

Introduction. More than 6% of the UK working population (i.e. more than a million) employed in the tourism industry. Great Britain - the birthplace of modern tourism as a form of leisure.

In 1840 Cook preacher from the English town of Melbourne founded the world's first tourist company. A year later, the company arranged for five hundred members of the "Society sober" trip to the suburbs of London, and in the years 1844-1846 - trips to various parts of England and Scotland. By the early 50s of the century in the UK, there are several tourist companies, and each year traveling around the country attended by more than 160 thousand of people. In 1856, the company Cook group organized the first tourist trip to the Western Europe. This date is generally considered the beginning of international tourism. At the end of the XIX century tourists were traveling in the country and abroad have become widespread in the UK and went beyond Europe. In 1860-70 years were carried out hiking trip in the US, and in 1878 at the World Exhibition in Paris from the UK arrived 75 thousand. people. In the UK, has created favorable conditions for tourism development: there are no areas that far from the sea more than 160 km, many cities are located directly on the coast. Available in a variety of landscapes in every part of the country is mountainous or hilly areas, a lot of rivers and lakes. The population in private ownership, there are over 400 thousand sea and more than 100 thousand river pleasure craft. More than 10% of Britain occupied by national parks and so-called landscape areas, they are all parts of the country. The largest size national parks are located in Scotland (Northumberland, Nordvorkmurs, Voryudyr Dales), Wales (Exmoor, Dartmoor) and the North of England (Derwent). Tourists are attracted by historical and architectural monuments are almost in every city of the country. Britain attracts tourists from around the world for its centuries-old unique culture, history and unique "purely British" charm and flair. The abundance of sights significant monuments that bear the imprint of various periods from the ancient world to modern times, a variety of museums, representing a rich cultural heritage (at different times Britain gave the world's largest host of writers, scholars and government officials) provide endless interest this unique state. The distinguished British universities (Cambridge, Oxford, Edinburgh and others) attract students from around the world. In London and other major UK cities (Glasgow, Liverpool, etc.) carried a huge number of business forums and congresses, which also helps to attract tourists, businessmen.

Conclusion. So, Modern Britain is the sixth country in the world by the number of accepted foreign tourists (more than 25 million people / year). Every year tourists spend in the UK at 17.2 billion USD. USA. London is the most visited among foreign tourists city in the world (15.6 million people in 2004), ahead of Bangkok and Paris.

References:

1. <http://www.geograf.com.ua/great-britain/555-great-britain-tourism>
2. http://tourlib.net/statti_ukr/galasjuk5.htm