

England

Self-Guided

Hiking tour

Tour descriptions and distances

Day 1 Arrival
Cheltenham

Day 2
To Winchcombe 13 km

Day 3
To Broadway 17 km

Day 4
To Chipping Camden 7 km

Day 5
To Moreton-in-Marsh 13 km

Day 6
To Bourton 19 km

Day 7
To Cheltenham 24 km

Day 8
Departure

Tour Details

Dates: April to October

Cost: \$1695 per person

Single Room Upgrade: Upon Request

Length: 8 days / 7 nights

Grade: Moderate

Starts / Ends: Cheltenham

Active Journeys



Romantic Cotswolds

This area of gentle hills and honey-coloured stone villages between Bath and Stratford 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.

This route takes you through the heart of the romantic Cotswolds. Starting in the fine Regency town of Cheltenham, you will walk to Winchcombe, Broadway and Chipping Campden. Then walk to the town of Morton-on-Marsh, Bourton-on-the-Water and finally, back to Cheltenham.

The chief glory of the area lies in its villages - gems of vernacular architecture that developed out of the wool trade and which have survived unspoiled into the 20th century.

The countryside is a happy compromise between man and nature; marvelous views from the Cotswold escarpment, some of England's finest churches, country houses, Neolithic barrows, ruined abbeys, gothic follies, magnificent gardens and even a substantial industrial heritage - all best seen on foot. Between these delights, you'll find plenty of good pubs serving excellent food and local beer.

A seven day circular walking tour of the Cotswolds with seven nights accommodation. Leave on any day you like. This Cotswold walking tour is a unique village-to-village experience through one of the most scenic areas of England. The route covers about 90 kilometers, taking in the heart of the romantic Cotswolds.

Fast Facts

Includes:

- 7 nights in charming inns and B & Bs with en-suites and breakfasts, option to upgrade to hotels
- Luggage transfers, route notes & maps
- Local support and back up service

Extra services:

Add 2 more nights to this tour and visit the charming towns of Northleach and Cirencester, after London the 2nd town of Roman Britain. Then off to the old Thames towns of Sapperton and Painswick.

Truly a Grand Tour!

9 night Tour price: 2,195.00 per person

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Day 1: Cheltenham

Arrive on your own to the fine Regency town of Cheltenham.

Day 2: Cheltenham to Winchcombe 13 km

Starting from the classical Pittville Pump Room, the route crosses Cleeve Hill – the highest point of the Cotswolds – to Belas Knap long barrow and descends by Sudeley Castle to the ancient Saxon capital of Winchcombe.

Day 3: Winchcombe to Broadway 17 km

Follow the pilgrim's route to Hailes Abbey, then over the hills to Jacobean Stanway House and on to idyllic Stanton. Stay in the coaching village of Broadway, where an array of fine houses and inns flank the “broad way”.

Day 4: Broadway to Chipping Campden 7 km

You will spend a half-day walking over the hills, via Broadway Tower, to Chipping Campden. In the afternoon, explore this beautiful town with its silversmiths and “wool church” or visit Dover's Hill or Hidcote Gardens.

Day 5: Chipping Campden to Moreton-on-Marsh 13 km

Go through the Broad Campden to charming Blockley and Batsford, known for their arboretum. Then walk to the market town of Moreton, straddling the old Roman road, the Fosse Way.

Day 6: Moreton-on-Marsh to Bourton-on-the-Water 19 km

After crossing the high wolds to Stow-on-the-Wold, complete with village stocks and a picturesque square, the route then passes through Lower Slaughter to Bourton-on-the-Water with its many attractions.

Day 7: Bourton-on-the-Water to Cheltenham 24 km

This last stage follows the River Windrush, then heads through the lovely villages of Naunton and Guiting Power. Finally, there is a dramatic descent from the high wolds through the meadows of the Cotswold escarpment, to the journey's end at Prestbury for your overnight in Cheltenham.

Day 8: End of tour

Tour ends in Cheltenham 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?

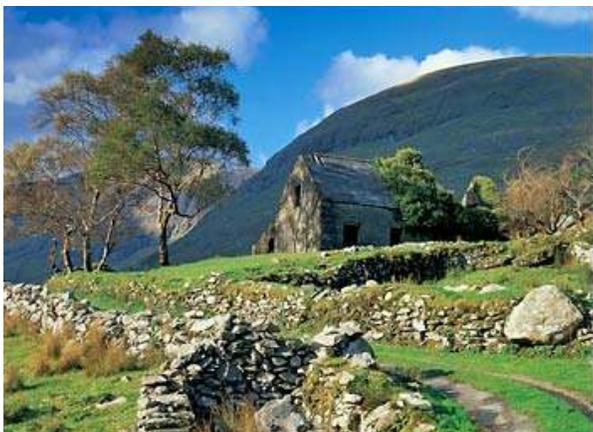
The fitter the better, so you will be able to enjoy this active holiday. There are some hills and some level terrain, rolling hills rather than any steep pitches.

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 and hotels, 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 Cheltenham. The cost is about 30£ per person, and the journey is 2 ½ hours. There are also frequent buses from London and Stanstead to Cheltenham for about 10£ per person, taking 3 hours.

BritRail offers "Flexipasses", Rail Passes and rail tickets here in North America.

Extra Services

Upgrade to 4* and 5* hotels add \$350 p/p.

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.