

# ENGLAND ORIGINALS



FROM ENGLAND'S HISTORIC CITIES

**SOUTHERN CITIES  
BY RAIL OR CAR**

#EnglandOriginals



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There are 6 England's Heritage Cities which are easy to access from the South of England. They include Bath, Salisbury, Stratford-upon-Avon, Oxford, Greenwich and Cambridge. These cities can be explored as a self-drive itinerary or can be travelled by train with a Brit Rail Pass.

## Day 1 - Greenwich

Discover Maritime Greenwich in East London, home to Greenwich Mean Time and the Prime Meridian of the world at the **Royal Observatory Greenwich**. Explore Britain's momentous naval history at the **National Maritime Museum** and visit **Cutty Sark**, the fastest ship of its time. Visit the **Old Royal Naval College**, designed by Sir Christopher Wren, the architect of St Paul's Cathedral. Learn about the fascinating 600-year story of this site, the birthplace of Henry VIII.

Travel on the **IFS Cloud Cable Car**, travelling 90m high over London or for something a little different, experience the thrill of climbing 52m Up at the O2, with stunning views of London. Alternatively, explore London's famous sights aboard **City Cruises** and discover London's history with entertaining live commentary, taking in the best panoramic views from the River Thames.



Overnight: **DoubleTree by Hilton London Greenwich**.

## Day 2 - Cambridge

Travel to Cambridge, packed full of stunning architecture and nature, and renowned for its university and impact on English history, education and pioneering scientific research. Take a walking tour with **Cantab Tours** where you'll find out more about the history and University life with entry into one or more of the famous central colleges. Book a punting experience with **Scudamore's Punting Company**, either guided or self-guided and include an afternoon tea, gin or champagne package.

Take a stroll around **Cambridge University Botanic Garden**, 40 acres of green space or join a guided tour and enjoy the highlights and history of this stunning garden. Or visit **Fitzwilliam Museum** and see everything from Egyptian coffins to suits of shiny armour.

Overnight: **Graduate Cambridge, the Ibis Cambridge, University Arms or The Regent Aparthotel**

## Day 3 - Oxford

Journey on to historic city of Oxford with a history stretching back more than 1,000 years and only an hour northwest of London. With an **Oxford Official Walking Tour** visitors can explore iconic buildings, Oxford's stunning college architecture, cobbled streets, alleyways and uncover the historical and cultural significance of the city with amusing anecdotes. Alternatively, hop on and hop off the award-winning **City Sightseeing Oxford** open-top bus tour.



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Visit the **Oxford Castle and Prison**, a 1,000-year-old medieval castle, where visitors can climb the Saxon St George's Tower for panoramic views of the city or descend underground into the 900-year-old crypt. Take a trip on the River Thames with **Oxford River Cruises** where sightseeing tours, private hire and catering packages are available.

For self-drive visits you may like to explore out of the city to see **Blenheim Palace** for a tour of the Palace State rooms or a Winston Churchill experience.

Overnight: In the city centre at **Malmaison Oxford** – a former prison but now a boutique hotel, or **The Randolph Hotel by Graduate Hotels** or a little further afield at **Leonardo Royal Hotel**.

## Day 4 - Stratford-Upon-Avon

Travel further north to explore Stratford-upon-Avon and the historic Shakespeare's England, which is the birthplace of William Shakespeare and a cultural town rich in unique offerings with award-winning museums and attractions. Visit all 3 of Shakespeare's Family Homes – **Shakespeare's Birthplace**, **Anne Hathaway's Cottage** and **Shakespeare's New Place**.



Don't miss **Shakespeare Schoolroom and Guildhall** where visitors can experience Tudor school life with Shakespeare's teacher, in the very room where young William was a pupil in the 1570s. Plus visit the **Royal Shakespeare Company** to see a show or book a behind-the-scenes theatre tour. **The British Motor Museum** is also worth a visit as its home to the largest collection of British historic cars in the world with over 400 vehicles.

A short drive away explore **Compton Verney** an accredited art gallery housed in a Grade I-listed Georgian manor set in 120 acres of 'Capability' Brown parkland.

Overnight: In the city centre at **The Arden Hotel** or a short distance away at **Billesley Manor Hotel**. Accommodation further afield includes **Warwick Arms Hotel**, **Mallory Court Hotel** or **Studley Castle**.

## Day 5 -Bath

Head to the UNESCO World Heritage City of Bath where in the heart of the city centre you will find **The Roman Baths**. Here, the Romans built a magnificent temple and bathing complex on the site of Britain's only hot spring, which still flows with natural hot water today.

For literary enthusiasts take a short walk to visit **The Jane Austen Centre** and next-door **Mary Shelley's House of Frankenstein**. For larger groups considering splitting in two and visiting both these attractions at the same time.



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Book an epicurean experience with **Savouring Bath** and discover the best of the city's food and drink scene, from markets and restaurants to 18th century buns, modern patisseries, artisanal coffee and unusual tea. Alternatively, in a Georgian manor house on the edge of the city, explore the **American Museum & Gardens** with their remarkable collection of folk, decorative arts and cultural objects, showcasing American traditions from 14th- 20th Centuries.

Overnight: **Abbey Hotel, Brooks Guesthouse, Hampton by Hilton Bath City or YMCA Bath.**

## Day 6 - Salisbury

Continue onwards to visit the medieval city of Salisbury. At the city's heart is **Salisbury Cathedral**, Britain's finest 13th century cathedral with the tallest spire in Britain, the world's oldest working clock (1386) and the world's best-preserved original Magna Carta (1215). In the famous Cathedral Close, visitors can explore many attractions including **Mompesson House** and **Salisbury Museum**. Stop for a coffee and refreshments at **Fisherton Mill** – an old 1880 grain mill and now England's largest independent gallery and award-winning café and artist studios.

Don't miss a visit to the magnificent stones and visitor centre at **Stonehenge**. **The Stonehenge Tour Bus** runs regular services from the centre of Salisbury and the railway station to the visitor centre. The bus includes a recorded audio commentary and there is an inclusive bus and Stonehenge admission price.



Overnight: In the city centre at the **Mercure White Hart Hotel, Legacy Rose & Crown Hotel, or Milford Hall Hotel**. Or travel to the outskirts for **Holiday Inn Salisbury Stonehenge or The Stones Hotel**.

For self-drive visitors, consider exploring nearby destinations including Pewsey, Hungerford, Reading, Windsor and Richmond on-route back to London.

Cities	Miles / Km	Train Operators / Travel Duration by Rail
Greenwich - Cambridge	56 miles / 90km	Thameslink (1 hr 24 mins)
Cambridge - Oxford	102 miles / 164km	Thameslink & GWR (2hr 20 mins)
Oxford - Stratford-upon-Avon	58 miles / 94km	Crosscountry & Buses (2hr 20 mins)
Stratford-upon-Avon - Bath	85 miles / 137km	GWR & Bus (3hr 12 mins)
Bath - Salisbury	41 miles / 66 km	GWR (56 mins)