Lecture by Rick Steves

ENGLAND

London

“The City”: Wall Street of Britain
London Eye Ferris wheel
Millennium Bridge: St. Paul’s to the Tate Modern
Hop-on Hop-off bus tours and Walking Tours: Listed in “What’s On,” for focused look (pick up monthly entertainment guide at any newsstand)
Big Ben, Halls of Parliament: Take tour boat Big Ben to Tower of London
Westminster Abbey
Cabinet War Rooms, Churchill’s underground WWII bunker
British Museum: Walking through Encyclopedia Britannica, Great Court
British Library: Treasures Room
Trafalgar Square: National Gallery
The Two Tates: Modern and Britain
St. Paul’s: Christopher Wren’s masterpiece, view from dome
Tower of London: Very historic and bloody, Beefeater tour (included in price, don’t miss it), Crown Jewels (best anywhere)
Buckingham Palace: Changing of the Guard, palace open in summer by appointment
Covent Gardens
Antique Markets: All over town at crack of dawn
Harrods Department Store
Eating: Pubs, picnics
Madame Tussaud’s Waxworks
Piccadilly Circus: Very colorful people center
Soho, Shaftesbury Avenue: Theater district (Piccadilly to Trafalgar), Leicester Square Half Price booth
Shakespeare’s Globe Theater: Cheap groundling tickets
Speaker’s Corner: Marble Arch in Hyde Park, Sun. 11 am
Underground/Tube: London’s subway, know your budget options, Tube and double-decker bus passes, joy-ride
AirBus from the airport downtown
Taxis
Sailing down Thames to Greenwich: England’s maritime capital
Canary Wharf: Docklands, London’s new Manhattan
Kew Gardens: Palm House
Windsor Castle and Hampton Court: Great, but do downtown first
Legoland Windsor: Near Heathrow and Windsor Castle
London to Europe: “Chunnel” train, 15 per day, London to Paris in 3 hours, $100

West England

Dover Castle
Beachy Head, South Downs walk
Stonehenge: Understand it. Near Salisbury. Easy freeway rest-stop by car, rail not worth the headaches
Avebury: Stone circle with village, near Stonehenge
Wells: Fine medieval town, cathedral, evensong
Glastonbury Abbey: Search for the Holy Grail
Bath: Walking tour, Georgian architecture, Royal Crescent, Roman baths and museum, costume museum, Bizarre Bath comedy walk
Cotswolds: Quaint villages, wealth from wool, Chipping Campden (or the more touristy Stow-on-the-Wold)
Stratford: Shakespeare, try to see a RSC play, take a walking tour
Warwick Castle: England’s most interesting
Blenheim Palace: Best British countryside palace, Churchill’s birthplace
Ironbridge Gorge: Industrial Revolution in Shropshire

Northern England
York: Minster (great church), York Castle Museum, a time-tunnel experience, Jorvik Viking museum, train museum
North York Moors: Stark, not great, good tourist info center
Whitby: Pleasant beach resort near Scarborough
Staithes: Tiny seaside village, Captain Cook’s boyhood home
Durham: Best Norman (Romanesque) cathedral in Britain

Beamish Open-air Museum: North York lifestyles in 1900
Cambridge: University town, walking tours, better than Oxford, both have mix of “town and gown,” King’s Chapel at Trinity College has fine medieval stained glass
Liverpool: Fixed-up port, Beatles tours
Blackpool: Where north Englishers go who can’t afford Spain, tacky Coney Island-type resort, low-brow England
Windermere Lake District: Romantic walks, Wordsworth’s Dove Cottage, Keswick (best home base), Catbells (best easy mountain to climb), Castlerigg Stone Circle

Hadrian’s Roman Wall: Best preserved part near Haltwhistle

Four most important Great Britain cities to visit after London: York, Bath, Cambridge, Edinburgh

WALES

North Wales
Rugged beauty
Conwy: Castle, walled town
Caernarfon Castle
Snowdonia National Park: Woolen mills (Trefriw is best)
Slate Mines

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