

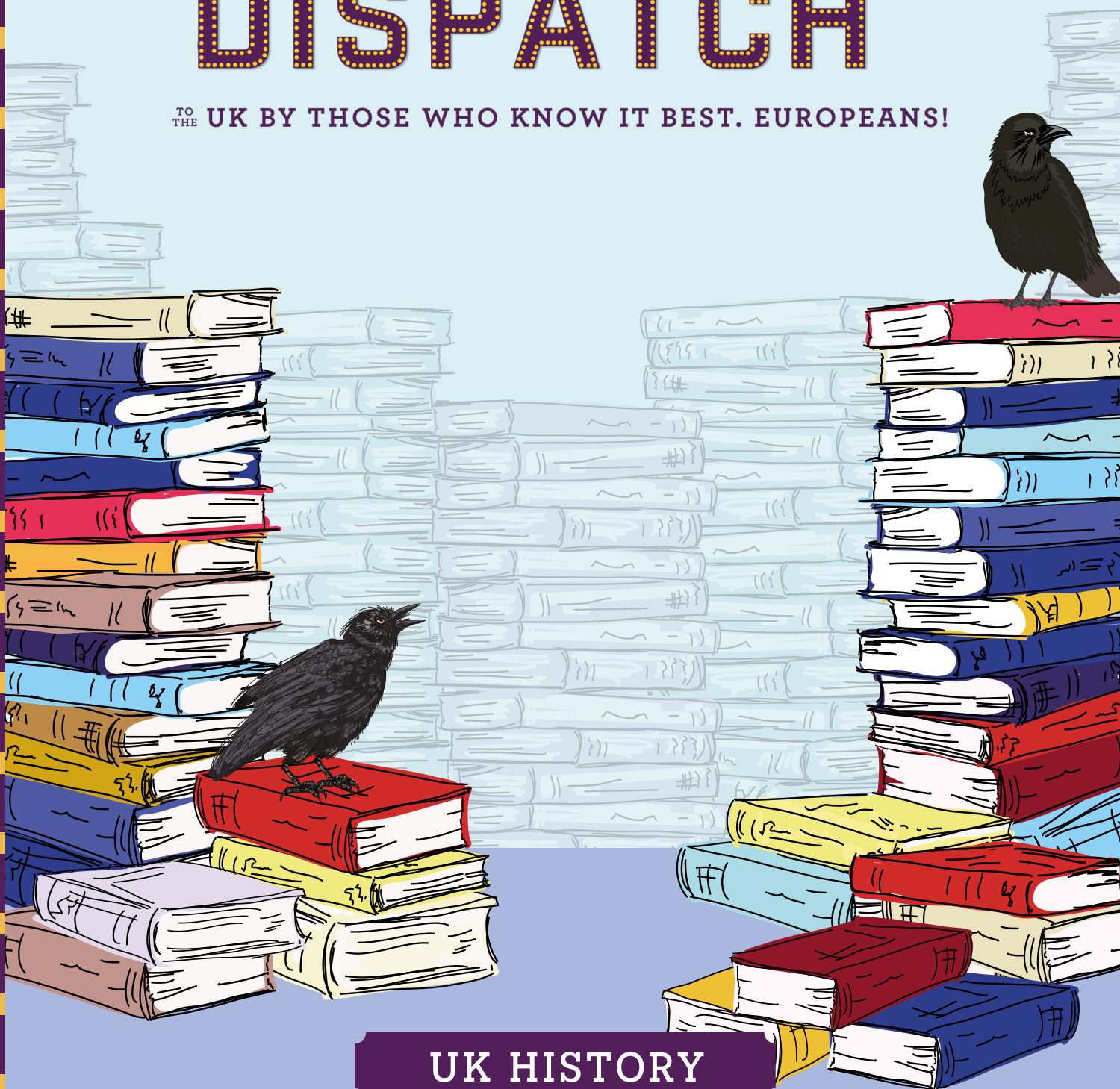
Premier Inn  
*Rest easy*



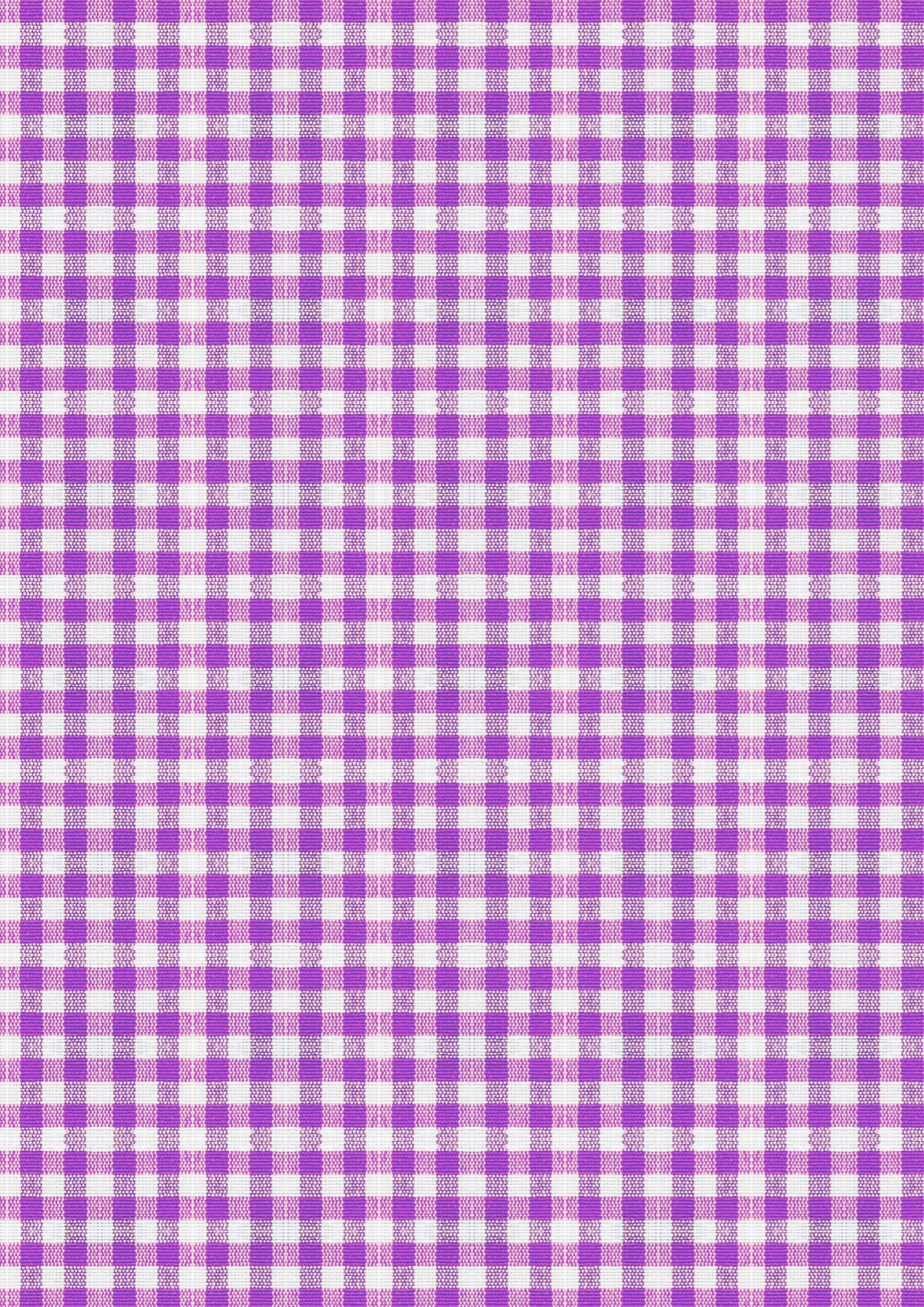
HOLIDAY GUIDES

# A EUROPEAN DISPATCH

TO THE UK BY THOSE WHO KNOW IT BEST. EUROPEANS!



UK HISTORY



# WELCOME

BY DAVID, FROM BERLIN

**T**HE CHANCE TO SOAK UP SOME history and enjoy the delights of ancient architecture is often at the heart of a European holiday. It's always at the heart of this European's holidays that's for sure.

I love to wander through streets marvelling at the thought that the steps I'm taking have been trodden many millions of times before by people with such different lives. It can give you such an appreciation for your own.

I love to take in the sights of buildings that wouldn't look out of place within the halls of the world's great art galleries. If only you could build one big enough to fit them! I love to be reminded that functional things can also be beautiful, too.

I love to learn of the stories of the people who built such places. As it gives unique insight into the people that you meet in those places today.

**And I think the place where you can enjoy that the most is in the UK.**

Of course, I will never tire of the beauty of Paris...walking it's wide-open streets at dusk, at the moment its gold-leafed street lamps flicker into life, is one of life's great spectacles.

But for me, nowhere can compare to the variety of experience on offer in the UK. You Brits really don't know what you've got.

Where else can I walk past the beauty of ancient Rome, towards the regency beauty of cities that inspired Jane Austen, and enjoy the surroundings hit-shows like *Bridgerton* have been filmed in?

Where else can I see a Grade II listed petrol station of all things (a 60s built landmark in Birstall, Leicester) celebrated and cared for with the same level of passion as world-renowned historical sites like Windsor Castle? Exactly.

**Now, let's discover the adventure together.**

# REGIONAL HIDDEN GEMS



**THE UK HAS SO MUCH HISTORY** that any place you stand could well have been the site of some important historical event.

But too often Brits boil their history down to only a few big sites.

And sites they don't celebrate with as much passion as we Europeans do with things like the Arc de Triumph and the Roman Coliseum.

For those of us who haven't been exposed to these places on a daily basis they remain impressive and often transcendental to experience. But we'll get to those.

For now, this humble German man wishes to share his favourite gems from the regions of the UK. The places and spaces steeped in history that gets lost in conversation around the more well-known sites.

I can think of no other place where I can walk amongst streets that were important to Romans, Vikings, Normans, and that are still in use today. It gets me excited just thinking about it!

Once you have tasted just a little of the history on offer at these beautiful sites though, I know that you will feel the same. Wunderbar!

## BATH AND THE SOUTH-WEST

Bath is a city rich in history. A place of beauty since the Roman times, it was founded in the first century AD as a thermal spa town before developing into a culturally rich and elegant city during the Georgian Era. There are limitless places to explore. Places like Bath Abbey. A gorgeous former Benedictine church that will give you some insight into the lives of past residents. You can even climb the Abbey's magnificent spire...and very occasionally, even ring the bells.

**Enjoy the history:**  
**Bath Abbey, Bath**  
[bathabbey.org](http://bathabbey.org)



Once you've taken in the history – why not live it by first checking out the old Roman Baths.

**Enjoy the history:**  
**Roman Baths, Bath**  
[romanbaths.co.uk](http://romanbaths.co.uk)

Then enjoy what this history has brought the modern day by checking out Thermae Bath Spa. A spa that draws the same beautiful water the Romans used in theirs.

**Enjoy the history:**  
**Thermae Bath Spa**  
[thermaebathspa.com](http://thermaebathspa.com)



## BRIGHTON

Brighton isn't all arcades and beaches.

It's also home to some surprising historic sites. Like The Duke of York's Picturehouse. It's the oldest function-built cinema still operating in the UK. That's right, you can still catch a movie on a silver screen that's over one hundred years old.

### Enjoy the history:

**The Duke of York's Picturehouse, Brighton**

[picturehouses.com/cinema/duke-of-york-s-picturehouse](http://picturehouses.com/cinema/duke-of-york-s-picturehouse)

Brighton is not only home to the UK's oldest cinema... it's home to the world's oldest operating train. Volk's Electric Railway. It was built in 1883 and still runs between Brighton Pier and Brighton Marina, and is probably the best way to take in the glorious seafront while enjoying some fish and chips!

### Enjoy the history:

**Volk's Electric Railway, Brighton**

[volksrailway.org.uk](http://volksrailway.org.uk)

The next site that I see as a must see, is of all things, a tree. Well, a pair of trees.

They're not just any trees however, they are a pair of elm trees colloquially known as The Preston Twins... and they are two of the oldest surviving elm trees not just in the UK, and not just in Europe. But the world. They've stood on the site of Preston Park, behind an equally historic Manor House since the reign of King James I. Awe-inspiring.

### Enjoy the history:

**Preston Park, Brighton**

[brightonelmtrees.com/the-preston-twins](http://brightonelmtrees.com/the-preston-twins)



## CORNWALL

The English coast is home to more than just Poledark and similar dramas. It is home to countless castles and vistas that will let you pretend that you're a character in those very stories.

One of the most beautiful that I've seen is just south of Readymoney Cove – and was built as part of Henry VIII's coastal defences against a possible French invasion. It doesn't seem to be working as intended today, as when I first visited I had the pleasure of doing so with many French Europeans at my side.

### Enjoy the history:

**St Catherine's Castle, Fowley, Cornwall**

[english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/st-catherines-castle](http://english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/st-catherines-castle)

The Bodmin Railway is also an unmissable window into the nation's past. Firmly established as one of the country's finest steam railways, the line will take you on a picturesque journey through some of Cornwall's most beautiful sites. Seeing the sights like this adds a touch of old school glamour to any trip - and makes things seem like a proper adventure. Not to be missed.

### Enjoy the history:

**Bodmin Railway, Cornwall**

[bodminrailway.co.uk](http://bodminrailway.co.uk)

For a look at the darker parts of the past, Bodmin Jail is a must-visit. It was the hiding place of the crown jewels throughout WW2 – but was originally built by prisoners of war all the way back in 1779.

### Enjoy the history::

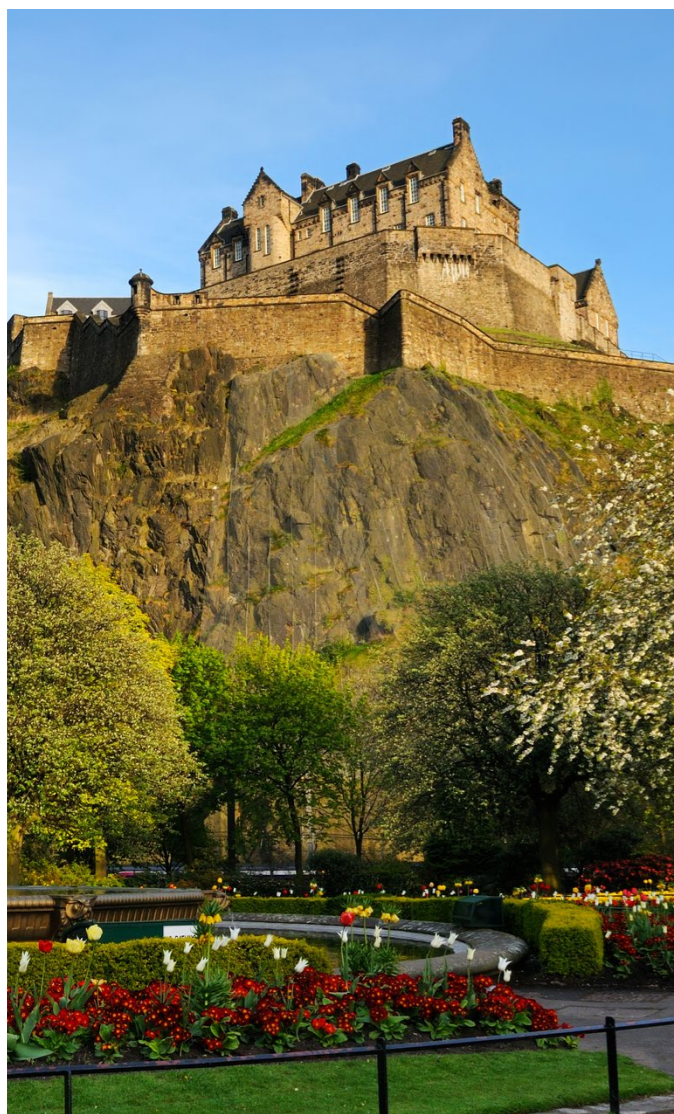
**Bodmin Jail, Cornwall**

[bodminjail.org](http://bodminjail.org)

## EDINBURGH

Every paving stone in Edinburgh comes with a story. But these are the places to experience the city's most powerful. Edinburgh castle should top the list. As a site the locals can see from many miles away, it's often described with a shrug of the shoulder as 'just sort of there'. For those of us who take the time to really look however, its majesty comes into sharp relief.

**Enjoy the history:**  
**Edinburgh Castle, Edinburgh**  
[edinburghcastle.scot](http://edinburghcastle.scot)



If you feel your heart can take it, the next stop on any visit should be to Greyfriars Bobby. A memorial to a very good boy indeed. If you're not familiar with the tale, Greyfriars Bobby was a dog that became famous in Edinburgh – because he guarded the grave of his master for fifteen years after his death.

**Enjoy the history:**  
**Outside Greyfriars Bobby Pub, Edinburgh**  
[nicholsonspubs.co.uk/restaurants/scotlandandnorthernireland/greyfriarsbobbysbarcandlemakerrowedinburgh](http://nicholsonspubs.co.uk/restaurants/scotlandandnorthernireland/greyfriarsbobbysbarcandlemakerrowedinburgh)

Or see Bobby's collar and bowl at Edinburgh Museum, a historic site in and of itself, that is also home to many other wonders.

**Enjoy the history:**  
**National Museum of Scotland, Edinburgh**  
[nms.ac.uk/national-museum-of-scotland](http://nms.ac.uk/national-museum-of-scotland)



## LIVERPOOL

It's no secret that the north of the UK is home to some stellar historical sites. What was a secret until very recently however, is one of the country's best collections.

The Liverpool War Museum - an incredible collection of artefacts housed inside a building that could once only be accessed by those who had signed the official secrets act.

**Enjoy the history:**  
**The Liverpool War Museum, Liverpool**  
[liverpoolwarmuseum.co.uk](http://liverpoolwarmuseum.co.uk)



When in Liverpool, you have to check out one of the UK's most underground sites. Literally. The Williamson's Tunnels are a series of labyrinth tunnels that snake beneath areas of Liverpool – built for unknown reasons. A stunning mystery that rightly has a place in history.

**Enjoy the history:**  
**Williamson's Tunnels Heritage Centre, Liverpool**  
[williamsonstunnels.co.uk](http://williamsonstunnels.co.uk)

Any part of Liverpool has ties to the history of music thanks to the Beatles. But one spot that should be taken in is the famed 'Strawberry Fields' John Lennon sung about so beautifully. Originally the site of a Salvation Army Children's home, the space is now a dedicated Beatles tourist location not to be missed.

**Enjoy the history:**  
**Strawberry Fields, Liverpool**  
[strawberryfieldliverpool.com](http://strawberryfieldliverpool.com)



## LONDON

London is built from history. There's so much to see it's impossible to list them all, so instead we'll just continue listing our favourites. Like the Guildhall East Crypt. That's just another room should you take the locals word for it. Don't. As this stunning venue, dating all the way back to 1402 is like stepping into a painting, and makes you feel like you're living history.

### Enjoy the history:

#### The Guildhall, London

[guildhall.cityoflondon.gov.uk/spaces/east-west-crypts](http://guildhall.cityoflondon.gov.uk/spaces/east-west-crypts)

All Hallows Church has literal layers of history to experience. Originally a Saxon Church, All-Hallows-by-the-Tower was built on by Saxons and Romans – with a history spanning all the way through to the Middle Ages. There is also a secret crypt within the church, which houses a secret museum that teaches the history of London

### Enjoy the history:

#### All Hallows-by-the-Tower Church, London

[ahbtt.org.uk](http://ahbtt.org.uk)

Any tourist simply must make time to visit the Benjamin Franklin house too. It's dedicated to the life the famous US President lived in London – and is a reminder of how connected all countries really are.

### Enjoy the history:

#### Benjamin Franklin House, Trafalgar Square, London

[benjaminfranklinhouse.org](http://benjaminfranklinhouse.org)



## NEWCASTLE

How about a shopping trip that's historical in nature? Check out Eldon Square for a peek into the finery the historical residents of the city used to shop in. Well, some of them, I suppose.

### Enjoy the history:

#### Eldon Square, Newcastle

[eldonsquare.co.uk](http://eldonsquare.co.uk)

The great thing about so much of UK history is that you don't need to purchase a ticket to enjoy it. A prime example of this is the Tyne Bridge in Newcastle which is best experienced take away coffee in hand as you stroll along the bank of river that it crosses.

### Enjoy the history:

#### Gateshead, Newcastle

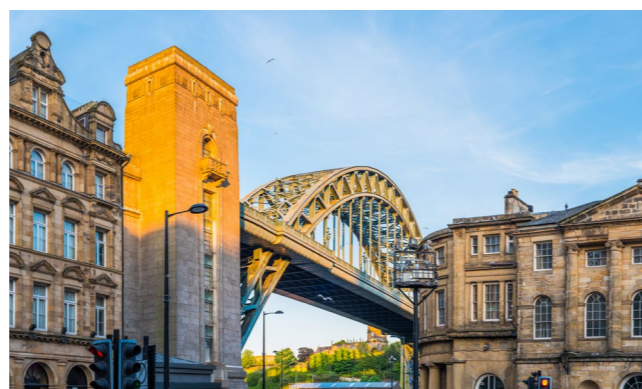
[newcastlegateshead.com/business-directory/things-to-do/tyne-bridge](http://newcastlegateshead.com/business-directory/things-to-do/tyne-bridge)

Victoria Tunnel gives us insight into the world of the Victorian's. Who, despite being a pretty buttoned-up lot, have a fascinating history that teaches us so much about the modern world. This is a great way of example. An old coal tunnel best experienced as a guided tour so that you can get a real sense of the lives of the people who ran it.

### Enjoy the history:

#### Tunnel Tours, Newcastle

[ouseburntrust.org.uk/visit-vt](http://ouseburntrust.org.uk/visit-vt)



## YORKSHIRE

The Yorkshire Dales are a type of living history, best explored in your own way. When I'm taking a break from Germany and enjoying this historic county, there are a few sites that simply cannot be missed. One such place is the Jorvik Viking Centre which celebrates the unique cultures that shaped the history of these lands.

### Enjoy the history:

#### Jorvik Viking Centre, York, North Yorkshire

[jorvikvikingcentre.co.uk](http://jorvikvikingcentre.co.uk)

One of the major points of British Viking History was the expansion of York and its defences. Today, they make a great observation point over the city, rather than for scouting out opposing armies. You can walk around the whole city, which is my favourite way to experience it.

### Enjoy the history:

#### York City Wall, York, North Yorkshire

[visityork.org/business-directory/yorks-city-walls](http://visityork.org/business-directory/yorks-city-walls)

The site of The Battle of Marston Moor is also a must-see. It was pivotal in the war of the three kingdoms. No, that's not a Game of Thrones sequel, but rather the way many at the time referred to the English Civil War.

### Enjoy the history:

#### Marston Moor, Yorkshire

[theculturalexperience.com/tours/english-civil-war-north-battlefield-tour](http://theculturalexperience.com/tours/english-civil-war-north-battlefield-tour)



## MANCHESTER

At the beating heart of this city is not just the history of a country, but of industry itself as we know it today.

Quarry Bank Textile Mill is one of the best examples of this. The type of factory that went on to be a blueprint for the modern world. You can visit Quarry Bank House to find out more about the mill owner's family life.

### Enjoy the history:

#### Quarry Bank, Manchester

[nationaltrust.org.uk/quarry-bank](http://nationaltrust.org.uk/quarry-bank)

As a Berliner, I know clubs. And you have some of the best clubs right here. No, I'm not talking about the Manchester Bowls Club. I'm talking about The Warehouse Project. It's a big part of the Manc music scene - which has influenced music across the globe

### Enjoy the history:

#### Mayfield Train Station, Manchester

[thewarehouseproject.com/home](http://thewarehouseproject.com/home)

Manchester is also home to one of the nation's best examples of a previously closed family owned country estate being opened up for the public to enjoy. Called Tatton Park this once familial home is now a place where you can enjoy stunning gardens – which English deer even call their home.

### Enjoy the history:

#### Tatton Park, Manchester

[tattonpark.org.uk](http://tattonpark.org.uk)



# THE HISTORICAL TV TOUR

## THE CROWN

This historical drama has taken the world by storm. Providing insight into the lives of the very upper crust of British society. To enjoy a taste of the glitz for yourself, check out:



### 1. Hatfield House, Herefordshire

This is where Elizabeth I was given news of her ascension to the throne in an iconic scene in the show, and an important moment in history. It also acted as the childhood home of Henry VIII's children – so you'll get a double hit of Royal history when you visit.

**Where to stay:** [Premier Inn Hatfield Hotel](#)



### 2. Winchester Cathedral, Hampshire

The site of Princess Diana's wedding in the hit-show, a stand in for St.Paul's Cathedral (where the real ceremony took place). It's considered one of the finest Cathedrals in the world, and is the final resting place of another iconic UK figure...Jane Austen.

**Where to stay:** [Premier Inn Winchester Hotel](#)



### 3. Southwark Cathedral, London

This stunning building was the backdrop to the scene of George VI's funeral – and near other London-based locations used in The Crown, should you wish to continue your adventures.

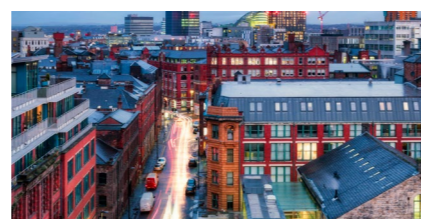
**Where to stay:** [Premier Inn London Southwark \(Borough High Street\)](#)



### 4. Waddeson Manor, Buckinghamshire

This gorgeous historical site was used as a stand in for Buckingham Palace – and has grounds and gardens that can only be described as stunning.

**Where to stay:** [Premier Inn Aylesbury Hotel](#)



### 5. The Northern Quarter, Manchester

The Northern Quarter was used as a stand-in for New York on the show. It's home to some fantastic independent stores, and so has plenty on offer alongside its famous sights

**Where to stay:** [Premier Inn Manchester City \(Piccadilly\)](#)

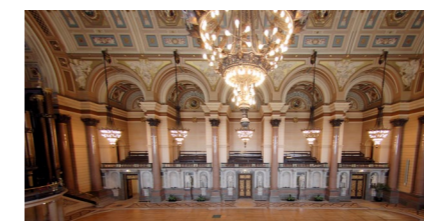
## PEAKY BLINDERS

has managed to get a whole new generation of people across the globe falling in love with Birmingham. A big part of that is the historical architecture that just looks so, well, cool. See it for yourself at:

### 1. Powis Street, Liverpool

Where better to start a Peaky Blinders trip then with the spot where the very first shot of the series was filmed? Bring your flat cap and get a snap for the 'gram

**Where to stay:** [Premier Inn Liverpool City Centre \(Lime Street\)](#)



### 3. St George's Hall, Liverpool

St George's Hall was the venue of a rally hosted by the villain of the series. Its neoclassical architecture is even more impressive in real life than on screen.

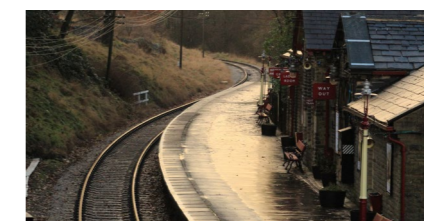
**Where to stay:** [Premier Inn Liverpool City Centre \(Liverpool One\)](#)



### 2. Black Country Living Museum

Walking around the living museum is like walking through the Peaky Blinders TV show itself. Many iconic scenes were shot here – and it's been key to establishing the authentic feel of the show.

**Where to stay:** [Premier Inn Dudley Town Centre](#)



### 4. Keighley & Worth Valley Railway, Haworth

This historical station was the backdrop to the iconic scene where Grace Burgess faced off against bad-guy Inspector Campbell. It's an epic site for any fan – and also has been the backdrop to literally hundreds of other British period dramas. If it's epic and involves a train, it was probably shot here.

**Where to stay:** [Premier Inn Bradford North \(Bingley\)](#)



### 5. Port Sunlight Village, Wirral

Aunt Polly was a favourite among fans of the show – and those wishing to pay their respects to the legendary character and late actor will no doubt want to make a stop at the village where the house given to her by Tommy Shelby himself is situated, as part of their tour. Located in Port Sunlight, it boasts a museum, parkland, and art gallery – so there is plenty to do on a day out

**Where to stay:** [Premier Inn Birkenhead Town Centre](#)

# DAVID'S RECOMMENDATIONS



ONE OF MY FAVOURITE ASPECTS OF UK CULTURE IS THE range of things that are considered worth preserving. It's not just castles and walls. It's petrol stations and pineapples too! (No, really). Some of the quirkiest sights I've only ever stumbled across through the joy of getting lost in a place. I really do suggest that you take the time this summer to do the same – as you never know what you might find. In the meantime, though, here are a few of my favourites.

## QUIRKY CLASSICS

### 1. Esso petrol station, Birstall, Leicester

A 60s built petrol station with retro-futurism vibes. It's the last design of its type standing in the UK, is Grade II listed, and well worth a stop if you're driving through Leicester.

### 2. The Uffington White Horse, Oxfordshire

A beautiful thousands year old hill carving, that has only survived into the modern day by people maintaining it, year in and year out, for all those centuries. A breath-taking site.

### 3. Jurassic Park. AKA,

*Crystal Palace Gardens, London*

Fittingly, the dinosaurs in Crystal Palace Gardens are the last survivors of the 1851 Great Exhibition. Roaringly good fun example of living history.

### 4. The Dunmore Pineapple, Dunmore, Scotland

A giant (listed) pineapple building found in Dunmore, Scotland. What were you expecting? Built as a folly in the 19th century, it's a great historical example of British eccentricity when it comes to building

### 5. St Michaels Mount, Marazion, Cornwall

A castle that would look more at home on a Disney tour, then a historical tour. Sitting on the south Cornish coast on a site inhabited since ancient times, the castle is also said to have had brushes with giants and mermaids, as well as kings and princes, across its long history.

# OUR TOP PICKS



## QUIRKY CLASSICS

1. **ESSO PETROL STATION**  
Leicester
2. **THE UFFINGTON WHITE HORSE**  
Oxfordshire
3. **JURASSIC PARK AKA, CRYSTAL PALACE PARK**  
London
4. **THE DUNMORE PINEAPPLE**  
Scotland
5. **ST MICHAELS MOUNT**  
Cornwall





# AUF WIEDERSEHEN

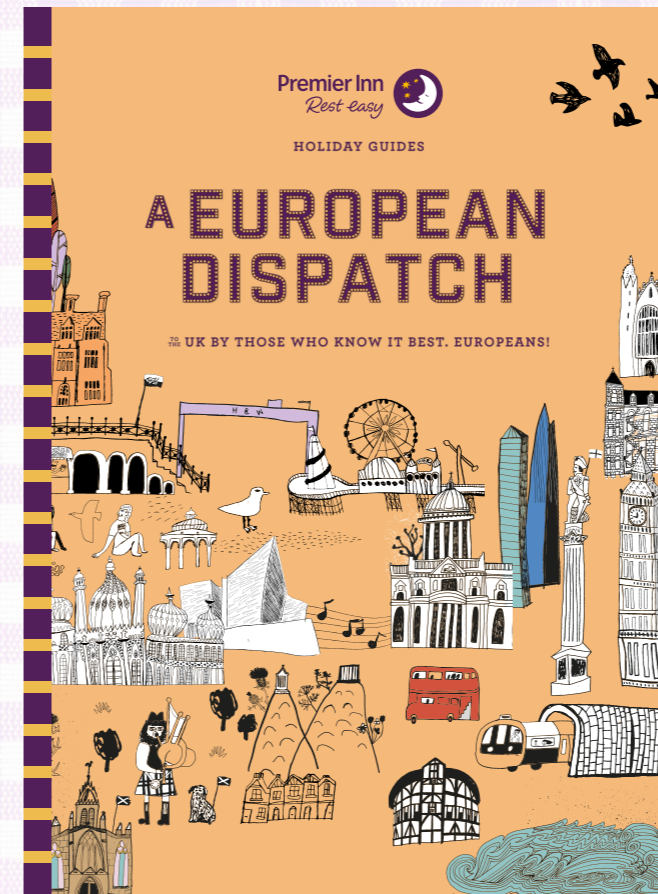
**EVERY STEP IN THE UK IS AN ADVENTURE.**  
 I know of no other place which preserves parts of its history that look as if they belong in epic tales of kings and conquest with the same love and affection afforded to a humble petrol station. The phrase 'something for everyone' is overused. But not in this instance, I think

**For me, a summer in the UK is like stepping into a living painting.**

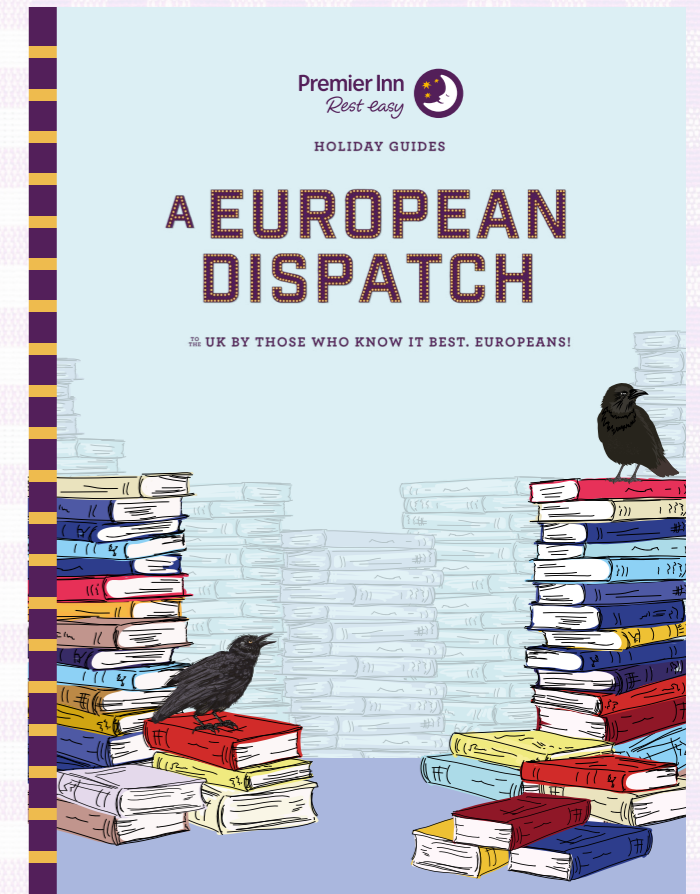
Its streets are living history, and I can become part of their story. Even if the story I choose to become a part of is one that sees me stumbling across strange hundreds year old dinosaur sculptures.

So pull on your walking boots and get sight seeing. And I hope that your visits to the places and spaces I have shared with you in this European Dispatch on UK history will only be the very start of your journey.

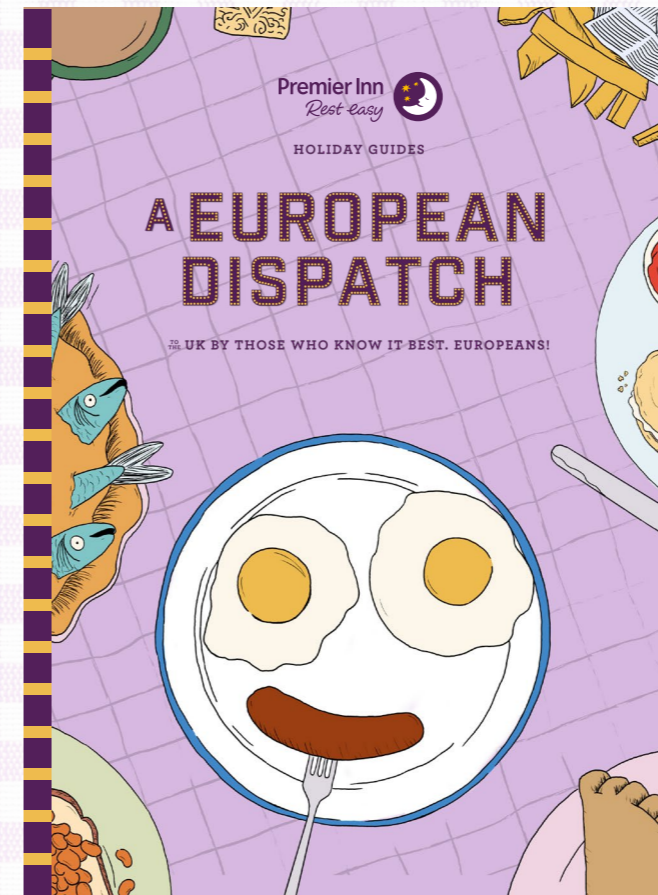
There is something incredible to be found round every corner, if you take the time to look for it...To the journey. Wunderbar! ■



ON UK ART & CULTURE



ON UK HISTORY



ON UK FOOD

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THREE ISSUES OF



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