

# ITINERARY

## Historic Houses and Gardens

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 in to Bristol**  
Stay Hotel du Vin City Centre (an old sugar mill).

### Day 1. Bristol

The **Georgian House Museum** was an affluent Bristol sugar tycoon and slave owner's home around 1790. The **Red Lodge** tells the story of the house from its Tudor origins. The **University of Bristol Botanic Gardens** feature more than 4,000 different types of plants, including many exotic species. **Bristol Blue Glass** has revived a tradition lost for over 60 years.

**Overnight:** The Old Bell, Malmesbury.

### Day 2. Malmesbury, Westonbirt, Corsham

Explore Malmesbury, England's oldest borough with 12th Century Abbey, still in use today and Abbey House Gardens. At **Westonbirt 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**, a beautiful Palladian mansion sitting in 260 acres of glorious grounds with a church and walled garden.

**Overnight:** Cricklade House Hotel

### 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:** Hotel du Vin, Henley on Thames, a former brewery.

### 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 Windsor 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:** Runnymede on Thames Hotel & Spa.

### Day 5. Hampton Court Palace and Royal Botanic Gardens Kew

Explore 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 breathtaking views. Go inside Kew Palace, once the family home of King George III and Queen Charlotte.

**Overnight:** Bowood Hotel & Spa - Set in stunning parkland.

### Day 6. Bowood, Lacock or Longleat

A Georgian country house with a garden by landscaper "Capability" Brown. Explore the arboretum with its vast collection of trees leading



Longleat House

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.

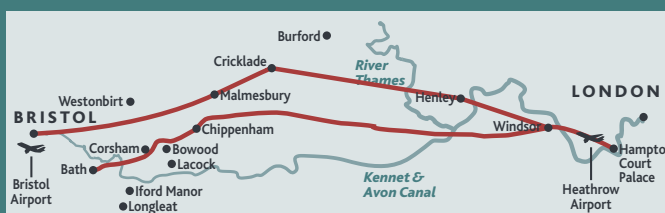
**Overnight:** Abbey Hotel, Bath - The hotel encompasses three Georgian townhouses on North Parade.

### Day 7. Bath

Take a look at **No 1 Royal Crescent** reflecting the period 1776-1796. Don't miss the Roman Baths before heading out of the city to Iford Manor: The Peto Garden. Tucked away at the bottom of a tranquil valley, paths in the award-winning, Grade I listed Peto Garden twist and turn around ancient statues, columns, terraces and architecture.

A selection of tour operators and guiding services who offer bookable itineraries along the Great West Way can be found on page 9 of this Directory or on the Bookable Products section of [GreatWestWay.co.uk/trade](http://GreatWestWay.co.uk/trade)

Places	Miles/kms by road
Bristol to Malmesbury	27miles/44kms
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



### INSIDER TIP

Chippenham on a Sunday, head to the Bandstand in John Coles Park for one of the popular free summer afternoon concerts and your group will relax with some gentle toe tapping. 3-5pm.