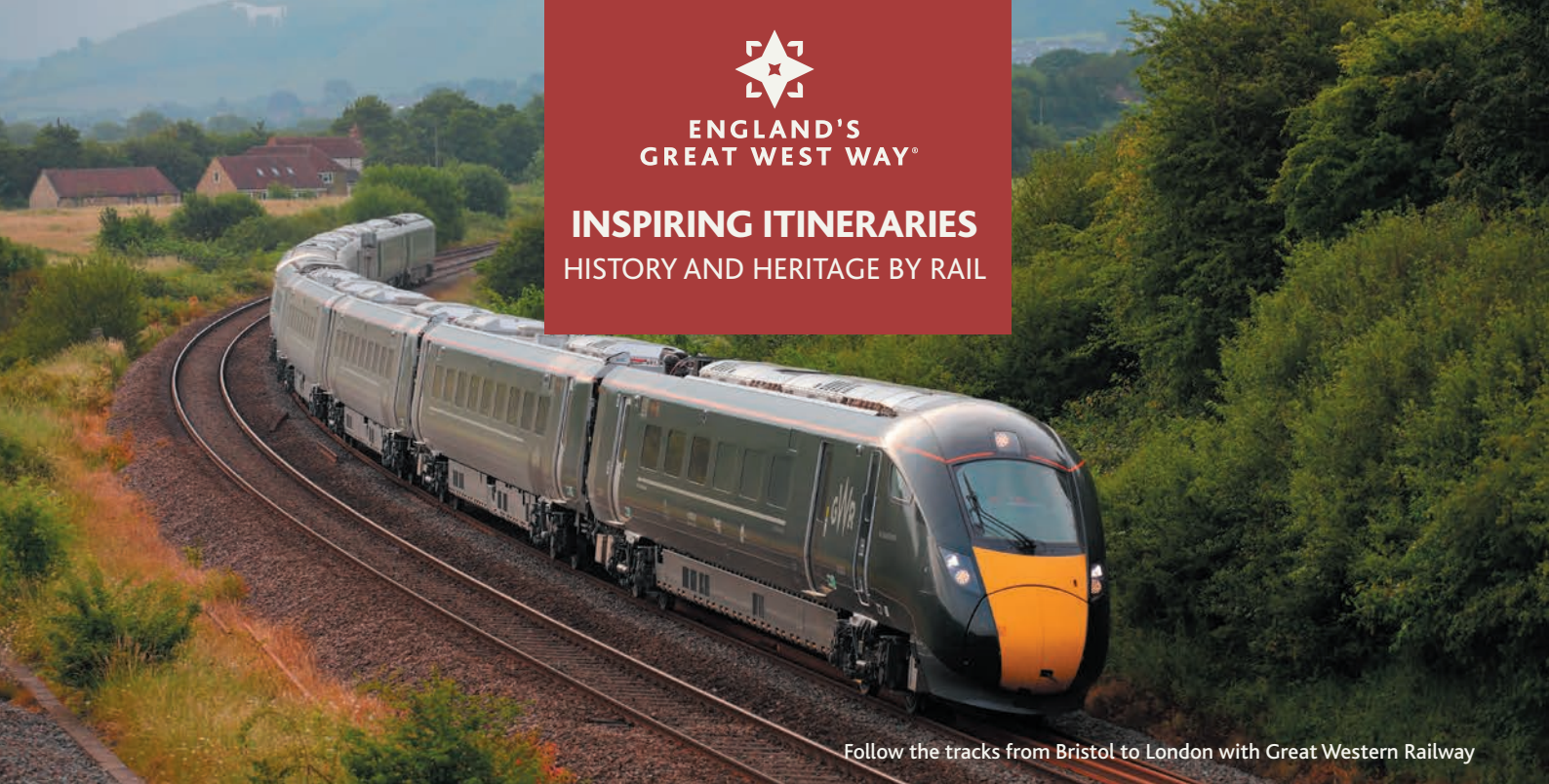




ENGLAND'S
GREAT WEST WAY®

INSPIRING ITINERARIES HISTORY AND HERITAGE BY RAIL



Follow the tracks from Bristol to London with Great Western Railway

Book your clients' seats for a journey into the past. The Great Western Railway, founded in 1833 and one of the prodigious engineering achievements of Isambard Kingdom Brunel, is itself a part of the heritage of the Great West Way.

Day 1. Explore Bristol

A modern city with its feet rooted firmly in the past. Isambard Kingdom Brunel's legacies include the Clifton Suspension Bridge, SS Great Britain and the Great Western Railway, which terminates at his imposing Temple Meads station. Discover the story of the city from prehistoric times to the present day at M Shed and visit 12th century Bristol Cathedral.

Overnight: Hotel du Vin has two hotels to choose from in Bristol

Day 2 & 3. Bath and a delightful detour

The only city in the UK to be designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site thanks to its extraordinary historic buildings; 17 museums within one square mile, some of the finest architectural sights in Europe and its remarkable Roman Baths. The city still offers premier spa bathing at Thermae Spa Bath. Book an Around & About Bath tour to explore further including a detour in the Cotswolds.

Overnight: Royal Crescent Hotel, Abbey Hotel, Apex Hotel, Macdonald Bath Spa Hotel, Brooks Guesthouse, The Roseate Villa

Day 4. Salisbury & Stonehenge

A detour off the route to Salisbury and the Stonehenge Tour, a short bus journey from Salisbury station to Stonehenge, the world-famous stone circle and its fascinating visitor centre. Back in Salisbury, there's time to explore the magnificent 13th century Salisbury Cathedral and Mompesson House, an 18th century townhouse with a walled garden, before catching the train to Swindon.

Overnight: The Great Western Hotel, Swindon

Day 5. Chippenham and Bowood House and Gardens

The STEAM Museum gives a 'hands on' look at the story behind the Great Western Railway, and the people who created this piece of English locomotive history. 'Drive' a train simulator and even work the signals. Across the road is the Swindon Designer Outlet, within the former Great Western Railway works for a spot of shopping! Next stop is Reading. Thames Rivercruise offer a boat trip along the River Thames to Reading Abbey Quarter. Discover almost nine hundred years of history, with fascinating buildings and the remains of Reading Abbey, a Grade I listed building and Scheduled Ancient Monument.

Overnight: The Roseate, Reading

Day 6. Royal Windsor

Queen Victoria had her own personal station for her visits to Windsor. Today it's Windsor Royal Shopping Centre with a daily arts and crafts

market. There's a story in every stone at Windsor Castle – right up the present day, with the marriage of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle. Book a walking tour of Windsor and Eton with Tours2Order or a sightseeing boat trip with French Brothers.

Overnight: Macdonald Windsor

Day 7. London

Take a look at the magnificent architecture of this Paddington Station created by Brunel. Leave your luggage at Excess Baggage Co on platform 12. London is a city with views that reward the river traveller. Take a City Cruises sightseeing trip from Westminster Pier, followed by a visit to the Houses of Parliament and the Tower of London. In the afternoon make a visit to Apsley House, the grandest address in the capital, once known as 'Number 1 London' and the London home of the first Duke of Wellington. He transformed it into a palatial residence to befit his status and filled it with works of art and gifts from grateful rulers across Europe. Standing opposite is Wellington Arch topped by the biggest bronze sculpture in Europe, it was originally intended as a grand outer entrance to Buckingham Palace.

Overnight: Roseate House London at Paddington or Great Northern Hotel at King's Cross St Pancras.

Places	Journey Time (Rail/Bus)
Bristol airport to city centre	30 mins
Bristol to Bath	11mins
Bath to Salisbury	55mins
Salisbury to Stonehenge	33mins (bus)
Salisbury to Swindon (via Melksham)	79mins
Swindon to Reading	30mins
Reading to Windsor (via Slough)	35mins
Reading to London Paddington (via Slough)	30 mins
London Paddington-Bristol	1hr 40 mins
Paddington to Heathrow	35 mins





SS Great Britain

INSPIRING ITINERARIES HISTORY AND HERITAGE BY RAIL



Stonehenge



Thames Rivercruise, Reading



Wellington Arch



The Roman Baths



Swindon Designer Outlet



Windsor Castle

Wholesalers/DMCs

Hotels & More: hotels-more.com

Norman Allen Group Travel Ltd: group-travel.com

Local Tour Operators who can offer full tour package or individual days out from destinations for groups or individuals:

Around & About Bath: aroundandaboutbath.com

Salisbury, Stonehenge and Sarum Tours: salisburystonehenge.com

Savouring Bath: savouringbath.com

South West Heritage Tours: southwestdriverguide.co.uk

Tours2Order: tours2order.com

Tour and Explore: tourandexplore.com

Further information: GreatWestWay.co.uk/traveltrade

Fly into Bristol Airport

More than 120 destinations across 34 countries are served by direct flights from Bristol Airport, bristolairport.co.uk.

Great West Way Discoverer pass

Great Western Railway has an extensive network running along England's Great West Way. International visitors can buy the Great West Way Discoverer pass; an integrated rail and bus ticket to connect with the local buses and delve deeper into the towns and villages. Follow the tracks from London Paddington to Bristol Temple Meads, following the route of Isambard Kingdom Brunel's pioneering line engineered in 1833. International visitors will have unlimited train travel. The Great West Way Discoverer pass is available for 1 or more days. Please contact GWR.com/GreatWestWay for tariff and distribution information.

Contacts

Bath: visitbath.co.uk/travel-trade

Bristol: visitbristol.co.uk

Cotswolds: cotswolds.com/groups

Reading: livingreading.co.uk/visit

River Thames: visitthames.co.uk

Salisbury: visitsalisbury.co.uk

Swindon: visitswindon.org.uk

Wiltshire: visitwiltshire.co.uk

Windsor: windsor.gov.uk

Apsley House: english-heritage.org.uk/apsleyhouse

Bristol Cathedral: bristol-cathedral.co.uk

City Cruises: citycruises.com/groups

Clifton Suspension Bridge: cliftonbridge.org.uk

French Brothers: frenchbrothers.co.uk

Houses of Parliament: parliament.uk/visiting/access/groupsand-travel-trade

M Shed: bristolmuseums.org.uk

Mompesson House: nationaltrust.org.uk/mompesson-house

Reading Abbey Quarter: readingabbeyquarter.org.uk

Salisbury and the Stonehenge Tour:

Salisbury Cathedral: salisburycathedral.org.uk

SS Great Britain: ssgreatbritain.org

STEAM Museum: steam-museum.org.uk

Stonehenge: english-heritage.org.uk/stonehenge

Swindon Designer Outlet: swindondesigneroutlet.com

Thames Rivercruise: thamesrivercruise.co.uk

The Roman Baths: romanbaths.co.uk

Thermae Spa Bath: ThermaeBathSpa.com

Tower of London: hrp.org.uk/tower

Wellington Arch: english-heritage.org.uk/wellingtonarch

Windsor Castle: rct.uk/visit/windsorcastle

Windsor Royal Shopping Centre: windsorroyalshopping.co.uk

Accommodation

Abbey Hotel, Bath: abbeyhotelbath.co.uk

Apex Hotel, Bath: apexhotels.co.uk/apex-city-of-bath-hotel

Brooks Guesthouse, Bath: brooksguesthouse.com

Great Northern Hotel, Kings Cross St Pancras:

Hotel du Vin Bristol City: www.hotelduvin.com/locations/bristolcity-centre

Hotel du Vin by Avon Gorge: hotelduvin.com/locations/bristol-avon-gorge

Macdonald Bath Spa Hotel: macdonaldhotels.co.uk/our-hotels/south-england/bath/macdonald-bath-spa-hotel/spa

Macdonald Windsor: macdonaldhotels.co.uk/our-hotels/south-england/windsor/macdonald-windsor-hotel

Roseate House London, Paddington: roseatehouselondon.com

The Great Western Hotel, Swindon: thegwhotelswindon.co.uk

The Royal Crescent Hotel, Bath: royalcrescent.co.uk

The Roseate, Reading: roseatehotels.com/reading/theroseate

The Roseate Villa, Bath: roseatehotels.com/bath/theroseatevilla