

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.

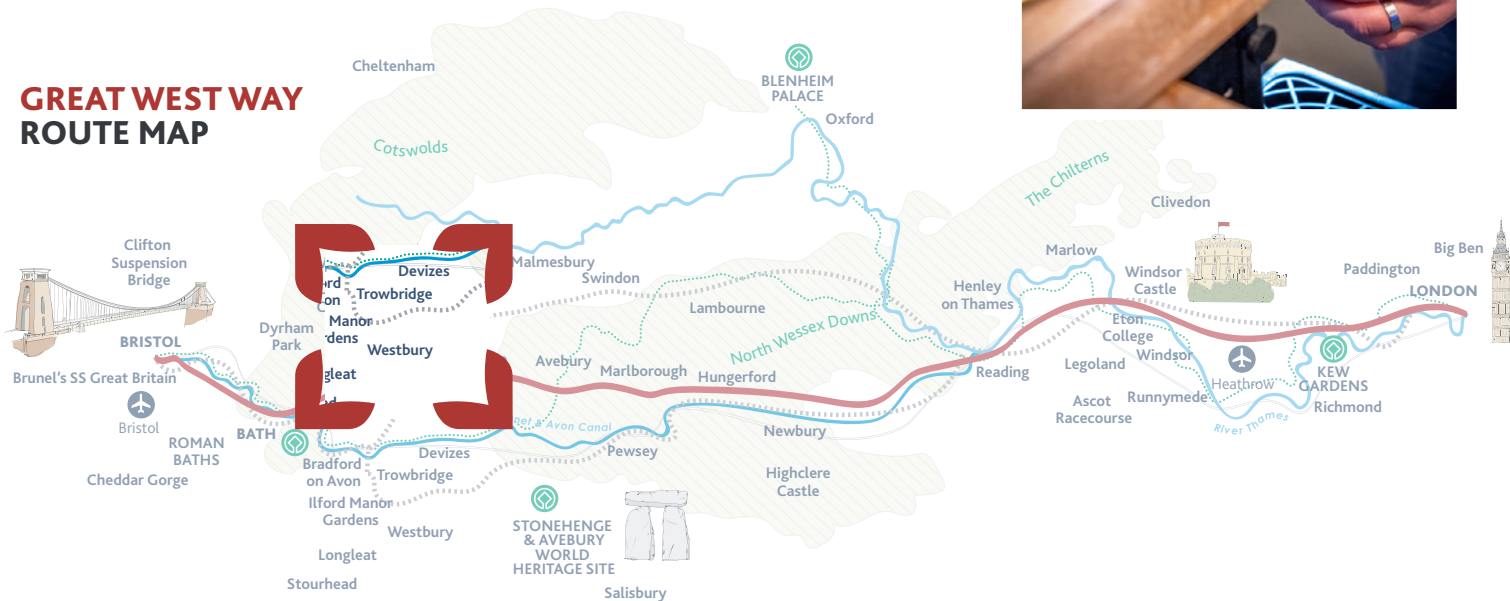


GUIDE TO WALKING ON SALISBURY PLAIN

Discover the serenely unspoilt areas of Salisbury Plain on wonderful panoramas of one of the most intriguing footpaths in the south of England - the Imber Range Perimeter Path, rich in rare plants and wildlife.



GREAT WEST WAY ROUTE MAP



PLACES OF INTEREST AROUND SALISBURY PLAIN

- White Horse and Bratton Camp
- Battlesbury Hill
- Scratchbury Hill
- Market Lavington
- Chitterne
- White Barrow

PLACES TO EAT

- Weymouth Arms
- Red Lion
- Three Daggers
- Horse and Groom

PLACES TO STAY

- Red Lion
- Green Dragon

DAY ONE

WESTBURY



Start at easily accessible Westbury on the western edge of Salisbury Plain – and equip yourself there with Ordnance Survey Explorer maps 130 and 143 and walk two miles north east to explore the **White Horse** and **Bratton Camp** that are seen for miles around.

Then set off southwards along a track running above the chalk figure to the Imber Range Perimeter Path, which you follow south and then east. After about five miles (8km) hiking through strikingly contoured landscape, you'll come to the outskirts of the handsome market town of Warminster. Head to the centre for lunch at the elegant **Weymouth Arms**, an elegant pub whose well-priced lunchtime menu offers ploughmans, hearty steaks and more.

Head back to the Imber Range Perimeter Path and spend the afternoon walking in steeply undulating country and taking in two archaeological sites. About a mile beyond Warminster, **Battlesbury Hill** is topped with the ramparts of an Iron Age hill fort; about a mile and a half further east, **Scratchbury Hill** has another such fort - with terrific panoramas from the impressive earthworks. Here and on other stretches of the plain you may see stonechats and tree pipits - and hen harriers in winter. Continue about two miles (3km) into the village of Heytesbury.

Overnight Eat and stay at the **Red Lion** in Heytesbury. Typical of old inns around the Great West Way, it offers a cheerful welcome, cosy bedrooms and a menu of pub classics, from fish and chips and pies.

DAY TWO

MARKET LAVINGTON

Ask for a picnic from the Red Lion and continue walking east along the Imber Range Perimeter Path – this day's hike is to the village of **Market Lavington** 15 miles away. The route is initially along a country road; the path then turns right taking you very close to the military zone for about two miles. You'll be walking through flower-rich grassland that in spring and summer is often festooned with butterflies and bumble bees. The trail leads away from the army area as it takes you through the village of **Chitterne**. About two miles from there you'll pass a mock village, created by the army during the Cold War period and built to look like an East German village. Have a picnic lunch at the **National Trust's White Barrow**, a large and well-preserved Neolithic long barrow that dates back to about 3,500BC. Past the village of Tilshead and then on to Gore Cross hamlet, turn right off the trail and follow other footpath signs to West Lavington and Market Lavington.

Overnight **Green Dragon**, Market Lavington.



DAY THREE

WESSEX RIDGEWAY

The 14-mile route this day will lead you west back to Westbury. First return to West Lavington, from there the Wessex Ridgeway trail will take you to the Imber Range Perimeter Path. After walking about five miles (8km) on this footpath turn off to reach the village of Edington. Here the chic and enterprising **Three Dagers** offers a choice of lunch options. This pub and microbrewery has a farm shop where you can pick up a picnic to eat at a suitably scenic spot nearby. Alternatively enjoy a stylish meal in the pub. Make your way back to the Imber Range Perimeter Path and continue west. After about five miles (8km) you'll reach the **Westbury White Horse** – proceed to Westbury. Finish the hike at the **Horse and Groom** in Westbury.

With its excellent transport links, the Great West Way is easily accessible from across the UK, yet it is also a gateway to hidden, unspoilt landscapes – Salisbury Plain is a fine example, and there are many other options.



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 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

This guide has been devised to allow access by rail – for which a Great West Way GWR Discoverer pass is ideal – and local buses. You can start and finish the route at Westbury railway station, which is well-served from Bristol, London, Cardiff, Portsmouth and Brighton by Great Western Railway.



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