

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.

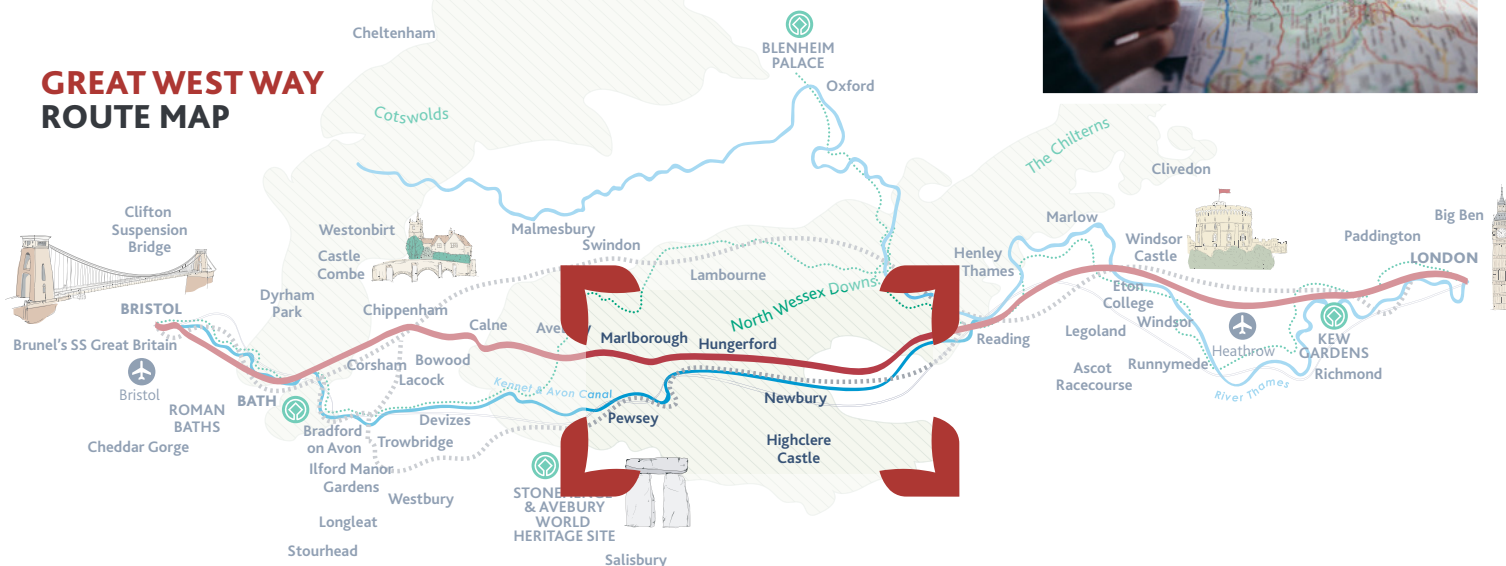


GUIDE TO TOWNS CONNECTED BY PUBLIC TRANSPORT

The Great West Way is superbly well connected by public transport. Explore Newbury, Hungerford and Marlborough – all have intriguing streets, independent shops, quality pubs and cafes, and easy-to-reach countryside.



GREAT WEST WAY ROUTE MAP



PLACES OF INTEREST IN THIS AREA

- [Newbury](#)
- [Newbury Parkway](#)
- [West Berkshire Museum and Shaw House](#)
- [Kennet & Avon Canal](#)
- [Thatcham Nature Discovery Centre](#)
- [Marlborough](#)
- [Merchant's House](#)
- [Savernake Forest](#)

PLACES TO EAT

- [The Lock, Stock and Barrel](#)
- [Three Swans Hotel](#)
- [Tutti Pole](#)
- [Rick Stein's](#)
- [The Food Gallery](#)

- [No.7 Bar, Kitchen and Rooms](#)
- [Three Tuns Freehouse](#)

PLACES TO STAY

- [Three Swans Hotel](#)
- [Castle and Ball](#)

DAY ONE

NEWBURY



When the city of **Bath** became a popular escape from London in the 18th-century, midway **Newbury** was the ideal stopover, and inns and theatres sprang up to cater. Roam the old centre, with its 15th-century **St Nicholas Church**, thriving high street and old square – extra lively when the monthly farmers' market, brimful of fresh local produce, sets up its stalls. Hours more browsing can be done at **Parkway**, Newbury's sleek new shopping centre, where you can peruse more than 50 stores. Seek out the **Cloth Hall**, a medieval weaving workshop that now houses the **West Berkshire Museum**. Else admire the red-brick splendour of **Shaw House** and immerse yourself in stories of its Civil War siege and Second World War soldiers.

Lunch at **The Newbury**, a lively gastropub with a lunchtime menu of salads, burgers and coal-fired steaks then visit **Thatcham Nature Discovery Centre**.

Overnight **Three Swans Hotel**, a recently refurbished 16th-century coaching inn where you can dine in the wood-panelled bar and stay overnight.



DAY TWO

HUNGERFORD

Historic **Hungerford** has the best of all worlds. In the midst of the **North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty**, it's also easy to reach using the **Great West Way GWR Discoverer Pass**.

The old town centre is packed with artisan delis, an excellent independent bookshop, a thriving Wednesday market and specialist stores where you can pick up everything from drill bits to diamond rings. Pop into the **Arcade of Antiques and Collectibles** to find over 100 dealers purveying vintage curiosities for all budgets. Then amble along the canal towpath at Hungerford Wharf. Hungerford's **Tutti Pole** teashop serves super sandwiches and cream teas. At Number 132, **Merchant's House** is a brick-and-timber home built by a wealthy silk mercer from the 1650s that's now a living museum, and further along is **St Peter's Church**, built around 600 years ago and now a welcoming community centre.

Overnight Dine at **Rick Stein's** then stay at **Castle and Ball** coaching inn.



DAY THREE

MARLBOROUGH

If it's a Wednesday or Saturday, don't miss the **market**, which sees Marlborough's High Street fill with local veg, artisan breads and cheeses, fresh flowers and more. At **Hughenden Yard**, the old brewhouse is now filled with interesting little shops; amble along **Kingsbury Street** to

admire the pretty timber-and-plaster houses; visit **London Road and Wagon Yard**, where local artists open up their studios at weekends; and peek through the gates of illustrious **Marlborough College** (it runs a Summer School with over 500 courses across a wide range of activities, including Arts, Literature, Music, Dance). Stretch your legs in **Savernake Forest** – a precious remnant of the wild woodland that used to cloak southern England.

Tucked on the edge of Savernake Forest – and accessible by bus from Marlborough – the **Three Tuns Freehouse** in Great Bedwyn is the perfect place to finish your public transport adventure.



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!

DISCOVER BRISTOL
THE GREAT WEST WAY

Clifton Suspension Bridge, Bristol

Advertising based on a £24 Great West Way Discoverer one-day pass for the West zone. Correct as of 1 May 2020. Selected routes only. Visit GWR.com/GreatWestWay for full terms and conditions.

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GREAT WEST WAY

GREAT WEST WAY GWR DISCOVERER PASS

Get around the Great West Way on the rail and bus network using the **Great West Way GWR Discoverer pass**. It includes unlimited Off-Peak train travel from London Paddington along the route to Bristol Temple Meads via Reading with options to branch off towards Oxford, Kemble and Salisbury via Westbury (or London Waterloo to Salisbury with South Western Railway). It also includes unlimited travel on the bus services along the route. Choose from a one day or seven days ticket to enjoy your Great West Way adventure. gwr.com

The three towns in this guide are all accessible by public transport. Take the Great Western Railway train to Newbury and then to Hungerford from where you can take the train to Bedwyn and then the 20, 21 or 22 bus to Marlborough. Alternatively, take the X22 bus from Hungerford to Marlborough.



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