

# BRITISH ISLES ADVENTURE

28 July - 12 August 2026

Join us on our 16-day adventure through *England*, *Scotland*, and *Ireland* at the special group rate of **R66 990** per person. Several highlights are included, such as the annual *Edinburgh Military Tattoo* spectacle and a scenic *Severn Valley Steam Train* ride.

## Itinerary

### Day 1: Tuesday, 28 July – CAPE TOWN / JOHANNESBURG →

The big day has finally arrived! We depart in the early evening from Cape Town and Johannesburg to London. Overnight flight after dinner.

### Day 2: Wednesday, 29 July – → LONDON

We arrive in **London** early in the morning. Since it's still too early to check in at our hotel, we head to Covent Garden in the heart of the city, where we have time to explore the area. Late morning, we travel to the **Britannia International Hotel** at *Canary Wharf*, where we will stay for the next two nights. This afternoon, there is time to explore the *Canary Wharf* area or visit the bustling shopping streets of *Oxford*, *Regent*, and *Piccadilly*. Dinner at 19:00 at our hotel.

### Day 3: Thursday, 30 July – LONDON

After breakfast, we set off with a local tour guide for a sightseeing tour of this impressive city. Keep your camera ready for Buckingham Palace, Westminster Abbey, the Houses of Parliament, the Tower of London, St. Paul's Cathedral, and more.

In the afternoon, we enjoy a view of the city from the *London Eye* (entrance fee included), followed by free time to explore the city further. Dinner at 18:00 in our hotel.

♪ Tonight, there is an optional ABBA VOYAGE SHOW at the ABBA ARENA. Tickets available at R1 480.

### Day 4: Friday, 31 July – LONDON → STRATFORD-UPON-AVON → RUGBY → BIRMINGHAM

After an early breakfast, we pack up and head off to explore England! Our first stop is the charming Tudor town of **Stratford-upon-Avon**, where we visit Shakespeare's birthplace (entrance fee included). Afterwards, there's free time to explore and enjoy the town on foot.

We continue north to the town of **Rugby**, where the sport was born. We visit the school where William Webb Ellis is said to have invented the game, and there is also a small museum we can explore.

In the late afternoon, we arrive near **Birmingham**, where we will spend the next three nights at the **Bromsgrove Hotel & Spa**. The hotel (with an indoor pool) located in the heart of the English countryside. Dinner at 19:00.



See London's landmarks from the *London Eye*



The picturesque *Cotswolds* in England

### Day 5: Saturday, 1 August – COTSWOLDS: STOW-ON-THE-WOLD & BOURTON-ON-THE-WATER → COVENTRY

After breakfast, we visit the famous **Cotswolds**. Our first stop is **Stow-on-the-Wold**, the highest town in the Cotswolds (224m), located in Gloucestershire. Explore the large market square surrounded by charming, picture-perfect buildings. Next, we visit **Bourton-on-the-Water**, situated along the Windrush River and known for its distinctive low bridges and traditional stone houses. We also make a short stop at **Coventry Cathedral**, where you can view the haunting remains of the original structure that was destroyed by German bombers on 14 November 1940. In the late afternoon, we return to the *Bromsgrove Hotel* for dinner.

### Day 6: Sunday, 2 August – SEVERN VALLEY STEAM RAILWAY → SHREWSBURY

After breakfast, we head to Bridgnorth Station for a nostalgic ride on the authentic **Severn Valley Steam Railway**, travelling from Bridgnorth to Kidderminster. Our bus will meet us at the end of the line and take us on to **Shrewsbury**, a charming town on the banks of the River Severn. There, we'll have time for an optional lunch and to explore the town at leisure. *Shrewsbury's beautiful Tudor centre is lined with traditional half-timbered houses*, offering a glimpse into England's architectural past. At around 16:00, we return to our hotel.

**Day 7: Monday, 3 August – BIRMINGHAM → LAKE DISTRICT → WINDERMERE → GREYNA GREEN → PRESTWICK**

This morning, we depart at 08:00 and continue our journey north through England to the stunning **Lake District**, widely considered England's most beautiful national park. We visit the charming town of **Windermere**, where you'll have free time to explore. In the early afternoon, we cross the border into Scotland and make a stop at **Gretna Green**, a village steeped in romantic and historical intrigue. Later in the afternoon, we arrive at the **Adamton Hotel** in **Prestwick**, where we will stay for the next four nights. Enjoy a Scottish-style dinner at 19:00 at the hotel. Prestwick is located on the west coast of Ayrshire, about 30 miles southwest of Glasgow.

**Day 8: Tuesday, 4 August – LOCH LOMOND → LUSS → STIRLING**

This morning we travel to **Loch Lomond**, the largest lake in the British Isles, for a scenic boat cruise at 10:30 (entrance included). A bonus stop is the lovely historic fishing village of **Luss**, set on the western shore of the loch. In the early afternoon, we visit **Stirling**, a medieval town in central Scotland and former capital of the country. The town is visually dominated by its impressive Stirling Castle (entrance included). There will also be time to explore the old town of Stirling at your own pace.



**Stirling Castle in Scotland**



**Experience the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo spectacle!**

**Day 9: Wednesday, 5 August – EDINBURGH & TATTOO**

After breakfast, the morning is free to relax or explore. We'll receive packed lunches so we can depart at 11:00 for **Edinburgh**, Scotland's beautiful and stately capital—rich in history, green parks, and historic buildings. Edinburgh Castle is certainly a highlight. We'll enjoy a guided city tour with a local guide, followed by some free time for further exploration at your leisure.

♪ We'll also feel the buzz in the streets from the annual **Edinburgh International Festival**—the largest arts festival in the world, with over 3,500 performances! It has been hosted annually since 1947.

♪ A ticket to the world-famous **Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo** is included. The spectacle begins at 21:00, lasts 90 minutes, and features the same performance every night. The evening ends with a spectacular fireworks display.

**Day 10: Thursday, 6 August – FALKIRK → HELIX PARK → GLASGOW**

This morning, we travel to **Falkirk** for a very special experience aboard the **Falkirk Wheel** (entrance included). We also visit **Helix Park** to view the awe-inspiring **Kelpies statues**—two horse-head sculptures standing 30 metres tall. We continue to **Glasgow** (host city of the 2014 Commonwealth Games) for a fascinating **city tour** with our local guide. Highlights include **Glasgow Cathedral**, which dates back to the 13th century, and the impressive **City Chambers** on George Square. Later in the afternoon, we return to **Prestwick**.

**Day 11: Friday, 7 August – PRESTWICK → CAIRNRYAN → BELFAST → DUBLIN**

After breakfast, our adventure continues as we say farewell to Scotland. From Cairnryan, we board a 2.5-hour ferry ride across the Irish Sea to Ireland. We'll make a photo stop at the "Glass of Thrones" display near the impressive Titanic Museum and get a quick look at Belfast in Northern Ireland on our way south to Dublin. We'll spend the next four nights at the elegant four-star **Bonnington Hotel**, located in the southern suburbs of Dublin. Dinners are included each evening.

**Day 12: Saturday, 8 August – WATERFORD & KILDARE**

After breakfast, we continue exploring Ireland with a visit to **Waterford**, a city that has preserved its Viking heritage. Attractions include the iconic Reginald's Tower, the Waterford Heritage Centre with artifacts from the Viking era, and the renowned Waterford Crystal Factory, offering insight into traditional glass cutting and blowing. We'll also visit the typical Irish town of **Kildare**, where entrance to the Irish National Stud Farm & Gardens (with a local guide) is included.

**Day 13: Sunday, 9 August – WICKLOW MOUNTAINS → GLENDALOUGH → AVOCA**

After breakfast, we head into the **scenic Wicklow Mountains**, enjoying the beautiful Irish landscape. We visit the quaint village of **Avoca**, located along the Avoca River and home to Ireland's oldest working handweaving mill, dating back to 1723.

We also explore the historic monastic site of **Glendalough**, founded by St. Kevin in the 5th century. Once a powerful settlement by the 9th century, it fell into ruin after 1398. Even in ruins, its 10th-century Round Tower and Cathedral, nestled in one of the most breathtaking parts of Ireland, remain truly moving and atmospheric.

You'll begin at the Main Gateway, where you'll find a cluster of important ruins from this ancient religious city.





The scenic Wicklow Mountains in Ireland



Take a stroll through the streets of Dublin!

#### **Day 14: Monday, 10 August – DUBLIN**

After breakfast, we set off on a guided sightseeing tour of Dublin's highlights with a local guide.

In the afternoon, we visit the **Guinness Storehouse** (entrance included) for the popular Guinness Tour. According to the Lonely Planet guide: "This beer-lover's Disneyland is a multimedia homage to Ireland's most famous export!"

#### **Day 15: Tuesday, 11 August – DUBLIN →**

After breakfast, we have a few final hours to enjoy this beautiful country! It's time to say goodbye to the British Isles as we travel by bus to Dublin Airport for our return flight to South Africa. Dinner will be served on the flight.

#### **Day 16: Wednesday, 12 August → JOHANNESBURG / CAPE TOWN**

Breakfast is served on board the flight early this morning.

After an unforgettable adventure through the *British Isles*, we land back in Johannesburg and Cape Town.

#### **INCLUDED IN THE TOUR PRICE:**

- ✓ International flights (including airport taxes and fuel surcharges) in economy class from and to Johannesburg. There is an additional flight cost of R1 850 for the return flight from and to Cape Town.
- ✓ Luxury coach transport with experienced drivers for fourteen days.
- ✓ Accommodation for thirteen nights in four carefully selected hotels (as indicated in the itinerary).
- ✓ Daily breakfast and dinner.
- ✓ All sightseeing as outlined in the itinerary.
- ✓ Entrance fees for the following attractions: London Eye, Shakespeare's House, Severn Valley Steam Railway, Falkirk Wheel, Loch Lomond Cruise, Stirling Castle, Irish Stud Farm & National Gardens, and the Dublin Guinness Factory.
- ✓ Admission ticket to the Edinburgh Military Tattoo in Edinburgh on 5 August 2026.
- ✓ Guided city tours with local guides in London, Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Dublin.
- ✓ The services of an experienced tour leader throughout the trip.

#### **PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:**

- The provisional tour cost of **R66 990** is based on airfare and land arrangements as of March 2025. It assumes an exchange rate of £1 = R23.50 and is subject to change due to exchange rate fluctuations.
- Visa costs of approximately **R4 500** are not included in the tour price.
- A single room supplement of **R8 870** applies for those requiring single accommodation.
- Comprehensive and fair group travel insurance from **TIC Europ Assistance** is available to all travelers under 76 years at **R560** for the sixteen days (an additional premium applies for travelers over 75).
- Tickets for the **ABBA VOYAGE SHOW** at the **ABBA ARENA** on 30 July 2026 are available at R1 480.
- Should there be any issues booking any of the listed hotels, accommodation of a similar standard will be provided.
- A minimum of 32 passengers must travel together throughout the tour.
- A deposit of **R7 500** must be paid as soon as possible to secure your place on the tour.
- The balance of the tour cost must be paid by **30 April 2026**.
- Unfortunately, credit card payments are not accepted.

#### **HOW TO BOOK:**

Please complete the booking and indemnity forms as soon as possible and email them to [info@vandyktours.co.za](mailto:info@vandyktours.co.za). Deposits should be paid (or transferred) to the following account:

Nedbank: 119 1533 964

Branch: George

Branch Code: 198 765

Account Holder: Van Dyk Travel

Account Type: Current/Business

Reference: BRITISH/your surname

For any further enquiries, please contact the tour leader, **Gerhard van Dyk**:

Phone: 082 767 8400 / Email: [info@vandyktours.co.za](mailto:info@vandyktours.co.za)



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