

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.

World Heritage Sites are special places for all to visit, explore and enjoy.

There are over 1250 World Heritage Sites in 170 countries worldwide and these include a wide variety of very significant historic features and monuments of all ages, exceptional landscapes and townscape, and valuable ecosystems and natural phenomena. In many cases the Sites form part of living, working places, where the balance of conservation and every day activities and land uses, is the key to their future protection and sustainability.

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

- ◆ **Do your research & plan!**
- ◆ Some WHSs 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 can get discounts as can groups of 10 or more and for many journeys, you can add a Plus Bus ticket plusbus.info. On some routes, you may be able to get discounts for two people travelling together and in other areas, where there are 3–9 passengers.
- ◆ Rail tickets should be purchased before boarding a train, either paper or on your mobile device.
- ◆ Stay safe! Make sure you know which platform your train leaves from, stay alert to announcements...and no shortcuts across the tracks!

WORLD HERITAGE SITES & SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL

In the UK, transport is the largest emitting sector of greenhouse gases at around 27% of domestic emissions. However, rail accounts for 1% of domestic transport.

Using rail travel rather than the car can make a big environmental impact. Have a look at the difference in carbon emissions for a journey by car and train at

<https://tinyurl.com/pm348nt7>

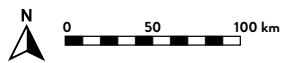


We hope you will explore some of the World Heritage Sites using rail and public transport.

During the pilot project of Hadrian's Wall Youth Ambassadors, young people explored UNESCO's sustainable development goals. Being based in the fragile environment of the Hadrian's Wall corridor, the young people fully supported UNESCO's desire that, where possible, transport to and within a WHS should be sustainable. They asked, 'Why can't we have a leaflet, a map, to point to the WHS's easily accessible by rail?'

From their aspiration, Tyne Valley Community Rail Partnership supported this project originally to demonstrate rail travel opportunities to World Heritage Sites and to encourage sustainable visits. This second edition now includes the UK's most recently inscribed World Heritage Sites, and was made possible with support from rail partners of the Flow Country.





WORLD HERITAGE SITES BY RAIL

KEY TO SITE TYPE

- Cultural
- Natural
- Mixed

This leaflet encouraging you to explore World Heritage Sites sustainably by rail has been supported by:



Further Information:

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



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



World Heritage Sites are recognised by UNESCO (The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation) as places of international significance 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



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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/railmap61.pdf

- 1 BLAENAVON INDUSTRIAL LANDSCAPE, Wales
- 2 BLENHEIM PALACE, Oxford
- 3 CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL AND RELATED SITES, Kent
- 4 GWYNEDD CASTLES AND TOWN WALLS OF KING EDWARD, Wales
- 5 CITY OF BATH, South West England
- 6 MINING LANDSCAPE OF CORNWALL AND WEST DEVON, South West England
- 7 DERWENT VALLEY MILLS, Central England
- 8 DORSET AND EAST DEVON COAST, South West England
- 9 DURHAM CASTLE AND CATHEDRAL, Northern England
- 10 THE ENGLISH LAKE DISTRICT, North West England
- 11 THE FLOW COUNTRY, Scotland
- 12 THE FORTH BRIDGE, Scotland
- 13 FRONTIERS OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE, Northern England; Scotland
- 14 GIANT'S CAUSEWAY, Northern Ireland
- 15 HEART OF NEOLITHIC ORKNEY, Scotland
- 16 IRONBRIDGE GORGE, Central West England
- 17 JODRELL BANK OBSERVATORY, Central West England
- 18 MARITIME GREENWICH, London
- 19 MORAVIAN CHURCH SETTLEMENTS GRACEHILL, Northern Ireland
- 20 NEW LANARK, Scotland
- 21 OLD AND NEW TOWNS OF EDINBURGH, Scotland
- 22 PALACE OF WESTMINSTER AND RELATED SITES, London
- 23 PONTCYSYLLE AQUEDUCT AND CANAL, North East Wales
- 24 ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS, KEW, London
- 25 ST KILDA, Hebrides, Scotland
- 26 SALTIRE, West Yorkshire
- 27 THE SLATE LANDSCAPE OF NORTHWEST WALES
- 28 STONEHENGE, AVEBURY AND ASSOCIATED SITES, Southern England
- 29 STUDLEY ROYAL PARK AND THE RUINS OF FOUNTAINS ABBEY, Yorkshire
- 30 TOWER OF LONDON

Data researched to July 2026.

TRAVEL UK WORLD HERITAGE SITES BY RAIL

01.  BLAENAVON INDUSTRIAL LANDSCAPE, Wales 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. Nearest Station: Abergavenny Journey time: From Newcastle: 6 Hours From Glasgow: 5 Hours ♦ visitblaenavon.co.uk ♦ bit.ly/unescoblaenavon	02.   BLenheim PALACE, Oxford 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. Nearest Station: Oxford Journey time: From Newcastle: 5 Hours From Glasgow: 7 Hours ♦ blenheimpalace.com ♦ bit.ly/unescoblenheim	03.  CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL AND RELATED SITES, Kent 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. Nearest Station: Canterbury Journey time: From Newcastle: 5 Hours From Glasgow: 7 Hours ♦ https://tinyurl.com/47xn6vjp ♦ bit.ly/unescocanterbury
04.   GWYNEDD CASTLES AND TOWN WALLS OF KING EDWARD, Wales Examples of the colonisation and defence works carried out in Wales between 1272 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 site sits on a National Cycle Route. Nearest Station: Bangor Journey time: From Newcastle: 6 Hours From Glasgow: 5 Hours ♦ bit.ly/gwyneddcastles ♦ bit.ly/unescogwynedd	05.    CITY OF BATH, South West England A well-preserved Roman Bath survives at Britain's only hot springs. The city was redeveloped in the C18th. Bath is a double World Heritage Site and the UK component Site of The Great Spa Towns of Europe WHS. It is on Route 4 of the National Cycle Network & the Roman Baths can easily be accessed by bus, foot or cycle from Bath Station. Nearest Station: Bath Spa Journey time: From Newcastle: 5.5 Hours From Glasgow: 7 Hours ♦ bathworldheritage.org.uk ♦ bit.ly/unescobath	06.  MINING LANDSCAPE OF CORNWALL & WEST DEVON, South West England UK's largest industrial WHS covers >20,000ha showing rapid growth of C18th & 19th copper & tin mining. Access the Site heart via the Tamar Valley Line; the Western Gateway via train to Penzance then Tin Coaster bus to St Just, Tin Coast & Geevor Tin Mine; & the Eastern Gateway via train to Plymouth then bus to Tavistock Guildhall & Information Centre. Nearest Station: Penzance/Plymouth Journey Time: From Newcastle: 9 Hours/12 Hours From Glasgow: 12 Hours/9 Hours ♦ cornishmining.org.uk ♦ bit.ly/unescomining

KEY TO SYMBOLS

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07. DERWENT VALLEY MILLS, Central England 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. Nearest Stations: Derby, Belper, Cromford and Matlock Bath Journey time: From Newcastle: 3 Hours From Glasgow: 5 Hours ♦ derwentvalleymills.org ♦ bit.ly/unescoderwent	08. DORSET AND EAST DEVON COAST, South West England 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 coastline and related sites from Weymouth, Axminster, and Poole with connecting bus services from First Bus Wessex. Nearest Station: Weymouth Journey time: From Newcastle: 7 Hours From Glasgow: 9 Hours ♦ jurassiccoast.org ♦ bit.ly/unescodorset	09. DURHAM CASTLE AND CATHEDRAL, Northern England 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. Nearest Station: Durham Journey time: From Newcastle: 10 Mins From Glasgow: 3 Hours ♦ bit.ly/durhamwhs ♦ bit.ly/unescodurham
10. THE ENGLISH LAKE DISTRICT, North West England The harmony and drama of this extensive, and self-contained, mountainous Lakeland landscape inspired many 18th Century painters and writers of the Romantic movement. Most notably William Wordsworth. The Lakes are accessible by train with several local bus services or cycle routes. Regular trains operate from Oxenholme Lake District to Windermere. Journey times to Oxenholme Lake District/Penrith North Lakes: From Newcastle: 2.5/2 Hours From Glasgow: 2/1.5 Hours ♦ lakesworldheritage.co.uk ♦ bit.ly/unescolakes	11. THE FLOW COUNTRY, Scotland A vast expanse of peatland stretching across Caithness and Sutherland, the Flow Country is the most extensive blanket bog landscape in the world. The picturesque Far North Line, provides stops at Forsinard to visit the RSPB Forsinard Flows Visitor Centre and iconic viewing tower, or Kildonan, Kinbrace or Altnabreac to explore the variety of local walking and cycling routes. Alternatively, relax in the coastal gateway towns of Golspie, Brora, Helmsdale and Thurso. Journey time to Forsinard: From Newcastle: 9 Hours From Glasgow: 7 Hours ♦ theflowcountry.org.uk ♦ bit.ly/unescoflow	12. THE FORTH BRIDGE, Scotland 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. The bridge itself is for rail traffic only. Nearest Station: North Queensferry Station/Dalmeny Journey time: From Newcastle: 2.5/2 Hours From Glasgow: 1 Hour ♦ theforthbridges.org ♦ bit.ly/unescoforth

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13.  FRONTIERS OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE, Northern England; Scotland Hadrian's Wall (built c.AD122) is 118km long and stretches from East to West across Northern England. The Antonine Wall/earthworks (started in AD142) is 60km in length and stretches from Bo'ness to Old Kilpatrick. Both are accessible by foot and by bike. To access Hadrian's Wall use Haltwhistle, Carlisle, Maryport and Newcastle stations. To access the Antonine Wall use Kilpatrick, Bearsden and Falkirk. ♦ hadrianswallcountry.co.uk ♦ antoninewall.org ♦ bit.ly/unescofrontiers	14.  GIANT'S CAUSEWAY, Northern Ireland On the Antrim coast sits an area of geological importance. Its most characteristic feature is the exposure of 40,000 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 Trail. Ferries run from Cairnryan or Liverpool to Belfast port. Nearest Station: Portrush Journey time: From Belfast Station: 1.5 Hours ♦ bit.ly/ntgiants ♦ bit.ly/unescogiants	15.  HEART OF NEOLITHIC ORKNEY, Scotland 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. Nearest Station: Thurso Journey time: From Newcastle: 9.5 Hours From Glasgow: 8 Hours ♦ bit.ly/hsorkney ♦ bit.ly/unescoorkney
16. IRONBRIDGE GORGE, Central West England 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. Journey time to Telford Station: From Newcastle: 4 Hours From Glasgow: 5 Hours It's Quicker by Rail! ♦ ironbridgegorgewhs.co.uk ♦ bit.ly/unescoironbridge	17.  JODRELL BANK OBSERVATORY, Central West England 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 Goostrey from where travel either by bike or arranged taxi. Nearest Station: Goostrey Journey time: From Newcastle: 3 Hours 45 Mins From Glasgow: 4.5 Hours ♦ jodrellbank.net ♦ bit.ly/unescojodrell	18.  MARITIME GREENWICH, London 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. Nearest Station: Greenwich or Cutty Sark Journey time to London Kings Cross: From Newcastle: 3 Hours From Glasgow: 5 Hours ♦ greenwichworldheritage.org ♦ bit.ly/unescogreenwich

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19.  NEW LANARK, Scotland 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. Nearest Station: Lanark Journey time to Lanark via Glasgow Central: From Glasgow Central: 1 Hour From Newcastle: 4 Hours ♦ bit.ly/newlanarkscotwhs ♦ bit.ly/unescosnewlanark	20.  MORAVIAN CHURCH SETTLEMENTS GRACEHILL, Northern Ireland and 3 other towns in three more countries Moravian Church Settlements includes Gracehill (N. Ireland), Bethlehem (USA), Herrnhut (Germany) and Christiansfeld (Denmark). They represent early town planning with values of education, equality, industry, tolerance and spirituality. Getting to Gracehill from Belfast, take a northbound train to Ballymena and then take the 127 Translink bus towards Ahoghill and get off at Gracehill. Journey time to Gracehill: From Belfast: 1.5 Hours ♦ gracehillvillage.org ♦ bit.ly/unescomoravian	21.   OLD AND NEW TOWNS OF EDINBURGH, Scotland The Scottish Capital since the 15th Century, the medieval fortress of the Old Town sits 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. Nearest Station: Edinburgh Waverley Journey time: From Newcastle: 1.5 Hours From Glasgow: 1 Hour ♦ bit.ly/hsedinburghwhs ♦ bit.ly/unescoedinburgh
22.  PALACE OF WESTMINSTER AND RELATED SITES, London 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. Nearest Station: Westminster Journey time to London Kings Cross: From Newcastle: 3 Hours From Glasgow: 5 Hours ♦ westminster-abbey.org ♦ bit.ly/unescowestminster	23.  PONTCYSYLTE AQUEDUCT AND CANAL, North East Wales 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 are at Chirk and Ruabon. From here use local bus services or explore any station along the Llangollen Heritage Railway. Nearest Station: Ruabon Journey time: From Newcastle: 5 Hours From Glasgow: 4 Hours ♦ pontcysyllte-aqueduct.co.uk ♦ bit.ly/unescopontcysyllte	24.   ROYAL BOTANIC GARDENS, KEW, London Since their inception in 1759 the landscape gardens at Kew have made significant global contributions to the study of botany and plant diversity. Just 30 minutes from Central London, the gardens are accessible from any National Rail Network Station with connecting bus services, overground train services to Kew Bridge station or Richmond station and by tube services on the District Line. Nearest Station: Kew Gardens Station Journey time to London Kings Cross: From Newcastle: 3 Hours From Glasgow: 4 Hours ♦ bit.ly/kewwhs ♦ bit.ly/unescokew

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25.  ST KILDA, Hebrides, Scotland 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 bear evidence of 2000 years of human history. Access the islands from Skye by boat trips during the tourist season. Skye is accessible by bus using Coach services from Glasgow to Portree and Uig then local bus services, as well as by bike and foot. Journey time to Portree using coach: From Glasgow: 6 Hours From Newcastle: 9.5 Hours (via Glasgow): ♦ nts.org.uk/visit/places/st-kilda ♦ bit.ly/unescokilda	26.  SALTAIRE, West Yorkshire 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, Saltaire Village is accessible by bike and foot along the Leeds and Liverpool Canal path or direct by train. Nearest Station: Saltaire Journey time: From Newcastle: 2 Hours From Glasgow: 4 Hours ♦ bit.ly/saltairerwhs ♦ bit.ly/unescosaltaire	27.  THE SLATE LANDSCAPE OF NORTHWEST WALES 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 exported 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. Nearest Station: Blaenau Ffestiniog Journey time: From Newcastle: 7 Hours From Glasgow: 7 Hours ♦ llechi.cymru ♦ bit.ly/unescoslate
28.  STONEHENGE, AVEBURY AND ASSOCIATED SITES, Southern England Together with associated monuments, the stone circles at Stonehenge and 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. Nearest Station: Salisbury/Swindon Journey time: From Newcastle: 6/5 Hours From Glasgow: 7 Hours ♦ bit.ly/stonehengewhs ♦ bit.ly/unescostonehenge	29.  STUDLEY ROYAL PARK AND THE RUINS OF FOUNTAINS ABBEY, Yorkshire The elegant 18th Century water gardens incorporate the ruins of Fountains Abbey. Both share the landscape with a deer park. Alight at Harrogate to travel to Ripon by bus where a shuttle bus runs to the park. Bus: 139 from Ripon (Mon, Thu & Sat); Summer Suns & BHs: DalesBus 820 from Bradford, Otley, Pateley Bridge & Ripon; DalesBus 822 from Pocklington, York, Ripon, Pateley Bridge & Grassington; DalesBus 825 from York, Knaresborough & Harrogate Nearest Station: Harrogate, then bus 36 from Harrogate to Ripon ♦ bit.ly/ntstudleywhs ♦ bit.ly/unescostudley	30.  TOWER OF LONDON 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, underground train services to Tower Hill by the District and Circle Lines. Nearest Tube Station: Tower Hill Journey time to London Kings Cross: From Newcastle: 3 Hours From Glasgow: 4 Hours ♦ bit.ly/toweroflondonwhs ♦ bit.ly/unescotoweroflondon

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FURTHER INFORMATION

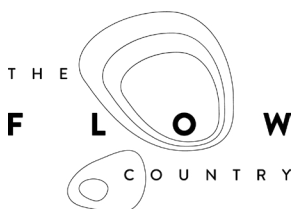
To start planning your journey, find out about rail times and fares here:

NATIONAL RAIL



nationalrail.co.uk

This leaflet encouraging you to explore the UK's UNESCO World Heritage Sites sustainably by rail has been supported by:



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

UNESCO



bit.ly/ukwhslist

WORLD HERITAGE UK



worldheritageuk.org

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**World
Heritage UK**



World Heritage UK

worldheritageuk.org

MORE INFORMATION FOR VISITORS TO WORLD HERITAGE SITES IN THE UK

◆ Where are the UK World Heritage Sites?

As the map overleaf shows, 31 of the 35 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.

◆ What features are included in UK World Heritage Sites?

The UK Sites include a wide range of historic monuments and past industry, landscapes, townscapes, and natural geological and ecological features. These are summarised in this leaflet and more detailed descriptions and suggestions for visitors can be found for each on the website links given.

◆ 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 & the World Heritage UK website worldheritageuk.org

