

# The Cotswolds

## ITINERARY 5 :

### Severn Vale conservation & history

The Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust headquarters at Slimbridge really needs no introduction, such is its worldwide reputation. This visit is a treat for all ages and interests, in the 325 hectares of the reserve. Slimbridge is home to 35,000 wildfowl in the winter, with the world's largest collection of swans, geese and ducks. The reserve offers many exciting activities and events throughout the year. A short distance away is the imposing Berkeley Castle, home of the Berkeley family since 1153. The Castle is probably best known for the brutal murder of King Edward II in 1327 which took place here. A visit to the Castle offers the opportunity to experience the history and enjoy the splendour of this magnificent building and grounds. If the Castle is not open, then an alternative is a visit to nearby Gloucester Cathedral, one of the finest Cathedrals in the country (recently used for "Harry Potter" filming) and providing frequent guided tours.

#### AT A GLANCE :

**Highlights:** A visit to the famous wildlife bird sanctuary at Slimbridge, followed by the experience of the grandeur and history of Berkeley Castle, combine to make a great day out in the Severn Vale.

**Timing:** Arriving at Slimbridge for 10am allows time to end the day at Berkeley at 4.30pm.

**Miles:** 5m From Slimbridge to Berkeley. 14m From Slimbridge to Gloucester (option 2)



#### Slimbridge Wildfowl & Wetland Trust.



The Wildfowl and Wetland Trust is situated close to the M5. Exit at Junction 13 or 14 and follow the brown duck tourist signs. On leaving the reserve, return to the A38 (south) turning right at the sign for Berkeley to follow signs to the Castle.

t. 01453 891900  
[www.wwt.org.uk/slimbridge](http://www.wwt.org.uk/slimbridge)

#### Berkeley Castle



Berkeley Castle is situated halfway between Bristol and Gloucester, just off the A38, follow the brown signs from the Berkeley turning.

t. 01453 810332  
[www.berkeley-castle.com](http://www.berkeley-castle.com)

#### Gloucester Cathedral



The Cathedral is in the centre of Gloucester (off Westgate Street). Take the A38 north and follow the Cathedral signs on entering the City. Group tours and parking can be arranged by contacting the Chapter Office (via the website).

[www.gloucestercathedral.org.uk](http://www.gloucestercathedral.org.uk)