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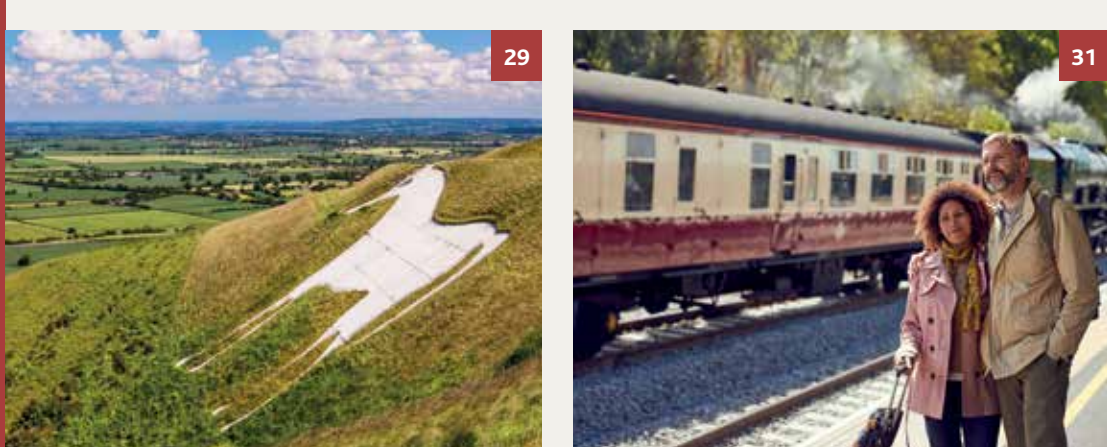
Great things to do along the Great West Way.

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.

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 Royal 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 light 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: J3](#)
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. [GRID REF: A4](#)
21. Dress like Jane Austen, bonnet and all, and dance the night away at the Regency Costumed Mended 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.
25. Join the party at one of England's biggest and best-loved music festivals, Reading Festival (August).
26. Slip 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](#)
27. 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](#)
28. Take the wheel of a Formula Ford 1600 or Lotus Elise on a lap of Castle Combe Motor Racing Circuit. [GRID REF: C3](#)
29. Find out just what you can build with 42 million LEGO bricks at LEGOLAND. [GRID REF: K3](#)
30. Get confetti in your hair at the utterly unique Devizes Confetti Battle (August). [GRID REF: D4](#)
31. 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](#)
32. 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 Battle Farm (O4), where you can buy pork and charcuterie, and Roves Farm (E3), home to an extensive farm shop.
33. Ride a steam train kept alive and running by volunteers, at Avon Valley Railway. [GRID REF: B4](#)
34. Lose yourself in the UK's oldest surviving hedge maze at Hampton Court Palace. [GRID REF: L4](#)
35. Taste local brew Good Old Boy in the Taproom of the brewery that crafted it, West Berkshire Brewery. [GRID REF: C3](#)
36. Sniff out the best cheeses at Winston Churchill's favourite cheesemonger Paxton & Whitfield in Bath. [GRID REF: B4](#)
37. Watch the Changing of the Guard at Windsor Castle. [GRID REF: K3](#)
38. 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](#)
39. Discover the gardens of legendary landscape gardener 'Capability' Brown at Elizabethan mansion house 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](#)
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 Wadsworth 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](#)
47. Discover Bath's food scene on a tasty tour 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 house 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](#)

50. Step inside a fourteenth century tithes barn, complete with a staggering timber roof of wooden arches that stretch for more than 50 metres above your head. Bradford on Avon's tithes barn is so historically important that it's protected by English Heritage. [GRID REF: C4](#)
51. Travel through the historic centre of Bath (B4) on a stand-up paddleboarding safari with Original Wild, or take a lesson in Bristol (A4) with SUP Bristol.
52. Play disc golf in the park, at Ashton Court in Bristol – you'll be trying to get a frisbee, not a ball, 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](#)
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](#)
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](#)
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 are bluebell season here. [GRID REF: E4](#)
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](#)
63. Find your next new favourite story in one of Bath's 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](#)
66. 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 international 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

72. Smell the rhododendrons at Bowood's Woodland Gardens, open every spring during flowering season. Two miles of paths wind their way between the vibrantly coloured plants, many of which have been put on this display every year since 1854. [GRID REF: D4](#)
73. Spot a Banksy – an artwork by the anonymous street 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 monkeys at Longleat Safari Park – as you drive through their habitat expect them to clamber onto your car, and possibly to take some of it with them! [GRID REF: C5](#)
75. Attend the weekly mass at Stonor Chapel, built in the late 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 Givan. 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 reconstructed 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 in Bristol (A4). English sparkling wine is getting especially popular so be sure to give it a try.
79. 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 temple 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.
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 Indonesian street food and vegan Thai snacks to freshly cooked doughnuts and Tibetan dumplings. [GRID REF: A4](#)
82. Bet on the horses at Newbury Racecourse, which has race days year-round. [GRID REF: C4](#)
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 prehistoric complex at Avebury. Just why did ancient man build a mound as large as a contemporary Egyptian pyramid? [GRID REF: E4](#)
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 Bradford on Avon.
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](#)
90. 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. [GRID REF: C3](#)
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 hundreds of traditional pubs along the Great West Way, where you can play pub games in the beer garden in summer, or cosy up by the open fire in winter. We love the Three Tuns Freehouse in Great Bedwyn (F4), The Old Bell in Malmesbury (C3), the Royal Oak in Yattendon (C3), The Red Lion Freehouse in East 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 – from Devizes Marina (D4) or for a longer holiday from Honeystreet Boats (E4). Don't fancy driving yourself? Take 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](#)
99. Marvel at the world's oldest working steam engines, the Crofton Beam Engines. Fed by a hand-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 the 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, home to the rare monkey orchid which flowers here in May or early June. There is also a hybrid of the monkey and lady orchids here, the only place in Britain that this has been recorded. [GRID REF: H3](#)
103. Pop 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 Cleve and the canal-side 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 tea and a glass of Highgrove Champagne. [GRID REF: C3](#)
107. Lace up your skates for a spin around the rink at one of the Great West Way's winter ice rinks. There are rinks at Millennium Square in Bristol (A4), Royal Victoria Park in Bath (B4), Alexandra Gardens in Windsor (K3) and 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).
112. Have a proper English cup of tea – served strong with milk of course – in a traditional tearoom. There are hundreds of tearooms along the Great West Way but some of our favourites are St Peter's Coffee Shop in Marlborough (E4), The Tollgate in Dyrham (B3), the Teapot in Cookham (J3) and The Tutti Pole in Hungerford (F4).
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.
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.



GreatWestWay.co.uk

Recommended accommodation

Abbey Hotel, Bath abbeyhotelbath.co.uk GRID REF: B4	Holiday Inn Salisbury–Stonehenge, Wiltshire holidaysalisbury-stonehenge.co.uk GRID REF: E6
Apex City of Bath Hotel, Bath apexhotels.co.uk GRID REF: B4	The Langley, Buckinghamshire marriott.co.uk GRID REF: K3
Avalon Lodge Bed & Breakfast, Devizes bed-breakfast-devizes.co.uk GRID REF: D4	MacDonald Bath Spa Hotel macdonaldhotels.co.uk GRID REF: B4
Bath Self Catering bathselfcatering.com	Manor Farm B&B, Wiltshire manorfarm.co.uk GRID REF: E5
Beanhill Farm B&B, Chippenham beanhillfarm.net GRID REF: D3	Meadowbank House, Wiltshire meadowbankhouse.com GRID REF: E3
Best Western Plus Angel Hotel, Wiltshire bestwestern.co.uk GRID REF: C4	The Old Bell Hotel, Malmesbury, Wiltshire oldbellhotel.co.uk GRID REF: C3
Brooks Guest House, Bath brooksguesthouse.com GRID REF: B4	The Old Chapel, Wiltshire airbnb.co.uk/rooms/29073443 GRID REF: E4
Buttle Farm, Wiltshire buttlearm.co.uk GRID REF: D4	Queens Arms, East Garston, Berkshire queensarmseastgarston.co.uk GRID REF: F4
Church Farm Country Cottages, Wiltshire churchfarmcottages.co.uk GRID REF: C4	The Red Lion and Troutbeck, East Chisenbury redlionfreehouse.co.uk GRID REF: E5
Cricklade Hotel, Wiltshire crickladehotel.co.uk GRID REF: E2	The Roseate Villa, Bath roseatehotels.com/bath/theroseatevilla GRID REF: B4
Cumberwell Country Cottages, Wiltshire cumberwelloccountrycottages.com GRID REF: E2	Roseate House, London roseatehotels.com/london/roseatehouse GRID REF: L3
Devizes Marina Village, Wiltshire devizesmarina.com GRID REF: D4	The Roseate, Reading devizesmarina.com/reading/theroseate GRID REF: H4
Donnington Grove, Newbury donnington-grove.com GRID REF: C4	The Royal Oak, Yattendon, Berkshire royalokayattendon.co.uk GRID REF: C3
DoubleTree by Hilton, Swindon, Wiltshire doubletree3.hilton.com GRID REF: E3	The Royal Crescent Hotel & Spa, Bath royalcrest.co.uk GRID REF: B4
The Farm Camp, Wiltshire thefarmcamp.co.uk GRID REF: C4	The Swan, Bradford on Avon, Wiltshire theswanbradford.co.uk GRID REF: C4
Great Northampton Hotel, London gnhlondon.com GRID REF: H3	Totteridge Farm, Pewsey, Wiltshire totteridgefarm.website GRID REF: E4
Hampton by Hilton Bristol Airport, Bristol hamptoninn3.hilton.com GRID REF: A4	Whatley Manor, Wiltshire whatleymanor.com GRID REF: C3
Helen Browning's Royal Oak, Wiltshire helenbrowningorganic.co.uk GRID REF: E3	Woolley Grange Hotel, Wiltshire woolleygrangehotel.co.uk GRID REF: C4
Heritage Bed & Breakfast, Wiltshire heritagebanb.co.uk GRID REF: D4	

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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

On foot

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

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 person.

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

On water

You don't need any previous experience to enjoy the Great West Way's meandering waterways. 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.

K&A CANAL TRUST BOAT HIRE AND 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

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

BRISTOL BOAT TRIPS:
 Bristol Community Ferry Boats: bristolofferry.com
 Bristol Packet Boats: bristolpacket.co.uk/boat-trips.html
 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: bristol2andemhire.co.uk
 Bainton Bikes, cycle hire, tours and holidays: baintonbikes.com
 Swinley Bike Hub: swinleybikehub.com

Tours and guides

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: salisburystonehengeandtoursof.co.uk
 Savouring Bath - Artisanal Food & Drink Tours: savouringbath.com
 Tour and Explore: tourandexplore.co.uk
 Tours2Order: tours2order.com
 South West Heritage Tours: southwestheritagetours.co.uk



GREAT WEST WAY

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

Attractions in Bristol

- Aerospace Bristol
- Aldwick Estate
- Arnos Vale Cemetery
- Avon Gorge
- Balley Balloons
- Bristol Blue Glass
- Bristol Cathedral
- Bristol Old Vic
- Bristol Zoo Gardens
- Brunel's SS Great Britain
- Clifton Suspension Bridge
- Lido Bristol
- The Matthew of Bristol
- Noah's Ark Zoo Farm
- SUP Bristol
- University of Bristol
- Botanic Garden
- We The Curious

Attractions in Bath

- Bath Abbey
- Fashion Museum
- The Holburne Museum
- Jane Austen Centre
- No. 1 Royal Crescent
- Prior Park Landscape Garden
- Roman Baths
- Shopping in Bath
- Thermae Bath Spa

125 MILES OF TWISTS AND TURNS AND NEW DISCOVERIES

Food and Drink Along The Way

a'Beckett's Vineyard	D5	Dower House Restaurant at The Royal Crescent Hotel & Spa	B4	Prince Street Social	A4
Aldwick Court Farm & Vineyard	F4	The Engineman's Rest Café	E4	Queens Arms	F4
The Bath Brew House	B4	Grey's Brasserie at Whatley Manor	C3	Red Lion Freehouse	E5
Canal Trust Café	C4	The Harrow at Little Bedwyn	F4	Royal Oak, Yattendon	C3
Cobbs Farm Shop & Kitchen	F4	Helen Browning's Royal Oak	E3	Springs Café Restaurant at Thermae Bath Spa	B4
The Dining Room at Whatley Manor	C3	Honeystreet Mill Café	E4	The Tea Shop By The Canal	G4
		Koffmann & Mr. White's	B4	Three Tuns Freehouse	E4
		The Newbury	G4	The Tutti Pole	F4
				West Berkshire Brewery	C3

Great West Way Supporting Destinations

Bath	B4	Henley on Thames	H3	Richmond	L3
Bradford on Avon	C4	Hungerford	F4	Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead	K3
Bristol	A4	Malmesbury	C3	Stonehenge & Avebury	F4
Calne	D4	Marlborough	F4	World Heritage Site	J3
Chippenham	C4	Marlow	F4	Swindon	G4
Corsham	C4	Newbury	C2	North Wessex Downs AONB	F4
Cotswolds	C2	Reading	D4	Trowbridge	C4
Devizes	D4			Vale of Pewsey	E4

Key

- Waterways
- A Roads
- Motorway
- Railway
- Discoverer pass Route
- Walking Trail
- National Cycle Network Route 4
- Airport
- World Heritage Site

