

Based on one of the first Great Roads commissioned by the Kings of England, the Great West Way winds its way through landscapes filled with the world-famous and the yet-to-be-discovered.

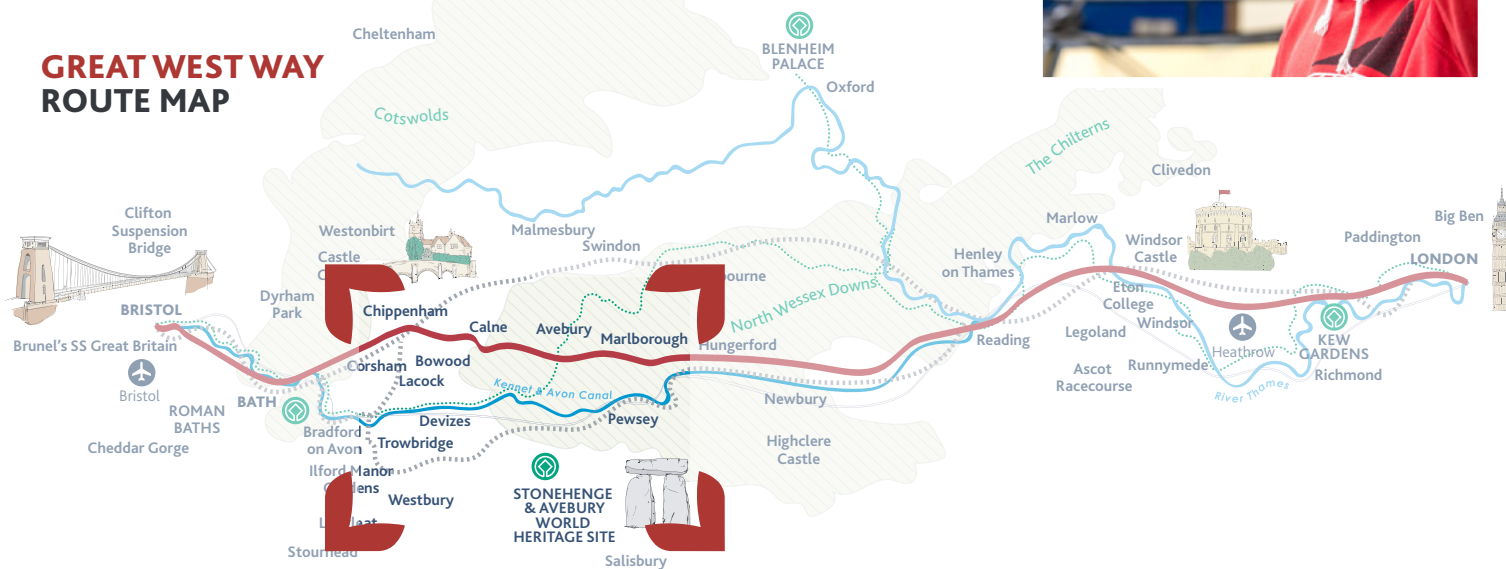


GUIDE TO CANAL BOATING

Enjoy life cruising in the slow lane on a week-long canal boat break along the historic Kennet & Avon Canal heading east on a return trip from Devizes via Hungerford to Kintbury in West Berkshire with the option of stopping off in the glorious Vale of Pewsey in the heart of the North Wessex Downs.



GREAT WEST WAY ROUTE MAP



PLACES OF INTEREST ALONG THE CANALS

- [Caen Hill Locks](#)
- [Kennet and Avon Canal Trust](#)
- [Honey Street Boats](#)
- [Pewsey Vale Trail](#)

- [Crofton Beam Engine](#)
- [Wilton Windmill](#)
- [Savernake Forest](#)
- [Rose of Hungerford](#)

PLACES TO EAT

- [Honey Street Café](#)
- [Enginemen's Rest Café](#)

Three Tuns Freehouse pub

- [Tutti Pole](#)
- [Cobbs Farm Shop](#)

DAY ONE

CAEN HILL



Crofton Beam Engines

Caen Hill is one of the greatest examples of canal engineering in England and is a great place to start your journey along this historic canal. Hire a boat at Devizes from the **Kennet & Avon Canal Trust** or from one of the many operators that are listed with the Canal and River Trust. Alternatively, you could start a little further east along the canal and hire a boat with **Honey Street Boats** and on your return from **Kintbury** you could do an extra leg to **Devizes** and then back to Honey Street. This round trip is about 55 miles and includes 56 locks and you could easily do it all in a week.

Have lunch at **Honey Street Café** or at the **Waterfront Bar and Bistro** by Pewsey Wharf then follow the towpath to **Crofton Beam Engine** – the oldest working beam engine in the world – and the **Enginemen's Rest Café**.

Further along the trail you come to **Wilton Windmill**, built in 1821, it is the only working windmill in Wessex. Just a few miles further along the canal is the **Three Tuns Freehouse** pub in Great Bedwyn.



The Three Tuns pub

DAY TWO

HUNGERFORD

Spend the day exploring the lush green water meadows of the market town of **Hungerford** with its quirky canal bridges and famous antique shops. A great place for lunch is the **Tutti Pole**, a quaint restaurant on the high street selling everything from lights snacks to a full

English Breakfast served all day, three-course meals and afternoon teas. The name Tutti Pole derives from the ancient traditions of Hocktide, an English ceremonial rite dating back to 1365 and is still celebrated in Hungerford each year, when, on the second Tuesday after Easter, two tithing men visit the homes of commoners carrying Tutti poles dressed with spring flowers. There are replica Tutti poles outside the restaurant, while inside there are many photographs of the Hocktide celebrations through the years.

Alternatively, you could take a day off your own boat and go on a popular half-day round trip on the **Rose of Hungerford** boat, travelling east from **Hungerford Wharf** through **Dun Mill Lock Wire Locks**.



Wilton Windmill

DAY THREE

COBBS FARM SHOP

If you need to stock up on supplies during your trip on the canal, head to the wonderful **Cobbs Farm Shop**, just outside **Hungerford**, which has just about everything you could possibly need, including freshly baked bread, honey, preserves and chutneys, cheese, dairy, flour,

eggs, cereals, tea, smoked fish and meats, juices and biscuits. From Hungerford, you can travel along the canal on to Kintbury Bridge 75 from where you'll turn around and return to Devizes. Before you do, have lunch at the **Dundas Arms** – a wonderful riverside pub by the pretty village of **Kintbury**.



Cobbs Farm Shop

INSIDER TIP Looking to plan a trip by canal but unsure of the route and timings? Check out **Canalplan** – a handy route planner for canal journeys that you follow virtually before the trip. canalplan.org.uk

The order of experiences included in this itinerary is intended to be a guide only; you can choose to visit these wonderful experiences at your own pace and in your own way. Devising your own route is all part of discovering the Great West Way!

Take a Walk on the Waterside

From stunning views to take your breath away to tranquil places to get your breath back – the Kennet & Avon Canal makes walking wonderful.

Because life on foot is better by water.



canalrivertrust.org.uk

Charity no. 1146792

DID YOU KNOW?

- **Caen Hill** (produced 'cane') is one of the longest continuous flight of locks in England with a total of 29 locks rising 237 feet over 2 miles, with a 1 in 44 gradient.
- Over **8 million people** in England live within one mile of a canal.
- The **Bruce Branch** of the Kennet and Avon Canal Trust runs canal holidays for disabled, disadvantaged or older people – along with their family, friends or carers. Its purpose-built, wheelchair accessible boats are based at Great Bedwyn Wharf near Hungerford from where you can cruise east to Hungerford, Newbury and Reading, or west through Bruce Tunnel and Honeystreet and on to the Caen Hill Flight at Devizes.



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