

ITINERARY

Exploring Beyond: Extend Your Great West Way Journey into South Wales

After spending 3-5 nights discovering England's Great West Way, visitors can extend their holiday with an additional 3-day journey into neighbouring South Wales. Easily accessible from Bristol via the Severn Bridge, Rhondda Cynon Taf offers a compelling combination of industrial heritage, award-winning attractions, stunning landscapes and authentic Welsh culture. Visitors can discover world-famous industries, explore spectacular scenery and uncover stories that helped shape modern Britain.

Day 1: From Bristol to South Wales – Heritage, Gin & Royal Excellence

Depart Bristol and cross the Severn Bridge into South Wales, arriving in the Vale of Glamorgan.

Begin with a guided tour and tasting at **Hensol Castle Distillery**, one of Wales' leading craft distilleries. Located within the grounds of a historic castle estate, visitors can learn about the distillation process, discover the botanicals used to create award-winning Welsh spirits and enjoy a tasting session.

Continue to **The Royal Mint Experience**, where more than 1,100 years of history come to life. Visitors can enjoy a behind-the-scenes guided factory tour, witnessing UK coin production in action, before exploring interactive exhibitions that reveal the Royal Mint's royal connections, historic treasures and innovative work in precious metals, sustainable technologies and luxury jewellery. The experience also showcases the contemporary collections from 886 by The Royal Mint, offering the opportunity to purchase a unique piece of British craftsmanship.

Overnight: Rhondda Cynon Taf area

Day 2. Coal Mining Heritage & Mountain Landscapes

Discover the story of South Wales' industrial past at the award-winning **Rhondda Heritage Park Museum**, home to **A Welsh Coal Mining Experience**. Led by former miners, the immersive Black Gold Underground Tour takes visitors through original colliery buildings, engine houses and lamp rooms, bringing to life the experiences of the communities whose coal once powered the world. Interactive exhibits and fascinating stories reveal the vital role the Rhondda Valleys played in Britain's industrial development, including supplying coal for the Titanic.

In the afternoon, swap industrial heritage for spectacular scenery with a visit to **Penpych Mountain and Waterfall**. This beautiful walking area offers great hiking with panoramic viewpoints across the Rhondda Valley, dramatic waterfalls and opportunities for photography and outdoor recreation within the natural landscapes that define South Wales.

Overnight: Rhondda Cynon Taf area.

Day 3. Nature, Heritage, Porcelain and Adventure

Journey onto **Dare Valley Country Park**, a scenic parkland landscape featuring walking routes, lakes, wildlife habitats and sweeping views across the surrounding valleys.

If travelling back to Bristol, make sure you stop at the **Pontypridd Museum** where visitors can find out about the history, culture and industrial heritage of one of South Wales' most important market towns. A few miles down the road you'll find the **Nantgarw China Works Museum** – home of Nantgarw Porcelain, where visitors can explore the last surviving 19th-century porcelain factory in the UK and discover the fascinating story of the world's finest porcelain.

Welsh coal mining experience Rhondda Heritage Park



INSIDER TIP

For the adventurous traveller head to the **Zip World Tower** to experience one of the UK's most exciting adrenaline attractions, featuring zip lines and adventure activities set within a former coal mining site.



Places	Miles by road*
Bristol City Centre via Hensol Castle Distillery to The Royal Mint	55miles / 88km
The Royal Mint Experience via Rhondda Heritage Park to Penpych Waterfall	18 miles / 29km
Penpych Waterfall via Dare Valley Country Park, Pontypridd Museum and Nantgarw China Works	34miles / 55km

*These are the total distances for the day.