

ITINERARY

History and Heritage by Rail

Take your seat for a journey into the past. The Great Western Railway, founded in 1833 and one of the prodigious engineering achievements of Isambard Kingdom Brunel, is itself a part of the heritage of the Great West Way.



Day 1 Explore Bristol

A modern city with its feet rooted firmly in the past. Isambard Kingdom Brunel's legacies include the Clifton Suspension Bridge, SS Great Britain and the Great Western Railway, which terminates at his imposing Temple Meads station. Discover the story of the city from prehistoric times to the present day at M Shed.

Overnight: Hotel du Vin has two hotels to choose from in Bristol

Day 2 Bath

The only city in the UK to be designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site thanks to its extraordinary historic buildings; 17 museums within one square mile, some of the finest architectural sights in Europe and its remarkable Roman Baths. The city still offers premier spa bathing.

Overnight: Brooks Guesthouse, Bath

Day 3 Salisbury & Stonehenge

A detour off the route to Salisbury and the Stonehenge Tour, a short bus journey from Salisbury station to Stonehenge, the world-famous stone circle and its fascinating visitor centre. Back in Salisbury, there's time to explore the magnificent 13th century Salisbury Cathedral.

Overnight: The Great Western Hotel, Swindon

Day 4 Swindon & Reading

The STEAM Museum gives a 'hands on' look at the story behind the Great Western Railway, and the people who created this piece of English locomotive history. 'Drive' a train simulator and even work the signals. Across the road is the Swindon Designer Outlet, within the former Great Western Railway works for a spot of shopping! At Reading Thames Rivercruise offer a boat trip to Reading Abbey Quarter. Discover almost nine hundred years of history, with fascinating buildings and the remains of Reading Abbey, a Grade I listed building and Scheduled Ancient Monument.

Overnight: Hilton Hotel, Reading



Day 5 Royal Windsor

Queen Victoria had her own personal station for her visits to Windsor. Today it's Windsor Royal Shopping Centre with a daily arts and crafts market. There's a story in every stone at Windsor Castle – right up the present day, with the marriage of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle in May 2018.

Overnight: Sir Christopher Wren Hotel, Windsor

Day 6 London

Take a look at the magnificent architecture of this Paddington Station created by Brunel. Leave your luggage at Excess Baggage Co on platform 12. London is a city with views that reward the river traveller. Take a City Cruises sightseeing trip from Westminster Pier, followed by a visit to the Houses of Parliament. The Brunel Museum includes a scheduled Ancient Monument and the Thames Tunnel. Then return to Bristol, head for Heathrow or drive to Dover.

INSIDER TIP

Paddington Station has another claim to fame apart from its connection to Brunel. It's where one of the most famous bears in literary history started his London adventures. Paddington met his adoptive family, the Browns, here – and on Platform 1 there's a statue of the little bear, complete with his signature floppy hat and suitcase.

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



Places	Journey Time (Rail/Bus)
Bristol airport to city centre	30 mins
Bristol to Bath	11mins
Bath to Salisbury	55mins
Salisbury to Stonehenge	33mins (bus)
Salisbury to Swindon (via Melksham)	79mins
Swindon to Reading	30mins
Reading to Windsor (via Slough)	35mins
Reading to London Paddington (via Slough)	30 mins
London Paddington-Bristol	1hr 40 mins
Paddington to Heathrow	35 mins