

SPORTS IN GREAT BRITAIN



Britain is home to a wide variety of sports at all levels. No matter what sport you fancy, there is something in Great Britain for you.

FOOTBALL

The most popular sport in Britain is football. The English Premier League is one of the most popular and dominating forces in football around the world and is home to some of the most famous and successful clubs.

While the English Premier League is the top class of football in Britain, it should be noted that there are also a wide variety of other leagues including the Coca-Cola Championship and the Scottish Premier League. The predominant Scottish league teams are Rangers and Celtic, both of which hail from the city of Glasgow.

RUGBY

Rugby is another sport that is enjoyed by many throughout Britain. Rugby Union is split into two main leagues in the UK, with British teams playing in the Guinness Premiership, and Scottish and Welsh teams playing in the Magners League. There is also the Middlesex 7s, quite possibly the most famous rugby charity event in the world, and one of the largest 7-a-side rugby tournaments in Europe. In addition to club rugby, international rugby is a major event in Great Britain. The annual Six Nations tournament, which includes England, Scotland, and Wales, is a demonstration of rugby at its finest. The England national team plays their games at Twickenham Stadium in London, the Welsh at the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff, and the Scottish at Murrayfield in Edinburgh.

CRICKET

Cricket is a bat-and-ball team sport that was first created and played in England in the late 16th century. It is undoubtedly the most popular summer sport across the UK. If you are a fan of the sport, then the Lord's Cricket Ground in St John's Wood, London is a must see. Both traditional test cricket and twentytwenty cricket are played throughout the country.

OTHER SPORTS

GOLF

While the origins of golf are a mystery, Britain, more specifically Scotland, is undoubtedly the home of modern golf. Britain's premier golfing event, The Open Championship, or the British Open as it is often referred to, is the oldest of the four major international golf tournaments. The winner receives the renowned Claret Jug, which was first awarded to the British golf champion in 1840. There are nine courses that make up the Championship rota: Old Course at St Andrews, Carnoustie Golf Links, Muirfield, The Westin Turnberry Resort, Royal Troon Golf Club, Royal St George's Golf Club, Royal Lytham & St Annes Golf Club, Royal Birkdale Golf Club, and Royal Liverpool Golf Club. In addition to professional golf courses, there are also thousands of public and private courses to amuse players of the sport.

HIGHLAND GAMES

The Highland games are held throughout the year in Scotland to celebrate Scottish and Celtic culture. Certain aspects of the games are so well known they have become symbolic of Scottish culture, such as the bagpipes and the tossing of the caber, an event involving the tossing of a large wooden pole. The Highland games first began as a footrace held by King Malcolm III of Scotland, in the 11th century.

CHEESE ROLLING

The Cooper's Hill Cheese Roll is an annual event held near Gloucester in England. Competitors in the event start atop Cooper's Hill. A round of Gloucester Cheddar is then rolled down the hill, after which the competitors race. The first person to cross the finish line at the bottom wins the cheese. Competitors are meant to be trying to catch the cheese. However, since the cheese has been known to reach speeds of 70 miles per hour (112 km/h), actually catching the cheese is a rare event.