

# Avon Valley Explorer



WILTSHIRE TOURISM

Follow the Avon River from the Vale of the White Horse via Stonehenge and Old Sarum Castle to Salisbury Cathedral. Combine with the Wylve Valley & Salisbury Plain Explorers for a spectacular three-day circular navigation of South Wiltshire.

## The ride

### 1 Start

Exit Pewsey Station and turn R. Take next R into Wilcot Road. After ½ mile cross over the bridge (traffic lights) and fork L following 'Quiet Lane' waymarkers to Woodborough. After 2½ miles pass Woodborough Garden Centre (café) on R. Turn L over bridge and R heading through Bottlesford. At the next T-junction turn L to Upavon. After 2½ miles cross over the roundabout by the Woodbridge Inn. Head along A345 for 1¼ miles into Upavon and turn L past the garage towards Andover.

### 2 11.5km/ 7¼ miles

After ¾ mile pass village sign and turn R towards East Chisenbury. Follow the road for 3½ miles through Enford and Coombe. At Haxton crossroads (stop sign) follow Wiltshire Cycleway sign straight on to 'Airfield Camp Netheravon' and 50yds past static helicopters turn L opposite a phone box. After ½ mile you have the option to loop R down through the village of Figheldean or continue straight on towards Bulford. Both routes merge after ½ mile beyond Ablington. Continue on for 2¼ miles to Bulford.

### 3 24km/ 15 miles

At the T-junction turn R and after 100yds fork L into Salisbury Road. After 500yds cross over busy A3028 heading towards Amesbury. Opposite the end of the 30-mile speed limit (by signs) turn R up a grass bridleway to Ratfyn. After ½ mile turn L, by a substation, onto a tarmac road and follow for 200yds past a farm entrance on R. 20yds further on, turn R down a tarmac bridleway and cross over a road bridge (A303) and head up into Amesbury. At the road turn R and then next L (by garage and traffic lights) heading towards the town centre.

### 4 27.5km/ 17 miles

At the roundabout turn R (opposite bus station) into the high street containing several cafés and an excellent bakery. Hills Cycles (cycling/angling supplies) is located near the bus station. Once refreshed, turn L into Church Street and head out over the River Avon. After ½ mile turn L to West Amesbury, following the brown sign to Heale Gardens.

### 5 31.5km/ 19½ miles

Follow the valley road through Wilsford to Lake. Here you have the option of turning R by the phone box and following a byway north for a stunning view of Stonehenge (5 miles return). Afterwards continue south past Lake House on your L.

### 6 33.5km/ 21 miles

Enter Upper Woodford and pass Bridge Inn on R (beer garden on L). From here, Heale Gardens is just ½ mile further south (8 acres of magnificent gardens, open all year). Afterwards return to bridge and cross over river following Wiltshire Cycleway signs through Netton and Little Durnford. Continue straight on as views of Salisbury Cathedral open out ahead.

### 7 38.5km/ 24 miles

By the Manor House and Deans Farm you have the option to turn L up towards Old Sarum Castle (1 mile return). If so, climb the hill and after ½ mile turn R up a bridleway towards the castle car park (Caution: rabbit holes along track). Afterwards, from the Manor House, continue straight on and after 50yds turn L (by Avon Bridge) towards Stratford Sub Castle. After 1 mile, pass Salisbury City Boundary sign and turn next R into Hathaway Close. Follow Wiltshire Cycleway signs from here into the city centre.



## IS THIS RIDE FOR YOU?

**Terrain** Mostly quiet lanes with minor urban roads and bridleways, mostly level riding  
**Suitable for** Occasional and regular cyclists

## PLANNING

### Start/Parking

Pewsey Station:  
SU 163602

### Nearest towns

Marlborough & Amesbury  
**Refreshments** Pewsey, Amesbury and Salisbury plus cafés, pubs and shops in villages along the way  
**Public toilets** Pewsey, Amesbury, Old Sarum, Salisbury and pubs en-route

## COMMENTS & OPTIONS

For side trip options to Stonehenge add 5 miles (return), Old Sarum: 1½ miles & Heale Gardens: 1 mile. NB it is not advisable to cross A303 from byway.

## MAPS

Ordnance Survey Explorer 130, Salisbury & Stonehenge

## ACCOMMODATION

If you would like to find somewhere to stay in Wiltshire, please go to [www.visitwiltshire.co.uk](http://www.visitwiltshire.co.uk), Where to Stay.