

125 Great things to do along the Great West Way.

Discover an essential strand of England on the Great West Way. Based on one of the first Great Roads commissioned by the Kings of England, the Great West Way winds for 125 miles through the very soul of England, from the capital city of London to the vibrant western gateway of Bristol.

The Great West Way brings you to world-famous sites such as Stonehenge, Roman Bath and Windsor Castle, but the real joy is in discovering somewhere different, a real slice of England that you can take back home with you – as memories, as photographs, or even as a bottle of craft ale or piece of local art.

You can explore by road, by rail or by water. Slow right down to the pace of two feet or two bike wheels, base yourself in one place for a while and find your own story on the Great West Way.

GreatWestWay.co.ul

START HERE.

1. Sit in the Devil's Chair – a natural seat sculpted in stone at Europe's largest stone circle, Avebury. **GRID REF: E4**

2. Soak in the UK's only natural hot springs at Thermae Bath Spa - home to a rooftop al fresco pool with views over the city's ancient rooftops. GRID REF: B4

3. Fly down mountain biking trails that weave through ancient woodland in Swinley Forest. The 13km Red route is not for the faint-hearted – expect jumps, drops and twists all the way. GRID REF: J4

4. Count the deer in Richmond Park (hint: there are hundreds!). GRID REF: L3

5. Wave to the Queen as she rides in the daily Roval Procession at world-famous horseracing event Royal Ascot (four days every June). GRID REF: J4

6. Feast in one of the world's best restaurants, the three Michelin star Fat Duck in Bray, where chef Heston Blumenthal takes guests on a sensory journey – all the way to the seaside. GRID REF: J3

7. See where the earliest surviving photographic negative was taken, by Henry Fox Talbot in 1835 at Lacock Abbey. GRID REF: C4

8. Climb the rigging of a Victorian ship, the SS Great Britain and reach heights of more than 25 metres above Bristol Harbour! If you're feeling really brave you can even walk out along the main yard. GRID REF: A4

9. Check out the world's oldest pot plant, a prickly cycad that lives at Kew Gardens and was planted in 1775. GRID REF: L3

10. Run a bath with naturally hot thermal waters at The Gainsborough Bath Spa hotel, where selected rooms are plumbed directly into Bath's thermal waters. GRID REF: B4

11. Poke your nose into the world's oldest and largest inhabited castle at Windsor Castle, the home of the Queen – and said to be her favourite castle GRID REF: K3

12. Learn the ropes on a rock-climbing lesson at the high limestone cliffs of Avon Gorge. There are 750 climbing routes here, some of them so physically and mentally challenging that they've only been climbed once. GRID REF: A4

13. Test your muscle power on a narrow boating journey up one of the longest continuous flights of locks in England. You'll rise 72 metres (237ft) in just two miles at Caen Hill lock flight en route to the market town of Devizes. GRID REF: D4

14. Soar like a bird above the Wiltshire Downs on a paragliding lesson. GRID REF: E4

15. Stand on the site of the sealing of the Magna Carta, on the banks of the Thames at Runnymede. GRID REF: K4

16. Waterski on a private lake at Cotswold Water Park. GRID REF: D2

17. Escape to an English country garden at The Bath Priory hotel, where dinner is taken overlooking the kitchen garden and your bedroom is named after a flower. GRID REF: B4

18. Swim in the pool that plunged the UK into chaos at Cliveden – backdrop to the infamous Profumo Affair. GRID REF: 13

19. Mount your steed and thwack a polo ball across the lawn on a half-day polo masterclass at Coworth Park. GRID REF: K4

20. Have a "meet and greet" with a red panda, one of several behind the scenes experiences at Bristol Zoo.

21. Dress like Jane Austen, bonnet and all, and dance the night away at the Regency Costumed Masked Ball in Bath, part of the annual Jane Austen Festival (September). GRID REF: B4

22. Ride the rails of Isambard Kingdom Brunel's (arguably) greatest achievement, the Great Western Railway from London to Bristol. GRID REF: A4

23. Settle in for a traditional afternoon tea, served on a tiered stand in the restaurant of one of England's finest country hotels. The Royal Crescent Hotel & Spa (B4). Whatley Manor Hotel and Spa (C3) and Cricklade House Hotel (E2) are all much-loved for their afternoon teas –

which can be served with Champagne.

24. Sail up into the sky in a hot air balloon at Europe's largest annual meeting of hot air balloons the Bristol International Balloon Fiesta every August. You needn't wait for the fiesta though, Bailey Balloons offer flights all year round above both Bristol and Bath. GRID REF: A4

25. Gawp at the super-elite school that educated Princes William and Harry – as well as 19 British Prime Ministers. The tour of Eton College includes the School Yard and College Chapel. GRID REF: K3

26. Take the wheel of a Formula Ford 1600 or Lotus Elise on a lap of Castle Combe Motor Racing Circuit. GRID REF: C3

27. Find out just what you can build with 42 million LEGO bricks at LEGOLAND. GRID REF: K3

 Get confetti in your hair at the utterly unique Devizes Confetti Battle (August). GRID REF: D4

29. Visit the Wiltshire white horses, carved by local people into chalky hillsides around the county. There are eight that can be seen today including two in the unspoiled countryside of beautiful Pewsey Vale, and some are as old as 300 years! GRID REF: E4

30. Go organic with food from the farm at Helen Browning's Royal Oak (E3), where portions are generous and as much as possible is home-grown. You can visit the farm too, and buy delicious bacon and sausages to take away. Also in Wiltshire you'll find Buttle Farm (D4), where you can buy pork and charcuterie, and Roves Farm (E3), home to an extensive farm shop.

1. Ride a steam train kept alive and running by volunteers, at Avon Valley Railway. GRID REF: B4

32. Lose yourself in the UK's oldest surviving hedge maze at Hampton Court Palace. GRID REF: L4

33. Taste local brew Good Old Boy in the Taproom of the brewery that crafted it, West Berkshire Brewery. **47**. Discover Bath's food scene on a tasty tour GRID REF: G3

34. Sniff out the best cheeses at Winston Churchill's favourite cheesemonger Paxton & Whitfield in Bath. GRID REF: B4

35. Watch the Changing of the Guard at Windsor Castle. GRID REF: K3

36. Join the party at one of England's biggest and best-loved music festivals, Reading Festival (August).

GRID REF: H3

37. Shop while walking on water at Pulteney Bridge in Bath. This gorgeous Georgian bridge is one of only four worldwide to have shops lining both sides and is a classical masterpiece. GRID REF: B4

38. Step aboard the last Concorde ever built at Aerospace Bristol, on the site that built every British Concorde ever made. GRID REF: B3

39. Climb a 120-foot Neoclassical tower built for Europe's wealthiest man at Beckford's Tower just outside Bath. GRID REF: B4

40. Shop for a bargain at McArthurGlen Designer Outlet Swindon, where more than 100 designer stores offer discounts of up to 60%. GRID REF: E3

41. Discover Nordic walking on an introductory session with Bristol Nordic Walking. GRID REF: A3

42. Mess about in boats on the Thames surrounded by hundreds of others doing the same, at Henley Royal Regatta (July). GRID REF: J3

43. Watch stately Shire horses deliver local beer to the pubs of Devizes, fresh from Wadworth Brewery, based in the town GRID REF. D4

44. Stand in Harry Potter's footsteps in the very room he first saw his parents, reflected in the Mirror of Erised (the Chapter House in Lacock Abbey). GRID REF: C4

45. Come face to face – safely – with 33 different native shark species at the Bristol Aquarium. GRID REF: A4

46. Peer down from steep cliffs into England's largest gorge before descending beneath this dramatic landscape on a caving adventure at Cheddar Gorge & Caves. GRID REF: A5

with Savouring Bath – the "naughty but nice" tour is especially indulgent, focusing on treats and temptations. GRID REF: B4

48. Follow in Poldark's footsteps on a stroll along Corsham's gorgeous honey-stoned High Street - it appeared on screen as eighteenth century Truro in the BBC drama. GRID REF: C4

49. Discover the gardens of legendary landscape gardener 'Capability' Brown at Elizabethan mansion nouse Corsham Court. There's a glorious one-mile Great Walk planted with cedars and planes, a Gothic bath house and a ha ha to keep the deer out without spoiling the view. GRID REF: C4

51. Travel through the historic centre of Bath (B4) on a 63. Find your next new favourite story in one of Bath's take a lesson in Bristol (A4) with SUP Bristol. 52. Play disc golf in the park, at Ashton Court in

into each hole. GRID REF: A3 **53.** See paintings by English masters Thomas Gainsborough and John Constable, housed together at Bath's Holburne Museum. GRID REF: B4

54. Climb to the top of Roundway Hill and gaze down into the "bloody ditch" – scene of the greatest Royalist victory of the English Civil War, in 1643. GRID REF: D4

55. Tune into alien energies on the hunt for one of Wiltshire's infamous crop circles with a visit to the Crop Circle Exhibition & Information Centre. Many people think these large and often ornate patterns that appear overnight in the county's wheat fields are the work of extra-terrestrials... GRID REF: E4

57. Take a stroll through 45 acres of serene greenery at Bristol's Arnos Vale Cemetery, a Victorian garden cemetery surrounded by unspoiled woodland and home to numerous fascinating monuments. GRID REF: B4

are bluebell season here. GRID REF: E4





with a staggering timber roof of wooden arches that stretch for more than 50 metres above your head. Bradford on Avon's tithe barn is so historically important that it's protected by English Heritage. GRID REF: C4

Bristol – you'll be trying to get a frisbee, not a ball,

56. Walk along the River Thames on the Thames Path, strolling from Kew Gardens to the upscale London suburb of Richmond, home to some great pubs. GRID REF: L3

58. Try a hot chocolate seventeenth-century style at Dyrham Park – you might be surprised to learn that it has cayenne pepper in it! GRID REF: B3

59. Scan the skies for red kites in the Chilterns the best time to see these glorious birds of prey is between October and April and the best chance of seeing them is in the far south of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. GRID REF: K1

60. Get a new insight into Shakespeare, at a contemporary performance of the Bard's best work at Bristol Shakespeare Festival (July). GRID REF: A3

61. Find dazzling carpets of bluebells in the woods at West Woods just outside Marlborough. April and May

50. Step inside a fourteenth century tithe barn, complete 62. Try Wiltshire cured ham in Calne, the town it originated in back in the eighteenth century. It goes very well with cheese and pickle! It's also on the menu at plenty of pubs along the Way, including the Queens Arms at East Garston. GRID REF: D4

stand-up paddleboarding safari with Original Wild, or independent bookshops. Mr B's Emporium and Topping & Company both have great selections. GRID REF: B4

> 64. Watch for the colourful flash of a swooping kingfisher, its orange and blue plumage catching your eye on a walk through the marshland at Jones's Mill in Pewsey Vale (E4), cared for by the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust. The Trust also has sites at Blakehill Farm (D2) and Lower Moor (D2) in north Wiltshire.

65. Wear out the kids at Bowood's fabulous adventure playground. There's a pirate ship, aerial walkways and a Flying Fox zip wire – kids up to the age of 12 will be hard to drag away from here! GRID REF: D4

56. Walk across Brunel's famous Clifton Suspension Bridge, gazing across the dramatic Avon Gorge GRID REF: A4

67. Get up close and personal with the trees on Westonbirt Arboretum's Treetop Walkway. It runs through the tree canopy for 300 metres and features interactive information panels and telescopes to teach visitors about the collection at the national arboretum GRID REF: C3

68. Hear classical music echoing around an ancient cathedral. Bristol Cathedral hosts regular recitals, featuring classical music from both local and nternational musicians. GRID REF: A3

69. Treat the whole family to a luxury stay at Woolley Grange, a hotel that puts family first – and even includes two hours daily free childcare in its room rates. GRID REF: C4

70. Hear nothing but silence in the designated Silent Space at Prior Park Landscape Garden, near Bath. This was once the site of a Gothic temple; today it's a serene spot where mobile devices are banned and silence is requested (every Thursday noon-3pm). GRID REF: C4

71. Take a dip al fresco at Thames Lido in Kings Meadow (H3), Reading. This beautiful Edwardian swimming baths has been fully restored and offers non-members swimming sessions every weekday from 1-4pm. The same company operates a Lido in Bristol (A4) too, which dates from the Victorian era.



England for the Curious

2. Smell the rhododendrons at Bowood's Woodland Gardens, open every spring during flowering season. wo miles of paths wind their way between the vibrantly oloured plants, many of which have been putting on his display every year since 1854. GRID REF: D4

3. Spot a Banksy – an artwork by the anonymous treet artist – in the city he hails from, Bristol. You can also watch other street artists at work, painting the walls as part of Europe's largest street art and graffiti festival, every July. GRID REF: A3

74. Get eyeball to eyeball with some very cheeky nonkeys at Longleat Safari Park – as you drive through their habitat expect them to clamber onto your car, and oossibly to take some of it with them! GRID REF: C5

5. Attend the weekly mass at Stonor Chapel, built in the ate thirteenth century on the site of a prehistoric stone circle and resolutely Catholic ever since. GRID REF: H3

76. Seek out ghosts on a creepy walk around the market town of Devizes with local historian John Girvan. The Devizes Ghost Walk has been terrifying children and adults alike for more than 20 years and includes a trip to the site of the town's old gallows. GRID REF: D4

77. Step into the 1930s at the Atwell-Wilson Motor Museum in Calne, where a 1930s garage has been econstructed and filled with classic cars. GRID REF: D4

78. Drink English wine direct from the vineyard at the award winning Alder Ridge Vineyard (F4) or Aldwick Estate Bradford on Avon. in Bristol (A4). English sparkling wine is getting especially popular so be sure to give it a try.

'9. Stroll through a "living work of art" at Stourhead, one of England's greatest landscape gardens. The best time to visit is the autumn, when the trees turn golden, but at any time of the year you can seek out the classical emple above the lake – a great shot for your Instagram. GRID REF: B6

80. Discover the history of the shoe at the Fashion Museum in Bath, where you'll find a collection that runs from Georgian silk shoes to Nike trainers.

GRID REF: B4

81. Eat international street food in the heart of Bristol. The street food market runs year-round on Tuesdays and Fridays on Wine Street and has everything from ndonesian street food and vegan Thai snacks to freshly ooked doughnuts and Tibetan dumplings. GRID REF: A4 82. Bet on the horses at Newbury Racecourse, which has race days year-round. GRID REF: G4

83. Check out the largest collection of Americana outside the US, including some fascinating ancient maps and more than 200 quilts, at the American Museum and Gardens in Bath. GRID REF: C4

84. Get geeky about local ales with the helpful bar staff at the Beer Emporium, in the heart of Old Bristol and selling beers from local craft breweries. The bottle shop upstairs has loads to take away too. GRID REF: A4

85. Shop for local goodies at the twice-weekly market in Marlborough, set along the second widest high street in the UK. GRID REF: E4

86. Wait for Corsham's free-roaming peacocks to fan out their bright coloured tails – then take the perfect picture. You might even spot them admiring themselves in the shop windows of the High Street. GRID REF: C4

87. Join the debate over Silbury Hill, part of the prehistorie complex at Avebury. Just why did ancient man build a mound as large as a contemporary Egyptian pyramid?

88. Take your seats for a performance of local talent at the Barn Theatre in Cirencester (D2), one of England's best regional theatres and home to state-of-the-art facilities. Or settle in for a jazz concert at the Wiltshire Music Centre (C4) in

89. Haggle for a bargain at Hungerford Arcade Antiques, home to more than 100 antique dealers – and plenty of weird and wonderful finds. GRID REF: F4

30. Settle in for some pub grub with a difference at The Hand and Flowers in Marlow, Buckinghamshire, the first UK pub to be awarded two Michelin stars. GRID REF: J3

91. Saddle up for a trek along the Ridgeway, riding through the North Wessex Downs to reach the River Thames in the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. GRID REF: H2

92. Spot brilliant blue poison dart frogs, one of the world's most brightly coloured animals, in the Lowlands glasshouse at the Living Rainforest in Berkshire.

93. Work the signals in the interactive GWR signal box and drive a train simulator at STEAM, the Museum of the Great Western Railway, in Swindon. GRID REF: E3

94. Take a guided tour of the picture-postcard fifteenth-century Great Chalfield Manor and check out its beautiful Arts and Crafts style garden, complete with some very well-manicured topiary. GRID REF: C4

95. Settle in for an authentic English pub experience. There are 112. Have a proper English cup of tea – served strong hundreds of traditional pubs along the Great West Way, where with milk of course – in a traditional tearoom. There you can play pub games in the beer garden in summer, or cosy are hundreds of tearooms along the Great West Way but some of our favourites are St Peter's Coffee Shop in up by the open fire in winter. We love the Three Tuns Freehouse in Great Bedwyn (F4), The Old Bell in Malmesbury (C3), the Marlborough (E4), The Tollgate in Dyrham (B3), the Teapot Royal Oak in Yattendon (C3), The Red Lion Freehouse in East in Cookham (J3) and The Tutti Pole in Hungerford (F4). Chisenbury (E4) and The Newbury Pub in Newbury (G4).

96. Pootle along the Kennet & Avon Canal on your very own narrowboat, mooring up at pub gardens and in market towns along the route and feeling the pace of life slow. Boats can be hired just for the day rom Devizes Marina (D4) or for a longer holiday from Honeystreet Boats (E4). Don't fancy driving yourself? ake a narrowboat tour instead, on the Jubilee from Newbury Wharf (G4), The Rose of Hungerford from Hungerford (F4), the Kenavon Venture from Devizes Wharf (D4) or the Barbara McLellan from Bradford on Avon (C4).

97. Check in to England's oldest hotel, The Old Bell Hotel in Malmesbury. It's Grade I listed and stands right next to the twelfth century Abbey. Fully restored, it offers elegant modern accommodation and relaxed dinners.GRID REF: C3

98. Take a horse-riding lesson with Rein and Shine in Swindon. There are horse riding experience packages of two and three hours, including the chance to learn about stable management. GRID REF: E3

9. Marvel at the world's oldest working steam engines, the Crofton Beam Engines. Fed by a nand-stoked coal-fired boiler, they're still plugging away at the job they were designed to do more than 200 years ago – pumping water up to the highest point of the Kennet & Avon Canal. GRID REF: E4 **100.** Bring the binoculars for some winter

birdwatching at Cotswold Water Park. Look out for great crested grebes, tufted ducks, coots and pochards. GRID REF: D2

101. Check out the work of English twentieth century painter Sir Stanley Spencer in the eponymous gallery on he high street in Cookham, the Thameside village he lived and worked in for many years. GRID REF: J3

102. Go orchid spotting in Hartslock Nature Reserve, **120.** Discover the area's military might with a visit home to the rare monkey orchid which flowers here in to REME, the museum of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, at MoD Lyneham. See large May or early June. There is also a hybrid of the monkey armoured vehicles, listen to soldiers' stories and get and lady orchids here, the only place in Britain that this hands-on with the recovery task simulator. GRID REF: D3 has been recorded. GRID REF: H3

103. Pose for the perfect postcard-worthy shot on the arched stone bridge in the heart of Castle Combe. This protected village is like a time capsule, with not a modern building in sight. No surprise then that it has appeared on screen numerous times – in Spielberg's War Horse and the original Dr Doolittle film to name just two. GRID REF: C3

104. Canoe the Kennet & Avon Canal, pushing off in a Canadian canoe at Bradford on Avon and paddling eastwards to Seend Cleeve and the canalside Barge Inn, where you can moor up for a pub lunch before the return journey. GRID REF: D4

105. Bring a blanket and settle in for an al fresco performance of a Shakespearean play at Dyrham Park (August). GRID REF: B3

106. Take a turn around the organic gardens at Highgrove, home to the Prince of Wales. Book a champagne tea tour and you'll finish with afternoon

107. Lace up your skates for a spin around the rink at Hampton Court Palace (L4) (November-January).

108. Get the stones (almost) to yourself by booking the Inner Circle tour at Stonehenge and rising early to be inside the stone circle before it opens to the public. You still can't touch the stones, but you will get some great pictures of them. GRID REF: E6

109. Stoop to enter West Kennet Long Barrow, a Neolithic tomb built around 5,650 years ago. You can walk along inside for about 13 metres before reaching the final chamber. Bring a torch! GRID REF: E4

110. Set out on foot through the Cotswolds on the 102-mile Cotswold Way, one of England's national trails. You'll start at Bath Abbey (B4) and head north along the Cotswold escarpment, strolling through idyllic villages and passing ancient churches, abbeys and mansions set in some of the country's most celebrated - and best protected – countryside.







111. Eat a traditional ploughman's lunch – a platter of local cheese, pickle and onions accompanied by bread and (usually) a salad. Try it at the twelfth century Castle Inn in Castle Combe (C3) or at Beese's in Bristol (A4).

113. See a 2,000-year-old lime tree, still going strong in Silk Wood at Westonbirt Arboretum. GRID REF: C3

114. Test your navigational skills on the orienteering trails at Ashton Court in Bristol. There are three to try pick up a map from the golf kiosk. GRID REF: A4

115. Cycle along an old railway track, following the 13-mile Bristol & Bath Railway Path between the two cities. This was once the route of the Midland Railway and some evidence of its life as a railway is still visible. The route is tarmac, traffic-free and almost entirely level – making it a breeze for all levels of ability. You could even try it on a tandem, hiring a two-seater bike from Bristol Tandem Hire. GRID REF: B4

116. See the cave where two giants, Goram and Ghyston, are said to have once made their home. You can walk to this small cave overlooking Avon Gorge in Bristol from the Observatory above it, through a tunnel carved in the nineteenth century by artist William West. GRID REF: A4

117. Go butterfly spotting in the rare chalk grasslands of the Chilterns, the perfect habitat for a wide variety of wildflowers – and the butterflies that love them. GRID REF: H3

118. Play a round of golf on one of England's best parkland courses. Try Richmond Park Golf Course in West London, North Wilts Golf Club in Wiltshire or Bristol & Clifton Golf Club. GRID REF: L3

119. See what's biting in the Kennet & Avon Canal home to some of England's most bankable angling spots. Fishing is permitted along much of the towpath here, but two of the best places for a bumper catch are Bathampton near Bath (C4) and Hungerford in Berkshire (F4). Contact the local angling association for a permit.

121. Indulge yourself by booking a mind-melting in-water massage – or watsu. Bath's Thermae Spa offers these dreamy treatments in the natural thermal waters of the Hot Bath. Just don't plan anything too strenuous for afterwards! GRID REF: B4

122. Wild swim in the Thames at Cock Marsh near Cookham, where you'll find sandy beaches to paddle out from and clear, clean waters. GRID REF: J3

123. Go behind the scenes at Downton Abbey with a visit to Highclere Castle, the building Julian Fellowes is said to have had in mind when he wrote the TV drama. The Victorian castle remains the family home of the Earl and Countess of Carnarvon, and visitors can see the Great Hall, backdrop to much of Mary and Matthew's romance, and the Dining Room, scene of many a family drama and plenty of acerbic comments from the Dowager Countess. GRID REF: G5

124. Have a crack at clay pigeon shooting in the tea and a glass of Highgrove Champagne. GRID REF: C3 grounds of Donnington Grove in Berkshire. GRID REF: G4 125. Learn how stop animation works in Bristol, hom one of the Great West Way's winter ice rinks. There are to Aardman Animations, the Academy Award winning rinks at Millennium Square in Bristol (A4), Royal Victoria studio who brought the world Wallace and Gromit. Park in Bath (B4), Alexandra Gardens in Windsor (K3) and We the Curious science centre hosts model making workshops with experts from the studio – you'll even get to take home a plasticine Gromit. GRID REF: A4

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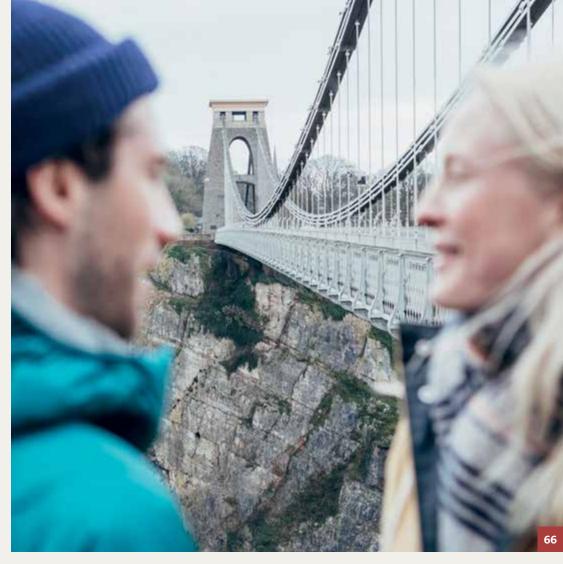




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Recommended accommodation

Abbey Hotel, Bath abbeyhotelbath.co.uk GRID REF: B4

Apex City of Bath Hotel, Bath bexhotels.co.uk GRID REF: B4 Avalon Lodge Bed & Breakfast, Devizes bed-breakfast-devizes.co.uk GRID REF: D4

Bath Apartment Breaks reaks.co.uk GRID REF: B Bath Self Catering

Beanhill Farm B&B, Chippenha illfarm.net GRID REF: D3

Best Western Plus Angel Hotel, Wiltshir stwestern.co.uk GRID REF: C4

Brooks Guest House, Bath rooksguesthouse.com GRID REF: B

Buttle Farm, Wiltshire buttlefarm.co.uk GRID REF: D

devizesmarina.com GRID REF: D4

Church Farm Country Cottages, Wiltshire

Cricklade Hotel, Wiltshire crickladehotel.co.uk GRID REF: E2 Cumberwell Country Cottages, Wiltshire cumberwellcountrycottages.com GRID REF: E2 Devizes Marina Village, Wiltshire

Donnington Grove, Newbury donnington-grove.com GRID REF: G4 DoubleTree by Hilton, Swindon, Wiltshire doubletree3.hilton.com **GRID REF: E3**

The Farm Camp, Wiltshire thefarmcamp.co.uk GRID REF: C4 Great Northern Hotel, Londor gnhlondon.com GRID REF: M3

Hampton by Hilton Bristol Airport, Bristol namptoninn3.hilton.com GRID REF: A4 Helen Browning's Royal Oak, Wiltshire

helenbrowningsorganic.co.uk GRID REF: E3 Heritage Bed & Breakfast, Wiltshire heritagebandb.co.uk GRID REF: D4





Holiday Inn Salisbury–Stonehenge, Wiltshire hisalisbury-stonehenge.co.uk GRID REF: E6 The Langley, Buckinghamshire marriott.com GRID REF: K3 MacDonald Bath Spa Hotel macdonaldhotels.co.uk GRID REF: B4 Manor Farm B&B, Wiltshire manorfm.co.uk GRID REF: E Meadowbank House Bed & Breakfast, Wiltshire ankhouse.com GRID REF: E The Old Bell Hotel, Malmesbury, Wiltshire Idbellhotel.co.uk GRID REF: C: The Old Chapel, Wiltshire airbnb.co.uk/rooms/29073443 GRID REF: E4 Oueens Arms. East Garston. Berkshir eastgarston coluk GRID REF: F4 The Red Lion and Troutbeck, East Chisen edlionfreehouse.com GRID REF: E5 The Roseate Villa, Bath Roseate House, London The Roseate, Reading The Royal Oak, Yattendon, Berkshire oyaloakyattendon.co.uk GRID REF: C3 The Royal Crescent Hotel & Spa, Bath rovalcrescent.co.uk GRID REF: B4 The Swan, Bradford on Avon, Wiltshire theswanbradford.co.uk GRID REF: C4 Totteridge Farm, Pewsey, Wiltshire totteridge-farm.website GRID REF: E4 Tucking Mill, Bath Apartments & Cottages pathselfcatering.net GRID REF: B4 Whatley Manor, Wiltshire whatleymanor.com GRID REF: C3 Woolley Grange Hotel, Wiltshire woolleygrangehotel.co.uk GRID REF: C4

HOW TO **TRAVEL THE GREAT WEST WAY**

The Great West Way is not just one journey. An adventure here can be by road, by rail, by boat, by bike or on foot. Here are some practical resources to help you with your trip planning.

By road

Hire cars can be picked up at Heathrow and Bristol airports as well as in towns and cities along the route including Bristol, Bath and Swindon. If you're driving yourself don't forget that in England we drive on the left.

CAR HIRE COMPANIES: Practical Car and Motorhome Hire: practical.co.uk Vintage Classics: vintage-classics.co.uk

There are numerous short walks along the Great West Way – check out our website for full details.

On foot 🤉

ATTA A

Three long-distance National Trails also join the Great West Way. The 184-mile Thames Path runs from London to the source of the river in the southern Cotswolds; the 87-mile Ridgeway runs from West Kennet Long Barrow in Wiltshire north through the North Wessex Downs and Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty; and the Cotswold Way runs from Bath for just over 100 miles north through the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

By rail

GREAT WEST WAY DISCOVERER PASS:

For an easy, hassle-free journey, choose the Great West Way Discoverer pass. Included in this pass is unlimited off-peak train travel with Great Western Railway from London Paddington or London Waterloo to Bristol Temple Meads, via the Reading and/or Basingstoke routes, with options to branch off towards Oxford and Kemble, in the Cotswolds, as well as to Salisbury on the Wiltshire line through Westbury. Also included is unlimited travel on bus services along the route. One-day, three-day and week-long options are available, with prices from just £24 per persone

Available to book online at gwr.com. The website also has timetables. From outside the UK, book online through ACP (acprail.com) or your travel agent. Collect the Great West Way Discoverer pass from the ticket machines at all stations. You just need the credit card you paid with and the confirmation number you will have received by email. South Western Railway southwesternrailway.com TransWilts Community Rail Partnership transwilts.org Didcot Railway Centre didcotrailwaycentre.org.uk



Blenheim Palace & Gard On water You don't need any previous experience to enjoy K&A CANAL TRUST BOAT the Great West Way's meandering waterways. HIRE AND BOAT TRIPS: The River Thames and the Kennet & Avon Canal run the length of the route. The two meet in Reading, but these are very different waterways.

The Thames is England's longest river, beginning

as a small spring in the Cotswolds, widening

and deepening as it passes through the heart of

London to the sea. The Kennet & Avon is in fact

two rivers, linked by a central canal section built

in the Georgian period. You can canoe, kayak or

book one of numerous boat trips.

Barbara McLellan: katrust.org.uk/bradford-on-avon Bruce Accessible Boats: bruce.katrust.org.uk/hire Honeystreet Boats: honeystreetboats.co.uk Jubilee: jubilee.katrust.org.uk Kenavon Venture: katrust.org.uk/devizes Rose of Hungerford: katrust.org.uk/hungerford

Didcot Railway C

RIVER CRUISES AND BOAT HIRE ON THE THAMES: French Brothers: frenchbrothers.co.uk Hobbs of Henley: hobbsofhenley.com Thames Rivercruise: thamesrivercruise.co.uk

BRISTOL BOAT TRIPS:

Bristol Community Ferry Boats: brist<mark>o</mark>lferry.com Bristol Packet Boats: bristolpacket.co.uk/boat-trips.htm The Matthew of Bristol: matthew.co.uk SUP Bristol: supbristol.com

By bike

The National Cycle Network covers the UK with waymarked bike trails, both on and off road. National Route 4 runs along the Great West Way, starting in London and running along the Thames to Reading before joining the Kennet & Avon Canal to reach Bath. From here the route takes the Bristol & Bath Railway Path to Bristol.

BIKE HIRE & TOURS:

Active England: activeenglandtours.com Bristol Tandem Bike Hire and Tours: bristoltandemhire.co.uk Bainton Bikes, cycle hire, tours and holidays baintonbikes.com Swinley Bike Hub: swinleybikehub.com

ust Blakehill Farm

Roves Farm

Marlborough Marlborough College • The Merchant's House

ale of Pewsey

Skydive Netheravon

Wilton Windmill

Lambour

North Wessex Downs

Alder Ridge

Bombay Sapphire Distillery

useum Tea Shop By The Cana

Centre Newbury

Food and Drink Along The Way

Whitchurch Silk Mill

a'Beckett's Vineyard Alder Ridge Vineyard Aldwick Court Farm & Vineyard The Bath Brew House Canal Trust Café The Dining Room at Whatley Manor

WINCHESTER

D5 Dower House Restaurant at F4// The Royal Crescent Hotel & Spa B4 Queens Arms The Engineman's Rest Café E4 Red Lion Freehouse A4 Grey's Brasserie B4 at Whatley Manor C4 The Harrow at Little Bedwyn F4 at Thermae Bath Spa B4 Cobbs Farm Shop & Kitchen F4 Helen Browning's Royal Oak E3 The Tea Shop By The Canal G4

Basildon House & Park

West Berkshire Brewery

AIABOUD

Honeystreet Mill Café E4 Three Tuns Freehouse C3 Koffmann & Mr. White's B4 The Tutti Pole The Newbury

Royal Oak, Yattendon C3 C3 Springs Café Restaurant

Prince Street Social

G4 West Berkshire Brewery G3 National Park

Great West Way Supporting Destinations

B4 Henley on Thames Bradford on Avon C4 Hungerford A4 Malmesbury D4 Marlborough C4 Marlow Chippenham Corsham C4 Newbury C2 North Wessex Downs AONB F4 Trowbridge Cotswolds D4 Reading





The Vyne

Bath

Bristol

Calne

Devizes

F4

E5

F4

Stonor Park

• The Abbey Quarter

💌 River & Rowing Mu

Tours and guides

Clivede

Dorney Court •

LEGOLAND Windso

Roval Ascor

Vindsor Castle

Numerous companies offer tours and guides along the Great West Way, from day tours to multi-day packages. Around and About Bath: aroundandaboutbath.com Bath Bus Company: bathbuscompany.com Alison Howell's Foot Trails foottrails.co.uk Stonehenge and Avebury with Oldbury Tours -Avebury and Stonehenge private guided tours: oldburytours.co.uk

Salisbury, Stonehenge and Sarum Tours salisburystonehengetours.co.uk Savouring Bath - Artisanal Food & Drink Tours: savouringbath.com Tour and Explore: tourandexplore.co.uk Tours2Order: tours2order.com ST South West Heritage Tours southwestdriverguide.co.uk



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For more information on the Great West Way visit our website GreatWestWay.co.uk

LONDO

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- H3 Richmond F4 Royal Borough of C3 Windsor & Maidenhead E4 Stonehenge & Avebury 13 World Heritage Site G4 Swindon
- H3 Vale of Pewsey

Key

Waterways A Roads Motorwav Railwav Discoverer pass Route Walking Trail National Cycle Network Route 4

Airport World Heritage Site