



ENGLAND'S
GREAT WEST WAY®

INSPIRING ITINERARIES

EXPLORING THE NORTH
WESSEX DOWNS AONB



North Wessex Downs AONB

Why spend hours on the road when there's so much to experience in just two days of exploring the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)?

Day 1. Hungerford to Marlborough

An historic market town famous for its antique shops. After morning coffee and pastries at **The Tutti Pole**, it's time for a walk. **Hungerford** is at the centre of the **North Wessex Downs AONB**, which has produced a leaflet of three short walks exploring the streets and canal areas of the town. An opportunity for your group to explore independently. Or, they could enjoy their refreshments on board the **Rose of Hungerford**, based on the Wharf, on a boat trip along the **Kennet & Avon Canal**.

On the way out of town stop at award-winning **Alder Ridge Vineyard and Cobbs Farm Shop** and enjoy a 45 mins vineyard tour (May and September), followed by a tasting of the wine itself, of course! Cobbs Farm Shop is open all year – a great place for lunch or drive through the country lanes for lunch in the **Three Tuns Freehouse at Great Bedwyn**. In the 16th century this idyllic English village was held by the Seymour family, and there is a memorial to the father of King Henry VIII's wife Jane Seymour in St. Mary's church. Discover a stone effigy of a knight in armour.

Next stop is **Wilton Windmill**. Built in 1821, it's the only operating windmill in Wessex. After a guided tour, take a 2.5-mile circular walk that takes in **Crofton Beam Engines**, magnificent pieces of industrial archaeology and the oldest working steam engines in the world. Pass Wilton Water, a reservoir feeding the K&A Canal, and along part of the old Roman Road that ran from Venta Belgarum (Winchester) to Cunetio (Mildenhall, near Marlborough).

Overnight: Double Tree by Hilton, Swindon or for FIT Helen Browning's Royal Oak, Bishopstone, and Heritage B&B, Liddington both near Swindon.

Day 2. Marlborough

Marlborough is an ancient town, recorded in the Domesday Book as 'Merleberge'. In later years coins were minted here and coaches heading west from London stopped to feed and water their horses. Visit on a Wednesday and Saturday to trawl the local market for goodies and gifts. Explore the magnificently restored 17th century **The Merchant's House** with its acclaimed wall paintings and reconstructed gardens. From this street there's a four-mile circular walk to visit Marlborough's

White Horse, cut in 1804 by a group of schoolboys. On March 10 1498, Thomas Wolsey – later to become Cardinal Wolsey – was ordained in St Peter's Church, a beautiful example of 15th-century religious architecture with Victorian restoration. It now has a coffee shop and craft shop where you could enjoy lunch. Guided tours of the Church and Tower are available for groups through Marlborough Tourist Information Centre.

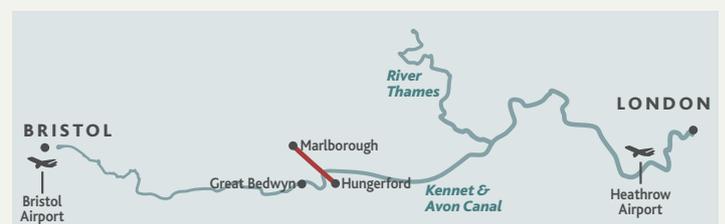
In July, catch one of the **Marlborough College Summer School** evening entertainments, ranging from talks to orchestral evenings. Or book one of their Summer Residential courses – there are over 500 to choose from.

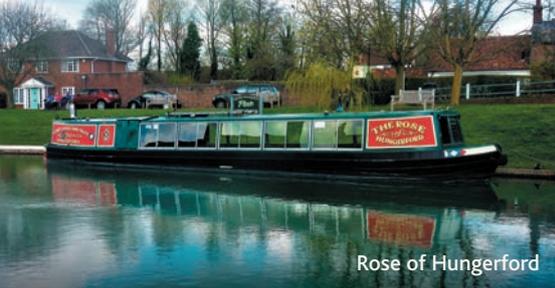
INSIDER TIP

The origins of the Town & Manor of Hungerford & Liberty of Sanden Fee go back to at least the 14th century. Now a charity, it was set up to protect commoners' rights and the lands and rivers of the Town and Manor of Hungerford. Join one of the expert-led walks or trailer rides to find out more about the local area, and the conservation projects managed by this organisation).

To organise a group trip contact Sally Wallington:
07932 322163 admin@townandmanor.co.uk

Places	Miles/kms by road
Hungerford to Marlborough	14miles/23kms





Rose of Hungerford

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Marlborough Street



The Queens Arms



Crofton Beam Engines



Alder Ridge Vineyard



The Merchant's House



Three Tuns

Wholesalers/DMCs

Hotels & More: hotels-more.com

Norman Allen Group Travel Ltd: group-travel.com

Walking tours of the area can be organised through:

Active England (also cycling): activeenglandtours.com

Alison Howells Foot Trails: footrills.co.uk

Compass Holidays: www.compass-holidays.com/destinations/uk/bath-wiltshire

Tour guides:

Oldbury Tours: oldburytours.co.uk

South West Heritage Tours: southwestdriverguide.co.uk

Tour & Explore: tourandexplore.com

Tours 2 Order: tours2order.com

A selection of tour operators and guiding services who offer bookable itineraries along the Great West Way can be found on the Bookable Products section of Greatwestway.co.uk/traveltrade

Contacts

Canal and River Trust: canalrivertrust.org.uk/GreatWestWay

Hungerford: hungerford.co.uk

Kennet & Avon Canal: katrust.org.uk

Marlborough: marlborough-tc.gov.uk/visitors

North Wessex Downs AONB: Northwessexdowns.org.uk

Town & Manor of Hungerford & Liberty of Sanden Fee: hungerfordtownandmanor.co.uk/things-to-do

Wiltshire: visitwiltshire.co.uk

Alder Ridge Vineyard: alderridge.co.uk

Cobbs Farm Shop: cobbsfarmshop.co.uk

Crofton Beam Engines: croftonbeamengines.org

Marlborough College Summer School: summerschool.co.uk

Rose of Hungerford Canal Boat Trips: rose.katrust.org.uk

The Merchant's House: themerchantshouse.co.uk

The Tutti Pole: thetuttipole.co.uk

Three Tuns Freehouse at Great Bedwyn:

Wilton Windmill: wiltonwindmill.co.uk

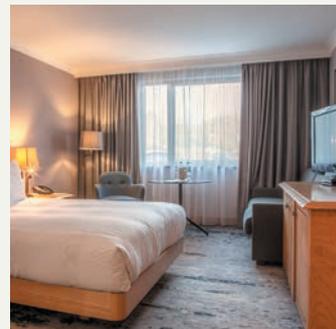
Accommodation



Helen Browning's Royal Oak
BISHOPSTONE SN6 8PP
helenbrowningorganics.co.uk
(12 miles from Marlborough)



Meadowbank House B&B
LIDDINGTON, SN4 0EY
Meadowbankhouse.com
(8.5 miles from Marlborough)



Doubletree by Hilton Swindon
SWINDON SN5 8UZ
doubletree3.hilton.com/en/hotels/united-kingdom/doubletree-by-hilton-hotel-swindon-SWIHNDI/index.html
(14 miles from Marlborough)



Donnington Grove Hotel
NEWBURY RG14 2LA
donnington-grove.com
(9 miles from Hungerford)