

The Cotswolds

ITINERARY 9 :

South Cotswolds gardens & a royal market town.

The day begins with a visit to Westonbirt, The National Arboretum - arguably one of the best tree collections in the world. Started by the Holford family in the mid nineteenth century, today many of its trees and shrubs are among the oldest, rarest and largest in the UK. With 17 miles of paths to explore over 600 acres, each season brings a different view. Find out more about this fabulous place on a guided walk or take a tour of the original Holford residence (booking essential).

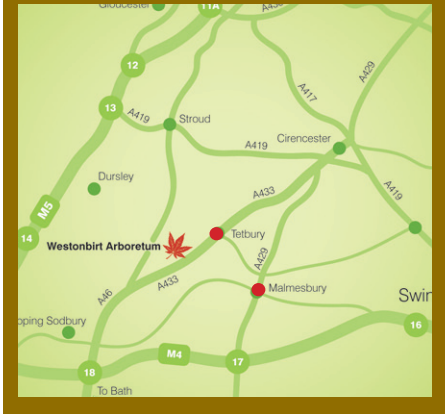
Abbey House Gardens, the 5 acre home of "The Naked Gardeners" Barbara and Ian Pollard, sit by the river beside historic Malmesbury Abbey where 10,000 plants thrive in a peaceful atmosphere. Famous for tulips, roses and autumn colour the grounds surround the lovely old 16c Abbey House. Guided tours of the garden and the 13c foundations of Abbey House are available for groups by arrangement.

AT A GLANCE :

Highlights: A visit to Westonbirt, The National Arboretum, the market town of Tetbury and Abbey House Gardens combine to provide a great day out in the Cotswolds.

Timing: Starting the day at 10.00am allows for completion by 4.30pm

Miles: 9m, starting at Westonbirt and completing at Malmesbury.



Westonbirt Arboretum



From the South West, Wales, London - 15 mins drive from junction 18 of M4 (Bath junction) along the A46 and then onto the A433 follow the brown signs. From the M5 take junction 11a and head towards Cirencester (from Oxfordshire also head towards Cirencester) and then Tetbury. Pass through Tetbury on the A433, follow the brown signs.

t. 01666 880220
www.forestry.gov.uk/westonbirt

Tetbury



The coach drop off point is in Chipping Street and coach parking is at the bottom of the hill. Tetbury has a real market town feel, with its pillared 1655 Market House and collection of quality local shops, inns and tea rooms. It also has a reputation as an antique centre with over 25 shops. Prince Charles' shop "Highgrove" can be found in the town centre.

Abbey House Gardens



Abbey House Gardens. Leaving Tetbury, take the B4014 signposted to Malmesbury. Abbey House is situated in the centre of the town. Coach passengers disembark in town and coaches park at nearby Nurdens garden centre. If time permits before you leave, the 12c Abbey next to the garden is well worth a visit as is the newly refurbished museum.

t. 01666 822212
www.abbeyhousegardens.co.uk