

England

-Formerly known as Angle-land

-Part of Great Britain which consists of England, Scotland and Wales combined.

-Part of United Kingdom which consists of Great Britain as well as Northern Ireland.

- **Size**

England is approximately 130,439 square kilometers or 50,363 square miles. Besides

the main island, there are smaller islands that are considered part of England. They are the Isle of Wight, the Scilly Islands and the Isle of Man. In comparison with the United States, it is slightly smaller than the state of Louisiana.

- **Location**

At a central point in the country the latitude of England is $51^{\circ}35'$ N. and the longitude is $1^{\circ}40'$ W. It is an island in the Atlantic Ocean, but still has two other countries that border it. If a traveler is in England and travels in these specific directions, these are the bodies of water and countries that would be met:

North: Scotland

West: Wales, Irish Sea, Ireland

South: English Channel, France

East: North Sea, Netherlands, Belgium

- **Capital**

London is the capital of England. It is located in the southeastern portion of the country at $51^{\circ}30'$ N.

and $0^{\circ}07'$ W.

- **Geography**

Coast line: Deeply indented.

Terrain: North and West portions of England are mountainous, containing the Pennine Chain. The highest point is Scafell Pike at 978 m or 3210 ft above sea level. The Central and Eastern portions are rolling plains and marshes. They are called the midlands. The South is mostly elevated plateaus that are called the Barren Uplands.

Rivers: There are several rivers throughout England; however, the only one that is of major concern is the river Thames that runs through London. It flows from England to the North Sea and is about 340 km or 210 mi long. At the London Bridge the width is 265 m or 870 ft. The Thames is a major source of water for many cities, especially London, and previously was heavily polluted. In 1963 the people of England started to clean the Thames. In 1982, flood control for the river was put in place in London.

Rainfall: Annual rainfall is approximately 760 mm or 30 in. Heaviest rainfall is in the month of October. Fog, mist and overcast skies are frequent in the mountain and inland regions.

Temperature: Average temperatures are mild. July is the hottest month reaching around 61°F, while January is the coolest month at around 40°F.

- **History**

England has a very long history that dates back to the Ice Age. We will start with Roman rule under Julius Caesar. This established entities such as roads and specifically the Hadrian's Wall on the northern border of England. When the Roman Empire started to fall, the reduction of the occupying army provided the opportunity for the Anglo-Saxon invasion. This created the time of warlords, where you ruled if you were strong enough to hold your land. While Christianity was introduced

through the Romans, it was abandoned when the Romans pulled out of England but reintroduced later through missionaries and one of the ruling figures in England at the time. A unified England was not a reality until Egbert of Wessex and his family came to rule. Even under a common rule, invasions came from many fronts' in the form of Danes and Scandinavian Vikings known as Norsemen. After Alfred, Egbert's son, who captured London, created the set of laws that created the only government able to assess and collect taxes. After a new trial of Danish conquest, William the Conqueror, Duke of Normandy, beat the Danes and acquired a country. England was now looking toward France instead of the lands to the north. For several years the English government was calm. That was until, a daughter, Matilda, was the only heir to the throne. A cousin, Stephen of Blois, seized the throne. The battle for the throne between Matilda and Stephen lasted for nineteen years and Matilda's son, Henry II, ascended the throne. This began the Plantagenet Rule, which is often heard in the fairy tales of Robin Hood. After Henry II there was Richard, the Lion-Hearted, who spent his time and the treasury fighting the Crusades. While he was an absent king, his brother John ruled, some say poorly, in his stead. Admitting his errors and reestablishing the English Law and feudal customs he was forced to accept the Magna Carta,. Generation's later, Edward I set about with reforms and the introduction of the English parliament, the House of Lords and the House of Commons. Edward I fought for control of Scotland and Wales. He succeeded in gaining control of Wales and named his son, Edward II, Prince of Wales. After Edward I died, his son abandoned the northern campaign in Scotland Edward III; however, incited the Hundred Years' War trying to reclaim the French Throne. The reclaim of the French throne by the English did not occur until Henry V married the daughter of the French king and their son captured the throne in France and England when both kings died. Seven years after the nine-month-old king received both kingdoms to rule, through his uncles until he came of age, Joan of Arc appeared to incite the French revolt against English rule. After the wars in France, and the loss of all except Calais, the War of the Roses began. The war was fought between the House of Lancaster, supporting the king, and the House of

York supporting the Duke of York Richard. Richard died in battle and his son Edward took over, capturing Henry VI. Parliament was overwhelmed by this and crowned him Edward IV. After a lot of struggle and conflict, the House of Lancaster did reclaim the throne through Henry Tudor becoming Henry VIII. During his reign Henry VIII asked for a divorce from his first wife in order to marry Anne Boleyn. This created conflict with the Pope and later became the start of the Church of England. After Henry VIII, having only daughters, Mary I became queen. Mary restored Catholicism as the religion in the country. Having no children of her own, Elizabeth, her half sister, then became queen and reinstated the Church of England. Elizabeth also encouraged the English navy to raid Spanish ships and eventually defeated the Spanish Armada. Elizabeth's reign is known as the Golden age because of the victories abroad and the well being and literary accomplishments at home. Elizabeth died without an heir to the throne. The son of Mary of Scots, James I, assumed the throne and now ruled England and Scotland. During the Stuart reign, several battles and conflicts happened. Civil War came about and brought Oliver Cromwell to the forefront. He played a significant part by leading the army that removed the king, by execution, and he declaring England a commonwealth with the abolishment of a monarchy and the House of Lords. Because of Cromwell's achievement, the title of king was offered and refused by him. After an uprising by Royalists, the country was split into eleven military districts commanded by major generals. This created a severe hatred for Cromwell and his Puritan leadership. Cromwell pursued foreign action and later acquired land holdings abroad such as Jamaica, and also started wars. After his death, the dead king's son, Charles II, was brought back from exile. Charles' nephew James II was not liked by England and was run out of the country by William of Orange, husband of the king's eldest daughter Mary. They both received equal control of the crown by Parliament. Those who would not accept William and Mary as joint sovereigns were called Jacobites and mainly numbered among Roman Catholics and Scottish Highlanders as well as some Irish. To prevent another Roman Catholic becoming sovereign, an Act of Settlement was passed. With Scotland angry with this, war came about and so was another act

called the Act of Union. This brought England and Scotland together after all the conflict, reating the kingdom of Great Britain. The Industrial Revolution gave Britain the first industrial based economy helping to strengthen the empire as a whole. Throughout the reign of the British Empire, they have held colonies in North America, the Mediterranean, the Caribbean, Africa and Asia. World War I halted expansion of the empire. After World War II, the United Kingdom started to remove the rest of the colonies that were left. The government today has a constitutional monarchy and a parliament consisting of the same two houses of government. The prime minister is the leader of the majority ruler in the House of Commons. Parties that make up the English government are the Social Democratic, Liberal, and Conservative parties.

- **Important Dates**

- **55 BC – Roman arrival in England**

- 3rd and 4th centuries AD – Decline of the Roman empire and removal of troops from England
 - 5th and 6th centuries—Anglo-Saxon Rule and reintroduction of Christianity
 - 7th century—Germanic invasions and kingdoms set up like Greek city-states
 - 9th century – unification of England under Egbert and progeny
 - 1066 – William the Conqueror invaded from Normandy and won. 400 years of Norman rule in England followed
 - 1095-1270 – The Holy Crusades
 - 1204—loss of Normandy
 - 1215 – Creation of the Magna Carta 1225—began the tradition of royal confirmation from the Magna Carta
 - 12th and 13th centuries economic prosperity in England due to land cultivation
 - 1264 – Civil War against Henry III
 - 1295 – Model Parliament created
 - 1337 – Hundred Years’ War
 - 1349 – Black Plague struck England
 - 14th century – Strife between lords and commoners elevated due to labor problems. Creation of several statutes.
 - 1420 – Treaty of Troyes
 - 1429 – Lead by Joan of Arc, France forcefully removed English rule.
 - 1455-1485 – War of the Roses, Houses of York and Lancaster
 - 1485 – Henry VII started to gain recognition abroad and increase foreign trade. This allowed for taxation of products and made him very rich and respected.

- 1530's – Creation of the Church of England
 - 1558 – Death of Mary I, Bloody Mary, and the ascension of Elizabeth to the throne
 - 1588 – defeat of the Spanish Armada
 - 1603 – complete submission of Ireland to England
 - 1642 – Civil War under Oliver Cromwell's leadership
 - 1651 – Navigation Act provoked Dutch War of 1652-1654
 - 1660 – Charles Stuart, known as Charles II, brought out of exile
 - 1665-1666 – Bubonic plague outbreak and burning of London
 - 1689 – William and Mary are jointly given the Crown of England
 - 1689- 1697 -- William's war with France
 - 1693 – Creation of England National Debt
 - 1701-1713 -- War of Spanish Succession
 - 1701 – Act of Settlement
 - 1707 – Act of Union
 - 18th century – Industrial Revolution, acquisition of more colonies through out the world
 - 1914-1919 – World War I
 - 1939-1945 – World War II
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- **Population**
 In the 1991 census taken in England there were 46,170,300 people. The population density was reported at 350 people per square kilometer or 917 people per square mile. Within the population, 89% is considered urban dwellers while only 11% is rural. It was recorded in 1984 that the population growth was at 0. Life expectancy is equal to that of the United States. Males are expected to live to mid 70's while women are expected to live to early 80's.
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- **Currency**
 Standard form of currency is the British Pound or also called Pounds Sterling. In 1999, a British pound converted to 1.66 U.S. dollars. One U.S. dollar converted to .60 British Pounds. The symbol for a British Pound is **£**.
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- **Education**

For the population in England, school is required from ages 5-16. Illiteracy is almost non-existent in England due to the fact that 90% of the schools are under local control and solely supported by public funding. Starting in the middle of the 1980's, specialized schools were provided for those with special needs. This included schools for the blind, deaf, and mental and physical handicap students. Further education, such as colleges and universities, used to be only for the upper class. Now they are available for all. Further education is available in all types of fields with technical institutions for polytechnics, agriculture, art, commerce and various sciences.

- **Language**

The primary language in England is English. However, there are several dialects depending on which part of the country you visit. Because there are so many different minority groups, there is no definite secondary language. There are several other languages spoken throughout England, such as Gaelic, French and Latin.

- **Religion**

The majority (3/5) of the population belong to the Church of England which is a Protestant Episcopal denomination. The second most popular religion is Catholic. There are several other religions present in England such as Methodist, Baptist, Unitarian, Muslim, and Judaism.

- **Agriculture**

Natural vegetation in England includes deciduous trees and some herbaceous plants. There are several species of animals in England that are native. Deer, rabbit, hare, fox and badger are the most noticed mammals. Birds consist of crow, pigeon, sparrow, starling and thrushes. Reptiles and amphibians are rare. Soils in the area compare to soils seen in the Great Lakes portions of the United States. Major agriculture in most of England is dairy farming, with small portions in the

eastern coastal areas as well as the Midlands containing other livestock and some crop farming.

Some of the crops grown in England are barley, wheat, oats, beet sugar, potatoes, deciduous fruit trees, and rye. The order listed also reflects the quantity from most abundant to least abundantly grown. The livestock, starting with sheep then cattle and lastly swine, is not as confined to the Midlands and eastern coast but is spread throughout the continent. Because of the island status, fisheries are abundant in the surrounding coasts and inland fresh waterways.

- **Imports/Exports and Industry**

Due to the population density in England, only a small part of the land is still arable. In order to supply for the large population, importing is crucial. Some of the imported goods that support England are tea, corn, coffee, rice, beef, clean wool, lumber, and several other products. Because of the high demand for items in England, little is exported. Products such as wheat, clean wool, and beef make up the export market. For the most part, England is an industrial society. If the raw materials are not naturally found in the country, the materials are brought in and manufactured or bought already made. Aluminum, copper, and coal are the major natural resources found in England. Steel and synthetic rubber, as well as some man-made-fibers, are manufactured in England. Manufacturing centers are mostly located in the southern and central portions of the country. Energy in England is primarily based on liquid fuels with solid fuels second. Natural and imported gas, along with hydropower and nuclear power, make up about a fourth of the energy consumed in England.

- **Common Foods**

People in England, as well as most of Great Britain, serve meat at every meal. Roasts are very popular, including beef, lamb, and Wiltshire hams. Salads are not considered to be made of lettuce, but rather mayonnaise and something else. Egg and tuna salads are American examples of that.

“Fish and Chips” is also a popular meal. Both the fish and chips are dipped in vinegar and salt. Besides salt and vinegar there are several other flavors for chips. Tea, Beer and Apple cider are favored drinks in England. When ordering tea in England, one must specify how the desired way the tea should be served. If no specifications are made it will be served strong with milk added. Beer served throughout Great Britain is served at room temperature and has a higher alcohol content than American beer. Candy is a popular treat throughout Great Britain as well. There are more varieties for sale in Great Britain than most other countries in the world.

- **Landmarks**

There are a variety of landmarks all over England to be enjoyed. Depending on the specific interests, a person can travel anywhere and find something interesting. The best thing to do is to decide on the types of attractions that are desired and then find out the locations.

LONDON AREA

Tower Bridge - in London, part of the Thamescape

London Bridge - including the London Dungeon that has displays of the plague, execution and torture

Big Ben - ,the bell inside the famous clock tower that stands on the eastern side of the Houses of Parliament

Tower of London - alternately used as a state prison and royal residence dating back 1078, now a museum that houses the Crown Jewels. Includes the White Tower and the Bloody Tower

Westminster Abbey - is the place that most royal ceremonies take place, such as

the crowning of the king or queen and often royal weddings

Palaces - Buckingham Palace: Royal residence, changing of the guard

Windsor Castle - royal country retreat

Shakespeare's Globe Theatre - Still used for performances

Parks - There are several parks scattered liberally throughout London. They

include Hyde Park, St. James, Kensington Garden, Regent Park

and Kew Gardens

SOUTH ENGLAND

Canterbury Cathedral, Dover Castle and Chalk Cliffs, Arundel Castle, Roman

Palace, Salisbury Cathedral, Stonehenge, Maritime Museum

CENTRAL ENGLAND

Sudeley Castle, Holy Trinity Church, Roman Bath Museum, Fitzwilliam

Museum, Norwich Castle, Peak District National Park

NORTH ENGLAND

Pennine Way, York Minster, Lake District National Park

Landmarks are all over England. Listed above are names and descriptions of sites

in London and listings of some different sights throughout the rest of
England. Public transportation is available to most of the popular sights.

Sheri Kwiatkowski