



DRAFT

Food and Drink

England's Great West Way

Welcome to England's Great West Way.

England's Great West Way is a new touring route which joins up many of England's iconic destinations and attractions along a corridor west of London through to Bristol. Based on one of the first Great Roads commissioned by the Kings of England, it winds its way through 125 miles of twists and turns – waiting to be explored by road, by railway or by waterway.

The Great West Way is for travellers who don't just want to see England. It's for those who want to truly experience it. To touch, feel, do and taste the real England. To get to know a nation and become "England Insiders". It's not just about touring the route it's the way that you do it.

This itinerary quite literally gives you a "taste" of England's Great West Way. With a selection of iconic sights along the way, we've picked some of the most delicious food and drink highlights to suit all tastes ... from the connoisseur, to those who want to try a pint of real English ale.

Day one

Morning

The historic town of Windsor is home to **Windsor Fudge Kitchen** –here you can discover how to make fudge. See it made by hand, then then try some and buy some. To really appreciate the art of fudge making, we suggest booking a Fudge Making Experience, which lasts 1 hour.

Most of us enjoy picnic in the park, but a picnic in Windsor Great Park is something else. Once the private hunting grounds of Windsor Castle enjoy lunch and immerse yourself in England. Either buy some food in Windsor town centre, or if you fancy eating some of the produce grown on the royal estates, head just outside of Windsor to the Windsor Farm Shop.

Afternoon

Between May and September, it's possible to enjoy a guided tour of **Eton College**, lasting for 1.5 hours. This fascinating visit includes a tour of School Yard, College Chapel, Upper School Lower School and the Museum of Eton Life, but places are limited. And after all that exploring, there's time to head down Eton High Street to Taste's Delicatessen ... known locally to be home to the very best sausage rolls! Eton College is the epitome of the English Public School with many famous Englishmen having studied there. Between May and September you can follow in their footsteps...

There's a choice of fantastic restaurants this evening with either **The Fat Duck** or **The Waterside Inn**, both in the riverside town of Bray. The Fat Duck is famed for its innovative English? cuisine, whilst

	The Waterside Inn is owned and run by French chefs Alain and Michel Roux. Both restaurants have 3 Michelin stars to their name, so there is no shortage of fine food!
--	---

Day two

Morning	Approximately 50 minutes away by car, a visit to Highclere Castle awaits. If this magnificent building looks familiar, there's a good reason why! As the castle used in the filming of "Downton Abbey", it offers a chance to explore behind the scenes of the "real Downton Abbey" as well as the opportunity to enjoy the Capability Brown designed gardens, over the 60-70 days a year on which it is open to the public.
Afternoon	Although invented by the Dutch, some of the most famous brands of Gin are English, including the famous Bombay Sapphire. After a quick lunch, you can hear the story of Bombay Sapphire gin, at its distillery in Whitchurch - 20 minutes' drive across the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Visitors can choose from a wide range of experiences from a distillery tour to cocktail making, and drivers can take a sample away with them and enjoy a soft drink at the bar. The White Hart in Overton is just 1.5 miles away from the distillery, so makes the perfect place to rest before the food and drink tour continues in the morning.

Day three

All day	Today is a day of two contrasting flavours – English wine and English beer. Cottonworth Vineyard is just 20 minutes' drive away from Overton and is a family run vineyard, producing sparkling wine using Chardonnay, Pinot Noir and Pinot Meunier grapes. The south facing slopes, chalk soil and temperate microclimate make for exception grapes and award-winning wine. Tours take place between 12 noon and 2pm, between June and the end of October, and include a Winemaker's lunch. For those who would rather stay locally, there are a range of hotels in Stockbridge or Andover. Alternatively, it is an hour's drive up to Devizes, for those who wish to be ready for tomorrow's activities.
---------	---

Day four

Morning	Wadworth Brewery dates back to 1875 and nowadays offers a fascinating 2-hour tour which takes visitors through its colourful history and heritage. Tours run from Mon – Sat, at 11am and 2pm, and give a detailed glimpse behind the scenes of this historic brewery ... ending with a tasting of course! Wadworth Brewery have been making typical English Ales since 1875. Today Wadworth 6X is probably their most famous beer.
Afternoon	Whilst the most direct route to the next stop is 19 miles, we recommend taking the long way round! And with so many pretty towns and villages, just a stone's throw away, it's hard to chose which ones

	to visit on the way. From Calne, which dates back to AD978, and is the birthplace of the English method of curing ham, to Lacock, with its historic abbey and Fox Talbot museum of photography, there are many charming places to explore en route to Lucknam Park – resting place for tonight and source of activity tomorrow!
--	---

Day five

All day	A cookery class at the 5* Lucknam Park Hotel and Spa is a fantastic way to get a real flavour of food and drink along England’s Great West Way. Classes range from <i>Best of British</i> , to <i>Michelin Star Cooking at Home</i> , with a wide variety in between – offering half and full day courses to suit every taste and budget.
---------	--

Day six

Morning	Travelling via Bath and the Mendip Hills AONB, it takes approximately 1 hour and 15 minutes to reach Winscombe – home to Thatchers Brewery . But we’re not talking beer this time. In this part of the world, it’s all about the cider! A 2-hour tour of the orchards and brewery (Wed, Thur, Fri Sat) shows how times have changed over the 100 years of cider making in the Thatcher family.
Afternoon	A stunning drive through Cheddar Gorge, takes us to the Cheddar Gorge Cheese Company – with their fantastic range of cheese and small – but brilliant – visitor centre. Cheddar is one of the nation’s favourite cheeses, and no visit to this part of the world is complete without sampling a little of this delicious export!

Day seven

All day	A 40-minute drive takes us to the last stop on this itinerary – Bristol. A guided walking food tour through Bristol Old City and Harbourside with EatWalkTalk is a great way to explore this city rich in history, culture and with a thriving food scene. The tour lasts 2 to 3 hours and includes 10 - 12 tastings from independent local businesses that highlight why Bristol is one of the fastest growing food scenes in the UK.
---------	---