

FACTSHEET

Life in the UK

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In this factsheet we hope to give those unfamiliar with the country a little insight into UK life in general. As you will see there is a map which identifies the major cities and where they are in relation to London. We have done comparisons of the cost of basic shopping items in GB Pound Sterling (£), Euros (€) and US Dollars (\$) so you can see the differences in what these items cost. As the UK (and London in particular) is a richly diverse country with a wide ethnic mix, we have included some information to show you the diversity of cultures and people.

As you will see, some of the organisations listed only have websites or telephone advice lines. We do understand that you while you still detained you are not likely to be able to get access to the internet or possibly not a telephone. If you have friends and family with internet access, it would be a good idea to pass the relevant website addresses on to them and ask them to find out information on your behalf.

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1 **Britain in the USA**

The British government have set up a website specifically for people in the US who have an interest in learning more about life in the UK, whether it be a general interest in learning more about politics, for example, or whether you have specific queries about moving to the UK, finding work, etc. The address for the website is: www.britainusa.com

The homepage has a link to a page which contains Frequently Asked Questions which cover all kinds of topics such as: Can I work in Britain?, What is Britain's most popular meal?, Can I get married in Britain?, How can I buy or rent real estate in Britain?, and How do the British celebrate Christmas?

2 Public services

The UK government has developed a website of information about life in the UK and a whole host of common issues such as education, finding/buying a home, travel and transport, health, the law, leisure. The address is as follows: www.direct.gov.uk

Local libraries are good sources of support and information. As well as the obvious services such as lending books, many offer free internet access as well as access to daily newspapers and magazines. This can be useful for finding jobs and accommodation.

3 Education & training

For people wishing to get back into education, who are interested in training for specific jobs, or who are looking for classes in basic skills such as literacy, **Learndirect** offers advice over the phone and online. Many of the basic skills courses are free of charge. They can be contacted by telephone on 0800 100 900 (this number is free from UK landlines) or via their website: www.learndirect.co.uk

4 Looking for work

There are many places you can look for a suitable job when you arrive in the UK. National and local newspapers carry advertisements for jobs. Some newspapers are available online free of charge and these versions will have the same job adverts. There are also a number of websites set up specifically to advertise jobs, including the following:

www.londonjobs.co.uk

<http://jobs.guardian.co.uk>

www.london24.net/content/jobs

5 Driving in the UK

If you were resident overseas for a number of years before your arrest and have a full valid driving license for the country in which you were living, you will be able to drive in the UK on the same license for 12 months before you need to obtain a UK license (any person holding a license issued by an EU country may drive in the UK without needing to obtain a UK license for as long as your own license remains valid). To ensure that you can continue driving in the UK, you will need to obtain a provisional UK license and pass a driving test before the 12 month period elapses.

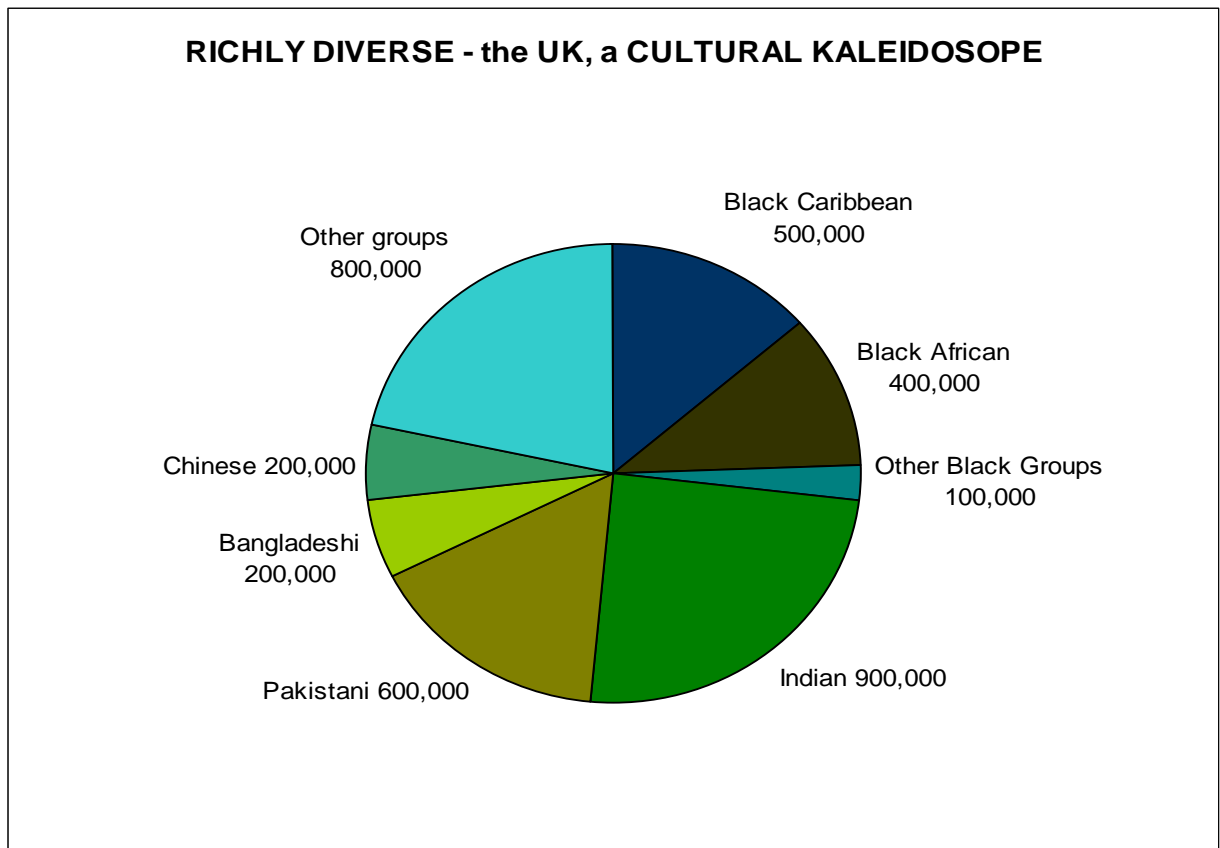
To obtain a provisional license application form (D1) and more information about the application (ask for leaflet INS115 for more details) or if you have any further questions about driving in the UK, write to the DVLA (Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency), Swansea, SA99 1BT, UK. The DVLA Website address is as follows: www.dvla.org.uk

6 Multicultural UK

London is one of the most ethnically diverse cities in the world. While (according to the 2001 Home Office census) 92% of the UK population class themselves ethnically as White, more than a quarter of London's population is from alternative ethnic backgrounds. This makes London the largest non-white population of any European city. Comparatively speaking racial tension is low in London due to a wide variety of cultures living in close proximity.

There are more than 270 nationalities which make up the population of London. London has 33 boroughs, seven million people and 200 languages. London also contains an enormous variety of religions including large Christian, Muslim, Hindu, Sikh and Jewish communities and many more. London is home to the famous St Paul's Cathedral and London Central Mosque on the edge of Regents Park.

Below is a chart which reflects the population numbers of ethnic minority groups throughout the whole of the UK. The chart represents the 8% of the UK population who do not class themselves as 'White'.



It is widely accepted that ethnic minority communities live in distinct regions, which can be identified across the UK:

- 78% of Black Africans live in London
- 61% of Black Caribbeans live in London
- 54% of Bangladeshis live in London (within the boroughs of Camden and Tower Hamlets)

Other communities are slightly more dispersed, but still quite clearly identifiable, with significant numbers across the UK:

Indians are concentrated largely in London, Leicester, Wolverhampton and Slough. Pakistanis are concentrated in London, Slough, Luton, West Midlands, Manchester and Yorkshire (Bradford). Bangladeshis are concentrated in London (Tower Hamlets and Camden), Luton, Oldham and the West Midlands



7 Cost of living in London

The list below contains common shopping items based on the average price in London, as well as other common expenditures.

NB Currency conversion based on rates as of March 2007 – UK £1 = US \$1.96 = EUR €1.33

Item Description	Pounds £	Dollars \$	Euros €
6 Eggs	£0.54	\$1.06	€0.82
Bread (1 loaf)	£0.96	\$1.89	€1.46
Potatoes	£1.58	\$3.11	€2.40
Cereal	£1.47	\$2.89	€2.40
Rice (200g)	£1.99	\$3.92	€3.03
Milk (1Pint)	£0.64	\$1.26	€0.97
Bottle mineral Water (1.5 ltr)	£0.68	\$1.34	€1.03
Orange Juice (1ltr)	£1.25	\$2.46	€1.90

Chicken drumsticks	£2.99	\$5.89	€4.55
Pork chops (2)	£2.49	\$4.90	€3.79
Beef Steak (2)	£2.36	\$4.65	€3.59
Salmon fillets (2)	£3.38	\$6.66	€5.14
Tuna Chunks (small can)	£0.29	\$0.57	€0.44
Tin of Baked Beans	£0.17	\$0.33	€0.25
Butter (250g)	£0.54	\$1.06	€0.82
Soap (1 bar)	£0.77	\$1.51	€1.17
Body Lotion	£2.48	\$4.89	€3.77
Deodorant	£0.89	\$1.75	€1.35
Shower gel	£1.48	\$2.91	€2.25
Hair Cream	£1.59	\$3.13	€2.42
Apples	£0.69 per kg	\$1.36	€1.01
Newspapers			
<i>Daily Mirror</i> (popular tabloid)	£0.40	\$0.78	€0.60
<i>The Times</i> (serious news broadsheet)	£0.65	\$1.28	€0.98
<i>The Guardian</i> (serious news broadsheet)	£0.70	\$1.38	€1.06
Pack of 10 Cigarettes	£2.85	\$5.61	€4.34
Pack of 20 Cigarettes	£5.35	\$10.54	€8.14
Average Cost of Accommodation (per month)*			
Flat share East London			
Single room	£290-390	\$568-764	€428-575
Double room	£430-600	\$842-1175	€635-886
Flat share West London			
Single Room	£280-430	\$548-842	€413-635
Double Room	£459-690	\$899-1352	€678-1019
Flat share South London			
Single room	£280-500	\$549-980	€413-738
Double room	£350-600	\$686-1175	€517-886
Flat share North London			
Single room	£300-400	\$588-784	€443-590
Double room	£430-550	\$842-1078	€635-812
One bedroom flat rental per month			
East London	£650-750	\$1274-1470	€960-1107
North London	£650-750	\$1274-1470	€960-1107
South London	£600-700	\$1175-1372	€886-1034
West London	£700-800	\$1372-1568	€1034-1181
UK Cost of Entertainment (per person)			
Movies / Cinema	£7-10	\$13-19	€10-15
Central London theatre	£25	\$49.36	€38.07
Nightclub entry	£5-20	\$9-39	€7-30

Live music concerts	£10+	\$19+	€15.22+
Chart music CDs	£8-12	\$15-23	€12-18
New release DVDs rental	£3.50	\$6.91	€5.32
Cost of Transportation in London**			
Zones 1-2 7-day Travelcard	£23.20	\$45.80	€35.33
Zones 1-3 7-day Travelcard	£27.20	\$53.71	€41.42
Zones 1-4 7-day Travelcard	£33.20	\$65.54	€50.57
Zones 1-5 7-day Travelcard	£39.80	\$78.57	€60.62
Zones 1-6 7-day Travelcard	£43.00	\$84.91	€65.49
Zones 2-4 7-day Travelcard	£19.40	\$38.30	€29.54
Zones 2-6 7-day Travelcard	£29.20	\$57.66	€37.85
Weekly Bus travel pass (all zones)	£14.50	\$28.63	€18.79

*This is purely the cost of the accommodation. You will need to factor other expenses related to your home into your budget, such as gas, electricity, council tax etc.

** The London Transport system works on a zone basis, zone 1 being the central zone, and zone 6 being the outer ring of London. The more zones you pass through in a single tube journey, the more expensive your ticket will be. Individual bus journeys are the same price regardless of how long your journey or how many zones you pass through. A Travelcard is a ticket which allows the holder unlimited travel in the specified zones for a set period on buses, underground trains (tube) and most overground trains.

If you require this leaflet in a large print format, please contact us. Our details are below.

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