

## A TRAVEL TO THE MYSTIC PLACES OF GREAT BRITAIN: STONEHENGE AND LOCH-NESS

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*У доповіді йдеться про містичні об'єкти сучасної Великобританії, навколо яких ведуться запеклі суперечки. Систематизовано фактори (історичне минуле, наукові гіпотези та дослідження), які роблять ці місця насправді унікальними туристичними приладами.*

Stonehenge is a prehistoric monument located in the English county of Wiltshire. One of the most famous sites in the world, Stonehenge is composed of earthworks surrounding a circular setting of large standing stones. Stonehenge was produced by a culture that left no written records. Many aspects of Stonehenge remain subject to debate. This multiplicity of theories, some of them very colourful, is often called the "mystery of Stonehenge". Whatever religious, mystical or spiritual elements were central to Stonehenge, its design includes a celestial observatory function, which might have allowed prediction of eclipse, solstice, equinox and other celestial events important to a contemporary religion.

In the survey of conditions at 94 leading World Heritage Sites, 400 conservation and tourism experts ranked Stonehenge 75th in the list of destinations, declaring it to be "in moderate trouble".

The Loch Ness Monster (Scottish Gaelic Niseag) is a cryptid that is reputed to inhabit Loch Ness in the Scottish Highlands. The most frequent speculation is that the creature represents a line of long-surviving plesiosaurs. It is similar to other supposed lake monsters in Scotland and elsewhere, though its description varies from one account to the next. Evidence of its existence is anecdotal, with minimal and much-disputed photographic material and sonar readings. The scientific community regards the Loch Ness Monster as a modern-day myth, and explains sightings as a mix of hoaxes and wishful thinking.

A variety of explanations have been postulated over the years to identify the cause of touristic interest to Stonehenge and sightings of the Loch Ness Monster. It may be categorized as: scientific theories, reinterpretations of traditional folklore, hoaxes and different misidentifications. Despite this, these places remain the most famous examples of touristic interest.