

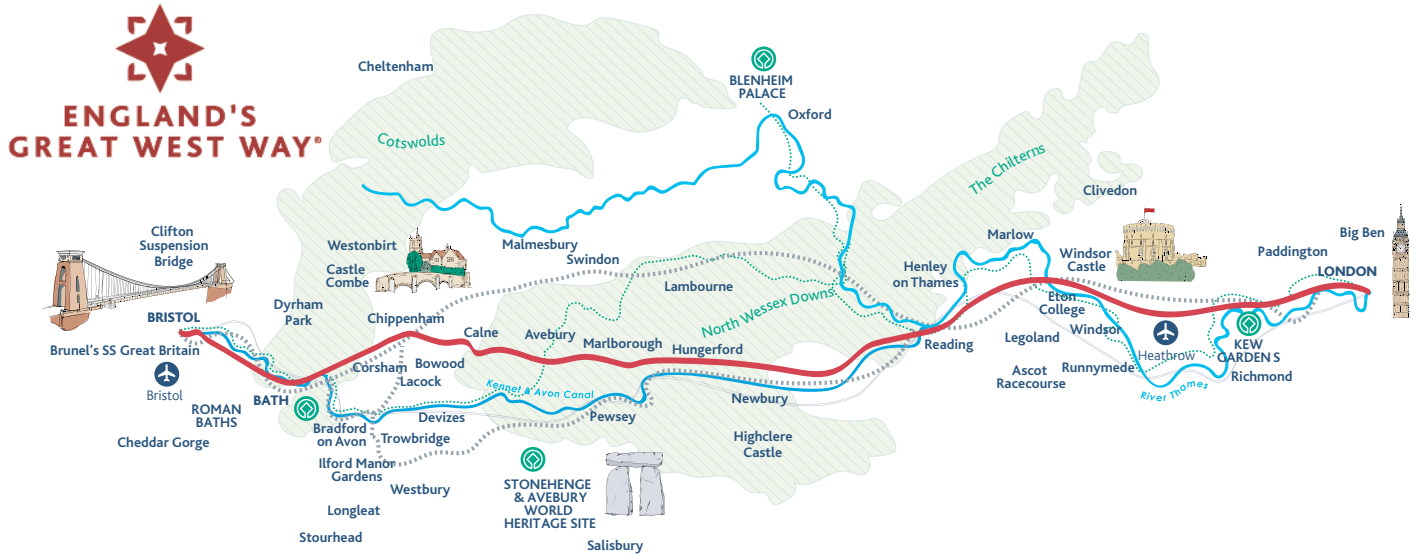
UNCOVER THE COTSWOLDS ON THE GREAT WEST WAY



MIX & MATCH
ITINERARY OPTIONS
AVAILABLE



Avebury



This 10-day itinerary links the Great West Way and the Cotswolds and is suitable for both self-drive FIT travellers or small groups.

It highlights the history and heritage of the area combining beautiful countryside and historic cities as well as including activities that are a little bit different – particularly suiting repeat visitors to the region. The suggestions for accommodation are positioned for higher end clients but this could be adapted for different budgets.

- DAY 1

WEST LONDON
- DAY 2

WINDSOR
THAMES
READING
NEWBURY
- DAY 3

WILTSHIRE
- DAY 4

WILTSHIRE
- DAY 5

BATH
- DAY 6

COTSWOLDS &
SEVERN VALE
- DAY 7

CHELTENHAM
TEWKESBURY
FOREST OF DEAN
- DAY 8

BROADWAY
STOW-ON-THE-WOLD
MORETON-IN-MARSH
- DAY 9

OXFORD
HENLEY-ON-THAMES
- DAY 10

RETURN TO LONDON
HEATHROW



The Thames Lido

Windsor Castle

DAY 1 WEST LONDON

Arrive in London and consider exploring somewhere away from the popular tourist attractions. There's the **London Wetland Centre** with 105 acres of award-winning nature and wetland reserve – a safe haven for a wide range of wildlife. At Hyde Park Corner you'll find English Heritage's **Apsley House**, the former home of Arthur Wellesley, 1st Duke of Wellington and **Wellington Arch** a victory arch proclaiming Wellington's defeat of Napoleon. Time your visit to view the Household Cavalry riding under the arch to and from the Changing of the Guard at Horse Guards Parade.



Hampton Court Palace

Heading further West, visit **Turner's House** in Twickenham is where this great landscape painter used to retreat from the London art world or stop off at the nearby **Strawberry Hill House & Gardens**, which is internationally famous as Britain's finest example of Georgian Gothic revival architecture.

Situated on the River Thames, **Hampton Court Palace**, built by Cardinal Wolsey in 1515 and enhanced by Henry VIII, is a Tudor masterpiece, filled with the most exquisite treasures from the Royal Collection.

OVERNIGHT

For visitors travelling to/from Heathrow airport there are a number of easily accessible accommodation providers on the outskirts of London such as **Monkey Island Estate** or **Pennyhill Park**.

DAY 2 WINDSOR/THAMES/READING/NEWBURY

MORNING OPTIONS

Journey via Windsor where first time visitors can stop off at **Windsor Castle** to see the oldest and largest inhabited castle in the world. **French Brothers** run boat trips on the River Thames

from Windsor, Runnymede and Maidenhead. Choose from a short return trip or a full-day cruise. The history of Maidenhead can be told through its river, roads and railway and visitors can fly in a Spitfire simulator at the **Maidenhead Heritage Centre**.

At Henley-on-Thames you can visit the **River & Rowing Museum** and take a **Hobbs of Henley Boat Trip** with themes such as Midsomer Murders or gin and fizz cruises are available for pre-booked groups.

AFTERNOON OPTIONS

In the afternoon head to **Reading** who is celebrating its 900th anniversary in 2021.

The Thames Lido is an urban retreat open all year-round offering spa days and swimming memberships along with a strong Spanish and Mediterranean feel restaurant and tapas bar, which makes a great lunch stop.

In the afternoon there is an opportunity to visit **Reading Museum**, the beautiful **Abbey Quarter** and **Museum of English Rural Life**.

Head to Newbury, home of **Newbury Racecourse**. Stop off at **West Berkshire Brewery** for a behind the scenes brewery tour en-route. Or take trip to **Shaw House** – one of the best-preserved Elizabethan mansions in England.

OVERNIGHT

NEWBURY AREA Take a well-deserved rest after a busy day at **Donnington Grove**, **The Queen's Arms**, East Garston or **The Royal Oak**, Yattendon.

DAY 3 WILTSHIRE

MORNING OPTIONS

Start the day at the nearby **Herongate Club**, recently refurbished this independent health club offering top quality, modern facilities with swimming pool, sauna, steam room and spa.

Travel through the **North Wessex Downs AONB** to see **Wilton Windmill**.

Visit **Marlborough** for some shopping on the widest high street in England, visit the 17th century **The Merchant's House** or for a few weeks every year **Marlborough College Summer School** offers over 500 fabulous courses on an eclectic range of subjects from art and architecture to body and mind, life skills to sport.

Travel a few miles to explore **Avebury Stone Circle** and **Avebury Manor and Garden**.

Stop for lunch at **White Horse Inn**, Calne, **Honeystreet Boats & Café**, Pewsey, or in **Hungerford Cobbs Farm Shop & Kitchen** or **The Tutti Pole**.

Kennet & Avon Canal



AFTERNOON OPTIONS

In the afternoon visit **REME Museum** in Lyneham or head to Swindon where you can hunt for bargains and shop till you drop at **McArthurGlen Designer Outlet Swindon**.

Over the road you'll find the **STEAM Museum of the Great Western Railway** where you can discover more about the men and women who built, operated and traveled on this pioneering railway network.

*For something a little different hire a classic car from **Vintage Classics** or travel to Malmesbury and discover the secrets of creating a beautiful kitchen garden with a **Fork to Fork at Whatley Manor** or book a **Secret Garden and magic of Malmesbury**, for a behind the scenes tour of **Abbey House Gardens**.*

OVERNIGHT

MALMESBURY AREA **Whatley Manor Hotel & Spa** or **The Old Bell Hotel**.

with cake stand, finger sandwiches and waitresses dressed in Victorian costumes.

AFTERNOON OPTIONS

Head to the beautiful market town of **Bradford on Avon** where you can stop for lunch at **The Bridge Tea Rooms**. Relax aboard **Sally Narrowboats** whilst you journey along the **Kennet & Avon Canal**.

Just outside the town you'll find the award-winning Italianate Grade 1 listed **Iford Manor Gardens** with its unique romantic design and architecture.

*For something a little different, detour off the Great West Way to explore **Salisbury** and the surrounding area. Climb 332 steps on a **Salisbury Cathedral Tower Tour**, take an Alpaca for a walk at **Cholderton Rare Breeds Farm** or take a leap of faith for a tandem **Skydive at Netheravon**.*

OVERNIGHT

WILTSHIRE **Woolley Grange Hotel** or **Best Western Leigh Park Hotel** which are both in Bradford on Avon.

DAY 4 WILTSHIRE

MORNING OPTIONS

Journey to **Bowood House & Gardens** near Calne to enjoy a beautiful day visiting Lord and Lady Lansdowne's family home, surrounded by acres of 'Capability' Brown landscape and stunning gardens.

Stop for lunch at **The Bridge Tea Rooms** where visitors will receive a traditional Victorian Afternoon tea/lunch complete

DAY 5 BATH

MORNING OPTIONS

Explore this UNESCO World Heritage City at your leisure. A visit to **Roman Baths** is a must for first time visitors. For those who would like a cultural experience how about visiting the city museums such as **Holburne Museum** or **Museum of East Asian Art**. For literary enthusiasts there's the **Jane Austen Centre** and for those who love gardens the **Hidden Gardens of Bath** and **American Museum & Gardens** are worth a visit.

AFTERNOON OPTIONS

Try **Clayton's Kitchen** for lunch and in the afternoon spoil yourself rotten at **Thermae Bath Spa** or treat yourself whilst shopping at the many shops in the city centre.

*For something a little different try **Meadows & Morsels**: a culinary sampling experience of Bath with **Savouring Bath**.*

OVERNIGHT

BATH CITY CENTRE The Royal Crescent Hotel & Spa, **Dukes Bath** or **Bailbrook House**.



Roman Baths



Bath



Westonbirt

DAY 6 COTSWOLDS & SEVERN VALE

MORNING OPTIONS

Head north of the Great West Way to extend your visit into the Cotswolds. Take time to explore the magnificent **Westonbirt**, **The National Arboretum** and discover more about the Royals at Highgrove by taking a **Sensational Garden Tour** with 2-course lunch.

AFTERNOON OPTIONS

In the afternoon, take a tour of **Berkeley Castle** – the oldest castle in England still lived in by the family that built it 900 years ago. Journey into Gloucester to visit **Painswick Rococo Garden** or **Experience 1,000 years of history at Gloucester Cathedral**.

*For something a little different book a **Garden to Vase** flower workshop at **Cotswolds Country Flowers** or take part in a **spindle workshop** using an alpaca fleece at **Cotswold Alpacas**.*

OVERNIGHT

GLOUCESTER AREA Stonehouse Court Hotel, The Painswick or Hatton Court Hotel.

DAY 7 CHELTENHAM / TEWKESBURY / FOREST OF DEAN

MORNING OPTIONS

Discover more about England's History and the 'Wars of the Roses' in 1471, with Tewkesbury Battlefield Walks which are free and take 2 hours. Visit **Tewkesbury Abbey** which is celebrating 900 years since its consecration and 550 years since the Battle of Tewkesbury.

Take a **Sudeley Experience Tour** where expert guides can take you on a private tour of this magnificent castle. Spend time in Cheltenham exploring the heritage on a **Regency Cheltenham Walking Tour**.

AFTERNOON OPTIONS

Or, head to the Forest of Dean for a **Craft Brewery Tour, Beer Tasting and lunch** at Hillside Brewery, who will share some of the secrets to creating a delicious brew (duration 3½ hours). In the afternoon take a two-wheeled tour of the beautiful Forest of Dean on **Pedalabikeway's electric bike experience** or visit the **Royal Historic Tree Trail** with Cream tea at The Speech House Hotel in Coleford.



For something a little different – Discover Cheltenham's unique connection with the East India Company and the British Raj for a 'Curry and Colonels' Guided Tour Experience'. Or why not try Wild Food Foraging with gourmet lunch in Forest of Dean.

For something a little different – Go Wild Caving at Clearwell Caves – Ochre Mining Experience which takes you down a spectacular natural caves system that has been mined for more than 4,500 years. Or book in to The Chocolate Experience where you can learn the secrets of the chocolatiers as you create your own handmade organic chocolates.

OVERNIGHT

CHELTENHAM AREA Queen's Hotel
MGallery, No 38 The Park or The Greenway
Hotel & Spa.



DAY 8 BROADWAY / STOW-ON-THE-WOLD / MORETON-IN-MARSH

MORNING OPTIONS

Start your day at **Batsford Arboretum**, one of the largest private tree collections with 56 acres to explore. Take a visit to the **Cotswold Falconry Centre** to see these amazing birds of prey in flight. Just over the road is **Bourton House Garden** with its fantastic tithe barn and cream teas!

AFTERNOON OPTIONS

Head for lunch in the village of Broadway or visit **Broadway Tower** with its wonderful views before visiting **Snowhill Manor & Garden**. If you are visiting in the summer then **Cotswolds Lavender Farm** is worth a visit or at other times of the year consider a floristry workshop at **Bloomery** on the Farncombe Estate.

For something a little different why not try your hand at Pottery at the Honeybourne Pottery Studio for a hands on clay workshop, or explore the countryside on an electric bike with Cotswold Electric Bike Tours. Or how about a Countryside Skills Experience where you can become a shepherd for the day and have a go at working a sheepdog.

OVERNIGHT

BROADWAY AREA Dormy House Hotel, Lygon Arms,
Noel Arms Hotel, or The Fish Hotel.

DAY 9 OXFORD / HENLEY-ON-THAMES

MORNING OPTIONS

Journey East to explore the town of Witney to learn more about the wool trade with a **Witney Blanket Experience**. Nearby you will find **Cogges Manor Farm** a film location for *Downton Abbey*.

Don't forget to allow plenty of time to explore the magnificent **Blenheim Palace** for a Sir Winston Churchill Experience.

AFTERNOON OPTIONS

In the afternoon, journey back to the Great West Way to visit **Stonor Park** near Henley-on-Thames.

*For something a little different how about **afternoon tea at Waddesdon Manor** or find out about bus and coach travel over the last 130 years at the **Oxford Bus Museum**.*

OVERNIGHT

ON THE GREAT WEST WAY
At **Henley Greenlands**, **The Langley** or for more central accommodation try **Roseate London**.

DAY 10 RETURN TO LONDON HEATHROW

TRAVEL TIMINGS: GREAT WEST WAY & THE COTSWOLDS

Places	Journey Time (Rail/Bus)
Bath to Gloucester	1 hour 5 minutes
Bath to Salisbury	55 minute
Bristol Airport to city centre	30 minutes
Bristol to Bath	11 minutes
Broadway to Oxford	1 hour 2 minutes
Cheltenham to Broadway	30 minutes
Gloucester to Cheltenham	26 minutes
Henley-on-Thames to Heathrow	34 minutes
Malmesbury to Bath	45 minutes
Newbury to Malmesbury	53 minutes
Oxford to Henley-on-Thames	40 minutes
Salisbury to Stonehenge	33 minutes (bus)
Salisbury to Swindon (via Melksham)	79 minutes
Swindon to Reading	30 minutes
Reading to London Paddington (via Slough)	30 minutes
Reading to Windsor (via Slough)	30 minutes
London Heathrow to Newbury	1 hour
London Paddington to Bristol	1 hour 40 minutes
Paddington to Heathrow	35 minutes

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For further trade information, visit:
www.GreatWestWay.co.uk/traveltrade
www.cotswolds.com/trade

For more general information of the area see:
www.cotswolds.com
www.GreatWestWay.co.uk
www.visitcheltenham.com

For further advice, itinerary ideas,
images and contact details please email:
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