

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.

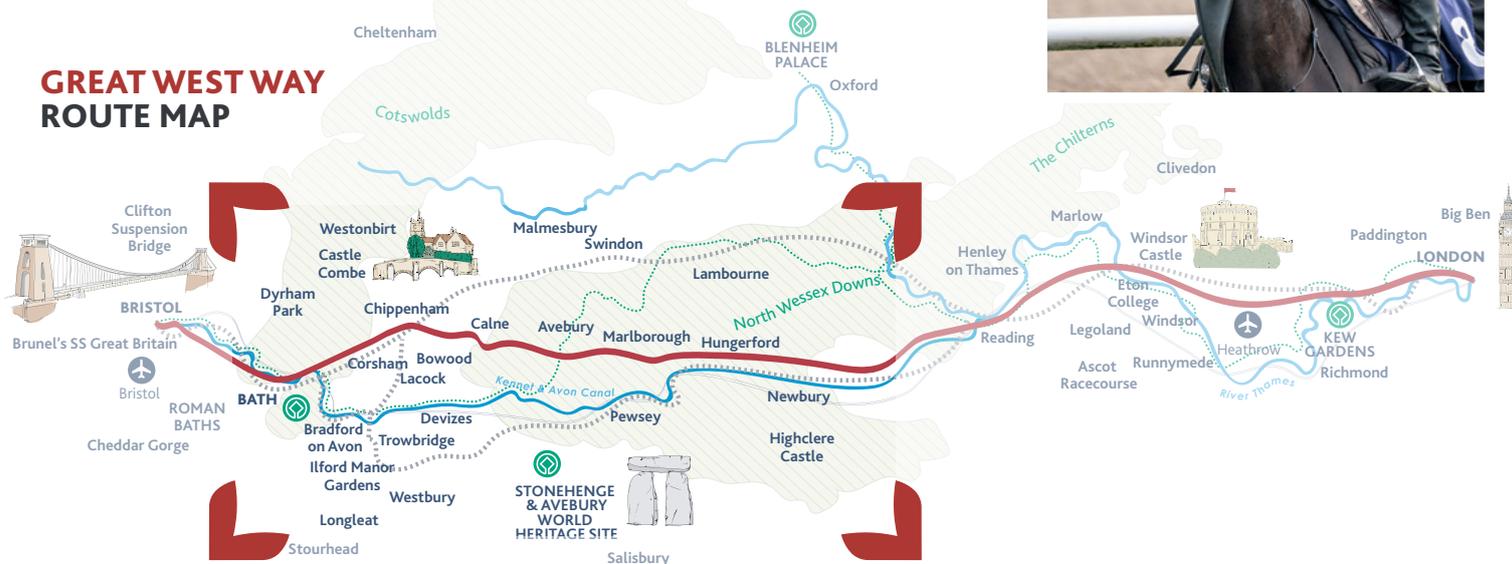


GUIDE TO HORSE RIDING & RACEHORSES

Go horse-riding across some of England's most striking landscapes; admire horses in training and at a leading racecourse; and mingle with racing enthusiasts at wonderful pubs in the heart of this glorious horse country.



GREAT WEST WAY ROUTE MAP



PLACES OF INTEREST FOR HORSE-ENTHUSIASTS

- [Newbury Racecourse](#)
- [Rein & Shine](#)
- [Salisbury Plain Safaris](#)
- [Wellow Trekking Centre](#)

PLACES TO EAT/SHOP

- [Queen's Arms](#)
- [The Newbury](#)
- [Newbury Parkway](#)
- [Beau's Bar and Restaurant](#)

Horse & Groom

- [The Foresters](#)
- [Helen Browning's Royal Oak](#)
- [Churchill Arms](#)
- [The Wheatsheaf](#)

PLACES TO STAY

- [Queen's Arms](#)
- [Donnington Grove](#)
- [The Foresters](#)
- [Meadowbank House B&B](#)

DAY ONE

LAMBOURN VALLEY



The Queen's Arms

Lambourn Valley is home to some of the finest race horse stable yards in England. For the best of starts, head to East Garston for breakfast at the **The Queen's Arms** - a terrific haunt of local horse enthusiasts where you'll get insight and atmosphere. Then drive to the village of Lambourn that's a nerve centre of race horse training and you'll see magnificent action along the gallops on the **Lambourn Downs** at the village fringes.

Spend the afternoon at the races - **Newbury Racecourse** is about half an hour's drive south-east of Lambourn. Start with lunch at the Brasserie overlooking the parade ring, or for book a table at the **Hennessy Restaurant** with panoramic views, or the **Racegoers Restaurant** looking on to the final furlong.

Alternatively, take a break from horse ventures and head into Newbury for lunch at **The Newbury** in the town centre then enjoy an afternoon of retail therapy at the Newbury Parkway shopping centre.

Overnight Queens Arms Hotel, East Garston



The Newbury

DAY TWO

CHARLTON

Enjoy a morning on horseback at **Rein & Shine**, an equestrian centre that offers two- and three-hour horse experiences for riders of any age. You'll groom and tack up your horse and, depending on your riding ability and experience, you'll go jumping or flat riding with a qualified with instructor. Have lunch at the **Horse & Groom** at Charlton - a mellow, 16th-century inn, then go see one of the Great West Way's magnificent white horse chalk carvings: **Westbury White Horse** - near the eponymous town of Westbury - measures about 108 feet (40m) nose to tail, the carving is roughly as long as a line of 16 real horses. Have dinner at **The Foresters**, a stylish old pub in the village Beckington and stay in one of the seven comfy-chic rooms. Alternatively go east to **Uffington** where an enigmatic, prehistoric figure of what is thought to be a horse was carved into a chalk hillside of the **North Wessex Downs** some 3,000 years ago.

Overnight Helen Browning's Royal Oak or Meadowbank House B&B.



Helen Browning's Royal Oak

DAY THREE

SALISBURY PLAIN

Salisbury Plain Safaris run a horseback adventure for experienced riders across stunning reaches of Salisbury Plain, exploring various hidden areas usually inaccessible because they lie in the UK's large army training zone. The company also offers 4x4 safaris. For lunch, head to the traditional country pub **The Churchill Arms**, West Lavington.

Then head north and west to Wellow for an afternoon pony trekking with **Wellow Trekking Centre**. The rides are suitable for novices and children as well as more experienced riders and will take you through landscape of woods and sheep-grazed fields. Finish your trip with a meal at **The Wheatsheaf** - a stylish country inn at **Combe Hay** just a couple of miles north.

The compelling equestrian chalk carvings on the hillsides are testament to this historic horse country whose expansive rolling landscape is one of the very best areas for horse enthusiasts in England.



Horse-riding to hidden areas

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!



Helen Browning's Royal Oak

BRING YOUR HORSE

Enjoy a riding holiday with your own horse. The Great West Way has a wealth of equestrian routes for day rides and longer ventures. The western part of the Ridgeway is especially glorious horse country and offers more than 40 miles of bridleway between Beckhampton (just beyond Avebury) and Streatley. For details of routes and bridledways across the country visit the British Horse Society website: bhs.org.uk/enjoy-riding

Horses can be accommodated at several hotels and B&Bs including:

[Lucknam Park](#)

[Huntlys Farmhouse](#)

[The Stables](#) at Manor Farm near Marlborough

[Helen Browning's Royal Oak](#), just outside Bishopstone off the Ridgeway



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