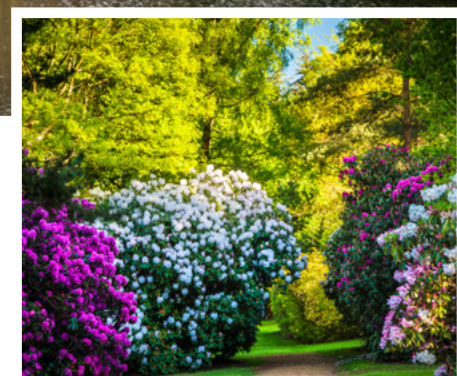


Based on one of the first Great Roads commissioned by the Kings of England, the Great West Way winds its way through landscapes filled with the world-famous and the yet-to-be-discovered.

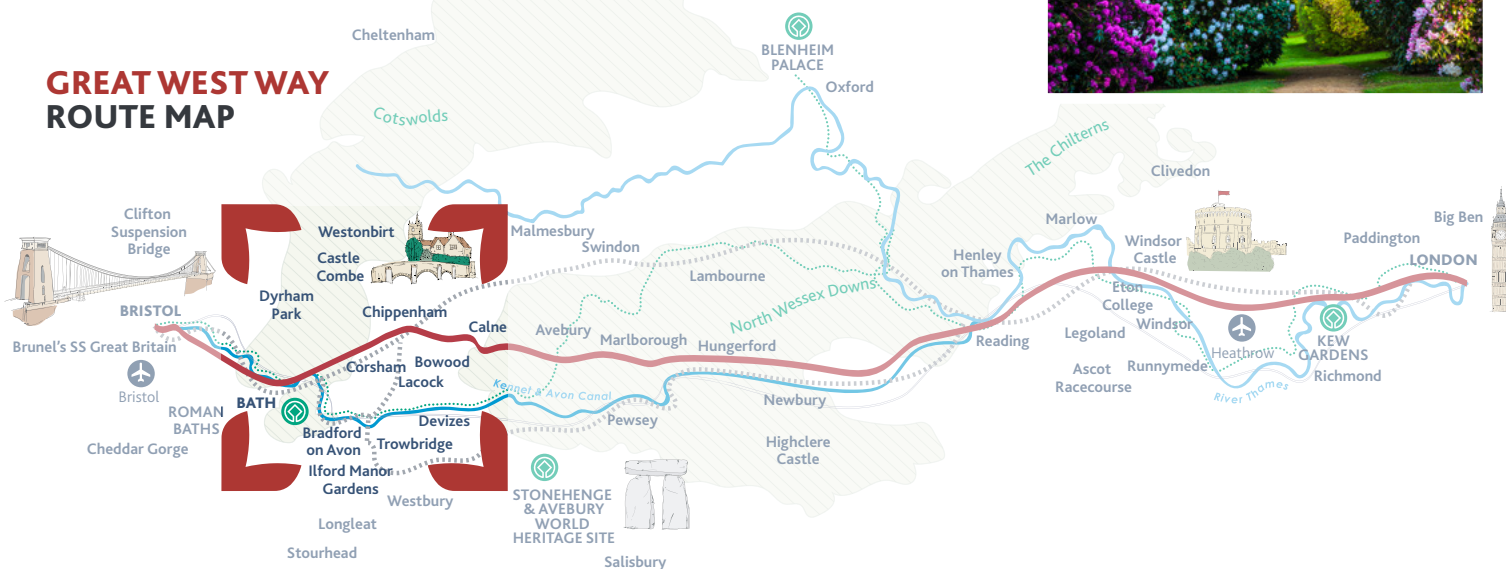


# GUIDE TO ENGLISH LANDSCAPES

Get an insight into an English art form on a 3-day self-drive tour of the Great West Way visiting several genius landscapes created by some of the country's greatest outdoor architects



## GREAT WEST WAY ROUTE MAP



### EXAMPLE OF GREAT ENGLISH LANDSCAPES IN THIS AREA

- [Bowood House](#)
- [Dyrham Park](#)
- [Corsham Court](#)

- [Great Chalfield Manor](#)
- [Lacock Abbey](#)

### PLACES TO EAT

- [Bowood's Treehouse Cafe](#)
- [The Flemish Weaver](#)
- [Dyrham Park tearoom](#)

### PLACES TO STAY

- [Beechfield House Hotel](#)
- [Guyers House Hotel](#)
- [The Crown](#)

## DAY ONE

### BOWOOD HOUSE & GARDENS



**Bowood House and Gardens** near Chippenham offers one of England's most striking manmade landscapes and so is a great place to start your discovery of Great English Landscapes on the Great West Way. It is the home of the Marquis of Lansdowne who still lives there – and who preserves 100 acres of grounds beautifully devised in the 18th century by Lancelot 'Capability' Brown. Britain's most celebrated landscape architect, the gardens and parklands he created are expressive of the cultured civility to which high society of the period aspired. Explore the walled garden on a 90-minute private tour that includes lunch or tea at Bowood's Treehouse Café; or head to Bowood's Stables Restaurant for dishes from produce grown in the kitchen garden.

**Overnight Beechfield House Hotel**, Beanacre in eight acres of its own splendid grounds, which include a walled garden, a small arboretum, formal lawns, and an outdoor heated swimming pool. For dinner, opt for contemporary British cuisine at the hotel's restaurant or enjoy a more informal meal at the bar.



## DAY TWO

### CORSHAM

You'll be wowed by **Corsham Town** to the north west. It's another of the Great West Way's glorious timewarp places. Make for Corsham Court whose grounds were largely devised by 'Capability' Brown and then extended by Humphry Repton, another acclaimed landscape architect who



is often regarded as the successor to Brown. Head into the heart of Corsham for lunch at The Flemish Weaver, a 17th-century ale house full of creaky character.

Spend the afternoon at the National Trust's **Great Chalfield Manor** – a dreamy-looking 15th-century country house with moat and great stone fireplaces. Its glorious garden was redevise around 1910 by the English landscape and flower painter Alfred Parsons. His work was very much in Arts & Crafts style, conjuring visions of an idyllic medieval-like past.

**Overnight at Guyers House Hotel** just outside the village of Pickwick where there's a walled kitchen garden, a lovely hornbeam walk and there are romantic rose-draped gazebos.

## DAY THREE

### DYRHAM PARK & PRIOR PARK

Half an hour's drive west is the **National's Trust's Dyrham Park** - of particular interest is the West Garden, which is now being revived as a 21st-century version of the original grounds that were laid out around 1710 - and subsequently

reworked by Humphry Repton. Take time, too, to explore the extensive ancient deer park beyond, which was partly remodelled in the late 18th century by Bath architect Charles Harcourt Masters.

Dinner at **The Crown** north of Dyrham - a stylish rural pub offers classic fish and chips, country pies, steaks and vegan dishes. There's also the option of staying over in one of nine rooms in a separate wing.

This glorious region is richly endowed with gardens and beautifully devised estates, and along the Great West Way you'll find other great examples of the landscaping techniques of Capability Brown and Humphry Repton.



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!



## DID YOU KNOW?

- **Lancelot 'Capability' Brown**, Britain's most celebrated landscape architect, acquired the nickname 'Capability' because of his frequent remark to clients that their estates offered great 'capability' for improvement.
- **The world's first photographic negative** was produced in Lacock in 1834 by William Fox Talbot, owner of Lacock Abbey.
- In August 2019, Chalfield Garden was revealed as the **third most loved garden** in Britain on Instagram.
- Work is underway to transform Dyrham Park's formal gardens into a **vibrant 21st century garden** inspired by Johannes Kip's 1712 bird's eye engraving of the estate.



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