




**ENGLAND'S
GREAT WEST WAY®**
INSPIRING ITINERARIES
A ROYAL JOURNEY

St. George's Chapel, Windsor

Mark the 200th anniversary of the birth of Queen Victoria and the arrival of the Royal Baby with a pilgrimage along the Great West Way, which follows one of the first Great Roads commissioned by the Kings of England.

Nowhere is as quintessentially English or thoroughly royal as the Great West Way - it follows a road commissioned by King Charles I and is home to Windsor Castle, Hampton Court Palace, Eton College and Highgrove, so where better to mark the 200th anniversary of the birth of Queen Victoria (24 May) and the arrival of the new Royal baby boy.

The new touring route has particularly special connections to the royal couples. For Harry and Meghan, it is home not only to Windsor Castle, where they married, but also to Cliveden House, where Meghan got ready for the wedding and spent her last night as a single woman. Kate Middleton, now the Duchess of Cambridge, attended the independent boarding school Marlborough College in Wiltshire.

Here's how to enjoy a royal journey along the route:

Day 1. Hampton Court Palace

Start at **Hampton Court Palace**— famously home to King Henry VIII and all six of his wives – was a royal residence until 1737. Queen Victoria herself opened it to the public in 1838. Visit the sumptuous Baroque apartments; finally stroll through 60 acres of beautiful riverside gardens. From here, head to **Runnymede**; visit the Magna Carta Memorial and Kennedy Memorial. Then take a 2.5hrs **French Brothers'** boat trip along the 'royal river' **Thames** to Windsor, admiring Windsor Castle from the river. The 'royal river' Thames has been host to the pageantry of coronations and magnificent gilded barge processions.

Overnight: Stay in Windsor at **Castle Hotel Windsor - MGallery by Sofitel** - It began life in 1528 as The Mermaid. In the 1700s it was awarded the first of its eight Royal Warrants - to provide horses and carriages for the royal household. Castlehotelwindsor.com

Day 2. Windsor & Eton

Spend the day exploring Windsor and Eton, starting with a walking tour with **Tours2Order** before visiting Windsor Castle and Eton College. **Windsor Castle** – the world's oldest and largest occupied royal residence was the

focus of the British Empire during Queen Victoria's reign and where she spent most of her time. More recently, St George's Chapel, within the grounds of the Castle, was the setting for HRH Duke and Duchess of Sussex's 2018 wedding, and it's also where the first appearance of their new baby son, Archie has taken place.. Visitors can tour the State Apartments and Chapel. **Eton College** – time will tell whether the royal baby will follow in the footsteps of Dad and Uncle William – both went to Eton College, walking distance from Windsor Castle and open to visitors on guided tours between May and September. Then drive to Malmesbury for an overnight stay.

Overnight: Whatley Manor Hotel & Spa, Malmesbury. A beautiful English manor house in an undeniably picture-perfect setting. Designed for comfort and to deliver a luxury five-star experience, the 23 rooms and suites are completely unique in character. whatleymanor.com

Places	Distances
Hampton Court Palace to Runnymede	12miles/19kms
Runnymede to Windsor	5miles/8kms
Windsor to Malmesbury	73miles/118kms
Malmesbury to Highgrove Royal Gardens	5miles/8kms
Highgrove to Berkeley Castle	16miles/25kms
Berkeley Castle to Bristol	21miles/34kms



Berkeley Castle



A ROYAL JOURNEY



Brunel's SS Great Britain



French Brothers River Thames Boat Trips



Hampton Court Palace



Whatley Manor Hotel & Spa

Day 3. Malmesbury, Highgrove, Berkeley Castle

Explore **Malmesbury**, England's oldest borough with 12th Century Malmesbury Abbey, still in use today and Abbey House Gardens. A short drive to **Highgrove** – when the new royal baby, 7th in line to the throne, visits his Grandpa (HRH Prince of Wales to you and me), he will be going to Highgrove, Prince Charles's private residence. The gardens are open to the public on selected dates throughout the year. Finish the day at **Berkeley Castle** – Henry II gave the Castle to the family in 1153, it has received royal guests ever since: Edward II, Henry VIII, Elizabeth I, the Countess of Wessex and the late Queen Mother have all been to Berkeley Castle. Berkeley Castle is open to visitors from April to October.

Overnight: There's plenty of hotels to choose from in **Bristol** [visitbristol.co.uk/accommodation/hotels](https://www.visitbristol.co.uk/accommodation/hotels)

Day 4. Bristol and Brunel's SS Great Britain

Take a walking tour to the **Clifton Suspension Bridge Visitor Centre** and then down to Bristol harbourside and boat trip with **Bristol Packet Boats**. Visit **Brunel's SS Great Britain** - Prince Albert launched the ship in Bristol on 19 July 1843, having travelled aboard the Royal Train along the then-newly opened Great Western Railway from London to Bristol (a route you can replicate today, albeit not aboard the Royal Train!). Queen Victoria also boarded the ship when it was docked in London in 1845 and described it as "magnificent." When visitors today explore Brunel's SS Great Britain, they can dress up in replica

Victorian costumes, some of which are inspired by Queen Victoria's dresses. Enjoy a drink at Prince Street Social, a welcoming modern-style restaurant and bar before heading home.

Wholesalers/DMCs

- Hotels & More: [hotels-more.com](https://www.hotels-more.com)
- Norman Allen Group Travel Ltd: [group-travel.com](https://www.group-travel.com)

A selection of tour operators and guiding services who offer bookable itineraries along the Great West Way can be found on the Bookable Products section of [GreatWestWay.co.uk/traveltrade](https://www.GreatWestWay.co.uk/traveltrade)

Contacts:

Bristol: [visitbristol.co.uk](https://www.visitbristol.co.uk)

Malmesbury: [discovermalmesbury.life](https://www.discovermalmesbury.life)

Runnymede: [visitthames.co.uk/towns/runnymede-p1067581](https://www.visitthames.co.uk/towns/runnymede-p1067581)

Windsor: [windsor.gov.uk](https://www.windsor.gov.uk)

Berkeley Castle: [berkeley-castle.com](https://www.berkeley-castle.com)

Bristol Packet Boats: [bristolpacket.co.uk](https://www.bristolpacket.co.uk)

Clifton Suspension Bridge: [cliftonbridge.org.uk](https://www.cliftonbridge.org.uk)

French Brothers: [frenchbrothers.co.uk](https://www.frenchbrothers.co.uk)

Hampton Court Palace: [hrp.org.uk/hampton-court-palace](https://www.hrp.org.uk/hampton-court-palace)

Highgrove Royal Gardens: [highgrovegardens.com](https://www.highgrovegardens.com)

SS Great Britain: [ssgreatbritain.org](https://www.ssgreatbritain.org)

Tours2Order: [tours2order.com](https://www.tours2order.com)

Windsor Castle: [royalcollection.org.uk](https://www.royalcollection.org.uk)