

HOW TO TRAVEL THE GREAT WEST WAY

The Great West Way is not just one journey. An adventure here can be by road, by rail, by boat, by bike or on foot. Here are some practical resources to help you with your trip planning.

By road

Hire cars can be picked up at Heathrow and Bristol airports as well as in towns and cities along the route including Bristol, Bath and Swindon. If you're driving yourself don't forget that in England we drive on the left.

CAR HIRE COMPANIES:
 Practical Car and Motorhome Hire: practical.co.uk
 Vintage Classics: vintage-classics.co.uk

On foot

There are numerous short walks along the Great West Way – check out our website for full details.

Three long-distance National Trails also join the Great West Way. The 184-mile Thames Path runs from London to the source of the river in the southern Cotswolds; the 87-mile Ridgeway runs from West Kennet Long Barrow in Wiltshire north through the North Wessex Downs and Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty; and the Cotswold Way runs from Bath for just over 100 miles north through the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

By rail

GREAT WEST WAY DISCOVERER PASS: For an easy, hassle-free journey, choose the Great West Way Discoverer pass. Included in this pass is unlimited off-peak train travel with Great Western Railway from London Paddington or London Waterloo to Bristol Temple Meads, via the Reading and/or Basingstoke routes, with options to branch off towards Oxford and Kemble, in the Cotswolds, as well as to Salisbury on the Wiltshire line through Westbury. Also included is unlimited travel on bus services along the route. One-day, three-day and week-long options are available, with prices from just £24 per person.

Available to book online at gwr.com. The website also has timetables. From outside the UK, book online through ACP (acprail.com) or your travel agent. Collect the Great West Way Discoverer pass from the ticket machines at all stations. You just need the credit card you paid with and the confirmation number you will have received by email. South Western Railway southwesternrailway.com TransWilts Community Rail Partnership transwilts.org Didcot Railway Centre didcotrailwaycentre.org.uk

On water

You don't need any previous experience to enjoy the Great West Way's meandering waterways. The River Thames and the Kennet & Avon Canal run the length of the route. The two meet in Reading, but these are very different waterways. The Thames is England's longest river, beginning as a small spring in the Cotswolds, widening and deepening as it passes through the heart of London to the sea. The Kennet & Avon is in fact two rivers, linked by a central canal section built in the Georgian period. You can canoe, kayak or book one of numerous boat trips.

K&A CANAL TRUST BOAT HIRE AND BOAT TRIPS:
 Barbara McLellan: katrust.org.uk/bradford-on-avon
 Bruce Accessible Boats: bruce.katrust.org.uk/hire
 Honeystreet Boats: honeystreetboats.co.uk
 Jubilee: jubilee.katrust.org.uk
 Kenavon Venture: katrust.org.uk/devizes
 Rose of Hungerford: katrust.org.uk/hungerford

RIVER CRUISES AND BOAT HIRE ON THE THAMES:
 French Brothers: frenchbrothers.co.uk
 Hobbs of Henley: hobbsofhenley.com
 Thames Rivercruise: thamesrivercruise.co.uk

BRISTOL BOAT TRIPS:
 Bristol Community Ferry Boats: bristolofferry.com
 Bristol Packet Boats: bristolpacket.co.uk/boat-trips.html
 The Matthew of Bristol: matthew.co.uk
 SUP Bristol: supbristol.com

By bike

The National Cycle Network covers the UK with waymarked bike trails, both on and off road. National Route 4 runs along the Great West Way, starting in London and running along the Thames to Reading before joining the Kennet & Avon Canal to reach Bath. From here the route takes the Bristol & Bath Railway Path to Bristol.

BIKE HIRE & TOURS:
 Active England: activeenglandtours.com
 Bristol Tandem Bike Hire and Tours: bristol2andemhire.co.uk
 Bainton Bikes, cycle hire, tours and holidays: baintonbikes.com
 Swinley Bike Hub: swinleybikehub.com

Tours and guides

Numerous companies offer tours and guides along the Great West Way, from day tours to multi-day packages.
 Around and About Bath: aroundandaboutbath.com
 Bath Bus Company: bathbuscompany.com
 Alison Howell's Foot Trails: foottrails.co.uk
 Stonehenge and Avebury with Oldbury Tours - Avebury and Stonehenge private guided tours: oldburytours.co.uk

Salisbury, Stonehenge and Sarum Tours: salisburystonehengeandtoursof.co.uk
 Savouring Bath - Artisanal Food & Drink Tours: savouringbath.com
 Tour and Explore: tourandexplore.co.uk
 Tours2Order: tours2order.com
 South West Heritage Tours: southwestdrivertours.co.uk

Attractions in Bristol

- Aerospace Bristol
- Aldwick Estate
- Arnos Vale Cemetery
- Avon Gorge
- Balley Balloons
- Bristol Blue Glass
- Bristol Cathedral
- Bristol Old Vic
- Bristol Zoo Gardens
- Brunel's SS Great Britain
- Clifton Suspension Bridge
- Lido Bristol
- The Matthew of Bristol
- Noah's Ark Zoo Farm
- SUP Bristol
- University of Bristol
- Botanic Garden
- We The Curious

Attractions in Bath

- Bath Abbey
- Fashion Museum
- The Holburne Museum
- Jane Austen Centre
- No. 1 Royal Crescent
- Prior Park Landscape Garden
- Roman Baths
- Shopping in Bath
- Thermae Bath Spa

125 MILES OF TWISTS AND TURNS AND NEW DISCOVERIES

Food and Drink Along The Way

a'Beckett's Vineyard	D5	Dower House Restaurant at The Royal Crescent Hotel & Spa	B4	Prince Street Social	A4
Aldwick Court Farm & Vineyard	F4	The Engineman's Rest Café	E4	Queens Arms	F4
The Bath Brew House	B4	Grey's Brasserie at Whatley Manor	C3	Red Lion Freehouse	E5
Canal Trust Café	C4	The Harrow at Little Bedwym	F4	Royal Oak, Yattendon	C3
Cobbs Farm Shop & Kitchen	F4	Helen Browning's Royal Oak	E3	Springs Café Restaurant at Thermae Bath Spa	B4
The Dining Room at Whatley Manor	C3	Honeystreet Mill Café	E4	The Tea Shop By The Canal	G4
		Koffmann & Mr. White's	B4	Three Tuns Freehouse	E4
		The Newbury	G4	The Tutti Pole	F4
				West Berkshire Brewery	C3

Great West Way Supporting Destinations

Bath	B4	Henley on Thames	H3	Richmond	L3
Bradford on Avon	C4	Hungerford	F4	Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead	K3
Bristol	A4	Malmesbury	C3	Stonehenge & Avebury	F4
Calne	D4	Marlborough	F4	World Heritage Site	J3
Chippenham	C4	Marlow	F4	Swindon	G4
Corsham	C4	Newbury	C2	North Wessex Downs AONB	F4
Cotswolds	C2	Reading	D4	Trowbridge	C4
Devizes	D4			Vale of Pewsey	E4

Key

- Waterways
- A Roads
- Motorway
- Railway
- Discoverer pass Route
- Walking Trail
- National Cycle Network Route 4
- Airport
- World Heritage Site



For more information on the Great West Way visit our website: GreatWestWay.co.uk