# DISCOVER 62 UNESCO SITES IN THE UK

**From expansive mountain ranges and stunning coastlines to vibrant cities and rural landscapes - the UK's UNESCO sites are destinations of world-class natural and cultural heritage.**

**Which will you discover next?**

Types of UNESCO site:

- Biosphere Reserves
- Creative Cities
- Global Geoparks
- World Heritage Sites

## ABERYSTWYTH, CITY OF LITERATURE

Storytelling, language and creativity are woven into the fabric of Aberystwyth Ceredigion. Home to national literary institutions and a thriving bilingual literary scene, the city celebrates Welsh and international literature through festivals, publishing, education and the power of the written word.

**www.cityofliterature.wales**

## THE ANTONINE WALL

Welcome to the northernmost Frontier of the Roman Empire. Built around AD 142, this barrier was lined by forts and patrolled by 7,000 soldiers. Today, you can visit turf ramparts, remains of forts and a bathhouse, over 62 km along the central belt of Scotland.

**www.antoninewall.org**

## ARRAN

Credit: Colin & Linda McKie

Known as "Scotland in Miniature", Arran reveals an extraordinary story of Earth's history. Dramatic mountains, ancient rocks, fossils and coastal landscapes showcase over 600 million years of geological change, making the island a world-class destination for discovering the forces that shaped our planet.

**www.arran-geopark.org.uk**

## BELFAST, CITY OF MUSIC

From its intimate gigs to world-famous names, Belfast knows great music. It boasts high-profile events, with music woven into public spaces to ensure the benefits of music are felt by all who visit, live or work in the city.

**www.visitbelfast.com/article/a-guide-to-belfasts-music-scene**

## BIOSFFER DYFI

Explore inspiring landscapes on foot or bike. Biosffer Dyfi consists of the friendly university town of Aberystwyth and the Dyfi valley. From high peat moorlands through wide estuary to sand dunes, adventurers can appreciate the wildlife of woodland, farmland and saltmarsh.

Credit: VisitWales

**www.dyfibiosphere.wales**

## THE BLACK COUNTRY

An area of exceptional geological, industrial, and cultural heritage that developed due to the natural resources that were exploited here to create the world's first urban conurbation. A place where industrial heritage goes hand in hand with nature.

**www. blackcountrygeopark.dudley.gov.uk/bcg**

## BLAENAVON INDUSTRIAL LANDSCAPE

Credit: Torfaen Council

A testament to human endeavour, and shaped by two centuries of coal mining and iron making. Today the remains of industry stand as a powerful reminder of how the industrial revolution changed the world.

**www.visitblaenavon.co.uk**

## BLENHEIM PALACE

Built as thanks to the Duke of Marlborough for victory in 1704 at the Battle of Blenheim. Its awe-inspiring sculptured grounds were designed by Capability Brown and it was the birthplace and ancestral home of Sir Winston Churchill.

**www.blenheimpalace.com**

## BRADFORD, CITY OF FILM

Bradford's movie locations make it a world centre for the film industry. Its many celebrations of moving image include the city's film festivals, film-related events and a unique approach to learning about film.

Credit: Roger V Moody

**www.bradford-city-of-film.com**

## BRISTOL, CITY OF FILM

Home to Aardman Animations and the BBC Natural History Unit, Bristol has generated high-calibre screen content for decades. As a leading hub for the film industry, it hosts 11 international film festivals and over 1,000 filming days per year.

**www.bristolcityoffilm.co.uk**

## CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL, ST AUGUSTINE'S ABBEY, AND ST MARTIN'S CHURCH

Founded by St Augustine in 597 AD, Canterbury Cathedral has been the seat of the spiritual head of the Church of England for nearly five centuries. It is a place of worship, a major pilgrimage destination and masterpiece of art and architecture.

Credit: Alexey Fedorenko

**www.canterbury-cathedral.org**

## CASTLES AND TOWN WALLS OF KING EDWARD I IN GWYNEDD

Credit: Valerie2000

The castles of Caernarfon, Conwy, Harlech and Beaumaris and town walls at Caernarfon and Conwy demonstrate medieval military architecture at its most impressive. Built by Edward I (1272-1307) during turbulent times when English kings and Welsh princes vied for power, the scale of construction was unprecedented.

**www.cadw.gov.wales/visit/best-history/castles-town-walls-king-edward-gwynedd**

## THE CITY OF BATH AND GREAT SPA TOWN OF EUROPE

Exceptional in having two UNESCO designations, in 1987 it was inscribed for its hot springs, Roman archaeology, Georgian buildings and natural landscape setting. In 2021 it was also designated as one of the Great Spa Towns of Europe – fashionable spa towns laid out around natural springs.

**www.visitbath.co.uk/things-to-do**

## CORNWALL AND WEST DEVON MINING LANDSCAPE

Covering 19,710 hectares, with over 200 iconic Cornish engine house sites, this industrial World Heritage site is the largest of its kind in the UK. It is testimony to one of the greatest periods of economic, technological and social change in Britain

Credit: Andycox07

**www.cornishmining.org.uk**

## CUILCAGH LAKELANDS

The first Transnational Global Geopark in the world allows visitors to appreciate the best of this unspoilt border region. Cuilcagh Lakelands includes mountains and lakes in a swathe of countryside extending from Lower Lough Erne to Lough Oughter.

**www.cuilcaghlakelands.org**

## DERWENT VALLEY MILLS

The birthplace of the factory system, where water was first harnessed, ushering in the modern industrial age. Today those mills can be seen in their stunning valley setting, some barely changed in over 200 years.

**www.derwentvalleymills.org**

## DORSET AND EAST DEVON COAST

A hugely diverse and beautiful landscape underpinned by incredible geology of global importance. Its rocks, fossils and landforms span the entire Mesozoic era and provide remarkable insight into 185 million years of environmental change and evolution.

**www.jurassiccoast.org**

## DUNDEE, CITY OF DESIGN

Credit: Velma Pickles

Innovation defines Dundee's story. Its museums, attractions, shops, bars and restaurants showcase the thriving creative communities and designers that make this city a cutting-edge design hub.

**www.cityofdesigndundee.com**

## DURHAM CASTLE AND CATHEDRAL

Visit and be inspired by the visual drama of Durham Cathedral and Castle. Explore some of the greatest medieval architecture in Europe and learn about saints and the medieval Prince-Bishops. A place of worship, learning, and residence for over 1,000 years.

**www.durhamworldheritagesite.com**

## EDINBURGH, CITY OF LITERATURE

Storytelling and the written word have been the life force of Edinburgh's art and culture for centuries. Its contributions to literature are so rich that Edinburgh became the world's first Creative City of Literature in 2004.

Credit: RodrigoVIA

**www.cityofliterature.com**

## THE ENGLISH LAKE DISTRICT

The extraordinary beauty and harmony of the English Lake District was created through centuries of traditional farming techniques. Social and cultural forces combined to protect landscapes and birthed the idea that everyone has a right to enjoy their surroundings.

**www.lakesworldheritage.co.uk**

## ENGLISH RIVIERA

Credit: English Riviera Geopark

Earth and sea come together along the 22-mile coastline, a unification of many worlds and habitats, shaped by natural processes, creating an environment providing shelter for people past and present. The landscape encompasses natural caves, beaches, sparkling blue seas, and a vibrant community.

**www.englishrivierageopark.org.uk**

## EXETER, CITY OF LITERATURE

Exeter has an unbroken literary history dating back to the 10th century. With a focus on literature and well-being, it's famous for The Exeter Book, its pioneering bibliotherapy courses, and the extraordinary Penguin Book Vending Machine.

**www.exetercityofliterature.com**

## FFOREST FAWR

A cracked and crumpled layer-cake of rocks, over 470 million years in the making. It is a landscape sculpted by ice and then transformed by man – a witness to the birth of the Industrial Revolution.

**www.fforestfawrgeopark.org.uk**

## THE FLOW COUNTRY

Credit: David

A vast expanse of peatland stretching across Caithness and Sutherland, the Flow Country is the most extensive blanket bog landscape in the world. Shaped over thousands of years, its pools, mosses and wetlands support rare wildlife and store internationally important carbon reserves, making it one of Earth's most valuable natural environments.

**www.theflowcountry.org.uk**

## THE FORTH BRIDGE

With its distinctive cantilever design and enormous scale, the Forth Bridge is one of the world's most iconic engineering structures. As a World Heritage Site and an operating railway bridge, it remains a potent symbol of Britain's industrial, scientific, architectural and transport heritage.

**www.theforthbridges.org**

## GALLOWAY AND SOUTHERN AYRSHIRE

Home to some of Scotland's most iconic wildlife. From upland habitats, through river valleys, down to the rugged southwest coast, it's a place for discovery and inspiration and where people connect with nature.

Credit: georgiagordzhiiov

**www.gsabiosphere.org.uk**

## GEOMÔN

Home to the oldest fossils in England or Wales, Môn (Anglesey) is the largest of the Welsh islands, covering 120 miles of coastline. The spectacular geoheritage is a resource for education and recreation for both visitors and residents of the Global Geopark.

**www.geomon.co.uk**

## GIANT'S CAUSEWAY AND CAUSEWAY COAST

Credit: Alexey Fedorenko

The dramatic coast around the Giant's Causeway has inspired legends. Studies of the area over the last 300 years have contributed greatly to the development of earth sciences.

**www.nationaltrust.org.uk/giants-causeway**

## GLASGOW, CITY OF MUSIC

Music is the beating heart of Glasgow, with over half a million gig-going citizens enjoying music of any genre, any night of the week, throughout the year—a city famed for the enthusiasm and energy of its audiences.

**www.glasgowlife.org.uk/glasgow-unesco-city-of-music**

## HADRIAN'S WALL

Built from the River Tyne to the Solway Firth by Emperor Hadrian in AD 122. Discover the remains of forts, towers, turrets and towns along with rare Roman artefacts.

**www.visithadrianswall.co.uk**

## HEART OF NEOLITHIC ORKNEY

Around 5,000 years ago people in Orkney began building monuments and houses from stone. What remains are masterpieces of Neolithic design and construction. The site gives incredible insights into the society, skills and spiritual beliefs of the communities that produced them.

**www.historicenvironment.scot/advice-and-support/listing-scheduling-and-designations/world-heritage-sites/heart-of-neolithic-orkney**

## IRONBRIDGE GORGE

The symbol of the Industrial Revolution. All the elements of progress that contributed to the development of this industrial region in the 18th century are here, from the blast furnace of Coalbrookdale, to the Iron Bridge, the world's first.

Credit: Geoff Pickering

**www.ironbridgegorgewhs.co.uk**

## ISLE OF MAN

Credit: Philip

Fantastic wildlife and nature-spotting opportunities on land and at sea. Biosphere Isle of Man has a National Nature Reserve, internationally important wetlands and a bird observatory, 10 Marine Nature Reserves and 25 Areas of Special Scientific Interest. Experience rich heritage and vibrant culture and enjoy tasty local produce.

**www.biosphere.im**

## ISLE OF WIGHT

Uncover a strong tradition of environmental action and initiatives promoting awareness, community engagement and healthier lifestyles. The island is working to develop eco-tourism, foster environmental innovation and test new measures for climate change mitigation and adaptation.

**www.wightaonb.org.uk/about-us/what-we-do/projects/iow-candidate-biosphere**

## JODRELL BANK OBSERVATORY

One of the world's leading radio astronomy observatories. Since 1945, it has been at the forefront of scientific discovery and cutting edge of modern astrophysics. Today, it continues to engage people with space by delivering inspirational opportunities.

Credit: David Matthew Lyons

**www.jodrellbank.net/world-heritage-site-nomination**

## LIVERPOOL, CITY OF MUSIC

Liverpool has a rich and diverse music scene of venues, festivals, music businesses and glorious music heritage. If you are a music fan, tourist, or business, this is one of the world's best musical cities.

Credit: Pete

**www.liverpoolmusiccity.com**

## THE LIVING COAST

The vibrant cities of Brighton & Hove and Lewes sit at the heart of this Biosphere in Sussex. From the South Downs to the beautiful chalk cliffs, stretching between two rivers, come and breathe in the Living Coast!

**www.thelivingcoast.org.uk**

## MANCHESTER, CITY OF LITERATURE

With over 200 spoken languages, two writing schools, three writing agencies, ten indie publishers, 40 arts and culture festivals, 23 public libraries, two literary houses and over 18 bookshops. This is a place to read, a place to write, a place to go.

**www.manchestercityofliterature.com**

## MARITIME GREENWICH

Internationally significant architecture and landscape, artistic achievement, scientific endeavour as a site of astronomical research, and royal association, come together at Greenwich to tell the story of Britain at sea, and of world time keeping, navigation and exploration.

Credit: Alena

**www.greenwichworldheritage.org**

## MORAVIAN CHURCH SETTLEMENTS

Founded in 1759, Gracehill is the best-preserved Moravian settlement in the UK and Ireland. Its carefully planned layout, elegant Georgian buildings and strong sense of community reflect the ideals of education, equality and faith that shaped Moravian settlements around the world.

**www.gracehillvillage.org**

## MOURNE GULLION STRANGFORD

A breathtaking landscape spanning counties Armagh and Down. Encompassing stunning vistas bound and blessed by their mountain and maritime settings, this is a dramatic place shaped by fire and ice, a world apart: a world worth exploring.

**www.mournegullionstrangfordgeopark.com**

## NEW LANARK

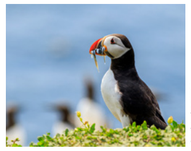
Credit: Carole

A unique 18th century mill village sitting alongside the River Clyde. Founded in 1785 with a focus on philanthropy, education and welfare of mill workers, New Lanark became a model for industrial communities that spread across the world.

**www.newlanark.org**

## NORTH DEVON

From windswept moors, along meandering rivers, traditional farmland and temperate rainforests, past historic coastal communities, to a diverse marine environment. The beautiful land and seascapes within and around the North Devon Biosphere have inspired artists and writers throughout time.



Credit: chris2766

**www.northdevonbiosphere.org.uk**

## NORTH PENNINES

One of England's most special places, the North Pennines is a stunning landscape of open heather moors and peatlands, attractive dales and hay meadows, tumbling upland rivers, wonderful woods, and welcoming communities.

**www.northpennines.org.uk**

## NORTH WEST HIGHLANDS

Credit: Tim Namiet

The most sparsely populated corner of Europe, with stunning mountain landscapes, sandy beaches, ancient settlements and remote communities. This Geopark hosts a wide range of rock formations covering two thirds of the Earth's history.

**www.nwhgeopark.com**

## NORWICH, CITY OF LITERATURE

A home to stories and world-changing writers for over 900 years. Its thriving ecology of writers, readers, bookshops, libraries, universities, publishers and events, and the National Centre for Writing, make it a special place for literature.

Credit: VisitNorwich

**www. nationalcentreforwriting.org.uk/unesco-city-of-literature**

## NOTTINGHAM, CITY OF LITERATURE

Credit: udlizjoy

A millennium's worth of legendary literary heritage bubbles through into a vibrant and diverse contemporary scene. It utilises its unique talent with words to build better futures within a city steeped in stories: yours to discover and love.

**www.nottinghamcityofliterature.com**

## OLD AND NEW TOWNS OF EDINBURGH

Thanks to the juxtaposition of its Old and New Towns, Edinburgh is one of the most architecturally significant city centres in the world. The city's unique character comes from the striking contrast between the Old and the New.

**www.ewh.org.uk**

## PALACE OF WESTMINSTER AND WESTMINSTER ABBEY INCLUDING SAINT MARGARET'S CHURCH

Credit: Misterviad

The site represents the journey from feudal society to modern democracy. The Palace of Westminster continues to be the seat of Parliament, while all sovereigns since the 11th century have been crowned in Westminster Abbey. St Margaret's has been the MPs place of worship since 1614.

**www.westminster.gov.uk/world-heritage-site**

## PERTH, CITY OF CRAFTS AND FOLK ART

Historically and culturally Perth is the beating heart of Scotland. It is home to some of the most exciting and creative makers, specialising in textiles, glass and silverware. Crafts are an essential part of its past and future.

**www.perthcity.co.uk**

## PONTCYSYLLTE AQUEDUCT AND CANAL

Spanning 11 miles of stunning canal and countryside and 32 listed structures, Thomas Telford's Pontcysyllte Aqueduct was described as 'a masterpiece of creative genius'. The name is Welsh for 'the bridge that connects'.

Credit: Manuta

**www.pontcysyllte-aqueduct.co.uk**

## ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS, KEW

Credit: Elena

With more than 320 acres of historic landscape to explore, Kew Gardens is not only one of London's most beloved attractions, it is a world-leading centre for botanical and mycological science, and a horticultural gem of the UK.

**www.kew.org**

## SALTAIRE

One of the largest and most complete 19th century industrial villages. Titus Salt built textile mills, public buildings and workers' housing in Italianate style. This Victorian philanthropic paternalism influenced industrial social welfare and planning.

**www.bradford.gov.uk/saltaire**

## SHETLAND

Shetland's geology is more diverse than any similar sized area in Europe, and its influence can be seen in every aspect of life, past and present. The Global Geopark celebrates this remarkable heritage and its intrinsic links to all life on the islands.

Credit: Yuriy Chertok

**www.shetlandamenity.org/geopark-shetland**

## THE SLATE LANDSCAPE OF NORTHWEST WALES

A story of evolution, from an agricultural society to one dominated by the slate industry. Towns, quarries and transport links carve through the Eryri mountains towards the purpose-built ports ready to export product, people and technology to the world.

**www.llechi.cymru**

## ST KILDA

Home for thousands of years to a community that lived off the huge seabird colonies, rich seas and small-scale farming. Abandoned since 1930, the islands are now given over to nature and the island is home to the most important seabird colony in the north-east Atlantic.

**www.nts.org.uk/visit/places/st-kilda**

## STONEHENGE, AVEBURY AND ASSOCIATED SITES

Credit: Charles

Stonehenge, Avebury and nearby sites form a World Heritage Site of outstanding prehistoric monuments dating back over 5,000 years. Stonehenge is the most sophisticated prehistoric stone circle in the world, while Avebury is the largest. Together they form a landscape without parallel.

**www.stonehengeandaveburywhs.org**

## STUDLEY ROYAL PARK INCLUDING THE RUINS OF FOUNTAINS ABBEY

A unique place created by two moments in history. Medieval strength blends with 18th century eccentricity to create a landscape full of secrets, curiosities and breath-taking views.

**www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/yorkshire/fountains-abbey-and-studley-royal-water-garden**

## TOWER OF LONDON

One of England's most iconic structures, the Tower of London is the most complete example of an 11th century fortress palace in Europe. William the Conqueror built the White Tower in 1066 as a demonstration of Norman power, siting it strategically on the River Thames.

Credit: Wadll

**www.hrp.org.uk/tower-of-london**

## WESTER ROSS

Dominated by mountains, remote glens and steep sided straths (valleys). It is a place where sustainable living is already happening – where people live and learn about their surroundings, including natural and cultural heritage, and where visitors are welcome.

**www.wrb.scot**

## YORK, CITY OF MEDIA ARTS

In York, outstanding culture and heritage meet a cutting-edge contemporary approach to creativity. Home to a diverse music scene, major events and festivals, theatres, and galleries, York has culture at its heart.

**www.guildofmediaarts.com**

# DISCOVER THE UK'S UNESCO SITES

**Full size A2 map inside!**

unesco UK Commission

GREAT BRITAIN & NORTHERN IRELAND

Heritage Fund

# UNESCO IN THE UK

**UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, was founded in 1945 after World War Two ended. Its mission is to promote peace, sustainable development and intercultural dialogue through education, the sciences, culture, communication and information.**

The UK National Commission supports the UK's contribution to UNESCO and brings the benefits of UNESCO to the UK. By raising awareness of the world's most special places, we encourage more people to discover the UK's extraordinary culture, nature and heritage.

UNESCO sites in the UK include 31 World Heritage Sites, 14 Creative Cities, 10 Global Geoparks and 7 Biosphere Reserves. They are all shown on this illustrated map, designed by Tom Woolley.

This map was produced by the UK National Commission for UNESCO as part of "Local to Global", and was made possible by the GREAT Campaign and The National Lottery Heritage Fund, thanks to National Lottery players.

**www.unesco.org.uk/local-to-global**

@UNESCOUK

*Download a digital version of the map*

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# UNESCO UK Sites