

ENGLAND – THE BEST OF THE COTSWOLDS

8-days/ 7-nights **SELF-GUIDED** inn-to-inn walking in the heart of England from Stratford to Broadway



The lush green Cotswolds offer a perfect introduction to walking in England. Gently rolling hills rise from the upper Thames valley to an escarpment above the Severn, reaching just over 300 metres at their highest point. The scenery is iconically English: sweeping countryside, picture-postcard villages, medieval churches, stately homes and ancient ruins, with walking options ranging from easy rambles to relaxed hillside routes.

Much of the Cotswolds' charm comes from its honey-coloured limestone cottages, farmhouses and villages, weathered beautifully over centuries. Fields are divided by historic dry-stone walls, many dating from the 18th and 19th centuries, skillfully built without mortar and still used today to enclose sheep and cattle.

Your journey begins in Stratford-upon-Avon, Shakespeare's birthplace and home to the Royal Shakespeare Theatre. You'll stay in welcoming market towns such as Moreton-in-Marsh and Bourton-on-the-Water, known for their shops, cafés, restaurants and traditional pubs, while walking through smaller villages like Winchcombe and Broadway. History lovers can visit Sudeley Castle, garden enthusiasts will enjoy Hidcote and Batsford Arboretum, and with easy access from London, Oxford and Bristol, the Cotswolds truly offer something for everyone.

Departs: Daily on demand (March to November recommended) *limited availability in May, June & September*

Cost from: **\$2390** per person twin share

Single room supplement from **\$1265** Solo traveller supplement **\$195**

Supplement for weekend night stay in Moreton-on-Marsh from \$85 per person

Starts: Stratford-upon-Avon

Ends: Broadway

Includes: 7 nights' twin-share ensuite accommodation in carefully selected guesthouses or small hotels; breakfast daily; inn-to-inn luggage transfers (1 bag per person, maximum weight 20kg); route notes & maps, digital App on request; taxi transfer from Stratford-Upon-Avon, on Day 3; telephone support.

Not included: Lunches or dinners, drinks, entry fees, personal expenses, unscheduled taxis/transfers during the trip, travel to/from the start/end of the tour.

Grading: Easy to moderate. Daily distances of up to 13 miles (21km) over gently undulating terrain, with stiles (little ladders) to climb over farm fences. The weather in the Cotswolds is typically milder than other areas of England; however, it is still unpredictable and changeable so be prepared for inclement weather.

Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details and reservations



Suggested itinerary:

Day 1: Arrive in Stratford

Make your way to Stratford-upon-Avon by mid-afternoon. Stratford-upon-Avon has a train station with frequent connections from London or Birmingham. You will stay here two nights. The Royal Shakespeare Company often performs at the Riverside Theatre – plan well in advance to book tickets for a performance.

Day 2: Free day in Stratford-upon-Avon

optional walking

A day at leisure in Stratford-upon-Avon. Explore on your own or perhaps join a guided town walk (£10, paid locally). There is also an easy circular walk (3 miles / 5km) along both sides of the Avon River, passing the Royal Shakespeare Theatre and Holy Trinity Church, where Shakespeare and wife Anne Hathaway are buried.

Day 3: Hidcote Manor / Chipping Camden to Moreton-in-Marsh

walking @ 11 or 8 miles (18 or 13km)

After breakfast you are transferred by taxi to the start of the walk, either at Hidcote Manor (to visit the 10.5 acres of Arts & Crafts-inspired gardens prior to walking to Chipping Camden, 5km); or at Chipping Camden. Historic Chipping Camden is an attractive village, with honey-coloured buildings lining its wide high street, and the medieval 'wool church' of St James. Walk through rolling meadows to the old silk-producing town of Blockley, then on field paths to Batsford, where you may like to visit the arboretum or falconry centre. End in the thriving market town Moreton-in-Marsh.

Day 4: Moreton-in-Marsh to Bourton-on-the-Water

walking @ 12 miles (19km)

A delightful day walking through some of the prettiest villages of the Cotswolds. Cross the high wolds to Stow-on-the-Wold, complete with village stocks and picturesque square. From here it is a leisurely stroll across meadows to Lower Slaughter and then to Bourton-on-the-Water, with its photogenic footbridges across the River Windrush, framed by weeping willows.

Day 5: Bourton-on-the-Water to Winchcombe

walking @ 13 miles (21km)

Follow the River Windrush to the village of Naunton with its medieval dovecote and welcoming pub. Continue through fields and over stiles to lovely Guiting Power; its parish church dates to the 12th century and retains some Norman-era features. Walk through woods and fields and descend to the ancient Saxon capital of Winchcombe, near Sudeley Castle, where Henry VIII's last wife Katherine Parr lived. Winchcombe is a delightful town in a deep valley with a medieval church – its altar cloth is believed to have been stitched by Catherine of Aragon, Henry VIII's first wife.

Day 6: Winchcombe to Broadway via Stanton

walking @ 9 miles (15km)

Walk an undulating stretch of the Cotswold Way to the ruins of Hailes Abbey and the Iron Age hill fort Beckbury Camp. Weather permitting there are views across the Vale of Evesham towards the Malverns. Descend to Wood Stanway and the Jacobean-era Stanway House, with its magnificent gatehouse and medieval tithe barn, and on to the picture-postcard village of Stanton. Lunch can be taken at the Mount Inn between 12 noon and 2pm; or you may wish to take a picnic. Continue to Broadway, once a bustling coaching village on the stagecoach route from Worcester to London, now a centre for arts and antiques. You will stay here two nights.

Day 7: Snowshill circuit walk

walking @ 7½ miles (12km)

Snowshill is a typically pretty Cotswold village above Broadway. Snowshill Manor is a National Trust country house with an elaborate Arts & Crafts-style garden, a quirky collection of crafted and handmade items acquired by the Manor's former owner, and a welcoming café. The walk offers views across the hills into Wales.

Day 8: Departure day

Tour ends after breakfast. Take a local bus or taxi to Evesham or Moreton-in-Marsh for onward travel to London.

Contact Outdoor Travel for more itinerary details and reservations:

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