




# ITINERARY

## Great West Way by Public Transport: History, Heritage, Gardens & Unmissable Experiences

This 7-day itinerary has been designed for independent travellers and can be travelled with the **Great West Way Discoverer Pass\***, travellers can enjoy seamless, sustainable transport across one of England's most scenic routes, stretching from London to Bristol and beyond. Offering unlimited off-peak train and bus travel for UK visitors, and both off-peak and peak access for international travellers, the pass is the perfect way to explore historic sites, national landscapes, and vibrant cities while reducing your carbon footprint.

 **INSIDER TIP**

**Explore Box, Corsham and Chippenham**

From Bath, hop on the X31 Bus to visit Box, Corsham and Chippenham. In Box, take a stroll along the Box Tunnel Trail; In Corsham, explore the film-worthy Georgian streets; and in Chippenham, take time to experience the town's museum housed in an 18th Century townhouse.

**Day 1. Explore Bristol**

Explore this vibrant city, rich in maritime history, creative culture, and stunning architecture. Stroll along the picturesque Harbourside, perhaps take a trip on **Bristol Packet Boats** or visit the iconic **Brunel's SS Great Britain** and admire the engineering marvel of the **Clifton Suspension Bridge**. Art lovers can enjoy Bristol's thriving street art scene, including works by the elusive Banksy, while foodies will find an exciting mix of independent cafes, markets, and fine dining. With its blend of history, innovation, and energy,

**Overnight:** Brooks Guesthouse Bristol

**Day 2. Bath**

Take the train to Bath, the only city in the UK to be designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site thanks to its extraordinary historic buildings, 17 museums within one square mile, some of the finest architectural sights in Europe, and its remarkable **Roman Baths**. Visit **Mary Shelley's House of Frankenstein** and next door the **Jane Austen Centre**, which both offer insights into these amazing authors lives and their connections with Bath. The city still offers premier spa bathing.

**Overnight:** Hampton by Hilton Bath City Centre, Dukes Bath or YMCA Bath Hostel.

**Day 3. Bradford on Avon**

Take the train to Bradford on Avon where visitors can immerse themselves in the town's rich history and picturesque scenery. Explore the 14th-century Tithe Barn, a testament to the town's medieval past, and visit the well-preserved Anglo-Saxon St Laurence's Church, one of the few surviving examples of its kind in England. Stroll along the Kennet and Avon Canal and stop for lunch or tea at **The Bridge Tea Rooms**. Alternatively, another popular lunch spot, 2 ½ miles out of town is the beautiful **Iford Manor Gardens**, renowned for its Grade I listed gardens and classical architecture.

**Day 4. Salisbury and Stonehenge**

Detour off the route by train to **Salisbury**. Take **The Stonehenge Tour**, a short bus journey from Salisbury station to **Stonehenge**, the world-famous stone circle and its fascinating visitor centre. Back in Salisbury, there's time to explore **Salisbury Cathedral** and **Mompesson House**.

**Overnight:** The Merchant's House, The Riverside, The Mercure White Hart or Milford Hall Hotel

**Day 5. Pewsey and Swindon**

Travel by train to Pewsey, a large village with plenty of amenities including shops, cafes and pubs. There are lots of walks to enjoy along the canal or through the surrounding countryside. Just outside the village is **Jones's Mill**, a Wiltshire Wildlife Trust nature reserve where you can walk amongst woodlands, fens and wet grasslands, spotting rare plants and beautiful wildflowers.

Continue your rail travel to Swindon, where you're sure to find a bargain whilst shopping at the **McArthurGlen Designer Outlet Swindon**, located in the former Great Western Railway Works. Across the road is **STEAM Museum** of the Great Western Railway and nearby Lydiard Park and Gardens.

**Overnight:** DoubleTree by Hilton Swindon or Village Hotel Swindon (bus/taxi required)

**Day 6. Reading**

Reading station is well located in the centre of town where you can discover almost nine hundred years of history, with fascinating buildings and the remains of **Reading Abbey**, a Grade I listed building. Explore **Reading Museum**, as well as independents shops and restaurants. Take a short walk to Caversham Bridge where **Thames Rivercruise** offers boat trips to visitors.


**Overnight:** The Roseate Reading or Pentahotel Reading. Alternatively, slightly further afield is **Hilton Reading**.

**Day 7. Windsor and London**

Queen Victoria had her own personal station for her visits to Windsor. Today it houses Windsor Royal Station - a shopping centre with a daily arts and crafts market. There's a story in every stone at **Windsor Castle**, the oldest and largest inhabited castle.


Take the train to London Paddington and ensure you look at the magnificent architecture of Paddington Station created by Brunel. Leave your luggage at **Excess Baggage Co** on platform 12. Take some time to visit **Apsley House**, **Wellington Arch** and **The National Gallery**.



 **INSIDER TIP**

**Elizabeth Line**

The Elizabeth line offers a fast, modern, and convenient way to travel along part of the Great West Way, linking Reading, Windsor (via Slough), and London Paddington. With spacious trains and frequent services, it provides an easy connection between historic towns and the capital. Whether you're exploring royal Windsor, the shopping and dining of Reading, or starting your journey from Paddington, the Elizabeth line makes travelling between these iconic destinations smooth and stress-free.

 **INSIDER TIP**

**Great West Way Discoverer pass\***

The Great Western Railway, established in 1833 and one of Isambard Kingdom Brunel's greatest engineering achievements, is itself a key part of the heritage along the Great West Way. Paddington Station, the London gateway to the route, is where one of the most beloved characters in children's literature, Paddington Bear, began his London adventures. On Platform 1, visitors can see a charming statue of the bear, complete with his floppy hat and suitcase, marking the spot where he met the Brown family.

Travelling the Great West Way is simple and stress-free with the Great West Way Discoverer pass. It includes unlimited train and local bus travel along the route between London Paddington or London Waterloo and Bristol Temple Meads, via Reading and/or Basingstoke. Pass options and details are available at [GWR.com/GreatWestWay](http://GWR.com/GreatWestWay).



Places	Miles by rail/bus*
Bristol to Bath	GWR 17 mins
Bath to Bradford on Avon	GWR 11 mins
Bradford on Avon to Salisbury	GWR 45 mins
Salisbury to Pewsey	X5 1hr 13mins
Pewsey to Swindon	X5 57mins
Swindon to Reading	GWR 35 mins
Reading to Windsor Royal	GWR 47mins
Windsor to Paddington	GWR 36 mins