

GREAT WEST WAY 6-day Guided Biking Tour Itinerary



Windsor, Stonehenge, Downton Abbey, Avebury, Bath, Bristol



Duration 6 days / 5 nights

Start London (London Paddington)

Finish Bristol

Our 6-day, 5-night tour will immerse you in England's iconic history and heritage, championing England in all its glory. With stunning views around every corner, excellent accommodation, wonderful pubs and beautiful cuisine, Active England will give you an experience you won't forget.

From the honey coloured Cotswold villages and busy little market towns you will be transported back into England as it was before mechanisation, where sheep and dry-stone walling were the biggest industries. The Cotswolds is perfect biking country; we take the quietest roads so all you need to do is relax and enjoy the stunning vistas of chocolate box England. As well as cycling through beautiful countryside and along canals, we will also visit the magnificent Windsor Castle, home to the Queen, cycling through the deer park and hunting ground of Windsor Great Park, and two World Heritage Sites: Bath's famous Roman Spa and the Neolithic Avebury and Stonehenge.

The biking is 90% off road, great for anybody with a reasonable level of fitness and best suited to hybrid bikes. The walking trials are varied but almost exclusively flat, making them accessible for all. The tour is fully supported and guided or self-guided and the price is also inclusive of all accommodation on a dinner (not on self-guide option), bed and breakfast basis. Also included are all bikes and equipment and entry into all the points of interest. In fact, the only time guests need to put their hands in their pockets is for lunch, normally informal in pubs and cafes and for dinner / dinner drinks.

Accommodation



Prestige - 4* hotel



Country - 3* hotel

Itinerary

Day 1. Windsor Great Park and Windsor Castle.

We collect you at 8.30 from London at Paddington Station, platform 1, under the clock and take you by bus Windsor, which is about 1 hours' drive. We visit Windsor Great Park, the old royal hunting ground and world home of Polo, where there is a match on most Sundays we visit. We fit you with your bikes, give you a full safety briefing and head out on the traffic restricted roads within the park. Guests then take a full tour of Windsor Castle and a good look around the town. Taking the bus to your hotel on the Kennet and Avon Canal means a nice, gentle start to your holiday.

OPTIONS:

 10 miles

 Flat

Day 2. The Kennet and Avon Canal and Downton Abbey (Highclere Castle)

We bike along the picturesque and tranquil Kennet and Avon canal in the morning. The ride and walk are flat and in the afternoon we visit Highclere Castle. For all Downton Abbey fans this is a must visit where you will be able to see, first hand, both the above and below stairs lives of the cast and the owners, Lord and Lady Carnarvon. For those who are not Downton devotees, there is ample additional biking available in the afternoon. We return to the same hotel in the evening for dinner.

OPTIONS:

 20 miles
 Flat

 35 miles
 Flat

Day 3. Avebury + Stonehenge

After an earlier start we bike along the wonderful canal route towards the beautifully named Honeystreet and on the quiet roads in the surrounding areas. We have coffee alongside the canal at Crofton and lunch in the cafe at Honeystreet before visiting Avebury (think Stonehenge but much bigger), setting off by support vehicle to the World Heritage Site and monument at Stonehenge. You will have ample time to walk to and around the stones which have been an enduring mystery for millennia. We stay the night in Devizes, which gives us great access to the Kennet and Avon Canal.

OPTIONS:

 20 miles
 Gently Rolling

 35 miles
 Gently Rolling

Day 4. The Kennet + Avon Canal + Bath

We head off on the Kennet and Avon canal for a wonderful flat ride, alongside the boats, stopping at the pubs and soaking up the atmosphere past Devizes as the landscape slowly passes by. We pass over the majestic Dundas and Avoncliff aqueducts before finishing the ride for the day in Bath where the Roman Baths, the Royal Crescent and Jane Austen's house are unmissable. We stay in Bath where the city comes to life in the evenings, with great restaurants, pubs and entertainment.

OPTIONS:

 20 miles
 Flat

 35 miles
 Flat

Day 5. The Cotswolds + Prince Charles

We drive you into the Cotswolds for an atmospheric ride through stunning countryside and villages, before having lunch at Prince Charles' house and gardens at Highgrove. In the afternoon we ride into

Bath, mainly downhill, via a 2000-year old Roman road right into the heart of the city. For the walkers, we walk from Tetbury to Prince Charles' house and in the afternoon, join the Roman road into the city. We return to the same hotel as the previous night for dinner.

OPTIONS:

 20 miles
 Rolling*

 40 miles
 Rolling

*With a few steep hills

Day 6. Bath and into Bristol

A beautiful flat ride all the way into Bristol via a disused railway line. There is the option to extend the ride through newly renovated railway tunnels and a loop back via the Kennet and Avon Canal.

The tour ends in Bristol where guests are able to stay for longer, with a number of hotel options available. On-going travel is easy from Bristol Airport, or Bristol Railway Station with connections back to London.

OPTIONS:

 15 miles
 Gently rolling

 30 miles
 Flat

The Details

Duration 6 days / 5 nights
Start London (Paddington Station)
Finish Bristol

Level of Activity

This tour is rated 2/5 for difficulty meaning it's appropriate for guests going for a good ride and can handle an incline or two. The terrain we cover is varied. We'll enjoy some gently rolling hills, with wonderful downhills and a few climbs which will be a bit more demanding. Your holiday, however, will be tailored by your guide to suit your individual preferences. Rewarding views are guaranteed. Daily distances range from 10-40 miles and options for shorter or longer rides are available on all days.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- 5 nights accommodation
- All breakfasts & four dinners (in the brasserie / bar)
- Entry into all iconic points of interest, Windsor Castle, Stonehenge, Roman Baths
- Transport throughout
- Professional local guide
- Bikes & equipment

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- International flights
- Cancellation insurance
- Items of a personal nature
- Dinner drinks
- Dinner in the a-la-carte restaurants (the difference between the bar / brasserie option)
- Gratuity for your local guide

For more information please call +44 (0) 333 090 3116 or contact hello@activeenglandtours.com