

Based on one of the first Great Roads commissioned by the Kings of England, the Great West Way winds its way through landscapes filled with the world-famous and the yet-to-be-discovered.

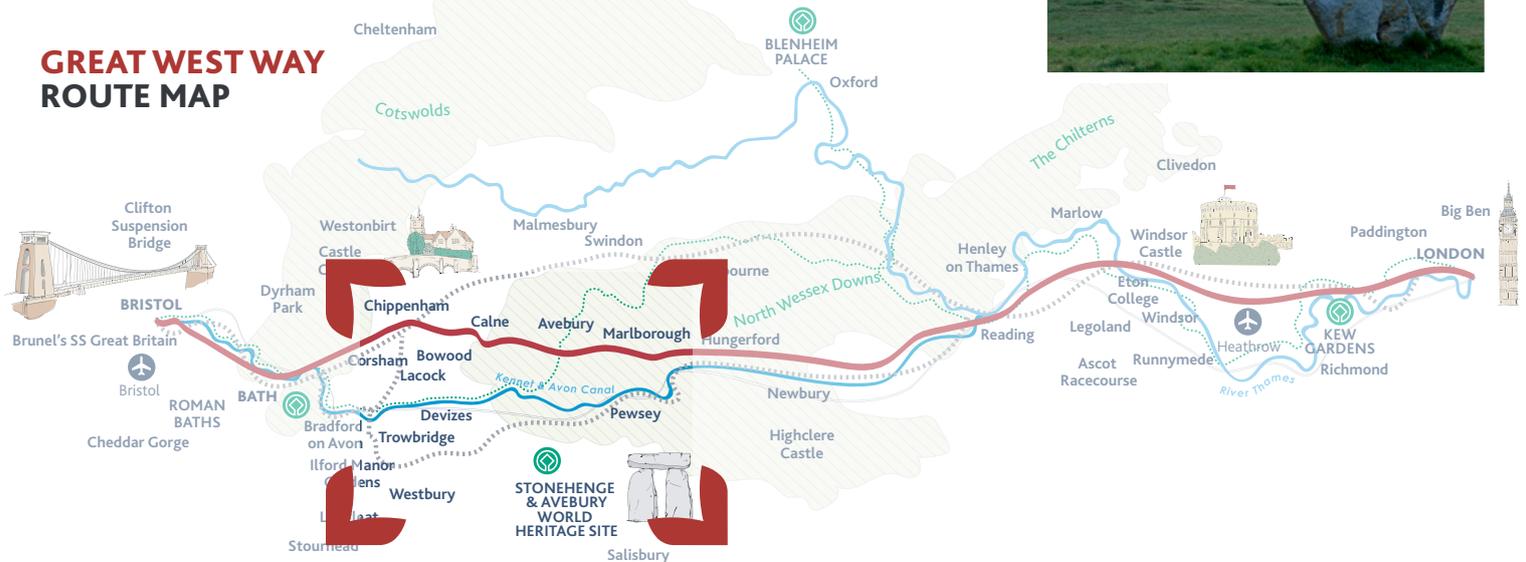


GUIDE TO ANCIENT WONDERS

Explore some of the most beguiling sites of the Great West Way, from the vast monoliths of Stonehenge to lesser-known hillforts like Barbury, Oldbury and Oliver's castles, dotted along the Ridgeway, Britain's oldest road.



GREAT WEST WAY ROUTE MAP



EXAMPLES OF ANCIENT WONDERS IN THIS AREA

- Barbury Castle
- [West Kennet Long Barrow](#)
- [Silbury Hill](#)

- Cherhill White Horse
- [Oldbury Castle](#)
- Oliver's Castle

PLACES TO EAT

- The Red Lion at Avebury
- The Waggon and Horses
- The George Inn
- The Peppermill Restaurant
- Woodbridge Inn

PLACES TO STAY

- Beckhampton B&B
- The Peppermill Restaurant

DAY ONE

BARBURY CASTLE & AVEBURY



West Kennet Long Barrow

Starting in the north, at **Barbury Castle**, between Swindon and Marlborough, you can scramble among vast ancient ramparts that rise out of the hillside. The fort is thought to have been built in the middle of the first century BC, just before the construction of the Parthenon in Athens.

Have lunch at **The Red Lion** at Avebury in the surrounds of a very English village with its cottage gardens and red brick houses but also sits – literally – in the heart of the world's largest stone circle. **West Kennet Long Barrow** (built around 3650 BC) and **Silbury Hill** lie to the south. If you drive via the Beckhampton roundabout, the footpath alongside the **Waggon and Horses** pub offers wonderful views of the hill, then just a few minute's drive east is a footpath leading up to West Kennet Long Barrow for wonderful views towards Silbury Hill. Dinner at **The Waggon and Horses** in Beckhampton – a traditional English pub with a thatched roof, hanging baskets and garden also overlooking Silbury Hill.

Overnight Beckhampton B&B.



Silbury Hill

DAY TWO

CHERHILL DOWN & OLDBURY CASTLE

The history of white horses being carved into chalk hillsides in the UK stretches back 3,000 years.

While many have disappeared, eight still exist in Wiltshire, including the one cut into the steep side of **Cherhill Down** in 1780. Park in one of the lay-bys and then walk up to the horse. From here, footpaths lead to **Oldbury Castle**. What remains of the Iron Age fort are a fan-shaped series of ditches and ramparts in the shadow of the **Lansdowne Monument**. When you reach the top and see the outstanding views, you can see why humans have occupied this site for millennia. Have lunch at the pretty stone pub, **The George Inn** in Sandy Lane or the **Ivy Inn** near Calne.

Oliver's Castle is part of the series of Iron Age hillforts built at defensive high points across Wiltshire. Here, the Royalists chased fleeing Parliamentarians to their deaths during the English Civil War.

Overnight The Peppermill Restaurant with Rooms.



Cherhill Down

DAY THREE

BRATTON CAMP & STONEHENGE

Bratton Camp is one of the most iconic in the county because of the vast white horse whose ears meet the ramparts. From Bratton you can look back towards Roundway Down. At its heart is a Neolithic long barrow in which skeletons and evidence of cremation have been found. Look out for English chalkland flowers such as cowslip in spring and scabious in the summer. You might even see the rare Adonis Blue butterfly or forester moth.

A visit to **Stonehenge** is a fitting finale to your discovery of the Ancient Wonders of the Great West Way. Stonehenge and Avebury are listed together as a single UNESCO World Heritage Site. Don't miss the museums, which include an immersive experience with 360-degree screens that put you at the centre of the stones, as ancient man would have been, to discover the changing light and landscape at winter and summer solstice. Dinner at the **Woodbridge Inn**, Pewsey for classic English pub food.



Stonehenge

The order of experiences included in this itinerary is intended to be a guide only; you can choose to visit these wonderful experiences at your own pace and in your own way. Devising your own route is all part of discovering the Great West Way!



Westbury White Horse

DID YOU KNOW?

- **Barbury Castle's** isolated site, free from light pollution, makes it a popular meeting place during the winter for local stargazing society, Swindon Stargazing.
- The rooms of **Avebury Manor** offer a whirlwind tour from the sixteenth century to the 1940s. The dining room features a 'chamber horse' – a sprung leather seat that simulates horse riding and help 'riders' to burn the calories of an extravagant lunch.
- The outline of an **ancient white horse** mysteriously appears out of the hillside of Roundway Down during snowfall or unusual weather.
- It still remains a mystery how the **bluestone blocks at Stonehenge** were transported 250km by ancient man from the Preseli Hills in south-west Wales to Wiltshire.



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