

## Places to visit in England: South West England

Craggy coastlines, sweeping beaches, glorious green fields, historic houses and rolling hills make up South West England. The region is also known as the 'West Country'. Certainly, it's the perfect place for almost any kind of holiday. It's largely rural and still relatively unpopulated. Taking in the counties of Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Somerset, Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Bristol and the Isles of Scilly the area is steeped in legend, monuments and mystery. Most people will probably associate Cornwall with the legend of King Arthur who was born in Tintagel on Cornwall's northern coast. There are many legends about Camelot, the Holy Grail and King Arthur's sword, Excalibur. Cornwall was the last stronghold of the Celts in England and evidence of even older Neolithic communities' remains, most famously at Stonehenge in Wiltshire. Other eras have left their monuments as well, from Salisbury's medieval cathedral and Bath's Roman Spas to the fossils of Dorset's Jurassic coast.

Whatever your age the South West of England is a fun place for everyone to visit. Hikers might like to try the South West Coast Path. It covers 630 miles of superb coastal walking from Minehead on the edge of Exmoor around Devon and Cornwall to the shores of Poole Harbour. Cornwall is a rugged landscape of cliffs and sandy beaches. It is popular today with surfers, artists and holidaymakers. Ports like Penzance and Falmouth celebrate England's maritime heritage. St Ives has a great cultural history and is an important harbour for artists. Newquay fulfils many a surfer's fantasies. It offers surfers the best Atlantic waves and is the UK's surfing capital. Cornwall is steeped in the romance of pirates, shipwrecks and smuggling. It has many old tin mines and old quarries, one of which houses the famous Eden Project. Plymouth is best known as a point of departure in times gone by. Sir Francis Drake, Captain Cook, Lord Nelson and the Pilgrims all left from the city's harbour. Ancient pubs and cobblestone streets can be found alongside modern shopping centres.

**Bournemouth** on the Dorset coast has that cosmopolitan atmosphere. The town's Victorian buildings, lavish gardens and expansive beach are full of day trippers in summer. Bournemouth is student friendly. The town has some great nightlife ensuring the fun doesn't stop when the sun sets.

**Category: Places to visit / England / South West England**

**Level: Intermediate / Upper intermediate**

This ESL lesson is the copyright of [www.newsflashenglish.com](http://www.newsflashenglish.com)

**Bristol** is an urban success story. Its docks have undergone massive urban regeneration. Today it attracts many tourists. It's one of the fastest growing cities. Bristol sees an annual hot air ballooning festival. It has a growing population of students and young professionals that have reinvigorated the city. Its nightlife is one of its best kept secrets.

**Bath** is famous for its Roman baths. Since AD43, when the Romans built an elaborate complex of baths to house the curative waters, in the town they called *Aquae Sulis*, it has attracted visitors. In the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, Bath was transformed from a country spa into the social capital of England, immortalised by Charles Dickens and Jane Austen. Today Bath attracts hordes of tourists and backpackers who admire its famous Georgian architecture. A boating trip on the River Avon or on the Kennet & Avon Canal is fun! Both run right through Bath and provide great opportunities for excellent days out.

A visit to Salisbury in Wiltshire is like stepping back in time. Its winding alleyways are popular among tourists. Its market is a positive delight overlooked by its famous cathedral. Nearby on Salisbury Plain is the awe inspiring Stonehenge. Wiltshire is where you'll also find Longleat House, the Avebury Stone Circles, and Swindon – where the Great Western Railway passes through! Gloucestershire is home to the Forest of Dean, the Cotswolds, Gloucester, Cheltenham and part of the River Severn valley.

Devon has classic resorts and is known as the English Riviera. It also has more breathtaking scenery in the north. Devon is famous for farming, fishing, shipping and quarrying. Exeter, in Devon is a lovely town that's famous for its magnificent cathedral.

Dorset is rural and in places quite posh! It probably has the finest selection of English country houses in the region. Somerset is a little quieter but is handy for visiting places like Bath, Bristol or South Wales. There are two national parks to see. Dartmoor and Exmoor national parks are where you can see wild ponies and herds of wild red deer on the rugged moorland.

The region also includes the Isles of Scilly that are south west of Cornwall. A great way to see them is by helicopter that departs from Penzance in Cornwall to St Mary's. The ride offers spectacular views of some great Cornish landmarks like the Minack theatre, Mousehole and Lands End before leaving for the Isles of Scilly. Transportation to South West England is best by train or by coach from London. Major airports include Exeter and Bristol.

## EXERCISES

**1. South West England:** Briefly, what three things do you know about South West England? Think of three things it is famous for? Go round the room swapping details.

**2. Geography: South West England:** What counties make up South West England? What sea surrounds it? Draw a map on the board then **look on Google maps** to help you.

**3. Dictation:** The teacher will read four to six lines of the article slowly and clearly. Students will write down what they hear. The teacher will repeat the passage slowly again. Self-correct your work from page one - filling in spaces and correcting mistakes. Be honest with yourself on the number of errors. Advise the teacher of your total number of errors. Less than five is very good. Ten is acceptable. Any more is room for improvement! More than twenty - you need to do some work!

**4. Reading:** The students should now read the article aloud, swapping readers every paragraph.

**5. Vocabulary:** Students should now look through the article and underline any vocabulary they do not know. Look in dictionaries. Discuss and help each other out. The teacher will go through and explain any unknown words or phrases.

**6. The article:** Students should look through the article with the teacher.

- a) What is the article about?
- b) What do you think about the article?

**7. Let's think!** Think of five towns/cities to visit in South West England. Then add five seaside resorts to visit there. Write them below. Explain to your partner why you chose these. Discuss what you know about each of them.

Five towns/cities to visit in South West England	Five seaside resorts in South West England
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4
5	5

**The teacher** will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class

**8 . Let's think!** In pairs. On the board write as many words as you can to do with the '**South West England**'. *One-two minutes*. Compare with other teams. Using your words compile a short dialogue together.

Places to visit in England: South West England – 25<sup>th</sup> April 2011

**9. Let's visit South West England!** One of you is a tourist, the other a tourist information assistant. The tourist has arrived in London and is considering visiting South West England. The tourist information assistant advises further. *5 minutes.*

**10. Let's think!** Think of five places to visit for adults in South West England. Then add five places that are suitable for kids. Write them below. Explain to your partner why you chose these. Discuss them. To help you - look online!

Five places to visit for adults in South West England	Five places to visit for kids in South West England
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4
5	5

**The teacher** will choose some pairs to discuss their findings in front of the class.

**11. Let's roleplay! Pirate Radio:** *In pairs/groups.* You are in the Pirate Radio studio in Cornwall. One of you is the presenter; the other student(s) is/are one the guests. Today's interview is: South West England. *5 minutes.*

1	Tourist Information Officer	3	A tourist
2	Yourself	4	A journalist

**The teacher** will choose some pairs to tell their stories in front of the class.

**12. Let's do 'The Article Quiz':** Have the students quiz each other in pairs. They score a point for each correct answer and half a point each time they have to look at the article for help. See who can get the highest score!

**Student A**

- 1) Name the counties.
- 2) Name three towns.
- 3) Name three famous people
- 4) What can you do in Newquay?
- 5) Name the airports.

**Student B**

- 1) How can you get to the Isles of Scilly?
- 2) What can you see in Cornwall from the helicopter?
- 3) What is Exmoor?
- 4) Name the canal.
- 5) Where will you find the English Riviera?

**13. Let's write an e-mail:** Write and send a 200 word e-mail to your teacher about: **South West England**. Your e-mail can be read out in class.

**14. Sentence starters:** Finish these sentence starters. Correct your mistakes. Compare what other people have written.

- a) South West England \_\_\_\_\_
- b) Bath \_\_\_\_\_
- c) Cornwall \_\_\_\_\_

## DISCUSSION

### Student A questions

- 1) Did the headline make you want to read the article?
- 2) Have you ever visited South West England? If yes, when? Where?
- 3) Would you like to visit the English Riviera?
- 4) Do you think South West England has many mountains?
- 5) Would you consider going on holiday in South West England?
- 6) What can you recall about Bristol?
- 7) What can you recall about the Isles of Scilly?
- 8) What three places might you like to visit in South West England?
- 9) Would you consider a holiday in South West England? Why? Why not?
- 10) Would you consider studying in South West England?

### Student B questions

- 1) What do you think about what you read?
- 2) What can you recall about Bath?
- 3) What can you recall about Bournemouth?
- 4) Who were the three different famous people in the article? What do you know about each of them?
- 5) Think of three things you might do at the seaside.
- 6) Think of three historical events that took place in South West England.
- 7) What three places might you like to visit in South West England?
- 8) When did you last go on a riverboat trip? Where?
- 9) What do you know about Stonehenge?
- 10) Did you like this discussion?

## SPEAKING 1

### Let's discuss: South West England

*Allow 10-15 minutes – As a class / small groups / pairs / 1 to 1*

South West England – 20 places to visit
---

The teacher can moderate the session.

## SPEAKING 2

### Presentation: South West England

*Allow 30 minutes – As a class / small groups / pairs / 1 to 1*

Prepare a short presentation on South West England
--

The teacher can moderate the session.

## GAP FILL: READING:

*Put the words into the gaps in the text.*

### **Places to visit in England: South West England**

Craggy coastlines, sweeping beaches, glorious green fields, historic houses and rolling hills make up South West England. The region is also known as the 'West Country'. Certainly, it's the perfect place for almost any kind of holiday. It's largely (1)\_\_\_\_\_ and still relatively unpopulated. Taking in the (2)\_\_\_\_\_ of Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Somerset, Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Bristol and the Isles of Scilly the area is steeped in (3)\_\_\_\_\_, monuments and (4)\_\_\_\_\_. Most people will probably associate Cornwall with the legend of King Arthur who was born in Tintagel on Cornwall's northern coast. There are many legends about Camelot, the Holy Grail and King Arthur's sword, (5)\_\_\_\_\_. Cornwall was the last stronghold of the Celts in England and evidence of even older Neolithic communities' remains, most famously at Stonehenge in Wiltshire. Other (6)\_\_\_\_\_ have left their (7)\_\_\_\_\_ as well, from Salisbury's medieval cathedral and Bath's Roman Spas to the (8)\_\_\_\_\_ of Dorset's Jurassic coast.

Whatever your age the South West of England is a fun place for everyone to visit. (1)\_\_\_\_\_ might like to try the South West Coast Path. It covers 630 miles of superb coastal walking from Minehead on the edge of Exmoor around Devon and Cornwall to the shores of Poole Harbour. Cornwall is a (2)\_\_\_\_\_ landscape of cliffs and sandy beaches. It is popular today with surfers, artists and holidaymakers. (3)\_\_\_\_\_ like Penzance and Falmouth celebrate England's (4)\_\_\_\_\_ heritage. St Ives has a great cultural history and is an important harbour for artists. Newquay fulfils many a surfer's fantasies. It offers (5)\_\_\_\_\_ the best Atlantic waves and is the UK's surfing capital. Cornwall is steeped in the romance of (6)\_\_\_\_\_, shipwrecks and smuggling. It has many old tin mines and old quarries, one of which houses the famous Eden Project. Plymouth is best known as a point of departure in times gone by. Sir Francis Drake, Captain Cook, Lord Nelson and the Pilgrims all left from the city's (7)\_\_\_\_\_. Ancient pubs and (8)\_\_\_\_\_ streets can be found alongside modern shopping centres.

*rural*

*fossils*

*counties*

*legend*

*Excalibur*

*eras*

*monuments*

*mystery*

*rugged*

*hikers*

*harbour*

*pirates*

*surfers*

*maritime*

*cobblestone*

*ports*

## GRAMMAR

Put the words into the gaps in the text.

### Places to visit in England: South West England

Craggy coastlines, sweeping beaches, glorious green fields, historic houses and rolling hills make up South West England. The region is also known as the 'West Country'. Certainly, it's the perfect place for almost any kind of holiday. It's largely rural and (1)\_\_\_ relatively unpopulated. Taking in the counties of Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Somerset, Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Bristol and the Isles of Scilly the area is steeped in legend, monuments and mystery. Most people will probably associate Cornwall (2)\_\_\_ the legend of King Arthur who was born in Tintagel on Cornwall's northern coast. (3)\_\_\_ are (4)\_\_\_ legends about Camelot, the Holy Grail and King Arthur's sword, Excalibur. Cornwall was the last stronghold of the Celts in England and evidence of (5)\_\_\_ older Neolithic communities' remains, (6)\_\_\_ famously at Stonehenge in Wiltshire. (7)\_\_\_ eras have left (8)\_\_\_ monuments as well, from Salisbury's medieval cathedral and Bath's Roman Spas to the fossils of Dorset's Jurassic coast.

**their**

**with**

**still**

**even**

**most**

**there**

**other**

**many**

Whatever your age the South West of England is a fun place (1)\_\_\_ everyone to visit. Hikers might like to try the South West Coast Path. It covers 630 miles of superb coastal walking from Minehead on the edge of Exmoor around Devon and Cornwall to the shores of Poole Harbour. Cornwall is a rugged landscape (2)\_\_\_ cliffs and sandy beaches. It is popular today with surfers, artists and holidaymakers. Ports like Penzance and Falmouth celebrate England's maritime heritage. St Ives has (3)\_\_\_ great cultural history and is (4)\_\_\_ important harbour for artists. Newquay fulfils many a surfer's fantasies. It offers surfers (5)\_\_\_ best Atlantic waves and is the UK's surfing capital. Cornwall is steeped in the romance of pirates, shipwrecks and smuggling. It has many old tin mines and old quarries, one of which houses the famous Eden Project. Plymouth is best known as a point of departure in times gone (6)\_\_\_ . Sir Francis Drake, Captain Cook, Lord Nelson (7)\_\_\_ the Pilgrims all left from the city's harbour. Ancient pubs and cobblestone streets (8)\_\_\_ be found alongside modern shopping centres.

**can**

**by**

**a**

**an**

**of**

**for**

**and**

**the**

## SPELLING TEST

The teacher will ask the class individually to spell the following words that are in the article. Afterwards, check your answers with your teacher, using the following ratings: **Pass = 12, Good = 15, Very good = 18, Excellent = 20**

1	craggy	11	alongside
2	ballooning	12	cobblestone
3	alleyways	13	unpopulated
4	awe	14	monuments
5	opportunities	15	medieval
6	communities	16	legends
7	reinvigorating	17	helicopter
8	celebrate	18	transportation
9	holidaymakers	19	fulfils
10	maritime	20	fantasies

### LINKS

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South\\_West\\_England](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_West_England)

<http://www.visitsouthwest.co.uk/>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/West\\_Country](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/West_Country)

[http://you.travel/West\\_Country](http://you.travel/West_Country)

<http://www.westcountrylinks.co.uk/inf/index.htm>

<http://www.tourist-information-uk.com/attractions/south-west-england.htm>

### ANSWERS

GAP FILL: Places to visit in England: South West England: Craggy coastlines, sweeping beaches, glorious green fields, historic houses and rolling hills make up South West England. The region is also known as the 'West Country'. Certainly, it's the perfect place for almost any kind of holiday. It's largely **rural** and still relatively unpopulated. Taking in the **counties** of Cornwall, Devon, Dorset, Somerset, Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Bristol and the Isles of Scilly the area is steeped in **legend**, monuments and **mystery**. Most people will probably associate Cornwall with the legend of King Arthur who was born in Tintagel on Cornwall's northern coast. There are many legends about Camelot, the Holy Grail and King Arthur's sword, **Excalibur**. Cornwall was the last stronghold of the Celts in England and evidence of even older Neolithic communities' remains, most famously at Stonehenge in Wiltshire. Other **eras** have left their **monuments** as well, from Salisbury's medieval cathedral and Bath's Roman Spas to the **fossils** of Dorset's Jurassic coast.

Whatever your age the South West of England is a fun place for everyone to visit. **Hikers** might like to try the South West Coast Path. It covers 630 miles of superb coastal walking from Minehead on the edge of Exmoor around Devon and Cornwall to the shores of Poole Harbour. Cornwall is a **rugged** landscape of cliffs and sandy beaches. It is popular today with surfers, artists and holidaymakers. **Ports** like Penzance and Falmouth celebrate England's **maritime** heritage. St Ives has a great cultural history and is an important harbour for artists. Newquay fulfils many a surfer's fantasies. It offers **surfers** the best Atlantic waves and is the UK's surfing capital. Cornwall is steeped in the romance of **pirates**, shipwrecks and smuggling. It has many old tin mines and old quarries, one of which houses the famous Eden Project. Plymouth is best known as a point of departure in times gone by. Sir Francis Drake, Captain Cook, Lord Nelson and the Pilgrims all left from the city's **harbour**. Ancient pubs and **cobblestone** streets can be found alongside modern shopping centres. (V1)



Created by **David Robinson**. This ESL lesson is the copyright of [www.newsflashenglish.com](http://www.newsflashenglish.com)