



ENGLAND'S
GREAT WEST WAY®

INSPIRING ITINERARIES HISTORIC HOUSES & GARDENS



Bowood House

Hunt the history in some of the finest gardens and houses along England's Great West Way and take a detour to enjoy those nearby.

Arrive **Bristol Airport** and travel into **Bristol**. Spend the afternoon exploring the City - a 'must visit' is Brunel's SS Great Britain.

Overnight: Hotel du Vin City Centre (an old sugar mill)

Day 1. Bristol and Dyrham Park

Head out of town via **Clifton Suspension Bridge** and the **University of Bristol Botanic Gardens** which feature more than 4,000 different types of plants, including many exotic species. Stop off at **National Trust Dyrham Park** on the way to Malmesbury. It's a spectacular late 17th-century mansion, garden and deer park.

Overnight: Whatley Manor Hotel & Spa

Day 2. Malmesbury, Westonbirt and Lydiard Park

Explore **Malmesbury**, England's oldest borough with 12th Century **Malmesbury Abbey**, still in use today and **Abbey House Gardens**. At **Westonbirt**, **The National Arboretum**, walk amongst 15,000 tree specimens gathered from all over the globe and five National Plant Collections. End the day at **Lydiard Park, Swindon**, a beautiful Palladian mansion sitting in 260 acres of glorious grounds with a church and walled garden.

Overnight: Hotel on the edge of the Cotswolds

Day 3. Cotswolds and Blenheim Palace

Take a detour off the route through the **Cotswolds**: visit **New Brewery Arts** in Cirencester; the gallery shows inspiring work by artists, makers, craftsmen and designers. Stop off at Burford's famous High Street for a spot of shopping, especially antiques. Move on to magnificent **Blenheim Palace**, the birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill.

Overnight: Henley Greenlands Hotel, Henley on Thames, a magnificent riverside Grade II listed building and contemporary accommodation

Day 4. Henley on Thames

Stonor, home to the Stonor family for over 850 years. Discover art and treasure collections and beautiful Italianate gardens. Follow with a boat trip and vintage afternoon tea with **Hobbs of Henley**. Head to Runnymede stopping at **Cliveden National Trust Gardens** with breathtaking views over the River Thames. Over 300 years, each family has contributed to a series of distinct gardens.

Overnight: Spa, Egham, set along the river

Day 5. Hampton Court Palace and Royal Botanic Gardens Kew

Visit the spot where the Magna Carta was signed at Runnymede before exploring **Hampton Court Palace**, a Tudor treasure with over a thousand rooms. Then it's a visit to **Royal Botanic Gardens Kew**. Walk

18 metres above the woodland floor and take in the views. Go inside **Kew Palace**, once the family home of King George III and Queen Charlotte.

Overnight: The Langley, Iver (opening Spring 2019)

Day 6. Bowood, Lacock or Longleat

Head west, back along the Great West Way, to **Bowood**, a Georgian country house with a garden by landscaper "Capability" Brown. Explore the arboretum with its vast collection of trees leading down to the lake. In the afternoon either a visit to **Lacock Abbey & Fox Talbot Museum** or end the day with a journey off the route to **Longleat House**, exploring this stunning example of high Elizabethan architecture – and the Capability Brown landscaped grounds surrounding it.

Overnight: **Abbey Hotel, Bath** - The hotel encompasses three Georgian townhouses on North Parade, or **The Royal Crescent**, a five star hotel with 250 years of history.

Day 7. Bath

Take a look at **No.1 Royal Crescent** reflecting the period 1776-1796. Don't miss **The Roman Baths**, **The Holburne Museum** and stop off at **Prior Park Landscape Gardens National Trust**, before heading out of the city to **Iford Manor Gardens**. Tucked away at the bottom of a tranquil valley, paths in the award-winning Grade I Listed gardens twist and turn around ancient statues, columns, terraces and architecture.

Overnight: Hampton by Hilton, Bristol Airport

INSIDER TIP

Find out how Dyrham Park looks after some of the most precious works, in its conservation studio tours? Several rooms previously unopened to the public have been transformed into a working conservation studio with free guided tours on Tue/Wed/Thurs, volunteer numbers permitting.

Places	Miles/kms by road
Bristol to Malmesbury	33miles/53kms
Malmesbury to Cricklade	14miles/23kms
Cricklade to Henley on Thames	74miles/119kms
Henley on Thames to Windsor	33miles/54kms
Windsor to Chippenham	106miles/171kms
Chippenham to Bath	44miles/71kms
Bath to Bristol Airport	32miles/52kms

INSPIRING ITINERARIES HISTORIC HOUSES & GARDENS



Longleat House



Iford Manor Gardens, Bradford on Avon



Westonbirt, The National Arboretum



Dyrham Park, near Bath



View of Bath skyline from Prior Park Landscape Gardens



Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew



Hampton Court Palace

Wholesalers/DMCs

Hotels & More: hotels-more.com

Norman Allen Group Travel Ltd: group-travel.com

Local Tour Operators who can offer full tour package or individual days out from destinations for groups or individuals:

Around & About Bath: aroundandaboutbath.com

Salisbury, Stonehenge and Sarum Tours: salburystonehengeandtour.co.uk

Savouring Bath: savouringbath.com

South West Heritage Tours: southwestdriverguide.co.uk

Tours2Order: tours2order.com

Tour and Explore: tourandexplore.com

Further information: GreatWestWay.co.uk/traveltrade

Contacts

Bath: visitbath.co.uk/travel-trade

Bristol: visitbristol.co.uk

Bristol Airport: bristolairport.co.uk

Cotswolds: cotswolds.com/groups

Henley on Thames: visit-henley.com

Malmesbury: discovermalmesbury.life

Swindon: visitswindon.org.uk

River Thames: visithames.co.uk

Runnymede: visithames.co.uk/towns/runnymede-p1067581

Thames Valley & North Hampshire: visitsoutheastengland.com

Wiltshire: visitwiltshire.co.uk

Bristol Airport: bristolairport.co.uk

Abbey House Gardens: abbeyhousegardens.co.uk

Blenheim Palace: blenheimpalace.com

Bowood: bowood.org

Cliveden National Trust Gardens: nationaltrust.org.uk/cliveden

Dyrham Park: nationaltrust.org.uk/dyrham-park

Hampton Court Palace: hrp.org.uk/hampton-court-palace

Hobbs of Henley: hobbsofhenley.com

Iford Manor Gardens: ifordmanor.co.uk

Kew Palace: hrp.org.uk/kew-palace

Lacock Abbey & Fox Talbot Museum: nationaltrust.org.uk/lacock-

abbeyfox-talbot-museum-and-village

Longleat House: longleat.co.uk

Lydiard Park: lydiardpark.org.uk

Malmesbury Abbey: malmesburyabbey.com/History

New Brewery Arts: newbreweryarts.org.uk

No.1 Royal Crescent: no1royalcrescent.org.uk

Prior Park Landscape Gardens National Trust: nationaltrust.org.uk/prior-park-landscape-garden

Royal Botanic Gardens Kew: kew.org

Stonor: Stonor.com

The Holburne Museum: holburne.org

The Roman Baths: romanbaths.co.uk

University of Bristol Botanic Gardens: bristol.ac.uk/botanic-garden

Westonbirt, The National Arboretum: forestryengland.uk/westonbirt

Accommodation

Abbey Hotel, Bath: abbeyhotelbath.co.uk

Cricklade House Hotel, Nr Swindon: crickladehotel.co.uk

Hampton by Hilton, Bristol Airport: hamptoninn3.hilton.com/en/hotels/united-kingdom/hampton-by-hilton-bristol-airport-BRSHXHX/index.html

Hotel du Vin Bristol City: hotelduvin.com/locations/bristolcity-centre

Henley Greenlands Hotel, Henley on Thames: hospitalityuor.co.uk/venues/henley-greenlands-hotel

The Langley, Iver (opening Spring 2019): thelangley.com

The Royal Crescent, Bath: royalcrescent.co.uk

The Runnymede on Thames Hotel, Egham: therunnymede.co.uk

Whatley Manor Hotel & Spa, Malmesbury: whatleymanor.com



The Langley



Whatley Manor