



DRIVE TO DISCOVER

# THE UK

BREATHTAKING  
DRIVES IN  
WESTERN  
ENGLAND & WALES



Magnificent Manchester

6



Cadair Idris Mountain in Dolgellau

1



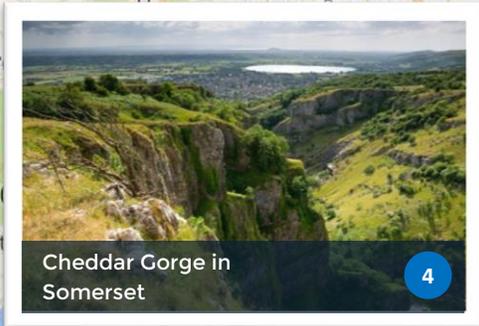
Shropshire Hills

5



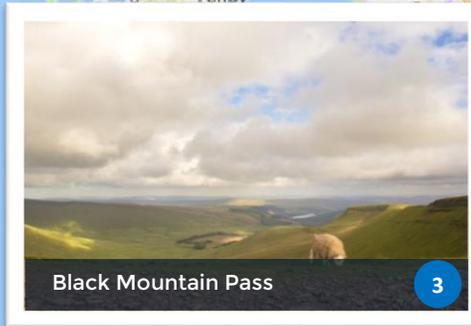
Abergwesyn Pass

2



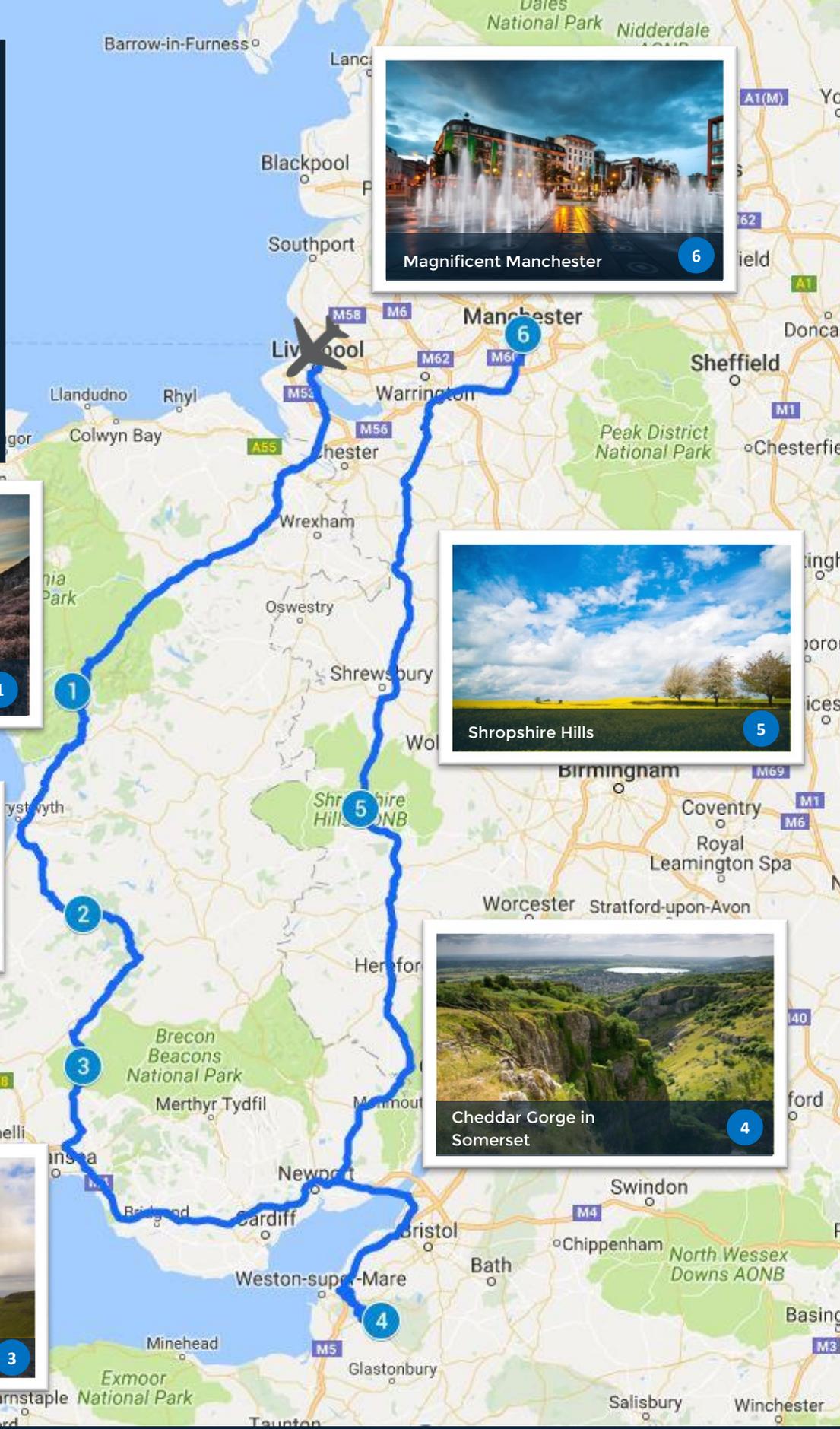
Cheddar Gorge in Somerset

4



Black Mountain Pass

3





Road Trip Drive	Distance	Driving Time
Liverpool to Dolgellau	85 miles	2 hours 27 minutes
Dolgellau to Abergwesyn Pass	54 miles	1 hour 41 minutes
Abergwesyn to Black Mountain Pass	61 miles	1 hour 13 minutes
Black Mountain Pass to Cheddar Gorge	106 miles	2 hours 13 minutes
Cheddar Gorge to Shropshire Hills	114 miles	2 hours 31 minutes
Shropshire Hills to Manchester	92 miles	2 hours 19 minutes
<b>Total Distance Covered:</b>	<b>512 miles</b>	

If you're planning a trip to the UK, one of the best places to start your tour is Western England and Wales. Beautiful countryside and historic cities await you at every turn, and this part of the world is ideally suited to the comfortable pace of exploration by car.

In this Drive to Discover itinerary, we've rounded up a few of our favorite cities and villages in this beautiful part of the UK, along with some of the most scenic drives that connect them in an effort to help you explore must-see, breathtaking locations in Wales and western England.

#### TO/FROM: Liverpool/Manchester Airport

After picking up your car rental at [John Lennon Airport in Liverpool](#) take a day or two to explore this iconic coastal city. From the history of The Beatles to exploring the old Victorian docks at Albert Dock, there's plenty to see and do in this city. Whether you're a sports fanatic dying to take in a soccer match, or you're a history buff (visit the World Museum) or art aficionado (the Walker Art Gallery is for you!), it's worth exploring the city of Liverpool before setting out on this leg of your drive.

#### 1. Cadair Iris Mountain in Dolgellau

This beautiful mountain located at the southern end of Snowdonia National Park offers those that reach the summit sweeping views. The mountain top is notorious for temperamental weather, however, even if the mountains are veiled in clouds, driving through the surrounding landscape will not disappoint.

#### 2. Abergwesyn Pass

Once you do depart Snowdonia National Park, you'll enjoy a scenic drive south to Powys, Wales where you'll be rewarded with a tricky, but exciting drive through Abergwesyn Pass (try saying that three times fast!). This scenic byway begins in Tregaron and offers stunning vistas, historic bridges, hairpin bends and crests and a winding road which takes you through some of the most beautiful Welsh countryside. We highly recommend that you pause at Llyn Brianne reservoir while enjoying this 11 mile stretch of heaven. It's the perfect spot to stretch your legs, snap some photos and enjoy the fresh air of the Welsh countryside.

#### 3. Black Mountain Pass in Brecon Beacons, Wales

Situated in the Brecon Beacons National Park, Black Mountain Pass has been rated one of the best roads in Wales. If you traverse this scenic road you'll be treated to breathtaking views, exciting hairpin turns and flocks of roaming sheep dotting the stark Welsh countryside.

This road is 22 miles in length and connects Llandovery with Gwaun-Cae-Curwen, making it a convenient drive to enjoy while following this itinerary. Be sure to visit one of the parks spectacular waterfalls and include some outdoor fun in your itinerary as the park is a hot spot for adventure enthusiasts offering hiking, mountain biking, canoeing & camping.

#### 4. Cheddar Gorge in Somerset, England

The next stop takes you back to England and beautiful Cheddar Gorge in Somerset, England. This scenic gorge, nestled in the heart of West Country is just 10 miles southwest of [Bristol, England](#) – making it a convenient stop if you'd like to break up the trip with a stay in Bristol.

Motorists typically marvel at the stunning views when navigating Cheddar Gorge. Expect twisting turns among iconic limestone cliffs – the earth appearing to have split open before you with views of the Weston-Super-Mare to the west. This 15-mile drive will reward those who navigate it with some of the best photo opportunities anywhere in England. It's truly a memorable, once-in-a-lifetime drive.

#### 5. Shropshire Hills, England

This tranquil destination is ranked as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and cannot be missed. The unique landscapes flush with dramatic rolling hills, moorland and blooming rapeseed fields in summer will surely take your breath away. The area is home to many grand castles including one in Darwin's hometown of Shrewsbury, located just north of Shropshire.

#### 6. Magnificent Manchester England

From the Museum of Science and Industry (MOSI), to the stunning architecture of John Rylands Library, there's lots to do and see in the stunning city of Manchester, England. Soccer fans will enjoy a visit to the National Football Museum (a great stop if you're traveling with kids), and if you'd like to enjoy a picnic lunch or a leisurely stroll in a charming green space, make time to visit the Fletcher Moss Botanical Gardens.