

TRAVEL
SMARTER

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Guide to... SUMMER HOTSPOTS

Set your sat-nav for these brilliant destinations
and get ready to enjoy the sun – and the journey!

CUT OUT
AND KEEP
GUIDE!



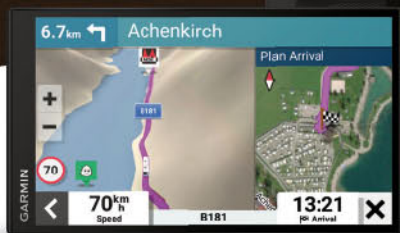
- 69 Northern Ireland
- 70 Scotland
- 71 North-east England
- 72 North-west England
- 73 Wales
- 74 Eastern England
- 75 Heart of England
- 76 South-east England
- 77 Somerset, Avon, Wiltshire
- 78 Dorset
- 79 Devon
- 80 Cornwall
- 81 How to travel smarter and enjoy your towing journey



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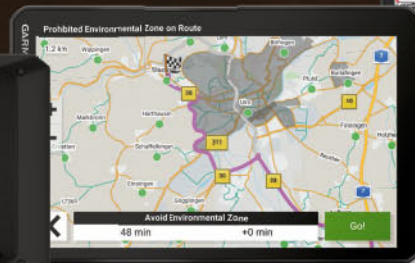
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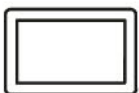


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NORTHERN IRELAND

CUT OUT
AND KEEP
GUIDE!



Sail across the sea and you can enjoy glorious scenery and dramatic history, with a huge choice of attractions

NORTHERN IRELAND might not be at or near the top of your must-visit destinations list, but it certainly should be. The shortest crossing (with Stena Line) takes two hours and 15 minutes, from Cairnryan in Scotland to Belfast. Sailing from Liverpool takes around eight hours.

Once there, you'll be very impressed by the huge array of fabulous destinations and attractions, both out in the wilds and in the towns and cities.

Northern Ireland boasts numerous unspoilt seaside resorts, world-famous natural phenomena and one of the UK's great new museums – but it's the warm welcome you'll experience from these super-friendly folk that will make the biggest impression.

Beyond Belfast, the gorgeous countryside in this surprising province is just sensational, making it the perfect region to explore in a caravan.



Did you know...

Welcome to Westeros!
Much of *Game of Thrones* was filmed in Northern Ireland, at locations such as Murlough Bay (Slavers' Bay), Inch Abbey (Riverrun), Castle Ward (Winterfell) and Tollymore Forest Park (the Haunted Forest)

For a unique view, cross the Carrick-a-Rede Rope Bridge, in Co Antrim

Both entry and parking are free of charge.

► midandeastantrim.gov.uk

• Combining art and important history, **Exodus – The Art of Terry Bradley** is at Titanic Belfast until 31 August 2023. His powerful work honours the many men and women who left Ireland to start new lives in different countries.

► titanicbelfast.com

Summer attractions

• You can't visit Northern Ireland without seeing the **Giant's Causeway**, a natural rock formation on the north coast. It comprises 40,000 basalt columns, created by volcanic activity more than 60 million years ago. Visitors pay £13.50 (adults) and £6.75 (children) to experience this amazing National Trust site near Bushmills, Co Antrim.

► nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/northern-ireland/giants-causeway

• Northern Ireland also has no fewer than eight magnificent **Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty** – located around the coast and inland. Each offers its own unique character and appeal, so perhaps you could plan a looping tour, following the coast around to Derry.

After that, head inland and you can explore the wonders of Sperrin AONB and other astonishing landscapes that made this such an excellent choice for film locations for hit TV series *Game of Thrones*.

► landscapesforlife.org.uk

• Visitors with a head for heights will enjoy walking across the **Carrick-a-Rede Rope Bridge** near Ballintoy, Co Antrim. Suspended almost 100ft above the Atlantic, it spans a 20m-wide chasm. Take a camera! Adult tickets cost £13.50, children, £6.75.

► nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/northern-ireland/carrick-a-rede

Brilliant summer sites

Jordanstown

Loughshore Park

This lovely site scores highly with visitors, positioned as it is with panoramic views from Belfast to Bangor and easy access to the capital. Open all year, it provides 14 touring pitches and free Wi-Fi.

Address Shore Road, Newtownabbey, County Antrim BT37 0PY
► bit.ly/3Cvb5SA

Hillfoot Caravan & Camping

"Great site with friendly owner," says one reviewer of this CAMC licensed site. You'll find it in the north-west of the province near Derry, perfect for coastal and inland attractions.

Address Limavady, Londonderry BT47 4QN
► niselfcatering.co.uk/prices.html

Little Acres Camping

'Small but perfectly formed' is a great way to describe this highly rated campsite, which is as compact as it is wonderful.

The tranquility of the setting might only be interrupted by laughter and buzz from the children's playground.

Address 21 Lisdonwilly Road, Armagh BT61 8DY
► www.campingni.com/little-acres-campsite

Summer events

• **Music in the Park** is an unmissable series of free concerts taking place every Sunday during July and August, in Ward Park, Bangor by the Sea, North Down.
► openhousefestival.com/picnic-in-the-park

• Immerse yourself in historic culture at the **All Ireland Pipe Band and Drum Major Championships**, where 50 brilliant pipe bands and hundreds of dancers compete.



SCOTLAND



Renowned for its remote, stunning beaches and glorious mountain landscapes, this is also a region of great historical and cultural interest

UNIQUE LANDSCAPES, world-class beaches and truly wild spaces, Scotland really does have it all! So it's no surprise that this beautiful country is increasingly popular for touring. These days, with the introduction of the NC500 road trip, visitors are realising the peaceful bliss of driving through mountains, heathland and coastal areas.

In the Highlands, the gorgeous coastlines and a wealth of ancient sites are worth risking the summer midges for, and the country's milder weather lends itself to pleasant hiking, walking and cycling in the beautiful national parks.

Scattered throughout the area are vibrant cities, towns and villages, many hosting a number of important cultural events over the summer.

Summer events

- For **Fringe by the Sea**, think Edinburgh Fringe, but with the bonus of fabulous

The Kelpies are a triumph of engineering

Did you know...

If you've been to Edinburgh, you might have climbed Arthur's Seat for a view of the city. But did you know that the peak is an extinct volcano? Once home to an Iron Age hill fort, it's rumoured to be a location of the legendary Camelot

sea views! This laid-back festival from 4-13 August 2023 is full of live music, comedy, literature and talks. You can also expect family-friendly fun, delicious food, a variety of workshops and tempting trade stalls.

➤ fringebythesea.com

- For a weekend of traditions and revelry, head north to the Argyll town of Dunoon and the **Cowal Gathering**. Dating all the way back to 1894, this lively event, running from

24-26 August 2023, features dance competitions, heavy athletics, ceilidhs, a piping parade and more.

➤ cowalgathering.com

- Set in beautiful Perthshire, **Birnam Highland Games** were first held in 1864 and have remained hugely popular ever since. On 26 August 2023, the events will include Highland dancing, a world championship haggis-eating competition, races for all ages, and plenty of live music.

➤ birnamhighlandgames.org

Summer attractions

- Family-friendly entertainment is on the menu at the 120-acre **Cairnie Fruit Farm**, in the Fife countryside.

Features include the Kids Funyard, where youngsters can enjoy the trampolines, sandboxes, adventure play areas and go-karts.

You can also pick your own fruit, and frolic in the six-acre Mega Maize Maze.

➤ cairniefruitfarm.co.uk

- Home to The Kelpies, the largest equine sculptures in the world, **The Helix** ecopark offers the perfect combination of parkland, woodlands and wetlands, along with a splash park, play area, lagoon-side coffee shop and wildlife trail.

➤ thehelix.co.uk

- The UNESCO World Heritage Site of **New Lanark** transports visitors into the daily lives of villagers in the 1820s. With reconstructed buildings, working machinery, brilliant interactive exhibitions and roof gardens, the whole family can enjoy spending the day immersed in this historic area's fascinating past.

➤ newlanark.org

Brilliant summer sites

Cobleland Campsite

On the banks of the Forth, this scenic campsite is a nature-lover's dream, with Queen Elizabeth Forest Park on your doorstep. The site has riverside, woodland and meadow pitches, a shop, a play area and two facilities blocks.

Address Station Road,
Gartmore FK8 3RR
➤ coblelandcampsite.co.uk

Tayview Caravan Park

This seafront holiday park near Dundee overlooks peaceful Monifieth Beach. The site is a short walk from Monifieth town, which offers shops, pubs and takeaways, and there are cycle routes nearby running east and west.

Address South Union Street,
Marine Drive, Monifieth DD5 4GH
➤ tayview.co.uk

Brighouse Bay Holiday Park

Enjoy an action-packed family holiday at this spacious site, home to wildlife ponds, pony trekking, a golf course and woodland walks. The park also boasts a private slipway into Brighouse Bay, great for swimming and watersports.

Address Borgue,
Kirkcudbright DG6 4TU
➤ brighousebayholidaypark.co.uk



NORTH-EAST ENGLAND

CUT OUT AND KEEP GUIDE!



This is the region to head for to enjoy exploring historic castles and a remote coastline, offering some of the finest scenery in the country

THE REAL BEAUTY of England's north-eastern counties is that they're perhaps some of the least visited in the UK, so you can get back to nature and experience genuine tranquility, without the crowds that can make some places a bit of a trial. In

particular, the beaches are spectacular and perfect for dog owners. Plus, you've got a huge choice of pretty towns and villages to explore, and more fabulous castles than you can poke a stick at! These range from the dramatic coastal ruins at Dunstanburgh to superb Alnwick Castle, with its Harry Potter credentials and splendid gardens.

For city-lovers, a day trip to explore Newcastle-upon-Tyne is another great attraction. While you're there, don't miss the beautiful Quayside area, and the brilliant (and free) Discovery Museum.

Summer events

- **Lindisfarne Festival**, from 31 August to 3 September 2023, is a sensational way to round off the summer with a mix of 'music, magic and mayhem'! It has eight stages and plenty of cultural attractions, on a site overlooking Holy Island. lindisfarnefestival.com

- **Northumberland Classic & Performance Motor Show**, on 20 August 2023, attracts a wide



Magnificent Alnwick Castle dates back to the Norman Conquest

Did you know...

Early visitors to Lindisfarne weren't quite so friendly as today's tourists! Eighth-century marauders dropped in to plunder and kill. Today, Holy Island is a great day out, but watch the tide – the causeway floods twice a day

range of amazing automobiles, motorcycles and legendary light commercials, gathering at Tynedale Rugby Club (NE45 5AY). A splendid day out in a beautiful town. greatbritishmotorshows.com

- On 12-13 August 2023, **Belsay at War** whisks you to 1940s Britain, as reenactors create a fascinating and action-packed weekend event, depicting many of the iconic elements of wartime Britain. Beautiful Belsay Hall (NE20 0DU), in Northumberland, delivers an immersive experience that will engage the interest of young and old alike. english-heritage.org.uk

Summer attractions

- **Northumberlandia, the Lady of the North**, is a country park and woodland trail with a spectacular female landform sculpture at its heart. This amazing structure, 400m long and 33m high in places,

provides pathways for visitors to explore magnificent public art in a beautiful setting, and it's a fun and interesting way to get some exercise, too. The site also has a pleasant café, toilets and a visitor centre. thelandtrust.org.uk/space/northumberlandia

- The delightful seaside village of **Alnmouth** has one of the best beaches in the region, where dogs and campfires are allowed. On 5 August 2023, the village will be hosting its famous Volcano Night on the beach (don't ask, just go!). visitnorthumberland.com/explore/destinations/towns-villages/alnmouth

- If the weather lets you down, head to Newcastle's excellent **Discovery Museum**, which is just a short walk from the city centre. Children will love the interactive displays, which make learning fun, and there's plenty here to keep the adult visitors engaged, too.

Brilliant summer sites

Greensfield Moor Farm Caravan Park

This spacious, level site delivers standards of quality and service that guarantee it excellent reviews. It's just 1.5 miles from lovely Alnwick, and provides hardstandings, chemical disposal point, hook-up and Wi-Fi, but no toilets or showers.

Address Redfoot Lea, Alnwick NE66 2HH
greensfieldmoorfarm.co.uk

Seddons Caravan Park

Seddons is a family-run campsite, which offers regular and seasonal pitches. The site is surrounded by mature trees, making it a lovely setting, near the pretty town of Morpeth. It has lots of facilities, dogs are welcome and Druridge Bay beach is nearby.

Address Widdrington Moor, Morpeth NE61 5DR
seddons.net

Annstead Farm

Annstead is a working farm with a beautiful site attached to it. It offers family and adults-only areas, with a range of facilities including Wi-Fi and a shop. Best of all, it's just a three-minute walk to the sea.

Address Beadnell NE67 5BT
campingandcaravanningclub.co.uk



NORTH-WEST ENGLAND

From vibrant cities to the grandeur of the Lake District, you're never far from gorgeous scenery and family-friendly attractions

NORTH-WEST ENGLAND has so much to offer, from marvellous Manchester (it's been transformed in the past 20 years) to the phenomenal Lake District. At peak times, avoid the more touristy areas, such as Windermere and Bowness, and perhaps head inland to explore the Forest of Bowland AONB or trek north to the Solway Coast AONB. Safe to say, whichever direction you travel, you'll find stunning scenery or truly beautiful beaches, plus pretty towns and villages with excellent cafés, restaurants, shops and attractions.

To make the most of this glorious region, it's best to take your walking boots and your waterproofs... oh, and don't forget the dog!

Summer events

• **Manchester Craft Beer Experience**, on 27 August 2023, is a tour of the city's finest micro-breweries, offering the chance to see

Enjoy a leisurely boat trip
on beautiful Windermere



Did you know...

While you're in the area, treat yourself to a delicious meal on the Curry Mile – the largest concentration of South Asian restaurants outside of Asia. Head for Wilmslow Road in Rusholme, a mile south of central Manchester

behind the scenes and, yes, sample some of their wares! In the company of a guide, you'll love this memorable beverage-based stroll.
➤ craftbeertourmanchester.co.uk

• The **Wild Goat Festival**, on 11-13 August 2023, celebrates the Greatest Of All Time... no, not our four-legged friends! Join legendary athletes Steve Cram and Paula Radcliffe, and Horrible Histories creator, Terry Deary, for days filled

with running, walking and cycling, alongside plenty of arts, crafts and music.
➤ wildgoatfestival.com

• **Sea Watch** is a free event for children that will help nature fans spot splendid marine life in the Irish Sea. It leaves the Blackpool Glitterball on New South Promenade (FY8 1RW) at 11am on 2 August 2023. Bring your binoculars and warm clothes, and you could spot dolphins, seals and whales.
➤ lancswt.org.uk/events/2023-08-02-sea-watch

Summer attractions

• **Honister Adventure**, in a former slate mine in Cumbria, delivers some of the biggest adrenaline thrills in Britain. Nothing (apart from the gift shop!) is for the faint of heart: death-defying Via Ferrata climbs come in Classic and Xtreme flavours, and don't miss cliff camping, canyoning, mine climbing and the super-scary Infinity Bridge.
➤ honister.com

• Take a rowing boat out on England's biggest lake this summer and you can get some exercise, work on your tan and experience tranquility, all in one. Boats are available from **Windermere Lake Cruises**.
➤ windermere-lakecruises.co.uk

• **Knowsley Safari** is arguably the most surprising day out in the north-west. See lions, giraffes, camels, rhinos, tigers, baboons and hundreds of other creatures, in wildest... Liverpool! Take a captivating five-mile drive through the safari park, and you can watch many of the animals from the comfort of your own car.
➤ knowsleysafariexperience.co.uk

Brilliant summer sites

Charity Farm Caravan Park

Charity Farm gets excellent reviews, thanks to its extensive facilities, café and bar, four fishing ponds and friendly welcome. The 80-pitch site is open all year, and it's ideally located for visiting Manchester, Liverpool and Blackpool.

Address Smithy Brow, Wroughton, Wigan, Lancashire WN6 9PP
➤ charityfarm.co.uk

Castlerigg Hall Caravan Park

Open from 1 March to 31 October, this has to be one of Britain's finest campsites, with stupendous views across Derwentwater from many of its pitches. The facilities are excellent, dogs are welcome, and the delights of Keswick are a short distance away.

Address Keswick, Cumbria CA12 4TE
➤ castlerigg.co.uk

Waters Edge Caravan Park

This verdant and picturesque site lies beside a charming brook, just a few miles outside pretty Kendal. It has a shop, a pool room and a lounge with licensed bar, and its 29 pitches are set amid attractive landscaping and ponds.

Address Crooklands, Kendal, Cumbria LA7 7NN
➤ watersedgecaravanpark.co.uk



CUT OUT
AND KEEP
GUIDE!



WALES



Offering spectacular beaches and awe-inspiring mountain landscapes, this beautiful and historic region is a magnet for lovers of the great outdoors

HOME TO SOME of Britain's finest beaches and a wealth of superb campsites, Wales is perennially popular with summer holidaymakers.

Visitors flock to the glorious coastlines of Pembrokeshire and the Gower, while those seeking outdoor activities head inland to Eryri National Park (Snowdonia) and Bannau Brycheiniog (the Brecon Beacons).

During the summer, the region is also buzzing with events and activities. Many of the historic castles run family-friendly weekends, while local communities enjoy annual traditions that welcome everyone.

If you're a sunseeker who doesn't mind the crowds, head to the south coast for the warmest weather. For relative solitude and a cooler climate, try quieter areas like the Llŷn Peninsula and the Cambrian Mountains.

Summer events

- The world-famous **National Eisteddfod** at Boduan, Gwynedd, on 5-12 August 2023, is a week-long celebration of Welsh culture, full of live music, theatre, poetry and a host of other events.

Visitors will also be able to enjoy specialities of Welsh food and drink, and lots of exhibitions, demonstrations and activities to entertain children and adults alike.

➤ eisteddfod.wales

Three Cliffs Bay, in the Gower, is just one of Wales's many glorious beaches

Did you know...

It may be a lot smaller than England, but Wales doesn't lack for impressive statistics, beating every country in Europe for longest zipline, longest place name, oldest literature after Latin and Greek – and the most castles per square mile!

• The Summer Cider

Cycle on 12 August 2023 takes you through valleys and forests around Llanwrtyd Wells. The routes, of 14 or 25 miles, have pit stops for a perry or a cider along the way. In the evening, enjoy live music (and more cider) at the town's pubs.

➤ www.green-events.co.uk

- The **Pembrokeshire County Show** (16-17 August 2023) has a packed schedule of cooking demonstrations, livestock classes, show jumping and more, making this a perfect summer day out for the whole family.

➤ pembsshow.org

Summer attractions

- From an aqua obstacle course or paddleboarding, to ziplines, climbing walls and assault courses, **Adventure Parc Snowdonia** (LL32 8QE) has something for everyone.

➤ adventureparcsnowdonia.com

- If you prefer your outdoor activities to be enjoyed at a more leisurely pace, **Dyffryn Clwyd Footgolf Centre** could be just the place for you! Combining the best elements of football and golf, this entertaining sport is great fun for participants of all ages and abilities.

The beautifully scenic 18-hole course is surrounded by rolling hills, and has been designed especially for the game of footgolf. When you've finished your round, there are play areas, walks and a snack bar to enjoy.

➤ dyffrynclwydfootgolf.com

- Follow in the footsteps of the Vikings by exploring **Worm's Head Tidal Island**, off the breathtaking Rhosili coast. Connected to the mainland by a causeway that is accessible at low tide, the rocky island is home to caves, blowholes and an absolutely mystifying natural bridge.

➤ nationaltrust.org.uk

Brilliant summer sites

Cim Farm Touring Caravan Park

This gorgeous coastal site, part of a 400-acre working farm, is in the perfect location for enjoying summer days on the beach. Benefiting from 2.5 miles of private coastline, this family site provides outstanding sea views, a play zone for the children, and luxury facilities.

Address Bwlchtocyn, Abersoch LL53 7BY
➤ cimfarm.co.uk

Kiln Park Holiday Park

As you'd expect, this family-friendly site in the pretty harbour town of Tenby, part of the Haven chain, is ideal for an action-packed summer holiday. The park boasts indoor and outdoor swimming pools and is close to the area's famed Blue Flag beaches.

Address Marsh Road, Tenby SA70 7RB
➤ haven.com

Llanberis Touring Park

Tucked at the foot of Snowdon, this site is great for walks in the National Park, and is just a stone's throw from the many attractions of the outdoor activity centre at Zip World.

Address Glyn Rhonwy, Llanberis LL55 4EL
➤ morris-leisure.co.uk



EASTERN ENGLAND



Discover a huge choice of destinations, from dramatic coastline and historic cities to gorgeous countryside

FANCY A SPOT of leisurely shopping and the chance to take in some history? Then Norwich and Cambridge are sure to deliver – these two vibrant cities have their own great stories to tell.

Perhaps you prefer to get some fresh sea air instead? Then look no further than the picturesque Norfolk coast.

Alternatively, you might want to immerse yourself in nature. Then this region ticks the right boxes again, with the beautiful Dedham Vale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and Broads National Park just two of the many local attractions.

Summer events

- You can perfect your cooking skills (or just enjoy superb food!) at **Norwich Foodies Festival** on 8-10 September 2023. At this foodie's paradise, *MasterChef* champions will provide expert cooking demonstrations, while stars of *The Great British Bake Off* will

Did you know...

Southend-on-Sea is home to the world's longest pleasure pier, which extends 1.33 miles. Activities include day fishing, crazy golf and a special railway service taking visitors to the Pier Head, where you can stop at the café or a restaurant

share their tips on stage

during this three-day celebration of fine food. There will also be music from Blue, Toploader and an Abba tribute band, a Drinks Theatre, a chilli-eating contest, and much more besides.

➤ foodiesfestival.com/events/norwich-2

- On 9 September 2023, the **Street Eats 'n' Beats Festival** in Chelmsford's Central Park offers a brilliant combination of music, food and drink –

what more could you want? Street food and drink vendors will be there in plenty, as will DJs providing the beats.

➤ streeteatsnbeats.com

- If you're touring with your four-legged friends, why not take them along to Norfolk Showground for the dogtastic **All About Dogs (27-28 August)**? There'll be events and classes for your pet, as well as music, expert advice and a chance to shop at a selection of stands.

➤ allaboutdogs.show.co.uk/norfolk

Summer attractions

- **Dedham Vale AONB** lies on the border between Essex and Suffolk. The Stour winds its way through this beautiful setting, and you'll be able to see places made famous by 19th-century artist John Constable, such as Flatford Mill and Willy Lott's Cottage. ➤ dedhamvalestourvalley.org

- **Cambridge** has something for everyone. Take to the Cam and try your hand at punting, or visit the famed Fitzwilliam Museum and marvel at the art and artifacts. Then there's the splendid Mathematical Bridge, the Museum of Cambridge, and the historic colleges to explore. Don't forget to take a trip to the market, too! ➤ visitcambridge.org

- Take a step back in time and enjoy a relaxing journey on the **North Norfolk Railway**. Sit back for an 11-mile return trip on this heritage line that runs between Sheringham and Holt. The scenic route offers passengers a unique perspective on some of Norfolk's most beautiful coastline and countryside. ➤ nnrailway.co.uk



Explore Cambridge's great colleges or take a punt on the River Cam

Brilliant summer sites

Two Mills Touring Park

If you can't decide between the coast and the Broads, Two Mills could be the place to stay! This adults-only site makes a great base for exploring the area, including Great Yarmouth, Cromer and North Walsham.

Address Yarmouth Road, North Walsham NR28 9NA
➤ twomills.co.uk

Fen Farm Caravan Site

Set on pretty Mersea Island, Fen Farm is an ideal campsite for wildlife lovers, as well as a scenic spot for those who want some sea air. The site has a David Bellamy Gold Conservation Award and is near Cudmore Grove Country Park.

Address Moore Lane, East Mersea, Colchester CO5 8FE
➤ fenfarm.co.uk

Kelling Heath

Lying in 300 acres of woodland and heath in the Norfolk Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Kelling Heath is a picturesque setting for exploring the area. It opens a swimming pool in the peak season, as well as offering tennis courts and table tennis.

Address Weybourne, Holt NR25 7HW
➤ kellingheath.co.uk



HEART OF ENGLAND

CUT OUT
AND KEEP
GUIDE!



Head for the heartland to enjoy a huge choice of historic attractions, all set in a landscape of quintessentially English countryside

FULL OF HIDDEN gems, the Heart of England combines bucolic countryside with fascinating historical sites and charming market towns.

From the rolling greenery of the Shropshire Hills and the Cotswolds to the vibrant cities of Birmingham, Oxford and Cheltenham, there is simply no end of summer adventure to enjoy.

If you're in search of serenity, head to Herefordshire, where the scenic River Wye runs through pretty towns such as Hay and the splendid Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

History buffs, meanwhile, can explore the region's rich industrial past, with visits to Ironbridge, Coalbrookdale and the fascinating Black Country Living Museum.

Summer events

- **Shrewsbury Folk Festival**, running from 25-28 August 2023, offers beer tents full of local brews, live music, craft stalls, children's zones and family-friendly activities, making this iconic festival the perfect place for families, couples and solo caravanners. shrewsburyfolkfestival.co.uk

- On 12-16 August 2023, join **The Big Tree Climb** to enjoy a bird's eye view of Chatsworth House by climbing one of Stand Wood's trees. You'll be harnessed and accompanied



Did you know...

England's second biggest city, Birmingham, was once a tiny Saxon settlement. Now, it's a hub of food, history and culture. We have a Brummie to thank for the Balti, brainchild of a Pakistani restaurateur who worked in a local curry house

The lush scenery around the River Wye offers splendid walking

by an expert instructor, so this family-friendly activity is suitable for participants aged six years or more. chatsworth.org/events/big-tree-climb

- Head to the Cotswolds from 25-27 August 2023 to enjoy **The Big Feastival**, a bank holiday weekend event dedicated to foodies, offering street food, guest chefs, banquets and bars, as well as a great line-up of live music, entertainment and family activities. thebigfeestival.com

Summer attractions

- **Cannock Chase AONB**, in the West Midlands, is one of the region's hidden gems, renowned for scenic cycling trails and riverside walks.

It's also home to fabulous historic sites, including the National Trust's Shugborough Estate and Cannock Chase German Military Cemetery. cannock-chase.co.uk

- After a day exploring William the Conqueror's magnificent **Warwick Castle**, the whole family can spend the evening watching a theatrical retelling of the tale of Guy of Warwick, aka the Dragon Slayer.

Seated in the immersive courtyard area of the historic castle, you can enjoy seeing this medieval legend brought to life with live performance, spectacular pyrotechnics and brilliant light displays.

www.warwick-castle.com/explore/events/dragon-slayer

- Neighbouring the beautiful Batsford Park in the northern Cotswolds, the **Batsford Arboretum & Garden Centre** is simply bursting with colour and life during the summer months.

The dog-friendly site has an extensive garden centre, café, a children's trail and a play area, along with 56 glorious acres of splendid woodland, meadows and gardens.

batsarb.co.uk

Brilliant summer sites

Love2Stay

With an open-air swimming pool, activity centre, barefoot walk and much more, you might find yourselves reluctant to leave this campsite and explore your surroundings. But it's also just a stone's throw from the delightful town of Shrewsbury, so there's plenty to see when you do venture further afield.

love2stay.co.uk/locations/shrewsbury

Swiss Farm Touring & Camping

At this pleasant site in Oxfordshire, visitors can wander through landscaped grounds, swim in the onsite pool and relax in the bar and restaurant. The campsite is only a short walk away from Henley-on-Thames, and close to the splendid Chiltern Hills and the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

swissfarmcamping.co.uk

Croft Farm Water Park

This gorgeous lakeside park near Tewkesbury is perfect for summer watersports, such as paddleboarding, windsurfing and canoeing. Nature-lovers will also enjoy the site's location, near the Cotswolds and the Malvern Hills.

croftfarmwaterpark.com



SOUTH-EAST ENGLAND

Traditional seaside resorts, magnificent castles and charming villages make this the ideal region for family-friendly touring

ENGLAND'S SOUTH-EAST may not get all the accolades garnered by its south-western counterpart, but that doesn't mean you won't enjoy its lush countryside and wonderfully varied coastline.

The seaside towns of Kent have been resurgent in recent years, and the rolling hills of East and West Sussex will take some beating, while Brighton and Eastbourne are holiday hotspots with a huge dose of culture added for good measure. Destinations such as Arundel, with its stupendous castle (one of many in the area), and iconic Goodwood, offer unique experiences.

Summer events

- Visit **Eastbourne Festival** over the late summer bank holiday weekend of 26-28 August 2023 to enjoy a fabulous celebration of family, food, music and culture.

Here, you'll be able to see everything from street artists and live music to a funfair

At Goodwood Revival, fans of all ages can celebrate classic cars

Did you know...

Legend has it that Kent's reputation for the finest orchards in the country came about when Henry VIII ate a bowl of cherries from the county. He was so delighted, he announced that it was "surely the Garden of England"

and a street food court, offering dishes from all over the world.

➤ visiteastbourne.com

- From 8-10 September 2023, **Goodwood Revival** brings West Sussex alive with the unmistakable sound of classic and performance engines! See hundreds of classic and vintage cars and motorcycles, all in concours condition, plus lots of exciting track action.

➤ goodwood.com/motor-sport/goodwood-revival

- The delightful north Kent coastal town of Whitstable has much to offer visitors, especially lovers of seafood.

If you're there for 16-18 September 2023, don't miss the wonderful **Whitstable Rocks Oyster Festival**, when the town celebrates its most famous speciality. Activities on and around the East Quay Venue and Long Beach will include live music and food stalls – plus mud-tugging, grottering and shucking!

➤ whitstablerocks-oysterfestival.com

Summer attractions

- The historic **Bluebell Railway** runs through sensational Sussex countryside between stations at Sheffield Park and East Grinstead. The line owns some of the country's finest restored locomotives and carriages. Dining is available on selected services, including Afternoon Tea, Supper Special and Rail Ale journeys.

➤ bluebell-railway.com

- **Arundel Castle** dates back to 1067, and its keep, gatehouse and barbican all remain in remarkable condition. Both the interior and the exterior are beautifully maintained, and the owners offer a lively schedule of events, including jousting competitions, history days and open-air theatre.

➤ arundelcastle.org

- You'll see at first glance why **Canterbury Cathedral** is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Shaped by history, the city also offers an abundance of attractions for a great day out. The area around the mighty cathedral retains its elegant beauty, and visitors can punt on the River Stour.

➤ canterbury.co.uk

Brilliant summer sites

Concierge Camping

There's a reason Concierge Camping invariably scores 10/10 in reviews, and that's because the owners ensure all is perfect. Set in peaceful West Sussex, it is handy for Goodwood, Arundel, the coast, and the Portsmouth ferries.

Address The Ratham Estate, Ratham Lane, Chichester PO18 8DL
➤ conciergecamping.co.uk

Horam Manor Touring Park

This family-run site offers 100 neat pitches, 365 days a year. Located near Heathfield, it is ideal for visiting the coast, Hastings and Eastbourne, or heading inland for castles and steam railways in East Sussex and Kent.

Address Horam, Heathfield, East Sussex TN21 0YD
➤ sellersleisure.com

Sunnyside Farm

This small, 10-pitch site is as pleasant and bucolic as it sounds. It's also super serene, thanks to its adult-only status. Sunnyside is ideally located to explore Kent or to visit beautiful Canterbury and its magnificent cathedral.

Address Shalmsford Road, Chilham, Canterbury, Kent CT4 8BS
➤ sunnysidefarm.webs.com



SOMERSET, AVON & WILTS

CUT OUT
AND KEEP
GUIDE!



Head for this eclectic region to enjoy spectacular landscapes, elegant cities and some of the country's finest cultural attractions

CENTRED ON BRISTOL and Bath, this region is one that many people seem to speed through on their way south to Devon or Cornwall. But that's a shame, because there are plenty of reasons to stop and sample what this lively part of the world has to offer visitors.

Historic Bath is a great place to start, with its Roman history, amazing architecture, great shops and lively cultural vibe.

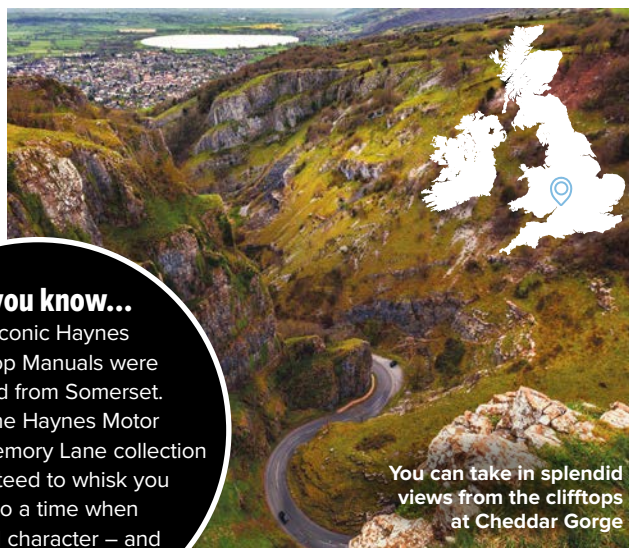
If nature's your thing, head down to the Mendip Hills AONB and check out the natural splendours of Cheddar Gorge. The vast limestone ravine is unmissable, but consider leaving the tourist area at the foot of the valley behind and hiking up to the top of the gorge for sensational views.

Summer events

- The **Bristol Balloon Fiesta** attracts dozens of colourful hot-air balloons for four days of family fun, flights and photos from 10 August 2023. It's at Ashton Court (BS41 9JN) and the highlight has to be the Night Glows, at 9pm on Thursday and Saturday. bristolballoonfiesta.co.uk

- A Lego extravaganza called **Bricking It!** is guaranteed to keep the children happy on 10 August 2023.

This celebration of the iconic building bricks will be running from 10am at The Pound Arts Centre in Corsham, Wiltshire



Did you know...

The iconic Haynes Workshop Manuals were published from Somerset. Today, the Haynes Motor Museum's Memory Lane collection is guaranteed to whisk you back to a time when cars had character – and broke down a lot!

You can take in splendid views from the clifftops at Cheddar Gorge

(SN13 9HX). Entry to the event costs £2 per child, and there's no charge for adults. poundarts.org.uk/take-part/bricking-it-2

- The **Jane Austen Festival** in Bath, from 8-17 September 2023, is an immersive Regency experience, celebrating the famed author. Some 500 fans in period dress take part in the Grand Regency Costumed Promenade, strolling past many Bath landmarks. There are also guided walks, recitals, concerts, workshops and more. janeausten.co.uk

Summer attractions

- The heritage **West Somerset Railway** offers steam or diesel trips from Bishops Lydeard Station (TA4 3RU) to the coast and the charming resort of Minehead. It's a relaxing way to spend a day, and you can hop off at any station, then rejoin a later service. west-somerset-railway.co.uk

- The jaw-dropping landscape that is **Cheddar Gorge** is a must-see. This 450ft-deep crevasse, carved into the soft limestone of Somerset, is a unique natural wonder.

You can drive up the gorge (even towing a caravan) or go on foot along the top of the cliffs. There's a special observation platform, where you can enjoy exquisite views across the Cheddar Reservoir and out to the sea. cheddargorge.co.uk

- **Langford Lakes**, not far from the ancient cathedral city of Salisbury in Wiltshire (SP3 4NH), offers a supremely tranquil spot to enjoy some birdwatching, go for a walk or simply grab some quality downtime. Three gorgeous lakes, rolling meadowland and the serenely beautiful River Wylde are home to grebe, geese, pochard and other ducks, and there are hides to view them from. wiltshirewildlife.org

Brilliant summer sites

Cheddar Mendip Heights C&CC Site

Set in the heart of the beautiful Mendip Hills, this lovely campsite is close to the top of Cheddar Gorge, and an ideal base for exploring the area. A short walk away is the Priddy Good Food farm shop, perfect for buying locally grown produce for the barbecue.

Address Townsend, Somerset BA5 3BP
▶ campingandcaravanningclub.co.uk

Tuckers Grave Inn & Campsite

This site has some 30 pitches in 10 acres of flat fields, near the pretty village of Faulkland. The spacious grass pitches have electric hook-up and views of the countryside.

Dogs on leads are welcome, and there's a rare bar-less pub on site!

Address Faulkland, Radstock, Bath BA3 5XF
▶ tuckersgraveinn.co.uk

White Hill Farm Caravan Park

Just 15 minutes from Salisbury, this charming site has 22 grass pitches with electricity, served by a toilet and shower block. Wi-Fi is available, and two dogs are allowed per van.

Address Pitton, Wiltshire SP5 1DY
▶ whitehillfarmcaravanpark.co.uk



DORSET



Whether your preference is to explore beautiful beaches, wander in wonderful countryside, or visit historic buildings, you'll be spoilt for choice in this glorious region

DELIGHTFUL DORSET has so much to offer caravanners, from its pretty county town, Dorchester, to the seaside treasures of Weymouth, Poole, Christchurch and Bournemouth, and its incredible Jurassic Coast, now a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Further inland, the area is a gently undulating patchwork of fields, and home to the Cerne Abbas giant, the magnificent Kingston Lacy country estate and stunning Highcliffe Castle. Dorset may be rather 'out-touristed' by Devon and Cornwall, but for most of us, it's appreciably nearer, so a shorter tow, and has just as much to shout about. That includes many sensational campsites and loads to do for children and adults.

Summer events

- Fascinating **Guided Coast Walks** by Jurassic Coast Trust ambassador, Vincent Sheppard, cost just £5.

The limestone arch at Durdle Door is a must-see



Did you know...

Dorset was the British epicentre of the D-Day invasion in 1944. Thousands of troops passed through the county over those historic days in June, while the vital Mulberry harbours crossed the Channel from Portland

You can join Vince at 10am

on 3 September 2023, at Martin's Restaurant, Highlands End Holiday Park (DT6 6AR). He'll entertain you for two hours with enthralling stories about the region's long history and iconic geology.

➤ shop.jurassiccoast.org/products/guided-coast-walks-from-highlands-end

- The **Dorset Chilli Festival** is filled with tonsil-torching chilli-eating contests, live music, great artisan food

and crafts, falconry, cooking demonstrations and children's entertainment. Everything you need for a fun family day out! On 5 and 6 August 2023, buy extra milk and head to Stock Gaylard House (DT10 2BG).

➤ greatdorsetchillifestival.co.uk

- From 31 August-3 September 2023, **Bournemouth Air Festival** features flypasts and aerobatic displays by incredible aircraft. For a great view, park at Avenue Rd Car Park (BH2 5SL) and head for the pier.

➤ bournemouthair.co.uk

Summer attractions

- The gorgeous beach and the dramatic limestone sea-arch at **Durdle Door** (BH20 5PU) make a fabulous destination for a day's fun or relaxation. The walk down to the cove is a little strenuous, so not really suitable for those with mobility challenges. However, the views along this section of coast to Lulworth Cove are some of the best in Britain.

➤ lulworth.com

- Grade I listed **Highcliffe Castle** (BH23 4LE) is a grand stately home in the Romantic and Picturesque architectural styles. As well as the house, there are 14 acres of beautiful grounds to explore, with many superb viewpoints and plenty of pleasant picnic spots.

➤ highcliffecastle.co.uk

- There are few better ways to spend a couple of hours than in **Carey's Secret Garden**, Wareham (BH20 7PG). These 3.5 acres of stunning walled garden were lost to the world for 40 years, before being uncovered and revived. It is simply sensational, so check the web for times and tickets.

➤ careyssecretgarden.co.uk

Brilliant summer sites

Durdle Door Holiday Park

This premium campsite has one of the most enviable locations of any site in Europe, lying just behind the cliffs

above Durdle Door. Pitches are spacious and level. The beach is a five-minute walk away, and there's a pub, restaurant, shop and excellent washroom facilities.

Address West Lulworth BH20 5PU

➤ durdledoor.co.uk

Riverside Lakes

This rural site makes a perfect location for getting away from it all. It has 75 pitches, a river, lots of animals in residence (from alpacas to ducklings), and a natural, uncommercial ambience.

Firepits are available, so bring along your marshmallows and skewers!

Address Slough Lane, Horton BH21 7JL

➤ riversidelakes.co.uk

Downshay Farm Tourers & Tents

Choose from 12 pitches across three terraced levels, all with hook-up and wonderful views of Corfe Castle and the Purbeck Hills. Open from 31 March to 1 November, it welcomes dogs on leads.

Address Haycrafts Lane, Swanage, Dorset BH19 3EB

➤ downshayfarm.co.uk



CUT OUT
AND KEEP
GUIDE!



DEVON



It's easy to see why a region that is home to a host of stunning beaches, two iconic national parks and a famously delicious cream tea is such a hugely popular touring destination

ANYONE WHO IS keen to take to the waves will love a trip to Woolacombe or Croyde, two top-rated surfing beaches on the northern coast of this beautiful part of the world.

Alternatively, if you prefer to relax on the sands or paddle in the shallows, you could head to South Devon and explore the 22 miles of breathtaking coastline that make up the splendid English Riviera. Then, for a change of scene, take a trip inland to discover Exmoor and Dartmoor, and enjoy soaking up the beauty of these two exceptional national parks.

Summer events

- Fans of all things steam-driven should head to Brixham, South Devon, for the **Torbay Steam Fair** (4-6 August 2023), a celebration of the Age of Steam, which will also have vintage cars, military vehicles, motorbikes and more on display. This family-friendly event provides entertainment for the children, alongside lots of market stalls and a selection of refreshments.
➤ torbaysteamfair.co.uk

- For something that's a little bit different, visit the **British Firework Championships** (16-17 August 2023) in Plymouth. This spectacular two-night event includes six 10-minute displays from the competitors, as well as a feast of live music and a funfair on the Hoe.
➤ britishfireworks.co.uk



The Lynton & Lynmouth Cliff Railway links the towns with 862ft of track

Did you know...

Devon is home to many picturesque sights, including England's newest castle! Castle Drogo was commissioned by millionaire businessman Julius Drewe and designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens, with work taking place between 1911 and 1931

- **Dartmouth Royal Regatta**, from 23-26 August 2023, is a lively affair, featuring a raft race, steamboat rally, live music, and even a fire walk. If you're there for the Saturday, don't miss the Coronation River Parade, a splendid combination of both old and new craft.
➤ dartmouthregatta.co.uk

Summer attractions

- If you're looking for some great walking, fresh sea air and truly beautiful views, the **South West Coast Path** is sure to deliver. The route extends for 630 miles, covering Dorset, Somerset and Cornwall, as well as the north and south coasts of Devon. Take a packed lunch and explore a stretch of the trail for a budget-friendly experience, while soaking up the beauty of the natural world.
➤ nationaltrail.co.uk/en_GB/trails/south-west-coast-path

- If you're visiting the charming resort of Ilfracombe, it's well worth setting aside some time to see the famous **Tunnels Beaches**. Dating back to the 1820s, these four hand-carved tunnels lead you to beautiful sheltered beaches, a Victorian tidal bathing pool and a café. Do bear in mind, though, that weddings are regularly held at the 'Gentlemen's beach', so it is often closed to the public.
➤ tunnelsbeaches.co.uk

- Take a ride on the famous **Lynton & Lynmouth Cliff Railway**, the UK's only fully water-powered cliff railway, where you can experience the 862ft of steep track and 500ft of elevation. Opened in 1890, the Grade II listed railway line links Lynton and Lynmouth, providing some absolutely stunning views in the process.
➤ cliffrailwaylynton.co.uk

Brilliant summer sites

Smytham Holiday Park

This family-friendly site is perfect for heading to Dartmoor and offers direct access to the wonderful Tarka Trail. The site, not far from the market town of Great Torrington, provides guests with a volleyball/badminton court, as well as a heated swimming pool in the high season.
Address Little Torrington EX38 8PU
➤ smytham.co.uk

Hallsdown Farm Touring Park

This adults-only site makes a peaceful setting for exploring the South West Coast Path, Exmoor National Park and the North Devon coast. Dogs aren't allowed, with the emphasis on a tranquil and relaxing setting.
Address Arlington, Barnstaple EX31 4SW
➤ hallsdownfarm.co.uk

Ladram Bay Holiday Park

With a pool, a private beach, adventure golf, a play area, a restaurant and regular evening entertainment, Ladram Bay offers plenty to do, all against a backdrop of glorious views. It's well placed for exploring throughout Devon, too!
Address Budleigh Salterton EX9 7BX
➤ ladrambay.co.uk



CORNWALL



Steeped in myth and mystery, Cornwall is a place of legendary history, stunning coast and countryside, and a multitude of wonderful attractions to explore

THE PICTURE-PERFECT coastlines and beaches offer plenty of super seaside walks, with breathtaking scenery for company. There are also loads of opportunities for excellent surfing, with iconic Newquay remaining a particularly popular place for getting out on the water.

A visit to the ruins of Tintagel will allow you to immerse yourself in the great Arthurian legends, while the numerous fishing villages and coves offer visitors a spectacular reminder of Cornwall's fine maritime heritage.

For a more mysterious experience, how about a visit to picturesque, atmospheric Bodmin Moor? Just keep your eyes peeled for any beasts!

Summer events

• What better way to say fond farewells to a brilliant 2023 touring season than heading to the UK's surf capital, to enjoy excellent beer and great music at the **Newquay Beer Festival**? Running from 22-24

Did you know...

When work started on Truro Cathedral in 1880, it was the first time since 1220 that an Anglican cathedral had been built on a new site. It's also one of only three cathedrals in the whole of the UK to boast a trio of splendid spires



Jamaica Inn, made famous by author Daphne du Maurier

September, it offers a wide

variety of bands and artists to enjoy, along with a choice of local ales and ciders to try.

➤ newquaybeerfestival.co.uk

• There will be plenty to do all day and into the evening at **Falmouth Week**, from 4-12 August 2023. Highlights of this lively event include a marching carnival, a superb Victorian carousel, a Craig Charles Funk & Soul Night, and an 80s-00s Extravaganza.

➤ falmouthweek.co.uk

• With a packed programme of races, a traditional carnival, a classic car show and parade, live music and a pasty-eating competition, **Fowey Royal Regatta** (13-19 August 2023) is bound to have something for everyone to enjoy.

➤ foweyregatta.co.uk

Summer attractions

• The wonderful **Monkey Sanctuary** in Looe (PL13 1NZ) is a rescue centre for primates. During your visit, there will be a chance to see some of the residents, as well

as finding out about the day-to-day work that goes into looking after these wonderful animals. For children, there is the Wild Play Area, while the gardens help visitors to discover the array of plants, insects, birds, mammals and amphibians that make their home within the sanctuary's nine-acre site.

➤ monkeysanctuary.org

• Nowadays, we take being able to connect with anyone in the world for granted, but how did this actually come about? **PK Porthcurno, the Museum of Global Communications** tells the story. Visitors can also venture into a World War II bunker, which housed the Porthcurno Telegraph Station during the long conflict.

➤ pkporthcurno.com

• No tour to Cornwall would be complete without a trip to **Jamaica Inn**! The hostelry made famous by Daphne du Maurier lets you delve into the area's murky smuggling past. For something a bit different, you could time your visit to coincide with the monthly Ghost Hunt.

➤ jamaicainn.co.uk

Brilliant summer sites

Eden Valley Holiday Park

This campsite in central Cornwall makes a peaceful base for exploring some of the many local highlights. Attractions include the Eden Project, Bodmin Moor and the South West Coast Path, while Fowey and Lostwithiel are both located in the nearby area.

Address Lanlivery, Bodmin PL30 5BU

➤ edenvalleyholidaypark.co.uk

Tregarton Park

This family-friendly site is a great choice if you want to relax by the sea, with Porthluney Cove and Vault Beach close by. Other popular destinations are Polperro, Fowey and the Lost Gardens of Heligan. Site facilities include a swimming pool and a tennis court.

Address St Austell PL26 6NF

➤ tregarton.co.uk

Trewan Hall

Situated in the grounds of 17th-century Trewan Hall, this picturesque site is set over 36 acres between Padstow and Newquay. During the high season, the 25m heated swimming pool is open for guests. St Columb Major, a pretty market town, is within walking distance.

Address St Columb TR9 6DB

➤ trewan-hall.co.uk



CUT OUT
AND KEEP
GUIDE!



ENJOY THE JOURNEY

Travel smarter and you'll all enjoy the trip! Here are our top tips for making the most of your towing journey



Double-check you're safely hitched up

Before you hit the road, it's important to perform a few basic safety checks. The hitch should be securely attached to the towball.

On the Al-Ko chassis used in most UK caravans, you will see a green button, but it is worth winding the jockey wheel down a little, to show that the back of the tow car will lift with the hitch.

The breakaway cable (which applies the caravan's brakes if it becomes detached) should be attached correctly, the jockey wheel should be raised and secured tightly in place, and the stabiliser bar (if fitted) needs to be lowered.

The electrics should be plugged into the tow car's socket and the caravan's handbrake should be off (after checking that the car's parking brake is on).

Always fit towing mirrors to your vehicle, so you can see down the sides of the caravan.

Stick to speed limits

Everybody knows that the speed limit is 70mph on the motorway, right? But not when you're towing a tourer. Caravan speed limits are different – you shouldn't be going over 60mph while towing, and if the weather turns bad, it might be sensible to go slower than the limit.

On a dual carriageway with a limit of 70mph, 60mph is the maximum for a car and caravan. On a single carriageway with a 60mph limit, the maximum is 50mph. On other roads with a 50mph, 40mph, 30mph or 20mph maximum, the limit is the same, whether or not you are towing a caravan.

Keeping the kids entertained

If you're touring with children, journeys of 150-200 miles are long enough for impatient youngsters. Much more than that and nerves will begin to fray, and your first day or so

away will be spent unwinding from the stressful drive.

For longer journeys, it's worth splitting the driving in two, with an overnight stop at a good campsite. Or getting up very early and beating the worst of the traffic while the children are snoozing in the back of the car.

Take your time on the road

Remember the key fact, that you're on holiday! Why hurry? Give yourself plenty of time to complete your trip in as relaxed a way as possible, and allow for regular breaks every couple of hours, so that you stay alert.

Choose a good sat-nav

A quality sat-nav will make your journeys to campsites a much more straightforward part of the tour. The best caravan sat-navs come packed with useful features that help to create a stress-free journey, allowing you to input the size and weight of your tourer so you don't end up driving on unnecessarily narrow roads.

Modern sat-navs do more than get you from A to B, with functions ranging from built-in dash cams to weather updates, and helping you avoid traffic jams. A good sat-nav can make the difference between a stress-free trip and a stressful one.



FROM TOP Keep the kids happy by breaking long trips; always fit towing mirrors; take plenty of time when towing for stress-free travel

GARMIN®

PLAN TO MAKE MEMORIES

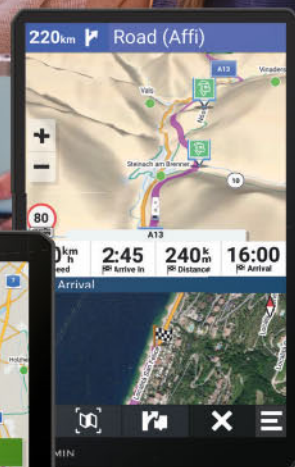


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BIRDSEYE
SATELLITE IMAGERY

¹Not available in all areas. Entering your motorhome or caravan profile characteristics does not guarantee your motorhome's characteristics will be accounted for in all route suggestions. Always defer to all posted road signs and road conditions.