

## World's Heritage Sites in the UK



### The Giant's Causeway

A causeway is a road that is raised above the level of water. The Giant's Causeway is made up of large basalt columns on the coast of Northern Ireland. It consists of large rocks, which could be imagined as stepping stones for a giant.

The rock formation was created about 50 million to 60 million years ago, when a crack appeared in Earth's crust. As a result, lava escaped from deep underground and spread out in waves on the surface. Over a long period of time, the lava cooled and hardened, forming hexagonal columns with different heights. The highest columns are about 12 meters.

### Hadrian's Wall



Hadrian's Wall was a barrier that the Roman Emperor Hadrian decided to build in 122 to keep invaders from the north out of the Roman province of Britain. It stretched

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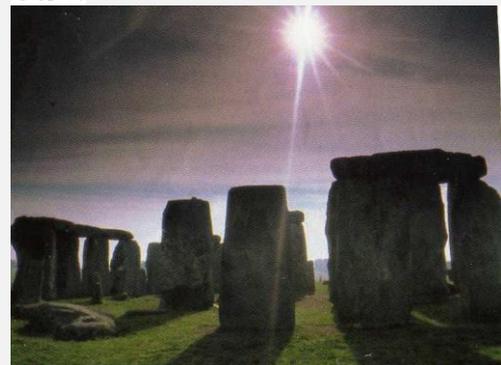
across northern Britain for 118 kilometers, from coast to coast. The wall was about 4 meters high in the eastern section. At every Roman mile there was a small fort with a tower which could hold about 30 soldiers. The wall took six years to build and was expanded in later years. It was in use almost until the end of Roman rule in Britain in 410. The wall suffered damage over the centuries. It is now part of a collection of sites called the Frontiers of the Roman Empire.

## Stonehenge

Stonehenge is a circular group of huge stone blocks in southern England, near the city of Salisbury. People built Stonehenge in stages between 5,000 and 3,500 years ago. No one knows for sure why Stonehenge was built. Many scholars think that it was a place of religious worship. Today only ruins of Stonehenge are still standing.

The largest stones were arranged in two groups. One was a circle of flat stones that rested on other stones that stood upright. The other group was inside the circle. These stones weighed as much as 50 tons each. A straight path called the Avenue led away from the circles. An upright stone called the Heel Stone still stands near the center of the Avenue. On the longest day

of the year (usually June 21), a person standing in the center of the stone circle can see the Sun rise directly above the Heel Stone. This has led some archaeologists to guess that Stonehenge was built by people who worshipped the Sun.



## Forth Bridge

The Forth Bridge is a cantilever railway bridge across the Firth of Forth in the

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east of Scotland, about 15 kilometres west of central Edinburgh. It is considered as a symbol of Scotland and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It was designed by the English engineers Sir John Fowler and Sir Benjamin Baker.

Construction of the bridge began in 1882 and it was opened on 4 March 1890. The bridge carries the Edinburgh–Aberdeen line across the Forth between the villages of South Queensferry and North Queensferry and has a total length of 2,467 m. The bridge was the first major structure in Britain to be constructed of steel.



## King Edward's Castles

The Castles and Town Walls of King Edward in Gwynedd, in north Wales, is a UNESCO-designated World Heritage Site, which includes the castles of Beaumaris and Harlech and the castles and town walls of Caernarfon and



Conwy. UNESCO considers the sites to be the "finest examples of late 13th century and early 14th century military architecture in Europe".

The castles as a stylistically coherent group were designed and directed by James of St George (c. 1230-1309), King Edward I of England's chief architect, and the greatest military architect of the age.

Magnificent Conway Castle, is 'one of the great fortresses of medieval Europe', and one of the most impressive of Welsh castles. The castle stands in a strategic position perched on a rock and dominates the Conwy estuary.