Britain and Northern Ireland The United Kingdom of Great

Geography

Scotland and Northern Ireland. The many

The UK consists of England, Wales,

across the English Channel. the west and the North Sea to the east France is only 35 km to the southeast surrounded by the North Atlantic Ocean to NW mainland of Europe and are slands in this political group lie off the

at the same latitude (52 degrees North) as Prague and the zero degree of ongitude (Greenwich Meridian) passes The southern tip of England is roughly

point in the UK is minus 4 m in the Republic. The physical geography is drained Fens of East Anglia. the East Anglican Heights). The lowest referred to as hills, downs or heights (eg England are lower and high ground is Wales and Scotland (Ben Nevis 1,343m) varied with the highest mountains in km, only three times that of the Czech The Chiltern Hills, The South Downs and The eastern and southern parts of The UK covers an area of 244,820 sq

the Act of Union. in 1536, Wales was

oined to England by

year the skies are cloudy and overcast are occasionally hot but 50 per cent of the because of the warming effect of the North than they would normally be for the latitude among the British at first meeting. Its Atlantic drift (The Gulf Stream). Summers maritime climate. Winters are milder variability is due to the temperate The weather is a main talking point

The British flag known as the Union Jack represents the three kingdoms of the UK: England and Wates (the red cross of St George) ndrew) and Northern treland (the diagonal red itland (the **diagonal** white cross of St. ; of St Patrick). The crosses are on a blu ground. The flag in its present form first

at Hastings and invaded Britain. one date that all children surely know particularly in the English language. French influence is still seen today today), beat the English King Harold Conqueror, Duke of Normandy (France is 1066. This is when William the Romans had a big influence, but the Scandinavia and the continent. The successively invaded from The following centuries were

dynasty, the Tudors, gained the throne French territories. In 1485, a new Crown and disputes with France over characterised by the growing power of the

cultural development Church was founded

protectorates, led by with a series of grew and during the temporarily replaced monarchy was English Revolution Parliament gradually The power of the

associated with the Northern freiand was greatest expansion reign of Queen Victoria especially the long major colonial and merged with Great called Great Britain. joined to England and

Britain in 1801 In the 19th century, Britain laid

political claim to one quarter of the



from the 12th century The Gothic St. Giles Cathedral in Edinburgh

of the European Union, the British people since 1973 the UK has been a member Atlantic Treaty Organisation). Although a founding member of NATO (North and financial influence abroad. The UK is small country continues to have political the British Empire). As a result, this to be or in some cases still are a part of are not keen to change their currency to Commonwealth (the countries that used earth's surface in the form of the

Political system

is currently Prime Minister. Many Protestant Church of England. Tony Blair constitutional monarchy and the decisions. She is also Head of the government is responsible to her for its Queen Elizabeth II is head of the



Tony Blair became Prime Minister in 1997 Queen Elizabeth II was crowned in 1952 and

Mural paintings are common in Beffast

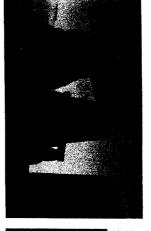
own parliament in Edinburgh and there is peace process. discussion because of problems with the Northern Ireland in Belfast is still under The establishment of an Assembly for a National **Assembly** for Wales in Cardiff. This means that Scotland now has its has been a process called devolution elected House of Lords. Recently there elected House of Commons and the unthrough the Parliament, consisting of the decisions for the UK are made in London

and immigration. About 7 million live in 60 million, taking into account emigration The population of the UK is more than

enjoy a very good standard of living with To live in Britain means that you could nearly 76 years and 81 years for women. Unemployment is low life expectancy for men being

Holidays

Nigel Haward (Great Britain) May and August. single day 'bank holidays' holidays apart from Christmas, New Year and Easter. There are The UK doesn't have special Capital: London Population: 60,4 million **Total area:** 244,820 sq km



many tourists every year.

have had some religious or astronomical purpose. A prehistoric megalithic complex of standing stones,

Stonehenge (near Salisbury in Wiltshire), is believed to



vocabulary

to consist of [kan'sist] - skládát se z lie off the NW mainland of Europe - leží severo climate [ˌveːrɪə'bihti dju: 'tenɪˌve]rət sautude [ˈlæɪɪɪjuːd] - zeměpisná šířka roughly [r.viit] - přibližně overcast (povečkost) - zatažený ořímořským klimatem variability is due to the temperate maritime is referred to as [III faid] - Se nazyva klamat) - proměnlivost je způsobena mírným main talking point - hlavní téma hovoru dian [ma'ridian] - polednik

to join [d5xiii] - připojit was marked by overseas expansion ['eoveniz ik spæn](e)n] - se vyznačovala expanzemi do zámoř to beat [bis] - porazit eign [rcm] - vlada, panovani pained the throne [gernd Brackn] - usedia na trùn **particulariy** [po'tukjololi] - zejmena

to merge [maxq3] - spujit
laid political claim to one quarter of the earth's had civilinou zem surface [ˈkwɔːtə ˈsɔːtis] - si nárokovala politický vís ounding member ['liwndy memba] - zakladajíci

government is responsible to her for its decisions are not keen [kiːn] - nejsou naklonění sponsib(a)l] · vláda se jí zodpovídá ze svých

elected [riskind] - voleny currently ['kar(a)ntli] - momentálně still under discussion - je stale předmětem Noty (a'sembli) - shromáždění

is living below the poverty line [poveti] - Zije pod unemployment [Annin planm(a)mt] - nezamestnanost ife expectancy [ik/speku/ə)nsi] - průměrná délka

murat [ˈmjoərət] - nástěnný bank holidays - státní svatek, den pracovního volná

January February (chira

Alex Jordan (UK) Zuzana Pernicová (CR)

Where to go | England?

England. Which ones would coasts, mountains and and villages, medieval castles countries - historical towns attractions in all the countries: England, Scotland **Great Britain and Northern** summer holiday? you choose if planning you the most famous places in and cathedrals, picturesque Wales and Northern Ireland. The United Kingdom of lakes. Here are just some of There are numerous tourist ireland consists of four

as St. James's Park, Hyde Park or offers many parks to relax in, such buildings by the famous contemporary of modern architecture can admire including the British Museum, for several days, or even weeks. Apart Kensington Gardens architect Norman Foster. London also human history are exhibited. Lovers where over 7 million objects from also lots of galleries and museums, from the obvious must-sees, there are attractions to keep a visitor entertained capital, London. It has enough England by visiting the British Most tourists start exploring

> Jane Austen, who used to live there. and it is connected with the writer of 18th-century Georgian architecture, The city also has some great examples water naturally flows from the earth) over hot springs (= places where hot admire the Roman baths there, built town by the ancient Romans in 43 AD, and you can still Bath was established as a spa

French Napoleonic navy in 1805. Lord Nelson used in the Battle of is, for example, HMS Victory, the ship a number of famous old ships. There Royal Naval Museum there and see coast of England. You can visit the frafalgar, where the British beat the Portsmouth on the south history, you should go to If you are interested in naval

in Cambridge is a popular place for special atmosphere. The River Cam architecture of the colleges and their not a student, you can enjoy the old the riverbed) moved by pushing a long pole against punting (= boating in long narrow boats the oldest in the world. Even if you are 5 famous university towns, and their universities are among Oxford and Cambridge are

> lake in Britain. The region is also connected with the "Lake Taylor Coleridge...). and were inspired by the place romantic poets who lived there Poets", a group of 19th-century scenery, mountains and lakes (William Wordsworth, Samuel Lake Windermere is the largest District, a region with beautiful Ecountryside to cities you may enjoy the Lake If you prefer

boasts (= has something to be proud of) the oldest pub in England, Ye Olde trom before 1189. Trip to Jerusalem, thought to date Nottingham Castle. The town also see an exhibition on the legends at legendary Robin Hood, and you can Sherwood Forest are well known as the home of the Nottingham and the nearby

houses) with decorative gardens. and manor houses (= large countr) light grey rock); and also for castles of local limestone (= a white or towns and villages with houses built are popular for their picturesque of Oursranding Natural Beauty. They in central England which were designated as an Area The Cotswolds are low hills

Chinese decorations inside. early 19th century in Indian style, with Pavilion, a royal palace built in the 3each and the exotic-looking Royal resort south of London. Don' miss the popular Brighton Brighton is a famous seaside

a UNESCO World Heritage Site. of the city centre with the docks is a very important port, and a part formed. In the past, it used to be place where The Beatles were

every year as it is the thousands of music tans

Liverpool draws

literary work by Geoffrey Chaucer

lales, a famous 14th-century was the theme of The Canterbury a destination for Christian archbishop Thomas Becket was

pilgrims, and one such pilgrimage murdered in 1170. It became

cathedral, where the is known for its medieval

The town of Canterbury

of the year) and watching the sunrise. the best-known prehistoric monument in the world. Built summer and winter solstice (= the longest and shortest day) (= religious ceremonies). People enjoy gathering there on the around 2,500 BC, it consists of circles of big standing stones It may have served as a burial ground and a place of worship based on. Some 15 km from Salisbury is **Stonehenge**, perhaps document that the British constitution and legal system are medieval cathedral. It was built eight hundred years ago and houses the Magna Carta – the famous The main attraction of Salisbury is its beautiful

even if you are not into theatre, which shows on the surface). houses from Shakespeare's time with picturesque half-timbered you can enjoy the old streets Royal Shakespeare Theatre. But Shakespeare was born and the in history, William Shakespeare. (= houses with a wooden frame You can visit the house where Stratford-upon-Avon is the birthplace of one of the greatest playwrights

is also famous for its large Gothic cathedral where the Viking town and houses were uncovered in sounds and smells. The museum is built on the exact spot can see reconstructions of Viking York, complete with 1978. A small train takes you through the exhibits, and museum at the end displays real Viking artefacts. York powerful under the reign of the Vikings (who called it Jorvik). At the Jorvik Viking Centre you

York is an ancient city that was very wealthy and



be the birthplace of the legendary King Arthur. castle ruin towering over the sea, which is said to in Britain, and also Tintagel Castle, an impressive Land's End there, the most southwesterly point of England, is very popular thanks to its long and beautiful coastline. You can find Cornwall, a county in the south-west