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# English Pub Culture

By Brittani Mann

## THE PUB

One of the most quintessential aspects of England is the good ol' pub. And like the English people there is a proper way to go about experiencing a pub. Take it from someone learning the ropes and making a few mistakes in proper pub etiquette, there is a pub culture and if you ever intend to visit the land of tea and crumpets, you best take note.

First things first, there is a clear distinction between a bar and a pub. A bar is where you go for alcohol but don't expect any food or cozy atmosphere. A pub will usually be open by lunch, offer amazing food options (like a traditional English breakfast!) and provide the comfortable ambience pubs are known for.



## BE A REGULAR

Dark wood, low lighting and soft murmurs are the perfect descriptors for a traditional English pub. It is easy to see why more than  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the adult population in England frequent pubs and the high percentage of them become 'regulars'.

There is a welcoming and friendly vibe within a pub that warms the heart and beckons you back for more. But be aware! There is a certain culture within the English pub that is essential to understand in order to have a proper good time.



First and foremost, there is no wait staff at a pub. So there is no use in pulling up a chair and waiting, you will become the butt of the local's jokes. Instead belly on up to the bar and order your food and drink there, and be prepared to pay right away. This also leads into the 'invisible line' or queuing, which the British are practically famous for. While this is usually the case when it comes to ordering at a pub, just find an open spot and grab the bartender's attention. It would be prudent to note that if you are one to enjoy an ice cold drink prepare yourself. Often the beer is served at room temperature or slightly chilled and almost exclusively comes on tap, and sodas

and water don't come with ice unless requested.

## BUY YOU A DRINK?

Another important aspect of the pub culture is the concept of tipping. While in America it is practically a requirement to tip the bartender and wait staff at a pub it is generally not common in England. What is more likely to happen is to suggest buying a drink for the bartender, if they deserve it of course. Which leads into the next point, buying rounds. If you are in a group it is generally more common for one person to buy everyone's drinks and then the next time it's someone else's 'round' to pick up. And thus is

goes on and on, in apt English form.

The entire point of going to a pub is to spend time sitting and drinking with your friends. You are expected to stay a long time, relaxing and enjoying yourself. Unlike in restaurants or cafés there is no pressure to leave. Pubs are for people of all ages, classes, education and occupations. It is a place for letting the stress of the day melt away with a pint of locally brewed ale and chatting with friends and strangers alike. So if you are feeling peckish, thirsty, or just plain chatty, a traditional English pub is just what you need.



## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Brittani is a wanderer at heart, eager to explore and experience the world. A lifetime love of archaeology and Indiana Jones instilled a love of discovering the lost lives of peoples long gone. And so she went on to study Anthropology with dreams of one day being a modern day Indiana Jones. Well short of the whip, awesome hat and the allaround looting aspect of the prized movies, Brittani is nearly there! But writing has always held a dear place in Brittani's heart and mind and the need to put pen to paper (or fingers to keyboard) was a call too strong to ignore. So, in essence two dreams are on the verge of coming true, leaving just an indelible thirst for more in its place.