

Great Britain

Everything you should know about it.

The origins:

- Great Britain was probably first inhabited by those who crossed on the land bridge from the European mainland. Human footprints have been found from over 800,000 years ago in Norfolk and traces of Early humans have been found from some 500,000 years ago and Modern humans from about 30,000 years ago. The Romans conquered most of the island (up to Hadrian's Wall in northern England) and this became the Ancient Roman province of Britannia. In the course of the 500 years after the Roman Empire fell, the Britons of the south and east of the island were assimilated or displaced by invading Germanic tribes (Angles, Saxons, and Jutes, often referred to collectively as Anglo-Saxons).

Britain's most famous monarchs

- 1. Queen Elisabeth the II–Without a doubt the most famous British monarch, and arguably one of the world's most famous monarchs, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II is the current Queen of the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth nations.
- 2. Queen Victoria–Until recent years, the record of the UK's longest serving monarch was held by Queen Victoria, who ruled for an impressive 63 years until her death in 1901. Victoria acceded to the throne at the age of just 18 following the death of her uncle, King William IV who had no surviving children. She was popular during her early reign and married her husband, Prince Albert, in 1840. They went on to have nine children.
- 3. Henry VIII– The second monarch of the famous Tudor dynasty, Henry VIII is a famous figure in British history for many reasons. Perhaps the most well known of these are his six marriages. The capricious and impulsive Henry married six different women throughout his life, and most came to a tragic end.

Britain's Religion

- Christianity has been the largest religion by number of adherents since the Early Middle Ages: it was introduced under the ancient Romans, developing as Celtic Christianity. According to tradition, Christianity arrived in the 1st or 2nd Century. The most popular form is Anglicanism (known as Episcopalianism in Scotland). Dating from the 16th-century Reformation, it regards itself as both Catholic and Reformed. The Head of the Church is the monarch of the United Kingdom, as the Supreme Governor. It has the status of established church in England. There are just over 26 million people who believe in Anglicanism in Britain today, although only around one million regularly attend services. The second largest Christian practice is the Latin Rite of the Roman Catholic Church, which traces its history to the 6th century with Augustine's mission and was the main religion for around a thousand years. There are over 5 million believers today, 4.5 million in England and Wales and 750,000 in Scotland, although fewer than a million Catholics regularly attend Mass

The Language

- British English is spoken in the present day across the island, and developed from the Old English brought to the island by Anglo-Saxon settlers from the mid 5th century. Some 1.5 million people speak Scots—which was indigenous language of Scotland and has become closer to English over centuries. An estimated 700,000 people speak Welsh, an official language in Wales.¹ In parts of north west Scotland, Scottish Gaelic remains widely spoken. There are various regional dialects of English, and numerous languages spoken by some immigrant populations.

Britain's Fauna

- Animal diversity is modest, as a result of factors including the island's small land area, the relatively recent age of the habitats developed since the last glacial period and the island's physical separation from Continental Europe, and the effects of seasonal variability. Great Britain also experienced early Industrialisation and is subject to continuing urbanisation, which have contributed towards the overall loss of species. A DEFRA (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) study from 2006 suggested that 100 species have become extinct in the UK during the 20th century, about 100 times the background extinction rate.

Britain's Flora

- In a similar sense to fauna, and for similar reasons, the flora consists of fewer species compared to much larger continental Europe. The flora comprises 3,354 vascular plant species, of which 2,297 are native and 1,057 have been introduced. The island has a wide variety of trees including native species of birch, beech, ash, hawthorn, elm, oak, yew, pine, cherry and apple. Other trees have been naturalised, introduced especially from other parts of Europe (particularly Norway) and North America. Introduced trees include several varieties of pine, chestnut, maple, spruce, sycamore and fir, as well as cherry plum and pear trees. The tallest species are the Douglas firs; two specimens have been recorded measuring 65 metres or 212 feet. The Fortingall Yew in Perthshire is the oldest tree in Europe

Geology of Britain

- Great Britain has been subject to a variety of plate tectonic processes over a very extended period of time. Changing latitude and sea levels have been important factors in the nature of sedimentary sequences, whilst successive continental collisions have affected its geological structure with major faulting and folding being a legacy of each orogeny (mountain-building period), often associated with volcanic activity and the metamorphism of existing rock sequences. As a result of this eventful geological history, the island shows a rich variety of landscapes

Something About The Queen

- Elizabeth II (Elizabeth Alexandra Mary; born 21 April 1926) is Queen of the United Kingdom and 15 other Commonwealth realms.
- Elizabeth was born in Mayfair, London, as the first child of the Duke and Duchess of York (later King George VI and Queen Elizabeth). Her father ascended the throne on the abdication of his brother King Edward VIII in 1936, from which time she was the heir presumptive. She was educated privately at home and began to undertake public duties during the Second World War, serving in the Auxiliary Territorial Service. In 1947, she married Philip, Duke of Edinburgh (died 9th April 2021), a former prince of Greece and Denmark, with whom she had four children: Charles, Prince of Wales; Anne, Princess Royal; Prince Andrew, Duke of York; and Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex.



Thanks for your attention!

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Sources: Wikipedia, British Times