

National Parks of the United Kingdom

National parks are managed areas of outstanding landscape where habitation and commercial activities are restricted

The United Kingdom has **14 national parks**:

✠ 9 in England

✠ 3 in Wales

✠ 2 in Scotland

Each park is operated by its own National Park Authority, with **two "statutory purposes"**:

- ⌘ to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the area
- ⌘ to promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the park's special qualities by the public.

The first national park in the Peak District in northern England was established over 50 years ago.

The Lake District in Cumbria is in north-west England is the largest English National Park (2,292 square kilometers)

Problems, created by tourism:

- ✘ erosion
- ✘ traffic congestion
- ✘ damage and disturbance to wildlife
- ✘ litter
- ✘ conflicts over the use of the parks' resources

- At the beginning of 2005, some **9.3%** of the area of **England and Wales** lay within national parks
- The three national parks in **Wales** cover around **20%** of its land area.

There are currently two **national parks of Scotland**:

- ✦ Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park (2002)
- ✦ the Cairngorms National Park (2003)

Under the National Parks (Scotland) Act 2000, national parks in Scotland have **four aims**:

- ✦ To conserve the natural and cultural heritage of the area
- ✦ To promote sustainable use of the natural resources of the area
- ✦ To promote understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the area by the public
- ✦ To promote sustainable economic and social development of the area's communities

No national parks have been designated in Northern Ireland, but there are controversial moves to establish Northern Ireland's first national park in the Mourne Mountains