

A picturesque village scene in the Cotswolds, England. The image shows a row of traditional stone houses with steep, tiled roofs. A path runs alongside the houses, lined with lush greenery and vibrant pink roses. In the background, a large, leafy tree stands on a hill. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and scenic.

Cultural Walking Adventure

England

England's Cotswolds Villages & Stonehenge

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The Quintessential English Experience

Sometimes, Stonehenge steams at dawn. We know because on our tours we've stood there among the great pillars—no crowds, no ropes to hold us back—and felt the sun stream across Salisbury Plain to touch our faces at the same moment it starts to warm the night-cooled sandstone. It is a simple, awesome, hold-your-breath moment. And you'll experience it yourself on this amazing journey through Southwestern England. Beforehand, we spend several days in the parts of the Cotswolds we love best. We'll show you our favorite paths that crook through Technicolor cottage gardens, across sweeping meadows and into the loveliest honeyed-stone villages in the land. This isn't just the superficially pretty England, it's the real thing—a rich cultural experience with personal introductions and remarkable access to non-public places. You'll simply never forget it.

DAY 1

BATH

- Follow in the footsteps of Romans, pilgrims, and Jane Austen on a thoughtfully curated walk
- Explore the iconic baths that date to Roman times

If this is your first visit to Bath, you're in good company. The city has been a top walking destination since the Romans arrived in 60 AD. They found the hot springs and decided to build baths and a temple to worship the goddess Sulis Minerva. A few hundred years later, Bath Abbey was founded in the 7th century and the town became a religious center, and once again a walking destination for pilgrims. A thousand years after that, Jane Austen, arrived. Now, you'll follow in the footsteps of Romans, pilgrims, authors, and others.

On a thoughtfully curated walk, admire the honey-colored Georgian architecture, and stroll with your expert guide from the iconic Royal Crescent to the majestic Circus and spectacular Pulteney Bridge, one of only two bridges in the world with shops built into it. (The other being the iconic Ponte Vecchio in Florence.) Your guide will share stories and anecdotes of Austen's novels, Northanger Abbey and Persuasion, and scenes from "Bridgerton". You'll explore the city's namesake baths, which still flow with hot water today. (And you'll have the opportunity to take the waters yourself if you'd like.)

Overnight: Bath

Meals: D

DAY 2

STONEHENGE / BLENHEIM ESTATE

- 'Only with Classic Journeys' - Visit Stonehenge before its open to the public
- Explore the Downton Abbey village
- Walk to (and explore) Winston Churchill's boyhood home, Blenheim Estate

When we talk about 'Only with Classic Journeys', we mean experiences like what you are about to have today. Because today is Stonehenge. About 4,000 tourists troop through on a typical day. Happily, we've arranged a private visit for you when the site is not open to the public. Relax among the pillars of stone. Enjoy a picnic breakfast and champagne toast. Walk and wander among the stone circle as Bronze Age pilgrims did. Then walk away before the madding crowds ever arrive. It's one of those experiences that you'll be dreaming about... and bragging about... for years to come.

From BC to the BBC. The Cotswolds is known as one of the world's great walking destinations for good reason. In a compact area of just about 100 miles from the southern end to the northern border, you can walk through English history from the Roman city of Bath to the quintessentially English market town of Chipping Campden. A morning walk leads through small scale farms separated by ancient stone walls and landscapes rich with birds, wildflowers, and butterflies. You'll also encounter your first 'kissing gates'. Midday, arrive in Bampton village. If you're a fan of the TV drama Downton Abbey, you'll immediately recognize it as the real-life setting for the fictional village of Downton. You'll explore the town and even stop for a real ploughman's lunch and pint. If you like, try your hand at a game of darts with the locals.

There's no better way to connect the charming Cotswold village of Woodstock with Blenheim Palace than to approach on foot. Blenheim is most well-known as Winston Churchill's birthplace, but its colorful history goes back much further, to the early 18th century and the Duke of Marlborough. On an incredibly scenic and historic walk, you'll pass the lake created by famed landscape architect Capability Brown when he dammed the River Glyme, the Temple of Diana summerhouse where Churchill proposed to his wife, and sheep grazing in meadows before you ultimately arrive at the UNESCO World Heritage Site. Then, join your guide for an insider's exploration of the house itself and the fascinating Churchill exhibition.

Overnight: Burford or Minster Lovell

Meals: B, L

DAY 3

CHEDWORTH/MINSTER LOVELL

- Walk countryside paths through a royal estate
- Explore a working archaeological dig at a 4th century Roman villa
- Learn from an expert how thatched roof cottages are made and maintained

Savor a breakfast of local yogurt, fresh fruits and preserves on warm bread. Your morning walk leads to Chedworth Roman Villa, one of the grandest country houses of 4th century Roman Britain. The valley where Chedworth is located offers cinematic countryside views, with stands of poplar and chestnut trees separating fields where sheep graze and pheasant roam. Your

path crosses a charming bridge over the River Cohn and passes through the estate of Lord Vestey, who served as Master of the Horse to Queen Elizabeth II from 1999 to 2018. We often bump into his wife as she takes her horse out for a daily ride.

Seventeen hundred years ago, wealthy Roman Britons built this extravagant home at the end of a secluded valley. Now, Chedworth is an active archeological site. In 2014, workers uncovered splendid mosaic floors, and state-of-the-art walkways make it possible to get close to these relics. It's a terrific chance to see how excavations are being conducted. Energized from the walk back in time, continue to the village of Chedworth to one of your guide's favorite pubs for lunch.

Refreshed and refueled, join your guide on an afternoon walk to the village of Minster Lovell. The beautiful old cottages in this part of the Cotswolds are photogenic beyond belief. Half-timbered homes with thatched roofs greet you as soon as you arrive. Ambling along the one lane in the village takes you back in time to the 11th and 12th centuries. And a local friend who is an expert in thatching joins to share how the roofs are made and maintained.

Overnight: Burford or Minster Lovell

Meals: B, L

DAY 4

WINDRUSH VALLEY

- Follow a carefully curated countryside walk to quintessential Cotswolds villages
- Eat like (and with) the locals while you learn to bake scones and enjoy an afternoon tea
- Enjoy a sunset exploration of a 12th century manor house ruins

What's a 'honeypot' and why do you want to avoid it? Find out for yourself on a cinematic footpath along the Windrush River Valley. Many of the villages in these parts have become 'honeypots', the locals' way of referring to a place that draws tourists like bees to honey. Happily, for you, your expert local guide is also your well-connected friend, and so able to lead you to postcard-perfect villages like Asthall and Swinbrook. These quintessential Cotswolds villages are filled with what you hope for in your visit: technicolor gardens, cozy pubs, thatched cottages, and medieval churches.

Midday, arrive at the home of a baker who is a friend of your guide. It's your chance to pretend that you're in The Great British Bake Off. In a very fun, hands-on experience, you'll learn to bake scones, and then sit down for a delicious and traditional afternoon tea. Tell your Fitbit or Woop to relax. For every scone you've tasted, you can walk it off this afternoon. You'll cross the Windrush River on a charming stone bridge and then cross a stile or two as you pass through meadows filled with grazing sheep sheltered by the iconic honey-colored dry-stone walls as you make your way to the medieval town of Burford.

This evening after dinner, join your guide for a sunset visit to the picturesque ruins of Minster Lovell Hall. Dating to the 12th century, the main part of the home was constructed by William, Baron of Lovell, who through marriage and good fortune was one of the richest men in England. He chose the location well and sited it in a beautiful rural setting beside the river Windrush.

Overnight: Burford or Minster Lovell

Meals: B, L

DAY 5

THE SLAUGHTERS/CHASTLETON MANOR HOUSE

- Learn how the National Trust protects and preserves historic buildings
- Follow in Jane Austen's footsteps
- Explore Chastleton Manor and picnic in a village church

Jane Austen based her novel Mansfield Park on her visits to Adlestrop. If she went for a stroll, it's easy to imagine that the views she had were the same as you enjoy today on your country walk. Beforehand, make your way through some of the prettiest villages in the Cotswolds, including Bourton-on-the-Water and Upper and Lower Slaughter. You're headed for an organic farm to meet up with our close friend, Annie, who joins you on a walk to Chastleton Manor, a National Trust property. Enjoy a picnic lunch in the village church of local specialties like organic Gloucestershire ham, Bledington Blue and Penyston Brie cheeses, smoked salmon, biscuits, and fig chutney. Then, on a visit to the Manor, Annie shares how the National Trust preserves English heritage.

This afternoon, your footpath follows a section of the famed Cotswold Way to Broadway Tower. Known as the Highest Little Castle in the Cotswolds, it's the literal highpoint of a 50-acre estate and offers you fantastic views into 16 counties. The tower was a holiday retreat for members of the Arts and Crafts movement, and William Morris started his campaign for the preservation of historic monuments here. Walking down from the tower leads into the beautiful village of Broadway, known for the quality of its antique shops.

Overnight: Chipping Campden

Meals: B, D

DAY 6

CHIPPING CAMPDEN / HIDCOTE MANOR GARDENS

- Take a guided walk with an expert on English gardens at Hidcote Manor
- Taste and toast the locally made gins at a Cotswolds' distillery

Chipping Campden marks the northern edge of the famed Cotswold Way footpath that begins in the south in Bath. So, there is a sort of celebratory lift to every footstep today as you walk to Hidcote Manor. Along the way, cross over Dover's Hill, a natural amphitheater with sweeping views over the Vale of Evesham. This was also the site of the original English Olympic Games, started by Robert Dover in 1612.

Hidcote is the world-famous garden created by celebrated horticulturalist, Major Lawrence Johnston. His name and 'Hidcote' have become synonymous with the best forms of many plants, including Hypericum 'Hidcote', Lavandula 'Hidcote' and Rosa 'Lawrence Johnston'. Waiting for you among the 10+ acres is an expert on English gardens, who leads you through the formal garden 'rooms' near the house and natural areas that blend in with the surrounding countryside.

Later in the day, experience a totally different way to preserve historic properties and the plants that grow in the Cotswolds when you visit with our friend Dan and his team of craftsmen at his distillery. Exploring with him, you'll see how they use the wheat, botanicals, and essential oils, all grown locally, to give their gin its characteristic richness. Toast the day with the perfect English drink, a gin and tonic.

Perched high above the village of Broadway lies Farncombe Estate. Dinner tonight celebrates the farm to table movement that has drawn some of the finest chefs in the world to the Cotswolds. Sustainability and seasonality are at the heart of their philosophy, and so be ready to savor slow foods, rare-breed meats and responsibly cultivated grains and vegetables.

Overnight: Chipping Campden

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 7

THE MONARCH'S WAY / MORETON-IN-MARSH

- Follow in the escaping footsteps of King Charles II on the Monarch's Way
- Meet local artists in the quintessential English market town of Chipping Campden

The Monarch's Way is the escape route taken by King Charles II in 1651 after being defeated in the Battle of Worcester. You'll follow that route to journey from Chipping Campden to Moreton-in-Marsh midday. But first, you have the morning at leisure to enjoy the quintessential English market town of Chipping Campden. Once a center of the Arts & Crafts movement, it's now home to exceptional local artists, ceramicists, designers, furniture makers, metal workers, photographers, sculptors, textile artists and wood turners.

After a morning at leisure to sleep in, relax in the garden, or do some shopping and exploring, we'll transfer you past the Batsford estate, the one-time playground of the celebrated (and scandalous) Mitford sisters, to Moreton-in-Marsh. Situated on the crossroads of the Fosse Way Roman Road, it makes for easy travels into London or its airports.

Meals: B



Tour Hotels



Bath Priory Hotel

Just a short walk from the city center, this acclaimed Georgian style hotel is a peaceful and beautiful respite. Enjoy individually designed guest rooms, award winning restaurant and gardens, an luxurious on-site spa, and welcoming hospitality.

OVERNIGHT: Bath | **NIGHTS:** 1



Bay Tree Hotel

Since its first guests in 1565, this perfect Cotswolds hotel has been a favorite. The details are remarkable, from the high-raftered hall to the oak-paneled rooms, tapestries and flagstone floors.

OVERNIGHT: Burford | **NIGHTS:** 3



Cotswold House Hotel

This award-winning luxury hotel, will appeal to travelers visiting the Cotswolds, looking for tranquility, sublime comfort. The contemporary style makes Cotswold House and Spa one of the most admired boutique hotels in the Cotswolds.

OVERNIGHT: Chipping Campden | **NIGHTS:** 2

Tour Dates & Prices

To see the full list of dates and prices for this tour, go to our website by clicking [here](#).

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Trip Essentials

TRIP LENGTH	7 Days, 6 Nights
START	Lobby of the Bath Priory Hotel, Bath, England
END	Moreton-In-Marsh Rail Station, Moreton-In-Marsh, England
TERRAIN	Easy trails through meadows and over rolling hills. At your option, 2 to 4 hours of walking per day.

What's Included

- Award-winning hotels that provide you unlimited access to the people and places, culture and history you came to experience
- All breakfasts, 2 lunches and 4 dinners
- Full-time experienced guide(s) who are with you throughout the trip and handle behind-the-scenes logistics
- Admissions to scheduled events as noted in the detailed daily itinerary
- Gratuities for hotels, meals, and baggage
- All land transportation during the trip

Above & Beyond Benefits

- Invisible Check-In
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When you travel with Classic Journeys, you can expect handcrafted surprises built into every trip, but some things just can't be anticipated. Unusual weather, a once-a-year festival or an unscheduled site closing will inspire us and your local guide to improvise and modify this itinerary. Likewise, the hotels named here are used on the majority of our trips, but occasionally one of them can't accommodate us. If that happens, you can count on us to let you know before departure and make sure you're in a hotel of equal or better quality. It's our goal to make your trip exceptional!

**Any discount offered cannot be combined with other offers, and only applies to published (regularly scheduled public) departure dates in our catalogs or on our website.

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HANDCRAFTING TRIPS OF A LIFETIME.



At the end of the day, we fundamentally believe that every guest on every departure of every trip should have a trip of a lifetime. We're fortunate to play the role of well-connected friend, linking our guests with amazing guides, artisans, winemakers, hoteliers, restaurateurs, naturalists, and too many others to list here.

That's what motivates me and our team — in our La Jolla HQ and around the world — every day. Join Us!

President & Founder



You can expect the highest standards:



Luxurious Lodgings:

Ours include coveted properties that appear in "World's Best" and "Gold List" rankings.



Included Activities:

You'll never be surprised with add-on fees on your activities that include snorkeling to cooking lessons.



Local Guides:

Your guides are locals who are always at your side like well-connected friends.



Small Group Travel:

With an average of just 10-12 guests, it's a small footprint that guarantees you access that's off-limits to larger groups.



Amazing Cuisine:

From Michelin-starred restaurants to lunch in a farmhouse kitchen, you'll have a seat for the region's signature dishes.



Unmatched Value:

"Excellent value" and "unbeatable access" are two of the reasons that Travel + Leisure has consistently voted us a World's Best Tour Operator.

You'll enjoy these handcrafted travel experiences in England...

- Walking the famed Cotswolds Way
- Accessing Stonehenge during a private visit without the crowds
- Touring Broughton Castle on a privately guided visit
- Enjoying enchanting and historic accommodations in Bath and the Cotswolds
- Strolling through picture-perfect English villages like Bampton, where scenes from "Downton Abbey" were filmed

"Wendy was excellent in all respects."

-Catherine L., Corona, NM,

Let's Go!

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