay at the luxury hotel at 45 Park Lane. www.dorchestercollection.com/en/london/45-park-lane

George Clooney

Due to marry London-based human rights lawyer Amal Alamuddin, George has long been fond of Britain. He's made several movies here, including *The Monuments Men*, which used the Imperial War Museum in Duxford, Cambridgeshire as one of the locations and also filmed in the pretty Buckinghamshire village of Fingest; both are about two hours from London (www.iwm.org.uk/visits/iwm-duxford). He's wined and dined his fiancée in London, including at top restaurants Nobu and Berners Tavern (www.editionhotels.com/london/restaurants-and-bars) and has been known to stay at Claridges Hotel. (www.claridges.co.uk)



Imperial War Museum Duxford in Cambridge was used as a film location in The Monuments Men, starring George Clooney. Credit ©VisitBritain Rod Edwards

Gwyneth Paltrow

The house that she and former husband Chris Martin own in London once belonged to Kate Winslet. It's handy for Primrose Hill; neighbours include celebrity chef Jamie Oliver (he once took her to the Essex seaside resort of Southend, around an hour from London, for a burger! She enjoys eating out in London, rating some of her favourite restaurants as Bocca di Lupo, Taqueria and Locanda Locatelli. http://boccadilupo.com, www.taqueria.co.uk www.locandalocatelli.com

Harrison Ford

Before his recent ankle injury on the set of the new Star Wars films, the actor enjoyed several nights out in London, including a trip to acclaimed Chinese restaurant Hakkasan (http://hakkasan.com). His wife, actress Calista Flockhart, has been to see *Matilda the Musical* at the Cambridge Theatre, and the couple have previously enjoyed a holiday in Wales, taking in the Llangollen International Eisteddfod, the renowned choral music festival based in the north east of the country (http://international-eisteddfod.co.uk). While there, they stayed at the elegant Bryn Howell hotel (www.brynhowel.com).

Lindsay Lohan

In September, Lindsay will be appearing in David Mamet's play *Speed the Plow* at the Playhouse Theatre in London (www.playhousetheatrelondon.com). She's a big fan of the capital - recently she's been hanging out at the Chiltern Firehouse, the latest celebrity hotspot in Marylebone, as well as Blake's, the boutique hotel in Kensington, and Scott's restaurant, plus shopping in nearby Selfridges. www.chilternfirehouse.com, www.blakeshotels.com, www.selfridges.com



Johnny Depp enjoys trips to Rye in East Sussex, south-east England. Credit ©VisitBritain - Britain on View

Johnny Depp

The *Pirates of the Caribbean* star once said he feels at home in London and Britain and sometimes will pick a role just because it's being filmed here – allowing him go on "weird little sojourns down to Bath or Rye or Chichester, or just wandering around Canterbury." His role in *Into the Woods* saw him to head back to Rye recently, a quaint seaside town in Sussex, and to check out the Mermaid Inn. Built in 1420, this pub was once the haunt of pirates and smugglers; no doubt the actor who plays Jack Sparrow felt at home. In London, he's also been known to take fiancée Amber Head to Scott's restaurant.

Meryl Streep

The multi Oscar-winning actor has made several films in Britain, including many scenes for *Mamma Mia*. Most recently, she's been here filming two films due for release in 2014 and 2015. *Into the Woods*, Stephen Sondheim's reinterpretation of the Red Riding Hood story, has been using locations including Dover Castle (www.english-heritage.org.uk/daysout/properties/dover-castle). Meryl is also starring alongside Carey Mulligan in the first film that has



Meryl Streep and her co-stars of movie Suffragette were among the first ever to use the Houses of Parliament as a film location

featured the House of Parliament as a location – *Suffragette*, about Emmeline Pankhurst, who led the fight for women's votes in Britain. You can visit the Houses of Parliament and do your homework (and spy out filming locations!) before watching the movie (www.parliament.uk/visiting).

Nicole Kidman

Having filmed two very different films in Britain recently, Nicole is a committed fan of London. Next year sees the release of the psychological thriller *Before I Go To Sleep*, in which she plays a woman who has no memory. She also appears in the new film of *Paddington*, about a marmalade-loving little bear from Peru who comes to London. Nicole plays an evil taxidermist who has designs on his fur – some scenes were filmed in Primrose Hill in London. When not filming, Nicole's a fan of Hakkasan and the Wolseley restaurants, both in central London.

Scarlett Johansson

The US star has been in Britain to film in 2014, most recently for *Avengers: Age of Ultron*, co-starring Robert Downey Jr. When in the capital, she's been known to base herself at The Covent Garden hotel, including during the time she filmed Woody Allen's *Match Point*, which was also set there (www.firmdalehotels.com). For the new Avengers film, locations have included the futuristic Sainsbury Art Centre at the University of East Anglia, in Norwich, a two-hour journey from London by train. www.uea.ac.uk

Tom Cruise

The *Mission Impossible* actor comes to London regularly. Last year, his latest film, *Edge of Tomorrow* brought the famous Trafalgar Square to a standstill while filming a key scene. The village of Barton Stacey in Hampshire's Test Valley (around a 90-minute drive from London) also provided one of the locations. Tom enjoys London's nightlife too, visiting The Ivy, among other restaurants. Recently he was taken by his friend David Beckham to the Cow, a pub in West London (www.thecowlondon.co.uk). Further proof that he doesn't just dine in celebrity haunts, while making *Edge of Tomorrow* at Leavesden Studios, he turned up at the Veer Dhara restaurant in St Albans – 30 minutes by train from London – for a curry with some of his friends. www.veerdharauk.com

Film tours for devoted fans

Whether it's a chance to see the upstairs/downstairs life at the real Downton Abbey, have a pint of beer in a pub where fictional crime is solved or learn to fly a broomstick in the same place 'Harry Potter' once did, a tour of film and television locations is one of the best ways to enrich your knowledge of your favourite movie or show.



The dreaming spires of Oxford and its surrounding towns and villages are often chosen as the location for detective series

For super sleuths

Perhaps to counter the grisly fictional crimes that take place in some of Britain's top TV mystery and crime shows, they are often set in some of the destination's most picturesque landscapes. The attractive, tranquil villages of south Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire, around an hour's drive from London, are used to portray the unfortunate village of Midsomer in *Midsomer Murders*. Just got the day to explore? Head out from Oxford with Absolute Touring, which takes groups through the quaint villages and historic towns used on the show, such as Wallingford, Nettlebed, Ewelme, Watlington, Thame, Warborough and Dorchester. Book an excursion with Detective Tours and you'll visit the most filmed pub in the series, the police station where Barnaby works, plus there are special additions available such as dinner in a Midsomer Murders manor house. For extra sleuthing opportunities, the company also offers *Inspector Morse* tours, as does VisitOxfordshire, where you tour the scenes of his best-known cases around Oxford. www.absolutetouring.co.uk/places/midsomer-murders-country, www.detective-tours.com, www.visitoxfordandoxfordshire.com

Recent hit series *Broadchurch*, starring David Tennant and Olivia Coleman, has seen such interest grow in one of its principle set locations – West Bay on the World Heritage Jurassic Coast in Dorset, south-west England – that VisitDorset has collated the show's locations to visit on its website. www.visit-dorset.com



Are you a fan of Sherlock? Head out on a tour of the locations used in the BBC series and those featured in the books. Credit VisitBritain – Britain on View

The godfather of all the fictional detectives himself, Mr Sherlock Holmes, has been depicted on both the silver and the small screens, and fans of either the TV show or the films (or both) can relive their favourite scenes on a black London taxi tour, courtesy of Brit Movie Tours, and take in the main filming locations of the BBC Sherlock series (starring Benedict Cumberbatch and Martin Freeman). Hit the locations used for 221b Baker Street, have a complimentary cup of tea at Speedy's Café and even lie on the spot where BBC's Sherlock faked his own death! However, if you'd rather don a deerstalker and stroll about town ruminating in the manner of the shrewd detective, choose a London Walks Sherlock Holmes tour, and don't forget to pop in to the Sherlock Holmes museum on Baker Street – at number 221b of course! http://britmovietours.com/bookings/bbc-sherlock-locations-tour, www.walks.com, www.sherlock-holmes.co.uk

For a taste of the spy life

Suave, daring and heroic, James Bond has been revelling in on-screen adventures for more than half a century. And fans of this very British character can relive his exciting escapades with walking or bus tours of the inspirational London-based film locations. Brit Movie Tours offers Bond trips including lunch at the studios where the Bond films have been made (Heatherden Hall at the world-famous Pinewood Studios, less than an hour's drive from central London) while London Duck Tours take guests on a Bond-style adventure on both the road and river, enhanced with lively facts about MI5 and MI6 and stories about British spies. http://britmovietours.com/bookings/james-bond-tours, www.londonducktours.co.uk/tours/james-bond-tour



You'll almost feel like you ARE James Bond on a thrilling RIB Voyage on the River Thames

Want to get further into the Bond spirit for the day? Drivers Dream Days offer a 007 experience where you can take the wheel of an Aston Martin (the car that personifies the man and which has appeared in many of the films!) before you jump in the passenger seat for a high-speed ride around the tracks. www.driversdreamdays.co.uk/jamesbond-experience

To keep that adrenaline pumping, head out on another high-speed ride, this time on a RIB Voyage on the River Thames, hurtling across the water much like Bond did in *The World Is Not Enough*, and end up at the O2 arena, which you can now climb and imagine you're Bond scaling a London landmark. Slow down the pace after this and head to London's Dukes Hotel for a masterclass in cocktail making (shaken, not stirred of course) before exploring the Bond in Motion exhibition at the London Film Museum, where you'll come face to face with the largest official collection of James Bond vehicles. www.londonribvoyages.com, www.dukeshotel.com/foodanddrink-dukesbar-martini-masterclass.php, http://londonfilmmuseum.com/home, www.theo2.co.uk/do-more-at-the-o2/up-at-the-o2



Tour Eilean Donan Castle, which features as MI6 headquarters in The World is Not Enough

The Bond character grew up in Scotland, and many stunning scenes have been shot here, whether it's driving through Glencoe in the latest film, *Skyfall*, or Eilean Donan Castle, which featured as MI6's Scottish headquarters in *The World Is Not Enough.* Absolute Escapes offers self-guided driving itineraries that capture the essence of Bond. www.absoluteescapes.com/James-Bond-Tour Overview.html

For costume drama devotees

Fans of Edwardian aristocracy, romance and intrigue can immerse themselves in all things *Downton Abbey* on a Brit Movie Tours three-day Downton Abbey Experience. Take tea in the home of the Dowager Countess, visit London film locations used in the show, take a steam train ride (travelling along the same line that was used for scenes when Mr Bates first came to Downton) with afternoon tea, plus a tour of the house and grounds of Highclere Castle – Downton itself – all which will be peppered with anecdotes about the stars and the filming of

the hit show. Elsewhere, P&P Tours offers 'The Scotland of Downton Abbey' tour, where you'll visit the locations used in the Downton series 3 Christmas special, namely at the ancestral home of the Duke of Argyll, Inverary Castle. Here you'll embark on a tour of the Duke's private apartments. Inverary is around 90-minutes' drive from Glasgow. http://britmovietours.com/bookings/downton-abbey-tours, www.pandptours.co.uk, www.greatbritishtours.com/gbt/the-real-downton-abbey-tour.html



Downton Abbey fans should visit Inverary Castle, which features in series 3's Christmas special

For a do-it-yourself guide, you can visit locations within the Oxfordshire Cotswolds that regularly feature in the show, particularly Bampton, which doubles as the fictional village of Downton. Download a locations leaflet and start imagining you are part of the film set. However, if you'd prefer to enjoy luxury as Lord and Lady Grantham would, Great BritishTours can take you on a day's tour to include both Bampton and Highclere Castle in a chauffeur-driven car. www.oxfordshirecotswolds.org/plan-your-visit/towns-and-villages/downton-abbey-film-locations, www.greatbritishtours.com

If your heart lies more with the Regency period, P&P Tours can transport you to the film locations of the BBC's adaptation of *Pride and Prejudice.* You'll be transported back to the early 19th century with visits to Longbourn Church where Lizzie marries Darcy, enjoy dinner dressed in period costume followed by Regency dancing, plus visit the homes that became Rosings Park and the interior of Darcy's Pemberley. www.pandptours.co.uk



See mile upon mile of wonderful film and TV costumes at Angels Costumiers

If you've ever watched a costume drama and wondered where all the wonderful outfits come from, you'll be in paradise on a tour around Angels Costumiers in north London. Providing costumes for the entertainment industry for nearly two centuries, Angels will take you on a tour of its tailoring, alterations and jewellery departments as well as walk through eight miles of costumes hanging in the warehouse. www.angels.uk.com/credits.html

For sci-fi and fantasy fans

Star in your very own interactive sci-fi adventure at the Doctor Who Experience in Cardiff, Wales' capital. You'll help the Doctor solve puzzles and fend off his enemies, fly back in time in the TARDIS, explore original props, costumes and special effects from the show, as well as the exclusive sets, and come face to face with some of the Doctor's foes, such as the Daleks and Cybermen. It's a good opportunity to tie a visit here with a walking or bus tour of the series' locations, filmed in and around Cardiff, such as the Millennium Stadium and arts venue the Wales Millennium Centre. Cardiff is two hours by train from London. www.doctorwhoexperience.com, www.visitcardiff.com/things-to-do/sightseeing-and-tours

From the Doctor to the Dothraki – and the Lannisters and the Starks – *Game of Thrones* has opened up the eyes of the world to the breathtaking landscapes of Northern Ireland. Causeway Coast and Glens has launched three self-drive itineraries where you tour the wild, rugged coastline that appears as everything from Winterfell to the Iron Islands, from the Stormlands to the King's Road. There are several companies offering tours to visitors; jump



Northern Ireland's rugged coastline inspired the mythical lands in Game of Thrones

on board a coach (owned by the company who transports the cast and crew, McComb's Travel) and travel to Ballycastle – depicted as the home of Lady Catelyn Stark – Cushendun Caves and the Dark Hedges, also known as The Kings Road. Or you can really get into the throng of 'Thrones' and head to Castle Ward in Demesne, around 40-minutes' drive from Belfast. Looked after by the National Trust, the castle's farmyard was the location of Winterfell, the Whispering Wood and other key scenes including Robb Stark's camp, plus you can channel your inner Jon Snow, dress up as a *GoT* character and shoot arrows in the replica of the Winterfell Archery Range at the on-site Clearsky Adventure Centre.
www.causewaycoastandglens.com/Game-of-Thrones-Itinerary.T1163.aspx,
www.nationaltrust.org.uk/castle-ward

For wannabe wizards

Fly a broomstick, sip on a butterbeer and encounter the magical wizardry behind the scenes of the Harry Potter films at Warner Bros Studio Tours – The Making of Harry Potter. Take the train to Watford Junction and board one of the shuttle buses that will take you to the attraction, set adjacent to the working film studios where all eight of the Harry Potter films were made. The Warner Bros Studio Tour is a must for any Potter fan – or simply anyone who's interested in seeing how films are created. The tour takes you into Hogwarts' Great Hall and through the original sets, costumes, props, animatronic creatures and all the special effects, plus a breathtaking model of Hogwarts. Stock up on Hogwarts sweatshirts, chocolate frogs, collectible wands and all sorts of Potter souvenirs at the studio's gift shop. www.wbstudiotour.co.uk,

For musical maestros



Imagine you're at the French revolutionary barricades in Les Miserables with a tour at London's Old Royal Naval College, where many of the film's scenes were shot

You'll find it hard not to burst into song on a Les Miserables locations tour. Brit Movie Tours start off the excursion at the Old Royal Naval College in London's Greenwich; the college has been frequently used in film productions (*Pirates of the Caribbean 4; The Mummy Returns; Four Weddings and a Funeral* to name a few) which, in Les Mis, became the barricaded streets of revolutionary Paris. You'll then head to the Historic Dockyard Chatham in Kent, south-east England, the most filmed location of the film.
http://britmovietours.com/bookings/les-miserables-film-locations-tour

New!

Brit Movie Tours is launching a new tour, earmarked for Easter 2015, based on the film locations of the upcoming film Paddington. Check http://britmovietours.com for details as they are released.

Don't forget to visit the VisitBritain shop for James Bond and Sherlock Holmes London walking tours, Harry Potter chauffeur tours and Paddington Bear toys!
www.visitbritainshop.com

Stay at a film set

Follow in the footsteps of your favourite film stars with an overnight stay at one of these ten filming hotspots around Britain.

St Ermin's Hotel, London – *Mona Lisa; Reds; The Importance of Being Ernest; Sid and Nancy*



St Ermin's Hotel's elegant exterior and art nouveau interior have starred in many films

Enjoy a stay at the grand St Ermin's Hotel in central London, which has made the perfect backdrop to several films. It was here that Bob Hoskins arrived dressed up for his new role as minder to high-class call-girl Simone in Neil Jordan's *Mona Lisa*. Inside the hotel, the listed building's art nouveau interior became the restaurant where Diane Keaton is propositioned in Warren Beatty's 1981 epic *Reds*, while its ballroom was transformed into the Savoy's dining room in the star-studded romantic-comedy-drama of Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Ernest*. And, on the hotel's rooftop is where Gary Oldman's Sid Vicious brandishes a gun in *Sid and Nancy.* www.sterminshotel.co.uk

Ellangowan Hotel, Scotland – *The Wicker Man*

If you've ever wanted to visit the set of cult film *The Wicker Man* and socialise with the locals, the pub at the heart of the film's alternative community is part of the Ellangowan Hotel in Creetown, Scotland. The hotel has eight bedrooms and there may even be a dance in the bar where Britt Ekland, who played Willow MacGregor, had a turn around the floor in the film. www.ellangowan.co.uk

Getting there: Creetown is in Dumfries and Galloway in south-east Scotland. Trains from Glasgow to Dumfries take around two hours.

The Langham London – *Goldeneye*

The entry of this five-star hotel featured in the 17th Bond film, *Goldeneye,* in which Pierce Brosnan made his debut as the suave spy. The Langham, open since 1865 and famed as London's oldest grand hotel, was the perfect choice to depict the elegant Grand Hotel Europe in St Petersburg and is a great place to stage your own adventure. With 380 luxurious rooms and suites, the hotel is famous as a location for society weddings, afternoon tea in its Palm Court and cocktails at the Artesian bar where you too can enjoy a Martini – shaken, not stirred of course. www.london.langhamhotels.co.uk



The Langham's entrance was a prominent feature in Bond film Goldeneye

Ty Mawr Mansion, Cilcennin, Wales – *The Edge of Love*

The charming seaside town of New Quay in west Wales is where Keira Knightley, Sienna Miller and Matthew Rhys filmed *The Edge of Love*. Based loosely on events in the life of poet Dylan Thomas, the actors filmed scenes at the Welsh writer's clifftop home overlooking Cardigan Bay, the perfect spot to enjoy a coastal walk. While the 'shack at the end of a cliff', as Thomas

called it, is privately owned, visitors can stay in the same luxurious hotel as the film's stars. The five-star Ty Mawr Mansion has even named its luxurious suites after the actors who stayed in them so you can sleep in the same bed as they did! www.tymawrmansion.co.uk

Getting there: New Quay is accessible via bus from Aberystwyth, which is around five hours by train from London, or around four hours from Manchester.

Beatrix Potter's farmstead, Lake District – *Miss Potter*



Stay at Yew Tree Farm, which featured in the film Miss Potter; it was owned by Beatrix Potter herself in the 1930s

The beautiful Lake District landscape that inspired Beatrix Potter's beloved children's books is showcased in the 2006 film about the author's life, *Miss Potter*. Retrace the steps of the film's star, Renée Zellweger with a stay at Yew Tree Farm, which was owned by Beatrix Potter in the 1930s and later featured as 'Hill Top' in the film. Collect your own breakfast eggs from the farm chickens to enjoy in the dining room, which was furnished by Potter herself and which is still home to many of her personal possessions. Screen stars, including Emma Thompson, have enjoyed life on the working farm and even The Queen has paid a visit.

www.yewtree-farm.com

Getting there: The Lake District is in north-west England, around three hours train journey from London.

Royal Lancaster Hotel, London – *The Italian Job*

The scene of Michael Caine's "hiya Charlie" moment takes place at the Royal Lancaster Hotel in Bayswater, London. It's inside the hotel that the young Charlie Croker enjoys his 'coming out' party and is later summoned to a meeting with the widow Beckerman in her room, where the eponymous heist is plotted. Don't expect to see the hip 1960s interior style from the film however; the design has long since been replaced by luxury hotel décor, though the same sweeping views of Hyde Park can still be enjoyed today. www.lancasterlondon.com

Royal Station Hotel, Carnforth – *Brief Encounter*

Relive one of the most memorable moments in British cinematic history with a stay in Carnforth, where ill-fated love story *Brief Encounter* was filmed during the Second World War in 1945. The Royal Station Hotel briefly features in the film and is opposite the famous station and café where Trevor Howard and Celia Johnson meet in the film, and which is now a heritage centre with faithfully restored Refreshment Room. The ideal setting to evoke David Lean's masterpiece, a stay in the village may even prompt your very own chance meeting with a stranger… www.theroyalstationhotelcarnforth.co.uk

Getting there: Carnforth is near Morecambe in north-west England, around 90 minutes by train from Manchester.

Doubletree by Hilton, Edinburgh – *Sunshine on Leith*

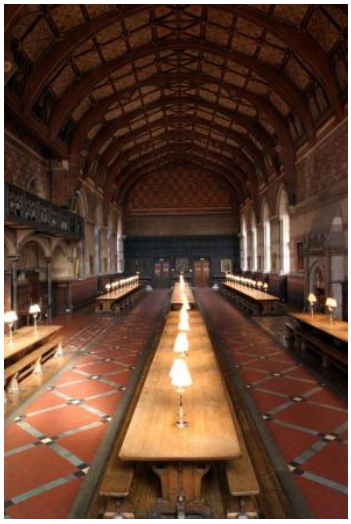
The Proclaimers' song 'When I met you' accompanies one of the most romantic scenes in the recent movie *Sunshine on Leith*, which turned Edinburgh into a film set with a fab soundtrack, to tell the story of Davy and Ally, two British military servicemen returning home after a tour in Afghanistan. The moment Davy and Liz admit their feelings for each other took place on the rooftop terrace of the city's very well located Doubletree by Hilton; you too can enjoy a romantic moment up there. Deluxe rooms and suites have Castle views.

http://doubletree3.hilton.com

Getting there: Edinburgh is the capital of Scotland, connected to London by train (4.5 hours) and air.

Christ Church College, Oxford – *Harry Potter*

Let the magic of Christ Church College cast a spell on you with a stay where many of the scenes at Hogwarts were filmed. It's easy to imagine you're in the renowned school of wizardry itself as you wander around the cloisters and quadrangles that have an air of magic about them even now that filming has ceased. Book a college room at Christ Church from £50 and you'll be able to eat your breakfast in The Great Hall, which was replicated in the film studios to create the grand Hogwart's Hall. On your way there, don't forget to stop to take a photo on the 16th-century staircase, where Harry and the new first-years are greeted by Professor McGonagall. You can stay at Oxford University college rooms during the university holidays. www.universityrooms.com



The magic of Christ Church College inspired the Great Hall of Hogwarts

Getting there: Oxford is around an hour's train journey from London.

The Royal Horseguards Hotel, London – *The Elephant Man; The Constant Gardener*

Sitting on the banks of the River Thames, The Royal Horseguards Hotel has seen a parade of famous political figures, thinkers and power brokers pass through its doors in the course of its amazing history. The carefully restored five-star hotel has attracted famous filmmakers over the years too. David Lynch captured part of his masterpiece, *The Elephant Man,* there in 1980. Starring John Hurt and Anthony Hopkins, the long dark corridors at the hotel were used as hospital corridors and rooms were used as the doctor's surgery. More recently, a scene from *The Constant Gardener* was filmed at the hotel's delightfully traditional Smoking Room, where Ralph Fiennes' character meets with the head of the Foreign Office in London about his missing wife, played by Rachel Weisz. www.guoman.com

Britain's untold stories

With such an extensive and deep history, Britain has countless legends of kings and queens, mysterious mythical creatures and gripping tales of hauntings. The region's striking landscapes, medieval and gothic architecture and numerous haunted regions have heavily influenced and inspired many of these stories. With such rich and diverse scenery and attractions, Britain is the perfect place to make your directorial debut and create your very own amateur film. So arm yourself with your smartphone or tablet and get your clapper board out – let Britain's untold stories and charms inspire your creative side and get the film rolling.

If you're making a scary movie go to...



Find inspiration for a scary movie at Mary King's Close in Edinburgh – then head out film at one of the city's spooky buildings

Old Town Edinburgh, the oldest part of Scotland's capital, is shrouded with legends and hauntings. With a dark history dating back to medieval times, it's no wonder this area is filled with spooky buildings, creepy corridors and spine-chilling tales. If you're looking for inspiration for a horror movie, visit Mary King's Close as it's made up of dark, damp, underground streets and corridors (although you can't actually film there without permission). Once inspired, take the Gold tour with Mercat Tours, which run a series of tours starting at the Mercat Cross on the Royal Mile. The Mercat Cross was the central meeting place where Royal proclamations and other official announcements were read and there is still part of the original 14th century cross built into the shaft of the existing 1885 Mercat Cross, which stands to this day. Mercat Tours offer tours that go above ground, so filming is allowed, plus you'll hear gruesome stories such as those of Burke and Hare the body-snatchers. Burke and Hare stole bodies from the city's Greyfriars graveyard, which you can visit; here you can see the big steel cages they put over fresh graves to stop body snatching.

www.realmarykingsclose.com, www.mercattours.com, www.greyfriarskirk.com/visiting-kirk

If you're making a romantic comedy go to...

Romance is entwined throughout Bath's breathtaking scenery, Roman style baths and Georgian architecture, making this World Heritage site the idyllic film set for your romantic comedy. One only has to open a Jane Austen novel to plunge into the romantic portrait of Bath that Austen paints, which continues to attract visitors from all over the world to the region. Many of Austen's literary locations in Bath provide an ideal setting fit for a romantic film. The Gravel Walk, a "lover's lane" of the Jane Austen era, is the setting for a love scene in her novel *Persuasion*. This path leads to a Georgian Garden that has been recreated to look how it would during Jane Austen's time, making it perfect for a passionate



Capture a blossoming romance at Bath's sweeping Royal Crescent

on-screen love scene between your chosen characters . The Royal Crescent, a row of 30 terraced houses in the shape of a crescent, is another attraction you could use as a backdrop. The Georgian architecture was used to house the wealthy during Jane Austen's era. Austen mentions the Georgian town house in both *Persuasion and Northanger Abbey.* These romantic settings are sure to fill you with feelings of lust, infatuation and memories of unrequited love, getting the creative juices flowing for your hit rom-com!

http://channels.visitbath.co.uk/janeausten



For the perfect backdrop to your medieval perioo period drama head to Harlech Castle in north Wales. Credit VisitBritain/Lee Beel

If you're making a period drama...

Find inspiration for an action-packed period drama complete with knights and shining armour at Harlech Castle. This magnificent medieval fortress in North Wales, perched up on high rock overlooking the Welsh countryside, was the scene of many fierce battles. These battles inspired the anthem *Men of Harlech*, a Welsh military song and march in honour of events during the seven-year siege of Harlech Castle between 1461 and 1468, the longest in British history. Harlech Castle was erected in the late 13th century by Edward I to watch over Snowdonia and was one of his many fortresses. The Castle is most associated with the legend of Branwen, the daughter of Llyr, mythical King of all Britons. Branwen's story is one of tragedy, a legend wrought with jealously and betrayal. Gather your props and costumes and recreate this medieval tragedy complete with weddings vows, treachery and warfare between the Irish and Welsh kingdoms. With its breathtaking panoramic views and medieval architecture, Harlech Castle is well suited for your epic period drama.

http://cadw.wales.gov.uk/splash?orig=/daysout/harlechcastle

Thriller



Who knows, while filming at Loch Ness you might spot Nessie in the background!

Loch Ness is home to Scotland's most famous mythical creature, the Loch Ness Monster, also known as Nessie. Close to the highland city of Inverness, Loch Ness is a very popular British visitor destination thanks to its natural beauty and charm. As the largest lake in Scotland, Loch Ness is over 20 miles long and a mile wide with its deepest part reaching 700 feet. On a cloud-covered day, the murky, dark waters of Loch Ness are the ideal setting for a heart-stopping thriller. The lake is filled with dark shadows, allowing one's imagination to run wild with fears of what's lurking beneath. Another famous attraction in Loch Ness is Urquhart Castle, the medieval fortress ruins overlooking Loch Ness. While taking in the views of the lake from the castle, many claim to have seen the famous monster. In the castle's 500-year history, it has endured much battle and bloodshed. The castle was largely destroyed during its last historical

battle in 1692, between the Williamnite and Jacobite groups. These crumbled castle walls are well suited for a hair-raising thriller, filled with mystery and fright. With all of the filming, you may catch a glimpse of Nessie yourself! www.visitlochness.com

The quirkiest places to watch a movie in Britain



Love movies? Love hot tubs? Put them together at Hot Tub Cinema!

Hot Tub Cinema, London

Hot Tub Cinema (HTC) requires little further explanation – as the name suggests, you get out of your clothes, into your swimwear, into a hot tub (with up to five friends) and settle in to watch a movie. The concept has proved extremely popular among Londoners, who have flocked to get wrinkly while watching classic films including *Bridesmaids*, *Clueless* and *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas*. During the summer of 2014 HTC takes place on a rooftop in East London, but venues vary. See website for dates and to book.

http://hottubcinema.com

Secret Cinema, locations disclosed to ticket holders (London)

There are times you go to the movies and really feel part of the action and so engrossed in the film it could be real – but can you imagine seeing *The Grand Budapest Hotel* in a hotel you can wander around, bell-boys and maids dressed in the trademark purple of the actual film handing you drinks? Since 2007, founder of Secret Cinema Fabien Riggall has been creating elaborate site specific cinematic events: in 2010, for Lawrence of Arabia, cinemagoers could enter an entire souk, complete with six camels, fifteen horses and sixty actors. Next on the agenda is *Back To The Future*, showing until the end of August 2014.

www.secretcinema.org, www.facebook.com/SecretCinema

Old Market Hall, Shrewsbury, south-west England

Blockbusters and independent films are shown in this 16th-century market hall that has also served as a courthouse, a venue for cavalry sword instruction and the scene of a crocodile exhibition. It also ticks the box 'visit cinema that's built on stilts', for anyone who had that on their must-do list!



The Wee Picture House has to be one of the quirkiest places to watch a movie! Credit Sarah MacDonald Photography

www.oldmarkethall.co.uk

The Wee Picture House, Campbeltown, Argyll and Bute, west Scotland

Built in 1913, The Wee Picture House is the oldest working cinema in Scotland. It's housed in a curious building that looks like many things – a church, a mansion, a spaceship – but is in fact a fantastic and kooky place to catch a movie.
weepictures.co.uk

Zeffirellis and Fellinis, Ambleside, Lake District, north-west England

Curiously, the small yet happening village of Ambleside in England's beautiful Lake District is home to not one, but two independent cinemas that show fantastic arthouse films and give you the whole package for a night out: dinner, movie, and live music too. Owned by the same people, Zeffirellis has a pizzeria and jazz bar alongside its cinema, with some tempting dinner and movie deals, while Fellinis is an upmarket vegetarian restaurant with a movie theatre out the back. They also show live cinema screenings of opera, theatre and ballet from around the globe.

www.zeffirellis.com, www.fellinisambleside.com/cinema

Kinema in the Woods, Woodhall Spa, Lincolnshire, north England

Still showing movies almost 90 years after opening, Kinema in the Woods is believed to be Britain's last remaining rear-projection working cinema – it even comes complete with its own Compton Organ that sometimes accompanies the movie with a live, atmospheric musical accompaniment. It's a totally unique experience to watch a movie in the Lincolnshire woodland, sitting on original tip-up seats under the stars. www.thekinemainthewoods.co.uk



The kooky Kinema in the Woods in Lincolnshire is Britain's last remaining rear-projection cinema

Sol Cinema, various venues in Wales

Sol Cinema has to win prizes for originality – powered entirely by the sun and seating eight adults, this mobile venue tours Britain, popping up at music festivals, shopping centres and more (you can hire it) to show short films and put a smile on people's faces.

See website for upcoming events www.thesolcinema.org/events.html

The Screen Machine, Scottish Highlands and Islands

A large truck that turns itself into an 80-seater cinema, which serves the Highlands and Islands and rural areas with no static cinema facilities. What better way to see a movie while on holiday, than stepping out into the stunning Scottish scenery? http://screenmachine.co.uk

Motley Movies, Cardiff, south Wales

A garden, bar and restaurant have been transported to this rooftop along with a cinema to boot. Summer nights are to be spent outdoors watching *Dirty Dancing* and *Top Gun*, right?

http://motleymovies.fatsoma.com

The Glasgow Film Theatre, Glasgow, Scotland

The building sets the scene for a stylish night out at the Glasgow Film Theatre, housed in a beautiful art deco building. Non-filmgoers hang out there too, just because it's such a nice place to be. The movie choices are art house and independent, with late night screenings too.

www.gft.org.uk

The Soho Hotel, London

The Soho Hotel is not only home to a spa, restaurant – oh and of course, hotel rooms – it's got its very own, very plush screening room, where you can relax and watch blockbusters in an intimate central London setting. National Theatre productions are broadcast live, and there's a Children's Film Club (complete with popcorn and ice cream for the kids, prosecco for the adults, during the summer).



The Soho Hotel is one of the swankiest central London cinemas – check out the zebra print seats!

www.firmdalehotels.com

The Birks, Aberfeldy, Perthshire, central Scotland

As many stories happened in the Birks Cinema among moviegoers as on screen! The Birks Cinema opened in 1939, and lasted as such until 1982, when finances shut it down. The community bought it and reopened it as a cinema in April 2013.

www.birkscinema.co.uk

Film and TV calendar

There are year-round events in Britain that celebrate the power of the silver screen, from major film festivals to quirky screenings. Read on for dates to work into the film-lover's itinerary.

Wales One World (March)

'WOW' specialises in world cinema, plus the additional local offering, with all fare described as "idiosyncratic, occasionally perverse or wayward." The fortnight-long festival spans various South and West Welsh locations, including Cardiff, Swansea and Newport. www.wowfilmfestival.com/en

Celtic Media Festival (April)

Celebrating Celtic languages and cultures on screen and in broadcasting, this long-running three-day festival is a nomad, moving location each year. It next heads to Inverness, on Scotland's north-western coast, which has a domestic airport. www.celticmediafestival.co.uk

Belfast Film Festival (April)

Aiming to be both entertaining and provocative, the BFF in Northern Ireland's capital is famed for unusual screening locations, such as a boat on the River Lagan or inside St Anne's Cathedral. Its focus is twofold: local talent, and new international cinema. belfastfilmfestival.org

Edinburgh International Film Festival (June)

First held in the Scottish capital in 1947 and thus the world's oldest continuously-running film festival. Every movie shown is a world, European or UK premiere, and the event covers all genres. www.edfilmfest.org.uk

Loch Ness Film Festival (July)

As the mythical Loch Ness Monster (possibly) keeps watch, a small, intimate and charitable Scottish Highlands affair airs independent documentaries, shorts and features in a lakeside location. The down of Drumnadrochit is 14 miles from Inverness. lochnessfilmfestival.co.uk

Film4 Summer Screen at Somerset House (August)

It's a classic London experience: watching open-air cinema on a summer's evening in Somerset House's beautiful main courtyard. Utilising a start-of-the-art screen, the annual series blends UK premieres, cult faves and classics. www.somersethouse.org.uk/film

Deep Fried Film Festival (August/September)

Held in the Scottish town of Coatbridge – ten miles east of Glasgow – Deep Fried hands out accolades named after fish-and-chip shop offerings. Vying for titles including the Sausage Supper Award are a host of indie movies. www.deepfriedfilm.org.uk/filmfest.html

Cambridge Film Festival (August/September)

Just over fifty miles north of London, Cambridge's colleges and riverside meadows lend an idyllic backdrop to this popular event, and especially its outdoor screenings. A friendship with Woody Allen sees the director often hold provide premieres.
www.cambridgefilmfestival.org.uk

Encounters (September)

A short film (primarily) and animation festival-competition held in the south-western city of Bristol, under two hours by train from London. Showcasing over 300 creative new shorts each year, Encounters celebrated its 20th birthday in 2014. www.encounters-festival.org.uk

BFI London Film Festival (October)

The UK's highest-profile cinema bash, with world premieres and A-Listers in attendance. From red-carpet affairs to high-quality world-cinema finds, screenings take place across the capital, with many in the BFI itself, on London's South Bank. www.bfi.org.uk/lff

Bicycle Film Festival (October)

Britain's version of this global event, showcasing independently-made short films with a two-wheeled theme, is expected to return in 2015 with screenings in trendy East London's Barbican Centre. www.bicyclefilmfestival.com/london

Bath Film Festival (November)

Not content with its spa and beautiful stone buildings, the south-western town of Bath also hosts a quirky festival, of which patron Ken Loach says: "Bring an open mind and prepare to be engaged: Bath Film Festival is not somewhere you go to be neutral, it's somewhere you go to participate." bathfilmfestival.org.uk

Abertoir (November)

Rom-com fans need not apply. Abertoir's a six-day horror-film festival held in West Wales' coastal market town Aberystwyth (seventy miles from Cardiff), and spanning big-budget, classic and independent movies of all lengths. Concerts and book-signings add to the fun.
www.abertoir.co.uk

Foyle Film Festival (November)

Londonderry, Northern Ireland's second city, and under three hours by train from Belfast, is the location of this unusual event. Recent years have seen Danny Boyle and Sam Shepard attend, plus a never-seen-before version of *The Wicker Man*.

www.foylefilmfestival.org

Awards and major festivals

Watch out for film and TV stories around these major events.

National Television Awards (January)

Stars from shows like *Doctor Who* and *Downton Abbey* grace the red carpet at this glitzy do, held at The O2 in London and billed as 'the biggest night in British TV'. www.nationaltvawards.com

British Academy Film Awards (February)

AKA the BAFTAs, or the 'British Oscars'. With iconic bronze masks as the prizes, these starry awards are held at central London's Royal Opera House. www.bafta.org/film/awards

British Academy Television Awards (April/May)

The TV version of the BAFTAs, with just as many statuettes and just as many stars. Honouring the best British TV programmes and performances of the past year, they have been awarded annually since 1954. www.bafta.org/television/awards

British Independent Film Awards (December)

Kicking off the awards season each year is the British Independent Film Awards, which sees the best of British filmmaking talent – an arena that's growing each year – recognised and often has people making early BAFTA and Academy Award predictions. www.bifa.org.uk