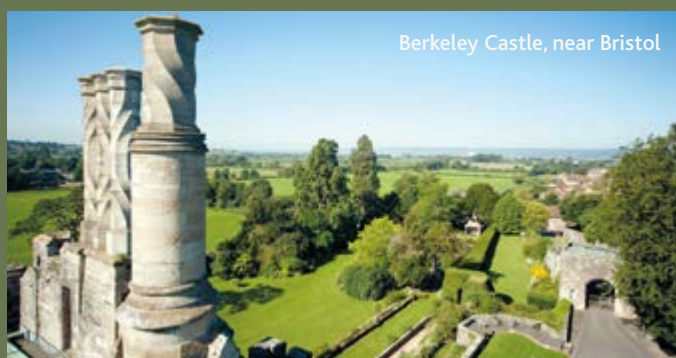


# ITINERARY

## Exploring Beyond: Bristol, Bath, the Cotswolds & Gloucestershire

This delightful detour from the Great West Way cities of Bristol and Bath offers an abundance of genuine heritage and cultural choice to create your itineraries:



Berkeley Castle, near Bristol

### Day 1. Bristol

Start in Bristol and explore its history, culture and thriving food scene. Visit Bristol Cathedral, founded in 1140 by the first Lord Berkeley, which boasts some of the most important medieval architecture in the UK. Stop for lunch at Princes Street Social. Visit Brunel's **SS Great Britain** before taking in the sights on an Avon Gorge boat trip with Bristol Ferry Boats. There's plenty to see: The Rocks Railway and the old steamship dock, sail underneath the amazing **Clifton Suspension Bridge**, past Horseshoe Bend and the Old Powder House.

**Overnight: Bristol**

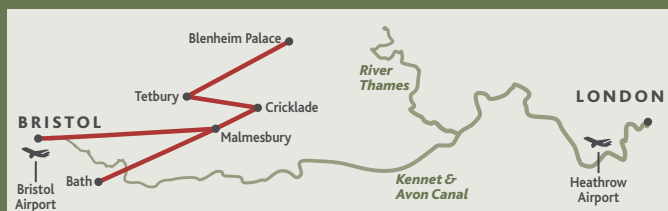
### Day 2. From New to Old...

Head out of the city to **Aerospace Bristol** and take The Heritage Tour new for 2020! Take off on a journey through more than 100 years of Bristol's aerospace history. Find out how a small, pioneering company manufactured some of the earliest aeroplanes at Filton, evolving over the decades to influence the course of aviation history. Next is a visit to **Berkeley Castle** founded in 1153 by the first Lord Berkeley, which is the oldest medieval castle in the UK to have been occupied by the same family, to this very day. End the day at Malmesbury, England's oldest borough and brimming with history. Malmesbury Abbey is a must... the remarkable Norman abbey, still in use as a church, houses the tomb of Athelstan, first king of all England.

**Overnight: Whatley Manor, Malmesbury or Cricklade House Hotel, Cricklade**

### Day 3. Cotswolds and Gloucestershire

Detour off the route around the Southern Cotswolds and into Gloucestershire. Either start at Tetbury, or head to Cirencester before visiting Blenheim Palace, a World Heritage Site. Tetbury is the second largest town in the Cotswolds; pre-book a tour of nearby Highgrove Gardens, the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall's family home. The town is known as an 'architectural gem' because many of the wool merchants' houses still look as they did years ago.



Cirencester, 'Capital of the Cotswolds', a lovely market town with ancient honey coloured stone buildings was, in Roman times, second in size only to London. The Corinium Museum tells the story of the town's Roman settlement.

Drive through Cotswold stone villages to Blenheim Palace, home to the 12th Duke of Marlborough and his family and the birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill. Tour the Palace, Park and Gardens and discover over 300 years of history.

**Overnight: Bath – there's plenty to choose from including Abbey Hotel, Apex Hotel, Bailbrook House Hotel, Brooks Hotels, No 15 Great Pulteney Street, The Roseate Villa or The Royal Crescent.**

### Day 4. Bath: Culture and Shopping

Bath offers an intriguing array of museums, from the traditional **Jane Austen Centre** and **No 1 Royal Crescent** (a museum which has been decorated and furnished just as it might have been during the period 1776-1796), to the **Museum of East Asian Art**, offering collections representing 7,000 years of East and South East Asia's artistry and craftsmanship. The Grade I listed building of the **Holburne Museum**, Bath's first public art gallery, is home to fine and decorative arts. See the city with **Bath Bus Company** on an open-top bus with live guides and multi-lingual commentary. Finish the day with a torchlit visit and dinner package at **The Roman Baths**. Make sure you allow some free time to explore Bath's excellent shopping; wander on foot, browsing for antiques, arts and crafts, books, fashion, specialist foods, jewellery and vintage clothing in a stunning setting.

### INSIDER TIP

Visit in summer and take an evening tour at **The Roman Baths** with a torchlit visit and dinner package. Open until 10pm (mid-June to August), walk on 2,000 year-old pavements by the light of flickering torches and take in the magical atmosphere. Enjoy a glass of Prosecco in the pop-up bar or book dinner.



The Roman Baths Torchlight Visit, Bath

Places	Miles/kms by road*
Bristol to Malmesbury/Cricklade	44 miles/71kms or 57/92kms
Malmesbury/Cricklade to Bath	126miles/203kms or 136/219kms

\*These are the total distances for the day.