Corinium Museum

Visit Cirencester

Cirencester is the city of the Cotswolds. Surrounded by the Cotswold escarpment, it is a perfect place to explore the Cotswolds, a great choice to get information and advice on Cirencester and the Cotswolds. For more information, maps, trails and advice visit the Cirencester Visitor Information Centre.

Cirencester is a great place to explore on foot. Follow the brass plaques of the Cotswold Civic Town, or discover the Corinium Museum. Follow the Cirencester Horse Festival Way, 2.5 hour route marked by large wooden posts. Start at Waterton Park and ending at Thame Street, the route follows the River Coln and crosses the town’s green spaces and secret places. Cirencester is also the perfect place from which to discover walking areas, such as Stinchcombe in the Cotswold Waterpark, and see on the routes for both the Monument to the Black Prince and the Roman Way.

The Cotswold Civic Town offers local history and culture and the Corinium Museum offers information and advice on Cirencester and the Cotswolds.

about Cirencester

Cirencester is in the very heart of the stunning Cotswold region. Surrounded by the Cotswold escarpment, it is a perfect place to explore. From its origins as an important Roman town, to its role as a market town, to the beautiful Georgian and Victorian buildings that surround you, you can feel the town’s heritage everywhere you go. It is not all about visiting the past. Modern Cirencester is a vibrant, dynamic and enjoyable destination with galleries, wonderful cafés, pubs and restaurants, fine music venues, theatre, and a wide variety of independent shops. Explore the town itself and take in the beautiful parks and gardens, the beautiful church or one of our many walking parks.

There really is something for everyone. The central location of the town makes it a great base for visiting other Cotswold towns and villages, with Cirencester being situated just 30 minutes from the M5 and M4.

Cirencester Visitor Centre Information Centre on the Georgian Museum for more information about the town.

walks around the Cotswolds

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6 key things to see & do in Cirencester

1. Visit the world-class family-friendly Corinium Museum. For more information, maps, trails and advice visit the Cirencester Visitor Information Centre.

2. Take in the Mansion Church of St John Baptist for a visual feast of medieval history and you may even be able to find the town’s original chapel! You can also visit the former Abbey Grounds behind the church for a walk or picnic.

3. Indulge in some retail therapy in one of Cirencester’s many independent shops, as well as national stores and designer boutiques. There is also a great deal shop and cafe site on an exciting programme of events.

4. Why not visit the Corinium Museum? It is open from mid-May to the start of September.

5. Why not visit the Abbey grounds? On the town’s many festivals, the Abbey Grounds is free to visit. You can also visit the former Abbey Grounds behind the church for a walk or picnic.

6. Explore the Cotswold Water Park. The Cotswold Water Park is a lake, wildfowl, trees and greenery creating a lovely space for families to explore. Through the gates and up the main road you will find Cirencester Park, part of the Brutalist design. Designed by Beyond, the entrance to the park is open to the public for walking and cycling. Be the first to visit our historic Open Air Pool at Cirencester followed by a walk around the Roman Bath. Be ready for a walk along the path. It is laid out so a walk can make a perfect loop through the middle of our park.
Norman Arch, Abbey Grounds. Built in the 12th century, the arch is the only standing remains of the Augustinian Abbey.

St John's Hospital, Spitalgate Lane. Remains of the Hospital and Chantry of St John the Evangelist, founded in the 12th century by Henry II.

St Thomas's Hospital, Thomas St. Built on wealth from the wool merchants in the 15th century as almshouses for destitute weavers.

Coxwell Street, Gloucester Street and Dollar Street. These streets make up the most historical part of the town.

The Barracks, Cecily Hill. Built in 1857 as the headquarters for the Royal North Gloucestershire Militia. Rock-faced stone with picturesque embattled tower and turret.

Yew Hedge, Park St. Planted in 1720, this 40ft hedge is reputed to be the highest in Europe.

Lloyds Bank, Castle St. Once the house of a wealthy wool merchant. A fine example of Palladian architecture.

Corn Hall, Market Place. Victorian building, built in 1862 becoming a social and commercial focus for the town.

First Museum, Tetbury Rd. Founded and maintained by the Bathurst family in 1856. Designed to house new discoveries recently made in the town. Although no longer a museum, the collection was donated to the town and is now housed in the Corinium Museum.

Black Horse Inn, Castle St. Claimed to be the oldest pub in Cirencester, dating back to the 15th century.

Old Station, Tetbury Rd. Designed by Isambard Kingdom Brunel and opened in May 1841, it closed in October 1965.

War Memorial, Sheep St. This monument was erected by Earl Bathurst and dedicated to those killed in the First World War.

Corinium Museum

C  Living History Museum

and Air Raid Shelter

To explore the history of the town, you could pick up a Cirencester Civic Society Town Walk, or one of Corinium Museum Medieval or Roman Town Trails. Here are some of the attractions and buildings to look out for:

- **The Old Station**: A historical landmark
- **Corinium Museum**: A place to learn about the town's history
- **Black Horse Inn**: A historic pub
- **Old Station**: A former railway station
- **War Memorial**: A tribute to those who served
- **Norman Arch**: A medieval structure
- **St John's Hospital**: A historical hospital
- **St Thomas's Hospital**: A charitable institution
- **Coxwell Street**: A historical street
- **The Barracks**: A military site
- **Yew Hedge**: A significantII.
- **Lloyds Bank**: A historic building
- **Corn Hall**: A Victorian era landmark
- **First Museum**: A museum dedicated to local finds
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Historical highlights:

- **Shopping destinations**: Includes Black Jack Street and Stable Yard, Swan Yard and Post Office Development
- **Bishops Walk**: A historic street
- **Cricklade Street**: Another historic street
- **Market Place and The Corn Hall**: Central location for local events
- **The Wool Market**: A historical market

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