THE COTSWOLDS
GARDEN ROUTE
Visits to gardens are often associated with summertime, but here in the Cotswolds, gardens bloom and burst with colour throughout the year. There is something for every season here – winter is often overlooked when it comes to gardens, but we have some of the best snowdrops in the country as well as the best autumn colour displays too.

Use this guide (and the handy map inside) to take you through the seasons of our Cotswold gardens so that you can create your own Cotswold Garden Route. Stay for a little longer and visit some fascinating places, from hidden gems to the better known gardens such as Highgrove or Hidcote.

The Cotswold year begins with the first flush of snowdrops – make sure you take a look at our spring guide to see the best snowdrop locations. As the days begin to warm and daffodils make a welcome appearance, gardens all over the Cotswolds start bursting into life.

Historic woodland such as Woodchester Park, and the Gloucestershire Wildlife Nature Reserve offer lovely walks for bluebell spotting while the arboreta at Batsford and Westonbirt become awash with blossom.

In late spring and summer, the herbaceous borders at Newark Park, Hidcote, Snowshill Manor, Sezincote Gardens and Bourton House Garden will delight. Kiftsgate Court and Sudeley Castle’s Queens’ Garden – named after the four English Queens that walked within – become beautifully fragrant with roses.

As summer turns to autumn and the trees take on a golden hue, dramatic colours can be seen throughout the ancient beech woodlands of the Cotswolds. Be sure not to miss the spectacular leaf displays at Batsford and Westonbirt.

2016 is the Year of the English Garden and there are plenty of celebrations taking place to mark the 300th anniversary of ‘Capability’ Brown. With many other gardens to explore in the towns and surrounding area, make sure you come to the Cotswolds to celebrate the English Gardens.

Use our website www.cotswolds.com to find a wide variety of accommodation for your garden break.
CHECK OUT GREAT GARDEN EVENTS

NATIONAL GARDEN OPEN GARDENS SCHEME Cotswold gardens open throughout the year

WINTER
Snowdrop Season – Colesbourne Park, Painswick Rococo Garden, Batsford Arboretum, Newark Park

APRIL
Fritillary Sunday, Ducklington Mead
Fritillary Guided Walks, North Meadow, Cricklade
The Garden Celebrated, Royal Gardens Highgrove
Spring Homes & Garden Fair, Sudeley Castle

MAY
The Big May Day Garden Party, Chipping Campden
RHS Spring Festival, Malvern
Barnsley Village Garden Festival

JUNE
Blenheim Palace Flower Show
Festival of Nature, Stroud
Garden Week, Sudeley Castle

JULY
Witney Festival of Flowers and Fabrics
Stroud Country Show

AUGUST
BBC Countryfile Live, Blenheim Palace
Treefest, Westonbirt
Stratton & Baunton Annual Horticultural Show, Cirencester
Ducklington & Hardwick Annual Flower Show
Deerhurst Flower Festival

SEPTEMBER
Cotswolds Living Landscape Festival, Lodge Park, Aldsworth

OCTOBER
Apple Days throughout area including
Snowshill Manor, Chaddington and Stroud

For further events check out www.cotswolds.com/whats-on

VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE DETAILS

Our friendly staff are here to help you get the most from your time in the Cotswolds.

BOURTON-ON-THE-WATER
Tel 01451 820211 • info@visitbourton.com

BURFORD
Tel 01993 823558 • burford.vic@westoxon.gov.uk

CHELTENHAM
Tel 01242 237431 • info@cheltenhamtrust.org.uk

CHIPPING CAMPDEN
Tel 01386 841206 • info@campdenonline.org

CIRENCESTER
Tel 01285 634810 • cirencestervic@slm-ltd.co.uk

LEYLADE
Tel 01367 252631 • info@leylade.library.org.uk

MORETON-IN-MARCH
Tel 01608 630881 • moreton@cotswold.gov.uk

NAILSWORTH
Tel 01453 839222 • TIC@nailsworthtowncouncil.gov.uk

PAINSWICK
Tel 0750 351924 • painswicktourist@gmail.com

STOW-ON-THE-WOLD
Tel 01451 870998 • stowvic@gloucestershire.gov.uk

STROUD
Tel 01453 760960 • tic@stroud.gov.uk

TETBURY
Tel 01666 503552 • tourism@tetrbury.org

TEWKESBURY
Tel 01684 825040 • tewkesburytictewkesbury.gov.uk

WINCHCOMBE
Tel 01242 602925 • winchcombetic@tewkesbury.gov.uk

WITNEY
Tel 01993 775802 • witney.vic@westoxon.gov.uk

For more information: www.cotswolds.com/plan-your-trip
Looking for more information?

www.facebook.com/CotswoldsInfo
@CotswoldsInfo
www.instagram.com/the_cotswolds/
www.oxfordshirecotswolds.org/youtube
www.cotswolds.com

Chastleton is considered to be the birthplace of croquet as a competitive sport following the publication of rules by Walter Whitmore-Jones who laid out the croquet lawns at Chastleton.
SIGNS OF SPRING

Snowdrops in the Cotswolds are simply spectacular and with the long winters passing it is such a relief to see the first signs of life in those little white drops falling from the beautiful green leaves. The Cotswolds has some of the best snowdrop displays in the country and from as early as January these little flowers bring hope for the new-year.

Some of the best places to see these wonderful displays are: Cerney House Gardens, Colesbourne Park (open for weekends only in January and February), Newark Park, Painswick Rococo Garden, Rodmarton Manor and the National Trust Sherborne Estate.

Let’s not forget other beautiful spring flowers – the magnolias look simply stunning usually from March onwards and our two Cotswold arboretas at Batsford and Westonbirt show fantastic displays. There are also lovely spring flower banks and a gorgeous bluebell wood at Kiftsgate. Many Cotswold woodlands have carpets of bluebells to seek out.

SUMMER SPECTACULAR

Summer in the Cotswolds is simply stunning and the displays of summer colours are quite spectacular. All of our gardens have something lovely to offer in the summer months but there are some which really shine through. Here are some great ideas for a summer garden visit.

Hidcote was created by the talented American horticulturalist Major Lawrence Johnston. Its colourful and intricately designed outdoor rooms are always full of surprises. Snowshill Manor also has a lovely series of garden rooms – we love the fact that the Cotswolds takes its gardens as seriously as the home.

Sudeley Castle has one of the most spectacular displays of summer roses you will ever see. Berkeley Castle too specialises in scent and the roses are a particular delight in June.

The organic Royal gardens at Highgrove have been over 30 years in the making and are some of the most creatively inspiring and innovative gardens in the UK. The display of delphiniums is a must see during the summer months but must be booked in advance.

Bourton House Garden is an award-winning three acre garden with luxuriant terraces and wide herbaceous borders with stunning plant, texture and colour combinations.

Snowshill Lavender is one to visit in June and July when the lavender flowers are in bloom. With over 70 miles and 35 different varieties of lavender, it’s worth a visit to see the spectacularly colourful fields reminiscent of the Dutch bulb fields – well almost!

AUTUMN COLOUR

The Cotswolds comes alive once again during the season of autumn colours. Our two arboretas at Batsford and Westonbirt have a display of reds, oranges and yellows which are rivalled by no other.

Batsford is home to the country’s largest private collection of trees and shrubs. Wander through the unique collection which is inspired by plantmen of old. Westonbirt’s autumn happens with a bang with one of the best natural fireworks displays in Britain! Their famous Japanese maples in particular are ablaze in reds, oranges and yellows.
**YEAR ROUND GARDENS**

And then there are the gardens which look amazing all year round! We have quite a selection here in the Cotswolds which means that you can visit off season too.

**Blenheim Palace** is a World Heritage Site surrounded by over 2,000 acres of beautiful ‘Capability’ Brown parkland with lakes, fountains and formal gardens providing a wealth of interest throughout the year.

For one of the country’s most important gardens, **Rousham** is relatively little known – completely un-commercialised with no shop or tea rooms. Dating to the first phase of English landscape design, this is one of the few 18th century gardens to have escaped major alteration.

**Kiftsgate** garden is the wonderful creation of three generations of women gardeners and looks stunning at any time of the year.

Again, the arboreta look great at any time of the year – they are well known for their autumn displays but the spring magnolias, evergreen colours in many of the trees make them year round places to visit. Nearer to Christmas **Westonbirt** becomes an enchanted magical place with an illuminated trail or you can sample **Batsford** on Boxing Day with a mulled wine experience. Kids (and big kids) can experience breath taking views from the new walkway in the trees at Westonbirt from April 2016.

**HIDDEN GEMS**

The Cotswolds does quirky really well and we have some fantastic hidden gems for you to visit. Here are just a few.

**Sezincote** is unique – a 200 year old Mogul Indian palace, set in a romantic landscape of temples, grottoes, waterfalls and canals reminiscent of the Taj Mahal.

**Dr Jenners’** tranquil garden was the refuge of Edward Jenner, pioneer of vaccination with lots of unusual and medicinal plants.

**Stanway House** has a water garden, which is one of the finest in England, and a 300ft single jet fountain – the highest in Britain and the highest gravity fountain in the world.

**Herbs for Healing** at Barnsley House was created using plants with healing properties – a small but very relaxing space to sit and ponder.

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**STAY & LEARN**

If you fancy learning gardening tips then why not book into one of the many rural courses available around the area including hedge laying via [www.cotswoldsruralskills.org.uk](http://www.cotswoldsruralskills.org.uk), or an advanced planting course at [www.cotswoldgardenschool.co.uk](http://www.cotswoldgardenschool.co.uk) or join a guided walk exploring some of the seasonal ‘Wonders of Westonbirt’ with the local guides.

Many of the gardens also have regular talks including **Highgrove**, **Batsford** and **Hidcote** or why not book into a lecture by Tony Russell, TV presenter and author of The Cotswolds Finest Gardens.

**The Cotswolds Garden Route** experience is further enhanced by fields of summer poppies, wonderful garden centres, local nature reserves and of course spectacular rural views as you drive from one garden to another. To see all the gardens you will need to spend a week or more so make sure you book to come back again.

[www.cotswolds.com/gardenbreaks](http://www.cotswolds.com/gardenbreaks)

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**ACCOMMODATION**

With so many gardens to visit, why not stay a while to give you plenty of time to explore? The area has such a variety of accommodation from manor house hotels with formal gardens, to bed and breakfast and self-catering cottages that have traditional country gardens bursting with flowers, colours and scents.

To check out places to stay visit [www.cotswolds.com/accommodation](http://www.cotswolds.com/accommodation)
NGS garden at 25 Bowling Green Road in Cirencester has over 400 varieties of Hemerocallis and has opened for the NGS for over 35 years!
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<td>1</td>
<td><strong>Batsford Arboretum</strong>&lt;br&gt;Batsford Arboretum is home to one of the country's largest private tree collections set within 56 acres of beautiful Cotswolds countryside. With colour and interest all year round, the arboretum contains more than fifteen hundred tree species from all over the world.&lt;br&gt;Batsford GL56 9AD&lt;br&gt;Tel 01386 701441&lt;br&gt;www.batsarb.co.uk</td>
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<td><strong>Berkeley Castle</strong>&lt;br&gt;Berkeley Castle sits within eight acres of landscaped gardens, including the bowling green of Queen Elizabeth I, sweeping lawns, terraced gardens and the 8th Earl's swimming pool – now an ornamental lily pond. There is a delightful Georgian walled garden and a tropical butterfly house.&lt;br&gt;Berkeley GL13 9BH&lt;br&gt;Tel 01453 512999&lt;br&gt;www.berkeley-castle.com</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td><strong>Bird and Deer Park</strong>&lt;br&gt;Charming follies adorn the park and a wide variety of waterfowl wander freely for families to enjoy and interact with. The park is well known for its tame fallow deer, resident reindeer and cheeky pygmy goats.&lt;br&gt;Prinknash GL4 8EX&lt;br&gt;Tel 01452 812727&lt;br&gt;www.thebirdpark.com</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td><strong>Birdland Park and Gardens</strong>&lt;br&gt;In a natural setting of woodland, river and gardens, Birdland is home to over 900 birds of 130 different species. Follow the trails through Marshmouth Nature Reserve where there's always something new to spot from a numerous range of indigenous species as diverse as otters, dragonflies, kingfishers, toads and many birds.&lt;br&gt;Bourton-on-the-Water GL54 2BN&lt;br&gt;Tel 01451 820480&lt;br&gt;www.birdland.co.uk</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td><strong>Blenheim Palace</strong>&lt;br&gt;One of England's finest houses, this picture-perfect British stately home sits among more than 2,000 acres of Capability Brown landscaped parkland and formal gardens. From great open spaces punctuated by mature trees, through intricate formal gardens like the water terraces to more peaceful areas, there's something for everyone to enjoy.&lt;br&gt;Woodstock OX20 1PP&lt;br&gt;Tel 0800 849 6500&lt;br&gt;www.blenheimpalace.com</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td><strong>Bourton House Garden</strong>&lt;br&gt;Close to Moreton-in-Marsh, Bourton House Garden is an award-winning three acre garden high on the Cotswolds with wonderful views over the surrounding countryside. The garden has imaginative and dramatic topiary, a unique shade house and wide herbaceous borders with many rare, unusual and exotic plants and is beautiful year round.&lt;br&gt;Bourton-on-the-Hill GL56 9AE&lt;br&gt;Tel 01386 700754&lt;br&gt;www.bourtonhouse.com</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td><strong>Broadway Tower</strong>&lt;br&gt;An iconic landmark, on top of the beautiful Cotswolds escarpment, Broadway Tower has enjoyed a colourful history. The tower is a unique Capability Brown folly with outstanding views, surrounded by a deer park and wonderful countryside walks.&lt;br&gt;Broadway WR12 7LB&lt;br&gt;Tel 01386 852390&lt;br&gt;www.broadwaytower.co.uk</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td><strong>Cerney House Gardens</strong>&lt;br&gt;Leave the hustle and bustle of today's world and visit Cerney House Gardens, where time seems to stand still. Let old-fashioned scents and colour surround you in this romantic secret garden with Victorian features. Explore the working organic kitchen garden amongst the overflowing herbaceous borders. Discover wildlife and woodland walks too.&lt;br&gt;North Cerney GL7 7BX&lt;br&gt;Tel 01285 83044&lt;br&gt;www.cerneygardens.com</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td><strong>Chastleton House &amp; Gardens</strong>&lt;br&gt;A rare gem of a Jacobean country house, whose garden has features from several periods. Stroll through the garden and discover the Jacobean garden, kitchen garden, stunning topiary and even some bee hives. With free guided tours of the garden see the mulberry tree believed to be nearly 400 years old.&lt;br&gt;Chastleton GL56 0SU&lt;br&gt;Tel 01494 755560&lt;br&gt;www.nationaltrust.org.uk/chastleton-house</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td><strong>Colesbourne Park</strong>&lt;br&gt;Colesbourne Park has been called 'England's greatest snowdrop garden' by Country Life. Now with a collection of 250 varieties, visitors can enjoy the snowdrops throughout the ten acre garden with its woodland and lakeside paths, the Spring Garden and Formal Garden, alongside drifts of cyclamen, hellebores and other winter plants.&lt;br&gt;Colesbourne GL53 9NP&lt;br&gt;Tel 01242 870567&lt;br&gt;www.colesbournegardens.org.uk</td>
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**Cotswold Wildlife Park & Gardens**
The park has wonderful gardens with plants aiming to demonstrate the wonder and diversity of the plant kingdom alongside that of the animal kingdom. With the Victorian manor house at the hub, a large walled garden and a wonderful collection of mature trees form the backbone of the landscape.
Burford OX18 4JP
Tel 01993 823006
www.cotswoldwildlifepark.co.uk

**Dragonfly Maze**
The Dragonfly Maze is a traditional yew hedge maze with a twist. Find the 14 clues dotted around the footpaths. Once you have found them all, you should be able to discover the Golden Dragonfly hidden inside the ornate central pavilion.
Bourton-on-the-Water GL54 2EE
Tel 01451 822251
www.thedragonflymaze.com

**Dr Jenner’s House, Museum and Garden**
This tranquil garden was the refuge of Edward Jenner, pioneer of vaccination. Discover some unusual plants alongside Jenner’s vines and Temple of Vaccinia. A new physic garden is currently being created featuring medicinal plants on the site of Jenner’s kitchen garden.
Berkeley GL13 9BN
Tel 01453 810631
www.jennermuseum.com

**Frampton Manor**
This medieval Elizabethan timber framed manor house with romantic walled garden, unusual plants, 16th century wool barn and dovecote is open a few days each year. It is open to group bookings in May and June. Nearby Frampton Court opens at the same times.
Frampton-on-Severn GL2 7EP
Tel 01452 740698
www.framptoncourtestate.co.uk

**Herbs for Healing at Barnsley House**
This small and relaxing garden was created by Davina Wynne-Jones daughter of the former gardening icon Rosemary Verey. Situated in a rural setting behind Barnsley House Hotel, Herbs for Healing uses plants with healing properties. The garden is small but a charming and relaxing place to visit.
Barnsley GL7 5EE
Tel 01285 740638
www.herbsforhealing.net

**Hidcote**
One of the greatest gardens in England, Hidcote was created by Major Lawrence Johnston, who was passionate about plants. Hidcote is famous as the garden is divided into a series of ‘outdoor rooms’, each with its own character. The formality of the ‘rooms’ melts away as you move through the garden away from the house.
Hidcote Bartrim GL55 6LR
Tel 01386 438333
www.nationaltrust.org.uk/hidcote

**Highgrove Gardens**
Quirky and eclectic, the gardens at Highgrove have been heavily influenced by its current owner – HRH The Prince of Wales. Over 35 years in the making, the organic gardens at Highgrove are some of the most creatively inspiring and innovative gardens to visit in the UK. Booking in advance only.
Doughton, Tetbury GL8 8PH
Tel 0333 222 4555
www.highgrovegardens.com

**Kelmscott Manor**
Home to the founder of the Arts and Crafts movement, William Morris, the gardens at Kelmscott Manor have been recreated using many of the plants he loved and used in his designs. Visit the garden with its barns, dovecote, stream, meadow and formal garden which was a constant source of inspiration for Morris.
Kelmscott GL7 3HJ
Tel 01367 252486
www.kelmscottmanor.org.uk

**Kiftsgate Court Gardens**
Magnificently situated and with stunning views, Kiftsgate contains many unusual plants and shrubs including the largest rose in England, the stunning Kiftsgate rose. Three generations of women gardeners have produced a series of romantic gardens with a surprise at every turn.
Chipping Campden GL55 6LN
Tel 01367 438777
www.kiftsgate.co.uk

**Matara Gardens**
Matara is a spiritual and meditative garden dedicated to the full expression of the human spirit. All set within a 28-acre parkland. Plants on sale NGS days only.
Nr. Tetbury GL8 8YA
Tel 01453 861050
www.matara.co.uk
Misarden Park Gardens
This lovely Cotswold garden commands spectacular views across the deer park to extensive woodland. Enjoy the fine topiary (some designed by Edwin Lutyens), a walled garden, herbaceous borders, fine specimen trees and a newly planted parterre.
Miserden GL6 7JA
Tel 01285 821303
www.misardenpark.co.uk

Mill Dene
An unusual garden created over many years by the owner, in the magical setting of a Cotswolds millpond. In the two and half-acre garden there is a stream with a grotto, a cricket lawn with a tiny pavilion and herb garden. Listed in the Sunday Telegraph’s ‘10 Best Herb Gardens’ list.
Blockley GL56 9HU
Tel 01386 700457
www.milldenegarden.co.uk

Museum in the Park
Stratford Park, location of the Museum in the Park, is made up of 56 acres including grassy lawns, play areas, a lake, woodland and arboretum. A new walled garden project is currently underway to reopen a secret garden to provide enjoyment and learning opportunities.
Stroud GL5 4AF
Tel 01453 763394
www.museuminthepark.org.uk

Newark Park
The house has a wonderful quirky and eclectic character. The surrounding garden and estate provide space to play and contemplate, with beautiful views over the Cotswold escarpment and as far as the Mendips. Play a game of croquet or spot the resident peacocks.
Ozleworth GL12 7PZ
Tel 01793 817666
www.nationaltrust.org.uk/newark-park

Owlpen Manor
The garden at Owlpen is an unusually complete survival of an early formal garden on a manorial scale. The manor house and Stuart gardens are open in the summer months for exclusive group tours by prior arrangement.
Near Uley GL11 5BZ
Tel 01453 860261
www.owlpen.com/home

Painswick Rococo Garden
Designed in the 1740s as a flamboyant pleasure garden, this hidden valley is now the country’s only surviving complete rococo garden. Enjoy beautifully-framed views and fanciful garden buildings. Lose yourself in the maze and enjoy the delicious homemade food in the café.
Painswick GL6 6TH
Tel 01452 813204
www.rococogarden.org.uk

Rodmarton Manor and Gardens
Spectacular Arts and Crafts house with a beautiful garden designed originally as a series of outdoor rooms. The large garden complements the house and contains many areas of great beauty and character including the magnificent herbaceous borders, topiary, roses, alpines and kitchen garden. Throughout the garden there are plenty of places to sit and admire the view.
Rodmarton GL7 6PF
Tel 01285 841442
www.rodmarton-manor.co.uk

Rousham
Rousham is one of the gardens from the first phase of English landscape design that have escaped alteration ensuring you can see many features just as you would have in the 18th century. One of Monty Don’s favourites, the gardens are dotted with classical features including temples, statues and ponds as well as a pretty walled garden.
Rousham OX25 4QX
Tel 01869 347110
www.rousham.org

Sezincote
Restored in 1968, the gardens include canals and Irish yews in the south garden which are evocative of Moghul paradise gardens. The gardens are home to many tender climbing plants, a little Indian style pavilion and oriental water garden, where many rare plants can be seen.
Moreton-in-Marsh GL56 9AW
Tel 01386 700444
www.sezincote.co.uk

Sherborne Estate
Woodland, wildlife, wonderful views, a sculpture trail and a landscape of rich history are waiting to be discovered on walks around Lodge Park and the Sherborne Estate. Wonderful for snowdrops, Sherborne is a working estate and has an abundance of wildlife, from fallow and roe deer to badgers and foxes.
Sherborne GL54 3PP
Tel 01451 844130
www.nationaltrust.org.uk/lodge-park-and-sherborne-estate
Snowshill Lavender
Visit the lavender fields in the heart of the Cotswolds. Walk in the lavender fields and then visit the distillery to learn how the lavender crop is made into oils, soaps and other toiletries. With the widest range of lavender plants in season for sale you can create a stunning display in your own garden.
Snowshill WR12 7JY
Tel 01386 854821
www.cotswoldlavender.co.uk

Snowshill Manor and Garden
The garden at Snowshill is the perfect place to unwind and explore hidden vistas, quiet corners and unexpected delights including Charles Wade's uncomplicated home, the Priest's House. The manor itself is a Cotswold manor house packed with extraordinary treasures collected over a lifetime by Charles Wade.
Snowshill WR12 7JU
Tel 01386 852410
www.nationaltrust.org.uk/snowhill-manor-and-garden

Stanway House & Fountain
A wonderful Jacobean house with a jewel-like gatehouse, church and 14th century tithe barn. The 18th century water garden is one of the finest in England and has specimen trees, avenues and a 300ft single jet fountain – the highest in Britain and the highest gravity fountain in the world.
Stanway GL54 5PQ
Tel 01386 584469
www.stanwayfountain.co.uk

Sudeley Castle & Gardens
Romantic ruins, award-winning gardens and 1,000 years of fascinating royal history are among the many reasons to visit the Queen of the Cotswolds.
Winchcombe GL54 5JD
Tel 01242 604357
www.sudeleycastle.co.uk

Westonbirt, The National Arboretum
Westonbirt is a remarkable place for people to enjoy and learn about trees. Borne of a Victorian passion for plant collecting, around 15,000 trees from all over the world now offer the perfect setting to escape, relax or have an adventure in one of the best arborets you’ll find.
Tetbury GL8 8QS
Tel 0300 067 4890
www.forestry.gov.uk/westonbirt

The Cotswolds has over a hundred gardens which open as part of the National Garden Scheme, from flagship gardens to private estate gardens and many more modest gardens – whose gates only open on an NGS open day. A wonderful day can be had strolling from cottage to house, marvelling at the personal gardens, only to sit and enjoy the obligatory tea and cake!