

ENGLAND – THE COTSWOLDS

8-day / 7-night one-hotel GUIDED walking holiday based at Bourton-on-the-Water



The Cotswold Way in central England provides some of the country's most scenic walking with medieval churches, country estates, ancient sites and Roman villas. The region is famous for all that is quintessentially English, with traditional stone cottages, handsome manor houses, rolling hills, cornfields and lush green valleys.

A guided walking holiday allows you to discover this most English of landscapes. Walk parts of the Cotswold Way through the very heart of England. Ramble through lush green fields and past rolling hills along ancient tracks. See stately homes and traditional country market towns. Chipping Campden, Stow-on-the-Wold and Broadway are iconic villages built from golden Cotswold stone, close to our base at Bourton-on-the-Water. Each day you are given a choice of walks, and your holiday includes a free day midweek.

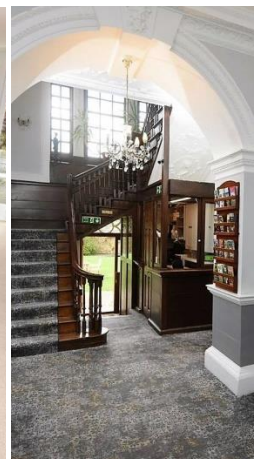
Cost from: **\$2695** per person twin share Single room supplement on request.

2024 Departures: 19 January, 2 February, 29 March, 5 & 26 April, 24 May, 28 June, 19 & 26 July, 16 & 30 August, 6 & 20 September, 15 November

Includes: 7-nights in a comfortable room with ensuite bathroom, full board (breakfast, picnic lunch & dinner), experienced walks leader, 5 guided walks, transport associated with the walks, evening social activities.

Not included: Transport to/from the house, drinks, personal expenses, transport/activities on your free day.

Accommodation: Harrington House at Bourton-on-the-Water is of considerable architectural interest, dates from Tudor times and was enlarged during 1730-40, and again in the 1920s. Built of traditional Cotswold stone it is quietly tucked away just a few metres from the heart of the popular tourist village of Bourton-on-the-Water.



Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations

Trip Grading: Short to moderate distances, mostly on good paths with easy to moderate gradients; some climbing over stiles and kissing gates. Easier walks 10-12km with up to 200m of ascent, medium walks 12-15km with up to 320m of ascent, harder walks 17-19km with up to 440m of ascent in a day.

Suggested itinerary (routes are determined each day by walk leaders – subject to change):

Day 1: Arrival day

Arrival day – plan to arrive by mid-afternoon. Ask about transfer options from Cheltenham Spa train station.

Day 2: The Windrush Valley

A lovely introduction to the countryside south of Bourton-on-the-Water. Our walk is a circular route, following the Monarch's Way (which traces the route of King Charles II's escape from the Battle of Worcester) to Clapton-on-the-Hill. Longer options visit Little Rissington or the attractive village of Sherborne before returning to Bourton-on-the-Water. You should have time this afternoon to enjoy a pint in one of Bourton's pubs or simply find a spot near the River Windrush to soak up the atmosphere of this charming village.

Day 3: The Cotswold Way to Broadway

A pleasant walk partly following the Cotswold Way, passing through Snowhill village, which sits on the escarpment above Broadway and offers views over the Severn Vale. All routes lead to Broadway, 'the jewel of the Cotswolds', with its tree-lined high street, typical honey-coloured stone cottages, gabled houses and historic pub and church.

Day 4: Free day

There are no organised walks today, so you can explore the local area or just relax at Harrington House. Perhaps tour Blenheim Palace, the ancestral home of Sir Winston Churchill, or visit the historic university city of Oxford.

Day 5: Through the Cotswolds to Cirencester

Varying starting points, but all three routes take us through Saxon and Norman villages, to the source of the mighty River Thames, and to Cirencester, which was Roman Britain's second largest city. Cirencester's Corinium Museum has a large collection of Romano-British antiquities including well-preserved mosaics and sculptures.

Day 6: The Gloucestershire Way

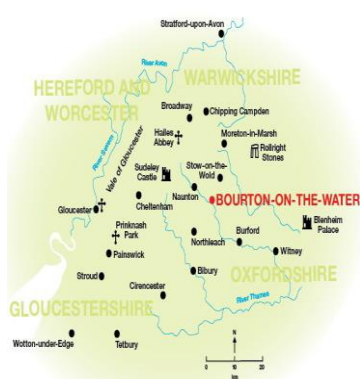
We follow the Gloucestershire Way and Diamond Way through the rolling countryside of the Cotswold hills, passing through quiet villages, some with historic churches and impressive manor houses. We visit Cold Aston, with its charming 17th century pub before returning to Bourton-on-the-Water.

Day 7: Around Winchcombe

Walk through gently rolling countryside, passing ancient churches and the ruins of Hailes Abbey, founded by the Earl of Cornwall in 1246 as an act of thanksgiving after surviving a shipwreck. Those up for a more challenging walk can ascend Cleeve Hill, the highest point in the Cotswolds, which offers views of Winchcombe and Sudeley Castle, and is the site of Belas Knap, a Neolithic long barrow. End the day in Winchcombe, yet another attractive village full of half-timbered inns, Cotswold stone cottages, delightful pubs and charming teashops.

Day 8: Departure day

Tour ends after breakfast.



Outdoor Travel walking holidays are available in many parts of the United Kingdom, Ireland and across Europe.

Contact Outdoor Travel for details and reservations:

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