



# England Travel Guide

## Description





“Heaven take thy soul, and England keep my bones!”

*William Shakespeare*

## Table of Contents

[Top Five Destinations In England](#)

[Stats/Fun Facts](#)

[England Map](#)

[Good to Know Before You Go/Essential Info](#)

[Our Go-To Resources](#)

[Photo Gallery](#)

default watermark

default watermark





## Top Five Destinations In England (we are defining England as all regions below Scotland)

1. **London** The capital and the largest city of England has distinct two personalities; one of nostalgia with a rich history while being one of the world's most cosmopolitan cities on earth. It is a true melting pot of people and cultures. Stroll the magnificent parks where many residents gather and visit Buckingham Palace, Big Ben and the House of Parliament, and Trafalgar Square. Shop for some of the best shopping in the world. Though a great metropolis, there remain distinct communities and strong vibes.
2. **Wales** This small and wonderous Celtic country packs a lot in. There is diversity within its borders, from the incredible coastline to lush mountains, beautiful small colorful villages, and large, vibrant cities. To add to the experience, road signs are in both Welsh and English. Wales is a Castlehunters dream with over 600 castles. Known for its national park and scenery, this incredible country meets every traveler's dream.
3. **Hadrians Wall** A Unesco World Heritage site wall was built in 122 AD to guard the wild frontier, now Scotland, from the Roman Empire. With a length of 73 miles stretches from the North Sea to the Irish sea. Much still intact, there are over twenty sites to visit along the wall. Follow the path of Hadrians Wall, and you will discover castles, forts, ramparts, lovely villages, and gorgeous countryside with rolling hills that will take your breath away.
4. **Stonehedge** Is a prehistoric monument (built from 3000-2000 B.C.) in Wiltshire that fascinates archaeologists and keeps giving new finds. These magnificent and intriguing rings of standing stones are set within earthworks in a dense complex of Neolithic and Bronze age monuments. Nearby are the lovely cities of Bath and Salisbury to visit along your travels in Stonehenge.
5. **Cotswold** Often referred to as England's heart, is a range of rolling hills that creates a grassland habitat for picture-perfect stone villages rich with history and gardens beyond your imagination. It is as if you are stepping into a novel that you may not wish to leave when the book is done.

## Did you know?

### England Stats

- Population: 59,439,840 million
- Capital City: London within the U.K.
- Currency: British Pound, Pound sterling
- Government type: Devolved Parliamentary Legislature within a Constitutional Monarchy
- Monarch Queen Elizabeth II
- Prime Minister Boris Johnson
- Ethnic groups: 79.8% White British 4.6%, White Other 2.6%, Indian 2.3%, Mixed, 2.1% Pakistani,

1.8% African

- Languages: English (official), Welsh, Cornish
- Religions: Church of England
- The capital of Wales is Cardiff.
- U.S. State Department Risk Level: 3 due to Covid and terrorism
- Terrorist groups: Al Qaeda, ISIS, IRA, SLA
- England is a country, but it is not a sovereign state.
- Winchester was the first capital of England from 827 to 1066
- National day is April 23, St. George's Day.
- National Song: God Save the Queen
- The tallest mountain in England is Scafell Pike, 3200 feet above sea level.
- The Thames River is the longest river that flows through England. It flows a distance of around 211 miles.
- Inventions from England include sparkling wine, the world wide web (no, not France), the reflecting telescope, the first mass-produced toothbrush, the tin can, the thermos flask, the chocolate bar, the modern fire extinguisher, the hydraulic press, lawnmower, guillotine, the light bulb, first automatic tea kettle, telephone, and a match.
- Major industries in England are construction, forestry, manufacturing, tourism, agriculture, oil and gas, finance and banking, and information technology.
- English people consume more tea per capita than anybody else in the world.
- Life expectancy is 81 years old.
- The literacy rate is 99%.

## Funs facts

- Wales officially has more castles, 600, per square mile than any other country in the world.
- London's Big Ben is not a clock but a bell in the clock tower.
- The most popular sport in England is soccer, while Rugby is the favorite in Wales.
- One of the best subway systems in the world, the Tube, is over 150 years old. The term "Mind the Gap" refers to the space between the subway car and the platform.
- The Queen owns all the swans on the River Thames.
- The real name of Big Ben is the 'Clock tower.' The big bell was nicknamed Ben, and the name stuck.
- Swallow Falls at Betws-y-coed in Wales is the most visited waterfall in the United Kingdom.
- The English fought the shortest war in 1896 with Zanzibar, which lasted 38 minutes.
- As Edward I of England returned from the ninth crusade in 1272, he learned that his father had died and that he had been made king of England. Instead of taking the throne, Edward went on a two-year vacation in Italy and France and returned in 1274.
- Placing a postage stamp upside down on an envelope is a criminal offense.
- In Anglesey, Wales, the Menai Bridge was the first suspension bridge constructed to take heavy traffic.
- The infamous London Bridge is now located in Arizona.
- Queen Elizabeth II is distantly related to Dracula.
- 70% of the land in England is still owned by 1% of the population, largely descended from William

the Conqueror's army.

- Some of the world's top scientists are English; Steven Hawking, Sir Issac Newton, and Charles Darwin.
- It took seven years to build the London eye.

## England Map

## Good to know before you go

- Tipping is not mandatory in England or the U.K. in general. It is customary to tip 10% in restaurants. As always, check to verify there is no service charge on the bill. Hotels don't usually expect tips, but it is appreciated if you get exceptional service. Taxis and car services tips are not expected, but you can round up.
- Credit cards are in use almost everywhere. That said, many pubs will not take them or discourage them. Have some cash on you.
- Overall, the clothing is stylish and polished. They are casual dressers in the nonbusiness setting, often wearing jeans and khaki pants, with upper layers for tops and comfortable shoes. Business attire tends to be more formal. In the bigger cities, you will see more of a fashion sense. England is a rainy place, so plan accordingly. Casual and well-kept work well for travelers. If planning to go to the theatre or higher in restaurants, you are expected to dress more formally or classy casual.
- Driving in England is essential to see what this gorgeous country offers. The best way is to accomplish this on a road trip. Some of its most epic sites and scenery are located down remote roads, far away from any bus or train station. That could mean dodging free-range sheep, driving two-way roads only meant for one way, and negotiating roundabouts on the "wrong" side of the road.
- Queuing in England is taken very seriously. When there is no distinct line marker, you can be assured an invisible and organized line occurs. Keep orderly and respectful.
- British people will shake hands when greeting old friends or acquaintances; female friends may greet each other with a kiss on the cheek. If greeting someone you don't know, shaking hands isn't common unless they offer first.
- British people take politeness extremely seriously. They say "thank you" at every stage of a financial transaction. In England, you can never say please, thank you, or sorry enough.
- The British people are a sarcastic lot and use it daily. They tend to find humor in almost everything, using sarcastic remarks to make fun of the situation.
- In England, they rarely eat with their hands. Forks and knives are always used except for sandwiches, even when eating pizza, fruit, and hard-to-cut items like chicken. Keep both hands visible at all times, even when you are no longer eating.
- In restaurants, to get your server's attention, say "Excuse me..." or try to catch their eye politely.

- England is not known for its food, but that does not mean you can't find some excellent fare. It will be pricey as almost everything is there. Fish and chips were always a go-to and widespread takeaway food in the U.K.
  - Afternoon high tea is quintessentially English and a must-do experience at least once. It is a lovely way to break up a long day of sightseeing and walking. Afternoon tea includes select teas, traditional scones, simple sandwiches, and petite cakes elegantly served. Complementing the pastries are clotted/Devonshire cream and fruit jams. Many hotel high teas offer champagne as well. If high tea is provided, Joelle always partakes.
  - Pubs and bars are distinctly different. A common misconception is that pubs, which stand for public houses, are bars. Pubs are gathering places, conversation zones, and even restaurants. In many pubs, alcohol is almost an afterthought. Pubs are usually where people meet their friends and catch up on the local news.
  - If someone buys you or your table a round, it is customary for the next round to be on you.
  - It is a safe country. Take usual precautions in the cities, especially in touristy areas.
- 

## England Essential Info

### U.S. Consular Emergency

The 24-hour number from a U.S. Phone is 1-888-407-4747  
Outside of U.S., 011-202-501-4444

### U.S. Embassy London

33 Nine Elms Lane  
London, SW11 7US  
United Kingdom  
Telephone: +(44) (20) 7499-9000  
Emergency After-Hours Telephone: +(44) (20) 7499-9000  
Fax: +(44) (20) 7891-3845  
Email: [SCSLondon@state.gov](mailto:SCSLondon@state.gov)

### Emergency Numbers

GENERAL 999 or 112

### Country Code

+44

### Time Zone

[UTC](#)

### Driving

Left side

### Adaptors

Type G Plug adaptor



230 Volt

### **Tourism Office**

[VisitBritain: The Official Tourism Website of Great Britain](#)

visitbritain.com

## **When to go to England**

As a whole, there is never a time a year that England isn't a great place to visit. English summers rarely are hot, and the winters don't get very cold. There is not much regional variation, but it is wetter in the west than in the east, and the south gets more hours of sunshine than the north. Differences between the regions are slightly more apparent in the winter.

England is a huge tourist destination, and long queues and crowds are often an issue. To see the Churchill bunkers in London was a couple of hours' wait. The best time to visit would be between April and early June or September or October. In the Spring, you will be greeted by beautiful flowers; in the fall, changing hues of fall leaves. England is an expensive place to visit (just the London eye is about \$50 a person), so if you need to extend your travel dollars, the winter months may be your best bet.

- Summer 53-75 °F (12-24 °C)
- Spring 38-64 °F (3-18 °C)
- Fall 42-68 °F (6-20 °C)
- Winter 37-48 °F (3-9 °C)

## **Our Favorite England Resources**

*This resource section contains some Amazon affiliate links. If you use these links to buy something, we may earn a small commission at no additional cost to you. Thank you!*

### **Travel Books/Guides**

England has been a frequent stop for us. London is a major travel hub; it is easy to stop for a few days before moving to your next destination. The country of England, including Wales, deserves much more time. Once you leave London, there are many incredible diverse sites and scenery. Without a car, you will miss a lot. Wales alone has 600 castles. There are so many wonderful travel guides to choose from that we have used for many years; below are our favorite options.



**Lonely Planet's England (Country Guide) by Lonely Planet**

A passport to the most relevant, up-to-date advice that all England has to offer and what hidden discoveries await you. Ponder the mysteries of Stonehenge, visit Shakespeare's hometown, escape it all in the Cotswolds or take in a London show. Let this beautifully illustrated guide be your travel partner. Great photography and lots of details to aid in planning. [Discover this travel guide here.](#)



**Rick Steves England by Rick Steves**

Full disclosure, we are huge Rick Steve's fans; it will be rare not to recommend one of his wonderful guides. We love his travel style and perspective. His off-the-beaten-path approach and his independent travel philosophy match well with how we travel. The guides never disappoint. This book was a fantastic resource. [Find this must-have guide here.](#)

Our favorite websites

1. [England tourism site](#) visitbritain.com
2. **U.S. Department of State Bureau of Consular Affairs England Country Info**

We cannot encourage you enough to visit this website as you plan and prepare for your trip. This is the U.S. Federal Government addressing the safety, security, travel risk, entry, exit, visa documents mandates, emergency U.S. and Embassy contacts, health, local laws, special circumstances, threats, traveler vulnerabilities, government warnings, and transportation in England. This is your best and most reliable resource for all this important info. Check back often before you go, as things can change quickly. Being prepared is essential in all travel, but especially internationally.

[\*\*England International Travel Information \(state.gov\)\*\*](#)

3. **The Center of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Travelers Health Resource**

This CDC travel resource provides essential health info for your specific destination. Using their tool, you can determine which vaccines, medications, and health advice recommendations are needed for England.

[\*\*CDC's Travelers Health Page for England\*\*](#)

#### Our favorite maps



#### **The United Kingdom, London National Geographic Adventure Map**

Easy to read the map with practical road and travel information. These maps are meant for the adventure traveler. Major sites and landmarks are well marked. Mapped road network with distances and designations for major highways to the off-the-beaten-path roads. Waterproof and tear resisted, it holds up well. Great for planning your route before your trip. Though we default to Google maps, this came in handy when service was poor or during construction detours. [Find this essential map here.](#)

#### Our favorite apps

**Rome2rio: Trip Planner** Trip and Holiday Organizer Enter any address, landmark, or city; the App will instantly display all your travel options, and booking info, along with accommodation providers and things to do. Find on your local app store.

**Rick Steves Audio Europe** This App includes a vast library of Rick Steve's audio content. Get cultural and travel info. Includes self-guided tours of top attractions and historic walks. Amsterdam options. A must-have. Find on your local app store.

***Do you have a favorite England travel resource? Share your favorites in the comments section at the bottom of this page or***

[Email us](#)

© 2024 [Wanderers Compass](#) All Rights Reserved

## **Our England Gallery**















default watermark











default watermark



default watermark









default watermark













default watermark



default watermark

















default watermark



















default watermark









default watermark





default watermark





default watermark





default watermark









default watermark









































default watermark



















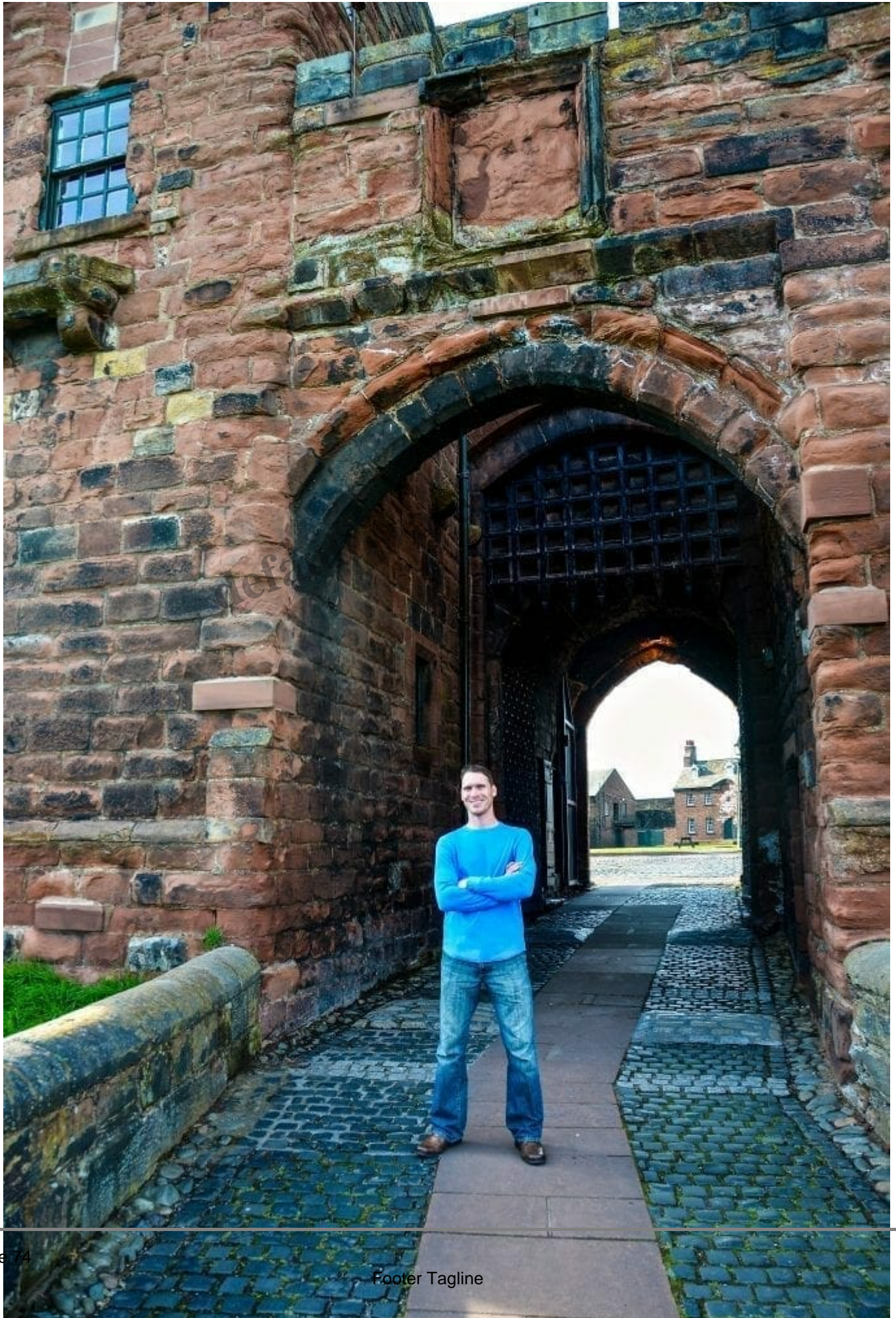






default watermark













## Our Top Recommended [Travel Products and Resources](#)

[Squaremouth.com](#)

**Our favorite travel insurance site!**

If you book a trip, don't forget to get travel insurance within 14 days of your first booking. We could not be stronger advocates of being well-insured. Not just for the little stuff but the big things like medical emergencies. We never leave home without it. Over the years, we have used many sites but have now found our go-to place. [Squaremouth.com](#) does a fantastic job; it has a user-friendly interface, uses top-rated and reputable insurance carriers, and most policies cover COVID-19 medical issues and cancellations. They also mediate on your behalf if you have problems with your policy.

To empower you as a consumer, we suggest you read our [blog post](#) on the importance of travel insurance and how to get the best coverage from top-rated companies for an affordable price.

### [MedjetAssist](#)

#### **Medical transport back home from anywhere in the world**

They are the premier global air medical transport. One caveat to travel insurance is that medical evacuation usually gets you to the closest facility to care for you. Medjet gets you back to the U.S. to the hospital of your choice once you are stable enough to fly. They cover COVID-related transport as well.

[Medjet](#) carries its own policies. These policies are only for transport and do not cover other aspects of travel insurance. They have individual trip policies starting at \$99 and annual policies for around \$300. Most of their policies limit the age to 74 and younger. Prices are not based on age below that.

To learn more about how Medical Evacuation membership with Medjet Assist works, check out our [blog post](#) for a more detailed review.

### [Expedia.com](#)

#### **Hotels, home rentals, BNBs, flights, and other transportation & tours**

[Expedia](#) is a US-based company whose mission is to power global travel for everyone and everywhere. Whether planning a family vacation, booking for business, or organizing the trip of a lifetime, they are a fantastic resource. Wanderers Compass focuses on independent travel, and using sites like [Expedia](#) makes that possible. Every aspect of travel you need, from airfare, accommodations, rental car, and cruises to activities to do at your destination, can be booked on [Expedia](#).

### [Booking.com](#)

#### **Hotels, Home rentals, BNBs, Flights, and other Transportation & Tours**

[Booking.com](#) connects millions of travelers to memorable experiences, various transportation options, and incredible places to stay – from homes to hotels and much more. It is one of the world's largest travel marketplaces for established brands and entrepreneurs of all sizes.

We always check Expedia and Booking.com to verify prices. At times, one is sold out of rooms while another at the same place has rooms. We also often find some European hotels, especially smaller ones, on Booking.com but not on Expedia. It could be they are a Europe-based company. Try both before booking accommodations.

### [Vacation Rental By Owner \(VRBO\)](#)

#### **Are you traveling with a family or having an extended stay at your destination?**



With over 2 million bookable vacation rentals, [VRBO](#) connects homeowners with families and vacationers looking for something more than a hotel for their trip. The [VRBO](#) community offers families or groups various rental property types such as condos, cabins, lake rentals, beach houses, etc.

[VRBO](#) is now under the Expedia group's ownership, which many were worried about, but it hasn't panned out to be a concern. It is a massive network with access to all lodging forms should issues arise. Joelle has used VRBO for many years with her family and has had no problems with it.

### [Viator](#)

As the leading marketplace for travel experiences, [Viator](#) believes that making memories is what travel is all about. And with 300,000+ experiences to explore—everything from simple tours to extreme adventures (and all the niche, interesting stuff in between)—making memories that will last a lifetime has never been easier.

With industry-leading flexibility and last-minute availability, it's never too late to make any day extraordinary. This one site has it all and has experiences throughout the world. We use them often during our travels, especially for food tours. We especially take the time to read the reviews provided.

### [Amazon.com](#)

**An excellent source for travel essentials and guides**

*We now have our own Amazon Storefront with all our favorite travel accessories and gear in one place. Check out our travel store at the link below.*

### [Wanderers Compass Amazon Storefront](#)

Amazon is one of the most comprehensive online shopping sources in the world. Teams worldwide provide lower prices, better selection, and rapid delivery on behalf of customers. They offer a vast inventory, and their 1.7 million small and medium businesses worldwide selling on Amazon.com offer extensive options to customers.

We buy most of our travel books, accessories, and luggage from Amazon. We have ordered up to two days before travel and get what we need.

### [HYDAWAY](#)

This is not your ordinary drinkware company. The **HYDAWAY** difference is what their products do when you're not using them. Practical and portable, HYDAWAY doesn't take up unnecessary space in your already-packed life or pile up in landfills. We all know that trying to pack light while being environmentally conscious can be difficult. Having the right items can make a world of difference.

[HYDAWAY](#) provides that.

We have used their collapsible water bottle, carrying case for the water bottle, and collapsible insulated

drink tumbler. They are all lightweight and durable. A conservation-focused product you can be proud to buy.

**Use our Promo Code. WANCOM15, at checkout for 15% off your Hydaway order**

## **Welcome Pick-ups** **(Airport and sightseeing service)**

A global leader in ground transportation for travelers. They help hundreds of companies worldwide enhance their services and boost their revenue with our 5-star ride experiences and hassle-free automation.

Founded in 2015 in Athens, Greece, [Welcome Pick-ups](#) goes above and beyond the standard transfer service as the first company to deliver a holistic, in-destination travel experience. From the moment a traveler arrives at a new destination until they return home, Welcome accommodates all their travel needs (transfers, travel products, things to do, information) as the easiest, friendliest, and most personalized solution.

## **PhotoAiD**

Do you feel like you are wasting time visiting an on-site photographer only to be embarrassed by the photo? Would you like control of the final product? Get the perfect VISA or passport photo online with PhotoAiD.

When traveling, you often need to apply for official documents such as a passport, ID, and different kinds of licenses or cards. Those applications require a picture that must meet specific conditions to be accepted, depending on the country. Now, it is possible to take this picture at home without the help of a professional photographer. PhotoAiD allows you to take the perfect biometric photo you approve without leaving home.

**This article contains affiliate links. If you use these links to buy something, we may earn a small commission at no additional cost to you. Thank you!**

**Want to learn about [Wanderers Compass](#)?**

[Click Here](#)

**Check out our newest blog posts**





[Destinations](#) / [Hotel Reviews](#)

## **Conrad Tulum Riviera Maya – Luxury Extraordinaire**

An in-depth and honest review of our stay at th Conrad Tulum Riviera Maya...

March 30, 2024



[Destinations](#) / [France](#) / [Monaco](#)

## **Eze France: Medieval Splendor**

Charming Eze, France, is a picturesque hilltop medieval village renowned for its breathtaking panoramic...

March 29, 2024





[Denmark](#) / [Destinations](#)

## **Nyhavn Copenhagen – Ultimate Visitor Guide**

To move, to breathe, to fly, to float, To gain all while you give,...

March 28, 2024



[Italy](#) / [Libations of the World](#)

## [Aperol: The Orange Sensation](#)

Our Fifth Featured Libation of the World comes from stunning Italy. The drink that...

March 28, 2024





[Croatia](#) / [Destinations](#)

## **Novigrad on the Dalmatia Coast – A Piece of Croatia Heaven**

Located in Zadar County along the Dalmatia Coast, this medieval village will capture your...

March 28, 2024



[Destinations](#) / [Scotland](#)

## [12 Best Things to Do on the Isle of Skye, Scotland](#)

Planning a Visit to the Isle of Skye? Read This First! “Wherever I wander,...

March 28, 2024





[Destinations](#) / [Ireland](#)

## **Cliffs of Moher – Ireland’s Best Natural Attraction**

A guide to making the most of your visit to the magnificent Cliffs of...

March 27, 2024



[Destinations](#)

## [Top 6 Restaurants in Singapore to Impress Your Partner](#)

Whether looking for a romantic setting or just a lovely evening with great food,...

March 25, 2024





[Belgium](#) / [Destinations](#)

## [Antwerp Belgium Things to Know Before You Visit](#)

An Antwerp Visitor Guide and Photo Gallery Belgium is such a beautiful place with...

March 25, 2024

**Passionate about travel? Subscribe to our Wanderers Compass Community**

Our quarterly newsletters will inspire your wanderlust

[Subscribe](#)

☐ [I accept the privacy policy](#)

Do you have a question for us or have a comment?

[Contact us](#)

**Date Created**

February 27, 2021

**Author**

contactwandererscompass-com

default watermark