

The United Kingdom is situated in the north-west coast of Europe between the Atlantic Ocean on the north-west and the North Sea on the east. There are more than 5,000 small islands in the British Isles. The U. K. includes Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Great Britain, the largest island in Europe, contains England, Scotland and Wales.

The United Kingdom has an area of 244,000 square km. The landscape is greatly varied. You can see flat valleys, high lands, forests and lakes. There are many hills and mountains in the north and in the west. They are called Highlands.

The capital of the country is London. English is the official language. The population of the U. K. is nearly 60 million people. The population lives mostly in towns and cities and their suburbs. London's population is over 7 million people. There are many people of all colours and races in the United Kingdom instead of the English, the Scots, the Welsh and the Irish.

The climate of Great Britain is mild. It is not too hot in summer or too cold in winter. Rain falls in summer and in winter, in autumn and in spring. Snow falls only in the north and west of the country.

The surface of England and Ireland is flat, but Scotland and Wales are mountainous. Many parts of the country have beautiful villages. There are many rivers in Great Britain. The main river is the Thames. The longest river is Severn. It is 350 km long.

There are many universities, colleges, libraries, museums and theatres in the country. The most famous universities are Cambridge University, Oxford University, and Glasgow University.

The U. K. is a parliamentary monarchy. The British Parliament consists of two Houses: the House of Lords and the House of Commons. The Prime Minister is the head of the government.

The United Kingdom is a highly developed country. It produces iron and steel goods, machinery and electronics.

Great Britain is a country of strong attraction for tourists. There are both ancient and modern monuments. It is no doubt London is the most popular place for visiting because there are a lot of sightseeing like the Houses of Parliament, Buckingham Palace, London Bridge, St Paul's Cathedral, Westminster Abbey, the Tower of London.