

Travel Guide

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show  stoppers

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Here at megabus, there's nothing we love more than exploring the delightfully diverse UK landscape. And we're not the only ones.... Our new survey has revealed that nearly three-quarters of us, who have been put off by travelling abroad this year, are taking the opportunity to staycation. Plus, more than half of us have booked trips and days out in the UK, because we were moved by films or TV shows made there.

So, we've teamed up with film and TV superfan **Alex Zane**, to create a series of downloadable travel guides which showcase the best places to visit for a silver screen fix in: **London, Edinburgh, Manchester, Birmingham** and **Bristol**.

The unique guides make for the ultimate telly treasure trail. So why not have your very own Mission Impossible in Birmingham, doff your cap to Peaky Blinders in Manchester, or check out the Skins teens' favourite hangout spots in Bristol and much more...

megabus offers great value coach travel across the country and with services such as extra legroom seats, free Wi-Fi and on-board charging points, customers can enjoy watching their favourite flick en-route to the very destination it was filmed.

Book tickets to your own showstopper adventure [here](#)

Right let's get going...



Discover London

with **megabus**

England's iconic capital, a diverse and cosmopolitan city of 9 million dates back to Roman Times. Housing 32 boroughs and covering a total of 600 square miles, it's a sprawling metropolis with a vast and varied landscape.

A melting pot of cultures, nationalities and languages, it's no wonder London is one of the top tourist destinations in the world, with a predicted 26 million curious travellers set to pass through in 2022 alone. And there's plenty to keep them occupied; from the impressive House of Parliament with its iconic Big Ben clock tower and Westminster Abbey, to the boujis streets of Notting Hill or Knightsbridge, or the 5,000 acres of Royal Parks, there's an infinite list of attractions and activities.

Now London has been the backdrop for thousands of films and TV shows over the years. If we were to cover off just a smidgen of them, we would be here until Christmas. Instead, we're going to focus in on some of the recent award-winning TV shows that have been shot here, starting with **Top Boy**.



Top Boy

Launching in 2011, the BAFTA winning drama has utilised many spots across East and South East London. We'll start with where it all began – the Summerhouse Estate. The estate has had multiple stand-ins over the years. When the series was on Channel 4, exterior scenes in and around the estate were primarily shot on the **Heygate Estate** in Elephant and Castle. However, the estate was demolished in 2014, meaning that when the show returned in 2019 it needed a new home. Since then, exterior scenes have been shot on the **Samuda Estate** on the Isle of Dogs.

Top Boy's most famous location however is undoubtedly the greasy spoon café where Dushane does business. In real life the café is the **Number One Café** at 36-38 Well Street, E9. Located in London Fields, the area is a hotbed for creative and media types who flock there for its hipster packed park, pubs and Olympic sized lido (pack your swimmers!). Promising a very reasonably priced bacon butty and cuppa, you can pull in for a pit-stop on your Top Boy tour.



Killing Eve

From one BAFTA winning TV show, to another – this time Killing Eve. We're going to start fancy at the spot where Carolyn was relaxing in the very grand 'Scarves Bar' at the Rosewood Hotel, 252 High Holborn, WC1. The hotel is one of the most refined spots in London, ideal for a late-night cocktail (probably just the one as it's on the pricier side).

This time we're travelling across town to Lower Clapton where one of the key characters' funerals took place (no spoilers!). The scene was filmed in a local pub called the **Clapton Hart**, 231 Lower Clapton Road, E5. It's a great example of a traditional London boozier, dating back to the 18th Century. With gorgeous high ceilings inside and a huge beer garden out, you can tuck into a menu of pub classics, washed down with a wide range of craft beers or real ales, whether rain or shine.

Finally, if you can muster the energy, you could visit iconic London club **Fabric**. The scene where Villanelle stabs Bill in Berlin was actually filmed in the 23-year-old nightclub in Farringdon. Known for its vibrating dance floor attached to a whopping 450 bass transducers, it's not for the faint hearted, but boasts a stonking line up of world class DJs.



I May Destroy You

Our final TV show tour is for Michaela Coel's smash hit *I May Destroy You*. The story of a young woman who must rebuild her life after her drink is spiked, uses some of London's busiest urban areas as backdrops.

First off, Arabella's Hackney flat - just off the Kingsland Road in Dalston. A bustling artery, it runs all the way from Stoke Newington to Shoreditch and is packed with independent shops, restaurants and bars - ranging from decades-old small businesses to super cool cocktail bars.

Another area bursting at the seams with dining, nightlife and shopping options is Soho. Originally a fashionable district for the aristocracy, it has been one of the capital's main entertainment districts since the 19th century and is home to Arabella's agent who is based in a small alley off D'Arblay Street, W1 (look for the grey/blue shutters).

And so, it's on to our final stop, a mere stone's throw from the last and the scene of Arabella in her dark angel Halloween costume, it's Carnaby Street. Made famous in the swinging sixties, the iconic street buzzes in the background of the scene, glittering with neon lights and late-night drinkers. And it's not just a late-night spot, with a plethora of shopping and dining options, it's no wonder it's packed with visitors and London locals' day and night.



Discover Edinburgh

with **megabus**

Scotland's capital is the kind of place you'll want to revisit again and again. Whether you're filling your shopping bags along Princes Street, or sampling the gastronomic delights in Edinburgh's New Town – there's something for everyone in this city. But it's the historic skyline that fills our insta-feeds that keeps TV and film production companies coming back for more.

The historical and cultural attractions, including the looming Edinburgh Castle, Arthur's Seat and legendary Fringe Festival have made it the UK's second most visited tourist destination and Time Out magazine's 'Best City in the World' 2022.

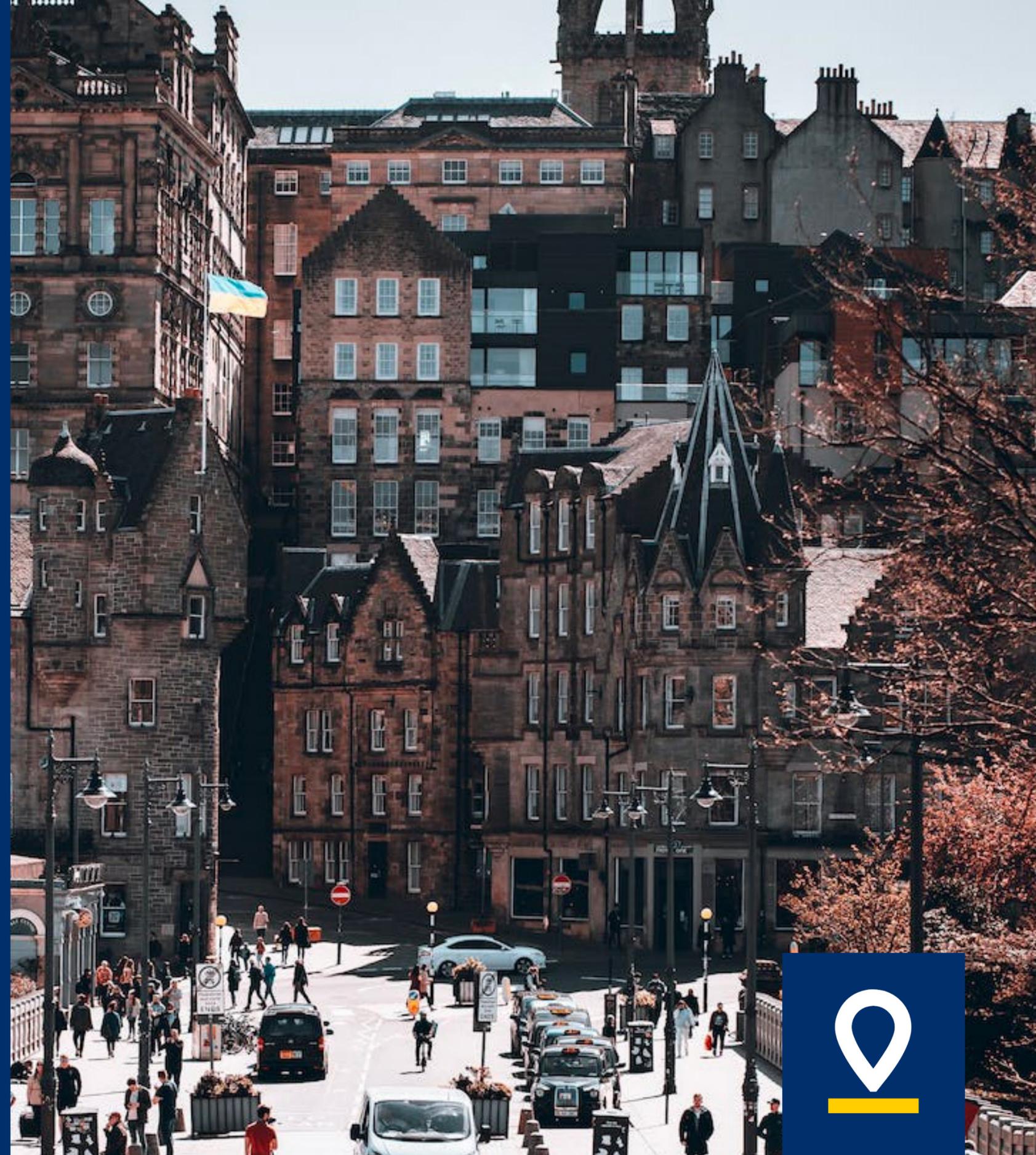
For a city of half a million residents, it certainly packs a punch in terms of talent, claiming Sean Connery, Ronnie Corbett, and Irvine Welsh, amongst its famous exports. And it's the latter we're going to focus on first, as we take you to locations from one of Edinburgh's (and possibly all of Scotland's) most iconic films, written by Irvine and adapted for screen by Danny Boyle, it is of course, 'Trainspotting'.



Trainspotting

Now although set in Edinburgh, this one's a bit of a red herring, as most of Trainspotting was filmed in Scotland's second city Glasgow. The iconic opening scenes however see Renton being chased down Edinburgh's Princes Street, by the police.

At the eastern end of Princes Street, down the steps from Leith Street to Calton Road, and the Calton Street Bridge, where Renton is dramatically hit by a car. From then on, filming moves to Glasgow – which you could also follow on the 923 Megabus in 1hr 7mins.



Good Omens

From the silver screen to your TV screen, Amazon's popular Good Omens returns for Season Two later this year, choosing Edinburgh as the location for many of its scenes. One such place, where you can pop in for a pit-stop pint is the Cask and Barrel pub on West Preston Street. Disguised in the show as the 'Resurrectionist', the award-winning traditional Scottish boozier promises a warm welcome and a wide range of real ales.

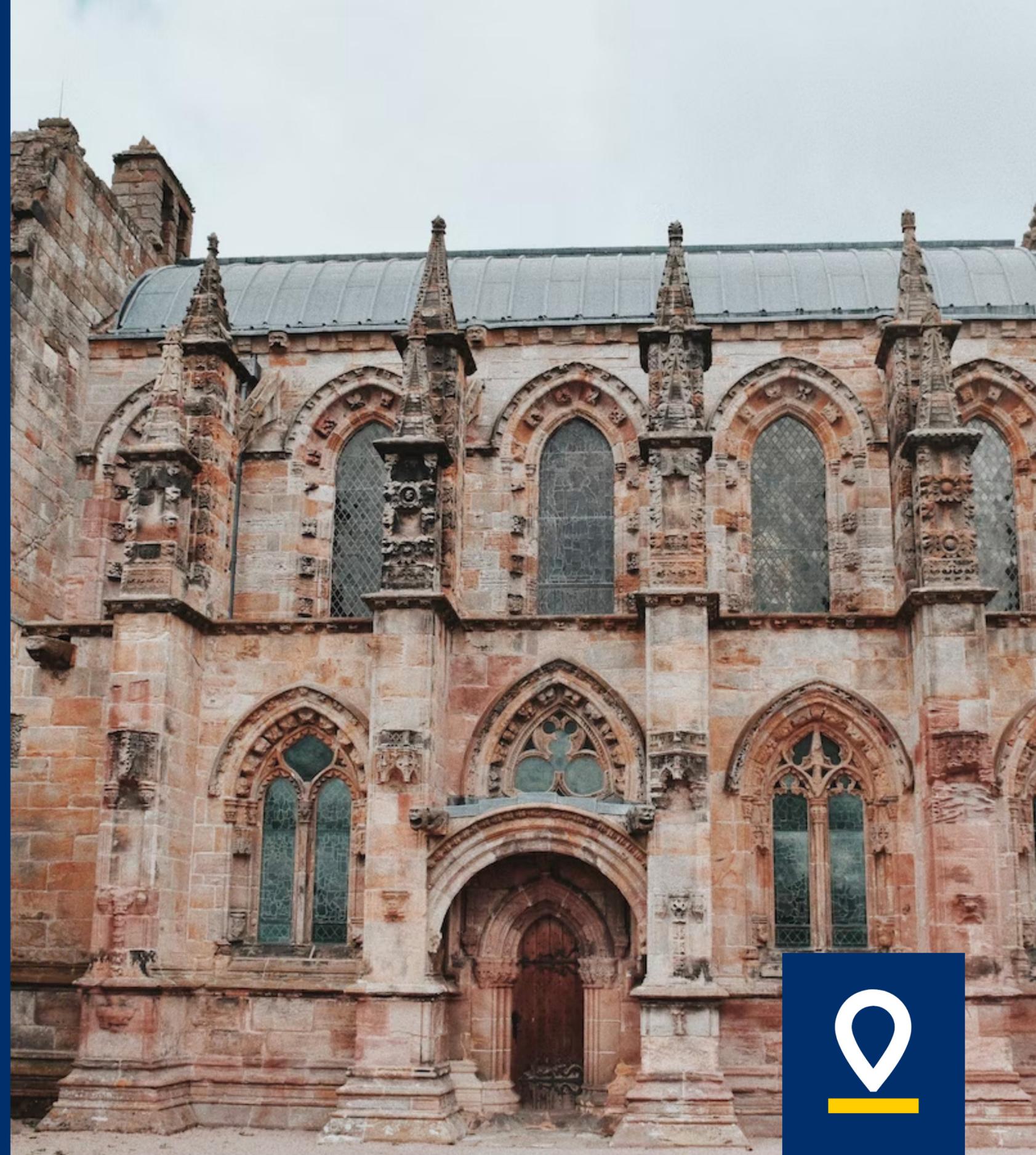
Other spots around town where David Tennent and Michael Sheen have been sighted include Victoria Street and West Bow, and elegant Stockbridge, a vibrant area with a village feel packed full of posh delis, thrift stores and gastropubs (time for another pint?) The Royal Botanical Gardens are also located here so you can take in a little nature as you work off those deli treats (and two pints).



Da Vinci Code

Several miles south of the city centre in the village of Roslin, Midlothian, you can visit the Rosslyn Chapel. The 15th Century chapel features at the centre of the conspiracy theory in Dan Brown's book *The Da Vinci Code*.

The book, published in 2003, sold more than 80 million copies and inspired the Ron Howard directed film starring Tom Hanks and Audrey Tautou. Hanks was bowled over by the beautiful location, claiming it was 'all he could have imagined and hoped for'.



Discover Manchester

with **megabus**

Home to Coronation Street, the textile revolution, Vimto, the worker bee, and possibly the biggest football rivalry in history – Manchester is a vibrant city where hip bars, edgy art and cultural exhibits rub shoulder to shoulder with traditional pubs and gothic architecture.

Every inch of Manny offers something different: the Northern Quarter with its independent charm, the stylish Millennium Quarter where visitors can shop 'til they drop at Selfridges and Harvey Nichols, and the new cosmopolitan area Spinningfields – packed with stylish shops and boujee bars.

Manchester has provided iconic backdrops for a multitude of shows and movies. From the witty Cold Feet and Fresh Meat and the poignant yet punchy It's a Sin, to suspenseful Netflix show The Stranger and of course family favourite – The Crown. Manchester means business when it comes to the TV and film industry.



It's a Sin

Next up, why not visit Paton Street, home to the Pink Palace - where Ritchie and the gang hosted their wild and whimsical soirees on It's a Sin.

Just a five-minute walk from Manchester Piccadilly Station, Paton Street is also just on the periphery of the Gay Village and also home to Clampdown Record, one of Manchester's famous independent music shops. From pubs, clubs, and pop-ups, the focal point of the Gay Village is the lively and vivacious Canal Street, so be sure to check it out.



Peaky Blinders

What better way to kick off a TV and film tour of the city than with the famous flat-cap fuelled hit Peaky Blinders. Back for its final cigarette and whiskey infused season, the production team utilised Manchester's Castlefield Basin to build multiple sets such as the Garrison pub, Chinatown, and most importantly, all those iconic Tommy Shelby canal scenes.

Whilst you may not be able to find Tommy enjoying a pint (or maybe five) at the Garrison, the basin offers plenty of stunning scenes along the canal, as well as new bars and converted warehouses.



The Stranger

The showstopper tour of this northern powerhouse concludes in the rather tip-top suburbs of Didsbury. Netflix watchers were shaken to their very core with the release of The Stranger, an eight-part thriller series that left us on the edge of our seats. The show utilised the stunning Grade-II listed Park End House as the hub for all the drama, which was a cliffhanging concoction of murder, romance, and plenty neighbourhood beef.



Discover Birmingham

with **megabus**

As the second largest and youngest city in the UK, Birmingham is bursting with increasingly trendy hotspots. A city which brilliantly mixes old and new – Birmingham has brought us many icons over the years including Black Sabbath, the world's first Odeon, the Balti, and obviously who could forget, HP sauce.

Whether strolling through the bohemian hangout of Digbeth, or uncovering the (not-so-hidden) gem that is the Jewellery Quarter, which boasts over 700 independent jewellers – the city is buzzing with shops, bars, museums, and restaurants. Spoilt for choice is an understatement.

Birmingham, also known as Brum to locals, has been the star of several much-loved TV and films – with multiple smash hit productions utilising areas of the city as its backdrop. The impressive roster of the small and big screen includes, gangster and whiskey fuelled Peaky Blinders, cult watch police drama Line of Duty, Netflix's adaptation of Imran Mahmood's novel You Don't Know Me, and the much-anticipated upcoming release, Mission Impossible.



Line of Duty

We will kickstart our megabus tour at The Queens Arms, a location featured in the incredibly popular BBC series Line of Duty. The grade II listed pub sits just on the edge of the Jewellery Quarter, right by the stunning St Phillip's Cathedral.

In an iconic scene from season 1 - Detective Inspector Steve Arnott can be seen questioning ex-co-workers over a far from relaxing pint, as he delves deeper into the corrupt antics of DCI Tony Gates. A scene put down in the history books of top British gritty dramatisations.



Mission Impossible

Next, we will venture to Grand Central train station, the transport hub of Birmingham. Amongst the hustle and bustle, onlookers recently spied Tom Cruise as Field Agent Ethan Hunt, showcasing his martial art skills in multiple action scenes in Mission Impossible.

If you're a shopaholic or food lover, then Grand Central is your Meccah. Connected to the Bull Ring, visitors can step off the train and within seconds be surrounded by lively bars, delicious restaurants, the best of UK's high street brands, and of course the incredibly instagrammable 6-tonne bronze bull statue.



You Don't Know Me

The final stop on the Showstopper tour of Birmingham is Waterloo Street, where Netflix's thriller *You Don't Know Me* was filmed.

Located in the heart of the city centre right by Birmingham New Street, Waterloo Street boasts several bars, pubs, and even Michelin star restaurants. Adam's Restaurant was featured in the show during several restaurant scenes, however we're not so sure that the characters had much of an appetite after the drama surrounding Kyra and Hero unfolds.



Discover Bristol

with **megabus**

Take a trip to Bristol (or Brizzle to the locals) and experience a city which has long set the pace for pop culture. Made famous for its home-grown trailblazers, including Massive Attack, Damien Hirst and JK Rowling – for a city of 700,000, it’s punching way above its weight in global influence and cultural legacy.

Given the diversity of the city, and the surrounding countryside – from well-heeled Clifton with its Georgian townhouses and iconic suspension bridge, through to the vibrant Banksy-strewn streets of Stokes Croft – it’s hardly surprising Bristol’s a hotspot for TV and film location scouts.

Popular shows that have been shot and set in Bristol include, long-running hospital drama Casualty, the timelord himself Dr Who, comedy classic Only Fools and Horses, world-wide smash teen-drama Skins, and most recently Bristol’s own Stephen Merchant’s hilarious Outlaws. Making it the perfect trip for TV and film enthusiasts to soak up the best of British telly.



The Outlaws

If you're in Bristol for the weekend, you'll probably need somewhere to stay... So why not check into the Bristol Marriot Royal Hotel.

The 150-year-old Bath stone building is not only a piece of architectural beauty, but also the backdrop for TV fan fave Outlaws. The crime comedy drama follows seven strangers from different walks of life, who are forced together to complete a Community Payback sentence, in Bristol.

The hotel's city centre location sits a short walk from the Bristol Hippodrome Theatre and shopping hotspot Cabbot Circus, and adjacent to Bristol Cathedral.

Makers of the show were keen to show the diversity of Bristol's landscape, so ventured beyond the city hotspots and into the surrounding countryside. The George Inn pub in the quaint village of Shirehampton, serves as a backdrop for a scene with leading stars Stephen Merchant and Christopher Walken. If you fancy a fun retro flashback - this carpet-floored classic boozier, complete with dartboard and fruities, can be reached from the city centre in approx.30 minutes on the C7/9 bus. On the other side of town, the 'Oldbury Court Inn' in Fishponds, which features in Outlaws season 2, is easily reached via B5 bus, journey time 40 mins.



Skins

Jump back on the megabus to College Green, for our second iconic Bristol Showstopper, Skins. College Green has long been the hang-out point for wayward teens. And this was no different for Skins superstars Cook, Freddie and JJ, who first met at this location, back in series one (2007), and then again in the first episode of series two.

Five minutes up Park Street from College Green, swing a left and you'll reach Brandon Hill. The park is the setting for many moments in the rocky romance of Sid and Cassie. Make sure you go at sunset to recreate the closing shot of Season One, on the bench now known locally as 'Cassie's bench'.

And to finish your time in Bristol? Be sure to hit up legendary local venue, The Thekla. Everyone's favourite nautical nightclub highly featured in Season Three, episode two and the infamous engagement party. Another fun fact to impress your party pals is that Banksy adorned the water side of the Thekla with early work, 'The Grim Reaper'. It's now on long term loan at the nearby M Shed – a colourful exhibition detailing the history of the city and its people – well worth a visit.



megabus show stoppers

We hope you've enjoyed this whirlwind guide around the UK, and it stands you in good stead for your own showstopping adventure.

Share your favourite silver screen locations with us on social:

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