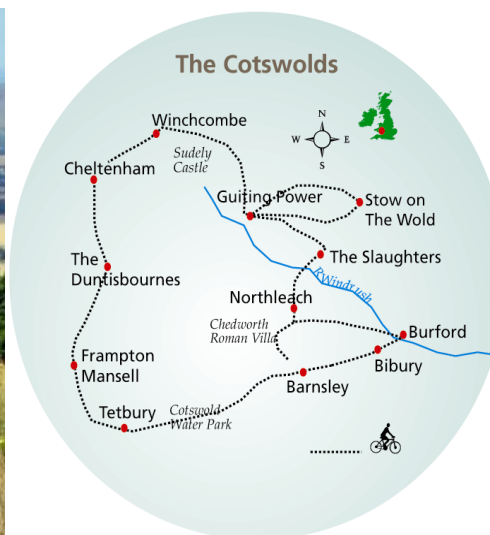


## ENGLAND - THE COTSWOLDS

8-days / 7-nights **SELF-GUIDED** inn-to-inn easy to moderate cycling in the heart of England



The Cotswolds has long been a popular destination for those seeking a traditional view of rural England. This cycling holiday is designed as a gentle introduction to cycling in the English countryside. A week of undulating cycling takes you through some of the most beautiful and historic parts of England. Honey coloured stone villages, open wolds, wooded valleys and Roman roads are the background to pretty villages, “wool” churches, famous gardens, a Roman villa and welcoming country inns.

Starting in Cheltenham with its Regency buildings, gardens and fashionable shops, the ride takes you over the Wolds and through Duntisbournes, crossing the River Dunt and passing exquisite village churches with Saxon and Norman features. At Tetbury, once an important medieval wool market town, you can stand inside the old market house and walk down the ancient Chipping Steps - the course for the Woolsack Races.

Following the River Coln from Barnsley to Bibury, described by William Morris as the most beautiful village in England, you will discover a famous row of weavers' cottages. Cycle down the scenic Windrush Valley, past Windrush village's Norman church to the elegant town of Burford, with its steep main street leading down to the river. The route takes you to the Eastleach villages with their fine churches and historic footbridge, and to the Barringtons. After a visit to Chedworth Roman Villa the ride takes you through Northleach to the Slaughters, perhaps the most delightful villages in England.

On the final day visit the historic 15<sup>th</sup> Century Snowhill Manor, take lunch at Broadway and visit Sudeley Castle, once home to two of Henry VIII's wives, Katherine Parr and Anne Boleyn, before freewheeling down Cleeve Hill and back to Cheltenham.

**Grade:** Choice of routes each day: @ 25 miles / 40km (moderate) or @ 15 miles / 24km (easy)

**Departs:** Daily from early April to early October

**Cost from:** **\$1970** per person twin share      Single room supplement from **\$610**

**Includes:** 7 nights' accommodation (ensuite bathroom facilities where available); 7 breakfasts; luggage transfers (one bag per person up to 20kg); route notes & maps (one set per room); emergency phone support.

**Bike hire:** Bike hire is £95, paid locally for multi-gear hybrid bikes suitable for on/off-road use. Plus helmet, lock, a spare inner tube, tyre levers / repair kit. Panniers can be hired for an additional charge of £6 per pair and must be booked in advance.

**Start & end point:** Cheltenham. Nearest international airport: London Heathrow / Gatwick or Birmingham.

**Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations**



**Suggested accommodation:** *Please note that this is very popular area – especially at weekends – so where necessary the usual accommodation may be changed and if necessary a supplement applied when your reservation is requested. Be mindful that UK holiday weekends (including Easter, May bank holidays and August bank holiday) are very busy and accommodation needs to be requested well in advance.*

**Suggested itinerary – with a choice of rides each day:**

**Day 1: Arrive Cheltenham**

Cheltenham is well-connected by rail from London Paddington station or Birmingham New Street station. If you plan to arrive early you may like to collect your bikes in the afternoon and get some extra cycling in (please note this additional afternoon of bike hire should be requested in advance and is not included in the hire price of £95). Stay in a 4-star bed & breakfast in the heart of Cheltenham.

**Day 2: Cheltenham to Frampton Mansell**

**Ride 1:** via Elkstone, the Duntisbournes and Daglingworth **cycling @ 20 or 16 miles (32 or 26km)**

This lovely ride is uphill at the beginning, but from Elkstone goes through easier, undulating countryside. The ride down the Duntisbourne valley is a treat. The churches at Elkstone, Duntisbourne Rouse and Daglingworth are particularly worth visiting. There are two pub stops in the middle of the ride.

**Ride 2:** via Cowley, Sheepscombe, Painswick and Slad **cycling @ 31 or 28 miles (49 or 44km)**

This is an interesting, varied but hilly ride with attractive countryside and scenery and some famous towns and villages: Painswick, an elegant wool town; Slad, the home of Laurie Lee, the famous Cotswold author; Stroud, the industrial centre of the valleys; and Bisley, another beautiful wool town.

In Frampton Mansell stay at a 16<sup>th</sup> Century stone inn overlooking the Chalford Valley.

**Day 3: Frampton Mansell to Bibury**

**Ride 1:** via South Cerney and Meysey Hampton **cycling @ 23 or 18 miles (36 or 29km)**

This easy bike ride circles through South Cerney and the Water Park. It passes through several quiet villages and the flat south Cotswolds countryside, finishing in Barnsley where the church and Barnsley House Garden are worth visiting.

**Ride 2:** via Tetbury, Cherington, Ashton Keynes and Down Ampney **cycling @ 34 miles (54km)**

Visit Tetbury, an attractive wool town, then ride east to Ashton Keynes and the Cotswold Water Park. Cycle through several quiet villages southeast of Cirencester then back into the Cotswolds to beautiful Barnsley.

You stay 2 nights in Bibury, in a family-run 4-star hotel in a 15<sup>th</sup> Century Cotswold stone building, with lounge bar, restaurant and garden for al fresco dining.

**Day 4: Bibury Circuit Rides**

**Ride 1:** Short ride to Cirencester **cycling @ 15 miles (24km)**

This easy ride goes to Cirencester via Welsh Way and Whiteway, and returns via Preston and Ampney.

**Ride 2:** Fairford via the Coln Valley and the Eastleaches **cycling @ 31 or 26 miles (50 or 42km)**

This beautiful ride goes down the Coln Valley, which has several typical pretty Cotswold villages. The Woollen Mill at Filkins is interesting, Fairford is a good place for tea, and the stained glass windows are a must see.



### Day 5: Bibury to Guiting Power

**Ride 1:** via Chedworth Roman Villa, Northleach and Notgrove  
This is an enjoyable ride over undulating countryside.

**cycling @ 23 or 17 miles (36 or 27km)**

**Ride 2:** Windrush Valley, Bourton on the Water, the Slaughters

**cycling @ 33 or 27 miles (54 or 44km)**

An interesting, enjoyable and fairly easy ride through many picturesque Cotswold villages - Windrush and the Slaughters are particularly delightful. Stay 2 nights in Guiting Power, either at a tastefully restored 16<sup>th</sup> Century Cotswold stone farmhouse, now a 4-star hotel, or in a 17<sup>th</sup> Century 4-star inn.

### Day 6: Guiting Power Circuit Rides

**Ride 1:** A short ride to the Slaughters and Lower Swell

**cycling @ 15 miles (23km)**

This undulating ride goes through beautiful countryside and attractive quiet villages. Upper Slaughter is a lovely place to picnic and spend time by the ford on a fine day.

**Ride 2:** to Snowhill and Chipping Campden via Blockley and Sezincote

**cycling @ 27-35 miles (43-57km)**

The lovely ride goes across rolling countryside to Snowhill and Chipping Campden, two classic Cotswold towns. It can be extended to visit Broadway and Hidcote Manor Gardens. Hilly riding, and even the minor roads are busy at holiday weekends.

### Day 7: Guiting Power to Cheltenham

**Ride 1:** via Winchcombe and Brockhampton

**cycling @ 18 or 14 miles (29 or 22km)**

This ride covers some beautiful countryside, with good views from the hills. It is quite undulating, particularly down into and up from Winchcombe, but it gives you a good knowledge of the Cotswold scarp! Winchcombe is well worth visiting, and it is easy to spend several hours there.

**Ride 2:** Northleach, Chedworth Roman Villa, Withington and Seven Springs

**cycling @ 26 miles (41km)**

This ride goes through beautiful countryside, some attractive villages, and to Northleach - an important wool town - with an interesting wool church. The Roman Villa is fascinating. Return to first night accommodation.

### Day 8: Departure day

Tour ends after breakfast in Cheltenham. Travel to London or Birmingham for onward connections.



### Contact Outdoor Travel for more itinerary details and reservations

- Call toll free on 1800 331 582 or (03) 57551743 or Fax (03) 57501020
- Email: [info@outdoortravel.com.au](mailto:info@outdoortravel.com.au)
- Web: <http://www.outdoortravel.com.au>
- Mail: Outdoor Travel Pty Ltd, PO Box 286, Bright, VIC 3741, Australia