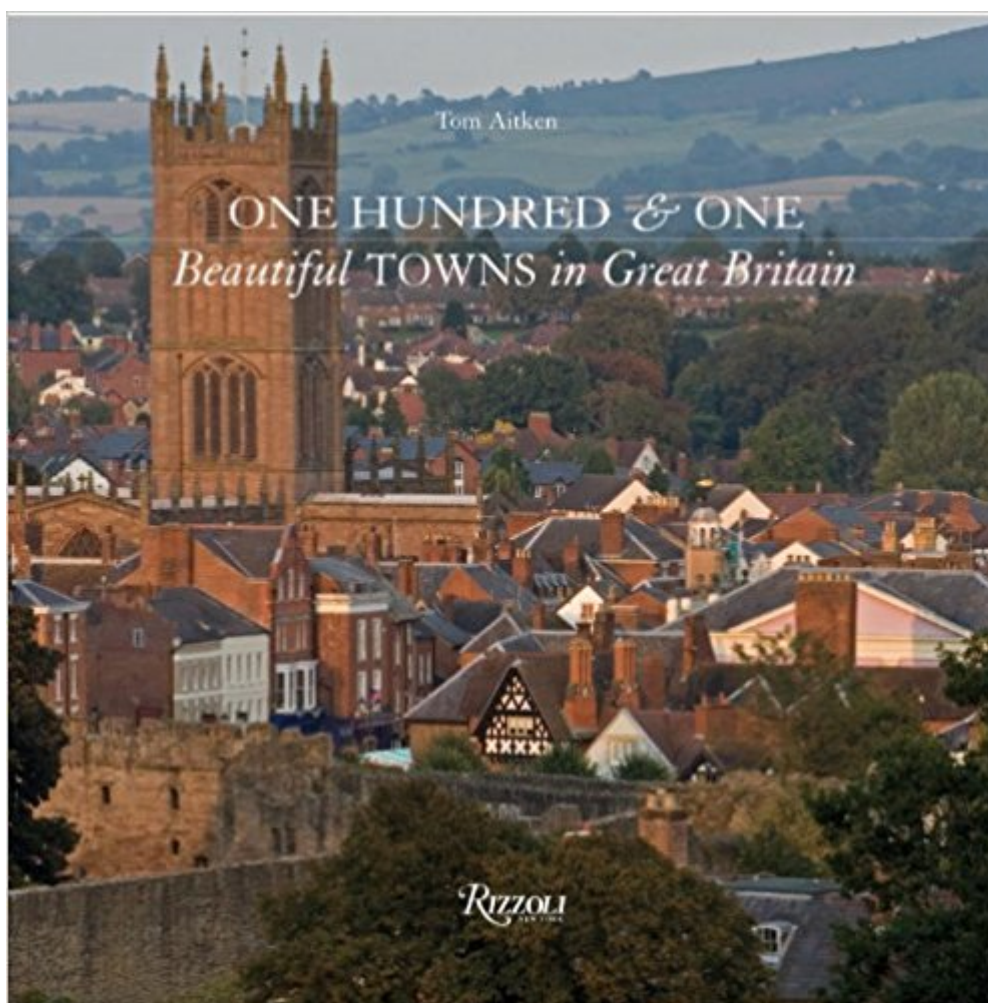


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# One Hundred & One Beautiful Towns In Great Britain (101 Beautiful Small Towns)



## Synopsis

A sequel to the highly successful *One Hundred & One Beautiful Small Towns in Italy* and *One Hundred & One Beautiful Small Towns in France*, this book is a unique photographic tour of the most beautiful towns in every region of England, Scotland, Northern Ireland, and Wales. The towns of Britain's countryside are among the most charming and unchanged in Europe's history. Readers will want to roam the countryside: from the Norman castle towns of the southeast to the spectacular Roman architecture of Bath and St. Albans, and from Celtic cottage farms in the Scottish lowlands to the stone and iron towns of the Welsh borders and the north, *One Hundred & One Beautiful Small Towns in Great Britain* is as much about the history of the Isles as it is about their beauty today. Tom Aiken's eloquent and informative text not only draws attention to aesthetic, natural, and architectural points of interest in every region, but also brings to life the history of each place, from Shakespeare's Stratford-on-Avon to the royal Cowes, the monastic abbeys of Yorkshire to prehistoric Ireland, and from the Pagan past of the Scottish Highlands to the legends of Roman Britain. A thorough appendix provides travel tips and details and locations for hotels, restaurants, and shops of interest in all the towns. Whether you're an armchair traveler or an Anglo-phile planning yet another trip, this volume is the guide to the varied heritage and hidden treasures of Britain.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

A beautifully illustrated and informative tour of Britain's beautiful and historic towns, and a taste of

the extraordinary and diverse national heritage of the British Isles. Organized geographically, this book is a unique photographic tour of the most beautiful towns in every region of England, Scotland, Ireland, and Wales. The towns of Britain's countryside are among the most charming and unchanged in Europe's history, steeped in heritage that reflects at once an unexpected diversity of purpose and a ubiquitous loyalty to longstanding tradition. From the Norman castle towns of the south-east to the spectacular Roman architecture of Bath and St. Albans, and from Celtic cottage farms in the Scottish lowlands to the stone, coal, and iron towns of the Welsh borders and the industrial north, *101 Beautiful Towns in Great Britain* is as much about the history of the Isles as it is about their beauty today. Tom Aitken's eloquent and informative text not only draws attention to aesthetic, natural, and architectural points of interest in every region, but also brings to life the history of each place, from Shakespeare's Stratford to the royal Hampton Court, the monastic abbeys of Yorkshire to prehistoric Ireland, and from the Pagan past of the Scottish Highlands to the legends of Roman Britain. A thorough appendix provides travel tips and details and locations for hotels, restaurants, and shops of interest in all the towns.

Tom Aiken is a writer, poet, editor, theater director, musician, and critic. A cultural historian of Britain and Europe, he is a past winner of the Lincoln Memorial Essay award, author of two young adult novels, and has contributed to the *Times Literary Supplement*, *The Guardian*, and *The Spectator*.

I should have realized that a book covering 101 towns in 280 pages could hardly give much attention to each town, but it turns out to be worse than I expected. Only a handful of towns rate more than two pages (four maximum). Of the two pages most towns receive, one is devoted to a single full-page photograph and the other to text and one tiny (usually 3X3") image. Given the arbitrary restrictions (Why 101 towns? Why not a bigger book?), the text is often, though not always, adequate, but the selection of photographs is frequently bizarre. A photograph of a single building may be accompanied by one of an attraction nearby but not in the town itself (Salisbury Cathedral and Stonehenge, for example). My favorite is poor Dorchester, where neither picture represents anything in the town itself (the full page is of the Cerne Abbas giant, 7 miles outside town, presumably included for its titillation factor, the other of the Hardy House in neighboring Higher Bockhampton). And why do we see only details of buildings, rather than the buildings themselves (a stone carving from Lavenham's great wool church, a similar detail of Beverley's glorious Minster)? Where, in these and many other cases, is the town? Yes, there are some good photographs, enjoyable for their own sake, but I experienced mostly frustration at the limited or wrongheaded

treatment of the many wonderful towns I know, and I got little sense of those I don't. The book simply tries to do too much in too little space, and it often fails on its own terms. I am mystified that four people have given this book five stars. It gave me very little pleasure.

Haven't gotten completely through this book but it is excellent. Separates the towns into regions and also provides an alphabetical index. The pictures are great but what is even better is the brief description/history about the town along with specific interesting things to visit/see as well as within the area of the town. I plan to use this to help on upcoming travels. The only drawback is that more towns aren't included! Maybe another book.

We recently went to Great Britain for eight days, basing ourselves in Manchester and using Brit Rail to travel to London one day only (it rained) and to York, Carlisle, and Chester, which are picture-summarized in the book. We visited Settle (mentioned as being beautiful, too), Selby, and Bolton. The villages were gorgeous as well--this book is good for reminiscence. It's fun to compare the pictures we took with the book's.

Beautiful Book. Excellent Condition.

Delighted to have found this lovely book. It has been well used at our house, and is one that we will return to enjoy often.

Beautifully Photographed. Great at showing that there is more to Great Britain than just London.

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