



Great Britain

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Great Britain, also known as **Britain**, is a large island in the north Atlantic Ocean off the northwest coast of continental Europe. With an area of 209,331 km² (80,823 sq mi), Great Britain is the largest of the British Isles, the largest European island, and the ninth-largest island in the world.^{[5][note 1]} In 2011 the island had a population of about 61 million people, making it the world's third-most populous island after Java in Indonesia and Honshu in Japan.^{[7][8]} The island of Ireland is situated to the west of it, and together these islands, along with over 1,000 smaller surrounding islands, comprise the British Isles archipelago.^[9]

The island is dominated by a maritime climate with quite narrow temperature differences between seasons. Politically, the island is part of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and constitutes most of its territory.^[10] Most of England, Scotland, and Wales are on the island. The term "Great Britain" often extends to include surrounding islands that form part of England, Scotland, and Wales, and is also sometimes loosely applied to the UK as a whole.

A single Kingdom of Great Britain resulted from the union of the Kingdom of England (which had already comprised the present-day countries of England and Wales) and the Kingdom of Scotland by the 1707 Acts of Union. More than a hundred years before, in 1603, King James VI, King of Scots, had inherited the throne of England, but it was not until 1707 that the two countries' parliaments agreed to form a political union. In 1801, Great Britain united with the neighbouring Kingdom of Ireland, forming the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, which was renamed the "United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland" after the Irish Free State seceded in 1922.

Contents

- 1 Terminology
 - 1.1 Toponymy
 - 1.2 Derivation of "Great"
 - 1.3 Modern use of the term *Great Britain*
 - 1.4 Political definition
- 2 History
 - 2.1 Prehistoric period
 - 2.2 Roman and medieval period
 - 2.3 Early modern period
- 3 Geography
 - 3.1 Geology
 - 3.2 Fauna

Great Britain

Native names



Satellite image of Great Britain in April 2002



Geography

Location	Northwestern Europe
Coordinates	53°50′N 2°25′W﻿ / ﻿53.833°N 2.417°W﻿ / 53.833; -2.417
Archipelago	British Isles
Adjacent bodies of water	Atlantic Ocean
Area	209,331 km ² (80,823 sq mi) ^[1]
Area rank	9th
Highest elevation	1,344 m (4,409 ft)
Highest point	Ben Nevis

- 3.3 Flora
 - 3.4 Fungi
 - 4 Demographics
 - 4.1 Settlements
 - 4.1.1 Capitals
 - 4.2 Language
 - 4.3 Religion
 - 5 See also
 - 6 Notes
 - 7 References
 - 7.1 Bibliography
 - 8 External links
 - 8.1 Video links

Terminology

Toponymy

The archipelago has been referred to by a single name for over 2000 years: the term 'British Isles' derives from terms used by classical geographers to describe this island group. By 50 BC Greek geographers were using equivalents of *Prettanikē* as a collective name for the British Isles.^[11] However, with the Roman conquest of Britain the Latin term *Britannia* was used for the island of Great Britain, and later Roman-occupied Britain south of Caledonia.^{[12][13][14]}

The earliest known name for Great Britain is *Albion* (Greek: Ἀλβίων) or *insula Albionum*, from either the Latin *albus* meaning "white" (referring to the white cliffs of Dover, the first view of Britain from the continent) or the "island of the *Albiones*", first mentioned in the *Massaliote Periplus* in the 6th century BC, and by Pytheas.^[15]

The oldest mention of terms related to Great Britain was by Aristotle (c. 384–322 BC), or possibly by Pseudo-Aristotle, in his text *On the Universe*, Vol. III. To quote his works, "There are two very large islands in it, called the British Isles, Albion and Ierne".^[16]

Pliny the Elder (c. AD 23–79) in his *Natural History* records of Great Britain: "Its former name was Albion; but at a later period, all the islands, of which we shall just now briefly make mention, were included under the name of 'Britanniæ.'"^[17]

The name *Britain* descends from the Latin name for Britain, *Britannia* or *Brittānia*, the land of the Britons. Old French *Bretaigne* (whence also Modern French *Bretagne*) and Middle English *Bretayne*, *Breteyne*. The French form replaced the Old English *Breoton*, *Breoten*, *Bryten*, *Breten* (also *Breoton-lond*, *Breten-lond*). Britannia was used by the Romans from the 1st century BC for the British Isles taken together. It is derived from the travel writings of the Pytheas around 320 BC, which described various islands in the North Atlantic as far north as Thule (probably Norway).

Marcian of Heraclea, in his *Periplus maris exteri*, described the island group as αἱ Πρεττανικαὶ νῆσοι (the Prettanic Isles).^[18]

The peoples of these islands of *Prettanike* were called the Πρεττανοί, *Priteni* or *Pretani*.^[15] *Priteni* is the source of the Welsh language term Prydain, *Britain*, which has the same source as the Goidelic term Cruithne used to refer to the early Brythonic-speaking inhabitants of Ireland.^[19] The latter were later called Picts or Caledonians by the Romans.

Administration

United Kingdom

Countries England, Scotland, and Wales

Largest city London (pop. 8,615,246)

Demographics

Population 60,800,000^[2] (2011 census)

Population rank 3rd

Pop. density 302 /km² (782 /sq mi)

Languages English, Scots, Welsh, Scottish Gaelic, Cornish

Ethnic groups 86.8% White

7.1% Asian

3.1% Black

2.0% Mixed

0.3% Arab

0.6% Other^{[3][4]}

Additional information

Time zone GMT (UTC)

• **Summer (DST)** BST (UTC+1)

Derivation of "Great"

The Greco-Egyptian scientist Ptolemy referred to the larger island as *great Britain* (μεγάλης Βρετανίας - *megális Brettanias*) and to Ireland as *little Britain* (μικρής Βρετανίας - *mikris Brettanias*) in his work *Almagest* (147–148 AD).^[20] In his later work, *Geography* (c. 150 AD), he gave the islands the names *Alwion*, *Iwernia*, and *Mona* (the Isle of Man),^[21] suggesting these may have been the names of the individual islands not known to him at the time of writing *Almagest*.^[22] The name *Albion* appears to have fallen out of use sometime after the Roman conquest of Britain, after which *Britain* became the more commonplace name for the island.^[15]

After the Anglo-Saxon period, *Britain* was used as a historical term only. Geoffrey of Monmouth in his pseudohistorical *Historia Regum Britanniae* (c. 1136) refers to the island as *Britannia major* ("Greater Britain"), to distinguish it from *Britannia minor* ("Lesser Britain"), the continental region which approximates to modern Brittany, which had been settled in the fifth and sixth centuries by migrants from Britain.^[23] The term *Great Britain* was first used officially in 1474, in the instrument drawing up the proposal for a marriage between Cecily the daughter of Edward IV of England, and James the son of James III of Scotland, which described it as "this Nobill Isle, callit Gret Britanee". It was used again in 1604, when King James VI and I styled himself "King of Great Brittain, France and Ireland".

Modern use of the term *Great Britain*

Great Britain refers geographically to the island of Great Britain, politically to England, Scotland and Wales in combination.^[24] However, it is sometimes used loosely to refer to the whole of the United Kingdom.^[25]

Similarly, *Britain*, can refer to either all islands in Great Britain, the largest island, or the political grouping of counties.^[26] There is no clear distinction, even in government documents: the UK government yearbooks have used both "Britain"^[27] and "United Kingdom".^[28]

GB and *GBR* are used instead of *UK* in some international codes to refer to the United Kingdom, including the Universal Postal Union, international sports teams, NATO, the International Organization for Standardization country codes ISO 3166-2 and ISO 3166-1 alpha-3, and international licence plate codes.

On the Internet, .uk is the country code top-level domain for the United Kingdom. A .gb top-level domain was used to a limited extent, but is now obsolete because the domain name registrar will not take new registrations.

In the Olympics, *Team GB* is used by the British Olympic Association to represent the Great Britain and Northern Ireland Olympic team. The British Grand Prix of motor racing is another example of a use of *Britain* in place of the United Kingdom.

Political definition

Politically, Great Britain refers to the whole of England, Scotland and Wales in combination,^[29] but not Northern Ireland; it includes islands, such as the Isle of Wight, Anglesey, the Isles of Scilly, the Hebrides and the island groups of Orkney and Shetland, that are part of England, Wales, or Scotland. It does not include the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands, which are self-governing dependent territories.^{[29][30]}

The political union that joined the kingdoms of England and Scotland happened in 1707 when the Acts of Union ratified the 1706 Treaty of Union and merged the parliaments of the two nations, forming the Kingdom of Great Britain, which covered the entire island. Before this, a personal union had existed between these two countries since the 1603 Union of the Crowns under James VI of Scotland and I of England.

History

Prehistoric period

The island was first inhabited by people who crossed over the land bridge from the European mainland. Human footprints have been found from over 800,000 years ago in Norfolk^[31] and traces of early humans have been found (at Boxgrove Quarry, Sussex) from some 500,000 years ago^[32] and modern humans from about 30,000 years ago.

Until about 14,000 years ago, Great Britain was connected to Ireland, and as recently as 8,000 years ago it retained a land connection to the continent, with an area of mostly low marshland joining it to what are now Denmark and the Netherlands.^[33] In Cheddar Gorge, near Bristol, the remains of animal species native to mainland Europe such as antelopes, brown bears, and wild horses have been found alongside a human skeleton, 'Cheddar Man', dated to about 7150 BC. Thus, animals and humans must have moved between mainland Europe and Great Britain via a crossing.^[34] Great Britain became an island at the end of the last glacial period when sea levels rose due to the combination of melting glaciers and the subsequent isostatic rebound of the crust.

Great Britain's Iron Age inhabitants are known as Britons; they spoke Celtic languages.

Roman and medieval period

The Romans conquered most of the island (up to Hadrian's Wall, in northern England) and this became the Ancient Roman province of *Britannia*. In the course of the 500 years after the Roman Empire fell, the Britons of the south and east of the island were assimilated or displaced by invading Germanic tribes (Angles, Saxons, and Jutes, often referred to collectively as Anglo-Saxons). At about the same time, Gaelic tribes from Ireland invaded the north-west, absorbing both the Picts and Britons of northern Britain, eventually forming the Kingdom of Scotland in the 9th century. The south-east of Scotland was colonised by the Angles and formed, until 1018, a part of the Kingdom of Northumbria. Ultimately, the population of south-east Britain came to be referred to as the English people, so-named after the Angles.

Germanic speakers referred to Britons as *Welsh*. This term came to be applied exclusively to the inhabitants of what is now Wales, but it also survives in names such as Wallace and in the second syllable of Cornwall. *Cymry*, a name the Britons used to describe themselves, is similarly restricted in modern Welsh to people from Wales, but also survives in English in the place name of Cumbria. The Britons living in the areas now known as Wales, Cumbria and Cornwall were not assimilated by the Germanic tribes, a fact reflected in the survival of Celtic languages in these areas into more recent times.^[35] At the time of the Germanic invasion of Southern Britain, many Britons emigrated to the area now known as Brittany, where Breton, a Celtic language closely related to Welsh and Cornish and descended from the language of the emigrants, is still spoken. In the 9th century, a series of Danish assaults on northern English kingdoms led to them coming under Danish control (an area known as the Danelaw). In the 10th century, however, all the English kingdoms were unified under one ruler as the kingdom of England when the last constituent kingdom, Northumbria, submitted to Edgar in 959. In 1066, England was conquered by the Normans, who introduced a Norman-speaking administration that was eventually assimilated. Wales came under Anglo-Norman control in 1282, and was officially annexed to England in the 16th century.

Early modern period



On 20 October 1604 King James, who had succeeded separately to the two thrones of England and Scotland, proclaimed himself "King of Great Brittain, France, and Ireland".^[36] When James died in 1625 and the Privy Council of England was drafting the proclamation of the new king, Charles I, a Scottish peer, Thomas Erskine, 1st Earl of Kellie, succeeded in insisting that it use the phrase "King of Great Britain", which James had preferred, rather than King of Scotland and England (or vice versa).^[37] While that title was also used by some of James's successors, England and Scotland each remained legally separate countries, each with its own parliament, until 1707, when each parliament passed an Act of Union to ratify the Treaty of Union that had been agreed the previous year. This created a single kingdom out of two, with a single parliament, with effect from 1 May 1707. The Treaty of Union specified the name of the new all-island state as "Great Britain", while describing it as "One Kingdom" and "the United Kingdom". To most historians, therefore, the all-island state that existed between 1707 and 1800 is "Great Britain" or the "Kingdom of Great Britain".

Geography

Great Britain lies on the European continental shelf, part of the Eurasian Plate. Situated off the north-west coast of continental Europe, it is separated from the mainland by the North Sea and by the English Channel, which narrows to 34 km (18 nmi; 21 mi) at the Straits of Dover.^[38] It stretches over about ten degrees of latitude on its longer, north-south axis and occupies an area of 209,331 km² (80,823 sq mi), excluding the smaller surrounding islands.^[39] The North Channel, Irish Sea, St George's Channel and Celtic Sea separate the island from the island

of Ireland to its west.^[40] The island is physically connected with continental Europe via the Channel Tunnel, the longest undersea rail tunnel in the world, completed in 1993. The island is marked by low, rolling countryside in the east and south, while hills and mountains predominate in the western and northern regions. It is surrounded by over 1,000 smaller islands and islets. The greatest distance between two points is 968.0 km (601½ mi) (between Land's End, Cornwall and John o' Groats, Caithness), 838 miles (1,349 km) by road.



View of Britain's coast from northern France

The English Channel is thought to have been created between 450,000 and 180,000 years ago by two catastrophic glacial lake outburst floods caused by the breaching of the Weald-Artois Anticline, a ridge that held back a large proglacial lake, now submerged under the North Sea.^[41] Around 10,000 years ago, during the Devensian glaciation with its lower sea level, Great Britain was not an island, but an upland region of continental northwestern Europe, lying partially underneath the Eurasian ice sheet. The sea level was about 120 metres (390 ft) lower than today, and the bed of the North Sea was dry and acted as a land bridge, now known as Doggerland, to the Continent. It is generally thought that as sea levels gradually rose after the end of the last glacial period of the current ice age, Doggerland became submerged beneath the North Sea, cutting off what was previously the British peninsula from the European mainland by around 6500 BC.^[42]

Geology

Great Britain has been subject to a variety of plate tectonic processes over a very extended period of time. Changing latitude and sea levels have been important factors in the nature of sedimentary sequences, whilst successive continental collisions have affected its geological structure with major faulting and folding being a legacy of each orogeny (mountain-building period), often associated with volcanic activity and the metamorphism of existing rock sequences. As a result of this eventful geological history, the island shows a rich variety of landscapes.

The oldest rocks in Great Britain are the Lewisian gneisses, metamorphic rocks found in the far north west of the island and in the Hebrides (with a few small outcrops elsewhere), which date from at least 2,700 Ma (Ma = million years ago). South of the gneisses are a complex mixture of rocks forming the North West Highlands and

Grampian Highlands in Scotland. These are essentially the remains of folded sedimentary rocks that were deposited between 1,000 Ma and 670 Ma over the gneiss on what was then the floor of the Iapetus Ocean.

At the present time the north of the island is rising as a result of the weight of Devensian ice being lifted. Southern and eastern Britain is sinking, generally estimated at 1 mm (1/25 inch) per year, with the London area sinking at double the speed partly due to the continuing compaction of the recent clay deposits.

Fauna

Animal diversity is modest, as a result of factors including the island's small land area, the relatively recent age of the habitats developed since the last glacial period and the island's physical separation from continental Europe, and the effects of seasonal variability.^[44] Great Britain also experienced early industrialisation and is subject to continuing urbanisation, which have contributed towards the overall loss of species.^[45] A DEFRA (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) study from 2006 suggested that 100 species have become extinct in the UK during the 20th century, about 100 times the background extinction rate. However, some species, such as the brown rat, red fox, and introduced grey squirrel, are well adapted to urban areas.



The robin is popularly known as "Britain's favourite bird".^[43]

Rodents make up 40% of the mammal species. These include squirrels, mice, voles, rats and the recently reintroduced European beaver.^[45] There is also an abundance of rabbits, hares, hedgehogs, shrews, moles and several species of bat.^[45] Carnivorous mammals include the fox, badger, otter, weasel, stoat and elusive wildcat.^[46] Various species of seal, whale and dolphin are found on or around British shores and coastlines. The largest land-based wild animals today are deer. The red deer is the largest species, with roe deer and fallow deer also prominent; the latter was introduced by the Normans.^{[46][47]} Sika deer and two more species of smaller deer, muntjac and Chinese water deer, have been introduced, muntjac becoming widespread in England and parts of Wales while Chinese water deer are restricted mainly to East Anglia. Habitat loss has affected many species. Extinct large mammals include the brown bear, grey wolf and wild boar; the latter has had a limited reintroduction in recent times.^[45]

There is a wealth of birdlife, 583 species in total,^[48] of which 258 breed on the island or remain during winter.^[49] Because of its mild winters for its latitude, Great Britain hosts important numbers of many wintering species, particularly ducks, geese and swans.^[50] Other well known bird species include the golden eagle, grey heron, kingfisher, pigeon, sparrow, pheasant, partridge, and various species of crow, finch, gull, auk, grouse, owl and falcon.^[51] There are six species of reptile on the island; three snakes and three lizards including the legless slow worm. One snake, the adder, is venomous but rarely deadly.^[52] Amphibians present are frogs, toads and newts.^[45]

Flora

In a similar sense to fauna, and for similar reasons, the flora is impoverished compared to that of continental Europe.^[53] The flora comprises 3,354 vascular plant species, of which 2,297 are native and 1,057 have been introduced.^[54] The island has a wide variety of trees, including native species of birch, beech, ash, hawthorn, elm, oak, yew, pine, cherry and apple.^[55] Other trees have been naturalised, introduced especially from other parts of Europe (particularly Norway) and North America. Introduced trees include several varieties of pine, chestnut, maple, spruce, sycamore and fir, as well as cherry plum and pear trees.^[55] The tallest species are the Douglas firs; two specimens have been recorded measuring 65 metres or 212 feet.^[56] The Fortingall Yew in Perthshire is the oldest tree in Europe.^[57]

There are at least 1,500 different species of wildflower.^[58] Some 107 species are particularly rare or vulnerable and are protected by the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. It is illegal to uproot any wildflowers without the landowner's permission.^{[58][59]} A vote in 2002 nominated various wildflowers to represent specific counties.^[60] These include red poppies, bluebells, daisies, daffodils, rosemary, gorse, iris, ivy, mint, orchids, brambles, thistles, buttercups, primrose, thyme, tulips, violets, cowslip, heather and many more.^{[61][62][63][64]} There are also many species of algae and mosses across the island.

Fungi

There are many species of fungi including lichen-forming species, and the mycobiota is less poorly known than in many other parts of the world. The most recent checklist of Basidiomycota (bracket fungi, jelly fungi, mushrooms and toadstools, puffballs, rusts and smuts), published in 2005, accepts over 3600 species.^[65] The most recent checklist of Ascomycota (cup fungi and their allies, including most lichen-forming fungi), published in 1985, accepts another 5100 species.^[66] These two lists did not include conidial fungi (fungi mostly with affinities in the Ascomycota but known only in their asexual state) or any of the other main fungal groups (Chytridiomycota, Glomeromycota and Zygomycota). The number of fungal species known very probably exceeds 10,000. There is widespread agreement among mycologists that many others are yet to be discovered.

Demographics

Settlements

Capitals

London is the capital of England and the whole of the United Kingdom, and is therefore the seat of the United Kingdom's government. Edinburgh and Cardiff are the capitals of Scotland and Wales, respectively, and house their devolved governments.

Largest urban areas



Heather growing wild in the Highlands at Dornoch.

Rank ↕	City-region ↕	Built-up area ^[67] ↕	Population (2011 Census) ↕	Area (km ²) ↕	Density (people/km ²) ↕
1	London	Greater London Built-up area	9,787,426	1,737.9	5,630
2	Manchester	Greater Manchester Built-up area	2,553,379	630.3	4,051
3	Birmingham–Wolverhampton	West Midlands Built-up area	2,440,986	598.9	4,076
4	Leeds–Bradford	West Yorkshire Built-up area	1,777,934	487.8	3,645
5	Glasgow	Greater Glasgow Built-up area	1,209,143	368.5	3,390
6	Liverpool	Liverpool Built-up area	864,122	199.6	4,329
7	Southampton–Portsmouth	South Hampshire Built-up area	855,569	192.0	4,455
8	Newcastle upon Tyne–Sunderland	Tyneside Built-up area	774,891	180.5	4,292
9	Nottingham	Nottingham Built-up area	729,977	176.4	4,139
10	Sheffield	Sheffield Built-up area	685,368	167.5	4,092

Language

In the Late Bronze Age, Britain was part of a culture called the Atlantic Bronze Age, held together by maritime trading, which also included Ireland, France, Spain and Portugal. In contrast to the generally accepted view^[68] that Celtic originated in the context of the Hallstatt culture, since 2009, John T. Koch and others have proposed that the origins of the Celtic languages are to be sought in Bronze Age Western Europe, especially the Iberian Peninsula.^{[69][70][71][72]} Koch et al.'s proposal has failed to find wide acceptance among experts on the Celtic languages.^[68]

All the modern Brythonic languages (Breton, Cornish, Welsh) are generally considered to derive from a common ancestral language termed *Brittonic*, *British*, *Common Brythonic*, *Old Brythonic* or *Proto-Brythonic*, which is thought to have developed from Proto-Celtic or early Insular Celtic by the 6th century AD.^[73] Brythonic languages were probably spoken before the Roman invasion at least in the majority of Great Britain south of the rivers Forth and Clyde, though the Isle of Man later had a Goidelic language, Manx. Northern Scotland mainly spoke Pritennic, which became Pictish, which may have been a Brythonic language. During the period of the Roman occupation of Southern Britain (AD 43 to c. 410), Common Brythonic borrowed a large stock of Latin words. Approximately 800 of these Latin loan-words have survived in the three modern Brythonic languages. *Romano-British* is the name for the Latinised form of the language used by Roman authors.

British English is spoken in the present day across the island, and developed from the Old English brought to the island by Anglo-Saxon settlers from the mid 5th century. Some 1.5 million people speak Scots—a variety of English which some consider to be a distinct language.^{[74][75]} An estimated 700,000 people speak Welsh,^[76] an official language in Wales.^[77] In parts of north west Scotland, Scottish Gaelic remains widely spoken. There are various regional dialects of English, and numerous languages spoken by some immigrant populations.

Religion

Christianity has been the largest religion by number of adherents since the Early Middle Ages: it was introduced under the ancient Romans, developing as Celtic Christianity. According to tradition, Christianity arrived in the 1st or 2nd century. The most popular form is Anglicanism (known as Episcopalianism in Scotland). Dating from the 16th century Reformation, it regards itself as both Catholic and Reformed. The Head of the Church is the monarch of the United Kingdom, as the Supreme Governor. It has the status of established church in England. There are just over 26 million adherents to Anglicanism in Britain today,^[78] although only around one million regularly attend services. The second largest Christian practice is the Latin Rite of the Roman Catholic Church, which traces its history to the 6th century with Augustine's mission and was the main religion for around a thousand years. There are over 5 million adherents today, 4.5 million in England and Wales^[79] and 750,000 in Scotland,^[80] although fewer than a million Catholics regularly attend mass.^[81]



Canterbury Cathedral, seat of the Church of England – the island's largest denomination



Glasgow Cathedral, a meeting place of the Church of Scotland

The Church of Scotland, a form of Protestantism with a Presbyterian system of ecclesiastical polity, is the third most numerous on the island with around 2.1 million members.^[82] Introduced in Scotland by clergyman John Knox, it has the status of national church in Scotland. The monarch of the United Kingdom is represented by a Lord High Commissioner. Methodism is the fourth largest and grew out of Anglicanism through John Wesley.^[83] It gained popularity in the old mill towns of Lancashire and Yorkshire, also amongst tin miners in Cornwall.^[84] The Presbyterian Church of Wales, which follows Calvinistic Methodism, is the largest denomination in Wales. There are other non-conformist minorities, such as Baptists, Quakers, the United Reformed Church (a union of Congregationalists and English Presbyterians), Unitarians.^[85] The first patron saint of Great Britain was Saint Alban.^[86] He was the first Christian martyr dating from the Romano-British period, condemned to death for his faith and sacrificed to the pagan gods.^[87] In more recent times, some have suggested the adoption of St Aidan as another patron saint of Britain.^[88] From Ireland, he worked at Iona amongst the Dál Riata

and then Lindisfarne where he restored Christianity to Northumbria.^[88]

The three constituent countries of the United Kingdom have patron saints: Saint George and Saint Andrew are represented in the flags of England and Scotland respectively.^[89] These two flags combined to form the basis of the Great Britain royal flag of 1604.^[89] Saint David is the patron saint of Wales.^[90] There are many other British saints. Some of the best known are Cuthbert, Columba, Patrick, Margaret, Edward the Confessor, Mungo, Thomas More, Petroc, Bede, and Thomas Becket.^[90]

Numerous other religions are practised.^[91] Jews have inhabited Britain since 1070. Jews were expelled from England in 1290 but allowed to return in 1656.^[92] There were also Jewish migrations from Lithuania.^[93] The 2001 census recorded that Islam had around 1.5 million adherents.^[94] More than 1 million people practise either Hinduism, Sikhism, or Buddhism—religions introduced from the Indian subcontinent and Southeast Asia.^[95]

See also

- List of islands of England

- List of islands of Scotland
- List of islands of Wales

Notes

1. The political definition of Great Britain – that is, England, Scotland and Wales combined – includes a number of offshore islands such as the Isle of Wight, Anglesey and Shetland which are not part of the geographical island of Great Britain. Those three countries combined have a total area of 234,402 km² (90,503 sq mi).^[6]

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