

# TRAVEL UK WORLD HERITAGE SITES BY RAIL

<b>01.</b> <b>BLANAVON INDUSTRIAL LANDSCAPE, Wales</b> The area around Blaenavon is evidence of the pre-eminence of South Wales as the world's major producer of iron and coal in the 19th Century. Blaenavon is served by local bus services with Abergavenny as its nearest train station. <b>Nearest Station:</b> <b>Abergavenny</b> <b>Journey time:</b> <b>From Newcastle:</b> 6 Hours <b>From Glasgow:</b> 5 Hours  • <a href="https://visitsblanavon.co.uk">visitsblanavon.co.uk</a> • <a href="https://unesco.nblanavon.org">unesco.nblanavon.org</a>	<b>02.</b> <b>BLENHEIM PALACE, Oxford</b> The palace stands in a romantic park created by Capability Brown. Built between 1705 & 1722 it is a perfect example of an 18th Century princely dwelling. Blenheim is served by regular bus services from Oxford city centre and sits on Route 5 of the National Cycle Network. <b>Nearest Station:</b> <b>Oxford</b> <b>Journey time:</b> <b>From Newcastle:</b> 5 Hours <b>From Glasgow:</b> 7 Hours  • <a href="https://blenheimpalace.com">blenheimpalace.com</a> • <a href="https://unesco.blenheim.org">unesco.blenheim.org</a>	<b>03.</b> <b>CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL AND RELATED SITES, Kent</b> The seat of the spiritual head of the Church of England for almost five centuries. Related sites are the Church of St Martin, the ruins of the Abbey of St Augustine, and Christ Church Cathedral. Canterbury is served by the National Rail Network and links to regular bus routes. <b>Nearest Station:</b> <b>Canterbury</b> <b>Journey time:</b> <b>From Newcastle:</b> 5 Hours <b>From Glasgow:</b> 7 Hours  • <a href="https://visitkent.com/47xnd6vjp">https://visitkent.com/47xnd6vjp</a> • <a href="https://unesco.canterbury.org">unesco.canterbury.org</a>	<b>04.</b> <b>GVYNEDD CASTLES AND TOWN WALLS OF LUNG LEIWARD, Wales</b> Examples of the colonisation and defence works carried out in Wales between 1227 and 1307. Visit Beaumaris and Caernarfon castles from Bangor station with connecting bus services. Visit Conway and Harlech castles from their town centre stations. Each sits on a National Cycle Route. <b>Nearest Station:</b> <b>Bangor</b> <b>Journey time:</b> <b>From Newcastle:</b> 6 Hours <b>From Glasgow:</b> 5 Hours  • <a href="https://gwyneddcastles.org">gwyneddcastles.org</a> • <a href="https://unesco.gwynedd.org">unesco.gwynedd.org</a>	<b>05.</b> <b>CITY OF BATH, South West England</b> A well-preserved Roman Bath survives in Britain's only hot springs. The city was redeveloped in the 18th & is inscribed as part of the transnational WHS 'Great Spa Towns of Europe'. The city is on Route 4 of the National Cycle Network & the Roman Baths can easily be accessed by bus, or cycle from Bath Station. <b>Nearest Station:</b> <b>Bath Spa</b> <b>Journey time:</b> <b>From Newcastle:</b> 5.5 Hours <b>From Glasgow:</b> 7 Hours  • <a href="https://bathworldheritage.org.uk">bathworldheritage.org.uk</a> • <a href="https://unesco.bath.org">unesco.bath.org</a>	<b>06.</b> <b>MINING LANDSCAPE OF CORNWALL &amp; WEST DEVON, South West England</b> UK's largest industrial WHS covers >20,000ha showing rapid growth of the site & 19th copper & tin mining. Access Western Gateway via train to Penzance then Tin Coastier bus to St. Just. Tin Coast & Geevor Tin Mines & the Eastern Gateway via train to Plymouth then bus to Tavistock Guildhall & Information Centre. <b>Nearest Station:</b> <b>Penzance/Plymouth</b> <b>Journey Time:</b> <b>From Newcastle:</b> 9 Hours/12 Hours <b>From Glasgow:</b> 12 Hours/9 Hours  • <a href="https://cornishmining.org.uk">cornishmining.org.uk</a> • <a href="https://unesco.mining.org.uk">unesco.mining.org.uk</a>	<b>07.</b> <b>DERWENT VALLEY MILLS, Central England</b> The valley contains intact remains of 18th and 19th Century cotton mills and associated historical industrial landscapes. The Derwent Valley Line takes passengers directly through the valley landscape from Matlock to Derby, with frequent stops at points of interest. <b>Nearest Stations:</b> <b>Matlock, Derby &amp; Cromford</b> <b>Journey time:</b> <b>From Newcastle:</b> 3 Hours <b>From Glasgow:</b> 5 Hours  • <a href="https://derwentvalleymills.org">derwentvalleymills.org</a> • <a href="https://unesco.derwentvalley.org">unesco.derwentvalley.org</a>	<b>08.</b> <b>DORSET AND EAST DEVON COAST, South West England</b> Also known as the 'Jurassic Coast', the cliff exposures along the coastline provide an almost continuous sequence of rock formations spanning the Mesozoic Era and are some of the UK's most important fossil sites. Explore Weymouth, Axminster, and Poole with connecting bus services from First Bus Wessex. <b>Nearest Station:</b> <b>Weymouth</b> <b>Journey time:</b> <b>From Newcastle:</b> 7 Hours <b>From Glasgow:</b> 9 Hours  • <a href="https://jurassiccoast.org">jurassiccoast.org</a> • <a href="https://unesco.dorset.org">unesco.dorset.org</a>	<b>09.</b> <b>DURHAM CASTLE AND CATHEDRAL, Northern England</b> The Cathedral was built in the late 11th & early 12th Century to house the relics of St Cuthbert, and the Venerable Bede. It is the largest example of Norman architecture in England, whilst the adjacent Norman Castle was the residence of the Prince Bishop of Durham. The city is a 15-minute walk from the station, with frequent bus connections. <b>Nearest Station:</b> <b>Durham</b> <b>Journey time:</b> <b>From Newcastle:</b> 10 Mins <b>From Glasgow:</b> 3 Hours  • <a href="https://bit.ly/durhamwhs">bit.ly/durhamwhs</a> • <a href="https://unesco.durham.org">unesco.durham.org</a>	<b>10.</b> <b>THE ENGLISH LAKE DISTRICT, North West England</b> The harmony and drama of this world's longest spans of 521 metres. Still in use today, it remains one of the greatest examples of cantilever trussed bridges. From Edinburgh Waverley either end of the bridge can be accessed by bike, train, or bus. The bridge itself is for rail traffic only. <b>Nearest Station:</b> <b>North Queensferry Station/Dalrym</b> <b>Journey Time:</b> <b>From Newcastle:</b> 2.5/2 Hours <b>From Glasgow:</b> 1 Hour  • <a href="https://theforthbridges.org">theforthbridges.org</a> • <a href="https://unesco.forth.org">unesco.forth.org</a>	<b>11.</b> <b>THE FORTH BRIDGE, Scotland</b> Opened in 1890, the railway bridge crossing the Forth estuary had the world's longest spans of 521 metres. Still in use today, it remains one of the greatest examples of cantilever trussed bridges. From Edinburgh Waverley either end of the bridge can be accessed by bike, train, or bus. 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To access the Antonine Wall use Kilpatrick, Bearsden and Falkirk.  • <a href="https://hadrrianswallcountry.co.uk">hadrrianswallcountry.co.uk</a> • <a href="https://antoninewall.org">antoninewall.org</a> • <a href="https://bit.ly/unescofrontiers">bit.ly/unescofrontiers</a>	<b>13.</b> <b>GIANTS CAUSEWAY, Northern Ireland</b> On the Antrim coast sits an area of geological importance. Its most characteristic feature is the exposure of 40,000m of regularly shaped black basalt columns created 50-60 million years ago. Travel here by train from Belfast to Portrush followed by a connecting bus or by foot along the Giant's Causeway or Trail. Ferries run from Cairnryan or Liverpool to Belfast port. <b>Nearest Station:</b> <b>Portrush</b> <b>Journey time:</b> <b>From Belfast Station:</b> 1.5 Hours  • <a href="https://bit.ly/giants">bit.ly/giants</a> • <a href="https://bit.ly/unesco.giants">bit.ly/unesco.giants</a>	<b>14.</b> <b>HEART OF NEOLITHIC ORKNEY, Scotland</b> A prehistoric cultural landscape provides clear evidence of life in this Northern Archipelago 5,000 years ago. Travel by train to Thurso, then catch a bus to John O'Groats. From there, hop on a ferry to Orkney and use local bus services to take you around the mainland. <b>Nearest Station:</b> <b>Thurso</b> <b>Journey time:</b> <b>From Newcastle:</b> 9.5 Hours <b>From Glasgow:</b> 8 Hours  • <a href="https://bit.ly/orkney">bit.ly/orkney</a> • <a href="https://unesco.orkney.org">unesco.orkney.org</a>	<b>15.</b> <b>IRONBRIDGE GORGE, Central West England</b> A symbol of the industrial revolution, the Bridge was the world's first constructed of iron and had an influence on developments in the fields of architecture and technology. Alight at Telford Station and travel to the Gorge via bus. <b>Journey time to Telford Station:</b> <b>From Newcastle:</b> 4 Hours <b>From Glasgow:</b> 5 Hours  It's Quicker by Rail!  • <a href="https://ironbridgegorgewhs.co.uk">ironbridgegorgewhs.co.uk</a> • <a href="https://bit.ly/unescoironbridge">bit.ly/unescoironbridge</a>	<b>16.</b> <b>JODRELL BANK OBSERVATORY, Central West England</b> One of the world's leading radio astronomy observatories still in operation today, illustrates the transition from traditional optical astronomy of the 1940's to the use of radio astronomy in the 1960's. Take the train to Macclesfield or Goodrestey from where travel either by bike or arranged taxi. <b>Nearest Station:</b> <b>Goodrestey</b> <b>Journey time:</b> <b>From Newcastle:</b> 3 Hours 45 Mins <b>From Glasgow:</b> 4.5 Hours  • <a href="https://jodrellbank.net">jodrellbank.net</a> • <a href="https://unesco.jodrell.org">unesco.jodrell.org</a>	<b>17.</b> <b>MARITIME GREENWICH, London</b> The ensemble of buildings at Greenwich, and their setting, symbolise English artistic and scientific endeavours in the 17th and 18th Centuries. Maritime Greenwich is accessible from any National Rail Network station in London with connection on the Docklands Light Railway or by the Thames Ferry by alighting at Greenwich Pier. <b>Nearest Station:</b> <b>Greenwich or Cutty Sark</b> <b>Journey time to London Kings Cross:</b> <b>From Newcastle:</b> 3 Hours <b>From Glasgow:</b> 3 Hours  • <a href="https://greenwichworldheritage.org">greenwichworldheritage.org</a> • <a href="https://unesco.greenwich.org">unesco.greenwich.org</a>	<b>18.</b> <b>NEW LANARK, Scotland</b> An 18th Century Village set in a picturesque landscape where the Utopian and philanthropist Robert Owen moulded a model industrial community. The Village is accessible via a bus connection direct to the Visitor Centre from Lanark train station. Change at Glasgow Central for services to Lanark. <b>Nearest Station:</b> <b>Lanark</b> <b>Journey time to Lanark via Glasgow Central:</b> 1 Hour 4 Hours  • <a href="https://bit.ly/newlanarkscotwhs">bit.ly/newlanarkscotwhs</a> • <a href="https://bit.ly/unesconewlanark">bit.ly/unesconewlanark</a>	<b>19.</b> <b>OLD AND NEW TOWNS OF EDINBURGH, Scotland</b> The Scottish Capital since the 15th Century, the medieval fortresses of the Old Town sit in harmonious juxtaposition with the 18th Century development of the New Town. Travel directly into this World Heritage Site with frequent train services to Edinburgh Waverley. Use local tram and bus services to explore the city. <b>Nearest Station:</b> <b>Edinburgh Waverley</b> <b>Journey time:</b> <b>From Newcastle:</b> 1.5 Hours <b>From Glasgow:</b> 1 Hour  • <a href="https://bit.ly/hseidburghwhs">bit.ly/hseidburghwhs</a> • <a href="https://unesco.edinburgh.org">unesco.edinburgh.org</a>	<b>20.</b> <b>PALACE OF WESTMINSTER AND RELATED SITES, London</b> Westminster Palace and Westminster Abbey hold great historic and symbolic significance within British Culture. Both are accessible from any National Rail Network station in London with connection to Westminster via the tube on the Circle, District or Jubilee lines or by local bus services. <b>Nearest Station:</b> <b>Westminster</b> <b>Journey time to London Kings Cross:</b> <b>From Newcastle:</b> 3 Hours <b>From Glasgow:</b> 5 Hours  • <a href="https://westminster-abbey.org">westminster-abbey.org</a> • <a href="https://bit.ly/unescowestminster">bit.ly/unescowestminster</a>	<b>21.</b> <b>PONTSYFFLIDE AQUEDUCT AND CANAL, North East Wales</b> Conceived by civil engineer Thomas Telford, the 18-km-long aqueduct and canal symbolises the Industrial Revolution with its completion in the early 19th Century. Connecting National Rail Network stations at Chirk and Ruabon. From here use local bus services or explore any station along the Llanelollen Heritage Railway. <b>Nearest Station:</b> <b>Ruabon</b> <b>Journey time:</b> <b>From Newcastle:</b> 5 Hours <b>From Glasgow:</b> 4 Hours  • <a href="https://pontsyyfflde-aqueduct.co.uk">pontsyyfflde-aqueduct.co.uk</a> • <a href="https://bit.ly/unescopontsyyfflde">bit.ly/unescopontsyyfflde</a>	<b>22.</b> <b>ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS, KEW, London</b> Since their inception in 1759 the landscape gardens at Kew have made significant global contributions to the study of botany and plant diversity. Although uninhabited since 1930 they bare evidence of 2000 years of human history. Access the islands from Shye by boat trils during the tourist season. Shye is accessible by bus using Coach services from Glasgow to Portree and Uig then local bus services, as well as by bike and foot. <b>Journey time to Portree using coach:</b> <b>From Glasgow:</b> 6 Hours <b>From Newcastle:</b> 9.5 Hours <b>(Via Glasgow):</b>  • <a href="https://bit.ly/kewwhs">bit.ly/kewwhs</a> • <a href="https://bit.ly/unescokew">bit.ly/unescokew</a>	<b>23.</b> <b>ST KILDA, Hebrides, Scotland</b> Comprised of a volcanic archipelago, the islands of Hirta, Dun, Soay and Boreray include some of Europe's highest cliffs and colonies of rare and endangered birds. Although uninhabited since 1930 they bare evidence of 2000 years of human history. Access the islands from Shye by boat trils during the tourist season. Shye is accessible by bus using Coach services from Glasgow to Portree and Uig then local bus services, as well as by bike and foot. <b>Journey time:</b> <b>From Newcastle:</b> 2 Hours <b>From Glasgow:</b> 4 Hours  • <a href="https://bit.ly/saltairwhs">bit.ly/saltairwhs</a> • <a href="https://bit.ly/unescoaltair">bit.ly/unescoaltair</a>	<b>24.</b> <b>SALTIRE, West Yorkshire</b> This well preserved industrial village is an intact example of Victorian philanthropic paternalism which had an important impact on the developments of social welfare across the UK. Built around a textile mill on the River Aire, Saltare Village is accessible by bike and foot along the Leeds and Liverpool Canal path or direct by train. <b>Nearest Station:</b> <b>Saltare</b> <b>Journey time:</b> <b>From Newcastle:</b> 2 Hours <b>From Glasgow:</b> 4 Hours  • <a href="https://bit.ly/saltairwhs">bit.ly/saltairwhs</a> • <a href="https://bit.ly/unescoaltair">bit.ly/unescoaltair</a>	<b>25.</b> <b>THE SLATE LANDSCAPE OF NORTHWEST WALES</b> This post-industrial landscape tells the story of evolution from an agricultural society to an area where industry dominated the landscape: where slate quarries, towns and villages appeared and transport links supported slate to global markets. The Welsh Highland and Ffestiniog lines all access the slate landscape. The nearest station is Blaenau Ffestiniog, access the landscape further by bike and by foot. <b>Nearest Station:</b> <b>Blaenau Ffestiniog</b> <b>Journey time:</b> <b>From Newcastle:</b> 7 Hours <b>From Glasgow:</b> 7 Hours  • <a href="https://flechi-cymru.org">flechi-cymru.org</a> • <a href="https://bit.ly/unescoslate">bit.ly/unescoslate</a>	<b>26.</b> <b>STONEHENGE, AVEBURY AND ASSOCIATED SITES, Southern England</b> Together with associating monuments, Avebury demonstrate around 2000 continuous years of Neolithic and Bronze-Age practices. Stonehenge is along Route 45 of the National Cycle Network and is connected to Salisbury by bus, a 30 minute journey. Avebury is accessible by bus from Swindon. <b>Nearest Station:</b> <b>Salisbury/Swindon</b> <b>Journey time:</b> <b>From Newcastle:</b> 6.5 Hours <b>From Glasgow:</b> 7 Hours  • <a href="https://bit.ly/stonehengewhs">bit.ly/stonehengewhs</a> • <a href="https://bit.ly/unescostonehenge">bit.ly/unescostonehenge</a>	<b>27.</b> <b>STUDLEY ROYAL PARK AND THE RUINS OF FOUNTAINS ABBEY, Yorkshire</b> The elegant 18th Century water gardens incorporate the ruins of Fountains Abbey. Both share the same landscape with a deer park. Alight at Harrogate to travel to Ripon by bus where a shuttle bus runs to the park. <b>Nearest Station:</b> <b>Harrogate</b> <b>Journey time:</b> <b>From Newcastle:</b> 2 Hours <b>From Glasgow:</b> 5 Hours  • <a href="https://bit.ly/studleywhs">bit.ly/studleywhs</a> • <a href="https://bit.ly/unescostudleywhs">bit.ly/unescostudleywhs</a>	<b>28.</b> <b>TOWER OF LONDON, London</b> Built by William the Conqueror in 1066 the tower is a rare survivor of continuously developing royal buildings demonstrating many layers of history. The tower is accessible from any National Rail Network. Stations with connecting bus services, Thameslink services, overground train services to Tower Hill by the District and Circle Lines. <b>Nearest Tube Station:</b> <b>Tower Hill</b> <b>Journey time to London Kings Cross:</b> <b>From Newcastle:</b> 3 Hours <b>From Glasgow:</b> 4 Hours  • <a href="https://bit.ly/toweroflondonwhs">bit.ly/toweroflondonwhs</a> • <a href="https://bit.ly/unesco.toweroflondon">bit.ly/unesco.toweroflondon</a>	<b>29.</b> <b>TYNE VALLEY COMMUNITY RAIL PARTNERSHIP</b> The Tyne Valley Community Rail Partnership was established in 2014 to improve connectivity and encourage sustainable tourism in the Tyne Valley area. The partnership is made up of the following sites:  • <a href="https://www.tynevalleycommunityrail.org.uk">www.tynevalleycommunityrail.org.uk</a>	<b>30.</b> <b>TYNE VALLEY COMMUNITY RAIL PARTNERSHIP</b> The Tyne Valley Community Rail Partnership was established in 2014 to improve connectivity and encourage sustainable tourism in the Tyne Valley area. 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## WORLD HERITAGE SITES BY RAIL

**WHAT IS WORLD HERITAGE?**

World Heritage is the designation for places that are of 'Outstanding Universal Value' and have been inscribed onto UNESCO's World Heritage List to be protected for future generations to appreciate and enjoy.

The cultural or natural significance of these Sites is so exceptional that it transcends national boundaries and is of common importance for global humanity.

**TOP TIPS FOR VISITING WORLD HERITAGE SITES BY RAIL & OTHER PUBLIC TRANSPORT**

- ◆ Do your research & plan!
- ◆ Some WHS are in the centre of cities, others in rural areas. The Site may be within walking distance of a railway station, or you may need to use the local bus.
- ◆ Opening hours may vary in winter.
- ◆ There is a range of types of ticket for rail travel, but you can often get a bargain by buying an advance purchase ticket.
- ◆ Railcard holders [railcard.co.uk](https://www.railcard.co.uk) can get discounts as can groups of 10 or more and for many journeys, you can add a

**WHY ARE WE SO INTERESTED IN THE UK'S WORLD HERITAGE SITES?**

More information for visitors to World Heritage Sites is summarised on their location and accessibility can be found on the website links in this leaflet. The remaining 4 Sites are located offshore in British Overseas Territories.

- ◆ **What features are included in UK World Heritage Sites?**  
As the map overleaf shows, 29 of the 33 Sites are distributed throughout England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. More detailed information on their location and accessibility can be found on the website links in this leaflet. The remaining 4 Sites are located offshore in British Overseas Territories.
- ◆ **Why were the UK Sites inscribed on the World Heritage List by UNESCO?**  
The Outstanding Universal Value of each is summarised on the UNESCO website [bit.ly/ukwhslist](https://bit.ly/ukwhslist), & the World Heritage UK website [www.worldheritageuk.org](https://www.worldheritageuk.org)

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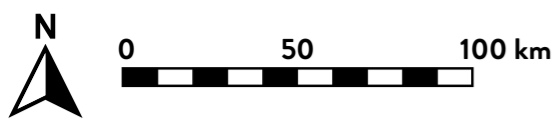
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## KEY TO SITE TYPE

- ◆ Cultural
- ◆ Natural
- ◆ Mixed

This leaflet encouraging you to explore World Heritage Sites sustainably by rail has been supported by CrossCountry Trains, TransPennine Express, Community Rail Network and Tyne Valley Community Rail Partnership.



tcrp.org.uk

## Further Information:

To start planning your journey, find out about rail times and fares here:

### NATIONAL RAIL



[nationalrail.co.uk](http://nationalrail.co.uk)

To find out more about World Heritage Sites in the UK see here:

### UNESCO



[bit.ly/ukwhslist](http://bit.ly/ukwhslist)

### WORLD HERITAGE UK



[worldheritageuk.org](http://worldheritageuk.org)

World Heritage Sites are recognised by UNESCO (The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation) as places of internationally significant cultural or natural heritage, whose Outstanding Universal Value is considered to transcend national boundaries and to be of importance for future generations.

Being placed on the World Heritage List is a high accolade and demonstrates international recognition of the Site's significance. Countries with World Heritage Sites give an undertaking to UNESCO to manage them to ensure that their Outstanding Universal Value is sustained into the future.

Based on artwork originally researched & produced on behalf of WHUK by CBA [cbastudios.com](http://cbastudios.com)



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UK Railway Map Data courtesy of Barry Doe; modified from the original which is available for download here: [www.barrydoe.co.uk/railmap55.pdf](http://www.barrydoe.co.uk/railmap55.pdf)

Data researched to April 2024.



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