England

“God Save the Queen”

Lay of the Land

Climate
Get out your umbrellas, trench coats and wellies,

England is a predominantly damp country. Even if the weather is sunny and 70 degrees in the morning, still pack for rain just in case. It rains regularly throughout all seasons.

England is a temperate maritime climate. January and February are the coldest months, while July is the warmest with the most sunny days. Each season varies vastly in its temperatures.

Landscape
England is a country which makes up two-thirds of the island Great Britain, along with Scotland and Wales on the European continent. Scotland borders to the north with Wales to the west. What is known as the United Kingdom comprises of Great Britain and the north-eastern part of Ireland. England covers 50,346 square miles.

England is mostly made up of soft, rolling hills with the Pennines mountain range in the north. There are also lowlands and forested areas.

The Irish Sea, Celtic Sea, North Sea and the Atlantic Ocean (via the English Channel) touch the English coasts.
England Facts

Motto: “God and my right”
Capital: London
Official Languages: English, Cornish
Government: Non-devolved state within a constitutional monarchy
Population: 51,446,000 (2008)
Currency: Pound sterling

TRANSPORTATION:
Across the country, most citizens get around by means of public motorways. Buses are also widespread across England. Red, double-decker buses are found in London. Rapid-rail networks are another means of getting around, the most famous being the London Underground (a.k.a. the tube). Trains and trams also exist. The rail system in England is the oldest in the world. The Channel Tunnel (better known as the “Chunnel”) is an underwater train connecting England to Belgium and France. There are also domestic and international airports. London Heathrow Airport is the busiest airport in the world, receiving the most passenger traffic. Water transport is also an option, but is not very popular.

SYMBOLS:
• Tudor Rose
• White Dragon
• Three Lions
• Oak Tree
• Patron Saint: Saint George

The People
Christianity is the number one religion in England with 72 percent of natives practicing it in some capacity. Anglicanism is the majority of what English Christians practice, then the Latin Rite of the Catholic Church, then Methodism, a form of Protestantism.
Politics
England is governed through Parliament, a legislative body. Parliament includes the House of Commons and the House of Lords with a total of 650 members. England is a member of the European Union. While other countries within the U.K. have “devolved” and have their own parliaments, England has not. The incumbent of the U.K. monarchy is Queen Elizabeth II. She, and her family, carry out non-partisan representational and ceremonial activities. She appoints a prime minister who acts as head of Her Majesty’s Government.

Cuisine
English food is stereotyped as being bland compared to its French neighbor’s, yet more so its a simplicity in their approach to food. Here are distinctly British dishes:

- Fish and chips
- **Traditional English breakfast**: bacon, grilled tomatoes, fried bread, black pudding, baked beans, fried mushrooms, sausage, eggs
- **Sunday roast**: roasted beef, lamb or chicken; boiled vegetables, Yorkshire pudding, gravy
- Meat pies
- Bangers and mash, toad in the hole (sausage dishes)
- Anglo-Indian dishes
- **Desserts**: apple pie, scones, mince pie, spotted dick, custard
- Drinks: tea, beer, cider

Sports
Many, now global, athletics originated in England. These include: rugby, association football (America’s version of soccer), cricket, tennis, badminton, squash, hockey, billiards, darts, horse racing and fox hunting, among others. Association football is England’s most popular sport.

Music
Many popular music styles through the years originated, and, have a strong association to English culture. British invasion, glam rock, indie rock, mod, britpop, trip hop, dubstep and punk rock trace their roots back to England.

General Attitudes
The English are motivated by a simple set of values and beliefs, at the core common sense. They have a devotion to tradition, self-discipline, social etiquette, punctuality and gender equality. They are reserved and more formal compared to Americans. Humor is their spice of life. They strictly uphold rules and regulations.