

England

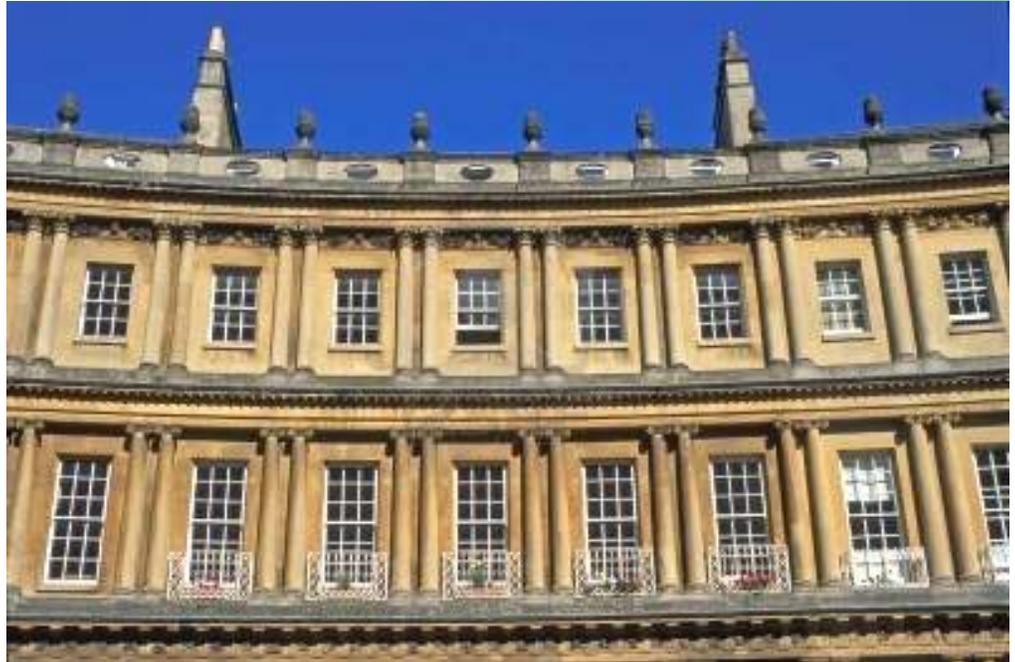
Self-Guided

Hiking tour

Tour description

Day 1 Arrival Bath	
Day 2 Bradford on Avon	20 km
Day 3 To Lacock	21 km
Day 4 To Castle Combe	19 km
Day 5 Back to Bath	21 km
Day 6 End of tour	

Active Journeys



Walking in Historic Bath

Set in the rolling Somerset countryside on the southern edge of the Cotswolds, step back in time and discover this fascinating area. Bath is the oldest of England's principal tourist destinations and has been welcoming visitors for centuries. The three hot springs within the city were sacred to the Celtic goddess Sulis, whom the Romans later identified with the goddess Minerva. Bath first achieved its status as a sacred spa site with the growth of the Roman settlement *Aquae Sulis* around the thermal springs. The Roman period saw a vast complex of baths constructed - the remains of these were re-discovered in the 18th century and helped fuel Bath's modern revival as a luxury resort.

Much later, it became popular as a spa town during the Georgian era, which led to a major expansion that left a heritage of exemplary Georgian architecture crafted from Bath Stone.

The City of Bath was inscribed as a World Heritage Site in 1987. The city has a variety of theatres, museums, and other cultural and sporting venues, which have helped to make it a major centre for tourism with a wide variety of activities for all.

This area of gentle hills and honey-coloured stone villages of Bath and the surrounding region, has some of the finest walking in England. Thanks to well-maintained footpaths and the nature of the landscape, the walking is well within the capabilities of everyone.

Fast Facts

Includes:

- 5 nights B&B (with private facilities) and breakfasts
- Daily luggage transfers, route notes & maps, transfers on Days 4 & 5
- Local support and back up service

Highlights:

- Stunning pastoral scenery
- Relatively easy route
- Beautiful accommodations
- Traditional music in local pubs



Tour Details

Sundays from mid-April to
mid-September

Cost: \$1395 per person

Single Room Upgrade: Upon Request

Grade: Moderate

Length: 6 days / 5 nights

Starts / Ends: Bath

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A five day walking holiday beginning and ending in Bath. It is best to start this walking tour on a Sunday in order to secure accommodation in Bath.

Day 1 Bath

Arrival in Bath. With its classical Georgian architecture, crowned by the magnificent Royal Circus and Royal Crescent, Bath is recognized as one of the most beautiful cities in the world. It is one of only very few complete European cities designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. And, of course, as Aquae Sulis, it was an important Roman resort.



Day 2 Bath to Bradford-on-Avon 20kms

Start from central Bath and walk to Sham Castle, overlooking the whole city. Then over the Dundas Aquaduct to Freshford and Farleigh Hungerford, complete with medieval castle. Passing the magnificent tithe barn at Barton Farm brings you to Bradford-on-Avon, one of the loveliest small towns in Britain with picturesque 17th century bridge, Georgian townhouses and a complete Saxon church. Overnight Bradford-on-Avon.



Day 3 Bradford to Lacock 21kms

Walk across rolling countryside to pretty Monkton Farleigh, and then, with fine views of the Wiltshire Downs, or the Wiltshire Cotswolds, and Bath, continue to the small town of Box. Corsham is noted for Corsham Court, an Elizabethan mansion housing a fine art collection. Then to Lacock, an exquisite village frozen in time much used for films and movies, for overnight (2 nights in Lacock).



Day 4 Lacock to Castle Combe to Lacock 19kms

Walk to Castle Combe, one of the best known of Cotswold villages, with its famous bridge and stream. Transfer back to Lacock for overnight. (Overnight in Castle Combe on request)

Day 5 Castle Combe to Bath 21kms

Transfer back to Castle Combe to walk the luminous St. Catherine Valley to Bath Easton from where you have the choice of taking a bus into the centre of Bath or walking along the Avon to complete your journey. Overnight Bath.

Day 6 End of your journey

Departure after breakfast.



What to Expect

What will the weather be like?

The daytime temperature will be around 15 to mid-20 degrees C (60's to 70's F), with moderate rainfall. It often rains, making the countryside lush and green. It is usually misty and not torrential downpours, but rain gear is still necessary, both a jacket and a pair of pants.

How many hours of hiking a day?

Be prepared to hike between 4 to 6 hours daily. This is not a supported tour, so you must be able to get to the next destination en route. If you need to take a day off and rest, you can easily get to the next town by public transport.

How fit do I need to be?

The fitter the better, so you will be able to enjoy this active holiday. There are some hills and some level terrain, rolling hills rather than any steep pitches.

What is the food like?

We have included a full breakfast each day. For lunch, you can stop in a pub and local restaurant for a full meal or mid-day snack. For dinner, our notes will suggest a location or you can explore each town on your own, and discover the best places.

What are the hotels like?

They are chosen for their charm and location. Properties are charming B&B's, well- located in the towns. All the rooms have private facilities.



ABOUT INDEPENDENT HOLIDAYS:

On an independent holiday you can explore England at liberty, hiking along long distance paths through changing scenery. These holidays offer all the pleasure of hiking point to point, arriving at a new destination each day, without the hassle of carrying a large backpack. We transfer the luggage for you every day. Our detailed route notes, up-to-date maps and our own sketch maps, together with the official marker posts, will ensure you can enjoy your hike without worrying about finding the routes. These are very well researched holidays in order to ensure that you have a worry-free vacation!

Getting There

There is a train service from London, departing every hour to Bath. The cost is about 30£ per person, and the journey is 2 ½ hours. There are also frequent buses from London and Stanstead to Bath for about 10£ per person, taking 3 hours. BritRail offers "Flexipasses", Rail Passes and rail tickets here in North America.

Extra Services

We have a selection of hotels available for you, both before and after the tour.

Hotels in Cheltenham & London can be arranged for you, ranging from B&B's to deluxe accommodation.

How to book your holiday

- Contact our office to make sure there is space available. One of our travel planners will walk you through the entire process.
- Download the reservation form from our site and send in the completed form by fax or email. Once this is done, your space is confirmed and pre-departure packet will be sent.
- A deposit is required immediately, and final payment is required 60 days prior to the trip departure. Terms & conditions are outlined in our Reservation Form.
- Plan your air travel as soon as possible.
- We encourage you to purchase travel insurance, either through us or a travel insurance provider directly.
- Ensure you are in proper health for the trip chosen. Contact us for more information on vaccinations, inoculations, and fitness requirements.