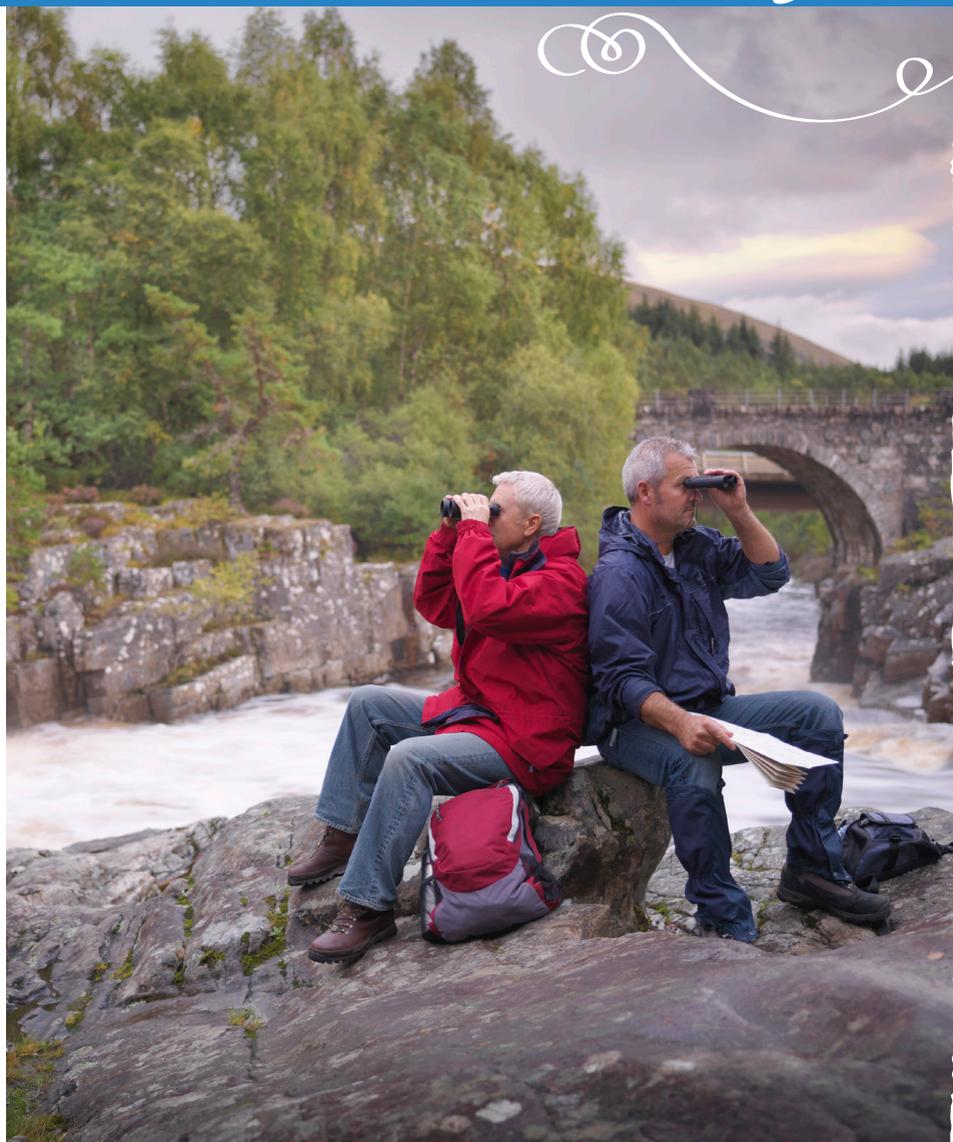


# The Saga guide

*...to Britain's hidden gems*



• Discover different places to visit • New walks to try • North, south, east and west...



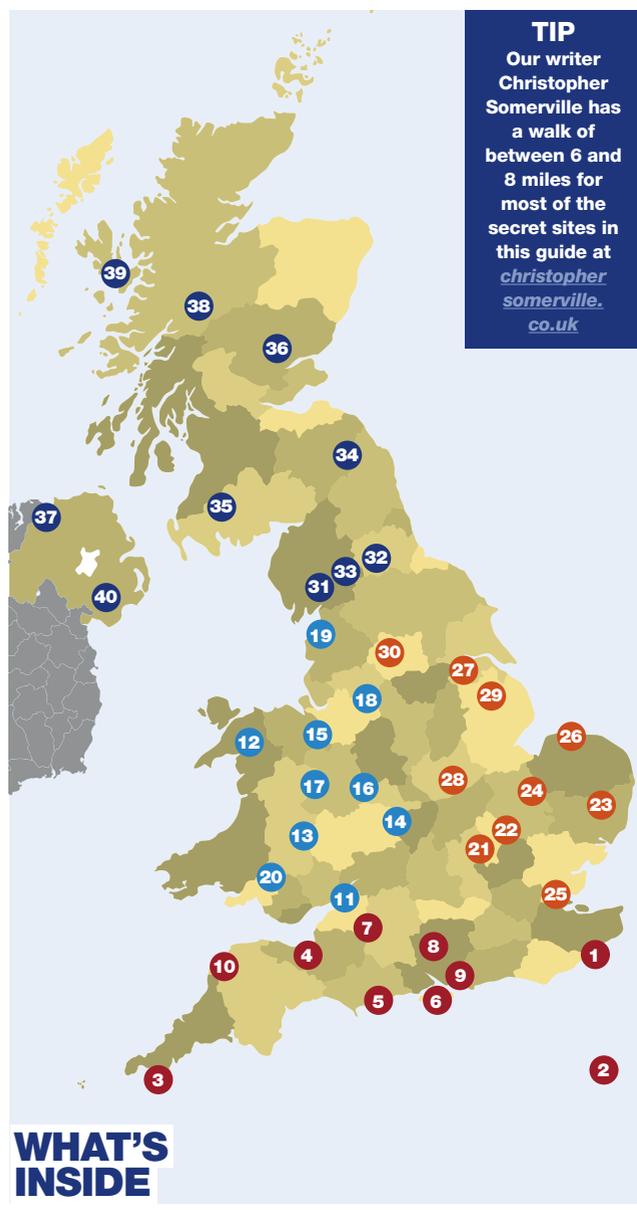
## Welcome

**Great Britain is full of surprises.** Every region has some hidden gem that only a few have discovered: a deserted village here, a wildflower meadow there, Iron Age forts and historic houses.

More and more nature reserves are being developed to protect our flora and fauna – and to make the areas as accessible to all as possible – from mountain ranges to beaches, to estuaries, mud flats and marshes that are perfect for bird-spotting.

Getting out in the fresh air for some exercise is known to be good for us and there's nothing like a walk with a reward at the end, whether that's a glass of good cider or a heavenly view.

With this in mind, travel writer and walker Christopher Somerville has agreed to share his favourite secret spots for a great day out. What are you waiting for?



**TIP**  
Our writer Christopher Somerville has a walk of between 6 and 8 miles for most of the secret sites in this guide at [christopher.somerville.co.uk](http://christopher.somerville.co.uk)

### WHAT'S INSIDE

The Saga guide to Britain's Hidden Gems offers 40 places to visit and to walk, mainly off the tourist track. Each place has a description along with a map grid reference for easy location and a website for more information.



**1** Dungeness **Kent**  
Europe's largest sheet of pebbles forms a gigantic arrowhead at the southern tip of Kent. Migrating birds pass or touch down here when they arrive for the winter. The RSPB visitor centre and bird hides are full of information. Plus the shore plants, the black tarred fishermen's huts and the grey monoliths of the nuclear power station make this a truly unique place.

**BEST IN** autumn  
**LOCATION** OS Explorer 125, ref TR062197; RSPB Dungeness Nature Reserve TN29 9PN  
**ACCESS/INFO** [rspb.org.uk](http://rspb.org.uk); [dungenessbirdobs.org.uk](http://dungenessbirdobs.org.uk)

**2** Atlantic Wall **Channel Islands**  
The massive fortifications of the 'Atlantic Wall', relics of the German Occupation, still stand starkly around the coasts. On Jersey, there are concrete gun casemates at Millbrook Bay, towers around St Ouen's Bay, and Lothringen Battery and museum on Noirmont Point. On Guernsey's Pleinmont Headland are more towers to investigate.

**BEST IN** spring  
**LOCATION** Jersey and Guernsey  
**ACCESS/INFO** [livingwiththeenemy.com](http://livingwiththeenemy.com). Occupation Trail map at [jersey.com](http://jersey.com); [visitguernsey.com](http://visitguernsey.com)

**3** St Levan's Well and Beach **Cornwall**  
Below St Levan's Church lies St Levan's Well, a seep of water among granite boulders. Just beyond, the path drops to tiny Porthchapel beach, a patch of sand between tall cliffs. 'St Levan' was Selevan, a 6th-century Christian pioneer from Ireland. He once cursed a local woman who rebuked him for fishing at Porthchapel on the Sabbath.

**BEST IN** summer  
**LOCATION** OS Explorer 102, ref SW381222 (car park)  
**ACCESS/INFO** [cornwalls.co.uk](http://cornwalls.co.uk); [southwestcoastpath.org.uk](http://southwestcoastpath.org.uk)

**4** Roger Wilkins's Cider Farm **Mudgley, Somerset**  
The Wilkins family has been making and selling good cider at Land's End Farm for many a year in the hamlet of Mudgley, a little above the flatlands of the Somerset Levels. There is something peculiarly restful about the dark, creaky cider shed where you can ruminate and sip before Roger fills a container with the blend that suits you.

**BEST IN** autumn  
**LOCATION** OS Explorer 141, ref ST454456. Land's End Farm, Mudgley BS28 4TU  
**ACCESS/INFO** [wilkinscider.com](http://wilkinscider.com)



**5**  
**Tyneham Dorset**  
The folk of Tyneham had to leave their homes in 1943 so that soldiers could train there. The villagers never returned, and Tyneham has lain abandoned ever since. Now you can visit the eerie place. Worbarrow Bay below is wonderful for swimming.

**BEST IN** summer  
**LOCATION** OS Explorer OL15, ref SY882802, near Wareham  
**ACCESS/INFO** Open most weekends, [tynehamvillage.org](http://tynehamvillage.org)

**7**  
**North Meadow Cricklade, Wiltshire**  
North Meadow is farmed the traditional way – the Thames floods it with rich silt in winter, the grass is left to grow through summer, and cattle graze and dung it in the autumn. The result? A remarkable display of wild flowers in spring, including cowslips, yellow rattle, milkmaids and marsh orchids. Also flourishing here



**6**  
**Bembridge Down Isle of Wight**  
Just below Bembridge Fort, the grassy slopes of Bembridge Down fall away towards the cliffs. In June and July, they are covered in rare bee orchids, with sepals like pink propeller blades and lower lips like a bumblebee's bottom.

**BEST IN** June, July  
**LOCATION** OS Explorer OL29, ref SZ623860. Car parks PO36 8QY. Off B3395 to coastal path  
**ACCESS/INFO** [nationaltrust.org.uk](http://nationaltrust.org.uk)

in April and May are 80% of Britain's population of snake's-head fritillaries, spectacular flowers with drooping bell-like heads of purple and white.

**BEST IN** April, May  
**LOCATION** OS Explorer 169, ref SU095940; 1 mile NW Cricklade  
**ACCESS/INFO** [crickladeinbloom.co.uk](http://crickladeinbloom.co.uk). A 20-minute walk along clear paths from car parks in the town centre

**8**  
**Silchester Hampshire**  
Winter sunshine makes the most of what the Romans left at Silchester – a ring of complete flint walls that encircled their town of Calleva Atrebatum. Nearby lies the bowl of an amphitheatre that could seat 3,500 spectators. The town was destroyed by fire in 500BC – some say by Aelle, Saxon King of Sussex, who sent sparrows there with flaming tails.

**BEST IN** winter  
**LOCATION** OS Explorer 159, ref SU636629. Car park RG7 2HP. 10 miles SW of Reading  
**ACCESS/INFO** Open all year; [english-heritage.org.uk](http://english-heritage.org.uk)

**9**  
**Kingley Vale West Sussex**  
Two special spots to enjoy at this fabulous nature reserve. One is an ancient yew grove, shadowy and quiet, the limbs of the trees like ancient arms. They were old when the Romans landed. The other spot is higher up, where sun-warmed chalk grassland is full of flowering plants attracting blues, coppers, browns and other butterflies.

**BEST IN** summer  
**LOCATION** OS Explorer OL8, ref SU825088 (car park), off B2178  
**ACCESS/INFO** 1 mile from car park by footpath; [naturalengland.org.uk](http://naturalengland.org.uk)

**10**  
**Hartland Point Devon**

Winter in wild weather is the time to be here, walking the dark sandstone cliffs to the lighthouse, where the coast of Devon turns abruptly from north to east. Here you can watch and listen to the storm-driven waves smashing on the black rocks offshore.

**BEST IN** winter  
**LOCATION** OS Explorer 126, ref SS235275 (car park) or by foot 3 miles from Hartland Quay Hotel EX39 6DU  
**ACCESS/INFO** [hartlandquayhotel.co.uk](http://hartlandquayhotel.co.uk); [southwestcoastpath.org.uk](http://southwestcoastpath.org.uk)



**TIP**  
Go to [gridreferencefinder.com](http://gridreferencefinder.com) and enter the OS reference number or postcode to see a satellite picture of where you would like to go

# WEST

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## **Ships' Graveyard Purton, Gloucestershire**

Dozens of obsolete boats – concrete barges, and wooden Severn colliers with names such as *Orby* and *Harriett* – were rammed into the bank of the River Severn, just down from Purton, from 1909 to stabilise it. Each vessel has a plaque showing its history.

**BEST IN** autumn

**LOCATION** OS Explorer OL14, ref SO691045. From Berkeley Arms GL13 9HU a 10-minute walk south along Severn Way  
**ACCESS/INFO** Rough ground sometimes waterlogged, [friendsofpurton.org.uk](http://friendsofpurton.org.uk)



**TIP**

Phone app maps are good when you are unsure of the way but, for a wider view, you can't beat the Ordnance Survey's Explorer map at 125,000 scale

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## **Llyn Bochlwyd and Llyn Idwal Snowdonia, Wales**

Climb steeply up beside the waterfalls of Nant Bochlwyd to the hanging valley where Llyn Bochlwyd hides. Then steeply down to Llyn Idwal under the crags of Glyder Fawr. Alpine flowers such as starry saxifrage and alpine lady's mantle jewel the green sward at the head of the lake.

**BEST IN** summer

**LOCATION** OS Explorer OL17, ref SH649603. Start at Warden Centre, Nant Ffrancon, Cwm Idwal car park, LL57 3LZ  
**ACCESS/INFO** Easy mountain walk at [eryri-npa.gov.uk](http://eryri-npa.gov.uk)

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## **Craswall Priory Black Mountains Herefordshire**

Lost and forgotten in a fold of the Black Mountains are the ruins of Craswall Priory. The monks who built it in 1225 were of the austere Grandmont order. These days, sheep graze the lumpy floor of the nave, ivy smothers the west end, and a melancholy peace hangs over the place.

**BEST IN** autumn

**LOCATION** OS Explorer OL13, ref SO273377. By Abbey Farm, near Hay-on-Wye HR2 0PX  
**ACCESS/INFO** Park on road near Craswall Church; [historicengland.org.uk](http://historicengland.org.uk)

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## **Draycote Meadows Warwickshire**

Draycote Meadows are Warwickshire's best wildflower meadows. Looked after by the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust, they abound with early purple orchids, milkmaids and cowslips in the spring, and then in May and June there's an astonishing display of green-winged orchids.

**BEST IN** late spring/early summer

**LOCATION** OS Explorer 222, ref SP449706 (to park)  
**ACCESS/INFO** Always open and info boards on site; [warwickshirewildlifetrust.org.uk](http://warwickshirewildlifetrust.org.uk)

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## **Beeston Castle Cheshire**

From the peak of the castle crag, the Pennine and Welsh hills, Liverpool Cathedral, the cone of the Wrekin and the city of Chester all lie in open view, with the Victorian folly of Peckforton Castle rising on its sandstone rock a mile away to the south. One of England's most memorable prospects.

**BEST IN** spring

**LOCATION** OS Explorer 257, ref SJ541591. 10 miles SE of Chester  
**ACCESS/INFO** woodland walk, busy at holiday times; [english-heritage.org.uk/beeston](http://english-heritage.org.uk/beeston)

16

## **German Cemetery Cannock Chase Staffordshire**

Hundreds of soldiers from all over the world lie in Cannock Chase's Commonwealth War Cemetery. Just along the lane, the German Cemetery holds every German who died in these islands during both World Wars, buried in pairs. It's a very peaceful place full of birdsong.

**BEST IN** autumn

**LOCATION** OS Explorer 244, SJ986157. Park at the Commonwealth War Cemetery, near Cannock  
**ACCESS/INFO** [cwgc.org](http://cwgc.org)

17

## **The Hollies, Lord's Hill Snailbeach Shropshire**

You won't find many genuine hollies, or groves of managed holly trees, around this country any more, but The Hollies on the Stiperstones Ridge is one. In former times the farmer would pollard the trees and feed the upper, less spiky leaves to his cattle during snow. In winter, flocks of thrushes feed on the red berries of the rowans between.

**BEST IN** winter

**LOCATION** OS Explorer 216, ref SJ383016. Off A488  
**ACCESS/INFO** Always open, with info boards and easy path; [shropshirewildlifetrust.org.uk](http://shropshirewildlifetrust.org.uk)

18

## **Derwent Edge Derbyshire**

A paved path leads north up the length of Derwent Edge in the Peak District, passing the outcrop of Dovestone Tor where weathering has sculpted a pair of monstrous lovers' heads, for ever petrified, their protruding lips fated never to touch. Keep an eye out for mountain hares, the only colony in England, their white winter pelts beginning to flush with the chocolate brown of the approaching summer.

**BEST IN** late winter

**LOCATION** OS Explorer OL1, ref SK217874. Car park at Cutthroat Bridge on A57 by Ladybower Reservoir. Follow the bridleway west to Whinstone Lee gap, then north along Derwent Edge.  
**ACCESS/INFO** Steep but easy path; for more information about white hares, go to nature writer Jim Dixon's blog at [jimdixonwriter.com](http://jimdixonwriter.com)





**19**  
Glasson Dock,  
Lancashire

Built near the mouth of the Lune estuary when the river silted up, Glasson once had bustling shipyards, now silent. The docks still handle outgoing coal and incoming agricultural materials, while the little town has slipped into a gentle and sleepy retirement. The Port of Lancaster Smokehouse has a remarkable range of goodies – haddock, sausages, salmon, chorizo, cheeses. It's picnic heaven.

**BEST IN** summer

**LOCATION** OS Explorer 296, ref SD446561. Glasson Dock car park, LA2 0AW

**ACCESS/INFO** [visitalancashire.com](http://visitalancashire.com), [glassondock.co.uk](http://glassondock.co.uk), [lancastersmokehouse.co.uk](http://lancastersmokehouse.co.uk)

**20**

Carreg Cennen Castle,  
Carmarthenshire, South Wales

Carreg Cennen Castle resembles a rank of broken fangs. It is potent with menace, even now. There is mystery and magic hidden under the castle, too. A passage leads deep into a pitch-black cavern where Urien Rheged, knight of the Round Table, lies in enchanted sleep till King Arthur summons him to save the land.

**BEST IN** summer

**LOCATION** OS Explorer 186, ref SN666193. Car park SA19 6UA, 4 miles SE of Llandeilo

**ACCESS/INFO** Open daily, but there is an admission fee; bring a torch, or hire one at the café; [carregcennencastle.com](http://carregcennencastle.com)

**TIP**  
Walking poles reduce the impact on your hips, legs and feet joints, especially when going downhill. Studies have shown that they can reduce pressure on the knees by up to 25%

# EAST

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## Dashwood Mausoleum Buckinghamshire

Just above the Hellfire Caves at West Wycombe stands a large mausoleum, with grotesque faces leering from funerary urns. The urns were for the hearts of Hellfire Club members, but only the club steward's heart ended up here – and that was stolen.

**BEST IN** autumn (busiest at Halloween)

**LOCATION** OS Explorer 172, ref SU827950. Walk up from Hellfire Caves HP14 3AH, or park at St Lawrence's church  
**ACCESS/INFO** Open all year



22

## Marston Vale Bedfordshire

In their Thirties heyday, Stewartby brickworks produced 500 million bricks a year. Now the brickfields are being transformed into the Forest of Marston Vale, a community forest with ponds, trails and woods. Four towering industrial chimneys still stand, smokeless and gaunt, over a beautiful lake where the giant clay pits once lay in all their desolation.

**BEST IN** summer

**LOCATION** OS Explorer 208, ref TL004418. Marston Vale Forest Centre MK43 0PR; off A421  
**ACCESS/INFO** [marstonvale.org](http://marstonvale.org)

23

## Wingfield, Suffolk

A tiny hamlet in the back of beyond, with three notable treasures: a Georgian farmhouse that was originally a 14th-century college for priests (now Wingfield Barns arts centre), the superb De La Pole Arms, and Wingfield's gorgeous church, a stately ship of flint. Inside, De La Poles and Wingfields lie in effigy, exquisitely carved, their weathered old faces full of character.

**BEST IN** summer

**LOCATION** OS Explorer 230, ref TM230768; off B1118  
**ACCESS/INFO** [wingfieldbarns.com](http://wingfieldbarns.com)

24

## Holme Fen Cambridgeshire

Holme Fen has been shrinking, its ground level dropping, ever since drainage for agriculture began to suck the black peat dry. The cast-iron columns of the Holme Posts mark Britain's lowest point, 9 feet below sea level. In 1852 the older of the two posts was rammed into the peat until its top was flush with the ground. Today it stands 13 feet tall, a measure of how far the land has shrunk.

**BEST IN** spring

**LOCATION** OS Explorer 227, TL203894; near Yaxley  
**ACCESS/INFO** [greatfen.org.uk](http://greatfen.org.uk)

25

## Canvey Island, Essex

From below sea level on Canvey Island came Dr Feelgood in the Seventies, the 'best local band in the world'. Walk the 14-mile sea wall, in the shadow of Coryton oil refinery and the cranes of London Gateway port, to discover the strange, haunting landscape that inspired the band. The saltmarshes to the west are home to a diverse population of birds.

**BEST IN** summer

**LOCATION** OS Explorer 175. A130 to Canvey Island  
**ACCESS/INFO** Wander at will; [drfeelgood.org](http://drfeelgood.org); [rspb.org.uk](http://rspb.org.uk)



26

## Holkham Nature Reserve Norfolk

Late in the afternoon, take your binoculars along the forest track to the Holkham Estate's easy-access bird hide. Thousands of pink-footed geese fly all together to their night's roost, either in the meadows in front of the hide, or right overhead towards the sea – a staggering sight and sound.

**BEST IN** winter

**LOCATION** OS Explorer 251, ref TF891448. Bird hide signed from car park NR23 1RG  
**ACCESS/INFO** [holkham.co.uk](http://holkham.co.uk)

27

## Thorne Moors South Yorkshire

This nature reserve offers walks in woodland, moorland, bog and marsh. Look out for bog rosemary, large heath butterflies, hares and water voles. In the evening, listen for nightingales and rattling nightjars. This was once a barren wasteland after coal mining and peat stripping.

**BEST IN** summer

**LOCATION** OS Explorer 279 (ref SE723151) and 280. Two car parks in Moorends on A614, two near Crowle, A161  
**ACCESS/INFO** [naturalengland.org.uk](http://naturalengland.org.uk)

28

## Ingarsby Deserted Village Leicestershire

A field of hummocks and hollows is all that's left of the deserted village of Ingarsby. In 1469 the land was enclosed for sheep grazing, forcing the crop-growers of Ingarsby to abandon their homes and fields. It is a ghostly place to wander on a day of low winter sun when the grassy humps stand out against the shadows.

**BEST IN** winter

**LOCATION** OS Explorer 233, ref SK684050, just south of Ingarsby Old Hall LE7 9JL  
**ACCESS/INFO** [historicalengland.org.uk](http://historicalengland.org.uk)

29

## Ramblers' Church Walesby, Lincolnshire

St Andrew's Church on the Wolds above Walesby became the focus of walkers' expeditions in the Thirties, when it stood in romantic ruins. Note the beautiful stained-glass window depicting clean-limbed young ramblers, and the jostle of cheeky faces among the stone foliage of the nave pillars.

**BEST IN** spring

**LOCATION** OS Explorer 282, ref TF134924. From crossroads by Walesby Village Hall LN8 3UT, Viking Way for ¼ mile to church.  
**ACCESS/INFO** Usually open; [britainexpress.com](http://britainexpress.com)

## EAST

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**Gordale Scar**  
**North Yorkshire**  
Gordale Scar is the remnant of a vast cave, carved out by raging floodwaters at the end of the last Ice Age. You can climb up the Scar to the left of the lower waterfall; in the upper chamber, climb on the left side to the top.

**BEST IN** autumn

**LOCATION** OS Explorer OL2, ref SD915641; E of Malham

**ACCESS/INFO** Moderate rock scramble. Plenty of hand and foot holds. No experience needed – but climb at your own risk; [malhamdale.com](http://malhamdale.com)

### TIP

Good stout walking trainers will see you to many of these sites if conditions are dry. But hiking boots give the best support for knees and ankles on rough terrain

## NORTH

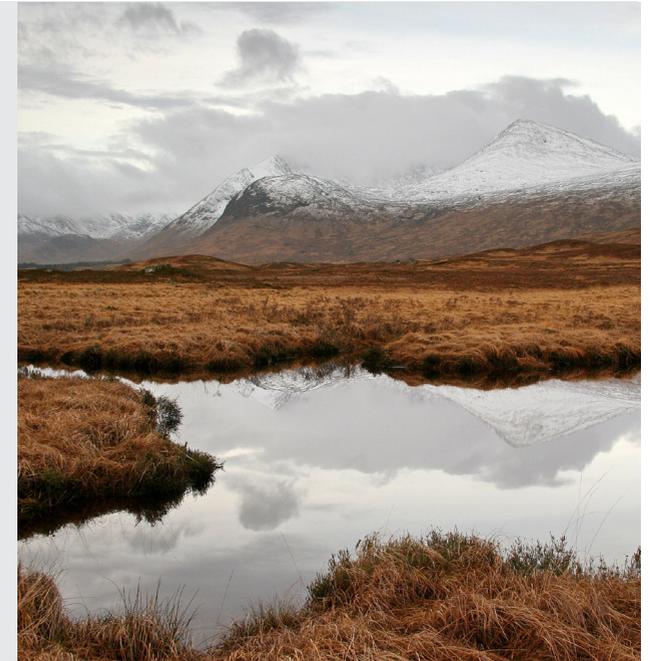
31

**Swindale**  
**Lake District, Cumbria**  
Swindale is a lonely dale, where farming is as hard as the landscape is beautiful. Few make their way here, even to walk. The narrow dale holds a scatter of stone barns and farmhouses, Swaledale ewes in the bracken, and a tumbling beck over whitened stones, all enclosed by a half-moon of crags at the dale head.

**BEST IN** autumn

**LOCATION** OS Explorer OL5, ref NY522142. Left through Rosgill, then left to Swindale

**ACCESS/INFO** Some steep climbs; [where2walk.co.uk](http://where2walk.co.uk)



32

**Cronkley Fell**  
**Durham Dales**

A sensationally beautiful setting above the River Tees in Upper Teesdale. Delicate arctic-alpine flowers – royal blue spring gentians, Teesdale violets, pink bird's-eye primroses and more – survive in 'exclosures' here, safe from grazing rabbits and sheep.

**BEST IN** spring

**LOCATION** OS Explorer OL31, ref NY867298, Hanging Shaws car park on B6277, 7 miles from Middleton-in-Teesdale

**ACCESS/INFO** Some steep walking; [bsbi.org.uk](http://bsbi.org.uk)

33

**Cautley Spout**  
**Howgill Fells, Cumbria**

A lonely waterfall in a cleft of the Howgill Fells, with a very steep climb beside the multiple fall. The jaw-dropping view back over the valley, with the fall hissing and sluicing below you, makes a rich reward for the effort of getting there.

**BEST IN** winter

**LOCATION** OS Explorer OL19, SD698969. 1 mile by footpath from Cross Keys Inn, Cautley LA10 5NE, between Sedbergh and Kirkby Stephen on A683

**ACCESS/INFO** Avoid in icy conditions; [cautleyspout.co.uk](http://cautleyspout.co.uk)

34

**College Valley**  
**Cheviot Hills,**  
**Northumberland**

The deep, sheltered cleft of College Valley in the northern flank of the Cheviots is sheep-farming country. It's a stiff pull up the slope of Great Hetha to the Iron Age fort at the summit, a double rampart of stone, with a view of hills folding away to the south in green and purple waves.

**BEST IN** autumn

**LOCATION** OS Explorer OL16, ref NT894280; College Valley car park at Hethpool NE71 6TW  
**ACCESS/INFO** A steep climb; [college-valley.co.uk](http://college-valley.co.uk)

35

**Galloway Forest Park  
SW Scotland**

This remote park enjoys night skies so free from light pollution that it has been designated Britain's first Dark Sky Park. On a cloudless night you can see as many as 7,000 stars and planets. Bring a telescope for a closer look.

**BEST ON** a clear summer night  
**LOCATION** OS Explorer 318, ref NX552764. Clatteringshaws Visitor Centre DG7 3SQ

**ACCESS/INFO** Visitor centre open daytime, March–October, but you can watch the stars from here at any time. Stargazing tips at [scotland.forestry.gov.uk](http://scotland.forestry.gov.uk)

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**Meikle Pictish Stones  
Perth & Kinross,  
E Scotland**

Vigorous animal figures, warriors with aggressively jutting beards and beaked helmets, hunters running with spears... On display in the small museum at Meikle are remarkable stone carvings from the Pictish civilisation 1,300 years ago.

**BEST IN** summer  
**LOCATION** OS Explorer 381. Meikle Sculptured Stone Museum PH12 8SB

**ACCESS/INFO** Open daily from Easter until the end of September; [pictishstones.org.uk](http://pictishstones.org.uk)



37

**Benone Strand  
Co Derry, N Ireland**

The sea creams over the wild strand of Benone, seven clear miles of sand running west to the mouth of Lough Foyle, with the hills of 'dark Inishowen' beckoning beyond from far-off Donegal.

Umbra Dunes, under the cliffs, are famous for their dark red pyramidal orchids.

**BEST IN** summer  
**LOCATION** OSNI 04, ref NV902960. Car park on A2 west of Castlerock  
**ACCESS/INFO** [ulsterwildlife.org](http://ulsterwildlife.org)

38

**Creag Meagaidh  
Glen Spean, W Scotland**

A mountain path rises across flowery slopes to the head of its glen. From here you look down to Lochan a' Choire, a little glass-still lake under black cliffs. Arctic char have been the resident fish since they were isolated up here at the end of the last glaciation.

**BEST IN** summer  
**LOCATION** OS Explorer OL55, (formerly 401), ref NN483872 (car park). Follow red trail to Coire Ardair, then 3 miles to Lochan a' Choire (NN439883)  
**ACCESS/INFO** Moderate but steep stony paths; [nnr-scotland.org.uk/creag-meagaidh](http://nnr-scotland.org.uk/creag-meagaidh)

39

**Camasunary Bay  
Isle of Skye, W Scotland**

A narrow path leads across a steep hillside with a wonderful view ahead. Camasunary Bay is a wild gem, a strand of grey, wave-pounded pebbles backed by a green sward. Its two houses, one each end of the bay, stand dwarfed by the Cuillin mountains behind.

**BEST IN** spring  
**LOCATION** OS Explorer 411, ref NG519137, parking bay opposite Cuillin View Coffee Shop, Elgol IV49 9BJ. Camasunary path begins on left  
**ACCESS/INFO** Narrow, vertiginous path; [theskyeguide.com](http://theskyeguide.com)

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**Slieve Gullion  
Co Armagh, N Ireland**

You can feel as though you are on the top of the world at the summit of Slieve Gullion. To the east you can see Carlingford Lough and the hummocky backbone of the Mountains of Mourne. Northwards, the tumbled hills of Antrim. Northwest the billowy heave and roll of the Sperrins, a gleam of Lough Neagh at their feet. Southwest the unrolling Midland plain. And down to the south, diminutive, unmistakable and as pale as tin cut-outs, the hills of Wicklow more than 60 miles away.

**BEST IN** winter  
**LOCATION** OSNI 29, SB120778, Slieve Gullion Forest Park car park  
**ACCESS/INFO** [walkni.com](http://walkni.com), [ringofgullion.org](http://ringofgullion.org)

**TIP**

Many sites allow dogs, even in the nature reserves, as long as they are kept under close control or on a lead. Remember to clear up after your pet!





[SAGA.CO.UK/MAGAZINE](http://SAGA.CO.UK/MAGAZINE)

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