

ATLANTIC TRAVEL & TOURS

UNITED KINGDOM AND THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND – PET FRIENDLY TRAVEL

**DISCOVER ENGLAND, SCOTLAND, WALES AND IRELAND
WITH YOUR PET: RELAXATION AND FUN WITHOUT
LIMITS**



FROM THE CEO - FOUNDER

Dear travelers,

Imagine a journey where you are never alone: your four-legged companion walks beside you every step of the way, sharing every discovery, every city view, and every corner of nature. Each experience becomes a moment to enjoy together, filled with authentic emotions and companionship, with the joy of exploring side by side.

Picture peaceful walks along quiet beaches, sunlit waterfronts, parks, and scenic trails immersed in nature, **where your pet can move freely and safely**. Imagine charming small towns, cafés, and local markets welcoming both you and your dog or cat, **creating memories that will forever remain part of your story**.

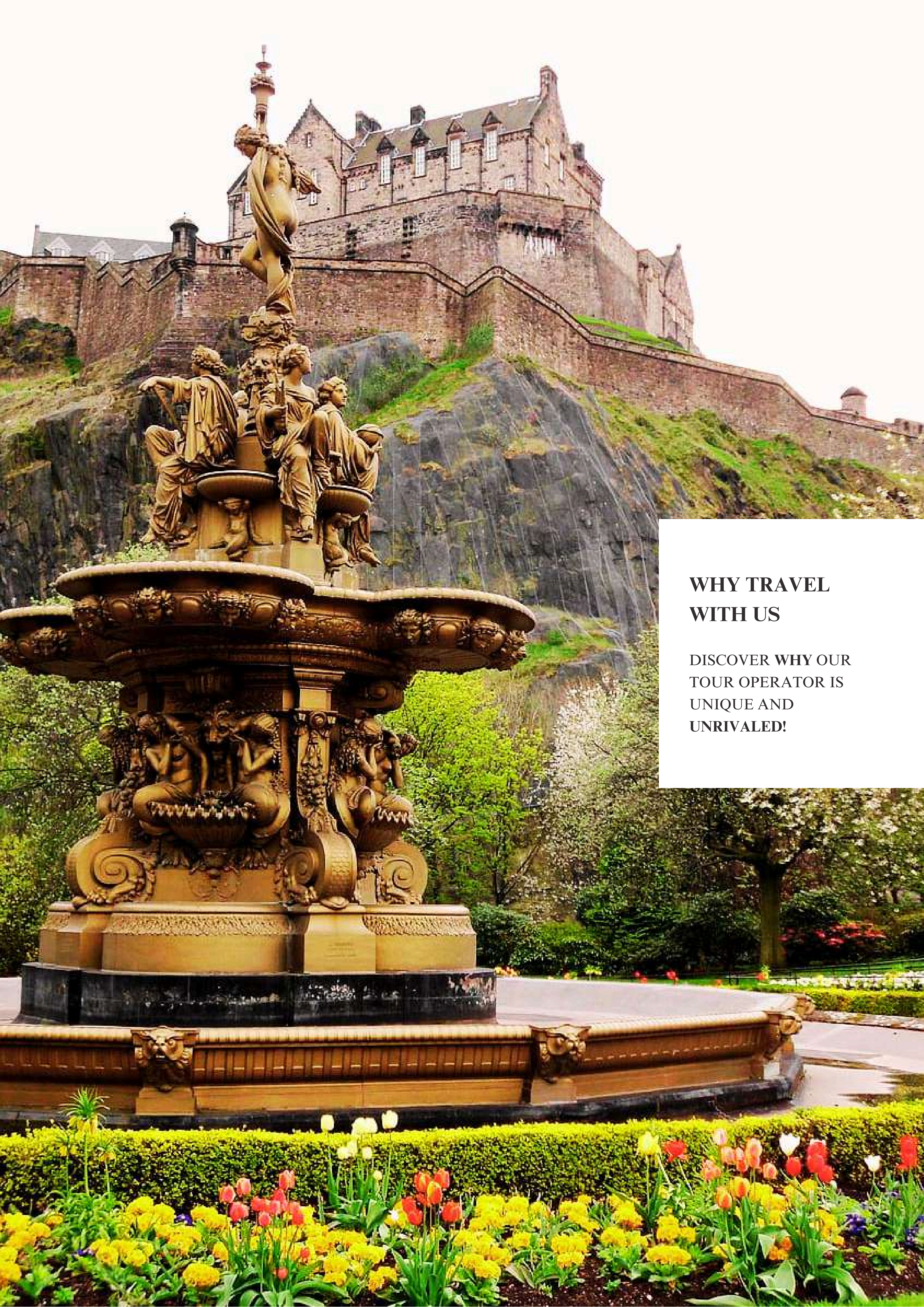
This brochure is an invitation **to explore, to be inspired**, and to imagine every experience as a special moment to share together. Each page offers atmospheres, ideas, and carefully selected details designed to make you feel **free, comfortable, and fully immersed in the beauty of each destination**.

Open these pages, **let yourselves be carried away by emotion**, and begin planning a pet-friendly journey that belongs as much to your companion as it does to you — an unforgettable adventure to experience together.



Steve Tabacchi

DR. STEVE TABACCHI
CEO - FOUNDER
ATLANTIC TRAVEL & TOURS



WHY TRAVEL WITH US

**DISCOVER WHY OUR
TOUR OPERATOR IS
UNIQUE AND
UNRIVALED!**

BESPOKE TRAVEL FOR EVERYONE



OUR TRAVEL ITINERARIES

We exclusively curate itineraries for innovative and original travel experiences that diverge from the conventional paths of mass tourism. Our aim is for each customer to be the protagonist of their own journey.

OUR TRAVEL CLASSES

We arrange travel for the following categories:

- **FIRST**
- **PREMIUM**
- **ECONOMY**

WE ORGANIZE ITINERARIES USING THE FOLLOWING TRANSPORTS



CAR

- ✓ RENTAL



VAN

- ✓ RENTAL
- ✓ SCHEDULED TOURS WITH DRIVER



COACH

- ✓ RENTAL WITH DRIVER
- ✓ SCHEDULED TOURS WITH DRIVER



MOTORHOME

- ✓ RENTAL

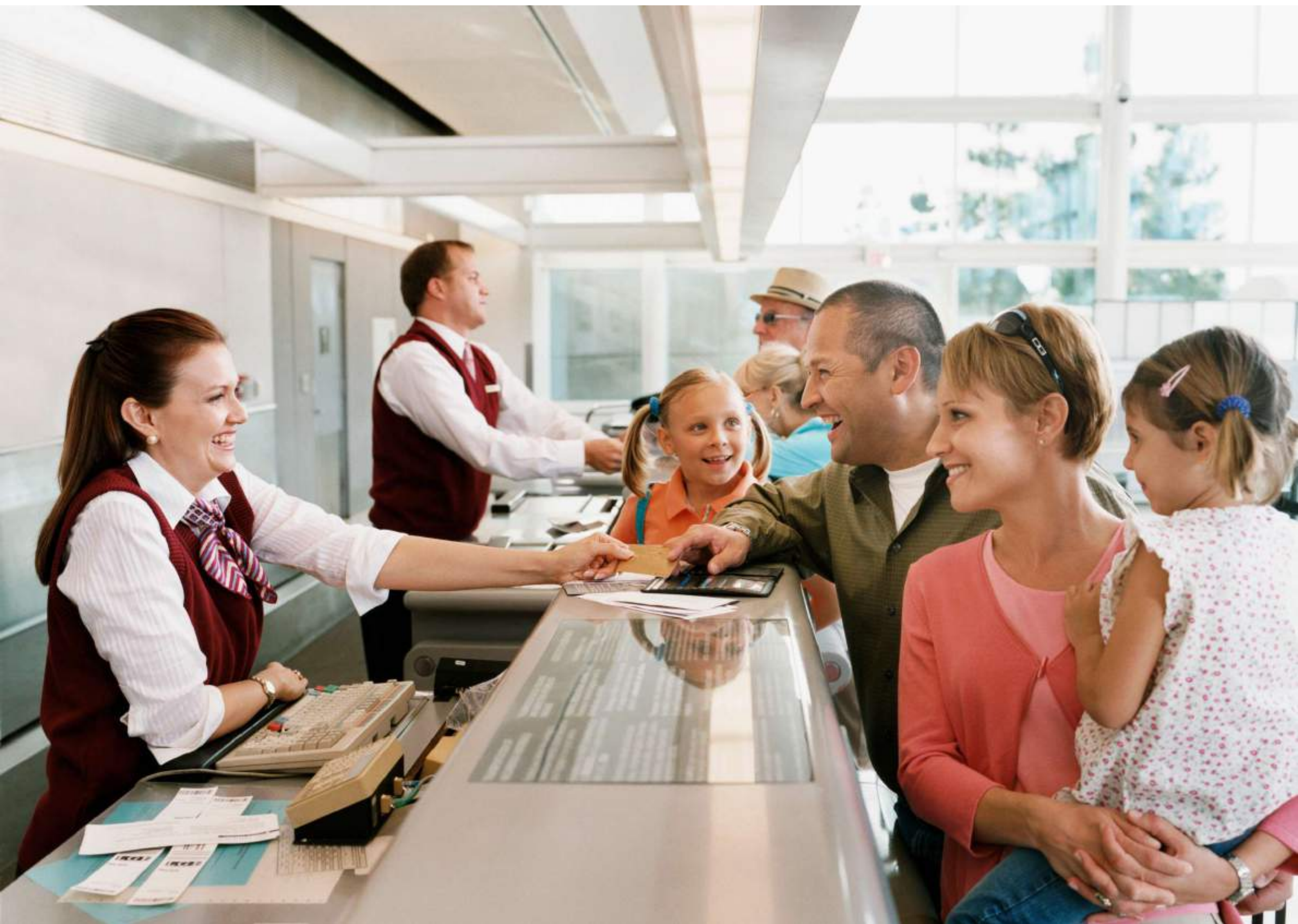


MOTORCYCLE

- ✓ CHARTER SERVICES
- ✓ TAILOR MADE TRAVEL ITINERARIES

PRIORITY CHECK-IN AND CHECKED BAGGAGE

Bid farewell to lengthy check-in queues! With our priority check-in service, you can swiftly obtain your boarding pass and check in your baggage. We are consistently prepared to provide this option, contingent upon airline availability, to enhance your travel experience, whether you are flying in premium or economy class. **Do not squander time; opt for comfort!**



NO QUEUES AT THE AIRPORT WITH THE FAST TRACK SERVICE



We understand the frustration of enduring lengthy waits at airport security. Therefore, we consistently incorporate fast track access into our travel packages, allowing you to bypass the queue and enjoy a stress-free experience.

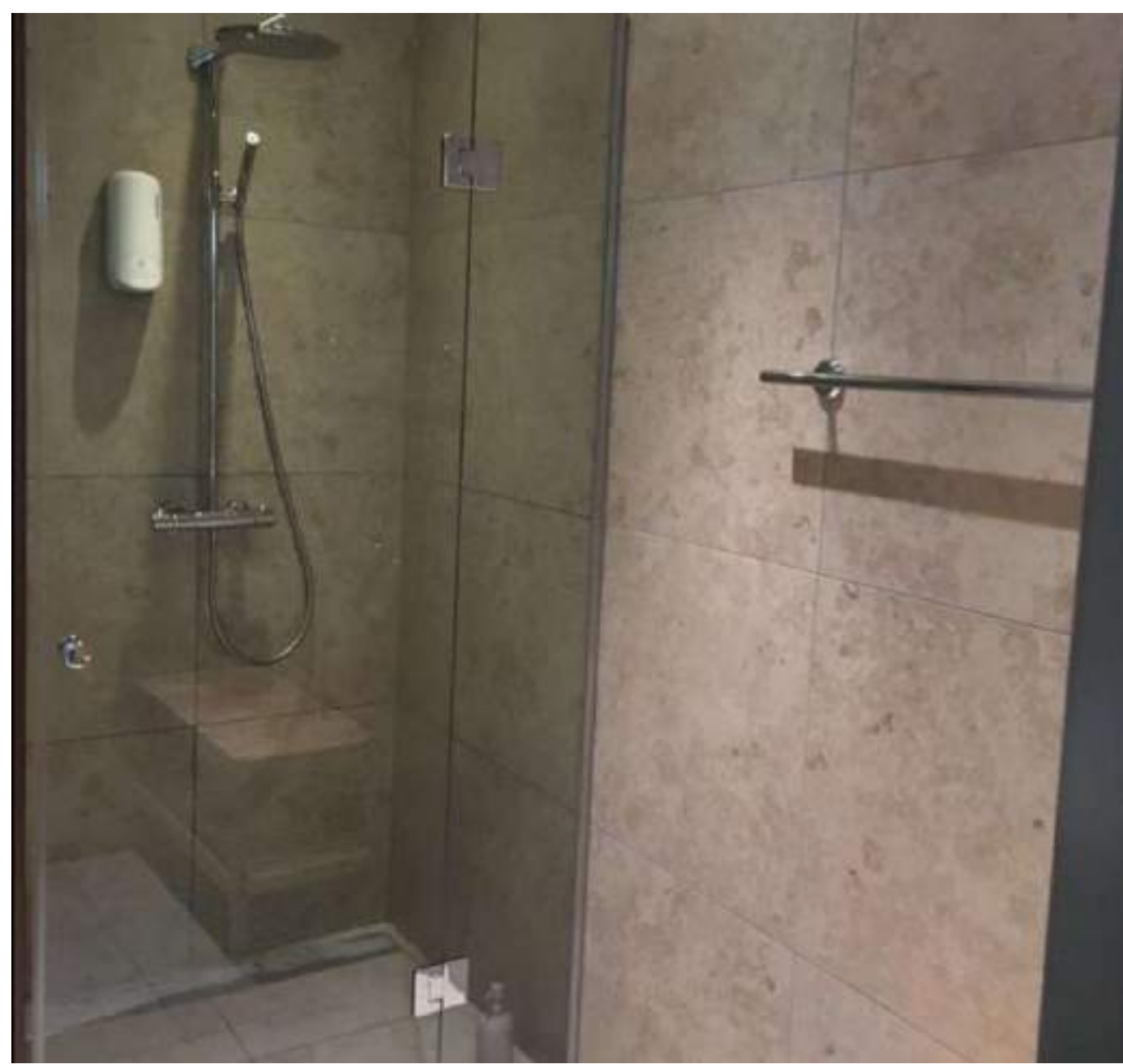
The service is contingent upon the availability at each airport, thus we cannot assure its constant accessibility. Nevertheless, we are pleased to announce that it has been implemented in the majority of the airports we utilize. **Seize this opportunity!**





COMFORT IN AIRPORT LOUNGES

Once reserved solely for business and first-class passengers, airport lounges are now available to travelers in other classes as well. We provide the highest level of comfort and luxury to ensure your airport experience is memorable. In our travel packages, we consistently strive to include access to these exclusive areas at both departure and arrival points (subject to airport and airline availability). Relax, indulge in culinary delights, savor fine beverages, and enjoy refreshing showers, all within elegant and tranquil settings. **Seize this exceptional opportunity!**



OTHERS SERVICES

OUR EXCEPTIONAL
PARTNERSHIPS WITH
DIVERSE SUPPLIERS ENABLE
US TO PROVIDE OUR
CUSTOMERS WITH THE
FINEST OF THE FOLLOWING
SERVICES

ADVANCED LUGGAGE SHIPPING
TOURIST VISAS
CURRENCY EXCHANGE
INSURANCE POLICIES



 AUD	7.01
 NZD	5.05
 JPY	0.0913
 GBP	11.23
 EUR	9.71
 SGD	5.35
 CNY	7.00



ALWAYS TRAVEL WITH A PREMIUM DISCOUNT!



-20%

- **ACTIVE YEAR-ROUND**
- **FOR ALL CATEGORIES OF TRAVELERS**
- **NO MINIMUM SPENDING THRESHOLD REQUIRED**



TRAVEL PHOTOGRAPHER

FOR AN UNFORGETTABLE TOUR
FOREVER



Certain journeys hold a unique significance: a honeymoon, a wedding anniversary marked by the renewal of vows, or cherished moments spent with close friends or family. Such beautiful occasions will be immortalized through professional photography and videography. Should you wish to incorporate this option into your upcoming trip, we are pleased to provide assistance with photographers who can transform your experience into a lasting memory.



ONE FREE INDIVIDUAL FOR EVERY 15 PAYING CUSTOMERS

Take advantage of our **perpetually active** promotion. If you can gather a **minimum of 15 individuals**, one person will receive a **complimentary** trip. Consider anyone who might be interested among family, friends, colleagues, or others. Additionally, if you require a tour leader or tour guide to assist you and your group throughout the entire tour, we can provide this service as well

TRAVELING WITH PETS



Do you wish to travel but are uncertain about who to entrust your four-legged companion to? Why not bring him or her along for the adventure? After all, he or she is an essential member of your family. We also arrange customized trips for this specific situation.

SERVICES OFFERED

- **TRANSPORT**
- **ACCOMMODATION**
- **PET SITTING SERVICE**
- **TRAVEL INSURANCE FOR ANIMALS**

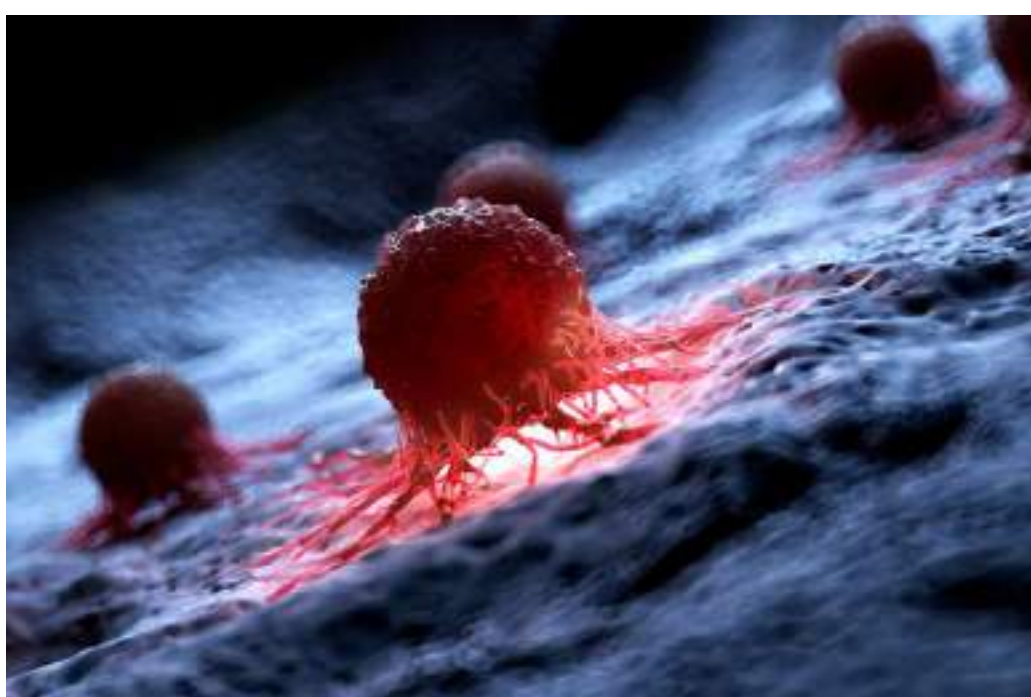




OUR COMMITMENT TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND CANCER RESEARCH



THROUGH OUR TRIPS, WE AIM TO PROVIDE OUR CUSTOMERS WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO **SUPPORT** NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS DEDICATED TO ADDRESSING THE FOLLOWING GLOBAL CHALLENGES.



- **CONSERVATION OF PLANT AND ANIMAL LIFE**
- **GLOBAL WARMING**
- **CANCER RESEARCH**



WHY CHOOSE A PET-FRIENDLY JOURNEY IN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND IRELAND

DISCOVER ENGLAND, SCOTLAND, WALES AND IRELAND TOGETHER WITH YOUR FOUR-LEGGED COMPANION AND LET YOURSELVES BE INSPIRED TO CREATE A TAILOR-MADE, EXCLUSIVE JOURNEY BEYOND THE USUAL PATHS OF MASS TOURISM

TRAVELLING TOGETHER WITHOUT LEAVING ANYONE BEHIND BETWEEN THE UK AND THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND



There are journeys that become truly complete only when they can be shared with everyone in your life, including those who are silently but constantly part of your family.

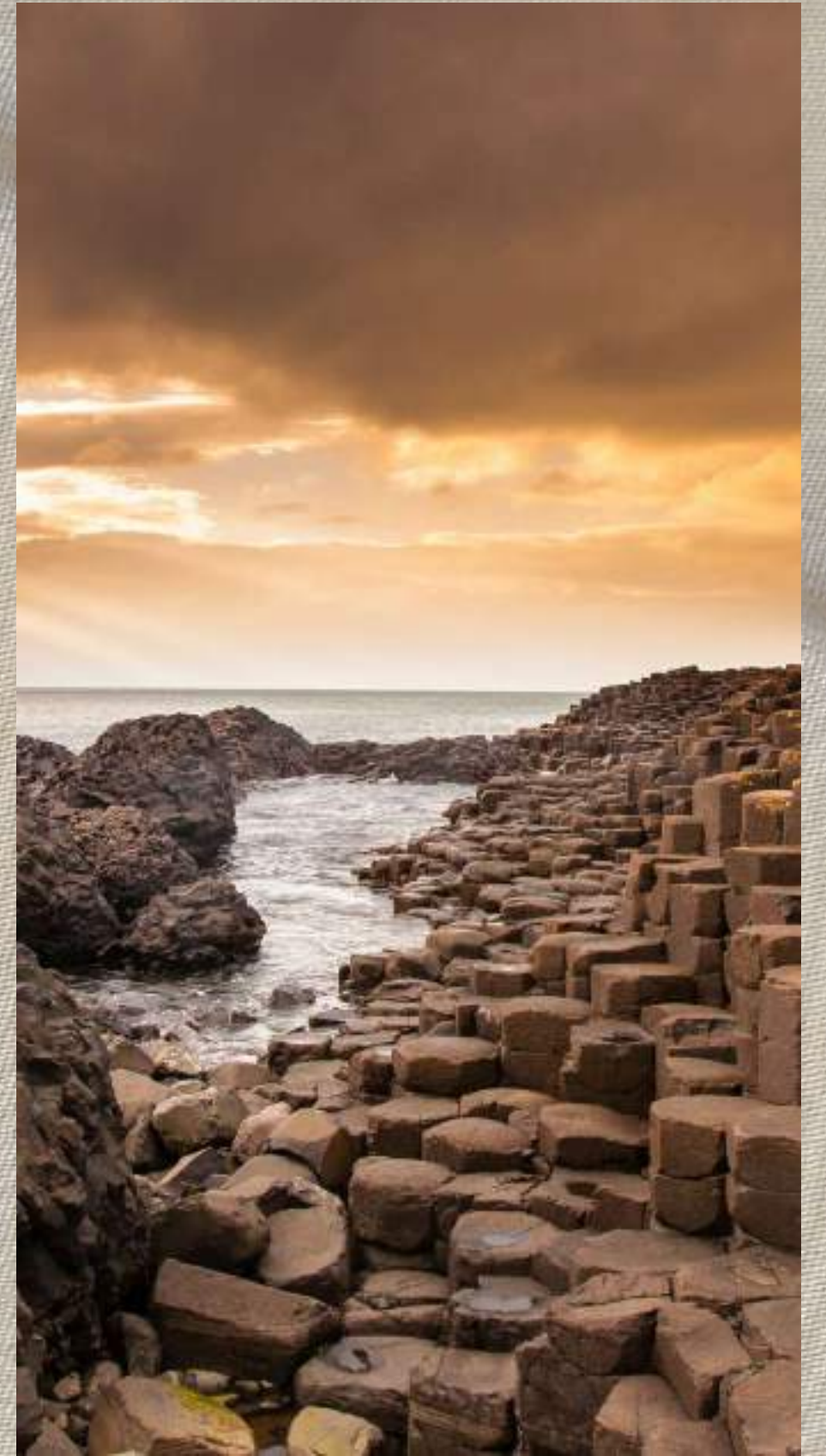
Traveling with your pets means choosing a freer and more natural way to explore, where travel isn't limited by barriers but transforms into shared experiences. It's a more spontaneous approach to travel, where every discovery becomes collective and every place takes on an even deeper meaning because it's experienced together.

The United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland offer numerous settings suitable for this type of experience, thanks to the presence of wide natural spaces, accessible coastlines, and open countryside where the pace is slow and the connection with the environment is direct. In Ireland, the long beaches of Rossnowlagh and Narin Beach in Donegal, as well as the rural areas of Cavan and the scenic routes of the Ring of Kerry in Munster, offer ideal spaces for shared walks in uncrowded natural environments. In the United Kingdom, the coasts of Cornwall, the moors of the Yorkshire Dales, and the vast rural areas of the Lake District offer perfect settings for enjoying outdoor experiences in complete freedom.

In these regions, nature unfolds in an open and welcoming way: coastal paths, national parks, and rural routes allow for leisurely exploration, alternating between sea, hills, and villages where the connection with the environment remains central. Many small historic towns also offer a widespread welcoming atmosphere and a human-scale atmosphere, facilitating a simple and relaxed experience of the journey.

In this context, travel takes on an even more authentic meaning: it's not just about discovery, but about sharing. Every walk along the coast, every stop in a rural village, every panorama observed together becomes part of a shared experience, built on small moments that remain etched in time.

This isn't just a pet-friendly trip, but a different way to experience the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland: an experience designed for those who want to explore without compromise, in total freedom, comfort, and harmony with nature, away from the most crowded and touristy routes.



WHY A PET-FRIENDLY TRIP TO THE UNITED KINGDOM AND IRELAND?

LANDSCAPES THAT WELCOME THE WHOLE FAMILY

The United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland are ideal destinations for those who want to travel with their pets, thanks to the widespread presence of open natural spaces, accessible coastlines, and expansive countryside where outdoor activity is an integral part of the experience. In Ireland, the long beaches of Donegal such as Rosstown Beach and Narin Beach, the rural areas of Connemara National Park, and the scenic routes of the Wild Atlantic Way offer perfect settings for shared walks in natural, undeveloped environments. Even small coastal towns such as Westport or Dingle are characterized by a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere. In the United Kingdom, the vast areas of the Lake District National Park, the moors of the Yorkshire Dales, the coasts of Cornwall, and the trails on the Isle of Skye in Scotland offer numerous opportunities to experience nature with your pets, among easily accessible lakes, hills, and coastal views.

AUTHENTIC AND SHARED EXPERIENCES

A pet-friendly trip to these destinations offers simple yet meaningful experiences, without sacrifices. Walks along Lough Corrib in Ireland or Loch Lomond in Scotland, coastal paths like the South West Coast Path in England, or stretches of the Wild Atlantic Way allow you to explore the area freely and naturally. Many rural and coastal villages, such as Keswick in the Lake District, St. Ives in Cornwall, or Clifden in Connemara, offer open spaces, walking trails, and a relaxed atmosphere where the presence of animals is widely accepted. Numerous public parks and historic gardens also have accessible outdoor areas, ideal for pleasant stops during the journey. In this context, the journey becomes a shared experience: every walk, every scenic stop, and every moment in nature helps strengthen the bond between traveler and animal, without limitations.

THE ART OF SLOW TRAVEL, TOGETHER

The United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland naturally lend themselves to slow and flexible tourism, thanks to short distances, scenic roads, and a network of rural trails that traverse ever-changing landscapes. Itineraries like the Causeway Coastal Route in Northern Ireland, the North Coast 500 in Scotland, or the aforementioned Wild Atlantic Way allow for leisurely travel, alternating between sea, countryside, and small towns. This approach allows for harmonious itineraries, where each day flows seamlessly into the next without pressure or rigidity. Stops become a fundamental part of the experience: a secluded beach, a rural village, a nature park, or a scenic trail become opportunities to share time and space in complete freedom. It's the ideal choice for those who want to explore the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland with their pets, experiencing an authentic, relaxed journey immersed in nature, away from the most crowded routes.



TAILOR-MADE TRIPS TO THE UK AND THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND WITH YOUR PETS

A trip to the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland can be truly special when shared with your four-legged friends. Pet-friendly holidays allow you to explore unique landscapes, authentic villages, and natural attractions with your pets, without sacrificing comfort, safety, and relaxation.

For this reason, it should never be a standard package, but a carefully and attentively designed experience, designed for you and your four-legged travel companions.

Our approach to creating pet-friendly travel is based on a fundamental principle: each itinerary must be unique, accessible, and tailored to the needs of your pets, ensuring safe and enjoyable experiences for everyone.

We listen to your desires, understand your pace and travel style, and create an itinerary that makes every stage of your shared adventure special.

Every detail is carefully studied:

- Choice of destinations, from nature parks with pet-friendly trails, to quiet beaches and scenic islands, to pet-friendly villages and hamlets**
- Pace of the itinerary, to enjoy every experience without rushing and without stress, leaving space for the needs of your animals**
- Experiences along the way, such as scenic walks, visits to pet-friendly museums and attractions, nature excursions and moments of relaxation together**
- A selection of the most welcoming facilities, with dedicated services for pets and comfortable spaces for a peaceful stay.**

The result is an authentic, safe, and deeply personal journey, designed to offer unforgettable moments with your pets, discovering places far from mass tourism and creating precious memories shared with those you love.

EXPERIENCES THAT MAKE A PET-FRIENDLY TRIP TO THE UNITED KINGDOM AND IRELAND UNIQUE

SHARED NATURE AND OPEN SPACES

Traveling with your pets becomes a particularly pleasant experience thanks to the widespread presence of open and welcoming natural environments. Rural landscapes, picturesque coastlines, and large green spaces offer numerous opportunities for relaxing walks and shared moments. These environments allow you to experience the journey in complete freedom, strengthening the bond with your four-legged companions.



WELCOMING HOSPITALITY AND INFORMAL ATMOSPHERES

One of the most appreciated aspects of these destinations is the welcoming and inclusive attitude towards pets. Accommodations, public spaces, and outdoor areas are often designed to welcome the entire family, creating a relaxed and informal atmosphere. This openness allows you to enjoy every moment of the trip without separation, making the experience more authentic and peaceful.

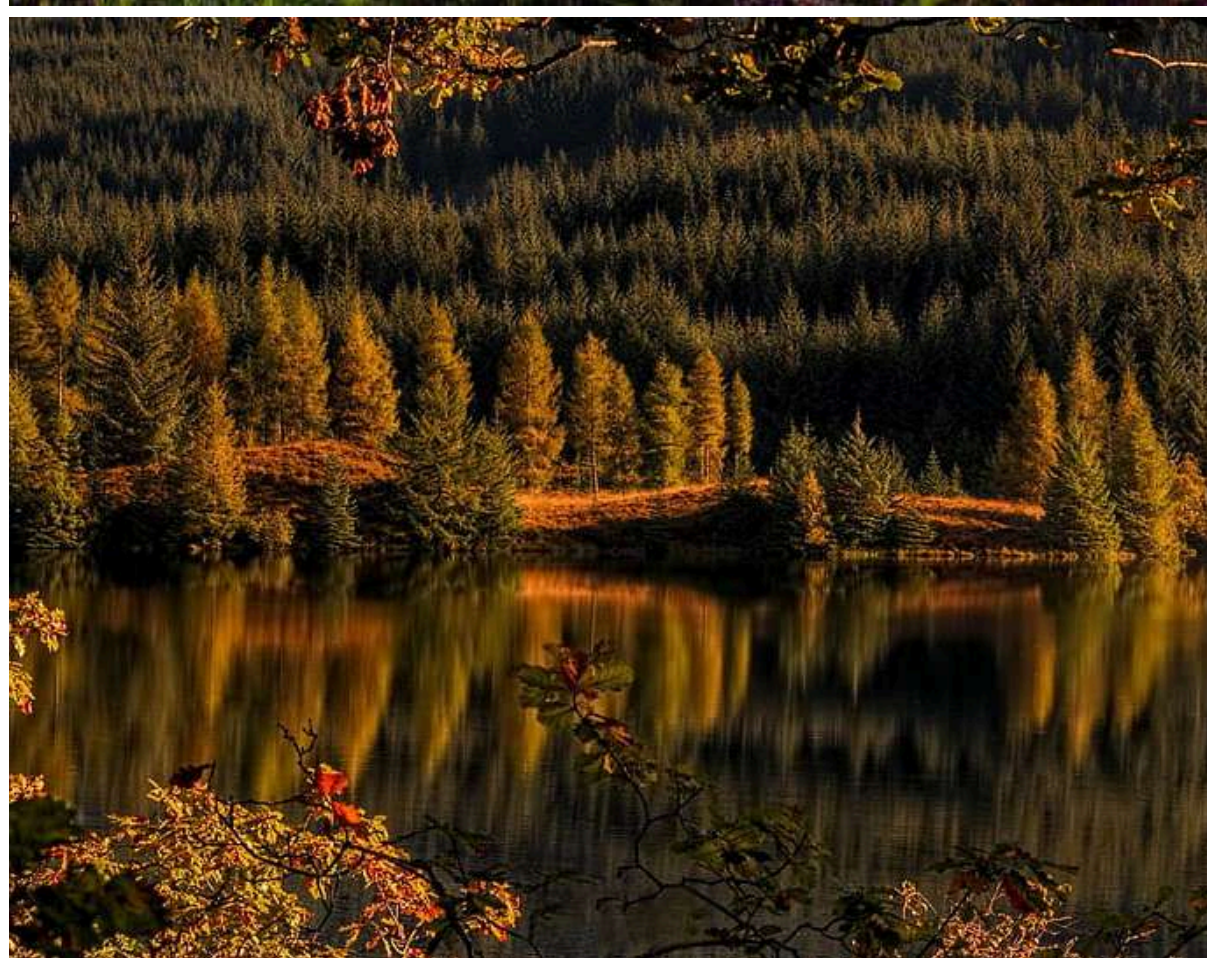


THE PLEASURE OF SLOW TRAVEL, TOGETHER

A pet-friendly trip stands out for its natural and flexible pace. Quiet walks, scenic stops, and uncrowded itineraries allow you to explore the area at your own pace, respecting the needs of both travelers and their pets. This approach fosters a harmonious and shared experience, where each day integrates with the next, creating precious memories shared together.



WHEN TO GO ON A PET-FRIENDLY TRIP TO THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND



The United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland can be visited all year round, as each season offers different atmospheres and unique opportunities for discovery, capable of enhancing the trip in ever new ways.

Spring marks the awakening of the landscape: countryside and gardens once again turn a deep green, rivers flow with greater vitality, and villages, both coastal and rural, gradually resume their daily rhythm, offering a bright and regenerating setting.

Summer brings longer days and ideal conditions for exploring the region: rugged coastlines, natural parks, and inland regions open up to scenic routes, outdoor walks, and itineraries that allow you to fully experience the diverse landscapes.

Autumn transforms many areas into particularly evocative landscapes, where countryside, forests, and hills are tinged with warm, enveloping hues. It's an ideal time to appreciate the more intimate and contemplative side of places, amidst scenic routes and more tranquil atmospheres.

Winter, on the other hand, offers a more essential and intimate atmosphere: silent landscapes, soft lights, and natural environments that invite a slower pace. Cities and villages take on a welcoming and discreet atmosphere, offering cultural and scenic experiences with a strong emotional impact.



10 PET-FRIENDLY TRAVEL EXPERIENCES THAT ONLY EXIST IN THE UK AND IRELAND

Some experiences in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland are so closely tied to the most authentic territories that they make the trip truly memorable.

Among the most suggestive:

- Travel the Wild Atlantic Way along Ireland's west coast - One of Europe's most iconic scenic routes, passing cliffs, remote bays, and villages overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. A seamless journey through untamed nature and small, traditional towns.
- Stay in a historic castle transformed into an exclusive residence in Ireland and Scotland - Ancient fortified residences immersed in parks and rural landscapes, now transformed into charming accommodations where you can enjoy a suggestive and immersive experience.
- Admire the Slieve League Cliffs and the Burren landscapes in Ireland - One of Europe's most spectacular natural landscapes, where the ocean meets some of the continent's highest rock faces and unique karst landscapes.
- Stroll through London's historic neighborhoods along the Thames in England - Between iconic bridges, historic buildings, and elegant urban atmospheres, the river becomes the common thread of a city that combines tradition and modernity.
- Experience traditional music in historic Irish pubs - Intimate evenings in intimate settings where live music, storytelling, and conviviality are at the heart of the local culture.
- Exploring the Scottish Lochs and Highlands - A succession of valleys, bodies of water, and solitary mountains create one of the most romantic and cinematic landscapes in Europe.
- Visit historic university cities like Oxford and Cambridge – elegant and timeless centers, characterized by medieval architecture, historic colleges and refined cultural atmospheres.
- Walking along the coast of West Wales - A mix of wild beaches, scenic trails, and small villages overlooking the Atlantic, far from the main tourist crowds.
- Discover the Irish countryside among dry stone walls and traditional farms - Authentic rural landscapes where time seems to slow down and nature integrates with a long agricultural tradition.
- Visit the remote islands of northern Scotland such as Orkney and Shetland – isolated territories, with small communities, white beaches and unspoiled landscapes that offer a sense of intimacy and detachment from the world.



THE MOST CHARMING ACCOMMODATIONS FOR A PET-FRIENDLY TRIP

A journey is not only measured by the places visited, but also by the spaces in which to stop, slow down, and experience moments of quiet, intimacy, and discovery.

The United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland offer an extraordinary variety of accommodations that become an integral part of the travel experience, thanks to their strong territorial identity and profound connection with the landscape.

Rural homes nestled in the rolling countryside, stone cottages overlooking rugged coastlines, historic residences converted into small boutique hotels, and ancient estates nestled in lush greenery offer authentic and intimate stays, far from the crowded streets. Along the coast, some properties converted from historic lighthouses offer a particularly evocative experience, with sweeping ocean views and an atmosphere poised between seclusion and timeless charm.

Each accommodation reflects the local area through traditional materials, local architecture, and simple yet characterful spaces, where nature and culture blend harmoniously. Here, a stay isn't just a break, but an essential part of the journey, transforming every moment of relaxation into a meaningful and lasting memory.



MISTAKES TO AVOID WHEN ORGANIZING A PET-FRIENDLY TRIP TO THE UK AND THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

WANTING TO SEE TOO MANY THINGS IN A SHORT TIME

One of the most common mistakes is trying to fit too many stops into the same itinerary. The United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland offer a wide variety of landscapes and cities, but cramming them into just a few days risks turning the trip into a series of constant relocations. Choosing a few areas and dedicating more time to them allows you to experience each place with greater depth and authenticity.

UNDERESTIMATING DISTANCES AND TRAVEL TIMES

While maps may suggest short distances, actual travel times can be longer than expected, especially between rural areas, rugged coastlines, and inland regions. Carefully planning your connections helps avoid overly crowded days and allows you to enjoy the journey at a more relaxed pace.

DON'T LEAVE ROOM FOR SPONTANEOUS DISCOVERY

A key part of the experience in these destinations is the chance to stumble upon unexpected places: small villages, scenic coastlines, nature trails, or lesser-known historic centers. A rigid itinerary risks limiting these discoveries, which often become the most meaningful memories of the trip.

LIMIT YOURSELF EXCLUSIVELY TO LARGE CITIES

The main cities offer a significant cultural and historical heritage, but a key part of these regions' identity lies outside the urban centers. Countrysides, wild coastlines, islands, and small settlements reveal a more authentic and diverse side of the United Kingdom and Ireland, which deserves to be included in the travel experience.

UNDERESTIMATING THE CHOICE OF ACCOMMODATIONS

The accommodations you stay in contribute significantly to the quality of your trip. Historic homes, rural cottages, country residences, or accommodations overlooking natural landscapes can transform simple overnight stays into memorable experiences. Your choice of accommodation should always enhance the setting and atmosphere of your trip.

DON'T BUILD A TAILOR-MADE TRIP

Every traveler has different paces, interests, and priorities. A personalized itinerary, designed around your needs, allows for a more balanced and engaging experience. Adapting your itinerary to your preferences allows you to transform your discovery into a truly unique experience, aligned with your personal expectations.



QUALITY AND SERVICE UPDATES

The experiences and services presented in this brochure have been selected based on qualitative criteria focused on comfort, accessibility, and the personalization of the travel experience.

As operational conditions, dedicated services, and policies may be subject to updates or changes over time, each proposal will be reviewed and confirmed at the quotation stage, in order to ensure full alignment with the traveler's specific requirements and the expected quality standards.



ENGLAND - BETWEEN HISTORY, CULTURE, AND UNSPOILED LANDSCAPES



England is a country of contrasts and layers, where cosmopolitan cities like London, Manchester, and Bristol and rural villages like Castle Combe and Haworth coexist with extraordinary natural landscapes, from placid rivers like the Thames and the Severn to the rugged coastlines of Cornwall and Northumberland, from the rolling hills of the Cotswolds to the rugged peaks of the Pennines. Before the arrival of the Romans, the land was inhabited by Celtic peoples, including the Iceni and the Brigantes, who developed complex societies with spiritual traditions and defensive structures like Camp d'Arbury and Maiden Castle in Dorset. The Roman era left behind impressive legacies, from the walls and theaters of Londinium (now London) to aqueducts like Chedworth and the fortifications along Hadrian's Wall, while the Middle Ages saw the rise of abbeys like Fountains Abbey, castles like Warwick Castle, and market towns like York, which shaped England's economy and culture. During the Renaissance and subsequent centuries, the monarchy and noble families, including the Tudors and Cavendishes, consolidated architectural heritages such as Hampton Court Palace and Chatsworth House, historic gardens such as Kew Gardens and Sissinghurst Castle Garden, and libraries such as the Bodleian Library in Oxford, leaving a cultural legacy that still enriches cities and countryside today. Festivals such as Glastonbury, museums such as the Victoria & Albert Museum in London, and theaters such as the Royal Shakespeare Theatre in Stratford-upon-Avon testify to the nation's cultural vitality and capacity for innovation.

From a naturalistic perspective, England presents a surprising variety of environments: the rolling hills and moors of the Southwest (Cornwall, Devon, Somerset) offer breathtaking views and rugged coastlines; the plains of the Southeast and the Home Counties (Kent, Surrey, Sussex) offer waterways like the River Wey, ancient woodlands like Ashridge Forest, and green villages like Hever and Chilham; the Midlands combine placid rivers like the River Avon, lakes like Derwent Reservoir, and rural expanses ideal for peaceful walks; the North of England is characterized by mountains like the Pennines, lakes like those of the Lake District, and glacial fjords, with national parks like the Peak District National Park, the Lake District National Park, and Northumberland National Park, and nature reserves like the Farne Islands that protect a rich and diverse fauna, from migratory birds to wildlife typical of temperate woodlands. The Atlantic and North Sea coasts offer cliffs such as those of Flamborough Head, dunes like those of the Suffolk Coast, and bays such as St Ives Bay and Morecambe Bay, testimony to the millennia-old connection between the English and the sea.

Geographically, England covers approximately 130,000 km², an area slightly larger than Greece and just over half the size of Italy, comprising a network of cities, villages, hills and islands, including the famous Isle of Wight, the remote Isles of Scilly and Lindisfarne, places that enrich the nation's scenic and cultural diversity.

The five main areas that make up the region are:

- LONDON – POLITICAL, CULTURAL AND FINANCIAL CENTRE, INTERNATIONAL ACCESS HUB
- SOUTH EAST (HOME COUNTIES & SOUTH EAST) – CHARACTERISED BY LUSH COUNTRYSIDE, HISTORIC VILLAGES AND TRANQUIL COASTLINES
- SOUTH WEST (WEST COUNTRY) – ROLLING HILLS, MOORS AND RUGGED COASTLINE WITH LOCAL TRADITIONS STILL ALIVE
- MIDLANDS (HEART OF ENGLAND) – RURAL EXPANSES, WATERWAYS AND HISTORIC VILLAGES LINKED TO INDUSTRIAL TRADITION
- NORTHERN ENGLAND – MOUNTAINS, GLACIAL LAKES, FJORDS AND NATIONAL PARKS OF GREAT NATURAL BEAUTY

The main airports accessing the region are:

Heathrow and Gatwick (London and South East)

- Bristol Airport (South West)
- Manchester Airport (Midlands and North)
- Newcastle Airport (North East)

England is more than just a collection of territories: it is a layered tale of peoples, histories, legends, and landscapes, where each place invites you to discover it slowly and attentively. From the urban modernity of London to the tranquility of the moors and northern lakes, the nation offers a complete experience that blends history, culture, and nature in a rare and fascinating balance.

LONDON BETWEEN MILLENNIAL HISTORY, CULTURE AND INNOVATION

London is a global urban center, where history, culture, and modernity coexist in a unique mosaic. Founded by the Romans as Londinium, the city developed along the River Thames, quickly becoming a commercial, political, and cultural hub. From the medieval era with monuments like the Tower of London and the churches of Westminster Abbey and St. Paul's Cathedral, to the Renaissance and Victorian era with buildings like the Houses of Parliament and the Royal Albert Hall, London has witnessed exceptional architectural and cultural layers. Today, the capital offers a panorama of extraordinary diversity: from the cosmopolitanism of Covent Garden, Soho, and the Southbank, to the historic neighborhoods of Greenwich and Notting Hill, passing through green spaces like Hyde Park, Regent's Park, and the Royal Gardens of Kensington Palace, to the modern skyscrapers of Canary Wharf and The Shard. Museums, galleries, theaters, and libraries such as the British Museum, the National Gallery, the Victoria & Albert Museum, and the British Library offer a complete immersion in art, history, and international culture. From a naturalistic perspective, London surprises with its balance of urban greenery and waterways: the River Thames and its tributaries create harmonious river landscapes, while parks, gardens, and nature reserves such as Richmond Park, Hampstead Heath, and Kew Gardens protect unique plant and animal species, offering tranquil spaces even in the heart of the metropolis. London is more than just a city: it is a layered experience of eras, cultures, and landscapes, where every street, building, and park tells a different story and invites you to discover it slowly and attentively.

PLACES AND EXPERIENCES FOR A TRIP WITH YOUR FOUR- LEGGED FRIENDS OFF THE BEATEN PATH

Even four-legged friends can enjoy London in a completely relaxed and safe way. Strolls in city parks like Hampstead Heath and Regent's Park offer ample space for running and quiet spots to enjoy nature, while areas like Victoria Park and Battersea Park allow for moments of socialization with other dogs. Many accessible historic gardens, such as those at Chelsea Physic Garden, offer wide, safe paths where dogs can walk on a leash without obstacles, while hidden courtyards like Exmouth Market Garden or small squares like St. John's Square offer picturesque spots for quiet walks with pets. Some pet-friendly cafes and restaurants offer a break, and private cruises on the Thames offer unique experiences in the company of your pets, with dedicated areas and safe routes. London thus confirms itself as a city where discovery and culture can be shared with your four-legged companions, guaranteeing moments of pleasure and relaxation away from the most touristy routes.





DID YOU KNOW?

In the 1970s, London underwent major political and economic transformations: the government led by figures such as Harold Wilson and then James Callaghan attempted to manage economic crises and social tensions, while the city underwent profound urban restructuring and increased citizen political participation. In the 1980s, under Margaret Thatcher, London underwent radical changes in its industrial and financial structure, with the redevelopment of the docklands, the creation of Canary Wharf, and large-scale demonstrations by citizens and workers, which marked the social history of the capital.

Culturally, the wedding between Charles and Diana in 1981 captured worldwide attention and transformed the city into an international stage, with celebrations, parades and unprecedented popular participation, becoming a symbol of an era.

The London music scene was experiencing extraordinary ferment: groups such as Spandau Ballet (Woolwich), Johnny Hates Jazz and historic venues such as the 100 Club and the Marquee Club gave voice to new wave and British pop, while the first punk clubs and the birth of the electronic scene helped make London a global creative laboratory.

Theatre, literature and the visual arts thrived, with international festivals, the growth of galleries like the Tate Gallery and museums like the Victoria & Albert Museum, which expanded their collections of design, photography and decorative arts, offering increasingly interactive experiences.

Fascinating facts: During the 1980s and 1990s, pedestrian areas and spaces for cultural events were created along the South Bank, historic markets like Borough Market and Spitalfields became hotspots for gastronomic experimentation, and the Thames hosted floating theatre performances and regattas that drew curious onlookers from across the city.

Less central neighborhoods, such as Rotherhithe or Islington, hold hidden courtyards, gardens, and picturesque views to explore, offering intimate experiences away from mass tourism.

SOUTH EAST ENGLAND BETWEEN LUXURIANT COUNTRYSIDE, HISTORY AND PLACID COASTS

Southeast England is a region of elegant contrasts, where lush countryside alternates with historic villages like Chilham, Alfriston, and Bray, picturesque towns like Rye, Henley-on-Thames, and Windsor, and tranquil coastlines like Eastbourne, Whitstable, and Camber Sands, creating landscapes that blend nature, history, and culture. The area encompasses the counties of Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, East Sussex, Hampshire, Kent, Oxfordshire, Surrey, and West Sussex, known for their diverse natural environments, from tranquil rivers like the River Thames, River Wey, and River Medway, to ancient forests like Ashridge Forest, Windsor Great Park, and Horsenden Wood, to rolling hills and moorland dotting the hinterland, with verdant villages like Hever, Chilham, and Farnham. The coasts offer peaceful scenery and evocative panoramas, with bays and headlands like Beachy Head, Dungeness, and the sandy beaches of Kent and Sussex. Historically, the South East was inhabited by Celtic tribes such as the Cantiaci before the arrival of the Romans, who left behind evidence such as the remains of Roman roads, fortifications such as Portchester Castle and Pevensey Castle, and settlements such as Calleva Atrebatum (Silchester) and Roman Canterbury, along the Thames and inland. In the Middle Ages, abbeys such as Battle Abbey and castles such as Arundel Castle and Hever Castle consolidated religious and noble power, while market towns such as Canterbury, Winchester, and Oxford and coastal ports such as Dover, Hastings, and Portsmouth fostered trade related to fishing, textile manufacturing, and agricultural exports. During the Renaissance and subsequent centuries, noble families such as the Seymours, Howards, and Spencers, and monarchs such as Henry VIII and Elizabeth I, consolidated architectural heritages such as Hampton Court Palace, Windsor Castle, and Blenheim Palace, historic gardens such as Kew Gardens and Cliveden Gardens, and libraries such as the Bodleian Library in Oxford, which still enrich the region today. From a naturalistic perspective, the area is characterized by an extraordinary variety of ecosystems: river plains such as the Thames Valley, ancient woodlands such as the New Forest and Burnham Beeches, hills such as the Chiltern Hills and the South Downs, heathlands such as Ashdown Forest, and rugged coastlines such as the Seven Sisters Cliffs and Beachy Head, offer rich habitats for deer, foxes, migratory birds, and surprising marine life. Rivers and canals like the River Thames and the Grand Union Canal offer peaceful walks and recreational activities, while nature parks like the South Downs National Park and the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, along with local reserves like Rye Harbour Nature Reserve and Pagham Harbour Nature Reserve, guarantee nature experiences away from the tourist routes. The South East is a land of balance, where every village, town, and stretch of coastline tells a layered story of people, cultures, and landscapes, ready to offer authentic, intimate, and varied experiences for every type of travel.

PLACES AND EXPERIENCES FOR A TRIP WITH YOUR FOUR- LEGGED FRIENDS OFF THE BEATEN PATH

In Southeast England, traveling with pets becomes a peaceful and discoverable experience, thanks to open spaces, nature trails, and accommodations that welcome four-legged friends. Walks along the New Forest trails, with wide meadows, ancient woodlands, and clearings where wild horses roam freely, offer ideal spaces for dogs, while small villages like Lyndhurst or Brockenhurst are home to pet-friendly cafes and shops. The sandy beaches of Kent and Sussex, such as Camber Sands and West Wittering, offer leisurely seaside strolls, with dedicated pet areas and long stretches where dogs can run free. Historic homes and gardens open to the public also cater to pet-friendly visitors: Scotney Castle, a 14th-century castle surrounded by a romantic park and manicured gardens with level paths and large grassy areas, allows walks accompanied by your four-legged friends, as does the National Trust Gardens at Nymans, with wide paths and green spaces where pets are welcome. Picturesque villages like Alfriston and Rye offer pet-friendly accommodations, local shops, and small, outdoor restaurants that welcome pets, allowing you to discover traditions, architecture, and markets without giving up the company of your pets. River paths and canals, such as those along the River Wey or the Grand Union Canal, offer peaceful strolls, while nature parks, including Bedgebury National Pinetum & Forest and Ashridge Estate, offer play areas and trails accessible even to the smallest four-legged friends. Thus, travel becomes a shared experience, where nature, culture, and history intertwine with the freedom and joy of exploring with your pets, far from the beaten tourist track.





DID YOU KNOW?

South East England holds curiosities and anecdotes that tell of the region's richness.

In Hever, Kent, the castle where Anne Boleyn spent part of her youth preserves original 15th-century frescoes and furnishings, with architectural details linked to the Tudor court. Nearby, Rye in East Sussex boasts medieval houses with exposed beams and ancient passageways, testaments to the town's time as a busy port in the Cinque Ports.

The White Cliffs of Dover are not only an iconic landscape, but were also strategic refuges during the Second World War and are home to colonies of seabirds such as gannets.

In Berkshire, along the River Thames, villages retain traditions of river fishing and ancient rowing boats, while in Farnham, Surrey, St Andrew's Church houses a 17th-century organ still used for local concerts and celebrations.

Winchester, with its cathedral, is home to the Winchester Bible, a 12th-century manuscript considered one of England's greatest medieval masterpieces.

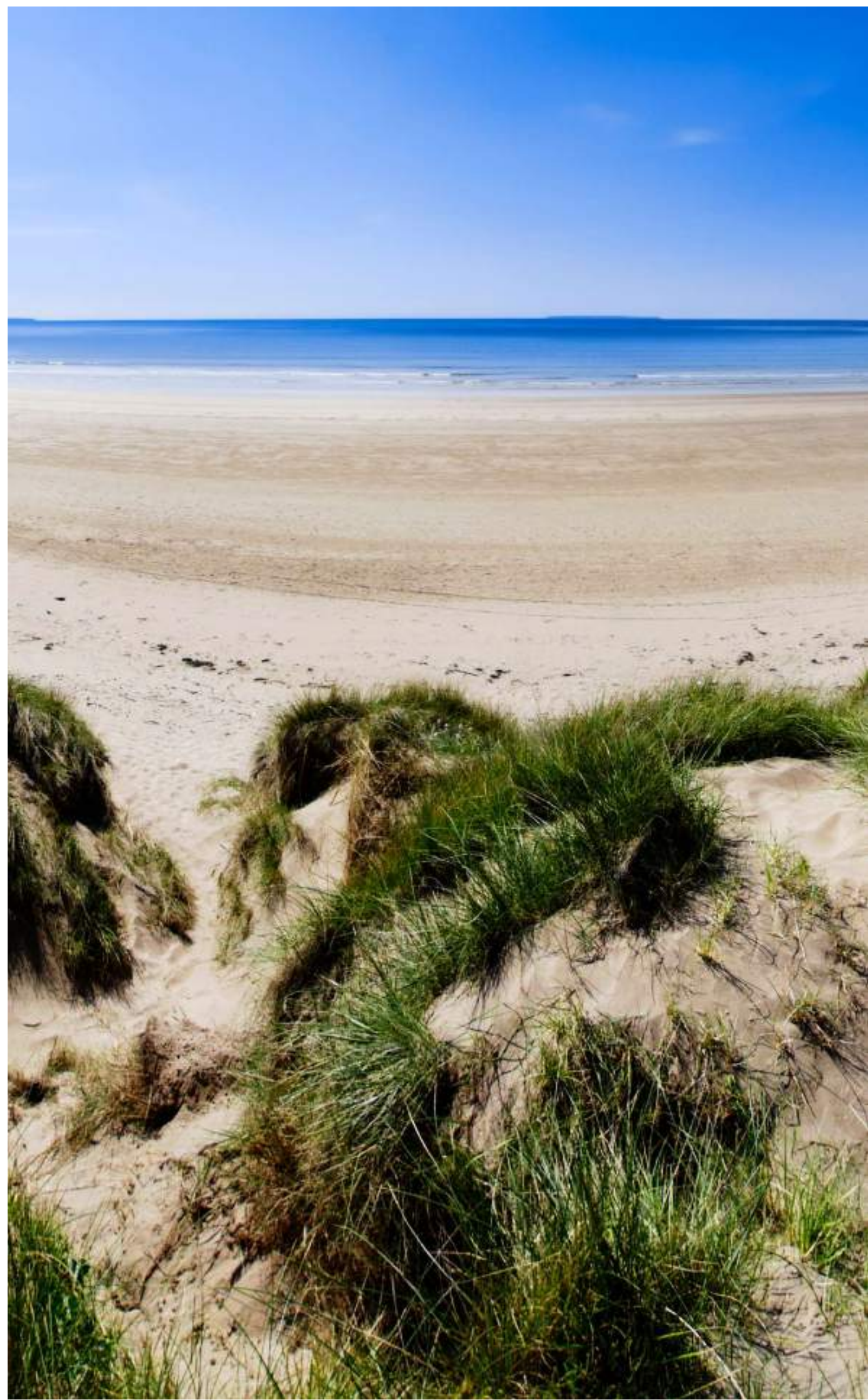
Finally, in Buckinghamshire's Wendover Woods, historic trails have inspired local writers and folk tales passed down through generations, creating a unique blend of history, nature, and the region's traditions.

SOUTH WEST ENGLAND BETWEEN HILLS, HEATHS AND FRAGILE COASTS

Southwest England is a region of evocative landscapes, where rolling hills, sweeping moors, rugged coastlines, and picturesque villages combine with ancient history and vibrant traditions. The area encompasses the counties of Cornwall, Devon, Somerset, Dorset, Gloucestershire, Wiltshire, and Bristol, known for the diversity of their natural environments: imposing cliffs like Land's End, tranquil bays like St. Ives Bay, meandering rivers like the River Exe and the River Avon, ancient woodlands like Ashton Court Estate, and moorland-covered hills like Dartmoor and Exmoor. Villages like Clovelly in Devon and Castle Combe in Wiltshire retain historic architecture and authentic atmospheres, far from the main tourist routes. Historically, the area was inhabited by Celtic tribes such as the Durotriges in Dorset and Somerset, and the Dumnonii in Devon and Cornwall, who left behind traces of fortified settlements such as Maiden Castle in Dorset, a large Iron Age Celtic oppidum, and sacred circles such as those at Avebury, used for rituals and spiritual celebrations. The Roman era left behind evidence such as the Fosse Way, an ancient military road that linked Exeter to Lincoln, along with Roman settlements and villas including Calleva Atrebatum (Silchester), and associated aqueducts and hydraulic infrastructure, now visible in archaeological remains scattered across the counties. In the Middle Ages, abbeys such as Glastonbury Abbey in Somerset, which preserves traces of 11th-century buildings, and castles such as Tintagel Castle in Cornwall, linked to the legend of King Arthur, and Corfe Castle in Dorset, strengthened the religious and noble presence. Market cities such as Bath, with its Roman baths transformed into a medieval center, Bristol, a historic commercial port, and Exeter, the capital of Devon, consolidated trade in wool, textiles, and maritime trade. During the Renaissance and subsequent centuries, noble families such as the Phelips, owners of Montacute House in Somerset, and the Grevilles, linked to Hidcote Manor Garden, consolidated architectural heritages such as Montacute House (early 16th century) and Lacock Abbey (12th century), historic gardens such as Stourhead (18th century) and Hidcote Manor Garden (20th century), and libraries such as that at Bishop's Palace in Wells, contributing to a cultural legacy that still enriches and enhances the South West region today. Some historic residences were occasionally frequented by English monarchs on official visits or for sojourns, but the main investment and cultural development are attributable to local noble families who left a tangible mark on the surrounding towns, villages, and landscapes. From a naturalistic perspective, the area is characterized by an extraordinary variety of ecosystems: the moors and hills of Dartmoor and Exmoor, ancient woodlands like Ashton Court and Savernake Forest, river plains like the Somerset Levels, rugged coastlines and bays like St Michael's Mount and Lulworth Cove, which offer rich habitats for deer, foxes, migratory birds, and marine life. Rivers and canals like the River Exe and the Kennet & Avon Canal offer peaceful walks and recreational activities, while nature parks and local reserves like Brownsea Island and RSPB Arne guarantee immersive nature experiences away from the beaten tourist track. The South West is a land of balance, where every village, town, and stretch of coastline tells a layered story of people, cultures, and landscapes, ready to offer authentic, intimate, and varied experiences for every type of travel.

PLACES AND EXPERIENCES FOR A TRIP WITH YOUR FOUR- LEGGED FRIENDS OFF THE BEATEN PATH

Southwest England is an ideal destination for those traveling with pets, offering spectacular natural landscapes, welcoming villages, and pet-friendly accommodations that ensure the comfort of both human guests and their four-legged friends. In the Devon countryside, villages like South Molton and Chulmleigh offer peaceful walks along country lanes and waterways, with cafes, inns, and bed and breakfasts that welcome dogs and cats. Beaches like Combe Martin Beach and Saunton Sands offer wide open spaces for walking and playing with animals, while parks like Exmoor National Park allow you to explore flat paths and observe deer and birds without disturbing the nature, with numerous rest stops and picnic areas where animals can rest. Historic towns and villages are surprisingly accessible to visitors with pets: Porlock and Lynton & Lynmouth offer quiet streets, pet-friendly shops and cafes, and scenic coastal walks with breathtaking views of the sea and cliffs. Local museums and pet-friendly historic homes like Greenway House, Agatha Christie's summer residence, allow leashed dog strolls through the gardens and along the River Dart, while visitors can discover collections of historic furniture, manuscripts, and literary memorabilia, all set in fascinating historical settings. Nature experiences include walks through Somerset's moors and woodlands, such as around Minehead and near Dunster, where flat paths and marked trails allow pets to roam freely and safely. Rivers like the River Avon and River Dart offer opportunities for short canoe or boat trips, even suitable for dogs, while the green spaces of historic gardens like Stourhead and Tyntesfield, though protected, offer dedicated areas for pet-friendly walks. Tourist accommodations are also attentive to visitors with pets: many offer pet-friendly rooms, fenced gardens, bowls, and private paths, allowing you to enjoy the South West countryside without worries. This combination of nature, culture, historic villages, and pet-friendly amenities makes the region perfect for holidays with your four-legged friends, guaranteeing authentic and memorable experiences for the whole family.





DID YOU KNOW?

South West England is rich in historical and cultural curiosities that often escape the main tourist trails.

In Glastonbury, for example, legend has it that the Tor is linked to the myth of King Arthur and the Holy Grail, and the town hosts one of England's oldest music festivals, the Glastonbury Festival, which began in 1970 as a folk event and has grown to become one of the most famous festivals in the world.

In Bath, in addition to the famous Roman baths, an ancient mosaic was discovered in 1972 at the Roman Baths Museum, which testifies to the extraordinary art and engineering of the Roman era in the city.

In Dorset, Maiden Castle, one of Europe's largest Celtic hillforts, tells the story of the Durotriges tribe, while the cliffs of the Jurassic Coast were the site of important paleontological discoveries from the 1970s to the 1990s, including ammonite and marine reptile fossils that enriched local museums like the Lyme Regis Museum. Also in Lyme Regis, the town's history is intertwined with that of Mary Anning, a 19th-century pioneer of paleontology whose discoveries transformed the understanding of fossils and prehistory.

In Somerset, the village of Dunster retains medieval traditions still visible in the alleys and at Dunster Castle, while nearby Exmoor has hosted wildlife conservation projects, including the reintroduction of red deer in the 1980s.

In Cornwall, the UNESCO World Heritage Sites of Geevor and Levant tin mines tell the story of the long history of tin mining, with historic machinery open to visitors and perfectly preserved old industrial buildings.

From a gastronomic and social perspective, the cities of the South West witnessed the birth of important agricultural and artisanal movements in the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s, with the promotion of local products such as Cheddar cheese, Somerset apples, and Cornish cider, which remain a recognized cultural and culinary heritage today. The region has also played a role in the development of tourist railways, such as the West Somerset Railway, which since the 1970s has helped preserve historic locomotives and scenic routes along the coast and inland.

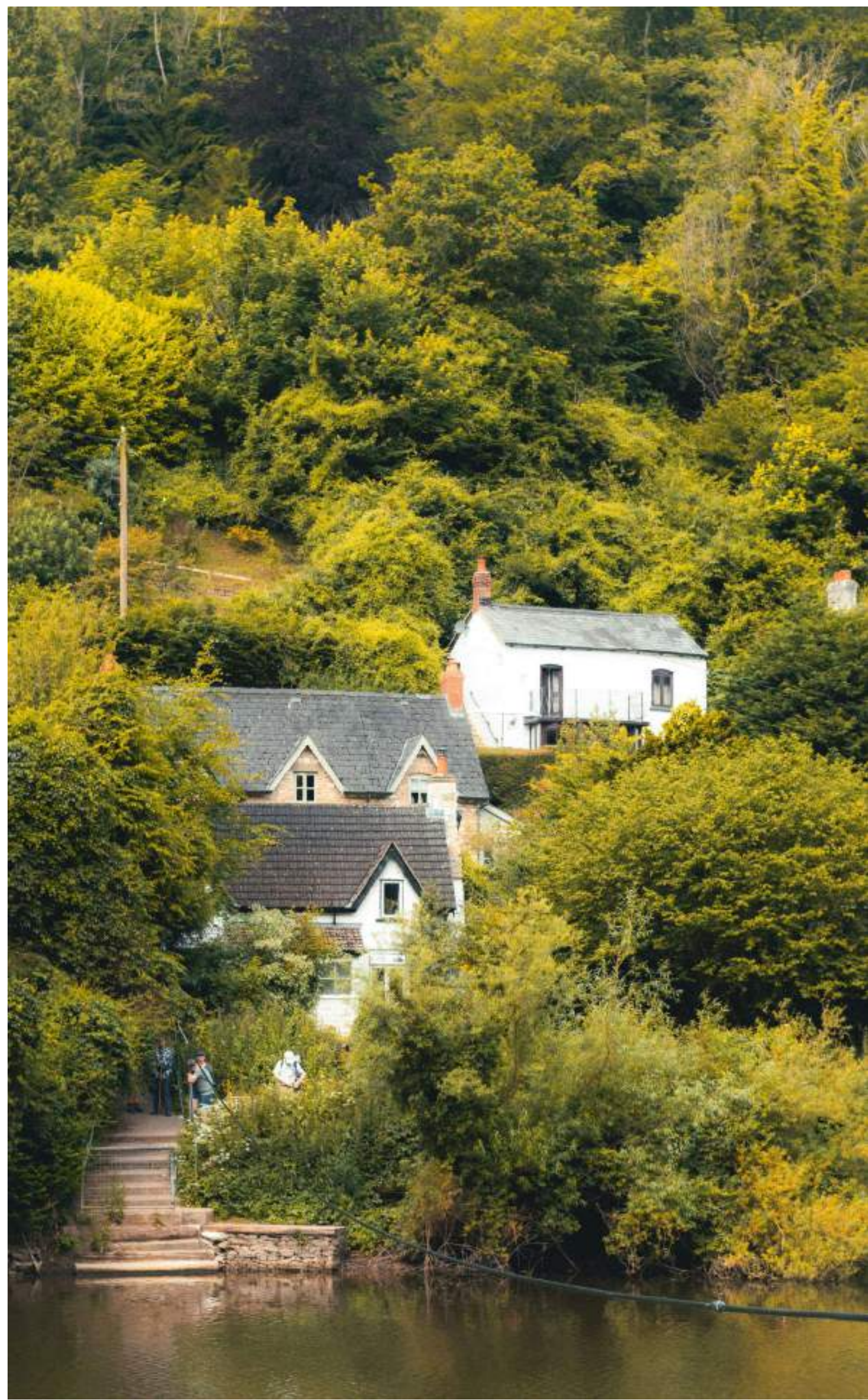
These curiosities demonstrate how the Southwest is not only a region of natural and architectural beauty, but also a place alive with history, legends, and discoveries that continue to amaze those who take the time to explore it carefully.

MIDLANDS BETWEEN INDUSTRIAL TRADITION, COUNTRYSIDE AND HISTORIC CITIES

The Midlands represent the geographic heart of England, a region where rural landscapes, historic cities like Stratford-upon-Avon, Lincoln, and Lichfield, and industrial centers like Birmingham, Coventry, and Derby intertwine, creating a territory rich in identity and contrast. The area generally encompasses the counties of the West Midlands (including Warwickshire, Worcestershire, Staffordshire, and Shropshire) and the East Midlands (including Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, and Northamptonshire), as well as the cities of Birmingham, Coventry, Nottingham, Leicester, and Derby. The landscape alternates between agricultural plains, rolling hills, rivers like the River Trent, River Severn, and River Avon, and natural areas like the Peak District National Park, with valleys, plateaus, and rock formations that characterize one of the most fascinating environments in central England. Historic villages such as Stratford-upon-Avon, Bakewell, Ashbourne, and Ludlow retain traditional architecture and an authentic atmosphere, far from the hustle and bustle of tourism. Historically, the region was inhabited by Celtic tribes such as the Corieltauvi and the Cornovii, and later became an important center during the Roman era, with settlements such as Ratae Corieltauvorum (present-day Leicester) and road networks such as the Fosse Way. In the Middle Ages, castles such as Warwick Castle (11th century) and market towns such as Nottingham and Lincoln consolidated economic and political power, while abbeys and cathedrals such as Lichfield Cathedral (13th century) and Lincoln Cathedral (11th–14th centuries) became important religious and cultural centers. During the Industrial Revolution, the Midlands played a central role in Britain's economic development: cities like Birmingham became hubs of metalworking and manufacturing innovation, while the canal system, including the Birmingham Canal Navigations, facilitated the transportation of goods and materials. Figures like James Watt contributed to the development of the steam engine, while the textile and mining industries profoundly transformed the landscape and society. From a naturalistic perspective, the Midlands offer a wide variety of environments: the hills and valleys of the Peak District National Park, ancient woodlands like Sherwood Forest (traditionally associated with the legend of Robin Hood), the agricultural plains of Lincolnshire, and navigable waterways like the River Trent, River Severn, and River Soar create habitats for deer, foxes, migratory birds, and numerous riverine species. Historic canals like the Grand Union Canal and the Trent and Mersey Canal are now popular walking and recreational routes, while parks like Cannock Chase and Bradgate Park and nature reserves like Attenborough Nature Reserve offer immersive nature experiences away from the big cities. The Midlands therefore represents a territory of balance between past and present, where industrial history, cultural heritage and natural landscapes merge, offering authentic, varied experiences suitable for every type of travel.

PLACES AND EXPERIENCES FOR A TRIP WITH YOUR FOUR- LEGGED FRIENDS OFF THE BEATEN PATH

The Midlands offer ideal experiences for those traveling with pets, combining nature walks, historic villages, and cultural attractions where dogs and other small animals are welcome. The region allows you to enjoy outdoor activities, light hikes, and cultural visits without giving up the company of your four-legged friends. In Shropshire, Shrewsbury allows walks through its historic center and medieval bridges with your pets, while Attingham Park, a Georgian mansion with extensive gardens and parks, welcomes dogs on leashes and offers accessible paths for peaceful strolls among ancient trees and flower-filled meadows. In Staffordshire, villages like Rugeley and the walks along the River Trent offer flat paths and picnic areas, while parks like Cannock Chase AONB offer wide, well-marked nature trails, ideal for long walks with pets, wildlife watching, and relaxing moments immersed in nature. In Warwickshire, Stratford-upon-Avon welcomes pets on the walking paths along the River Avon and in its city parks, while historic homes like Charlecote Park allow leashed walks through meadows and woods, offering typical English countryside views. In Derbyshire, villages like Bakewell and paths along the River Wye offer long strolls between bridges and public gardens, while attractions like Chatsworth House Gardens welcome leashed dogs in outdoor areas, combining history, architecture, and nature in complete safety. With picturesque villages, historic parks, nature trails, and homes with accessible gardens, the Midlands offer authentic and varied pet-friendly experiences, where history, culture, and nature blend seamlessly with the needs of those traveling with pets.





DID YOU KNOW?

The Midlands holds numerous historical and cultural curiosities often overlooked by tourists. In Birmingham, the industrial city that was the birthplace of James Watt, inventor of the steam engine, you can still visit historic buildings linked to the Industrial Revolution, such as the iconic Soho House, Watt's residence and experimental home. In nearby Ironbridge, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, the famous 18th-century iron bridge was the first in the world built using this technique and represents a milestone in modern engineering.

In the Peak District, ancient legends and local traditions survive in the villages of Bakewell and Castleton. Castleton is home to the Blue John Caverns, famous for their unique blue and yellow mineral stones, used since the 18th century for jewelry and souvenirs. In Lincolnshire, the city of Lincoln is home to the cathedral that was the tallest building in the world for over two centuries, with its famous Gothic spire visible for miles around. The medieval Steep Hill district preserves half-timbered houses and artisan workshops that tell the story of city life in the past.

Amidst social and cultural curiosities, the Midlands has witnessed the birth of memorable figures and events: Stratford-upon-Avon is the birthplace of William Shakespeare, whose birthday is celebrated annually with theatre festivals and public readings; Sherwood Forest is famous for the legend of Robin Hood, but also preserves centuries-old trees and ancient paths traveled by travellers and merchants in the Middle Ages. In Nottingham, the ancient prisons and network of underground tunnels offer a glimpse into urban life from the Middle Ages to the modern age, while small museums like the Derby Museum and Art Gallery display naturalistic artifacts, artworks, and historical objects related to local tradition.

The region is also the scene of historic events and innovations: from the first industrial experiments in Birmingham and Wolverhampton, to the agricultural traditions of Lincolnshire and Derbyshire, to the textile production of Northamptonshire, the Midlands recount centuries of economic and social development. Every village, canal, hill, and historic building holds authentic stories that make the region a rich mosaic of curiosities, legends, and unique anecdotes, perfect for those who want to discover central England off the beaten track.

NORTHERN ENGLAND MOUNTAINS, LAKES, AND HISTORIC CITIES

Northern England is a region of great scenic and cultural diversity, where mountains like Scafell Pike, Helvellyn, and Pen y Ghent, glacial lakes like Windermere, Ullswater, and Derwentwater, fjords like Holy Island and Seahouses, and historic cities like York, Durham, and Lancaster intertwine to create environments rich in charm and contrast. The area encompasses the counties of Cumbria, Northumberland, County Durham, Lancashire, and Yorkshire, and the major cities of Manchester, Liverpool, Newcastle upon Tyne, Leeds, and York. The natural landscapes range from the peaks and valleys of the Lake District and the Pennines to the coastal fjords and cliffs of Northumberland, passing through the coasts of Lancashire, with lakes like Coniston Water and Bassenthwaite Lake, rivers like the River Tyne, the River Tees, and the River Eden, and hills like the Yorkshire Dales and the Pennine Hills, which provide diverse habitats for wildlife such as red deer, foxes, otters, and migratory birds like the hen harrier, as well as local flora such as ferns, rhododendrons, and ancient oak woodlands. Historically, the area was inhabited by Celtic peoples such as the Brigantes and later by the Romans, who left behind vestiges such as Hadrian's Wall, with fortresses at Birdoswald and Housesteads, and fortifications along the north coast. In the Middle Ages, castles like Alnwick Castle and Bamburgh Castle consolidated the nobility's presence and defenses, while abbeys and cathedrals like Durham Cathedral and Whitby Abbey became important religious, cultural, and educational centers. The market towns, ports, and industrial centers that developed between the 16th and 19th centuries, such as Liverpool for maritime trade and Manchester for the textile industry, testify to the North's strategic role in the national economy. From a naturalistic perspective, the region is characterized by national parks like the Lake District National Park, Northumberland National Park, and the Yorkshire Dales National Park, with mountains like Scafell Pike and Helvellyn, valleys like Great Langdale and Borrowdale, glacial lakes like Windermere and Ullswater, rivers like the River Eden and the River Tyne, and wooded areas like Whinlatter Forest and Kielder Forest, which create ideal environments for hiking, outdoor activities, and wildlife watching. Navigable waterways like the Lancaster Canal and the Leeds and Liverpool Canal offer peaceful walks and recreational activities, while nature reserves like the Farne Islands and RSPB Leighton Moss and lesser-known routes like Ennerdale Valley and Teesdale offer immersive experiences away from the main tourist routes. The Midlands is a region where history, culture, and nature blend harmoniously, offering authentic and diverse landscapes, ideal for every type of trip, from urban experiences to adventures in the most pristine nature.

PLACES AND EXPERIENCES FOR A TRIP WITH YOUR FOUR- LEGGED FRIENDS OFF THE BEATEN PATH

Northern England offers unforgettable experiences for those traveling with pets, combining nature, history, and culture in places where both dogs and cats are welcome. In the Lake District, villages like Coniston and Grasmere offer walks along scenic trails like the Loughrigg Fell Trail and the paths around Rydal Water, where four-legged friends can explore meadows and woodlands freely while their owners admire the mountain and lake scenery. Many pubs, cafes, and small B&Bs, like those in Ambleside and Keswick, welcome dogs with dedicated areas, fresh water, and access to gardens. Historic cities offer pet-friendly walks: in York, dogs are allowed in many outdoor spaces in the historic center, along the Roman walls, and in public gardens like the Museum Gardens, while in Durham, the cathedral courtyards and walks along the River Wear offer safe spaces for peaceful strolls. Small open-air museums, like Beamish Museum in County Durham, allow you to visit selected areas with animals, offering a combination of history and entertainment without compromising the comfort of owners and their four-legged friends. Among historic homes, Raby Castle and the gardens of Sizergh Castle offer large outdoor spaces where dogs can walk on a leash through courtyards, woods, and meadows, while their owners admire the architecture and historic collections. Canals, such as the Leeds and Liverpool Canal and the Trent and Mersey Canal, also offer scenic routes where you can take long, leisurely strolls with your pets, or short cruises on pet-friendly narrowboats with safe spaces on board. Nature experiences include walks along the Northumberland Coast AONB, with dog-friendly trails along beaches and cliffs, and in the valleys of the Yorkshire Dales or the Peak District, where the meadows and hills are ideal for shared outdoor activities. Throughout the North of England, spectacular scenery, history and culture are combined with pet-friendly facilities and itineraries, offering unforgettable and completely pet-friendly trips.





DID YOU KNOW?

Northern England holds surprising stories and curiosities that reveal its cultural and natural richness. In York, the Roman walls, among the oldest and best preserved in the country, still house medieval towers such as Bootham Bar, and the city is famous for the Shambles, a historic street with half-timbered buildings dating back to the 14th century, originally home to butchers.

In industrial history, Ironbridge Gorge is recognized as the cradle of the Industrial Revolution: the 1779 Iron Bridge was the world's first entirely wrought-iron bridge, and local museums, such as the Blists Hill Victorian Town, recreate 19th-century life and workshops with remarkable accuracy. In the textile industry, Manchester was nicknamed "Cottonopolis" for its central role in cotton production during the 19th century, while Liverpool developed as a key port for transatlantic trade, including that of spices, tea, and textiles.

Culturally, the region has given birth to musical and literary legends. In Liverpool, birthplace of the Beatles, every corner speaks of music and innovation, while in Haworth, the Brontë sisters' home preserves manuscripts and personal items that reveal the inspirations for their novels. The Lake District attracted poets like William Wordsworth, who lived at Dove Cottage in Grasmere, leaving behind verses celebrating the nature of the surrounding lakes and hills.

Among its natural curiosities, the North is home to rare species and stunning scenery: red deer in the Lake District, otters in Northumberland's rivers, mute swans on Lake Windermere, and peregrine falcons nesting on the cliffs of the Northumberland Coast. Local legends tell tales of Robin Hood in the woods of Sherwood Forest, and maritime myths linked to Northumberland's fjords and cliffs have accompanied the region's coastlines for centuries.

Historical anecdotes and urban curiosities complete the picture: in Leeds, Georgian and Victorian architecture preserves ancient markets and industrial canals, while in Manchester, the John Rylands Library houses medieval manuscripts and rare books in a Victorian Gothic building. Each city, village, and valley in Northern England carries with it layered histories, legends, innovations, and natural beauty that make the area unique, far from the crowded tourist routes and rich in inspiration for curiosity, discovery, and wonder.



SCOTLAND – LEGENDS, HISTORY, AND SPECTACULAR LANDSCAPES



Scotland is a land of extraordinary contrasts, where imposing mountains like Ben Nevis and the Cuillin Hills on the Isle of Skye, glacial valleys like Glencoe and Glen Shiel, deep lochs like Loch Ness and Loch Lomond, rugged coastlines like the North Coast 500 and the bays of Tobermory, and remote islands like the Isle of Skye, Lewis & Harris, and Orkney are intertwined with ancient histories and living cultural traditions. Before the arrival of the Romans, the territory was inhabited by Celtic tribes like the Picts and the Caledonians, who developed complex societies with fortifications like Dunadd Fort and Tap o' Noth, spiritual rituals, and myths tied to the land. The Roman era left tangible evidence such as the remains of the Antonine Wall, watchtowers like those at Bar Hill and Carriden, and military roads like the Via Militaris at Watling Lodge and the Via Romana at Cramond. The Middle Ages, meanwhile, saw the rise of legendary castles like Edinburgh Castle, Stirling Castle, and Urquhart Castle, abbeys like Iona Abbey and Melrose Abbey, and market towns like Dundee and Aberdeen, which consolidated the whisky, textile, and salt trade, shaping the local economy and culture. During the Renaissance and subsequent centuries, historic clans like the MacDonalds, Campbells, and Douglasses, and Scottish nobles like the Marquis of Bute and the Duke of Buccleuch, consolidated architectural heritages like Floors Castle and Hopetoun House, historic gardens like the Royal Botanic Garden in Edinburgh, and libraries like the National Library of Scotland, leaving a cultural legacy that still permeates cities and countryside today. Festivals such as the Edinburgh International Festival, museums such as Glasgow's Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum, and theatres such as Glasgow's Theatre Royal are testament to the nation's cultural vitality and capacity for innovation.

From a naturalistic perspective, Scotland offers a surprising variety of environments: the Lowlands are characterized by rolling hills like the Pentland Hills, river valleys like the Firth of Forth, and lakes like Loch Lomond; the Highlands offer mountains like Ben Nevis, glacial valleys like Glencoe, lakes like Loch Ness, and national parks like Cairngorms National Park and Loch Lomond & The Trossachs National Park, habitats for red deer, eagles, and otters; the western islands of the Inner Hebrides and the Isle of Skye feature rugged cliffs like Neist Point, secluded coves like Talisker Bay, and picturesque villages like Portree; while the Outer Hebrides offer white sandy beaches like Luskentyre, dunes like those of Vatersay, and traditional Gaelic communities like Callanish; The northern archipelagos of Orkney and Shetland are home to prehistoric sites like Skara Brae and Maeshowe, rugged coastlines like Yesnaby, and extraordinary marine life, including seals, dolphins, and puffins. The main rivers, from the Clyde to the Tay, from the Spey to the Ness, shape the geography and history of the territories, while the Atlantic and North Sea coasts offer cliffs like Duncansby Head, dunes like Sandwick, and bays like Scapa Flow, all testifying to the age-old connection between the Scots and the sea.

Geographically, Scotland covers approximately 78,000 km², just over a fifth of the size of Italy, comprising a network of cities, villages, hills and over 790 islands, including the most famous ones, Skye, Lewis & Harris and Orkney, which enrich the nation's scenic and cultural diversity.

The five main macro-areas that make up Scotland are:

- **LOWLANDS – SOUTHERN AND CENTRAL SCOTLAND, URBAN CENTRES, ROLLING HILLS AND INLAND LOCHS**
- **HIGHLANDS – NORTHERN AND NORTHWEST SCOTLAND, MOUNTAINS, FJORDS, CASTLES AND HISTORIC VILLAGES**
- **INNER HEBRIDES & ISLE OF SKYE – MAIN WESTERN ISLANDS, CLIFFS, MOUNTAINS AND REMOTE BAYS**
- **OUTER HEBRIDES – REMOTE ATLANTIC ISLANDS, WHITE BEACHES, DUNES AND TRADITIONAL GAELIC COMMUNITIES**
- **ORKNEY & SHETLAND – NORTHERN ARCHIPELAGOS, PREHISTORIC SITES, RUGGED COASTLINES AND UNIQUE MARINE LIFE**

The main airports for access to Scotland are:

- **Edinburgh Airport – Lowlands and Central Scotland**
- **Glasgow Airport – Western Lowlands and Southern Highlands**
- **Inverness Airport – Northern Highlands and Fjords**
- **Stornoway Airport – Outer Hebrides**
- **Kirkwall Airport – Orkney**
- **Sumburgh Airport – Shetland**

Scotland is more than just a land: it's a layered tale of peoples, legends, and landscapes, where each place invites you to experience it slowly and attentively. From cosmopolitan and historic cities to remote islands, from medieval castles to glacial valleys and fjords, Scotland offers a complete experience that blends history, culture, and nature in a unique balance.

LOWLANDS HISTORY, NATURE AND CULTURE IN THE HEART OF SCOTLAND

The Scottish Lowlands are a region of gentle landscapes and rich culture, where rolling hills, inland lakes, rivers, and historic towns intertwine to create diverse and evocative environments. The area encompasses the traditional counties of the Scottish Borders, Dumfries and Galloway, Lanarkshire, Ayrshire, Fife, and Lothian, and includes the major cities of Edinburgh, Glasgow, Stirling, Dumfries, and Perth. Landscapes range from the rolling hills of the Pentland Hills and Southern Uplands to inland lakes such as Loch Lomond and Loch Leven, rivers such as the River Clyde, River Tay, and River Forth, and fertile valleys home to picturesque villages such as Melrose, Peebles, and Linlithgow. Historically, the Lowlands have been inhabited since the Iron Age, with traces of hill forts and sacred circles such as Traprain Law and Callendar House Hillfort. During the Middle Ages, abbeys like Melrose Abbey and castles like Stirling Castle and Linlithgow Palace consolidated political and religious power, while market cities like Edinburgh and Glasgow developed trade, arts, and manufacturing. Over the centuries, noble families like the Hamiltons and Douglasses, along with Scottish monarchs Joan of Scotland and James VI, and British monarchs like William III and Anne of Great Britain, invested in historic homes like Hopetoun House, Traquair House, and Drumlanrig Castle, gardens like the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh and Auchingarrich Gardens, and historic libraries like Callendar House and the National Library of Scotland, leaving behind an architectural and cultural heritage that is still accessible and valued today. From a naturalistic perspective, the Lowlands offer an extraordinary variety of ecosystems: the rolling hills of the Pentland Hills, river valleys like those of the River Tweed and River Clyde, inland lakes like Loch Lomond, Loch Leven, and Loch Katrine, ancient woodlands like Cadzow Forest and Drumlanrig Estate Woods, and agricultural plains like those of the Central Belt and the Scottish Borders, home to red deer, foxes, birds of prey, and aquatic species. Footpaths and cycle routes along historic rivers and canals like the Forth and Clyde Canal and the Union Canal offer peaceful strolls, while nature parks like Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park and local reserves like The Hermitage offer immersive nature experiences away from the beaten track. The Scottish Lowlands thus represent a land of balance between history, culture, and natural landscapes, where every city, village, lake, and hill tells layered stories and offers authentic experiences, suitable for every type of trip.

PLACES AND EXPERIENCES FOR A TRIP WITH YOUR FOUR- LEGGED FRIENDS OFF THE BEATEN PATH

The Scottish Lowlands offer numerous pet-friendly experiences, allowing you to enjoy nature, historic villages, and stately homes with your four-legged friends in complete safety and tranquility. Walks along the flat paths of Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park allow you to explore rolling hills, oak and pine forests, and lakes like Loch Katrine and Loch Achray, where leashed dogs can accompany visitors through breathtaking views, lakeside beaches, and equipped picnic areas. Picturesque villages like Peebles, Innerleithen, and Kelso offer pedestrian streets and wide sidewalks, local shops and pet-friendly cafes, as well as public gardens and green spaces where pets can roam freely and safely. Some historic homes, like Traquair House, welcome dogs in certain areas of the gardens, allowing you to enjoy paths steeped in history dating back to the 15th century and collections of period furniture and ceramics. The region's historic canals, including the Union Canal and the Forth and Clyde Canal, offer flat waterside walks and safe cycling routes, perfect for shared excursions with pets. Alternatively, short, pet-friendly boat cruises along lochs like Loch Katrine and Loch Achray and rivers like the River Clyde and River Tweed offer stunning views, spotting swans, mallards, and herons, and relaxing moments away from the crowds. Small museums and galleries in the cities of Stirling and Falkirk and in quieter villages like Peebles and Kelso often offer the opportunity to admire collections of Scottish art, history, and crafts while pets wait outside or in designated areas, making every visit accessible and enjoyable without sacrificing the company of your four-legged friends. With accessible paths, gardens, historic villages, and safe natural areas, the Scottish Lowlands are an ideal destination for those who want to explore history, culture, and nature without leaving their pets, offering authentic experiences away from the crowded tourist routes.





DID YOU KNOW?

The Scottish Lowlands hide fascinating curiosities and stories often unknown to visitors. In the city of Stirling, for example, the famous Stirling Castle was the scene of important historical events, including the coronations of Scottish monarchs and battles that shaped the fate of Scotland in the 15th and 16th centuries. A few kilometers away, the Wallace Monument commemorates William Wallace, a national hero, and offers a panoramic view of the surrounding valleys that few tourists know about.

In the countryside and villages of the Scottish Borders, such as Peebles and Kelso, craft traditions dating back to the 19th century persist: weaving, woodworking, and pottery are still practiced in workshops open to the public, offering an authentic glimpse into local life. Some historic bridges, such as the Leaderfoot Viaduct, built in the 19th century for rail transport, remain evocative settings for photographs and peaceful strolls.

The inland lakes of the Lowlands hold small natural wonders: Loch Katrine was a vital water source for Glasgow in the 19th century, with its aqueduct partially open to visitors today. Its waters are home to colonies of swans and herons, which can be observed peacefully during walks along the shore. Even the more remote Loch Achray offers tranquil glimpses perfect for admiring ancient forests and rolling hills.

Other curiosities include historic homes such as Traquair House, the oldest continuously inhabited residence in Scotland, which houses objects, furnishings, and artworks from the 15th to the 19th century, and Callendar House, with collections that tell the story of local history from the 17th century onwards. Both houses are surrounded by gardens and parks featuring centuries-old trees and hidden corners rarely visited by tourists.

These often lesser-known places allow you to discover a side of the Scottish Lowlands made of history, nature and accessible culture, with authentic experiences that tell the layered stories of people, landscapes and traditions far from the beaten track.

HIGHLANDS

PRIMORDIAL BEAUTY AMONG MOUNTAINS, LAKES AND RUGGED COASTS

The Scottish Highlands represent the northern and northwestern part of Scotland, a region of great natural and cultural beauty where imposing mountains, deep fjords, and historic villages intertwine to create landscapes of extraordinary charm. The area includes the Highland Council Area, the Western Highlands, the regions of Lochaber, Inverness-shire, Sutherland, and Caithness, as well as major cities such as Inverness, Fort William, Wick, and Ullapool. Landscapes range from the mountainous massifs of Ben Nevis and the Cuillin Hills to glacial valleys such as Glen Shiel, Glen Coe, and Glen Affric, and sea fjords such as Loch Torridon, Loch Duich, and Loch Maree, creating unique habitats for red deer, golden eagles, otters, and seals. Historically, the Highlands were inhabited by Gaelic clans such as the MacDonalds, MacLeods, and MacKenzies, whose fortresses and castles still mark the land, including Eilean Donan Castle, built in the 13th century, and Urquhart Castle on the shores of Loch Ness, testifying to centuries of clan and defensive history. Roman influence is only marginally present in the southern Highlands, while in the Middle Ages, abbeys such as Fortrose Cathedral and religious settlements scattered along the Moray Firth highlight the importance of Christianity in the region. Naturally, the Highlands offer an extraordinary variety of ecosystems: mountains such as Ben Nevis and An Teallach, glacial valleys such as Glen Shiel and Glen Strathfarrar, inland lochs such as Loch Ness, Loch Morar, and Loch Maree, and woodland areas such as Glen Affric Forest Reserve and Achnashellach Forest. The rugged coastlines and sea fjords, including Loch Torridon and Loch Duich, provide habitats for seals, dolphins, puffins, and sea eagles, while rivers like the River Spey, River Dee, and River Lochy offer fishing, kayaking, and walking along flat paths. Historic trails and walking routes, such as the West Highland Way and the Great Glen Way, offer immersive nature experiences, traversing glens, hills, and remote coastlines, while picturesque villages like Plockton, Gairloch, and Torridon preserve traditional architecture, craft galleries, and local shops, offering an authentic experience of Highland culture and history. The Scottish Highlands are thus a land of extraordinary diversity, where clan history, medieval architecture, mountain landscapes, and fjords blend to offer authentic, intimate, and varied experiences, suitable for every type of travel.

PLACES AND EXPERIENCES FOR A TRIP WITH YOUR FOUR- LEGGED FRIENDS OFF THE BEATEN PATH

The Scottish Highlands are an ideal destination for those wishing to travel with their pet, thanks to their wide-open natural spaces, welcoming villages, and numerous dog-friendly attractions, especially in the outdoor areas. Away from the busier destinations, the village of Applecross, located on the west coast, offers spectacular and peaceful scenery, with scenic walks along Applecross Bay and coastal paths where dogs can accompany their owners on a leash, offering views of the Inner Sound and the islands of Raasay and Skye. Another picturesque destination is the Ardnamurchan Peninsula, one of the most remote areas of the Highlands. Here, you can explore the surroundings of the Ardnamurchan Lighthouse, built in 1849 by engineer Alan Stevenson. The coastal paths surrounding the lighthouse are ideal for walks with pets and offer the chance to spot marine life such as grey seals, dolphins, and numerous species of seabirds. In the same area, the village of Kilchoan is a perfect starting point for quiet hikes and relaxing moments in an authentic setting. For those who want to combine nature and historical heritage, the Glenfinnan Monument and the shores of nearby Loch Shiel are a charming destination, less crowded than other Highland sites. Dogs are allowed on the outdoor paths that pass through meadows and woods, allowing for panoramic views of the loch and the famous railway viaduct. The monument, erected in 1815, commemorates the start of the Jacobite uprising of 1745, led by Charles Edward Stuart, also offering an important historical insight. Nature experiences continue at the Beinn Eighe National Nature Reserve, near Kinlochewe, where some marked trails allow dogs on leashes. This reserve, the first established in the United Kingdom in 1951, is characterized by ancient Caledonian pine forests, peat bogs, and views of the surrounding mountains, offering the opportunity to observe red deer, golden eagles, and red squirrels. Even small towns like Dornoch, overlooking the Dornoch Firth, are ideal destinations for a pet-friendly trip. Its wide sandy beaches, such as Dornoch Beach, allow for long walks with dogs, while the historic center, with the 13th-century Dornoch Cathedral, offers a charming and relaxed cultural setting. Nearby, Historylinks Museum chronicles local history from the medieval period to the 20th century and can be visited while the animals wait in the outdoor areas. Finally, the Highlands are crisscrossed by numerous scenic routes, including lesser-visited stretches of the North Coast 500, which allow you to discover remote villages like Shieldaig and Poolewe, where local art galleries, small cafes, and artisan workshops contribute to an authentic and welcoming experience for travelers accompanied by their pets.





DID YOU KNOW?

The Scottish Highlands preserve a wealth of stories and traditions that reflect Scotland's most authentic identity. In Loch Ness, one of the deepest lakes in the United Kingdom with a maximum depth of approximately 230 meters, the legend of the famous "Nessie" has been passed down for centuries. It was first sighted in modern times in 1933, although similar tales date back to the 6th century in the chronicles of Saint Columba. On its shores lie the evocative ruins of Urquhart Castle, the scene of numerous clan conflicts during the Middle Ages and the Scottish Wars of Independence. In the heart of the Western Highlands, the village of Plockton is known for its unusually mild microclimate, which allows the growth of *Cordyline australis* palms, a rare phenomenon at these latitudes and made possible by the influence of the Gulf Stream. Not far away, the famous Eilean Donan Castle, located at the confluence of Lochs Duich, Long, and Alsh, is one of Scotland's most photographed castles. It was rebuilt in the 20th century after being largely destroyed in 1719 during the Jacobite uprisings. The Highlands are deeply connected to clan history. For example, Glen Coe was the site of the tragic massacre of 1692, when members of the MacDonald clan were killed by soldiers affiliated with the Campbell clan after offering them hospitality, an event that remains one of the most dramatic symbols of Scottish history. In the Strathspey region, along the River Spey, one of Scotland's most celebrated traditions developed: whisky production. Historic distilleries such as Glenlivet, founded in 1824, contributed to the global spread of Scotch whisky, making the Speyside area one of the most important production regions.

From a naturalistic perspective, the Highlands are home to some of the oldest and most pristine areas in Europe. Beinn Eighe National Nature Reserve, established in 1951, was the UK's first national nature reserve and protects precious Caledonian pine forests and a rich biodiversity that includes red deer, golden eagles, and red squirrels. Furthermore, Loch Morar, located west of Fort William, is the deepest freshwater loch in the UK and, according to local lore, is inhabited by a legendary creature called "Morag."

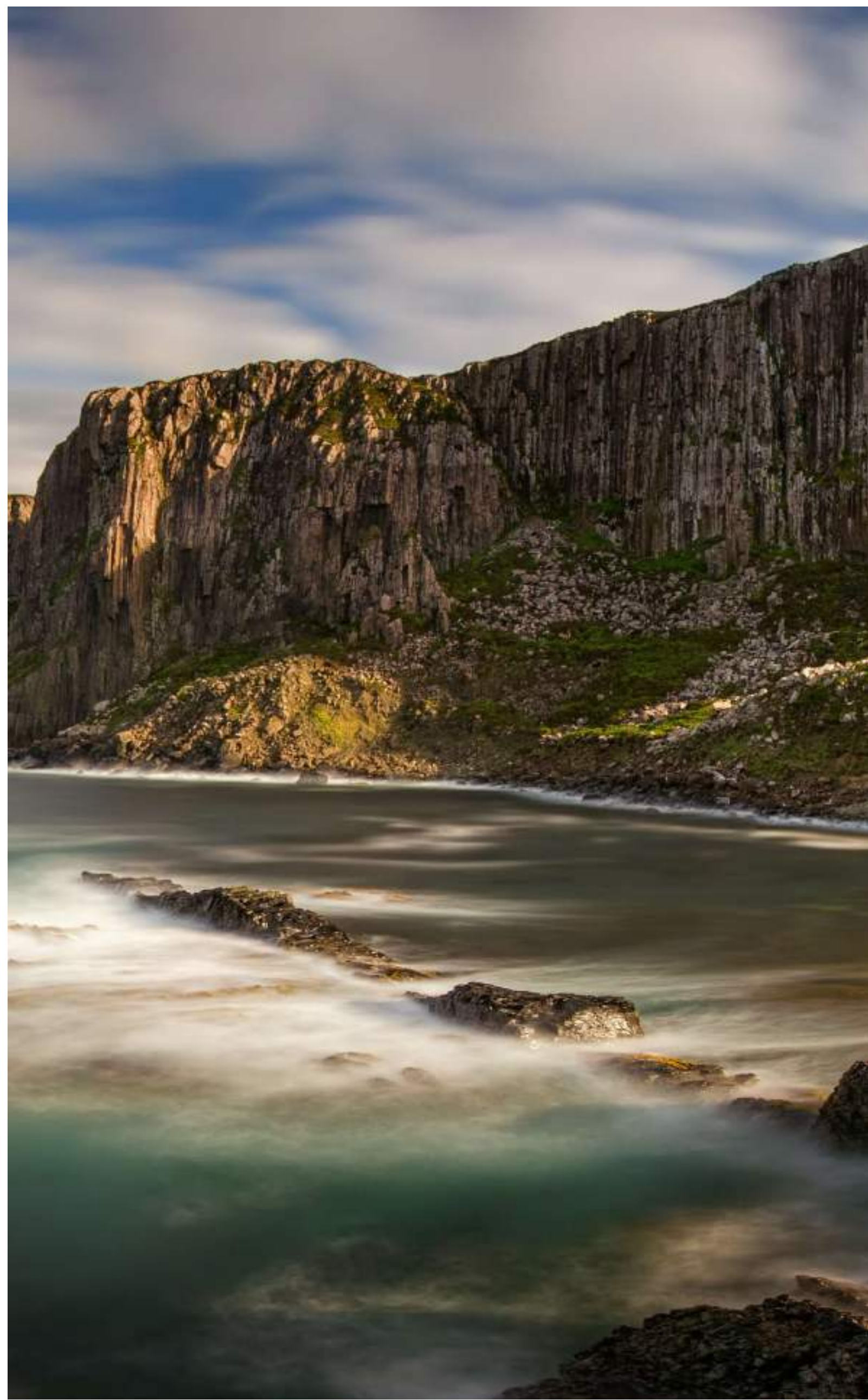
The Highlands also preserve important prehistoric and religious sites. On the shores of the Moray Firth, the Clava Cairns archaeological site, dating back to the Bronze Age (circa 2000 BC), consists of burial mounds and stone circles that testify to the ancient ritual practices of local populations. In the same area, Fortrose Cathedral, built between the 13th and 14th centuries, represents one of the finest examples of medieval Highland architecture and bears witness to the region's religious importance in the Middle Ages. These curiosities and anecdotes reveal how the Scottish Highlands are much more than a simple natural destination: they are a land rich in history, legends, and traditions that live on in the landscapes, villages, and local culture, offering visitors an authentic and deeply evocative experience.

INNER HEBRIDES AND ISLE OF SKYE BETWEEN WILD CLIFFS, GAELIC TRADITIONS AND PRIMORDIAL LANDSCAPES

The Inner Hebrides and the Isle of Skye represent some of the most spectacular and evocative landscapes in western Scotland, characterized by rugged coastal landscapes such as the cliffs of Neist Point and Talisker Bay on the Isle of Skye, as well as the spectacular basalt coasts of Fingal's Cave on the Isle of Staffa, part of the Inner Hebrides archipelago. These are flanked by imposing mountains such as the Cuillin Hills on the Isle of Skye, divided into the more rugged Black Cuillin and the gentler Red Cuillin, Ben More on the Isle of Mull, the only mountain in the Inner Hebrides to exceed 900 meters, and the Paps of Jura, three conical peaks that dominate the landscape of the Isle of Jura. These natural environments are intertwined with communities deeply rooted in Gaelic tradition, which is still alive today in the language, music, and local customs. This archipelago comprises the main islands of Skye, Mull, Islay, Jura, Rum, Eigg, Canna, and Coll, located between the west coast of the Highlands and the North Atlantic. Major population centers include Portree, the capital of the Isle of Skye, Tobermory on the Isle of Mull, Bowmore and Port Ellen on Islay, and Craighouse on the Isle of Jura. Landscape-wise, the area is dominated by geological formations of volcanic origin and shaped by glacial action. On the Isle of Skye, the Cuillin Hills—divided into the Black Cuillin, characterized by basalt and gabbro rocks, and the gentler Red Cuillin—are some of the most spectacular mountains in the United Kingdom. Other iconic sites include the Quiraing and the Old Man of Storr, imposing rock formations on the Trotternish Peninsula, and the cliffs of Neist Point, which offer breathtaking ocean views. On the Isle of Mull, Ben More stands out, the only mountain in the archipelago to rise above 900 meters, while on the Isle of Rum, the Cuillins of Rum are located, a geologically and naturally significant massif. The coasts of the Inner Hebrides are dotted with bays and marine lochs, such as Loch Harport and Loch Dunvegan on Skye, Loch na Keal on Mull, and Loch Indaal on Islay. These are ideal habitats for a rich marine life, including grey seals, dolphins, minke whales, white-tailed sea eagles, and numerous species of seabirds, such as puffins. The islands are also home to protected natural environments, including the Isle of Rum National Nature Reserve, known for its red deer and golden eagles. From a historical and cultural perspective, the Inner Hebrides are deeply connected to the tradition of Scottish clans and Gaelic culture, which is still alive today in the local language and customs. Castles such as Dunvegan Castle on the Isle of Skye, the historic residence of the MacLeod clan since the 13th century, and Duart Castle on the Isle of Mull, linked to the MacLean clan, testify to the power and influence of clan families. On the Isle of Iona, easily accessible from Mull, lies the famous Iona Abbey, founded in 563 AD by Saint Columba, one of the most important religious centers of medieval Scotland and a key place in the spread of Christianity in the country. The Inner Hebrides are also renowned for their artisanal and manufacturing traditions. The Isle of Islay is world-famous for its peated whisky production, with historic distilleries such as Laphroaig, Lagavulin, and Ardbeg, while villages such as Portree and Tobermory preserve traditional architecture, picturesque harbors, and a vibrant local arts scene. From a naturalistic and cultural perspective, the Inner Hebrides and the Isle of Skye represent an area of extraordinary diversity, where mountains, cliffs, bays, and historic villages blend with a strong Gaelic identity. This combination of spectacular landscapes, clan history, and centuries-old traditions offers authentic and immersive experiences, making the area ideal for any type of travel.

PLACES AND EXPERIENCES FOR A TRIP WITH YOUR FOUR- LEGGED FRIENDS OFF THE BEATEN PATH

The Inner Hebrides and the Isle of Skye offer an unforgettable experience for those traveling with pets, with open spaces, safe paths, and breathtaking views. On the Isle of Eigg, the quiet beaches of Laig Bay and the surrounding meadows allow for completely free dog walks, while the paths to the summit of An Sgùrr offer spectacular views of the sea and other islands, with the possibility of encountering local wildlife such as red deer and foxes, always in open and safe spaces. On Skye, the areas of Rubha Hunish and Neist Point are ideal for hiking with pets: accessible and rarely visited coastal paths allow you to walk among cliffs and secluded bays, admiring views of the Cuillin Range and the Atlantic, while dogs and their owners can enjoy long, uncrowded walks. Villages like Uig and Dunvegan offer pet-friendly accommodations, such as small hotels and pet-friendly cafés, and allow you to combine relaxation with the discovery of historic castles such as Dunvegan Castle, which can be visited partly with pets in the gardens. On the Isle of Mull, places like Tobermory and Lochbuie offer long walks along the sea or through hills and woods, with free access for pets and panoramic views of seals and seabirds. Even short trails along Loch na Keal and the surrounding forests allow for safe and peaceful dog-friendly hikes, guaranteeing an immersive nature experience away from the beaten track. These destinations combine freedom, safety, and natural beauty, offering authentic and memorable experiences for those who wish to explore the Inner Hebrides and Skye with their pets, without sacrificing spectacular views and places off the beaten track.





DID YOU KNOW?

The Inner Hebrides and the Isle of Skye are places of great charm, where unspoiled nature, history and local traditions intertwine in surprising ways.

The Isle of Eigg, for example, is famous for being almost completely self-sufficient in energy, thanks to a combined system of solar, wind and hydroelectricity, a unique model of community sustainability.

On the Isle of Mull, the village of Tobermory is striking for its colorful houses lining the harbor, dating back to the 18th century, originally fishermen's warehouses and workshops. The bright colors of the facades, in addition to giving the village a unique identity, served to guide sailors in fog and storms.

On the island of Jura, the hills and woods are home to one of the highest densities of red deer in Europe, allowing for close encounters with local wildlife in completely natural and uncrowded settings.

Many of the islands, including Rum and Canna, offer refuges for seabirds such as puffins and fulmars, and are important birdwatching sites, far from the main tourist routes. Walks along rugged coastlines, secluded bays, and mountain trails allow you to appreciate not only the extraordinary variety of landscapes, but also the Gaelic traditions that still characterize these communities, from small villages to the whisky distilleries of Bowmore and Port Ellen.

In this area, every beach, hill, village, and forest tells layered stories of nature, history, and local culture, offering authentic and surprising experiences, perfect for those seeking off-the-beaten-path destinations brimming with charm.

OUTER HEBRIDES ISLANDS BETWEEN WHITE BEACHES, DUNES AND ANCIENT STORIES

The Outer Hebrides, also known as the Outer Hebrides, is a remote archipelago in the North Atlantic, characterized by pristine white beaches like Seilebost Beach and Traigh Mhor in Barra, sand dunes like Nisabost in Lewis and Rodel in Harris, rugged coastlines like Vatersay Sound and Hushinish Point, and communities deeply rooted in Gaelic tradition. The archipelago includes the main islands of Lewis, Harris, North Uist, South Uist, Benbecula, Barra, and St. Kilda, along with smaller islets like Berneray, Flodaigh, and Pabbay. The main towns are Stornoway on Lewis, Tarbert on Harris, and Castlebay on Barra. The landscape is dominated by wide, secluded beaches like Luskentyre Sands on Harris, dunes and inland peat bogs like Loch an Duin on North Uist and Loch Bee on Benbecula, gentle mountains like Clisham (Harris's highest peak), and small inland lochs like Loch Langavat on Lewis and Loch Seaforth on Harris, which create ideal habitats for unique wildlife. The islands are home to seabirds such as puffins, fulmars, and eider ducks, while the surrounding waters are frequented by grey seals, harbor seals, and otters, making the Outer Hebrides a haven for wildlife watching. Historically and culturally, the archipelago retains strong Gaelic roots: the Scots Gaelic language is still spoken by a significant portion of the population, and local traditions include Harris Tweed weaving, traditional music, and dance. Prehistoric remains such as the Neolithic Callanish Circles on Lewis testify to ancient settlements and spiritual rituals, while historic buildings such as Kisimul Castle on Barra, located on a defensive islet, tell the story of centuries of clan and maritime history. The Outer Hebrides are thus a unique territory, where spectacular landscapes, pristine nature, and traditional culture merge, offering authentic, immersive experiences far from the beaten tourist track.

PLACES AND EXPERIENCES FOR A TRIP WITH YOUR FOUR- LEGGED FRIENDS OFF THE BEATEN PATH

The Outer Hebrides also offers unforgettable experiences for those traveling with pets, combining pristine nature and pet-friendly accommodations. On Lewis, beaches like Uig Sands and Dalmore Beach allow for safe, free walks along the golden sand and dunes, with plenty of space for dogs to run and flat paths overlooking inland lochs, including Loch Stiapavat, where you can observe waterfowl and red deer. On North Uist, bays like Balranald Beach and the paths around Loch Obisary are perfect for walking with leashed dogs, while quiet villages like Solas and Clachan offer pet-friendly cottages and accommodations, also offering access to artisan workshops and local museums like the North Uist Heritage Centre, where pets can wait in the outdoor areas while visitors learn about local history. On Barra, the bays of Vatersay and Eoligarry offer ample space for free-roaming walks and spectacular views. Some traditional lodges and cottages are pet-friendly, with enclosed gardens and easy access to coastal paths. Short boat trips to smaller islands like Flodday and Sandray, on dog-friendly boats, complete the experience, allowing you to explore hidden coves like Aird Mhor Bay and remote beaches like Seilibost Beach, in the company of your four-legged friends.





DID YOU KNOW?

The Outer Hebrides are home to some of Scotland's oldest traditions. The Isle of Lewis is home to the famous Callanish Stones, a complex of monoliths dating back to the Neolithic period, predating even Stonehenge, and shrouded in mystery as to the ritual functions of the ancient inhabitants.

The Gaelic language is still spoken daily in many communities, such as Stornoway, and accompanies local music, poetry, and festivals, keeping the archipelago's cultural identity alive.

On Harris, the beaches of Luskentyre are not only spectacular for their white sand and turquoise waters, but are also famous for their role in the local tides, which shape dunes and coastal lakes, creating ideal habitats for puffins and fulmars.

North Uist retains inland peat bogs and lochs, such as Loch Obisary, where herons, ducks and foxes can be observed, in an ecosystem that has remained virtually intact for centuries.

Local craftsmanship is another unique aspect: Harris Tweed, handwoven in the homes of Harris, remains an example of a thousand-year-old artisan tradition, with each fabric certified according to precise laws and produced exclusively in the archipelago.

On Barra, Kisimul Castle, located on a defensive islet in Castlebay, bears witness to the history of the clans that ruled the island, while the historic sea routes between the smaller islands have shaped the economic and social life of the population for centuries.

The Outer Hebrides therefore offer a unique mix of ancient history, living culture and pristine landscapes, with local curiosities and traditions that tell of a world still deeply connected to nature and its Gaelic roots, far from the most frequented tourist routes.

ORKNEY AND SHETLAND ISLANDS BETWEEN PREHISTORY, SEA AND TRADITION

The Orkney and Shetland Islands are Scotland's northernmost archipelagos, located between the North Sea and the Atlantic Ocean, and represent an area of extraordinary historical, cultural, and natural significance. The Orkney archipelago comprises approximately 70 islands, 20 of which are inhabited, including Mainland, Hoy, Rousay, and Sanday, while the Shetland archipelago comprises approximately 100 islands, with the main ones being Mainland, Yell, Unst, Fetlar, and Bressay. The main towns are Kirkwall and Stromness in Orkney, and Lerwick in Shetland. Scenically, the islands offer a unique combination of rugged coastlines such as Yesnaby and Marwick Head in Orkney, and Eshaness and Sullom Voe in Shetland; fjords such as Scapa Flow and Eynhallow Sound in Orkney, and Bluemull Sound and Yell Sound in Shetland; deep bays such as Wideford Bay and Loth Bay in Orkney, and Hamnavoe Bay and Voe of Dale in Shetland; sheer cliffs such as Yesnaby (Orkney) and Sumburgh Head (Shetland); rolling hills such as Ward Hill (Unst); and vast agricultural plains, as well as inland lochs such as Loch of Stenness and Loch of Spiggie, home to a wealth of aquatic wildlife and migratory birds. These islands are some of the best places in the UK to observe puffins, cormorants, harbor seals, and otters, while whales, dolphins, and grey seals can be spotted in the surrounding waters. From a historical and cultural perspective, Orkney and Shetland hold evidence of some of the oldest human settlements in Britain. Orkney is famous for the Neolithic complex of Skara Brae, dating back approximately 5,000 years, and for megalithic sites such as the Ring of Brodgar and Maeshowe, which bear witness to the rituals and sophisticated architecture of prehistoric times. Shetland, influenced for centuries by Norse culture, preserves Viking fortresses such as Jarlshof on the Mainland, as well as local traditions linked to fishing, navigation, and textiles, particularly the production of Shetland wool. The islands also have a unique industrial and maritime heritage, with historic lighthouses such as Eshaness Lighthouse (Shetland) and Brough of Birsay (Orkney), which testify to the long history of navigation and maritime defense. Small villages such as Housa Voe and Brae in Shetland, or Evie and Pierowall in Orkney, offer direct contact with local life, away from the beaten tourist track. Orkney and Shetland are a land where prehistoric history, Viking culture, spectacular landscapes, and marine biodiversity merge, offering authentic, immersive experiences suitable for every type of travel.

PLACES AND EXPERIENCES FOR A TRIP WITH YOUR FOUR- LEGGED FRIENDS OFF THE BEATEN PATH

The Orkney and Shetland Islands offer unique pet-friendly experiences, with wide-open natural spaces and pet-friendly accommodation.

In Orkney, coastal paths like Yesnaby Cliffs and Rackwick Bay on Hoy offer peaceful strolls along cliffs and secluded coves, with dog-friendly trails and breathtaking views. Some cottages and lodges in Kirkwall and Stromness are pet-friendly, with fenced gardens and direct access to nature trails.

In Shetland, secluded bays like St. Ninian's Isle and Voe of Dale offer wide, quiet beaches where dogs and their owners can roam freely. Pet-friendly accommodations in Lerwick, Brae, and Housa Voe ensure comfort, while short boat trips to smaller islands like Mousa or Noss allow you to observe puffins, seals, and sea eagles with your four-legged friends, on dog-friendly boats.

With quiet villages, safe nature trails and secluded bays, Orkney and Shetland are an ideal destination for those who want to explore spectacular landscapes, unique wildlife and ancient histories without leaving their pets.





DID YOU KNOW?

Orkney and Shetland hold surprising curiosities linked to their history and culture.

In Orkney, the Neolithic complex of Skara Brae, dating back some 5,000 years, has been buried by sand for millennia, preserving houses, tools and relics of daily life remarkably intact, offering insights into the prehistoric lives of its inhabitants.

The Ring of Brodgar and Maeshowe demonstrate the advanced astronomical and architectural knowledge of Neolithic communities, with solar alignments and sophisticated burial chambers.

On Shetland, Norse influence is still evident: the site of Jarlshof shows continuous settlement from the Neolithic to the Viking period, with dwellings, enclosures and tombs.

The production of Shetland wool has ancient roots, and traditional “Fair Isle sweaters” derive from weaving techniques developed in remote villages such as Brae and Housa Voe.

Shetland is also home to one of the highest concentrations of historic lighthouses in the UK, such as Eshaness Lighthouse, which guided sailors between treacherous cliffs and remote fjords.

The surrounding waters, rich in whales, dolphins and seals, and the colonies of puffins and cormorants on the cliffs of Yesnaby and Sumburgh Head, make the islands not only a cultural heritage site, but also a natural paradise.

These curiosities make Orkney and Shetland a unique mosaic of ancient history, living traditions and extraordinary biodiversity, still accessible and authentic today.



WALES: EPIC EMOTIONS AMIDST MOUNTAINS, VALLEYS, AND COASTLINES



Wales is a land of striking contrasts, where imposing mountains like Snowdon and the Black Mountains, deep valleys like the Wye Valley and the Rhondda Valley, rugged coastlines like St. Davids Head and Strumble Head, and picturesque islands like Anglesey and Skomer intertwine with a millennia-old history and vibrant cultural traditions. Before the arrival of the Romans, the territory was inhabited by Celtic tribes like the Silures, Ordovices, and Demetes, who developed complex societies with a strong spiritual connection to nature, fortifications like Tre'r Ceiri and Castell Dinas, and myths linked to agricultural cycles and local deities. The Roman era left tangible evidence such as the military roads between Caerleon and Segontium, the forts of Caerleon Roman Fortress and Segontium Roman Fort, and the remains of aqueducts like Dolaucothi and protective walls still visible in Caerwent, which tell the story of Roman organization and presence in Wales. The Middle Ages saw the construction of legendary castles like Caernarfon Castle, Conwy Castle, and Harlech Castle, abbeys like Tintern Abbey, and market towns like Cardiff and Swansea, which consolidated local trade and the region's culture. During the Renaissance and subsequent centuries, noble families and local lords like the House of Tudor and the House of Wynn consolidated architectural heritages like Powis Castle and Chirk Castle, historic gardens like Bodnant Garden, and libraries like the National Library of Wales in Aberystwyth, leaving a cultural legacy that still permeates cities and countryside today. Festivals like the National Eisteddfod, museums like the National Museum Cardiff, and theaters like Theatr Mwldan testify to the nation's cultural vitality and capacity for innovation.

From a naturalistic perspective, Wales offers a surprising variety of environments: the mountains of Snowdonia National Park, with Mount Snowdon and surrounding valleys like the Llanberis Valley; the Brecon Beacons National Park and Pembrokeshire Coast National Park, with rolling hills, placid rivers like the River Usk, and rugged coastlines like St Davids Head and Strumble Head; the main islands, such as Anglesey, with spectacular cliffs and picturesque villages like Beaumaris and Menai Bridge; and the smaller islands off the southwest coast, such as Skomer and Skokholm, renowned for their marine life and bird colonies; the plains and moors of mid-Wales offer rolling landscapes and rural villages like Llanwrtyd Wells and Llangammarch Wells, ideal for quiet walks and outdoor activities. The main rivers, from the Severn to the Taff, mark the geography and history of the territories, while the Atlantic and Bristol Channel coasts offer cliffs such as Worm's Head, dunes such as Merthyr Mawr Sand Dunes and bays such as Cardigan Bay that tell the story of the ancient connection between the Welsh and the sea.

Geographically, Wales covers approximately 20,800 km², just over a sixth of the size of Italy, and includes mountains, hills, plains, rivers, and islands, with a unique balance between wilderness and historic settlements.

The four main areas that make up the region are:

- NORTH WALES – MOUNTAINS, RUGGED COASTLINE, THE ISLE OF ANGLESEY AND HISTORIC FORTRESSES
- MID WALES – ROLLING HILLS, MOORLAND, TRANQUIL RIVERS AND RURAL VILLAGES
- SOUTH WALES – COASTAL PLAINS, HISTORIC CITIES SUCH AS CARDIFF AND SWANSEA, COASTLINES AND NATURE PARKS
- WEST WALES (WEST WALES / PEMBROKESHIRE) – COASTAL PARKS, SMALL ISLANDS, BAYS AND PICTURESQUE COMMUNITIES

The main airports accessing the region are:

- Cardiff Airport – Main gateway to South Wales
- Anglesey Airport – Gateway to the North and the Islands
- Bristol Airport – Useful for the South West and Pembrokeshire area

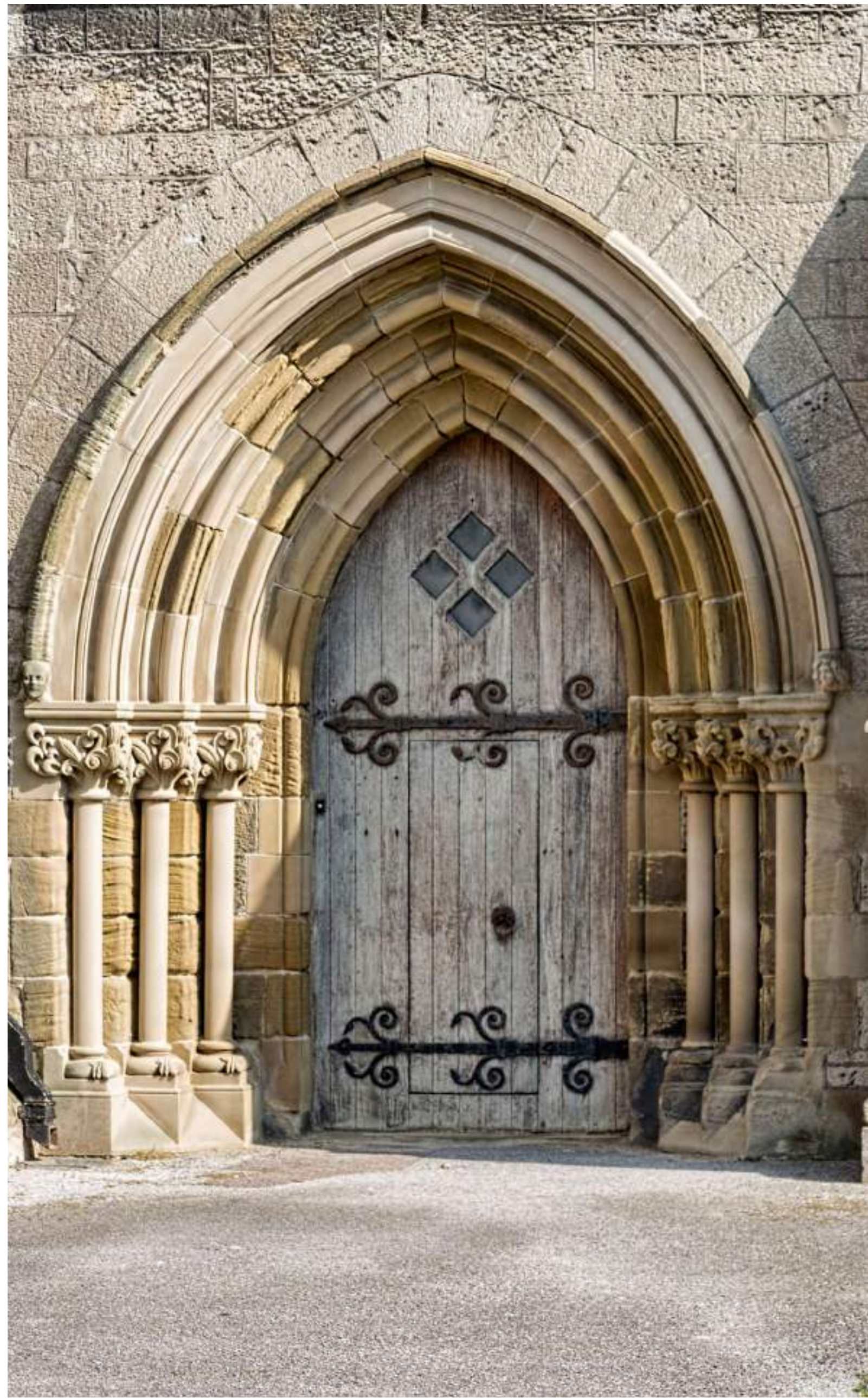
Wales is more than just a collection of territories: it's a layered tale of people, history, legends, and landscapes, where each place invites you to discover it slowly and attentively. From rugged coastlines to tranquil moors, from mountain valleys to picturesque villages, the region offers a complete experience that blends history, culture, and nature in a rare and fascinating balance.

NORTH WALES BETWEEN LEGENDARY MOUNTAINS, MEDIEVAL CASTLES AND SPECTACULAR COASTS

North Wales is one of the most captivating and authentic regions in the United Kingdom, where imposing mountain landscapes, rugged coastlines, and a rich historical heritage blend together in a landscape of extraordinary diversity. The area encompasses the counties of Gwynedd, Conwy, Denbighshire, and Flintshire, as well as the island of Anglesey (Ynys Môn), with major towns such as Bangor, Caernarfon, Conwy, Llandudno, Holyhead, and Betws-y-Coed. The landscape is dominated by Snowdonia National Park, officially known as Eryri National Park, home to Mount Snowdon (Yr Wyddfa), the highest peak in Wales at 1,085 meters. Surrounding it are spectacular mountain ranges such as the Glyderau and Carneddau, glacial valleys, and glacial lakes such as Llyn Padarn, Llyn Ogwen, and Llyn Llydaw. The coast offers equally striking scenery, with limestone headlands such as the Great Orme and Little Orme in Llandudno, wide sandy bays such as Colwyn Bay and Red Wharf Bay on the island of Anglesey, and scenic coastlines along the Menai Strait, which separates the island from the mainland. Historically, North Wales is renowned for its extraordinary concentration of medieval castles built in the 13th century by the English King Edward I, now recognized as UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Among these are Caernarfon Castle, known for its polygonal towers and strong symbolic significance in Welsh history; Conwy Castle, overlooking the Conwy estuary; and the imposing fortresses of Harlech and Beaumaris, exceptional examples of medieval military architecture and defensive planning. The region retains a strong cultural identity: the Welsh language (Cymraeg) is widely spoken and represents a fundamental element of daily life and a sense of local belonging. Musical, literary, and craft traditions are still alive in communities, while religious buildings such as Bangor Cathedral, founded in the 6th century and rebuilt in subsequent centuries, bear witness to the region's long spiritual history. From a naturalistic perspective, North Wales is home to a rich biodiversity. The mountains and moors are habitats for species such as the peregrine falcon, the red-billed chough (the symbol of Wales), and the European otter. The coastal waters of the Irish Sea are frequented by grey seals, dolphins, and numerous species of seabirds, particularly along the island of Anglesey, which includes protected areas such as the South Stack Cliffs RSPB Reserve, one of the UK's most important sites for birdwatching. North Wales therefore represents a land of extraordinary balance between nature, history, and culture, where legendary mountains, medieval castles, and communities deeply rooted in tradition offer authentic and varied experiences, suitable for every type of travel.

PLACES AND EXPERIENCES FOR A TRIP WITH YOUR FOUR- LEGGED FRIENDS OFF THE BEATEN PATH

North Wales is a particularly pet-friendly destination, thanks to its wide natural spaces, accessible beaches, and rural trails where dogs and their owners can roam freely. On the Denbighshire coast, the long Rhyl Beach offers wide sandy areas where dogs are allowed in specific areas year-round or during regulated periods. Nearby, Prestatyn Beach features a long, flat promenade that allows for relaxing strolls overlooking the Irish Sea, ideal for outdoor activities with pets. Further inland, the Clocaenog Forest area, between Denbighshire and Conwy, is one of the quietest and least frequented woodland areas in North Wales. Here, numerous dirt paths nestled among pine and fir trees are perfect for safe hikes with dogs, away from tourist traffic. On the island of Anglesey (Ynys Môn), Lligwy Bay beach is one of the most popular among pet-friendly travelers: wide, sandy, and uncrowded, it allows for long walks along the coast. The Newborough Forest and Llanddwyn Island (Ynys Llanddwyn) area also offers nature trails and spectacular coastal stretches, with dunes and views of the Menai Strait and the mountains of Snowdonia. In the heart of Eryri (Snowdonia) National Park, some areas, such as around Beddgelert, offer routes along the Afon Glaslyn River, with nature trails and accessible woodland areas, ideal for slow, peaceful hikes with pets. The village itself is pet-friendly, with several dog-friendly accommodations. Towns like Conwy and Betws-y-Coed also offer numerous walking routes along rivers and green spaces, with pet-friendly accommodations and cafés, making for a comfortable and flexible stay. North Wales is thus confirmed as a perfect destination for those travelling with pets: open beaches, silent forests and welcoming villages allow you to enjoy an authentic and natural experience without giving up the company of your four-legged friends.





DID YOU KNOW?

North Wales boasts one of the highest densities of medieval castles in Europe, built in the 13th century during the reign of King Edward I of England: Caernarfon, Conwy, Harlech, and Beaumaris, now recognized as UNESCO World Heritage Sites, were designed not only as defensive structures but also as symbols of English power over the Welsh territory. At Caernarfon Castle, in particular, the future King Edward II was born in 1284, an event that contributed to its strong symbolic significance in British history.

Few people know that Eryri (Snowdonia) National Park is not only one of the most spectacular mountain areas in the United Kingdom, but also home to communities where Welsh is still the dominant everyday language, making it one of the most important cultural hubs for the survival of Cymraeg. The name Snowdonia itself derives from the English term, while in Welsh the region is called "Eryri," meaning "land of eagles," a historical reference to the presence of birds of prey in its mountains.

On the island of Anglesey (Ynys Môn) lies the village with one of the longest names in Europe, Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwllllantysiliogogoch, created in the 19th century as a railway promotional strategy. Also on the island, the South Stack area is one of the UK's most important nesting spots for seabirds such as puffins, which can be observed from viewing platforms on the cliffs.

Another peculiarity concerns the Menai Strait, the stretch of sea that separates Anglesey from the mainland: here there are two historic bridges of great engineering, the Menai Suspension Bridge (1826) designed by Thomas Telford and the Britannia Bridge, which revolutionised the connections between Wales and England.

North Wales is therefore an area where medieval history, linguistic identity and extremely diverse natural landscapes coexist in a unique way, still maintaining a strong link between local culture and territory.

CENTRAL WALES AMONG SILENT HILLS, RIVER VALLEYS AND TIMELESS VILLAGES

Mid Wales is one of the most authentic and least urbanized areas of the country, characterized by vast rolling landscapes, open moorland, and river valleys deeply shaped by nature. The region primarily encompasses the counties of Powys and parts of Ceredigion, with towns such as Llandrindod Wells, Newtown (Y Drenewydd), Welshpool (Y Trallwng), Machynlleth, and Aberystwyth, the latter located on the west coast and overlooking Cardigan Bay. The territory is dominated by a gently undulating yet expansive landscape, where the hilly ranges of the Cambrian Mountains alternate with river valleys crossed by waterways such as the River Severn (Afon Hafren), the longest river in the United Kingdom, and the River Wye (Afon Gwy), known for its natural landscapes and meanders through wooded hills. Reservoirs and reservoirs such as Llyn Clywedog and Vyrnwy Reservoir (Llyn Efyrynwy) add further landscape elements, creating tranquil environments rich in biodiversity. From a naturalistic perspective, Mid Wales is one of the wildest and least densely populated areas of the country. The vast moors and hills are home to species such as the peregrine falcon, the common buzzard, the European otter along the rivers, and the red deer in wooded areas such as Dyfi Forest and the woodlands of the Elan Valley. The latter is one of the most scenic areas of the region, characterized by a series of dams and reservoirs immersed in a highly evocative mountain and valley landscape. From a historical and cultural perspective, Mid Wales retains a strong rural and linguistic identity: the Welsh language (Cymraeg) is widely spoken and an integral part of daily life. Historic towns such as Machynlleth, the ancient capital of medieval Wales during Owain Glyndŵr's Revolt, and Llanidloes, one of the country's first market towns, bear witness to the region's long political and commercial history. Aberystwyth is also an important cultural and academic center, home to Aberystwyth University and the National Library of Wales, one of the most important libraries in the United Kingdom. Mid Wales is therefore distinguished by its balance of pristine nature, historical heritage, and vibrant cultural identity, offering an authentic, peaceful region deeply rooted in tradition, ideal for travel experiences away from the crowded routes.

PLACES AND EXPERIENCES FOR A TRIP WITH YOUR FOUR- LEGGED FRIENDS OFF THE BEATEN PATH

Mid Wales is one of the most suitable areas for traveling with pets thanks to its vast countryside, uncrowded forests, and natural river paths where you can roam freely, far from urban centers and the main tourist routes. One of the most suitable areas is the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley National Landscape, in northeastern Mid Wales, home to wide hilly trails such as those around Llandegla Forest. This managed forest, with signposted trails, offers woodland paths, dirt roads, and open areas ideal for safe dog walks. In the heart of the region, the River Severn (Afon Hafren) area near Llanidloes offers stretches of countryside and uncrowded river paths, where the river rises and flows through peaceful rural landscapes. The paths along the banks allow for leisurely strolls through meadows, wooden bridges, and unfenced natural areas. Further west, near Machynlleth, Dyfi Forest is a sprawling woodland area with dirt paths and accessible forest roads, ideal for long but easy hikes. The proximity to the Dyfi Biosphere guarantees a natural environment rich in wildlife, including birds of prey and deer, in open, undeveloped settings. To the south, the Llanwrtyd Wells and Cambrian Mountains area offers one of the most tranquil settings in Mid-Wales. Here, secondary roads and rural paths cross moorland, hills, and small streams, perfect for travelers seeking isolation and freedom of movement with their pets. Finally, around Rhayader, in addition to access to the Elan Valley, lies open countryside crossed by the River Wye (Afon Gwy), where the Wye Valley Walk offers some stretches of undeveloped nature trails, ideal for long, leisurely walks with pets.





DID YOU KNOW?

Mid Wales is one of the least densely populated regions in the United Kingdom, a characteristic that has allowed the preservation of rural landscapes and strong Welsh linguistic traditions, especially in the inland areas of Powys. In many areas, Welsh remains a language of everyday use, particularly in small towns and valleys far from major roads.

The Elan Valley, now famous for its lakes and dams, is actually the result of a major engineering project between the late 19th and early 20th centuries, designed to channel water to Birmingham. The construction of infrastructure such as the Craig Goch and Pen-y-Garreg dams profoundly transformed the valley, yet preserved its natural appearance, creating a rare balance between human intervention and pristine landscape.

In the Wye River valley, towns like Machynlleth played a significant historical role: it was here, in 1404, that Owain Glyndŵr convened the first Welsh Parliament, a symbolic event that marked one of the most important affirmations of medieval Wales's national identity. Even today, the town retains traces of this historical legacy in local buildings and place names.

The River Severn system, which rises near Llanidloes, is also one of the region's most notable geographical features: it is the longest river in Britain, and its sources lie in an area of hills and peat bogs that remains sparsely populated to this day.

Finally, many of the forests of Mid Wales, such as those around Llanwrtyd Wells and the Cambrian Mountains, are the result of reforestation in the 20th century, which transformed areas once used for extensive grazing into woodland landscapes that are now rich in biodiversity.

SOUTH WALES COASTAL CITIES, INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE AND LANDSCAPES BETWEEN SEA AND GREEN VALLEYS

South Wales is the most urbanized and historically industrialized region in the country, but it is also surprisingly rich in nature, with Atlantic coastlines, deep river valleys, and hilly areas extending inland. The area primarily encompasses the counties of Cardiff, Swansea, Newport, the Vale of Glamorgan, Rhondda Cynon Taf, Caerphilly, Merthyr Tydfil, and Bridgend, encompassing both large urban centers and vast rural and coastal areas. The landscape is strongly characterized by two main elements: the coastal strip of the Bristol Channel and Swansea Bay, and the historic South Wales Valleys, narrow, deep river valleys such as those of the River Taff, River Rhondda, River Usk, and River Ebbw, which have shaped the region's geography and industrial history. These valleys, once the hub of coal mining and steelmaking, today present themselves as transforming landscapes, with nature trails, linear parks, and revitalizing communities. From a natural perspective, South Wales includes areas of great environmental value such as Bannau Brycheiniog National Park (Brecon Beacons), characterized by mountains like Pen y Fan, open plateaus, and spectacular waterfalls like Henrhyd Falls. The coast is dotted with cliffs, beaches, and wetlands, including the Gower Peninsula, the first area in the United Kingdom to be designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, with iconic sites such as Rhossili Bay, Three Cliffs Bay, and Oxwich Bay. From a historical and cultural perspective, South Wales is the heart of the Welsh Industrial Revolution, with cities such as Cardiff, now the country's capital and an important cultural and political center, and Swansea, a port city linked to shipping and industrial production. The inland valleys, particularly the Rhondda Valley, the Merthyr Tydfil Valley, and the Afan Valley, still retain evidence of Wales's mining past, with sites such as the Big Pit National Coal Museum in Blaenavon (a former coal mine now a UNESCO museum), the Rhondda Heritage Park in Trehafod, and the National Waterfront Museum in Swansea, which chronicles Wales's industrial and maritime evolution. The region also boasts historic sites linked to the coal and iron industries, such as the Blaenavon Industrial Landscape, a UNESCO World Heritage Site that includes perfectly preserved 19th-century mines, furnaces, and industrial infrastructure. Communities that developed around the coal mines include towns like Treorchy, Aberdare, and Pontypridd, which developed between the 19th and 20th centuries as mining villages and remain strongly tied to the industrial legacy and Welsh choral and community culture, which found one of its main centers of development in the valleys. South Wales is therefore distinguished by its strong duality: on the one hand, an industrial legacy among the most significant in Europe, on the other, a natural coastal and mountain heritage of great value, which today makes the region a complete and varied destination, capable of combining urban culture, historical memory and striking natural landscapes.

PLACES AND EXPERIENCES FOR A TRIP WITH YOUR FOUR- LEGGED FRIENDS OFF THE BEATEN PATH

South Wales is one of the most pet-friendly regions, thanks to its wide, accessible beaches, large urban parks, and nature trails along rivers and protected areas, where dogs are generally allowed in many areas. In Newport, Tredegar House and Park offers one of the most pet-friendly settings: the house's large historic park, managed by the National Trust, features large grassy areas and woodland paths where dogs can be walked on a leash, in a historic 17th-century setting immersed in nature. In the Vale of Glamorgan, the Barry Island (Ynys y Barri) area is one of the most popular coastal resorts, with large pet-friendly areas, particularly Whitmore Bay, where dogs are allowed at certain times of the year. The seafront and surrounding cliffs offer scenic routes along the Bristol Channel coast. In the heart of the region, the Taff Trail, which connects Cardiff with the Brecon Beacons, is one of the most popular routes for pet travelers. This long cycling and walking path follows the River Taff (Afon Taf), passing through urban parks, forests, and flat rural stretches, ideal for long, safe walks. In Swansea, the large coastal park of Clyne Gardens and Clyne Valley Country Park offers an extensive natural area with woodland paths and riverside trails along the Clyne River. It's popular with residents and perfect for dog walks in a green, peaceful setting, away from urban traffic. Finally, in the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park, the area around Crickhowell offers numerous accessible rural trails, including stretches along the River Usk (Afon Wysg) and open countryside where pets can be walked in a spacious, uncrowded natural setting.





DID YOU KNOW?

South Wales is one of the areas that most shaped the industrial history of the United Kingdom, so much so that between the 19th and early 20th centuries, its valleys were among the world's leading centers for coal mining and steel production. This development profoundly transformed the landscape, giving rise to compact communities that grew up around the mines, many of which still retain a strong Welsh cultural and linguistic identity.

One of the most distinctive features of the region is the presence of the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park (Brecon Beacons), home to some of the highest mountains in South Wales, such as Pen y Fan, already used as a training area in military times and today a very popular hiking destination, but still surrounded by vast, quiet, undeveloped areas.

On the coast, the Gower Peninsula was the first area in the UK to be designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in 1956, an accolade attributed to its extraordinary variety of landscapes, including sandy bays, limestone cliffs, and coastal dunes. Despite its proximity to Swansea, many of its inland areas remain surprisingly quiet and undeveloped.

In the heart of the South Wales Valleys, towns like Merthyr Tydfil and Pontypool still retain traces of the industrial era, with former mining and railway infrastructure that contributed to the economic development of the region and the United Kingdom as a whole. Some of these sites have subsequently been converted into museums or cultural spaces, contributing to the collective historical memory.

Finally, the strong Welsh choral tradition, which originated in the mining communities of the valleys, is still one of the most recognisable cultural elements of the region today, with male and mixed choirs having played a central role in the social and cultural life of South Wales for over a century.

WEST WALES WILD COASTS, REMOTE ISLANDS AND TIMELESS SEASIDE VILLAGES

West Wales, which primarily includes Pembrokeshire and the coastal areas of Ceredigion and western Carmarthenshire, is one of Wales's most spectacular and naturally unspoiled regions. It is a territory defined by the constant contact between land and ocean, where long cliffs, sandy bays, rocky headlands, and small islands alternate with coastal villages and historic communities linked to fishing and shipping. The geographic heart of the region is Pembrokeshire Coast National Park (Parc Cenedlaethol Arfordir Penfro), the only entirely coastal national park in the United Kingdom, which extends for approximately 300 km of coastline along the Irish Sea and the Bristol Channel. Some of Wales' most iconic natural formations are found here, such as the cliffs of St. David's Peninsula, the bays of Newgale, Barafundle Bay, and Broad Haven South, as well as stretches of wild coastline shaped by wind and tides. Insularly, the region encompasses several islands and islets of great natural and historical significance, including Skomer Island, Skokholm Island, Caldey Island (Ynys Bŷr), and Ramsey Island (Ynys Dewi), all characterized by protected ecosystems, seabird colonies, and pristine coastal landscapes. These islands represent one of the UK's main wildlife sanctuaries, particularly for puffins and other marine species. Major population centers include St Davids (Tyddewi), the smallest city in the UK, historically linked to Saint David, the patron saint of Wales, and an important religious destination since the Middle Ages; Tenby (Dinbych-y-pysgod), a port town characterized by medieval walls and a historic port; and Aberystwyth, located further north along the coast of Cardigan Bay, an important cultural and university center. The inland landscape of West Wales is less urbanized and unfolds among rolling hills like the Preseli Hills (Mynydd Preseli), the Ceredigion uplands, and the heights around Tregaron; river valleys like the Teifi Valley, the Aeron Valley, and the Tywi Valley; and traditional agricultural areas like those around Cardigan (Aber-teifi), Lampeter (Llanbedr Pont Steffan), and the countryside of western Carmarthenshire, still strongly linked to livestock farming and small-scale local production. Here, small rural villages like New Quay (Ceinewydd), Llangrannog, and Tregaron alternate with medieval castles like Cardigan Castle, Cilgerran Castle, and Newcastle Emlyn Castle; and protected natural areas like the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park (Parc Cenedlaethol Arfordir Penfro), the Cors Caron National Nature Reserve, and the Teifi Marshes Nature Reserve, which maintain strong ties to the Welsh language and culture. West Wales therefore stands out as a region of great balance between marine nature, historical heritage and living cultural identity, where spectacular coastlines, wild islands and traditional communities create an authentic landscape, still deeply connected to the rhythms of the ocean.

PLACES AND EXPERIENCES FOR A TRIP WITH YOUR FOUR- LEGGED FRIENDS OFF THE BEATEN PATH

West Wales is one of the most pet-friendly regions thanks to the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park, vast rural areas in Ceredigion, and numerous parks and trails where dogs are generally allowed, especially on nature trails and non-seasonally restricted beaches. One of the most suitable areas is the Broad Haven and Little Haven area in West Pembrokeshire. Here, you'll find wide, easily accessible beaches, such as Broad Haven Beach, with long sandy stretches ideal for dog walks, especially outside of seasonal restrictions. The small coastal village also offers direct access to the Pembrokeshire Coast Path, with scenic stretches along the cliffs. In Ceredigion, the Borth/Ynyslas area is a coastal area very suitable for pet-friendly travel. The sandy beaches stretch for miles and connect to the Dyfi Estuary and the Ynyslas National Nature Reserve, where you'll find dunes, walkways, and open spaces ideal for long, safe walks. Inland from Pembrokeshire, Cleddau Forest, near Haverfordwest, offers woodland trails and quiet forest roads, perfect for peaceful walks with pets in a protected and peaceful natural environment. Another highly suitable area is New Quay (Ceinewydd) in Cardigan Bay, where the seafront and coastal paths offer scenic walks overlooking the ocean. The village is small and easily walkable, with access to sections of the Wales Coast Path where dogs are generally welcome on a leash. Finally, the rural region around Narberth (Arberth) and the central Pembrokeshire countryside offer an extensive network of back roads, woodlands, and quiet farm tracks, ideal for cottage stays immersed in nature, with open spaces and quiet settings for traveling with pets.





DID YOU KNOW?

West Wales is one of the areas of the country where the Welsh language maintains one of the highest percentages of daily use, especially in rural Ceredigion and North Pembrokeshire, where Welsh is often the first language in community and school life. This strong linguistic connection has helped preserve original place names and a cultural continuity that is still reflected in the life of small towns today.

One of the region's most famous features is Pembrokeshire Coast National Park, established in 1952 and the only entirely coastal national park in the United Kingdom. Its creation has protected an extraordinarily diverse stretch of coastline, including cliffs, sandy bays, and islands such as Skomer and Skokholm, crucial for the conservation of marine species and nesting birds, particularly puffins.

Further inland, the River Teifi valley has historically been one of the most important areas for the economic development of West Wales, thanks to the presence of watermills, textile industries, and small river ports that connected rural communities to the coast. Even today, towns like Cenarth retain traditional structures linked to wool processing and the pre-industrial economy.

The city of St Davids, despite being the smallest in the United Kingdom, has played a major religious role since the Middle Ages: its cathedral has been a place of pilgrimage for centuries, so much so that two visits to St Davids were considered equivalent to a pilgrimage to Rome in medieval times, according to a local devotional tradition.

Finally, the Cardigan Bay coast is one of the few areas in the UK where bottlenose dolphins can regularly be seen in the wild, thanks to a protected and relatively undisturbed marine ecosystem, which has helped make this part of West Wales a hotspot for marine wildlife conservation.



NORTHERN IRELAND – A LAND OF SPECTACULAR COASTLINES AND TIMELESS LANDSCAPES



Northern Ireland is a land of fascinating contrasts, where the rolling hills of the Mourne and Sperrin Mountains, crystal-clear lakes like Lough Neagh and Lough Erne, the verdant valleys of the Glens of Antrim, the rugged coastline of the Causeway Coast, and picturesque islands like Rathlin Island intertwine with a millennia-old history and vibrant cultural traditions. Before the arrival of the Romans, the territory was inhabited by Celtic tribes like the Dál Riata and the Voluntii, who developed complex societies with fortifications like Navan Fort and the remains of defensive structures on Rathlin Island, spiritual rituals, and myths linked to nature and seasonal cycles. The medieval period saw the rise of imposing castles and abbeys, including Carrickfergus Castle, Dunluce Castle, and Grey Abbey, while market towns like Belfast and Londonderry consolidated trade, fishing, and crafts, shaping the local economy and culture. Over the centuries, the region has welcomed diverse influences, from Christian monks to Gaelic and Norman traditions, which still permeate popular festivals such as the Belfast International Arts Festival, traditional Irish music in the pubs and sessions of Bushmills and Belfast, the literature of authors such as Seamus Heaney, and local museums, such as the Ulster Museum in Belfast, which houses archaeological, artistic and natural history collections.

From a naturalistic perspective, Northern Ireland offers an extraordinary variety of landscapes: the hills and mountains of the Sperrin Mountains and Mourne Mountains National Park offer hiking trails and spectacular views; the lakes of Lough Neagh and Lough Erne, with their smaller islands like Inishmore and Inishee, guarantee tranquility and picturesque scenery; the Causeway Coast and Glens is home to famous cliffs like Fair Head, bays like Ballycastle Bay, and iconic geological formations like the Giant's Causeway; the main islands, including Rathlin Island and the small islands on Lough Erne like Boa Island and Inishleague, offer traditional villages like Church Bay and Clough, marine life with seals and dolphins, and rare birds like puffins and fulmars. The main rivers, from the Bann to the Foyle, punctuate the geography and history of the territories, while the Atlantic and Irish Sea coasts tell the story of the age-old connection between the inhabitants and the sea.

Geographically, Northern Ireland covers approximately 14,130 km², just over a fifth of the size of Italy, and comprises a mix of modern cities, historic villages, hills, mountains and islands, including Rathlin, Murlough Bay and the islands of Lough Erne.

The four main areas that make up the region are:

- BELFAST AND METROPOLITAN AREA – CULTURAL, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC CENTRE, MAIN INTERNATIONAL ACCESS HUB
- CAUSEWAY COAST AND GLENS – NORTHERN COAST WITH CLIFFS, BAYS, VILLAGES AND RATHLIN ISLAND
- MID & SOUTH ULSTER – INLAND AREAS WITH ROLLING HILLS, LAKES AND RURAL VILLAGES
- FERMANAGH LAKELANDS AND SPERRIN MOUNTAINS – NATURAL REGIONS WITH LOW MOUNTAINS, RIVERS, LAKES AND SMALLER ISLANDS ON THE MAIN LAKES

The main airports accessing the region are:

- Belfast International Airport – For the metropolitan area and northern access
- George Best Belfast City Airport – Close to Belfast City Centre and the East Coast
- City of Derry Airport – For the North West area and the Causeway Coast

Northern Ireland is more than just a collection of territories: it's a layered tale of peoples, legends, culture, and spectacular landscapes. From the urban vibrancy of Belfast to the tranquility of the northern islands and mountains, the region offers a complete experience that blends history, nature, and living traditions in a unique and surprising balance.

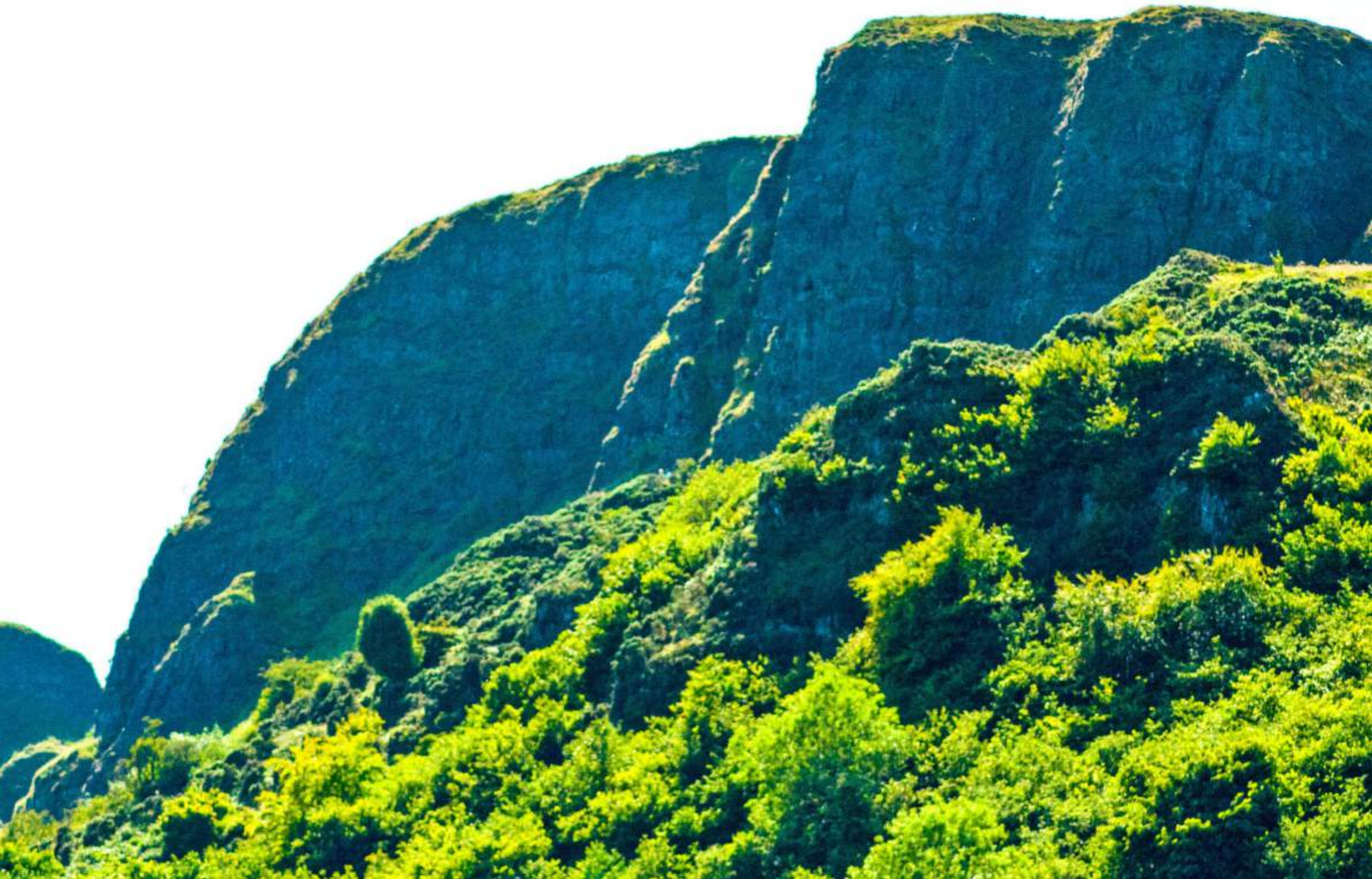
BELFAST AND METROPOLITAN AREA BETWEEN SPECTACULAR COASTS AND INLAND LAKE LANDSCAPES

Northern Ireland is a region of the United Kingdom characterized by strong geographical and cultural diversity, where a major urban center like Belfast coexists with rugged Atlantic coastlines, rolling hill ranges, and vast inland lakes. The territory extends between the Irish Sea to the east and northeast and rural areas extending inland, offering a unique balance of urban, natural, and historical heritage. The administrative, economic, and cultural heart of the region is Belfast, Northern Ireland's capital, located at the mouth of the River Lagan. The city is the main international gateway and the most dynamic center of the territory, with a metropolitan area extending along the shores of Belfast Lough, a natural inlet connecting the city to the Irish Sea. The urban area includes historic neighborhoods such as the Cathedral Quarter, the Titanic Quarter, the Linen Quarter, and Falls Road/Shankill Road, which reflect the different phases of the city's social and urban development. The main cultural districts include the Cathedral Quarter itself, a hub of contemporary art, music, and nightlife; the Titanic Quarter, linked to industrial and maritime memory; and the Queen's Quarter area around Queen's University Belfast, a major academic and cultural hub. Among the most significant repurposed industrial sites are the former Harland & Wolff shipyards, now part of the Titanic Quarter, and the former industrial spaces along the River Lagan, where new residential neighborhoods, museums, and exhibition spaces have developed, such as the Titanic Belfast, a symbol of the city's economic and urban transformation in recent decades. Geographically, the region is complemented by coastal and inland areas of great scenic value. To the north lies the Causeway Coast, famous for its basalt cliffs and geological formations along the coastline between Portrush, Portstewart, and Ballycastle, stretching to Rathlin Island, an important natural area and the furthest point of the Northern Irish coast. This coastal strip represents one of the most spectacular and geologically significant areas on the entire island of Ireland. Inland, the areas of Mid and South Ulster are characterized by rolling hills such as Slieve Gullion, the Mourne Mountains foothills, and the Dungannon Hills, small lakes such as Lough Neagh (whose southern shore extends across the area), Lough Shark, and Lough Ross, and rural villages such as Armagh, Dromore, Crumlin, Dungannon, and Newtownhamilton, spread across counties Armagh, Tyrone, and Down, with a traditional agricultural landscape still widespread. Here, the land is less urbanized and retains a strong local identity linked to community life and agricultural activities. Further west, the Fermanagh Lakelands and Sperrin Mountains regions offer some of the most natural and least densely populated landscapes in Northern Ireland. The lakes of Lower Lough Erne and Upper Lough Erne, dotted with islands such as Devenish Island, White Island, and Boa Island, alternate with a network of waterways such as the River Erne, the River Sillee, and the Ballinamallard River, along with canals such as the Shannon–Erne Waterway, which connects the lake system to the Shannon Basin and passes through a series of locks and navigable waterways. Along this system lie villages and small rural centers such as Enniskillen, Belleek, Lisnarick, and Irvinestown, as well as agricultural areas and scattered settlements such as those around Kesh and Maguiresbridge, nestled in a landscape dominated by water and countryside. The waters are flanked by the hills of the Sperrin Mountains, with gentle slopes and wide valleys such as those around Glenelly and Owenkillew Valley, creating an environment dominated by water, peat bogs, and rolling landscapes, ideal for outdoor activities and nature observation. Northern Ireland is therefore an extremely diverse region, where the urban dynamism of Belfast complements dramatic coastlines, rural landscapes and extensive lake systems, offering a territory rich in history, culture and nature in constant balance.

PLACES AND EXPERIENCES FOR A TRIP WITH YOUR FOUR-LEGGED FRIENDS OFF THE BEATEN PATH

Belfast and its metropolitan area offer numerous pet-friendly options thanks to the presence of large public parks, coastal promenades, and nature trails along Belfast Lough and the River Lagan, where dogs are generally allowed in green spaces and along outdoor paths. One of the most suitable areas is Cave Hill Country Park, overlooking the city of Belfast. The park offers nature trails and scenic routes with views of the city and the lough, in a hilly setting where pets can be walked on a leash along well-marked routes immersed in nature. South of the city, Lagan Valley Regional Park represents one of the metropolitan area's main green corridors. The park follows the River Lagan with continuous paths, wooded areas, and flat stretches connecting Belfast to Lisburn, making it ideal for long, leisurely walks with pets. On the coast, the city of Bangor offers a particularly pet-friendly environment thanks to its waterfront (Bangor Waterfront) and the open spaces of Ward Park, one of the area's main urban parks, with large green spaces and easily accessible pedestrian paths. In the Hollywood area, Redburn Country Park is another ideal destination: woodland trails, rolling hills, and panoramic views of Belfast Lough offer a peaceful natural setting, popular with residents with pets. Finally, Helen's Bay beach, along the coastline between Belfast and Bangor, is one of the most popular areas for dog walking outside of seasonal restrictions. This stretch of coast offers sand, gentle cliffs, and direct access to the North Down Coastal Path.





DID YOU KNOW?

Belfast is a city that has profoundly reinvented itself over the last two centuries, transforming from a major industrial center of the British Empire to a vibrant cultural capital of Northern Ireland. One of the most iconic aspects of its history is linked to the construction of the RMS Titanic, which took place in the Harland & Wolff shipyards in 1912. The imposing yellow cranes, known locally as "Samson" and "Goliath," still dominate the harbor skyline and are a tangible symbol of the city's industrial heritage.

Another distinctive element of Belfast's urban identity is represented by the political murals found in neighborhoods such as Falls Road and Shankill Road. Created during the Troubles (late 1960s–1998), these murals narrate the aspirations, tensions, and collective memory of local communities. Today, they are considered important historical and cultural testimonies and contribute to understanding the path of reconciliation that followed the signing of the Good Friday Agreement in 1998.

The Belfast metropolitan area also boasts a valuable natural heritage. Belfast Lough, the large inlet overlooking the city, is a major wintering ground for numerous migratory bird species and is recognized as a Site of Scientific and Environmental Interest. Along its coast are towns such as Holywood, Cultra, and Bangor, which maintain strong ties to the region's maritime and seaside traditions.

Among the lesser-known curiosities is the fact that Belfast City Hall, inaugurated in 1906, was built to celebrate the attainment of city status by Queen Victoria in 1888. The building, built in Edwardian Baroque style, stands on what was once the course of the River Farset, the river that gave the city its name: "Béal Feirste" in Irish means "mouth of the Farset".

Finally, near the city, the coastal town of Bangor was one of Ireland's first tourist destinations in the 19th century, thanks to the development of the railway lines connecting it to Belfast. Even today, its marina and waterfront bear witness to this tradition, offering a glimpse into the region's seaside and social past.

CAUSEWAY COAST & GLENS BETWEEN LEGENDARY CLIFFS AND ANTRIM GLENS

The Causeway Coast and Glens is one of Northern Ireland's most scenic and culturally significant regions. Located along the northern coast of County Antrim, this area extends approximately from Belfast Lough to Lough Foyle, encompassing a succession of basalt cliffs, sandy bays, seaside villages, and the famous Glens of Antrim, nine valleys extending from the hinterland towards the sea. The geographic and symbolic centerpiece of the region is the Giant's Causeway, a natural site consisting of approximately 40,000 hexagonal basalt columns created by ancient volcanic eruptions dating back approximately 60 million years. This extraordinary landscape has been recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage Site and is one of the most iconic sites on the entire island of Ireland. The coast is characterized by a variety of highly valuable natural environments, including the cliffs of Fair Head, the sandy bays of Whitepark Bay and Ballintoy Harbour, and the striking promontory of Mussenden Temple overlooking Downhill Strand. These features create a dynamic and dramatic landscape, shaped by the action of wind and ocean. Off the coast lies Rathlin Island, Northern Ireland's only inhabited island, located approximately 10 km from Ballycastle. The island is known for its exceptional biodiversity and colonies of seabirds, including puffins, fulmars, and guillemots, as well as its historical heritage linked to navigation and coastal lighthouses, such as the Rathlin West Lighthouse, designed by Robert Stevenson. Culturally and historically, the region is home to a number of traditional coastal villages and towns, including Cushendall, Cushendun, and Glenarm, located along the Glens of Antrim and characterized by historic architecture and strong ties to Gaelic and Scottish culture. The town of Coleraine, crossed by the River Bann, is one of the area's main urban centers, while Portrush and Portstewart maintain a historic seaside resort tradition that developed between the 19th and 20th centuries. The Causeway Coast and Glens region is therefore distinguished by its exceptional integration of geology, biodiversity, historical heritage, and cultural traditions, offering an authentic and diverse territory where imposing cliffs, green valleys, and coastal communities blend into a landscape of extraordinary beauty and identity.

PLACES AND EXPERIENCES FOR A TRIP WITH YOUR FOUR- LEGGED FRIENDS OFF THE BEATEN PATH

The Causeway Coast and Glens is one of the most pet-friendly regions, thanks to its wide beaches, scenic coastal paths, and nature parks where dogs are generally allowed on a leash. The area offers numerous opportunities for outdoor walks along the sea, cliffs, and inland valleys. One of the most suitable areas is the long beach of Benone Strand, near Downhill and Castlerock. This stretch of coastline, among the longest in Northern Ireland, offers wide sandy beaches and direct access to the sea, with open views of Mussenden Temple and the surrounding cliffs, ideal for walking pets. In the Ballycastle area, the town beach and seafront offer a highly accessible and pet-friendly environment. From here, trails also lead to Fair Head, with scenic rural trails that traverse a vast, sparsely developed natural landscape, perfect for walking on a leash. Another highly suitable destination is Roe Valley Country Park, near Limavady, where trails along the River Roe pass through woodlands and green areas with large natural spaces. The park is particularly popular for long, peaceful walks in a safe and well-maintained environment. In the Portstewart and Coleraine area, the Barmouth to Portstewart Coastal Path and the surrounding rural areas offer scenic routes along the coast and inland, with extensive stretches where you can walk with pets immersed in the North Antrim coastal landscape. Finally, Whitepark Bay beach, between Ballycastle and Ballintoy, is one of the most scenic and natural stretches in the region. Wide, sandy, and surrounded by protected dunes, it is one of the most popular areas for peaceful walks with animals, especially during less crowded periods.





DID YOU KNOW?

The Causeway Coast and Glens is one of the most geologically interesting areas in the United Kingdom, shaped by ancient volcanic activity that occurred approximately 60 million years ago. The famous basalt columns of the Giant's Causeway were formed by rapidly cooling lava flows, giving rise to approximately 40,000 natural hexagonal pillars, a rare phenomenon that contributed to its designation as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. According to Irish folk tradition, this landscape is not the result of geology, but rather the work of the legendary giant Fionn mac Cumhaill (Finn McCool), who built the stone road to reach Scotland and challenge his rival Benandonner. This legend is still deeply rooted in local culture and influences many narratives related to the region.

Another little-known fact concerns Rathlin Island, Northern Ireland's only inhabited island. During the 17th century, the island was the site of a tragic event known as the Rathlin Massacre of 1575, when English forces led by Francis Drake attacked the local population who had taken refuge in coastal caves. This episode remains part of the island's historical memory to this day.

The Glens of Antrim, nine valleys extending toward the coast, were shaped during the last ice ages and today represent one of the greenest and least urbanized areas of the region. Each glen has its own historical and cultural identity, often linked to small agricultural settlements and Gaelic tradition.

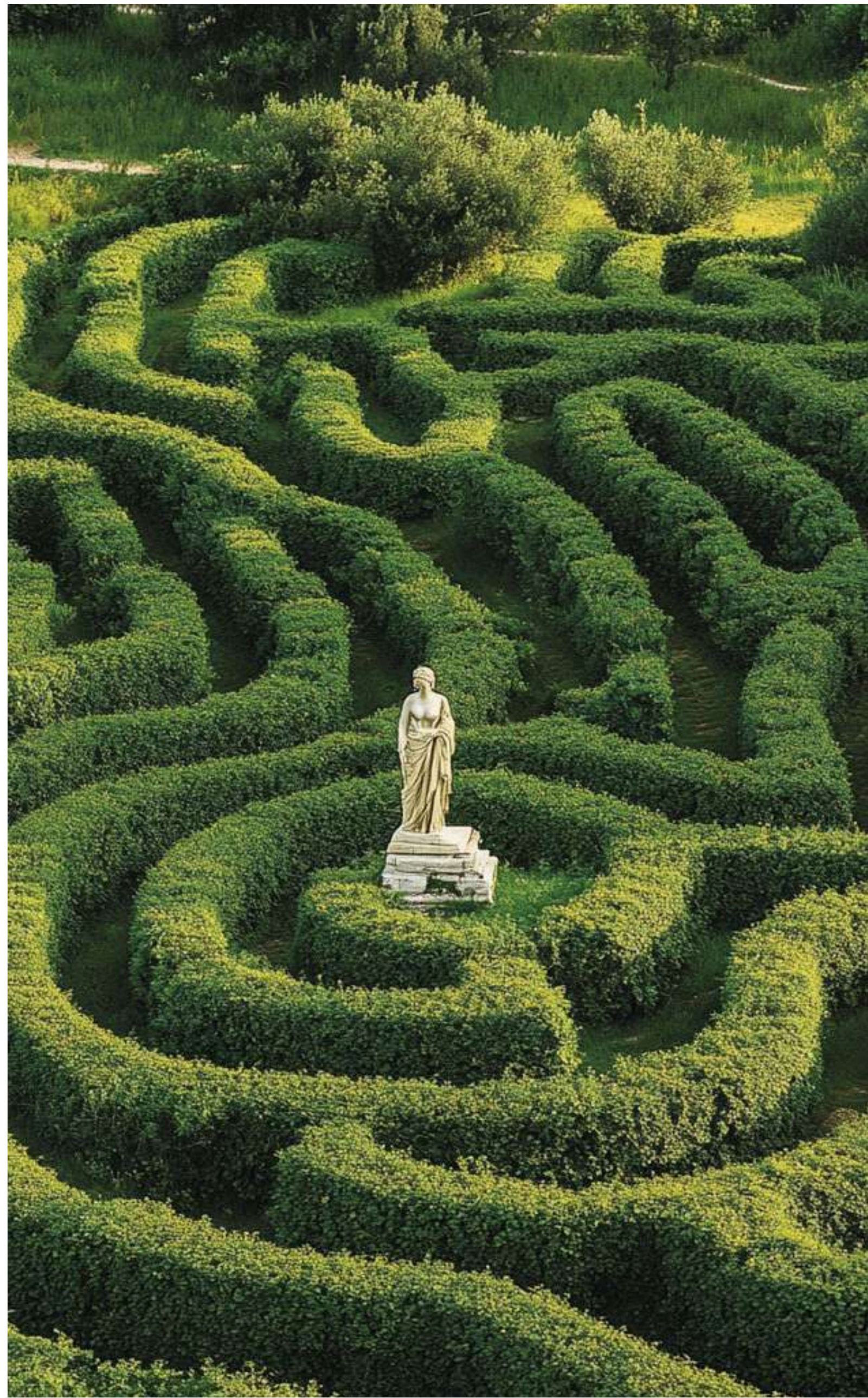
Finally, the coast between Ballintoy and Whitepark Bay has been used as a natural setting for numerous film and television productions thanks to its pristine landscape. Whitepark Bay, in particular, is one of the few beaches in the region where relatively intact natural dunes can still be seen, home to a fragile and protected biodiversity.

MID & SOUTH ULSTER RURAL HILLS, INLAND LAKES AND THE MOST AUTHENTIC NORTHERN IRELAND

The Mid & South Ulster region occupies a vast inland area of Northern Ireland, encompassing significant portions of counties Armagh, Tyrone, and Down. It is a region characterized by a predominantly rural landscape, where rolling hills, agricultural valleys, small lakes, and small towns alternate continuously, creating a territorial mosaic strongly linked to community life and local traditions. Geographically, the area is dominated by low, rolling hills, such as Slieve Gullion in the southern part and the hills of central Tyrone, which alternate with vast agricultural areas and pastures. The territory is traversed by numerous waterways, including the River Blackwater, the River Cusher, and the Lower Bann system, which contribute to the formation of small fertile valleys and lake basins. A distinctive feature of the region is the presence of inland lakes and reservoirs of both natural and artificial origin, including Lough Neagh, the largest lake in the British Isles, which marginally affects the eastern part of Mid Ulster, and a series of smaller bodies of water such as Lough Gullion, Lough Fea (near Cookstown), Black Lough, and Lough Clay, scattered across the rural landscape and historically used for fishing, agriculture, and local activities. The main population centers, such as Armagh, Dungannon, Cookstown, and Newry (bordering South Down), represent historical and cultural hubs, often developed around religious settlements, agricultural markets, or ancient internal communication routes. These cities still retain a strong connection to Ulster's historical identity, visible in their architecture, religious sites, and local traditions. From a cultural and historical perspective, Mid & South Ulster is one of the areas where a balance between modernity and rural tradition is maintained, with strong continuity in agricultural land management and the presence of deep-rooted local communities. This helps make the region one of the most representative of “inner” Northern Ireland, far from the large urban and coastal areas, but rich in landscape and cultural authenticity.

PLACES AND EXPERIENCES FOR A TRIP WITH YOUR FOUR- LEGGED FRIENDS OFF THE BEATEN PATH

Mid & South Ulster is one of the most pet-friendly regions, thanks to its wide open countryside, forest parks, and trails along lakes and rivers where dogs can roam freely on a leash. The region, sparsely populated and rich in nature, offers numerous quiet and uncrowded options. One of the most suitable destinations is Peatlands Park, located near Dungannon. This nature reserve is one of Northern Ireland's most important peatlands and offers wooden walkways and flat paths through marshy and wooded environments, ideal for leisurely walks with pets. In the Armagh area, Slieve Gullion Forest Park is a particularly large and diverse natural area. The park includes forest trails, scenic routes, and the Ring of Gullion Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, with nature trails that are well-suited to dog-friendly hikes. Also in Armagh, the Keady and Blackwater River Walks offer uncrowded rural routes along the River Blackwater, passing through open fields and small rural bridges. The area is ideal for quiet walks away from urban centers. In Tyrone, Gortin Glen Forest Park near Omagh is one of the best pet-friendly options. The park features well-marked forest trails, rest areas, and large natural spaces, with paths traversing the hills of the Sperrin Mountains. Finally, Castlewellan Forest Park, in County Down, offers one of the most comprehensive settings for those traveling with pets: a lake, forest trails, and the famous Peace Maze, surrounded by large green spaces where you can stroll peacefully surrounded by nature.





DID YOU KNOW?

Mid & South Ulster is one of Northern Ireland's most historically rich areas, not only for its rural landscape but also for its central role in Gaelic culture. The city of Armagh, for example, is considered one of the island's oldest ecclesiastical centers: according to tradition, it was founded by St. Patrick in the 5th century, which is why it is often called the "ecclesiastical capital of Ireland."

Another interesting feature is Tullyhogue Fort, near Cookstown. This hilltop site was for centuries the inauguration site of the chiefs of the O'Neill clan, one of the most powerful Gaelic dynasties in Ulster. Symbolic ritual ceremonies were held here, marking the transition of power within the traditional leadership.

From a natural perspective, the area is home to one of the most important wetlands in the British Isles: Lough Neagh, which, although shared with other areas of Northern Ireland, significantly influences the climate and ecosystem of Mid Ulster. Its waters feed the River Bann and still support traditional activities such as eel fishing, practiced for centuries using techniques passed down locally.

In County Tyrone, the Sperrin Mountains are among Ireland's oldest ranges, formed over 400 million years ago. This ancient geology has created a soft, rolling landscape, rich in peat bogs, historic gold mines, and scattered villages.

Finally, a lesser-known detail concerns the Newry Canal, opened in the 18th century: it is the oldest man-made navigable canal in Ireland. Today it is no longer used for commercial transport, but its remaining sections have become important green corridors and historic routes that crisscross the rural landscape of southern Ulster.

FERMANAGH LAKELANDS AND SPERRIN MOUNTAINS - NORTHERN IRELAND'S WATERS, HILLS, AND NATURAL SILENCE

The Fermanagh Lakelands and Sperrin Mountains region represents one of Northern Ireland's most natural and sparsely populated areas, where the landscape is dominated by a constant balance between water and gentle hills. This area extends primarily across County Fermanagh, with its vast lake system, and County Tyrone, home to the ancient, rolling Sperrin Mountains. The geographic heart of the Fermanagh Lakelands is Lough Erne, divided into Lower Lough Erne and Upper Lough Erne, a system of lakes interconnected by canals and waterways that are home to numerous islands, inlets, and small rural harbors. Among the best-known islands are Devenish Island, with its important medieval monastic complex; White Island, renowned for its early Christian sculptures; and Boa Island, known for the enigmatic stone figures at Caldragh, evidence of a long religious and cultural continuity along the waterways. The lake system's waters are connected by natural and man-made rivers and canals, including the River Erne, which flows through the region, contributing to the formation of an ecosystem rich in biodiversity. The entire area is characterized by a fluid and continuous landscape, where water is the dominant element and structures the relationship between human settlements and the natural environment. To the east, the landscape evolves into the Sperrin Mountains, an ancient and geologically complex hill range characterized by gentle reliefs, broad valleys, and vast areas of peat bog. The generally moderately high peaks, such as those around Sawel Mountain, alternate with rivers and valleys such as the Glenelly Valley and the Owenkillew Valley, creating an environment of great natural and scenic value. From a cultural and historical perspective, the region preserves traces of monastic settlements such as Devenish Monastic Site, Inishmacsaint Monastery (on Lower Lough Erne), and the White Island ecclesiastical site, along with rural traditions and activities related to the land and water. Scattered villages such as Belleek, known for its historic pottery production, Kesh, located near Lower Lough Erne, and Enniskillen, County Fermanagh's main urban center with its castle and historic fabric along the River Erne, represent the area's main residential landmarks. This balance between natural landscape and discreet human presence makes the Fermanagh Lakelands and Sperrin Mountains one of the most authentic and peaceful areas on the entire island.

PLACES AND EXPERIENCES FOR A TRIP WITH YOUR FOUR-LEGGED FRIENDS OFF THE BEATEN PATH

The Fermanagh Lakelands and Sperrin Mountains are one of the most pet-friendly regions, thanks to the abundance of open natural spaces, forest parks, and trails along lakes and rivers. The sparsely populated area, rich in rural paths, allows for peaceful walks immersed in nature. One of the most suitable destinations is Lough Navar Forest, in County Fermanagh. This forested area offers wide trails through woods and lakes, with forest roads and accessible viewpoints where dogs can easily be walked on a leash. In the Enniskillen area, the Castle Coole Estate (parkland) is an ideal area for walking pets. The vast meadows and flat paths of the historic park allow for long, relaxing walks in a safe and orderly environment. Also in Fermanagh, the shores of Lower Lough Erne near Kesh and Irvinestown offer uncrowded coastal stretches, with secondary roads and natural access points to the lake, ideal for peaceful walks along the water's edge. In the Sperrin Mountains, Davagh Forest near Cookstown is one of the most interesting areas for those traveling with pets. The park combines forests, rural trails, and archaeological sites such as the Beaghmore Stone Circles, offering a unique blend of nature and history in a tranquil setting. Finally, Gortin Glen Forest Park near Omagh completes the selection: well-maintained forest trails, wide open spaces, and paths winding through the hills of the Sperrin Mountains, making it one of the most suitable and accessible areas for walking with pets.





DID YOU KNOW?

The Fermanagh Lakelands are often referred to as Northern Ireland's "water labyrinth" thanks to the interconnected system of Upper and Lower Lough Erne, which comprises hundreds of islands, many of which are still uninhabited today. Among these, Devenish Island boasts one of the country's best-preserved monastic round towers, dating back to the early medieval period and linked to the Christian tradition of Saint Molaise.

A little-known aspect concerns the islands of White Island and Boa Island, where unique early Christian stone sculptures are found. The double figure of the "Janus figure" from Boa Island, in particular, is one of the most enigmatic finds in British island archaeology and may date back over a thousand years.

In the Sperrin Mountains, the current landscape is the result of one of the oldest geological formations on the island, with rocks over 400 million years old. This geological antiquity has contributed to the formation of rolling hills and wide valleys, today among the least densely populated areas of Northern Ireland.

An interesting detail also concerns Davagh Forest, home to the megalithic complex of Beaghmore Stone Circles, discovered in the 20th century during peat reclamation work. The site consists of stone circles and alignments dating back to the Bronze Age, likely linked to astronomical and agricultural rituals.

Finally, the Lough Erne system is one of the most important freshwater ecosystems on the island of Ireland, home to a wide variety of migratory birds and protected species, which is why large areas are now protected as Areas of Environmental Interest.



REPUBLIC OF IRELAND – A MOSAIC OF HISTORY, NATURE, AND TRADITIONS



The Republic of Ireland is a land of fascinating contrasts, where vibrant cities like Dublin and Cork coexist with picturesque villages like Kinsale and Adare. Extraordinary natural landscapes, from tranquil rivers like the Shannon and River Lee to rugged coastlines like the Cliffs of Moher and the Wild Atlantic Way, from the rolling hills of Wicklow to the imposing mountains of MacGillycuddy's Reeks, intertwine with thousands of years of history and vibrant cultural traditions. Before the arrival of the Romans, the territory was inhabited by Celtic tribes like the Gael and the Fir Bolg, who developed complex societies, with fortifications like Dun Aengus on Inishmore and ritual structures like the Loughcrew Cairns, myths and legends linked to the land and the seasonal cycles. The Middle Ages saw the rise of abbeys like Glendalough, imposing castles like Bunratty Castle and Dunguaire Castle, and market towns like Waterford and Limerick, which consolidated trade, crafts, and local culture. Over the following centuries, the monarchy, local clans like the O'Neills and O'Connors, and noble families like the Fitzgeralds and Butlers consolidated architectural heritages like Powerscourt House and Castletown House, historic gardens like the National Botanic Gardens in Glasnevin, and libraries like the Chester Beatty Library in Dublin, leaving a cultural legacy that still permeates the cities and countryside today. Festivals like the Dublin Theatre Festival, museums like the National Museum of Ireland, and theaters like the Abbey Theatre in Dublin bear witness to the nation's cultural vitality and capacity for innovation.

From a naturalistic perspective, the Republic of Ireland boasts stunning landscapes: the hills and lakes of County Wicklow, with trails like Glendalough Valley; the mountains of Kerry and MacGillycuddy's Reeks with peaks like Carrauntoohil; the plains and moors of the Irish Midlands; tranquil rivers like the River Shannon and Lough Derg; and the wild coastlines of the Wild Atlantic Way with cliffs like Slieve League, bays like Dingle Bay, and picturesque islands like the Aran Islands and Inishbofin. These spaces offer opportunities for hiking, birdwatching, kayaking, fishing, and immersing yourself in pristine nature, making Ireland an ideal destination for those seeking adventure, history, and culture in equal measure.

Geographically, the Republic of Ireland covers approximately 70,000 km², just over half the size of Italy, comprising a network of cities, villages, hills, and coastal islands that enrich the nation's scenic and cultural diversity.

The four main macro-areas that make up the Republic of Ireland are:

- **DUBLIN AND EASTERN LEINSTER – THE CAPITAL AND EASTERN COUNTIES, WITH SMALLER ISLANDS SUCH AS LAMBAY ISLAND AND DALKEY ISLAND**
- **MUNSTER (SOUTHERN IRELAND) – SOUTHWEST, SOUTH AND SOUTHEAST, WITH ISLANDS SUCH AS CAPE CLEAR ISLAND AND DURSEY ISLAND**
- **CONNACHT (WEST OF IRELAND) – WESTERN COUNTIES, WITH ARCHIPELAGOS SUCH AS CLARE ISLAND AND INISHBOFIN**
- **ULSTER (PART OF THE REPUBLIC OF IRELAND, NORTH WEST) – COUNTIES CAVAN, DONEGAL, LEITRIM AND PART OF MONAGHAN, WITH SOME SMALLER ISLANDS SUCH AS TORY ISLAND**

The main airports accessing the region are:

- **Dublin Airport – Main gateway to the capital and Leinster**
- **Cork Airport – Access to the South and Munster**
- **Shannon Airport – Ideal for exploring the western coasts and islands**

The Republic of Ireland is not just a land, but a mosaic of peoples, histories, legends, and landscapes: each place invites you to discover it slowly and attentively, from the cultural vibrancy of Dublin to the moors and cliffs of the west, offering an experience that blends history, nature, and tradition in a unique balance.

DUBLIN AND EAST LEINSTER BETWEEN THE CAPITAL, HISTORIC COASTS AND ISLANDS OF EASTERN IRELAND

The Dublin and East Leinster region is the Republic of Ireland's main international gateway, combining the capital's urban dynamism with a vast coastal and rural area stretching along the Irish Sea. The area encompasses the city of Dublin and the eastern counties of Leinster, including Dublin, Wicklow, Meath, Louth, Kildare, and parts of Wexford and Carlow, forming a highly interconnected territorial system from a historical, economic, and cultural perspective. Historically and culturally, this territory has for centuries been the main point of contact between Ireland and the outside world. The Viking foundation of Dubh Linn (Dublin) in the 9th century gave rise to the first structured urban nucleus on the east coast, which was subsequently developed by the Normans after 1169, when the region became the center of English power in Ireland with the so-called "Pale," the fortified area around Dublin. This past is still visible in the capital's urban stratification, where sites such as Dublin Castle, Christ Church Cathedral, and the medieval quarter retain the original structure of administrative and religious power. At the same time, the counties of eastern Leinster have maintained an agricultural and supporting function for centuries, with large rural estates such as Powerscourt Estate (Wicklow), one of Ireland's most important historic residences with landscape gardens of European significance, Russborough House (Wicklow), and Killruddery Estate (Bray), both significant examples of aristocratic residences immersed in the rural landscape. Historic market villages such as Trim (Meath), Drogheda (Louth), and Wicklow Town have played a strategic role for centuries in trade links between the interior and the coast, thanks to their location along waterways and coastal routes. Religious centers such as Kells (famous for the Book of Kells, originally linked to the local monastery) and Glendalough in the Wicklow Mountains, one of Ireland's most important early Christian monastic complexes founded by St. Kevin in the 6th century, still represent two of the region's main spiritual and historical centers. Geographically, the region is characterized by a continuous transition between urban environments, agricultural plains, and rugged coastlines. North and south of the capital lie coastlines of great natural interest, with bays such as Dublin Bay and Brittas Bay (Wexford), low cliffs such as Howth Head and Wicklow Head, and sandy beaches such as Portmarnock Beach, Curracloe Beach (one of the largest and best-known in eastern Ireland), and Killiney Beach, alternating with historic ports such as Howth Harbour, Dun Laoghaire Harbour, and Wicklow Harbour, as well as small seaside settlements such as Malahide, Skerries, and Greystones. A distinctive feature of the territory is the presence of smaller islands easily accessible from the coast, including Lambay Island, located north of Howth and characterized by a protected natural ecosystem and traces of historical settlements, and Dalkey Island, off the southern coast, known for its archaeological remains, its small early Christian church, and the wildlife that inhabits it, particularly grey seals that gather on the surrounding cliffs and rocky beaches. The island is also home to several species of seabirds, including herring gulls, great cormorants, and common terns during the breeding season. The hinterland of eastern Leinster is dominated by broad agricultural plains and moderately hilly reliefs, such as the Wicklow Mountains, which mark the natural boundary south of the capital and represent one of the most important scenic areas in eastern Ireland. Here you will find alternating glacial valleys, lakes such as Glendalough Upper and Lower Lake, and ancient monastic sites of great historical significance such as Glendalough Monastic Site, Seven Churches (Glendalough ecclesiastical area) and the complex of St Kevin's Kitchen, as well as historic villages such as Laragh, Roundwood (one of the highest villages in Ireland) and Avoca, linked to the mining and textile traditions of the valley of the same name.

PLACES AND EXPERIENCES FOR A TRIP WITH YOUR FOUR- LEGGED FRIENDS OFF THE BEATEN PATH

The Dublin and East Leinster region offers numerous pet-friendly options thanks to its combination of large urban parks, long coastal walks, and accessible rural areas. It's an ideal area for traveling with pets, with wide, safe paths well-connected between the city and nature. One of the most suitable destinations is Phoenix Park in Dublin. With its vast grassy spaces, internal roads, and wooded areas, it's one of Europe's largest urban parks and allows for long, peaceful walks with leashed pets, away from city traffic. Also in the city, St Anne's Park, between Raheny and Clontarf, is another popular area. The park features historic gardens, tree-lined avenues, rose gardens, and wide, open lawns, with paths perfect for relaxed strolls, less crowded than other central areas. On Dublin's south coast, the area of Killiney Hill Park and Killiney Beach is particularly suitable for those traveling with pets. The hilly park offers scenic paths, while the beach below offers coastal walks in a very open natural setting. In County Wicklow, the Bray to Greystones Cliff Walk is one of the most scenic and pet-friendly coastal walks in the region. The route follows the cliffs and offers open sea views, with wide, leash-accessible sections for dogs. Finally, in the Avoca Valley area, the rural trails around the village of Avoca offer a very peaceful and authentic setting. Between green hills, rivers, and secondary roads, it is one of the least urbanized areas in eastern Leinster, ideal for leisurely hikes immersed in nature.





DID YOU KNOW?

Dublin began as a Viking settlement in the 9th century under the name Dubh Linn, "the black pool," referring to a pool of water at the confluence of the River Poddle and the River Liffey. This original nucleus later developed into one of the main ports of medieval Northern Europe, still recognizable today in the structure of the historic center.

A key aspect of the region is the role of early Christian monasticism, which between the 6th and 12th centuries transformed Leinster into one of Ireland's major spiritual centers. Sites such as Glendalough, founded by Saint Kevin, and Kells, linked to the tradition of the famous Book of Kells, bear witness to a monastic network that profoundly influenced medieval European culture.

From a historical and political perspective, much of eastern Leinster was for centuries part of the so-called "Pale," the area under direct Anglo-Norman control around Dublin. This left a still visible mark in fortified towns, rural estates, and market towns such as Trim, dominated by its great Norman castle, one of the most imposing in Ireland.

Another interesting aspect concerns the coasts: Dublin Bay and the Leinster coastline have been strategic landing points for trade, migration, and connections with Great Britain for centuries. Ports such as Dún Laoghaire, Howth, and Wicklow Harbour have played a central role in the region's economic and maritime development.

Finally, the Wicklow Mountains, often called "the garden of Ireland," are not just a natural landscape: they are also one of the areas where Irish rebels took refuge during the uprisings of the 18th and 19th centuries, making this area an important historical as well as naturalistic symbol.

MUNSTER, SOUTHERN IRELAND BETWEEN THE ATLANTIC, ANCIENT KINGDOMS AND EXTREME COASTS

The Munster region, which encompasses the southwest, south, and southeast of the Republic of Ireland, is one of the most diverse and scenically spectacular regions on the island. It includes the counties of Cork, Kerry, Limerick, Clare, Tipperary, and Waterford, forming a vast and diverse area that extends from the Atlantic Ocean to the milder shores of the Celtic Sea and the Irish Sea. Geographically, Munster is characterized by a stark contrast between rugged Atlantic coastlines such as the Beara Peninsula, the Dingle Peninsula, and the Mizen Peninsula; vast bays such as Bantry Bay, Dingle Bay, and Cork Harbour; and a hinterland composed of river valleys such as the Blackwater Valley (Munster Blackwater), the Lee Valley, and the Shannon Valley; limestone hills such as the Burren Hills (The Burren, County Clare); and agricultural plains such as the Golden Vale (between Limerick, Tipperary, and Cork). The western coasts are among the most spectacular in Europe, with cliffs such as the Cliffs of Moher, Sheeps Head Cliffs, and the sea cliffs of the Loop Head Peninsula; deep inlets such as Dunmanus Bay, Kenmare Bay, and Valentia Harbour; and smaller archipelagos emerging directly from the ocean, including Cape Clear Island and Dursey Island. Historically and culturally, Munster was one of the main Gaelic kingdoms of ancient Ireland, with a strong political and cultural identity that developed independently for centuries before the Norman arrival. This legacy is still visible in early Christian monastic sites such as Glenstal Abbey (Limerick area), Kilmalkedar Monastic Site (Dingle Peninsula), and Clonmacnoise (a border area influenced by historic Munster); in medieval castles such as Blarney Castle, Ross Castle (Killarney), and Desmond Castle (Kinsale); and in the small historic towns that dot the territory, such as Cashel, with the famous Rock of Cashel, the ancient seat of the kings of Munster. The region has also played a central role in Irish cultural development, both linguistically and musically, with areas of County Cork and Kerry such as Múscraí (Musgrave/Muskerry Gaeltacht area), Corca Dhuibhne (Dingle Peninsula Gaeltacht), and the Ring of Kerry (Kerry Gaeltacht) areas where the Irish language is still present in local communities (Gaeltacht). This connection between landscape, language, and cultural identity makes Munster one of the most representative regions of traditional Ireland. From an island perspective, in addition to the main Atlantic islands such as the Skellig Islands, the Blasket Islands, the Aran Islands (culturally shared with Connacht but with southwestern access), and the Fastnet Rock area islets, the Munster coast is dotted with numerous smaller islands such as those in Cork Harbour (Spike Island, Great Island area), and remote headlands such as Mizen Head, Loop Head, and Old Head of Kinsale, which testify to a constant relationship between coastal communities and the sea, often in particularly exposed and wild environments. Overall, Munster represents a unique synthesis of Atlantic nature, historical heritage, and profound cultural identity, where the landscape is not just a backdrop but an active element in the construction of regional history.

PLACES AND EXPERIENCES FOR A TRIP WITH YOUR FOUR- LEGGED FRIENDS OFF THE BEATEN PATH

Munster is one of the most pet-friendly regions, thanks to its vast natural areas, coastal paths, and national parks where you can easily explore the outdoors. The region offers wide, undeveloped spaces and scenic routes ideal for long, leisurely walks. One of the most suitable areas is the Beara Peninsula, between Cork and Kerry. Villages like Eyeries and Allihies are surrounded by quiet scenic roads and rural paths that traverse mountainous and coastal landscapes, offering views of the Atlantic and access to very quiet secondary routes. In Kerry, the Dingle Peninsula offers numerous pet-friendly itineraries along the Sleah Head Drive, with open areas and scenic stretches where you can walk along cliffs and rural roads. Towns like Ventry and Ballyferriter offer easy access to natural spaces and undeveloped coastlines. Killarney National Park is one of the best equipped areas in the region. While there are some restrictions in the more protected areas, there are extensive outdoor trails, such as those around Muckross House & Gardens, where the flat paths and large green spaces are ideal for walking with animals. On the west coast of Cork, West Cork is particularly suited to pet-friendly tourism. Places like Schull, Baltimore, and the Sheep's Head peninsula offer uncrowded coastal paths, historic lighthouses, and secondary roads immersed in a very open natural landscape. Finally, in County Clare, the area around Doolin and the secondary routes to Hag's Head (Cliffs of Moher) offers accessible coastal stretches and rural trails, in a natural setting where tourism is less frequented than in the main destinations.





DID YOU KNOW?

Munster was one of the major kingdoms of Gaelic Ireland, often ruled by powerful dynasties such as the Eóganachta, who for centuries controlled the political and religious power of the region, with symbolic centers such as the Rock of Cashel, still one of the most important medieval complexes in Ireland today.

The region preserves some of the earliest traces of Irish Christianity, particularly in the monastic areas of Kerry and Clare, where sites such as Kilmalkedar, Inisfallen Island (Lough Leane) and Scattery Island (Inis Cathaigh) testify to a spiritual network that linked isolated communities, islands and inland valleys.

A distinctive element of Munster is the strong link between language and territory: the presence of Gaeltacht areas in the Dingle Peninsula and West Cork has allowed the survival of Irish as an everyday language in some communities, making these areas among the most important for the cultural preservation of the country.

From a maritime perspective, Munster has always been projected towards the Atlantic: its coasts have hosted fishing, trade and migration routes for centuries, but also episodes of shipwrecks and isolation, especially in the most exposed areas such as Fastnet Rock, historically known as “the lighthouse of the Atlantic”.

Finally, many of Munster's islands, such as the Blasket Islands and the Skellig Islands, have played a unique role in Ireland's cultural history, preserving isolated communities that produced one of the country's most important literary and oral traditions in the 20th century.

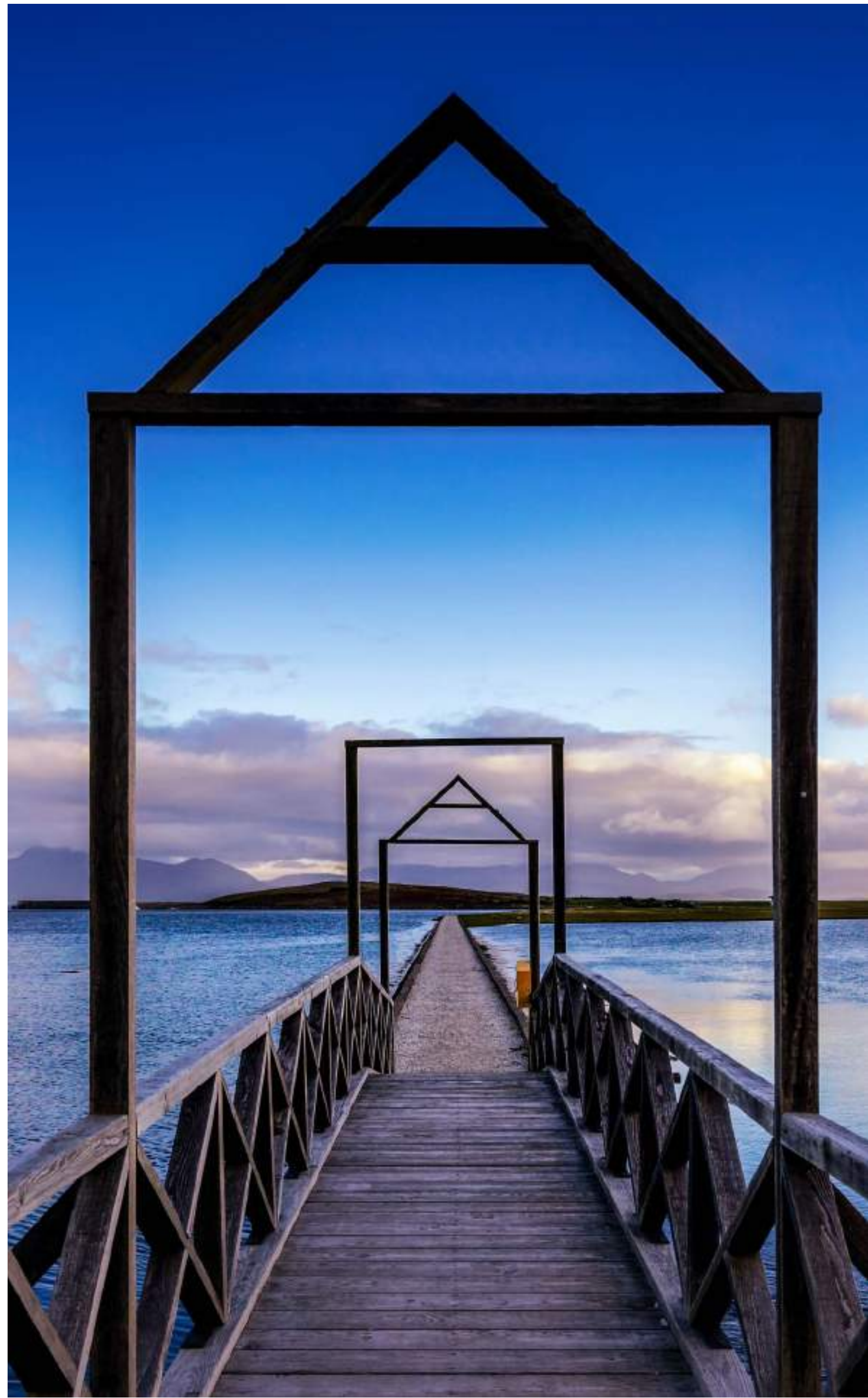
CONNACHT

THE WILD WEST BETWEEN OCEAN, GAELIC TRADITION AND TIMELESS LANDSCAPES

Connacht, located in the west of the Republic of Ireland and comprising the counties of Galway, Mayo, Sligo, Roscommon, and Leitrim, is one of the island's most authentic and least urbanized regions, characterized by an extraordinary variety of landscapes, from the rugged coasts of the Atlantic Ocean to the vast expanses of lakes and rivers inland. The coastline is marked by deep bays such as Clew Bay, Galway Bay, and Killala Bay, interspersed with sandy beaches such as Keem Bay on Achill Island and Dog's Bay in Connemara. The interior is dominated by mountain ranges such as the Twelve Bens and the Maumturk Mountains, as well as important lake basins such as Lough Corrib, the largest lake in the Republic of Ireland, and Lough Mask, both of great ecological and historical significance. Historically, Connacht was one of Ireland's major Gaelic kingdoms, ruled by dynasties such as the Uí Briúin and later the Ó Conchobhair (O'Connor), including Ruaidrí Ua Conchobair, the last High King of Ireland before the arrival of the Normans in the 12th century. This legacy is still visible in significant archaeological and medieval sites such as Rathcroghan (Cruachan) in County Roscommon, an ancient ceremonial and political center, and Ballintubber Abbey in County Mayo, one of Ireland's few medieval monasteries to have remained in continuous use since its foundation in 1216. The region also represents a major bastion of Irish language and culture, with large Gaeltacht areas in Connemara and on Achill Island, where Irish is still spoken daily and musical and storytelling traditions remain an integral part of community life. A distinctive feature of the territory is the presence of numerous islands and archipelagos that dot the Atlantic coast, including Clare Island, historically associated with the legendary pirate Grace O'Malley (Gráinne Mhaol); Inishbofin, known for its pristine landscapes and archaeological and monastic heritage; the famous Aran Islands (Inis Mór, Inis Meáin, and Inis Oírr), custodians of one of the most authentic expressions of Gaelic culture; and Achill Island, the largest island in the Republic of Ireland, connected to the mainland by a bridge and characterized by a natural environment of extraordinary beauty. Overall, Connacht represents a unique synthesis of wild nature, ancient history, and living cultural tradition, making it one of the most fascinating and representative regions of Irish identity.

PLACES AND EXPERIENCES FOR A TRIP WITH YOUR FOUR- LEGGED FRIENDS OFF THE BEATEN PATH

Connacht is one of the most suitable regions for pet-friendly tourism thanks to its vast natural spaces, sparsely populated Atlantic coastline, and numerous rural trails that traverse authentic, uncrowded landscapes. In County Mayo, the Achill Island area offers wide open spaces and scenic routes like the Atlantic Drive, with views of cliffs and beaches like Keem Bay, where you can walk along extensive, undeveloped natural stretches. Also in Mayo, the Mulranny area, overlooking Clew Bay, offers coastal walks and trails along the Great Western Greenway, a flat cycle/pedestrian route also ideal for walking with pets. In County Galway, Connemara National Park offers marked trails such as the Diamond Hill Trail (lower and lower areas), with wide natural spaces and open mountain landscapes, while the coastal areas of Dog's Bay and Gurteen Bay near Roundstone offer sandy, undeveloped beaches particularly suitable for leisurely strolls. In County Sligo, the Strandhill area offers a long Atlantic beach and walks at the foot of Benbulbin, while nearby Rosses Point offers flat coastal paths overlooking the bays, ideal for outdoor activities in a spacious and accessible natural setting. Finally, in County Leitrim, Leitrim Village along the Shannon–Erne Waterway offers quiet, uncrowded riverside trails, nestled in an authentic rural landscape and ideal for leisurely trips with pets.





DID YOU KNOW?

Connacht is one of the regions where Ireland most strongly retains its original Gaelic identity: for centuries it was an important independent kingdom led by dynasties such as the O'Connors (Ó Conchobhair), and it is here that Rathcroghan (Cruachan) in County Roscommon is located, one of the oldest ceremonial archaeological complexes in Europe and traditionally associated with the legends of Queen Medb (Maeve) of the Ulster Cycle.

The region also played a central role in more recent history, particularly during the Great Famine of the 19th century, traces of which are still visible in the rural landscapes of Mayo and Connemara, where abandoned villages and ancient agricultural tracks tell the story of the area's social transformation.

Culturally, Connacht is one of the main bastions of the contemporary Irish language, with large Gaeltacht areas in Connemara and on Achill Island, where the language, traditional music and oral storytelling remain part of everyday life.

Its Atlantic coast and islands, from Clare Island to Inishbofin and the Aran Islands, have also preserved for centuries isolated communities who have developed unique traditions linked to the sea, fishing and survival in extreme environments, making Connacht one of the most authentic and culturally intact regions in the whole of Ireland.

ULSTER, EUROPE'S BORDER BETWEEN LAKES, ATLANTIC COASTS, AND GAELIC TRADITION

The Ulster region of the Republic of Ireland, comprising the counties of Cavan, Monaghan, and Donegal, represents a unique geographical and cultural border area, where the Irish landscape expresses itself in particularly varied and still sparsely urbanized forms. Located in the northwest of the island, this region marks the transition between the lakeside hinterland of central Ireland, the rolling hills of southern Ulster, and the wild coasts of the Atlantic Ocean, especially in County Donegal, which shares many scenic and cultural characteristics with Northern Ireland despite belonging to the Republic. Geographically, the region is characterized by a strong alternation of lakes, hills, and river systems in the hinterland of counties Cavan and Monaghan, and by rugged coastlines such as the Slieve League Peninsula, the Fanad Head cliffs area, and the coast of the Inishowen Peninsula, with cliffs such as Slieve League Cliffs and the Malin Head cliffs area, and open bays in the Donegal area such as Donegal Bay, Sheephaven Bay, and Dungloe Bay. Among the main hydrographic features are the lakes of the Breffni Lakes region and the Upper and Lower Lough Erne system (border area), as well as the waterways that feed the Erne and Finn River basins. The Donegal coast includes bays and inlets such as Donegal Bay and open maritime areas on the Atlantic. Historically and culturally, Ulster in the Republic of Ireland retains a strong Gaelic identity, with deep roots in local medieval kingdoms such as Tír Chonaill (Donegal) and Breifne (Cavan and part of Monaghan), which played a significant role in the political and social history of pre-Norman Ireland. This legacy is still visible in monastic sites such as Drumholm Church (Donegal area ecclesiastical sites), Clones Round Tower (Monaghan), and St. Tiernach's monastic site (Clones), in medieval castles such as Ballyshannon Castle site, Castle Saunderson (Cavan), and Doe Castle (Donegal), and in small rural towns such as Killybegs, Dungloe (An Clochán Liath), and Ballyshannon that dot the territory. This legacy is also evident in the presence of the Irish language in some areas of the Donegal Gaeltacht, where traditional culture remains alive. Scenically, Donegal represents one of the most spectacular environments in the region, with mountains like Mount Errigal, wild coastlines like the Slieve League area, and traditional coastal villages like Glencolmcille, Ardara, and Killybegs, which maintain a strong connection to the sea and fishing. The inland counties of Cavan and Monaghan, on the other hand, offer a gentler, more rural landscape, characterized by rolling hills like the Cavan drumlins, lakes like Lough Oughter, Lough Ramor, and Lough Sillan, and a scattered network of small farming settlements like Belturbet, Virginia, and Carrickmacross. Overall, the Ulster of the Republic of Ireland represents a transitional and border region, where nature, history, and culture intertwine in an authentic landscape mosaic, less touristy and deeply rooted in the island's most ancient roots.

PLACES AND EXPERIENCES FOR A TRIP WITH YOUR FOUR-LEGGED FRIENDS OFF THE BEATEN PATH

Ulster in the Republic of Ireland, comprising the counties of Donegal, Cavan, and Monaghan, offers numerous locations suitable for pet-friendly travel thanks to the presence of wide natural spaces, open coastlines, and uncrowded rural routes, ideal for outdoor experiences with pets. In County Donegal, the Rosstown Beach area is one of the most suitable for long, peaceful walks along the Atlantic, while the Narin & Portnoo Beach area offers a wide, sandy coastline with few urbanizations, perfect for outdoor activities in natural settings. Also in Donegal, the Fanad Head peninsula, with its lighthouse and scenic coastal roads, offers driving itineraries with frequent stops at accessible viewpoints, while the Glencolmcille area offers rural trails and traditional Gaeltacht landscapes immersed in nature. In County Cavan, the Lough Oughter area offers tranquil lakeside scenery that can be observed from secondary roads and rural lookouts, while the countryside around Belturbet and Cavan Town offers flat, traffic-free paths ideal for leisurely walks. In County Monaghan, the Drumlin Hills landscapes create a gentle, undulating landscape, crisscrossed by rural roads and small lakes, with quiet areas around Carrickmacross and Castleblayney perfect for slow explorations in contact with nature. Overall, Ulster, part of the Republic of Ireland, remains an ideal destination for pet-friendly travel, thanks to its combination of open coastlines, quiet countryside, and small rural towns that allow for an authentic, relaxed experience in close contact with the landscape.





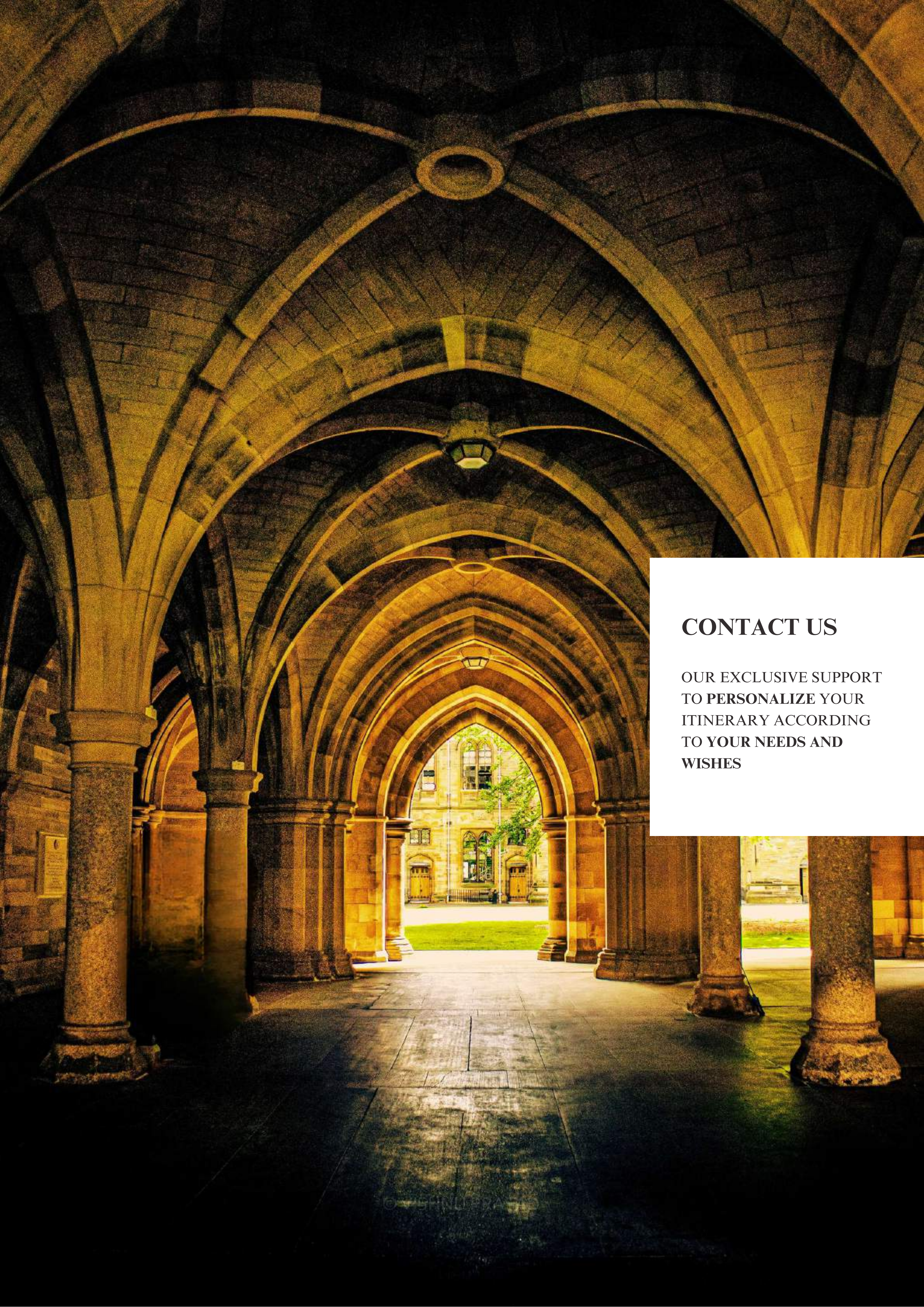
DID YOU KNOW?

Ulster in the Republic of Ireland preserves some of the oldest and most significant evidence of the island's Gaelic history, particularly in County Cavan, where the landscape of Lough Oughter develops around an ancient medieval monastic and defensive system unique in Ireland. It is here that the evocative Clough Oughter Castle is located, a 13th-century fortified tower built on a lake island, a symbol of the power of the local clans and their close relationship with the natural environment.

In County Monaghan, the Drumlin Hills are considered one of the world's finest examples of a rolling glacial landscape, shaped by the last ice age and still largely intact today, used for traditional small-scale farming.

In Donegal, however, a significant part of the region belongs to the Gaeltacht, where Irish (Gaeilge) is still the everyday language in communities such as Gaoth Dobhair (Gweedore) and Na Rosa (Rosses), making this area one of the most important for the preservation of traditional language and culture in all of contemporary Ireland.

Overall, this region represents one of the few places where landscape, language, and historical memory continue to coexist directly and authentically, with continuity between past and present.



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