

ITINERARY

A Delightful Detour to Oxford

This delightful detour for those staying on the Great West Way and travelling to Oxford, offers a truly spectacular heritage and cultural experience. This itinerary is an addition to a wider Great West Way programme and it includes a two night stay south of Oxford and one night in Reading.



Waddesdon Manor



Blenheim Palace



The Bodleian Libraries

Day 1. Waddesdon Manor

Detour off the route to visit **Waddesdon Manor**, Near Aylesbury in Buckinghamshire. Waddesdon, is a French Renaissance-style chateau with sweeping landscapes and manicured gardens. Developed in the 1870s for Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild for his collections of decorative arts, Old Master paintings and 18th-century portraits. Today, the garden includes an iconic Victorian-style Parterre, an ornate Rococo-style Aviary, Pulham rockwork and 3D bird bedding sculptures.

Visitors can enjoy a wide range of experiences such as tours of the Manor; a garden tour to see the spectacular Wedding Cake, a twelve-meter-tall sculptural pavilion created by Portuguese artist Joana Vasconcelos; or join the Waddesdon Wine Team for a talk about the history of wine production followed by a wine tasting session.

Overnight: Courtyard By Marriott Oxford South, Abingdon

Day 2. Blenheim Palace

Head to **Blenheim Palace**, Woodstock in Oxfordshire. Take an audio tour of the State Rooms and admire the portraits, tapestries and exquisite furniture while learning about the 300-year history of this National Treasure.

Visit the Churchill Exhibition featuring photographs, diary extracts and artefacts to learn all about the life of the great Prime Minister, starting with his birth at Blenheim Palace in 1874 and early life.

Blenheim Palace is not only an iconic part of history, but also a living, changing experience with a wealth of sporting and cultural events, themed exhibitions and tours on offer all year. The busy events calendar includes firm favourites such as Christmas at Blenheim Palace and The Blenheim Palace Food Festival. Pre-book a range of Experience Tours including Parks and Gardens, Palace and Winston Churchill Tours.

Overnight: Courtyard by Marriott Oxford South, Abingdon

Day 3. The Bodleian Libraries

Head to central Oxford to visit **The Bodleian Libraries** who have partnered with the Oxford Guild of Tour Guides and an iconic Oxford

college to offer visitors a one-of-a kind experience.

Take a guided tour of the beautiful Divinity School and Duke Humfrey's Library. Immerse yourself in Oxford's fascinating history and complete your experience with a tour of the stunning University of Oxford college, Christ Church. This tour is a must for any Harry Potter fans or history enthusiasts or for those who just want to experience the heart of Oxford.

Overnight: Overnight in Reading at Hilton Reading or The Roseate.

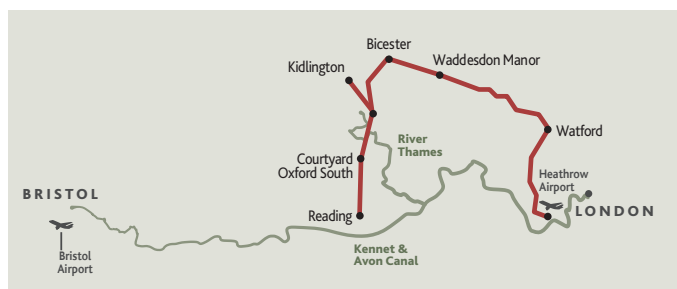
Day 4. Reading

Today you're back on the Great West Way and can take some time to explore **Reading**. Visit **The Abbey Quarter**, to see the extensive Abbey Ruins, founded by King Henry 1, which tells the story of 900 years of history. If you're keen to find out more about Reading's historic past you can explore the **Reading Museum**, situated in the Victorian Town Hall, with its ten galleries of historic and artistic objects and see Britain's Bayeux Tapestry. Or visit **The Museum of English Rural Life (MERL)**, which is England's most extensive museum dedicated to farming, food, craft, rural life and countryside issues.

In the afternoon, take a trip aboard **Thames Rivercruise** who offer scheduled river trips for small groups and FIT or ticketed cruises which can include Sunday Lunch, Afternoon Tea etc. Or why not private charter a boat for groups of 20 – 120?

INSIDER TIP

Pre-book a guided tour of **Blenheim Palace**, choose from an 'Upstairs' tour and a 'Downstairs' tour of the Private Apartments (available Feb-Sept). These tours give visitors the opportunity to explore rooms never open to the public before, gaining an insight into the lives of the family that have lived at Blenheim Palace, their guests and the household staff.



Places	Journey Time/miles*
West London to Waddesdon Manor	1hr 12 mins / 50 miles
Waddesdon Manor to Courtyard by Marriott Oxford South	47 mins / 35 miles
Courtyard by Marriott Oxford South to Blenheim Palace	31 mins / 22 miles
Courtyard by Marriott Oxford South to The Bodleian Libraries	32 mins / 16 miles
The Bodleian Libraries to Reading	56 mins / 42.5 miles

*These are the total distances for the day.