

To follow the paths taken by generations of travellers is to discover an essential strand of England. On the Great West Way, extraordinary history rubs shoulders with everyday life.

Arrive into Bristol

Overnight: Hotel du Vin Avon Gorge Hotel overlooking Clifton Suspension Bridge.

Day 1. Exploring Bristol

Take a walking tour to the Clifton Suspension Bridge Visitor Centre and then down to Bristol harbourside and boat trip with Bristol Packet Boats. Visit Brunel's SS Great Britain, one of the most important historic ships in the world. A new Museum 'Being Brunel' is dedicated to Brunel's inventive genius. Clients can enjoy a drink at Prince Street Social, a welcoming modern-style restaurant and bar. Head out to Bristol Blue Glass, founded in 1988 to re-establish a tradition that had been lost for over 60 years. See the Glassblowers at work and an entertaining talk about the production and history of glass. Nearby is Arnos Vale Cemetery - a unique heritage site with 45 green acres of spectacular Victorian Garden Cemetery. Book an expert led private tour - the site contains 25 listed monuments.

Overnight: The Royal Crescent Hotel, Bath or visit Stay in Bath.

Day 2. Follow in the footsteps of the Romans

Bath is a World Heritage Site, vibrant with contemporary culture and rich in centuries of history since Roman times, thanks to the natural hot springs. Visitors will discover a captivating collection of museums, galleries and attractions. Start with Bath Bus Company open-top tour provided by live guides or multi-lingual commentary in 10 languages. The Roman Baths are a must-see consisting of the remarkably preserved remains of one of the greatest religious spas of the ancient world. Other places to visit: Dyrham Park; Fashion Museum; No. 1 Royal Crescent; Prior Park Landscape Garden; The Holburne Museum or The Jane Austen Centre.

Overnight: The Swan or Woolley Grange Hotel, Bradford on Avon.

Day 3. Journey further into the essence of England.

A stroll through **Bradford on Avon** is a walk through time; The Romans, Saxons, Normans, Georgians and Victorians have all left their mark. Take a boat trip along the Kennet & Avon Canal on board **The Barbara McLellan** based at the wharf.

Lunch and a whistle stop guided tour of Lacock Abbey and Fox Talbot Museum, Wiltshire, managed by the National Trust, its picturesque streets and historic cottages date from the 13th century. Finally, a detour to visit the world-famous prehistoric Stone Circle of Stonehenge.

Overnight: Holiday Inn Salisbury-Stonehenge.

DAY 4. Gin, Windsor and Reading

Continue the detour to Bombay Sapphire Gin Distillery, North Hampshire for a Cocktail Masterclass. Next head to Windsor with a walking tour of Windsor and Eton with Tours2Order before exploring Windsor Castle, home to the Queen and the 15th century gothic St George's Chapel (the venue for Prince Harry's wedding).

Mid afternoon head to **Reading** and visit **Reading Abbey Quarter**, witness to almost 900 years of history.

Overnight: The Roseate Reading.

Day 5. Swindon, Longleat and Cheddar Gorge

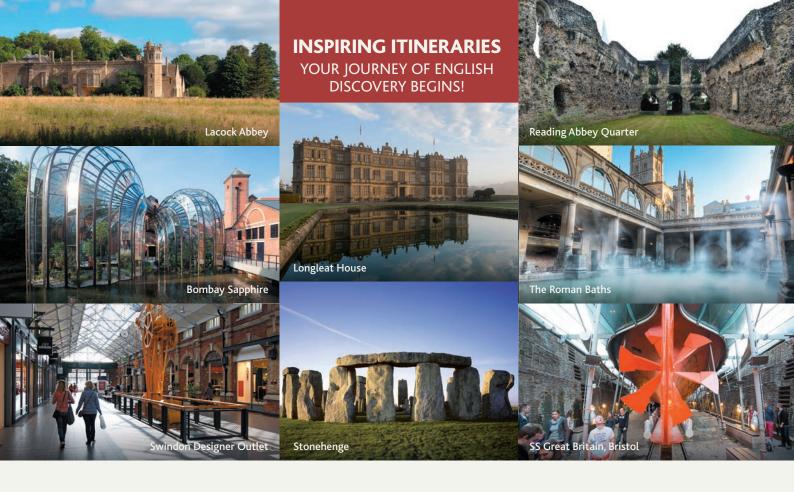
Start the day at The STEAM Museum, Swindon, it gives a 'hands on' look at the story behind the Great Western Railway, and the people who created this piece of English locomotive history. Across the road is the McArthur Glen Designer Outlet Swindon, for a spot of shopping! The afternoon, takes a detour from the route to Longleat House, Wiltshire, a stunning example of high Elizabethan architecture with sweeping corridors and grand rooms dating to 1580. And finally, Cheddar Gorge and Caves, Somerset with its awe-inspiring cliffs to its extraordinary subterranean stalactite show caves.

Overnight: Hampton by Hilton, Bristol Airport.

If you are looking for a longer trip, you could bolt on the **'Exploring the North Wessex Downs'** 2 Day Itinerary, adding in Hungerford and Marlborough. This would fit in neatly between Days 4 and 5. GreatWestWay.co.uk/traveltrade/itineraries

Places	Miles/kms by road
Bristol to Bath	14miles/23kms
Bath to Bradford on Avon	7.5miles/12kms
Bradford on Avon to Amesbury	37miles/60kms
Amesbury to Reading	90miles/145kms
Reading to Bristol airport	126miles/203kms





Local Tour Operators who can offer full tour package or individual days out from destinations for groups or individuals:

Alison Howell's Foot Trails: foottrails.co.uk

Around & About Bath: aroundandaboutbath.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

Bristol: visitbristol.co.uk **Bath:** visitbath.co.uk

Bradford on Avon: bradfordonavon.co.uk

Canal & River Trust: canalrivertrust.org.uk/GreatWestWay
North Hampshire and Thames Valley: visitsoutheastengland.com

Reading: livingreading.co.uk/visit Swindon: visitswindon.org.uk Wiltshire: visitwiltshire.co.uk Windsor: windsor.gov.uk Arnos Vale: arnosvale.org.uk

Bath Bus Company: bathbuscompany.com

Bombay Sapphire Gin Distillery: distillery.bombaysapphire.com

Bristol Blue Glass: bristol-glass.co.uk
Bristol Packet Boats: bristolpacket.co.uk
Brunel's SS Great Britain: ssgreatbritain.org
Cheddar Gorge and Caves: cheddargorge.co.uk/

Clifton Suspension Bridge Visitor Centre: cliftonbridge.org.uk

Fashion Museum: fashionmuseum.co.uk Kennet & Avon Canal: katrust.org.uk

Lacock Abbey and Fox Talbot Museum: nationaltrust.org.uk/lacock-

abbeyfox-talbot-museum-and-village Longleat House: longleat.co.uk

MV Barbara McLellan: bmac.katrust.org.uk
No. 1 Royal Crescent: no1royalcrescent.org.uk
Prince Street Social: princestreetsocial.com
Reading Abbey Quarter: readingabbeyquarter.org.uk

Reading Museum: readingmuseum.org.uk

River Thames: visitthames.co.uk

STEAM Museum: steam-museum.org.uk

Stonehenge: english-heritage.org.uk/stonehenge

Swindon Designer Outlet: swindondesigneroutlet.com

Thames Rivercruise: thamesrivercruise.co.uk The Holburne Museum: holburne.org The Jane Austen Centre: janeausten.co.uk

The Museum of English Rural Life: merl.reading.ac.uk

The Roman Baths: romanbaths.co.uk
Windsor Castle: royalcollection.org.uk
Tours2Order: tours2order.com

Accommodation

Hampton by Hilton, Bristol Airport: hamptoninn3.hilton.com/en/hotels/united-kingdom/hampton-by-hilton-bristol-airport-BRSHXHX/index.html Holiday Inn Salisbury-Stonehenge: hisalisbury-stonehenge.co.uk

Hotel du Vin Avon Gorge Hotel, Bristol: hotelduvin.com/locations/bristol-

avon-gorge

Stay in Bath: stayinbath.org

The Roseate Reading: roseatehotels.com/reading/theroseate/

The Royal Crescent Hotel, Bath: royalcrescent.co.uk The Swan, Bradford on Avon: theswanbradford.co.uk

Woolley Grange Hotel, Bradford on Avon: woolleygrangehotel.co.uk







