



This way for a Journey of Discovery

The Great West Way

A Journey of Discovery

It's time to explore England. To uncover tales of the past. And experience all that's to offer today. Welcome to a journey through time. And an adventure across England. The Great West Way is based on one of the first great roads, commissioned by the Kings of England. As you travel between London and Bristol, you'll uncover the very soul of England. This map will help you on your way. It highlights some of the things you can experience. But there will be times when you want to put the map away and let your curiosity be your guide.

The Great West Way brings you to world-famous sites such as Stonehenge, Roman Bath with its double World Heritage status 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.

Thanks to Great Western Railway (GWR) choose to explore by train or bus using the Great West Way Discoverer pass. Or slow right down to the pace of two feet or two bike wheels or a boat, base yourself in one place for a while and find your own story on the Great West Way.

START HERE.

GreatWestWay.co.uk



START HERE.



71



39



11

Discover England

- 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 (B4) or 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. (B4)
- Bet on the horses at Newbury Racecourse, which has race days year-round. (C4)
- Discover the area's military might with a visit to REME Museum, the museum of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers, at MoD Lyneham. See large armoured vehicles, listen to soldier's stories and get hands on with the recovery task simulator. (D3)
- 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. You needn't wait for the fiesta though, Bailey Balloons offer flights all year round above both Bristol and Bath. (A4)
- Get confetti in your hair at the utterly unique Devizes Carnival Confetti Battle (September). (D4)
- 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! (E4)
- Join the party at one of England's biggest and best-loved music festivals, Reading Festival (August). (H3)
- Step aboard the last Concorde ever built at Aerospace Bristol, on the site that built every British Concorde ever made. (A3)
- Shop for a bargain at Swindon Designer Outlet, where more than 100 designer stores offer discounts of up to 60%. (E3)
- Mess about in boats on the Thames surrounded by hundreds of others doing the same, at Henley Royal Regatta (July). (J3)
- 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. (C4)
- Soak out ghosts on a creepy walk around the market town of Devizes with local historian John Girvan. 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. (D4)
- 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. (B4)
- Dress like Jane Austen, bonnet and all, and dance the night away at the Regency Costumed Masked Ball in Bath, part of the annual Jane Austen Festival (September). (B4)
- Check out the largest collection of Americana outside the US, including some fascinating ancient maps and more than 200 quilts, at the American Museum & Gardens in Bath. (C4)
- See paintings by English masters Thomas Gainsborough and John Constable, housed together at Bath's Holburne Museum. (B4)
- Watch the changing of the Guard at Windsor Castle. (K3)
- Find out about the Wiltshire Cure, in the town it originated back in the eighteenth century at the Calne Heritage Centre. (D4)
- 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 have sites at Blakehill Farm (D2) and Lower Moor (D2) in north Wiltshire.
- Walk across Brunel's famous Clifton Suspension Bridge, gazing across the dramatic Avon Gorge. (A4)
- Discover the story of Chippenham including the town's links to the river, road and rail connections that make up the Great West Way at Chippenham Museum and Heritage Centre. (C4)
- Hear classical music echoing around an ancient cathedral. Bristol Cathedral hosts regular recitals, featuring classical music from both local and international musicians. (A3)
- 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. (C4)
- 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! (C5)

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- Dyrham Park - There can't be many more enjoyable places to stretch your legs than the grounds of this marvellous mansion house. Situated near Chippenham, many of the mansion's interesting stories can be traced back to former resident William Blathwayt, an eminent colonial civil servant. Dutch visitors will notice lots of familiar touches in the rooms, which are much as he lived in them with his wife and 3 children. From his Delftware collection to paintings by renowned Dutch artists such as Cornelis de Heem. You'll get a real taste of what life was like for people of his standing – especially if you try the spicy hot chocolate made there to a 17th-century recipe. (B3)
- Most visit Avebury to behold its astonishing stone circles. But Avebury Manor has a few mysteries of its own – some say the Grade I Listed building is haunted. Perhaps a more pleasing feature of the manor house, however, is that guests are positively encouraged to touch, sit in and lie on any of the furniture – even play a game of snooker. The house was refurbished as part of a TV series called 'The Manor Reborn', so much of the interior is composed of replica furniture. Nine of its rooms were faithfully decorated in styles of different eras, inspired by real-life residents from Tudor times to the 20th century. (E4)
- 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,

- appeared on screen numerous times – in Spielberg's War Horse and the original Dr Doolittle film to name just two. (C3)
- Canoe the Kennet & Avon canal, pushing off in a Canadian canoe at Bradford-on-Avon and paddling eastwards to Seend Clevea and the canal-side Barge Inn, where you can moor up for a pub lunch before the return journey. (D4)
- 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! (E4)
- 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.
- 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. (B4)
- 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.
- Ride the rails of Isambard Kingdom Brunel's (arguably) greatest achievement, the Great Western Railway from London to Bristol. (B4)
- Learn how stop animation works in Bristol, home to Aardman Animations, the Academy Award winning studio who brought the world Wallace and Gromit. You can film and draw your own animations at The We Curious science centre in their Aardman Animations inspired exhibits. (A4)



33

Recommended accommodation

	Grid Ref.		Grid Ref.
Apex Hotel, Bath	B4	Pennyhill Park - Exclusive Collection Hotels, Bagshot	J4
Bath Apartment Breaks	B4	Roseate House London	L3
Bath Area Self Catering Association	B4	Royal Berkshire - Exclusive Collection Hotels, Ascot	K4
Best Western Plus Angel Hotel, Chippenham	C4	Salisbury Camping and Caravanning Club Site	E6
Brooks Guest House B&B, Bath	B4	Sir Christopher Wren Hotel, Windsor	K3
Brooks Guest House B&B, Bristol	A4	Stay in Bath	B4
Bruce Accessible Boats, Marlborough	F4	Timbrells Yard, Bradford on Avon	C4
Cheddar Camping and Caravanning Club Site	A5	The Apartment Bath	B4
Chertsey Camping and Caravanning Club Site	K4	The Bristol Wing, Bristol	A4
Church Farm Country Cottages, Bradford on Avon	C4	The Chilterns View, Wallingford	H2
Cliffe Farm Dairy, West Lavington, Devizes	E2	The Gainsborough Bath Spa	B4
Cricklade House Hotel, Swindon	D4	The Kingsbury @ No.8, Marlborough	F4
Cumberwell Country Cottages, Bradford on Avon	C4	The Manor House - Exclusive Collection Hotels, Castle Combe	C3
Devizes Camping and Caravanning Club Site	D4	The Merchants House Hotel, Salisbury	E6
Donnington Grove Hotel & Country Club, Newbury	G4	The Old Bell Hotel, Malmesbury	C3
DoubleTree by Hilton, Swindon	E3	The Queens Arms Hotel, Hungerford	F4
Dukes Hotel, Bath	B4	The Rose and Crown Inn, Ashbury, Swindon	E3
Greenlands Hotel, Henley on Thames	J3	The Roseate Reading	H4
Hampton by Hilton Bristol Airport	A4	The Roseate Villa, Bath	B4
Hilton Reading	H4	The Royal Crescent Hotel & Spa, Bath	B4
Holiday Inn, Salisbury - Stonehenge	E6	The Swan, Bradford on Avon	C4
Lainston House	Off Map	Totteridge Farm Camping Pods, Pewsey	E4
Manor Farm Courtyard Cottages, Hampstead Norreys	G3	Troutbeck Guest House, Pewsey	E5
Mill Farm Glamping, Poulshot, Devizes	D4	Tucking Mill Self Catering, Bath	B4
Monkey Island Estate, Berkshire	J3	Walton on Thames Camping and Caravanning Club Site	E4
No.15, Bath	B4	Whately Manor Hotel & Spa, Malmesbury	C3
Novotel Reading Centre	H4	Woolley Grange Hotel, Bradford on Avon	C4
Queens Arms, East Garston	F3	YMCA Bath Group, Bath	B4

Discover the Past

Step back in time as you travel along the Great West Way between Bristol and London. There are thousands of years of history to be discovered as you explore the ancient Roman Baths in Bath, historic castles like Windsor and Berkeley, and grand stately homes such as Bowood. But history along the Great West Way isn't just about these famous historic houses and grand old buildings; there are many more incredible and unexpected historic sites hidden along the route just waiting to be discovered. There are little museums, village churches, working industrial sites, historic monuments and more.

- Stonehenge & Avebury. These enigmatic stones together form one of the UK's first ever UNESCO World Heritage sites. Sit in the Devil's Chair – a natural seat sculpted in stone at Europe's largest stonecircle, Avebury. (E4) Get the stones (almost) to yourself by booking the Inner Circle tour at Stonehenge and rising early to be inside the stone circle when it opens to the public. You still can't touch the stones, but you will get some great pictures of them. (E6)
- See where the earliest surviving photographic negative was taken, by Henry Fox Talbot in 1835 at Lacock Abbey. (C4)
- Discover Whitchurch Silk Mill, a beautiful Georgian water mill with impressive Victorian machinery that is still in use today to spin gloriously, colourful silks. (G5)
- Step into the 1930s at the Atwell-Wilson Motor Museum in Calne, where a 1930s garage has been reconstructed and filled with classic cars. (D4)
- You may well have already visited some grand historic houses belonging to England's aristocracy and royalty. But this unusual historic site is something rarer – a chance to visit a 17th century house lived in by a middle-class merchant family. The Merchant's House in Marlborough belonged to Thomas Bayly and was built following the Great Fire of Marlborough in 1653, featuring wood panelling, brilliant wall paintings and a commanding oak staircase. (E4)
- Elegantly spanning a Somerset valley and surrounded by picturesque green countryside, Dundas Aqueduct carries the Kennet and Avon Canal across both the River Avon and the local railway. A Scheduled Ancient Monument, the aqueduct dates back to 1810 and is an impressive testament to the masterful engineering that allowed the construction of the canal. (C4)
- Experience for yourself what it must have been like for a 1940s Spitfire pilot in an authentic simulator with replica flight controls and wide screen pilot view at Maidenhead Heritage Centre. (J3)
- Wilton Windmill. Visit the only working windmill in the Wessex region. Built in 1821, Wilton Windmill is set high in the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty with spectacular views over the surrounding countryside. On select days, visitors can enjoy guided tours and refreshments at the windmill, as well as the chance to buy flour ground onsite. (F4)
- Climb up to the arch's balconies for glorious panoramas over London at Wellington Arch at the far East of the Great West Way route. (M3)
- Reading's Museum of English Rural Life is England's most extensive museum dedicated to farming, food, craft, rural life and countryside issues. An unexpected treasure waiting to be explored, the MERL contains an astonishing array of items which tell an important part of the history of England, including objects, archives, photographs and books. The museum is also home to a beautiful urban garden and welcoming cafe. (H3)
- 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. (K3)

Discover new Tastes

Food and drink is a very important part of your Great West Way adventure and for the ultimate foodies out there, here is a list of the top experiences you must try to make your taste buds tingle...

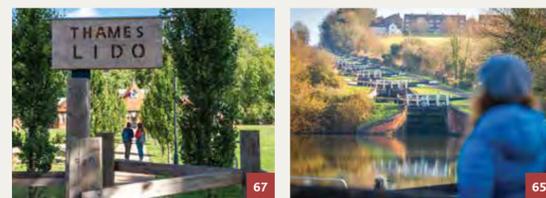
- Settle in for a traditional afternoon tea, served on a tiered stand in the restaurant of one of England's finest country hotels. Whately Manor (C3) and Cricklade House Hotel (E2) are both much-loved for their afternoon teas – or enjoy a quintessentially English tea room experience with staff dressed in Victorian costumes serving homemade cakes, pastries and sandwiches at The Bridge Tea Rooms (C4).
- Go organic with food from the farm at Helen Browning's Royal Oak, 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. (E3)
- Eat fresh local produce from Cobbs Farm Shop & Kitchen (Hungerford F4 and Englefield H4) where seasonal produce is put on shelves within minutes of being picked. From farm to shop with zero food miles.
- Choose your favourite botanicals to make a personalised cocktail at the Mill Bar at Bombay Sapphire Distillery. (G5)
- Improve your culinary skills whilst on your adventure along the Great West Way. Discover local ingredients and techniques, with courses for all ages at Vaughan's Cookery School in Devizes. (D4)
- 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. (B4)
- Treat yourself to a meal from what is considered to be one of the best restaurants in the country. In Wiltshire, The Red Lion Freehouse near Pewsey (E5) and The Dining Room at Whately Manor near Malmesbury (C3). In Berkshire, The Fat Duck in Bray, The Blackbird in Newbury and L'Ortolan in Reading, and in Marlborough you can visit The Hand and Flowers or The Coach. Prepare for your taste buds to be wowed!
- Choose your favourite botanicals to make a personalised cocktail at the Mill Bar at Bombay Sapphire Distillery. (G5)
- Drink English wine direct from the vineyard at a Beckett's in Littleton Panell in Wiltshire (D5) or Aldwick Estate (A4) in Bristol. English sparkling wine is getting especially popular so be sure to give it a try. Alder Ridge Vineyard (E4) near Hungerford in Berkshire host tours between May and September and you can even have a taste of their award winning 2013 Classic Cuvee.
- Eat international street food in the heart of Bristol. The street food market runs regular street food markets and has everything from Indonesian street food and vegan Thai snacks to freshly cooked doughnuts and Tibetan dumplings. (A4)
- 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 in Great Bedwyn (F4) and the Red Lion in East Chisenbury. (E5)



53

Discover Adventure

Get to grips with the Great West Way – literally. There are plenty of places to grab adventure here – by the handlebars, the paddle or the steering wheel – and you'll find a new way to get the heart racing around every corner. Plot a course to these exciting activities and you'll go home with plenty of stories to tell.



67



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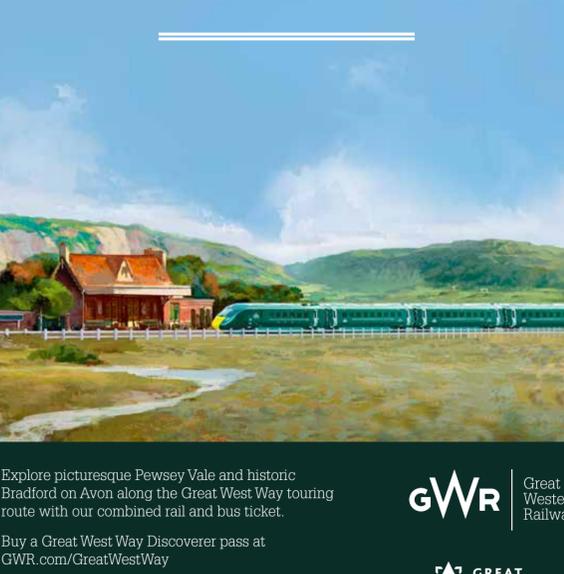
- The same company operate a Lido in Bristol (B4) too, which dates from the Victorian era.
- Paragliding in Wiltshire. Imagine running as you your legs will carry you and then jumping straight off a hillside. In Wiltshire you can do just that, on a paragliding session above the beautiful Wiltshire Downs. (E5)
- Within easy reach of the Great West Way, Gloucestershire is home to Cotswold Water Park, the largest man-made inland waterway in Europe, try your hand at waterskiing on one of the lakes. (D2)
- To really test your mettle, take on the three mountain bike tracks that run through ancient Swinley Forest from Swinley Bike Hub in Bracknell. The 1km (1093yd) Green route is best for beginners and families, with its gentle descents and easy climbs, but most cyclists can tackle the Blue (9km, 5.6miles), with its single track strewn with roots and rocks and plenty of dips and descents through the pine forest. (J4)
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Discover Houses and Gardens

Enter some of England's most illustrious country estates and discover what life was like for their owners during different periods in history, from medieval times to the present day.

- 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 putting on this display every year since 1854. (D4)
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- 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. (B5)
- At Iford Manor's remarkable gardens we have Harold A Peto to thank, a visionary architect who sought to fuse the style of the Italian gardens he'd admired on his travels with a series of attractive buildings. Cypress trees, sweet smelling lilies and draping branches of wisteria all have their place. Set on a steep hillside, the garden offers inspiring views of the Wiltshire countryside. For a truly special treat, book an evening champagne tour of the garden with the owner, or stay in the gorgeous cottage on site for a real immersion in the hidden, timeless beauty of the Ford valley. (C4)
- Prior Park. At this elegant 18th-century garden in Regency Bath, it's easy to imagine parasolled ladies walking over the Palladian bridge in their flowing gowns. But there's much more to see in real life. In early spring, silky white snowdrops and bright yellow daffodils begin to bloom. Come summer, you'll find swans with their fluffy grey cygnets floating around together in the lakes, and tiny wild raspberries emerging in the woods. Stop for a cup of tea and a slice of something nice and just take it all in. (B4)
- Within easy reach of the Great West Way discover the birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill with a visit to Blenheim Palace. (G1)
- 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. (C4)

DISCOVER WILTSHIRE ON THE GREAT WEST WAY



Explore picturesque Pewsey Vale and historic Bradford on Avon along the Great West Way touring route with our combined rail and bus ticket.

Buy a Great West Way Discoverer pass at GWR.com/GreatWestWay



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*TripAdvisor 2021

Visit Corsham

Come and discover Wiltshire's hidden treasure

History, heritage, arts and crafts, great places to eat and drink and lots of independent shops – plus BBC One's Poldark was filmed here too.

www.corsham.gov.uk/visit

EVEN MORE REASONS TO SMILE

Discover designer brands for up to 60% less at Swindon Designer Outlet

Discover Chippenham

A flourishing & lively market town. Arts, culture & heritage. Beautiful parks, play areas & open spaces. Green Flag Award in John Coles Park. Historic architectural gems. Modern shopping centres. An idyllic location to discover.

www.chippenham.gov.uk

SUSTAINABLE TOURISM ON THE GREAT WEST WAY

Sustainable Travel on 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. In a time of being socially responsible and watching our carbon footprint, sustainable travel is vitally important. Thanks to the road, Great Western Railway, the River Thames, the Kennet and Avon Canal, and multiple foot and cycle paths, you can choose how you get around.

By road, hire cars can be picked up at Heathrow and Bristol airports as well as in towns and cities along the route. On foot, there are numerous short walks along the Great West Way. By rail, use the Great West Way Discoverer pass for an easy hassle-free journey. Included in this pass is train travel with Great Western Railway and bus travel between London and Bristol Temple Meads, with options to branch off in the Thames Valley and Bristol Temple Meads, with options to branch off in the Thames Valley, Cotswolds and Wiltshire. To book simply go to GWR.com/GreatWestWay. Between them, the River Thames and Kennet & Avon Canal follow the length of the route. You can canoe, kayak or book one of the numerous boat trips. By bike, the National Cycle Network covers the UK with waymarked bike trails, both on and off road. Numerous companies offer tours and guides along the Great West Way, from day tours to multi day packages.

Check out GreatWestWay.co.uk/explore for full details on all modes of transport and to find out about activities please go to GreatWestWay.co.uk/activities

Eco Friendly Stays
To make your trip as eco as possible book environmentally-friendly accommodation, sit down to an eco-friendly meal. The Dining Room at Whatley Manor in Wiltshire is one of the first UK restaurants to be recognised with a Green Michelin Star. This new award celebrates restaurants that pioneer sustainability. If you're visiting in an electric car the following accommodation have electric charging points: Herongate Apartments in Hungerford, Cliffe Farm Dairy in Devises, Holiday Inn

Salisbury-Stonehenge, Woolley Grange in Bradford on Avon. You can even bathe in a spa heated naturally by a geothermal spring at Therae Bath Spa.

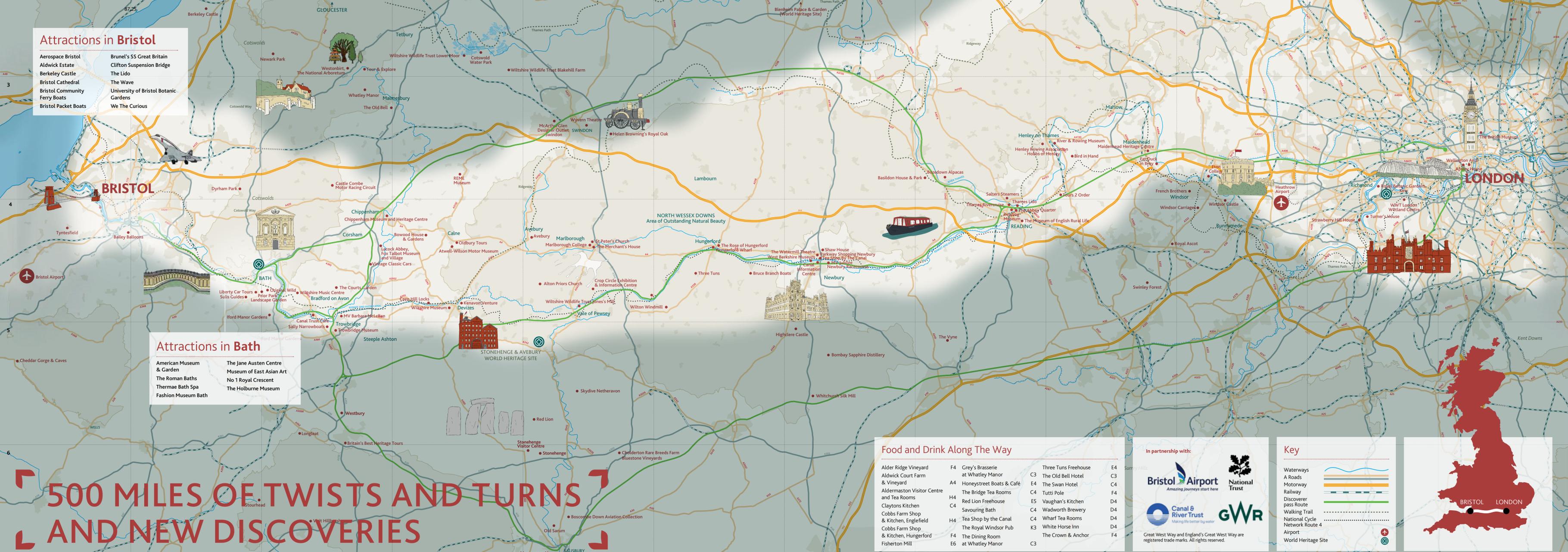
Enjoy sustainable, locally-sourced products
Many local pubs, cafes and restaurants pride themselves on using organic produce and sourcing their ingredients from local farms, vineyards and suppliers for the lowest possible impact on the planet. While you're out, why not head to one of the local farmers markets or a farm shop to pick up some local produce with a low carbon footprint? Bristol has been awarded status of Gold Sustainable Food City, with plenty of choice of sustainable foodie places. Vaughan's Kitchen & Cookery School in Devises have recently announced that they have achieved zero food waste to landfill as well as switching to using biodegradable and compostable food packaging.

Discover eco-friendly shopping on the Great West Way. There are zero-waste shops stocked with sustainable ingredients springing up across our market towns, alongside friendly independent shops selling unique locally-made items.

Check out GreatWestWay.co.uk/eco-friendly-holidays

GREAT WEST WAY

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



- Attractions in Bristol**
- Aerospace Bristol
 - Aldwick Estate
 - Berkeley Castle
 - Bristol Cathedral
 - Bristol Community Ferry Boats
 - Bristol Packet Boats
 - Brunel's SS Great Britain
 - Clifton Suspension Bridge
 - The Lido
 - The Wave
 - University of Bristol Botanic Gardens
 - We The Curious

- Attractions in Bath**
- American Museum & Garden
 - The Roman Baths
 - Thermae Bath Spa
 - Fashion Museum Bath
 - The Jane Austen Centre
 - Museum of East Asian Art
 - No 1 Royal Crescent
 - The Holburne Museum

Food and Drink Along The Way

Alder Ridge Vineyard	F4	Grey's Brasserie at Whatley Manor	C3	Three Tuns Freehouse	E4
Aldwick Court Farm & Vineyard	A4	Honeystreet Boats & Café	C4	The Old Bell Hotel	C3
Aldermaston Visitor Centre and Tea Rooms	H4	The Bridge Tea Rooms	C4	The Swan Hotel	C4
Claytons Kitchen	C4	Red Lion Freehouse	E5	Tutti Pole	F4
Cobbs Farm Shop & Kitchen, Englefield	H4	Savouring Bath	C4	Vaughan's Kitchen	D4
Cobbs Farm Shop & Kitchen, Hungerford	F4	Tea Shop by the Canal	C4	Wadworth Brewery	D4
Fisherton Mill	E6	The Royal Windsor Pub	K3	Wharf Tea Rooms	D4
		The Dining Room at Whatley Manor	F4	White Horse Inn	F4
				The Crown & Anchor	F4
					C3

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Bristol Airport Amazing Journeys start here

Canal & River Trust Making life better by water

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Key

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



500 MILES OF TWISTS AND TURNS AND NEW DISCOVERIES