

Food & drink

With its world-famous chefs, Michelin-starred gastro pubs, plentiful food festivals and delectable markets, England has become a leading culinary destination. Tuck into a traditional English breakfast, seek out local cheese and cider in country villages, and head to the coast for fresh fish and chips.



> CHOCOLATE - York's Sweet Story



> EAT! © NewcastleGateshead Initiative



> Rick Stein Cookery School, Padstow © VisitBritain

1 Chocolate in York

The birthplace of iconic confectioners Rowntree's and Terry's of York has relished a close relationship with sweet treats for years. Find York's newest chocolate-themed attraction, CHOCOLATE – York's Sweet Story, filled with cocoa history, local chocolate-making secrets and delicious sweet samples to try along the way. York's confectionery connections are also explored on York Walk's Choccy & Sweetie Tour.

www.yorkssweetstory.com

www.yorkwalk.co.uk



> Borough Market © VisitBritain Joanna Henderson



> Cream tea © VisitBritain

3 Cream tea, Devon

Reward rambles in the West Country greenery with a delightfully indulgent Devonshire cream tea. This decadent dish of golden scones smothered with thick clotted cream and strawberry jam can be found adorning tables across the country, but Devon's beachside cafés and quaint village teashops certainly offer an inimitably English backdrop. A steaming pot of English tea is the perfect accompaniment.

www.visitdevon.co.uk

4 Eat! NewcastleGateshead

Dive headfirst into this passionate and eccentric food festival that loudly celebrates the northeast's plentiful food producers and eateries. EAT! NewcastleGateshead is a fun food and drink extravaganza that runs for two weeks every June. Past events have featured lively cooking competitions, a quest for the best bacon butty and miniature models of iconic regional buildings made from cake and colourful icing.

www.eatnewcastlegateshead.com

2 Padstow Seafood School, Cornwall

Create fine fish dishes and pick up impressive new culinary skills at acclaimed TV chef Rick Stein's cookery school on Padstow waterfront. Courses range from one to six days, and cover a range of culinary styles – including French Fish Cookery, Classic Seafood Dishes, and Japanese Sashimi and Sushi. After learning how to prepare a plate of top-notch seafood, take a seat and relish the result.

www.rickstein.com

5 Borough Market, London

Taste artisan cheese and freshly baked bread, and browse piled-high fruit stalls, a rainbow of fresh fish and pots of international cuisine at this fashionable food market in southeast London. Markets have traded here for centuries, and today Borough Market is a supremely popular flurry of activity. Many vendors offer free tasters, and wonderful cafés and restaurants fill surrounding buildings.

www.boroughmarket.org.uk

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> Afternoon tea © VisitBritain Joanna Henderson



> Beer menu © VisitBritain Martin Brent



> Shell fishing, Whitstable © VisitBritain



> The Chapel Down Winery © The Chapel Down Winery

6 Protected Geographical Status foods

From the hearty Cumberland sausage to fresh Whitstable Oysters, England's regional foods are a delectable adventure. With many of these local treasures, the place name can only be used if the food item is made in the traditional manner and produced within the area. Top treats include crumbly Melton Mowbray pork pies, flavoursome Gloucestershire cider, Cornish pasties and Stilton cheese.

7 Afternoon tea, London

Partake in an afternoon of dainty tea cakes, tiny sandwiches and pretty bone china in the English capital. This elegant ritual – once a pastime of the upper classes – is available in all manner of fine hotels, trendy cafés and swish restaurants. Add a glass of Champagne to the experience at iconic London hotels such as The Ritz and The Dorchester.

www.theritzlondon.com/tea

www.thedorchester.com/afternoon-tea

8 The Chapel Down Winery, Kent

Find this acclaimed English wine producer's beautiful vineyards and delightful herb garden amid the rolling Kent countryside. Take a guided tour around the award-winning winery and explore the history of English wines and wine making, get an inside view of Chapel Down's wine-producing process, and finish with a tasting session of some of the vineyard's favourite tipples.

www.englishwinesgroup.com

9 Michelin-starred pubs

From remote country inns to historic village taverns, the traditional English pub has fallen in love with fantastic food. Top foodie pubs include the Michelin-starred Black Swan in the Yorkshire village of Oldstead, with its rich wood furnishings and Persian rugs. The Hand & Flowers in Marlow is the country's only pub with two Michelin stars, serving French and British flavours with many innovative twists.

www.blackswanoldstead.co.uk

www.thehandandflowers.co.uk

10 Cadbury World, Birmingham

Indulge in a trip to Cadbury World for chocolate-filled family fun. Themed zones relay chocolate's rich history, from the Mexican cocoa trees loved by the Mayan Indians to the bean's journey across the seas. Discover the history of Cadbury, take a ride in a Beanmobile and see chocolate rain falling from the sky at the interactive Purple Planet area.

www.cadburyworld.co.uk



> English breakfast © VisitBritain

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> A selection of cheeses ©VisitBritain Martin Brent



> Sulgrave Manor © VisitBritain



> Herefordshire cyclists © Visit Herefordshire

11 Derby Real Ale Festivals

Derby's calendar brims with beer and ale events of all sizes. Twice a year the large CAMRA Beer Festival offers hundreds of real ales, ciders and perries. Across the area, the numerous local microbreweries offer exciting new brews, and many put on their own independent festivals. Take a Real Ale Tour to see inside a microbrewery and visit a selection of real ale pubs.

www.derbycamra.org.uk

www.realalederby.com

12 Fish 'n' chips

Crispy batter, flaky white fish and thick chips with lashings of vinegar: meet England's signature dish. Fish and chip shops (known as "chippies") across England continually vie for the title of the country's best 'fish'n'chips'. Coastal towns are predictably big contenders, and Magpie Café in Whitby is a clear favourite. Pull up a chair for a full fish supper or pick up a tasty takeaway.

www.magpiecafe.co.uk

13 English cheese

Slice into a crumbly Dorset Blue, plump for a hunk of West Country Farmhouse Cheddar or take an adventurous mouthful of the aptly named Stinking Bishop. English cheeses are bursting with character. From the pale cheeses of the Yorkshire Dales, to pungent Stilton and the mottled green Sage Derby, find a world of textures, flavours and some truly memorable names.

14 The English breakfast

Eggs, bacon, sausage, black pudding, hash browns, grilled tomatoes and maybe even mushrooms and baked beans – not forgetting a slice of buttered toast on the side. Yes, the traditional English breakfast is a substantial affair. For a bed & breakfast with an award-winning "fry-up" try Bokiddick Farm in Cornwall, and for a relaxed brunch, Bill's eateries in Lewes, Brighton, Reading and London certainly do the dish justice.

www.bokiddickfarm.co.uk

www.bills-website.co.uk

Hidden Gems



> English fish 'n' chips © Luna Moth

15 Whitstable Oyster Festival, Kent

Oysters have been gleaned from Whitstable's shoreline for centuries, and this seaside town in Kent celebrates its fishy roots with a nine-day Oyster Festival in July. Find exquisite food markets and an oyster-eating competition, as well as street performers, artists, live music and a much-loved Mud Tug, where tug of war teams battle it out in the mud at low tide.

www.whitstableoysterfestival.com

16 Herefordshire Cider Cycling Route

Sample the fruits of Herefordshire's cider-making heritage while enjoying a two-wheeled jaunt around the soft scenery. The Ledbury Cycle Route and the Pembridge Cycle Route lead through peaceful lanes, passing farms, cider mills, pubs and inns that all champion the area's famous brew. The 20-mile Ledbury route includes a stop at Westons Cider Mill in the village of Much Marcle.

www.ciderroute.co.uk