

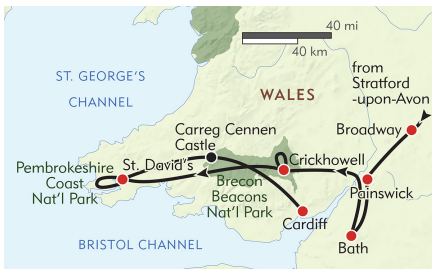
Treasures of Wales and the Cotswold Way

HONEY-STONE VILLAGES, COASTAL TRAILS, AND MEDIEVAL CASTLES



Wilderness Travel

Overview



TRIP DETAILS AT-A-GLANCE

- Length:** 11 days
Arrive: Stratford-upon-Avon, England
Depart: Cardiff, Wales
Lodging: 10 nights comfortable hotels
Meals: All except 2 dinners
Activity: Cultural, Walking, Hiking & Trekking

Trip Level: 1 2 ③ 4 5 6

10 hiking days on moderate trails with some short steep sections 2-5 hours a day, van support

QUESTIONS?

Our Area Specialists are your single point of contact and would be happy to answer any questions about your trip!

800.368.2794 | 510.558.2488

HIGHLIGHTS

- Hike the most scenic stretches of the Cotswold Way, passing through unspoiled hamlets, market towns, and shaded woodlands
- Follow spectacular trails along the towering cliffs and golden beaches of the Pembrokehire Coast Path
- Meet with farmers, storytellers, and historians
- Discover the World Heritage city of Bath, with its Roman spa and Georgian architecture
- Stay in historic manor houses and traditional inns

Introduction



The idyllic stone cottages of the Cotswolds and wild seascapes of Wales' Pembrokeshire Coast Path grace this spectacular journey. On the Cotswold Way, a long-distance footpath through the English countryside, we'll hike between towns built during the 17th century wool trade and tucked amid ancient forests and emerald-green meadows. After exploring Jane Austen's beloved city of Bath, we hike right into Wales to reach romantic Tintern Abbey, then along the banks of the lush River Wye and across the cliff trails of the Pembrokeshire Coast Path. Overnights are in historic manor houses, a Georgian townhouse, and traditional inns, and our culinary delights range from local Cotswold lamb to Welsh mussels straight from the sea.

TRIP DATES

May 12-22, 2025

August 11-21, 2025

September 22-October 2, 2025

May 11-21, 2026

June 15-25, 2026

August 10-20, 2026

September 21-October 1, 2026

Itinerary



Overnight: Lygon Arms Hotel

At the historic Lygon Arms, you can visit the suite that Oliver Cromwell stayed in the night before the Battle of Worcester in 1651! This grand Tudor coaching inn on the main street of Broadway has been expanded and somewhat modernized over the years but still has the open, log-burning fireplaces that hint at its 14th century roots. The hotel has 80 rooms, a lovely spa and pool, a plethora of cozy bar areas, and a very good restaurant.

Meals: L, D

Hiking Details: 6.2 miles, 3 hours, 690' ascent, 880' descent

DAY 1 STRATFORD-UPON-AVON, ENGLAND / COTSWOLD WAY / CHIPPING CAMPDEN / STANTON / BROADWAY

Welcome to the Cotswolds! We meet in the morning in the beautiful Cotswold town of Stratford-upon-Avon, and head to Chipping Campden, a classic English market town renowned for its historic architecture. The town made its wealth through the wool trade in the 13th century, and many buildings from this era are still present today. We'll explore the town on foot, then walk through the 17th century Market Hall, the "official" start of the Cotswold Way walking trail, then head up along grassy paths to Dover's Hill, our first fine viewpoint along the Cotswold escarpment. We eventually reach Broadway Tower, an 18th century folly at 1,089 feet—on a good day, you can see 16 English counties from it. We'll stop for lunch here in a delightful café and, if weather permits, we'll eat outside. Nestled below this ancient beacon hill is the popular village of Broadway, often called the "Jewel of the Cotswolds". We'll descend slowly through fields of quietly grazing sheep into the afternoon bustle of the town. The main street, lined with golden stone cottages, some clad in wisteria and with lush colorful gardens, leads us to the Lygon Arms Hotel, originally a 16th century coaching inn and our home for the next two nights. Both King Charles I and Cromwell stayed here during the 17th century English Civil War, but not at the same time! After checking into the hotel, we'll have time to explore the village before we gather for a Welcome Dinner and overnight at Lygon Arms Hotel.

Itinerary



Overnight: Lygon Arms Hotel

Meals: B, L, D

Hiking Details: 8 miles, 4-5 hours, 1,340 feet ascent, 890 feet descent

Driving Time: 1 hour

DAY 2 HAILES ABBEY / BELAS KNAP / CLEEVE COMMON

Today's hike begins at the tranquil ruins of Hailes Abbey, founded in 1246 by the Earl of Cornwall and set in open countryside. Our trail brings us to the town of Winchcombe, set above the River Isbourne, and onward to the archaeological site of Belas Knap, a Neolithic chambered tomb that was first excavated in 1863. We'll have a picnic lunch here, then finish our hike at Cleeve Common, a unique grassland environment that is of national importance for its geologic and scientific interest. We'll take a walk through the Common with a park ranger. Dinner tonight is at a historic pub dating back to the 15th century.

Itinerary



Overnight: The Painswick Hotel

The boutique Painswick Hotel has panoramic views over the lovely Painswick Valley from its perch above town. The house dates from the 18th century, became a hotel in the 1950s, and since 2015 has been part of the Calcot Collection of luxury hotels. The 16 guest rooms are individually designed and warmly inviting, and the restaurant offers a blend of traditional and unconventional in a kitchen overseen by Michelin-starred chef Michael Bedford.

Meals: B, L, D

Hiking Details: 5 miles, 3.5-4 hours, 1,150' ascent, 1,200' descent

Driving Time: 1.5 hours

DAY 3 PAINSWICK / HARESFIELD BEACON / STANDISH PARK FARM / FALCONRY

From the little hilltop village of Painswick, we follow the Cotswold Way through typical English forests of ash, birch, oak, sycamore, and maple, then into the wide-open expanses of Haresfield Beacon, a National Trust property with glorious views over the River Severn. After our picnic lunch, we continue along the Cotswold Way to Standish Park Farm, on the edge of the Cotswolds Hills adjacent to the stately Norman church of St Nicholas Standish, with its imposing spire. At the farm, artisan cheesemaker Jonathan Crump has been producing award-winning Single and Double Gloucester cheese from the farm's herd of Old Gloucester cows, a rare heritage breed. Both the Single and Double Gloucester Cheese have won first prizes at the Annual Farming Awards—and so did Jonathan's cows! We'll taste the wares before heading to the welcoming Painswick Hotel for dinner and overnight. This former 18th century vicarage is part of the award-winning luxury group the Calcot Collection, with a kitchen overseen by Michelin-starred chef Michael Bedford. Before dinner, however, we have a real treat in store for you—the opportunity to fly hawks and owls. The ancient sport of falconry will be introduced within the hotel grounds. You'll be presented with a gauntlet, and these magnificent birds will fly and perch on your leather clad outstretched arm. To be so close to such beautiful creatures is something you'll remember and treasure.

Itinerary



Overnight: The Painswick Hotel

Meals: B, L, D

Hiking Details: 7 miles, 4-5 hours, 1,090' ascent, 1,350' descent

Driving Time: 1 hour 20 minutes

“A good blend of hiking, history, culture, food, and down time, all graced with the interpersonal interactions of a hiking group with capable leadership.”

—Mary K., Williamsport, PA

DAY 4 WOTTON-UNDER-EDGE / WORTLEY / HILLESLEY

A hike through green countryside brings us to Wotton-Under-Edge, where we stop to visit its rows of historic “almshouses” created by local benefactors in the 18th century to house poor families. After lunch, we head over the fields to link up with the Cotswold Way path in Wortley and follow it to the pleasant village of Hillesley. At The Fleece Inn, a 17th century pub renowned for its real ales, we'll toast our Cotswolds trails and the rich tapestry of people we have met on our journey. Returning to Painswick, we have the opportunity to explore the village. The wool trade brought much prosperity to Painswick, with as many as 30 mills producing superfine broadcloth. Today a range of artisans have moved into former weavers' cottages in town.

Itinerary



Overnight: No. 15 Guesthouse

This 36-room boutique hotel is set in the heart of Bath, a historic city known for its fine Georgian buildings. Guest rooms are individually decorated (no two are alike) and offer an authentic Georgian ambiance. Along with other amenities, the rooms include a record player and selection of records! Do a little socializing in the cozy bar (you may meet up with locals), treat yourself to a massage at the spa, or take a walk to some of Bath's noted cultural sights.

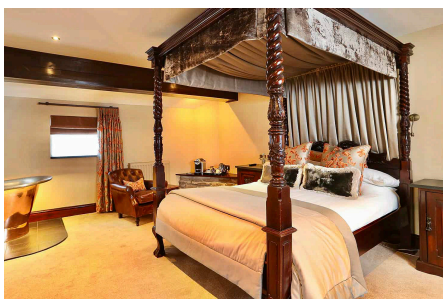
Meals: B, L

Driving Time: 1.5 hours

DAY 5 NATIONAL ARBORETUM / BATH

Today we'll take a rest from hiking and explore the National Arboretum, one of the most beautiful plant collections in the world. Its history stretches back to 1829 when Robert Holford brought back plants from his travels. During the Victorian era, exotic plant collections were a sign of wealth and influence, and Holford's arboretum was designed aesthetically rather than planting according to species and geographic location, a bold departure of the times that resulted in astonishing beauty and unique diversity. In 1956, the entire arboretum (nearly 600 acres) was handed over to Forestry England and is now home to 2,500 different species of flora, including native and endangered trees. We'll enjoy visiting parts of the Old Arboretum and Silk Wood before heading to Bath with time to explore the ancient streets at your leisure. With its imposing Georgian architecture, regal connections, and the "healing" waters of its Roman Baths, it's easy to see why the city inspired Jane Austen. Bath is also brimming with farm shops, artisanal coffee houses, bistros, and brasseries. Dinner is on your own tonight (the Trip Leader will be happy to make recommendations, depending on how local or fancy you want to go).

Itinerary



Overnight: The Bear Hotel

Located in the heart of the Brecon Beacons National Park, this former coaching inn is brimming with charm and old world hospitality, yet has all the necessary modern comforts. With 30 rooms decorated in unique style, an award-winning restaurant—the ideal place to have your first taste of world-renowned Welsh lamb, and an antique-filled bar serving an array of single malts, The Bear is the ideal base for exploring the Wye Valley.

Meals: B, L, D

Hiking Details: 3.7 miles, 2 hours, 460' ascent, 1,150' descent

Driving Time: 1 hour 45 minutes

DAY 6 TO WALES / OFFA'S DYKE / TINTERN ABBEY / CRICKHOWELL

A short morning drive brings us to the start of our hike across the historic Anglo-Welsh border and into the enchanting Wye Valley. With its tranquil farmlands, quaint villages, and limestone gorges, the Wye Valley has long been a source of inspiration to artists, writers, and poets (Wordsworth and Coleridge among them). At Devil's Pulpit, a rocky outcrop set at the edge of the river gorge, we savor views of the meandering River Wye and magnificent 12th century Tintern Abbey below. From here, legend tells, the devil attempted to lure the monks from their calling. Our trail follows the ancient border between kingdoms by following Offa's Dyke, the 8th century earthen barrier that once separated King Offa's Saxon kingdom from the warring Welsh Celtic tribes to the west. Descending to cross the river into Wales (keep an eye out for herons, kingfishers, and river otters), we end our hike at Tintern Abbey, where we'll enjoy lunch in a bustling local pub, our first opportunity to try Welsh ale. Afterwards, we enjoy a tour with a local scholar through these haunting halls, hearing stories from across the centuries that bring the ruins to life. Heading to the picturesque market town of Crickhowell in the heart of Beacons National Park, we reach The Bear Hotel, a historic coaching inn and the first of our Welsh lodgings. Before dinner we'll gather to hear a local storyteller (*chwedleuwr*) who continues this ancient Welsh tradition. Dinner is in the Bear's acclaimed restaurant—a chance to taste world-renowned Welsh lamb and other locally sourced specialties.

Itinerary



Overnight: The Bear Hotel

Meals: B, L, D

Hiking Details: 5.5 miles, 3-3.5 hours, 700' ascent, 650' descent

Driving Time: 1 hour

“It was a well-planned, well executed, and full itinerary, giving guests the opportunity to meet and interact with local people throughout the trip. A nice mix of hiking/walking and cultural experiences.”

—Sylvia B., Canterbury, NH

DAY 7 RIVER WYE / HAY-ON-WYE

A hearty Welsh breakfast fuels us for our hike along and above the northern banks of the River Wye, the fourth longest river in Britain. The Wye Valley walk spans 136 miles through a lush, protected river valley celebrated for its natural beauty and vital role in UK conservation. A short drive brings us to the start of our hike in Glasbury, its name derives from “clas,” meaning church land, and is the burial site of St Cynidr, a 6th century bishop. Nowadays the village is a popular spot to fish and kayak. Keeping the river on our right, we walk east and pass under a row of aspen trees festooned with mistletoe. The route rises from the river before descending into Llowes, a tiny village home to the ancient St. Meilig's Cross, dating back to the 6th or 7th century.

We rejoin the riverbank, where kingfishers and herons may be spotted hunting fish. A 19th century stone bridge leads to Hay-on-Wye, a book-lover's mecca with over 30 second-hand bookshops lining its quaint lanes. We'll have time to browse and absorb the character of this unique town. It was Richard Booth, the visionary and eccentric, who came up with the idea of making Hay-on-Wye the first Book Town in the world. In 1960, he bought nearby Hay Castle, the 12th century Norman keep, which had once served as a buffer between Norman England and the princedoms of Wales. He lived in the castle and used it to store the truckloads of second-hand books he bought. In 1977 he declared Hay-on-Wye an Independent Kingdom with himself as King and his horse, Goldie, as Prime Minister!

Itinerary



Overnight: St. David's Cross Hotel

This 16-room hotel offers a warm, cozy atmosphere. Originally a large family home, it became a hotel in the late 19th century and was fully renovated in 2015. Guest rooms are comfortable, with a TV, coffee and tea-making facilities, and free Wi-Fi.

Meals: B, L, D

Hiking Details: 2 miles, 1 hour

Driving Time: 3 hours

DAY 8 LAUGHARNE / ST. DAVID'S CATHEDRAL / PEMBROKESHIRE NATIONAL PARK

Today we head west to Pembrokeshire National Park, with a visit along the way to the coastal village of Laugharne and the Boathouse, final home of Dylan Thomas, the highly celebrated, hard-drinking, and tragically short-lived bard. Joined by a local expert, we'll take a walk through Dylan's life and into his writing shed to share the serene views that inspired some of his finest verses. We arrive this afternoon at the westernmost tip of Wales, where magnificent St. David's Cathedral stands dramatically in a hollow, below the tiny city of the same name. The spiritual and ecclesiastical center of Wales, the shrine marks the birthplace of the country's beloved patron saint (Dewi Sant in Welsh) and has drawn pilgrims to the rugged Pembrokeshire Coast since its founding in 550 AD. Together with a local guide, we walk among its vaulted 12th century chambers, built of dusky purple sandstone from the nearby cliffs, and learn about the centuries of fine craftsmanship that created the grand cathedral. Our hotel, the St David's Cross Hotel, originally a large family house over 200 years ago, has been operating as a hotel since the late 1880s. Refurbished in 2015, it's now a cozy small hotel nestled in the center of St David's, Britain's smallest city with about 2,000 inhabitants. Dinner is at a local restaurant.

Itinerary



Overnight: St. David's Cross Hotel

Meals: B, L

Hiking Details: 5.6 miles, 3-4 hours, 1,030' ascent, 855' descent

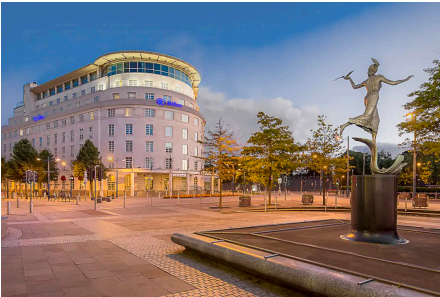
“This was our first hike that we had dreamed about for years. It truly filled all of our expectations.”

—Susan G., East Aurora, NY

DAY 9 PEMBROKESHIRE COAST PATH TO ST. NON'S BAY

The Pembrokeshire Coast Path is one of the crown jewels of Britain's National Park system, winding along the spectacular seaside landscapes of the west coast of Wales for 186 miles. Some of the path's most dramatic and rugged stretches lie within St. David's Peninsula. Before heading out on our hike, we'll enjoy an hour with a local expert learning about all the flora that can be foraged from the local hedgerow. Our hike starts from Solva Harbour, a narrow sheltered anchorage that leads out into St Brides Bay. Important as a trading center in the Middle Ages, it grew in prominence as lime was exported from the lime kilns that can still be seen at the harbor's edge. At one time it accommodated vessels of 500 tons and upwards; nowadays we'll just see small pleasure boats, paddleboards, and kayaks out on its clear waters. We strike out westward across the cliff tops, where our path meanders along the secluded inlets and sheltered sandstone coves. We'll watch for seals basking on the rocks below and in the air we may see peregrine falcons and choughs that make their nests on the nearby islands. If weather permits and you're feeling brave, there will also be an opportunity to swim in the refreshing but cool sea. At St Non's Bay we head inland to our hotel in St David's. Before getting there, we'll pass the ruins of St Non's Chapel, believed to be the birthplace of St David and the oldest Christian building in Wales. Legend has it that David's mother, Non, gave birth to him here under a ray of light surrounded by a raging storm, her pain so great that her fingers left marks on the surrounding rocks as she grasped for support. Close by there is a holy well, where in the past pilgrims came to drink its waters for healing and good luck. To this day it's still venerated and Pope Benedict used its waters during his visit to Britain in 2010. Dinner is on your own tonight. Before dinner, you may want to join in the 1,000-year-old tradition of evensong or evening prayer in St. David's Cathedral.

Itinerary



Overnight: Hilton Hotel Cardiff

The Cardiff Hilton is on the edge of the city center's Castle Quarter, just two blocks from Cardiff Castle. There is an indoor pool and sauna, and the hotel is close to shops and restaurants.

Meals: B, L, D

Hiking Details: 3.5 miles, 3-3.5 hours, 840' ascent, 830' descent

Driving Details: 3 hours 15 minutes

DAY 10 CARREG CRENNAN CASTLE / CARDIFF

We head to Carreg Cennan for a counter-clockwise hike around one of Wales' most spectacularly located castles. Set in the Brecon Beacon National Park, Carreg Cennan dominates its surroundings, perched above the mountain farms that surround it. The castle's story goes back to the 13th century but there is archaeological evidence that the Romans as well as prehistoric peoples occupied this craggy hilltop site (Roman coins and prehistoric skeletons have been unearthed here). After our walk, we enjoy lunch in a local farm tearoom, then head for Cardiff, the Welsh capital. We'll have free time to explore Cardiff in the late afternoon and then gather for our Farewell Dinner.

Meals: B

DAY 11 CARDIFF / DEPART

Depart after breakfast.

Pricing

TRIP COST

**Prices are per person, based on double occupancy
2025**

\$7,695 (10-14 members)

\$8,295 (4-9 members)

Single supplement: \$1,815

Please contact us for future years' pricing

To offer the lowest possible cost, our trips are priced according to the number of participants on the trip. All costs are per person, based on double occupancy. If you wish to have a single room, you must pay the single supplement fee. Please note that Wilderness Travel staff, or guests of Wilderness Travel such as travel writers, photographers, or leaders-in-training, are not included in the tier pricing count.

PAYMENT TERMS

At time of reservation: \$600

90 days prior to departure: Balance

CANCELLATION & TRANSFER FEE SCHEDULE

Up to 91 days prior to departure: No Charge!

61-90 days prior to departure: 25% of trip cost

46-60 days prior to departure: 50% of trip cost

45 days or less: 100% of trip cost

TRAVEL INSURANCE

We highly recommend you purchase travel insurance. You can take advantage of a comprehensive Travel Protection Plan designed for Wilderness Travel by Travelex, or purchase other insurance on your own. See our website for details:

www.wildernesstravel.com/insurance

TRIP COST INCLUDES

- Expert leadership of a Wilderness Travel Trip Leader and local guides
- Accommodations in hotels
- All meals included except 1 lunch and 1 dinner as indicated in Detailed Itinerary
- A glass of wine or beer with dinner
- All ground transportation and baggage handling from meeting until departure
- All activities as indicated in Detailed Itinerary

TRIP DOES NOT INCLUDE

- Travel to and from the arrival and departure location as indicated in Detailed Itinerary
- Additional hotel nights outside the trip's scheduled dates
- Optional gratuities to Trip Leaders or staff
- Optional travel insurance
- Other expenses of a personal nature (some alcoholic beverages, laundry, etc.)

CURRENCY EXCHANGE RATE

Because the prices published for our program are set so far in advance of the trip dates, we are occasionally faced with exceptional cost increases and/or currency fluctuations that affect the actual cost of running the trip. In most years, no price changes are necessary. However, we do reserve the right to raise or lower the trip price if there is a significant change in costs or exchange rates. If this is the case, your final invoice will reflect the difference in trip cost.

Arrival & Departure

ARRIVAL & MEETING PLACE

Suggested Airport: Birmingham (BHX), London Heathrow (LHR), or London Gatwick (LGW)

Suggested Date & Time: Anytime prior to Day 1

Suggested Arrival Train Station: Stratford-upon-Avon.

Taxis from the train station to the hotel cost approximately £5. The hotel is a short 1-mile walk from the station.

Meeting Place: The Trip Leader will meet group members in the lobby of the DoubleTree by Hilton on Day 1 at 9:00 am for a group orientation, followed by a transfer to our first hike. If you are staying elsewhere in Stratford-upon-Avon, please take a taxi to the hotel for the group meeting.

DEPARTURE

Suggested Airport: Cardiff Airport, Wales (CWL)

Suggested Date & Time: Day 11, after 9:00 am

Suggested Departure Train Station: Cardiff Central Train Station.

Trains from Cardiff depart for London's Paddington Station about every 30-45 minutes beginning around 5:15 am. The journey takes 2-2.5 hours.

On Day 11, the Trip Leader will assist with calling taxis to facilitate onward travel for trip members. Taxis from the hotel to the train station (1.5 miles away) cost approximately £7. It is recommended to pre-book all your train tickets online to ensure a seat.

INTERNATIONAL AIR TRAVEL

You are responsible for making your own arrangements for flights to and from England.

There are many online consolidator websites for booking travel, but for more personal help arranging air transport, you can contact Exito Travel at 970-818-8459 in the US or Canada. They are very adept at putting flight itineraries together, to even the most farflung places. More information can be found on Exito's website at www.exitotravel.com.

Depending on your routing, it is necessary to depart from the US one or possibly two days prior to Day 1 of the trip itinerary. The name on your airline ticket must match the name on your passport exactly, and your passport must be valid for at least six months after your date of return to the US.

Please do not purchase your tickets until you are confirmed on the trip. Once your tickets have been purchased, please send us a copy of your airline schedule. It is your responsibility to ensure your flight times coordinate with the arrival and departure logistics for this trip.

Trip Leaders

Wilderness Travel Trip Leaders have a passion and a joy for creating an unforgettable journey. We are extremely proud of them and the incredible travel experiences they make possible. For more information, including client comments about them and which specific departures they will be leading, please visit wildernesstravel.com/leaders.



TONY DEWES

Tony Dewes was born and brought up in Yorkshire, England, and spent more than 20 years as a college and university lecturer before becoming an outdoor instructor. He has traveled extensively in Asia, Europe, and Central and Southern America, and been a guide since 2002. "I love taking people to wild and remote places, and creating those special memories for people to treasure." When not leading trips, Tony loves to cook, particularly cuisine from the Indian subcontinent, and play his ukulele. He lives in Cumbria, where he has dedicated many years of service to his local mountain rescue team and has been awarded both the Queens Diamond Jubilee Medal and the Queens Award for Voluntary Service for his work in training mountain rescue personnel.



SKYE MCDONALD

Skye McDonald lives in Scotland's Highland capital, Inverness. She has worked as a Trip Leader in 35 countries since the millennium and lived in Germany, France, and Tanzania. "Bringing understanding between peoples of very different cultures and backgrounds is one of the joys of being a Trip Leader, and of course, the chance to make friends around the world." Closer to home, she delights in sharing the glories of her native Scotland, and says that a good day scaling some of the beautiful Scottish mountains is hard to beat. Skye speaks German, French, beginners' Portuguese, and unusually, a smattering of Swahili from earlier years as a volunteer agricultural officer in Tanzania. Life continues to be an adventure for Skye, who has recently taken up bee-keeping, wild-water swimming, and scuba diving.



LEONIE PALMER

Born and bred in Oxfordshire and a naturally free-spirited explorer, Leonie has traveled and worked her way around the world, with time spent in the Bolivian Amazon, Chilean Patagonia, the Indian Himalaya, and the east coast of Thailand. She has worked as an outdoor guide, ecologist, and even a "lumberjill," and loves sharing the knowledge she has gained with others. Currently, she is semi-settled in Argyll, Scotland, in a tiny house by the sea.



SIMONE SIMPSON

An avid wilderness and backcountry explorer, Simone Simpson taught outdoor education in the Snowdonian mountains of Wales for 13 years before moving to the southern French Alps, where she leads treks in the Alpes Maritimes in southeast France. Her leadership stints have taken her far beyond Europe—she has guided in Costa Rica, Borneo, and one year she led a month-long expedition to Botswana and Zambia with a team of 11 school girls! Alongside her adventurous career as a guide, she is also an advanced paraglider pilot and once competed at a national level. When not leading trips, Simone lives off the grid with her husband in the Alpes Maritimes in a solar-powered house that she and her husband built.

What to Expect

WHAT THE TRIP IS LIKE

This trip is rated **Level 3, Moderate**, according to our trip grading system. You will need to be comfortable hiking 10 miles a day and being on your feet for up to 7 hours a day. You will need to be able to keep up with the moderate but steady pace of the group as there are no alternative hiking options available. Trail conditions, weather, and the group's level of fitness can affect hiking times and pacing.

Average Hiking Day

- 7 miles
- 4-5 hours
- 1,000 feet gain and 700 feet loss

Challenge Day

- Day 4: 11.3 miles, 4.5-5.5 hours, 1,860 feet gain/1,845 feet loss

TERRAIN

The trails along the Cotswold Way are generally well-marked and wide, and they include earthy tracks, grassy paths through fields, wide tractor routes through woodlands, and some short sections on quiet roads. With the exception of the hike in Brecon Beacon National Park where there is a continuous 2,000 foot climb (trip members can elect to be driven halfway up), most days have gentle elevation change throughout the hike. There are sections on some of our hikes that are rocky and rugged, but we will not get too close to the cliff edge. With rainfall, some areas can be muddy.

WEATHER

Even in the summer, the weather in England and Wales can change quickly due to their maritime climate. However, summers are generally mild and fresh with average daytime temperatures around 70°F. Wales tends to be wetter than England, with slightly less sunshine. Showers are usually short lived, but as the weather is unpredictable, it is necessary to bring raingear on every hike.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Our accommodations are in small, quaint hotels that have been selected for their local history and charm. Since they are often in historic buildings, the rooms are not always of uniform or international size. Our leaders do their best to assign rooms in a fair way so that all participants experience an equal advantage throughout the trip as a whole. There are no elevators and many buildings have low beams. Single rooms can be requested but are not always available, due to the limited space in the hotels. If you prefer a single room, please make your request as early as possible.

CUISINE

Lunches will either be at local cafes and pubs or picnic-style during one of our hikes. Dinners will be at a local restaurant or at the hotel. We will have a chance to experience a range of local cuisines, and one of our hotels includes a restaurant with locally-sourced products. Please note that in Europe, the dinner hour is considerably later than what it is in the US. We do our best to secure early reservations for our groups, but most often the evening meal will be at 7:30 pm.

What to Expect

TRANSPORTATION

Our van will transport the group's luggage, so you only need to carry a daypack for items you need for the day (rain gear, sweater, camera, water bottle, etc.). Trip members are always free to skip a day's hike and travel to the next destination in the support vehicle (or remain at the hotel if we are not transferring that day).

HIKING DETAILS BY DAY				DRIVING DETAILS
DAY	MILES	HOURS	ELEV. ASCENT/DESCENT	HOURS
1	6.2 miles	3 hours	690' ascent / 880' descent	20 minutes
2	8 miles	4-5 hours	1,340' ascent / 890' descent	1 hour
3	5 miles	3.5-4 hours	1,150' ascent / 1,200' descent	1 hour 30 minutes
4	7 miles	4-5 hours	1,090' ascent / 1,350' descent	1 hour 20 minutes
5				1 hour 30 minutes
6	3.7 miles	2 hours	460' ascent / 1,150' descent	1 hour 45 minutes
7	5.5 miles	3-3.5 hours	700' ascent / 650' descent	1 hour
8	2 miles	1 hour		3 hours
9	5.6 miles	3-4 hours	1,030' ascent / 855' descent	
10	3.5 miles	3-3.5 hours	840' ascent / 830' descent	3 hours 15 minutes

AVERAGE DAILY MAX/MIN °F												
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Bath	45/37	46/37	50/39	54/41	61/46	64/52	70/55	68/55	63/52	55/46	50/41	45/37
St. David's	46/37	46/36	49/39	52/41	57/45	62/50	65/54	65/54	62/51	56/47	51/42	47/38

RAINFALL - INCHES												
Bath	2.0	1.39	1.1	1.4	1.4	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.2	2.0	2.1	1.8
St. David's	4.5	2.9	2.3	1.8	2.3	1.9	2.9	2.9	3.0	4.0	4.6	4.1

Additional Information

CHOOSING THE RIGHT TRIP

Adventure travel often involves exotic destinations, unusual levels of physical exertion, or activities you may not have participated in previously. We work hard to help you choose the right trip for you, paying attention to your individual interests, abilities, and needs. If you have questions about the level of comfort or any of the activities described in this itinerary, please call Wilderness Travel at 1-800-368-2794 or email us at info@wildernesstravel.com.

REFERENCES

We'd be happy to put you in touch with a past client that has traveled with us.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

At www.wildernesstravel.com, you can book your trip online or find out about added departures, last-minute deals, and one-time Limited Edition adventures that aren't listed in our catalog. You can also access our complete library of detailed itineraries filled with enticing photos and videos, read bios of our Trip Leaders, find descriptions of trip accommodations, and check real-time availability of any trips that interest you.

Toucan Club Rewards & Discounts



T-SHIRT FRONT



T-SHIRT BACK



PATAGONIA SYNCHILLA FLEECE VEST
+ KLEEN KANTEEN 27OZ WATER BOTTLE



PATAGONIA R1 PULLOVER

We are very proud to have one of the highest rates of repeat travelers in the business, and have established the Wilderness Travel Toucan Club to reward you for your loyalty. For more information, please visit the Toucan Club page of our website at www.wildernesstravel.com/toucan.

Here's how it works:

YOUR FIRST TRIP

As a first-time traveler, you receive a lightweight Wilderness Travel T-shirt and set of durable WT Luggage Tags. On subsequent trips, we're happy to send you a new WT T-shirt and set of Luggage Tags by request.

YOUR SECOND TRIP

A top quality Wilderness Travel stainless steel water bottle by Klean Kanteen and a cozy Wilderness Travel fleece vest by Patagonia (\$100 value).

YOUR THIRD TRIP

A versatile Wilderness Travel R-1 pullover by Patagonia (\$130 value).

YOUR FOURTH TRIP

Discounts on the cost of your trip begin! You receive a 4% discount on the tour cost.

FIVE AND MORE TRIPS

You receive a 5% discount on the base trip cost. On your sixth trip, you receive a 6% discount, and so on up to your 10th trip. The maximum discount is 10%, with a ceiling of \$500.

Note: Due to special pricing considerations, Toucan Club discounts do not apply to our Private Journeys or Special Events. However, your participation on these trips does count toward your Toucan discount on future departures of Wilderness Travel's regular adventures.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

Toucan Club travel discounts cannot be used in conjunction with any other discount, unless otherwise specified. Discounts are deducted from the base trip cost and shown on the final invoice. The base trip cost is the main land/tier cost and does not include single supplement fees, extensions, internal airfare, or other additional charges. Bonus gifts (T-shirts, luggage tags, vests, water bottles, and pullovers) will be mailed approximately three weeks prior to trip departure. Terms and conditions of Toucan Club bonuses are subject to change or cancellation at the discretion of Wilderness Travel, Inc.



WILDERNESS TRAVEL HAS BEEN AWARDED:

Best Travel Specialists in the World: *Conde Nast Traveler*, 2024, 4-time winner

World's Best Tour Operators: *Travel + Leisure*, 11-time winner

Best Wildlife, Hiking & Walking Trips: *AFAR Magazine*, 3 years in a row

Best Adventure Travel Companies: *USA Today*

Trip of the Year: *Outside Magazine*, 9-time winner

50 Tours of a Lifetime: *National Geographic Traveler*, 9 years in a row

Best Adventure Travel Companies: *National Geographic Adventure*, 3-time winner

Please be advised that California has established a Travel Consumer Restitution Fund under the California Seller of Travel Law that took effect January 1, 1996. This fund is designed to protect consumers from unscrupulous practices by discount airfare ticket sellers or air charter operators. Unfortunately, this law does not cover non-California residents and, even in the case of California residents, it does not cover any foreign travel where the foreign "providers of transportation or travel services" are not in compliance with the Sellers of Travel Law (compliance being defined as registered as a Seller of Travel in California and a participant in the Travel Consumer Restitution Fund). Thus none of Wilderness Travel's tours qualify and we are required by law to advise each client that they are not covered by the California Travel Consumer Restitution Fund. California law requires sellers of travel to maintain a trust account or bond. This business has a trust account. California Seller of Travel #100769640

While as accurate as possible at the time of printing, this itinerary should be considered an approximate indication of the schedule and scope of activities and trip routing, rather than an inflexible schedule of events; it is subject to change due to circumstances beyond our control. This trip is subject to the Limitation of Liability and all the terms and conditions as detailed in the General Information section of the Wilderness Travel Catalog.

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