



ENGLAND

From the fastest bird in the world to a species that's made an incredible comeback, England is home to a whole host of amazing animals. Hold on tight as we venture into the country's rivers, woodlands, coastal cliffs and even cities to meet some wonderful wildlife...

Eurasian otter!

If you explore the banks of England's rivers and lakes, you may be lucky enough to catch a glimpse of one of the nation's super swimmers — the Eurasian otter!

With its streamlined body, webbed feet and thick fur that keep it warm, this semi-aquatic mammal is well adapted for life on the water. Otters have strong populations in south-western and northern counties of England, where they live in burrows known as 'holts' and feed on fish, waterbirds, amphibians and crustaceans.

A lotta otter

Sadly, 40 years ago these incredible creatures almost disappeared in England due to hunting, habitat loss and the use of harmful pesticides. But Eurasian otters are now recognised as a symbol of success for wildlife conservationists.

Since being protected by law in 1978, they've made a splashing comeback and they're now living in every county in England! "Today, otters are doing well," says otter expert Dr Daniel Allen. "There are now around 1,600 of them in England and the number is increasing steadily." Great news!

Splash over to otter.org now to find out how you can help!

DID YOU KNOW...?

Eurasian otters also live in coastal regions. But they must always have access to fresh water sources for drinking and cleaning.



Peregrine falcon

If it's speed that impresses you, then prepare to be amazed! Feeding mostly on other birds, the Peregrine falcon swoops down to catch its prey at up to 360kmph. Whoosh! Whilst these brilliant birds are mostly found along coastal cliffs, they're increasingly setting up home in cities like London, where they nest on tall buildings. Due to illegal hunting and harmful pesticides the Peregrine falcon was once seriously endangered. But, fortunately, legal protection and safer pesticides means the population of these feathered friends is now on the rise!

Hazel dormouse!

This cute, cuddly critter is found in woodlands and hedgerows in central and southern England. A super-skilled climber, the hazel dormouse spends its time up in the branches, where there's plenty of food, and it only comes down to the ground to hibernate. "Loss of habitat has meant that areas where these incredible creatures were once found has halved," explains Nida Al-Fulaij, wildlife expert at the People's Trust for Endangered Species (PTES). "So to improve populations, we're reintroducing them back into woodlands across England." Yay!



Stag beetle!

A close-up look at this fierce-looking bug might give you a fright! But don't worry, gang — it won't harm you! Stag beetles get their name from the male's antler-like jaws, which it uses for fighting off rival males over territory and food. They're mostly found in woodland areas of south-east England, but they also live in parks, gardens and hedgerows. Sadly, due to habitat loss, populations have become seriously threatened. So why don't YOU help them out? Encourage these minibeasts into your garden by creating a happy bug home with logs, stones and compost heaps!



Wild things to do in ENGLAND!



Find a fossil!

Jurassic Coast, Devon/Dorset

Fancy a trip back in time? Well, this stretch of coastline, running from Exmouth in East Devon to Studland in Dorset, will take you back almost 185 million years! As you're exploring the beautiful beaches and craggy coves, be sure to keep your eyes peeled — because you may well find fossils hidden amongst the ancient rocks! jurassiccoast.org



Size up Stonehenge!

Wiltshire

This ghostly circle of massive stones has towered above England's Salisbury Plain for 4,500 years! Exactly why ancient people hauled the six-metre high stones into a circle, and what this prehistoric monument means, remains a mystery to this day. But one thing's for sure — it's well worth a visit! stonehenge.co.uk



Explore the Lakes!

Lake District, Cumbria

With glistening lakes, stunning coastline and mighty mountains, the Lake District is the perfect place to enjoy the great outdoors! Located in north-west England, this region is home to loads of amazing wildlife, too. Whether you trek, cycle or even sail, you'll have loads of fun getting up close with nature here! lakedistrict.gov.uk