

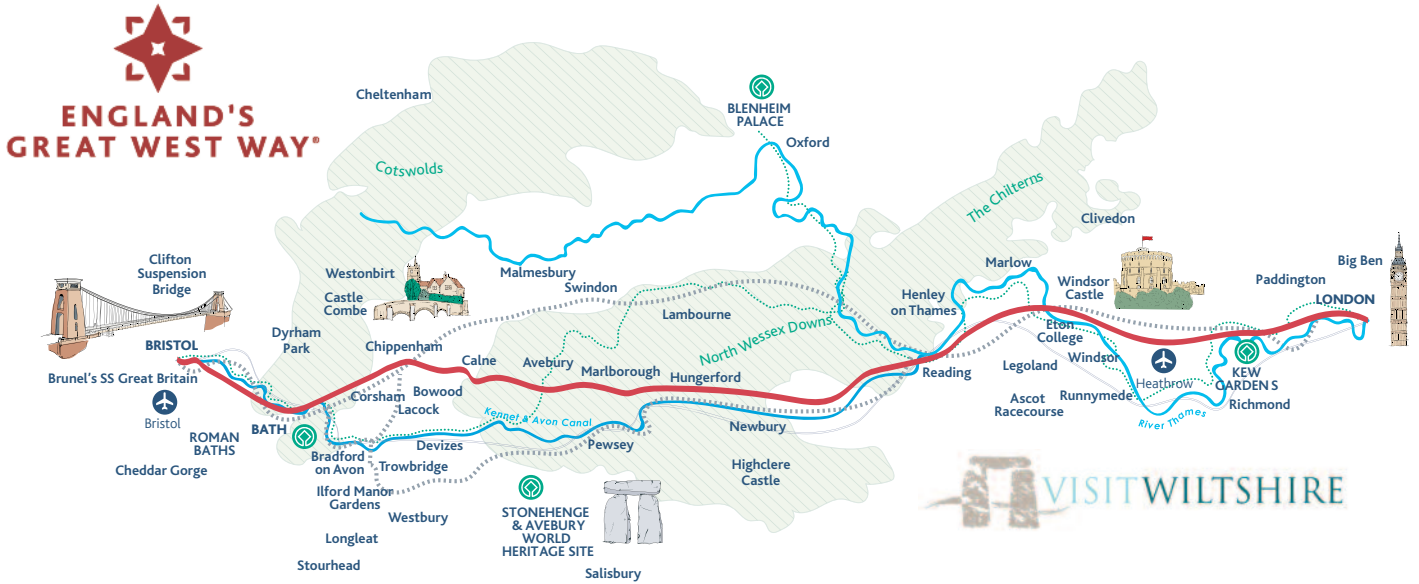
UNCOVER THE COTSWOLDS EXPLORE WILTSHIRE & THE COTSWOLDS



MIX & MATCH
ITINERARY OPTIONS
AVAILABLE

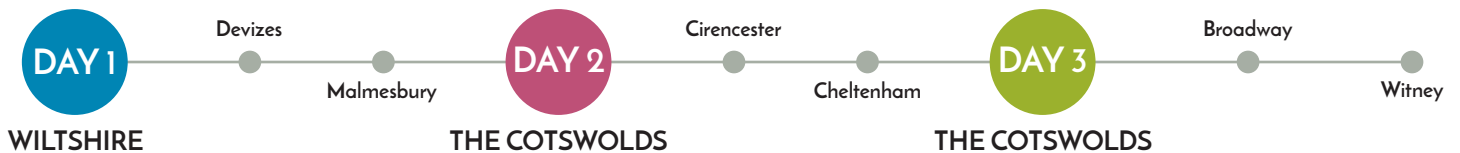


Broadway



A short break itinerary north of Wiltshire takes you into the heart of the Cotswolds.

This 3-day, 2-night programme is particularly suitable for self-drive FIT or small group tours and could be part of a wider Great West Way® programme. It offers curious visitors an abundance of traditional English history, heritage and culture.





Kennet & Avon Canal

DAY 1 WILTSHIRE

DEVIZES

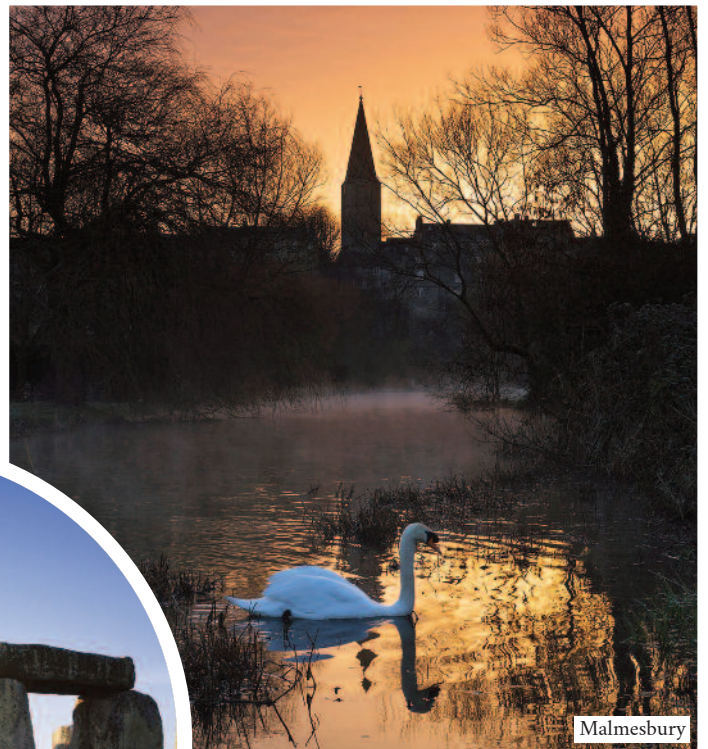
Devizes is a historic market town with a colourful medieval past, wealth of history and architectural heritage. The Town centre is a bustling hive of activity with over 500 listed buildings, over 250 shops, 50 heritage plaques, numerous places to eat and drink, plus a working Victorian (Wadworth) brewery that runs tours and tastings. Devizes also holds Coach Friendly Town status.

Visitors can journey along the **Kennet & Avon Canal** to see the 29 locks of the **Caen Hill** flight, looked after by the **Canal & River Trust** – a triumph of Georgian engineering. Or visit the **Wiltshire Museum** which has award-winning galleries that feature gold from the time of Stonehenge and tells the story of the **Stonehenge and Avebury World Heritage Site**.

As you journey through the countryside, look out for **Wiltshire's White Horses**, the newest of which (cut in 1999 to mark the millennium), can be found on Roundway Hill to the north of Devizes.

MALMESBURY

Malmesbury is England's oldest borough, this market town is brimming with history. Evidence shows that there was an iron Age fort here and Romans occupied the area. The 15th century Market Cross, with its still-accurate sundial, presides over the



Malmesbury



Stonehenge

farmers' and artisan market every Friday.

A visit could include Malmesbury Abbey and **Abbey House Gardens**, the grounds of the former Abbot's lodging. The remarkable Norman abbey, still in use as a church today, houses the tomb of Athelstan, first king of all England and features a 15th century illuminated Bible. Stop for refreshments at the Grade I listed, **The Old Bell Hotel**, reputed to be England's oldest hotel, sitting proudly next to the Abbey.

A 15 minute drive from the town centre takes you to the beautiful **Westonbirt**, **The National Arboretum** or the nearby **Chavenage House**.

Overnight in Malmesbury at **Whatley Manor Hotel & Spa** or **The Old Bell Hotel**.



DAY 2 COTSWOLDS

CIRENCESTER

Cirencester is known as the 'Capital of the Cotswolds'. It is a lovely market town with ancient honey-coloured stone buildings in picturesque narrow streets. In Roman times it was 'Corinium Dobunorum', second in size only to London. However, the Saxons destroyed the town in the 6th century and it was renamed 'Coryn Ceasre'. It recovered to become a prosperous wool town in the medieval period.

The award-winning **Corinium Museum** tells the story of the town's importance as a Roman settlement tracing Cirencester's history from prehistoric times. **New Brewery Arts** craft centre has a gallery and craft shop offering beautiful works, a busy café, accommodation, education studios and on-site craft makers. Visitors can indulge their creativity with practical sessions led by artist educators, tours and talks; or take self-led visits to the gallery.



CHELTENHAM

Treat your senses to the gorgeous architecture of the UK's most complete Regency town of **Cheltenham**. Shop, eat and marvel at the architecture of the Promenade and Montpellier Walk. Celebrate local heroes by visiting the statue of Edward Wilson, part of the Scott Antarctic Expedition. **The Wilson-Cheltenham Art Gallery & Museum** is named after the Polar explorer and the fascinating archives tell his story. Learn the history of the town, explore the library of the printer and book-lover Emery Walker, and glory in the internationally important Arts and Crafts Movement collection and extensive fine art collections.

Another museum not to be missed is the **Holst Birthplace Museum**. Gustav Holst was one of England's most respected composers, best known for his work *The Planets*. He was born in this Regency terraced house in 1874. Now it's one of only two composer birthplace museums in the country, where you can explore Holst's life, his music, his family and friendships, and general domestic life at the end of the 19th century.

Before you leave, take afternoon tea at **Queens Hotel Cheltenham – MGallery**. Tantalise your tastebuds with tiffin as you enjoy the same magnificent architecture that attracted so many society figures to Queens, one of the first purpose-built hotels in Europe. It retains many of its original features, including the wall paper designed by Pugin, a key figure in nineteenth century architecture and design, and the Georgian staircase.

Overnight at **Jury's Inn Cheltenham** or **Doubletree by Hilton Cheltenham**.





Witney

DAY 3 COTSWOLDS

BROADWAY

A famous Cotswold beauty spot, and popular throughout the year. As its name suggests, **Broadway** is dominated by a wide main street lined with independent shops, restaurants, hotels and plenty of antique shops. The local museums are worth a visit; the **Broadway Museum & Art Gallery** is located in a beautiful former coaching inn and **Gordon Russell Design Museum** celebrates the life and work of renowned furniture designer Sir Gordon Russell.

The National Trust's **Snowhill Manor & Garden** was home to Charles Paget Wade who filled the house with 22,000 unusual objects, each bought because of its colour, craftsmanship and design, and he restored the ancient Cotswold manor house to display them.



Broadway Tower

Broadway Tower sits high up on the Cotswold scarp overlooking the town and is a true delight to the landscape. The folly, which was designed by Capability Brown, sits 312 metres above sea level. It's the second highest point on the Cotswolds escarpment with really beautiful views, so it's definitely worth a visit.

There are picturesque Broadway Walks offering visitors breath-taking views of the Cotswolds countryside and village. Maps and guides can be picked up at Broadway TIC.

The Lygon Arms Hotel was once a manor house and is something of a Cotswold institution – in its time it has hosted both Charles I and Oliver Cromwell. Stop for lunch in its award-winning restaurant or take a relaxing break in the stately swimming pool or spa.

WITNEY

Surrounded by stunning countryside, **Witney** is the largest of the market towns in the Oxfordshire Cotswolds. Much of the architecture reflects the past prosperity of the wool trade, including the 17th century Buttercross, the fine tree-bordered green and the **Church of St Mary the Virgin** with its 150ft spire.

The remains of the **'Bishop's Palace'** are situated in the grounds of Mount House and bookings can be made to access the interpretation centre, to find out more about what the archaeological excavations have revealed.

There are lots of green spaces to enjoy and just a short walk from the town centre, across the water meadow, lies **Cogges Manor Farm**, an historic farmstead with a fascinating story.

The quaint **Witney Museum** offers visitors an insight into the history of the town and walking the Witney Wool and Blanket trail is a fantastic way to explore the town at your own pace.

For an overnight option try the **Oxford Witney Hotel** which welcomes the trade.

TRAVEL TIMINGS: GREAT WEST WAY, WILTSHIRE & THE COTSWOLDS

Places	Journey Time (Rail/Bus)
Bath to Salisbury	55 minutes
Bristol Airport to city centre	30 minutes
Bristol to Bath	11 minutes
Broadway to Witney	42 minutes
Cheltenham to Broadway	30 minutes
Cirencester to Cheltenham	28 minutes
Devizes to Malmesbury	42 minutes
Malmesbury to Cirencester	22 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 Paddington to Bristol	1 hour 40 minutes
London Paddington to Heathrow	35 minutes

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For more general information of the area see:
www.cotswolds.com
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For further advice, itinerary ideas, images and contact details please email:
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