ITINERARY

Explore Heritage Cities along the Great West Way

The Great West Way includes two of England's Historic Cities – Bath and Salisbury. There are also four other historic cities within easy reach of the route including Stratford-upon-Avon, Oxford, Greenwich and Cambridge. This 8-day suggested programme highlights many places to visit and stay within these cities and surrounding areas.

Day 1. Hampton Court, Surrey and Windsor

Start on the Great West Way to discover **Hampton Court Palace**, home of England's infamous King Henry VIII. Head to Windsor, where you can have lunch in the town and/or take a **French Brothers Boat Trip** on the River Thames (40 mins or 2 hours) which offers amazing views of the Castle. In the afternoon visit **Windsor Castle** – the oldest and largest inhabited castle in the world and has been the family home of British kings and queens for almost 1,000 years

Overnight: **Pennyhill Par**k, Surrey.

Day 2. Oxford

Take a detour off the route to explore the historic city of **Oxford** for a fun and engaging guided tour of Oxford's most iconic buildings. Head inside the **Bodleian Library** for a tour of the beautiful Divinity School and Duke Humfrey's Library. Complete your experience with a tour of the stunning University of Oxford college, Christ Church.

Travel to **Blenheim Palace** for a tour of the Palace State rooms or a Winston Churchill experience. If time allows, escape to the countryside for guided House and Garden tour at **Waddesdon Manor**, a French Renaissance-style chateau which was once home to the Rothschild family.

Overnight: **Courtyard by Marriott Oxford**

Day 3. Stratford-upon-Avon, Berkeley Castle, Malmesbury

Travel further north to explore Stratford-upon-Avon and the historic Shakespeare's England, which is the birthplace of William Shakespeare and a cultural town rich in unique offerings with award-winning museums and attractions. Visit all 3 of Shakespear's Family Homes – Shakespeare's Birthplace, Anne Hathaway's Cottage and Shakespeare's New Place. Return to the Great West Way and if time allows stop off for a guided tour and tea at **Berkeley Castle**, which was built in 1153 and still owned and lived in by the Berkeley family. If you're looking for something special what about an exclusive unique tour of the castle with the current owner Charles Berkley.

Overnight: In the Cotswolds in **Malmesbury** at **Whatley Manor Hotel & Spa**, **The Old Bell Hotel** or **Pettifers Freehouse Hotel**.

Day 4. South Cotswolds

Journey through South Cotswolds to **Dyrham Park**, near Bath, to visit this magnificent 17th century House and Garden surrounded by beautiful parkland. Continue through Wiltshire to **Lacock Abbey** a beautiful country house of various architectural styles, built upon the foundations of a former nunnery. Lacock is a quintessential English village and former home of William Henry Fox Talbot, famous for his contributions to the invention of photography, which can be seen in the Fox Talbot museum. If in the area between mid-April – early June, don't miss the spectacular gardens at nearby **Bowood House & Gardens**, nr Calne.

Overnight: Castle Combe, the Cotswolds at Exclusive Collection's - **The Manor House** or **The Castle Inn pub**.

Day 5. Bath and Bradford on Avon

Head to the UNESCO World Heritage City of **Bath** where in the heart of the city centre you will find **The Roman Baths**. Here, the Romans built a magnificent temple and bathing complex on the site of Britain's only hot spring, which still flows with natural hot water today.

For any literary enthusiasts take a short walk to visit **The Jane Austen Centre** and next-door **Mary Shelley's House of Frankenstein**. For larger groups considering splitting in two and visiting both these attractions at the same time. On the outskirts of Bath is the picturesque market-town of **Bradford-on-Avon**. If time allows take a walking tour around the town with a guiding company such as **In & Beyond Bath** or a boat trip along the Kennet & Avon Canal with **Sally Narrowboats**. Don't miss the opportunity to stop for traditional English afternoon tea served by waitresses in Victorian costume at the **Bridge Tea Rooms**.

Overnight: In Bradford on Avon at **Woolley Grange Hotel**. Alternatively, if you'd prefer to stay in Bath try **Brooks Guesthouse Bath**, **Dukes Hotel**, **YMCA Bath**, **The Roseate Villa Bath** or **Hampton by Hilton Bath City**.

Stratford upon Avon

Bath

Bombay Sapphire Distillery

Great Western Railway

Day 6. Longleat and Salisbury

Take a short detour of the Great West Way to visit **Longleat House** – a magnificent Elizabethan stately home plus an adjoining Safari Park.

Continue onwards to visit the magnificent stones and visitor centre at Stonehenge before travelling down to the medieval city of **Salisbury**.

Overnight: In Salisbury at **Holiday Inn Salisbury Stonehenge**, **Milford Hall Hotel**, **Mercure White Hart Hotel**, **Merchants House, Riverside**, or **Rollestone Manor**.

Day 7. Hampshire, Kintbury and Henley

Journey into the neighbouring county of Hampshire to visit **Bombay Sapphire Distillery** for a tour of Laverstoke Mill and where visitors can discover the flavours of the botanicals before tucking into a glass of this superb gin and tonic.

Head back to the Great West Way and stop off in Kintbury near Hungerford, to take a journey I into the past with **Kennet Horse Boat Company's** horse drawn canal cruise.

Overnight: At **Greenlands Hotel at Henley Business School**.

Day 8. Greenwich and Cambridge

If there's an opportunity to extend this programme visitors may like to explore Greenwich in East London to see the magnificent Old Royal Naval College and Royal Museums Greenwich. Alternatively, take a direct train to Cambridge for walking tour of the city with Cantab Tours and/or book on a Punting experience with Scudamore's Punting Company.

Greenwich

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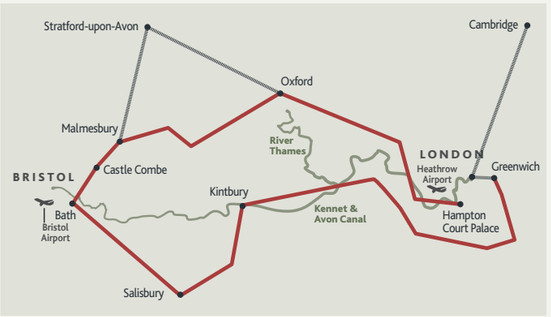
London Paddington to Oxford (GWR) **or Marylebone to Oxford** (Chiltern Railways)	1 hr 1 hr 15 mins
Oxford to Stratford-Upon-Avon (Cross Country / Chiltern Railways)	1 hr 34 mins
Stratford-Upon-Avon to Bath (Chiltern Railways / GWR)	2hr 53 mins
Bath to Salisbury (GWR)	1 hr
Salisbury to Greenwich (South Western / South Eastern Railway)	2 hr 17mins
London Kings Cross to Cambridge (Great Northern Railway)	48 mins

*Please note shortest train times are detailed, journeys may take longer depending on times of travel and timetable changes.



Travel by Car	Miles/kms by road*
Hampton Court to Pennyhill Park	37.6 miles / 60.6km
Pennyhill Park to Oxford	134 miles / 215km
Oxford to Malmesbury	129 miles / 208km
Malmesbury to Castle Combe	50 miles / 80.5km
Castle Combe to Bath	25.9 miles / 41.6km
Bath to Salisbury	71.2 miles / 115km
Salisbury to Heathrow Airport	86.3 miles / 139km

*These are the total distances for the day.