

A weekend with walks in Stow on the Wold



AT A GLANCE

- Fantastic market square
- Gorgeous honey-coloured stone buildings
- Battle of Stow history
- Centre for many longer distance walking routes
- Stay in a gorgeous B&B or cottage
- Englands oldest inn



Stow on the Wold - Historic Market Town

In the north Cotswolds, all roads seem to lead to the hill-top town of Stow and it has been that way for a long time – the ancient Jurassic Way and the Salt Way met here and an Iron Age fort was built c.700BC.

The Roman Fosse Way from Cirencester to Leicester passes through Stow, although the town is mostly off to one side, reflecting its establishment as another of the planned market towns for which the Cotswolds is renowned. Because it is off the main road, the town square is large and impressive (it has known markets with over 20,000 sheep crowded there), with various houses, shops and inns around the edge, all built in the local stone. The medieval cross is a reminder of the markets heyday – placed to encourage traders

to do business fairly under the sight of God.

Stow had a special importance in the English Civil War; it was close by, at Donnington, that the last battle was fought in March 1646. St Edward's Church in the town centre was used as a prison for the defeated Royalist troops. At nearly 800ft, Stow is the highest of the Cotswold towns, approached uphill from all directions with beautiful avenues of trees on some of the approaches. These days Stow is famous as a centre for the antiques trade.

Walking in and around Stow on the Wold:

Short walks – all of these routes are available from Stow on the Wold Visitor Information Centre (in the cricket museum)

Town Trail – a short route (1km) on level ground. An interesting walk around the town, starting from The Cross in the square. It passes St Edwards Church, the stocks and ends at The Porch House, one of the oldest Public houses in England.

Stow Walks – 7 circular enlightening and educational walks from the Visitor Information Centre down to The Slaughters (thankful village), Civil war memorial 1646 at Donnington, down to the Villages of Maugersbury and Icomb (the later being where England Cricketer and last International Lob bowler (1909) G.H.Simpson-Hayward lived and is buried). They take in some beautiful Cotswold Countryside and give you some fascinating history as you go.



The Great

Cotswold
Wold

Outdoors

www.cotswolds.com

Stow on the Wold - Historic Market Town

Town Treasure Trail – a fun family trail around the town, available from the Visitor Information Centre or from www.Stowinfo.co.uk

Longer walks:

Stow is also on the route of several major longer distance routes:

The Gloucestershire Way – runs for **100 miles** through the contrasting areas of Gloucestershire, including the Forest of Dean, Severn Vale and the Cotswolds. En-route, you will get fantastic views, river valleys and beautiful towns. This route also connects to The Cotswold Way and The Wychavon Way in Winchcombe.

The North Cotswold Diamond Way

This long distance path is a roughly diamond-shaped walk in the North Cotswolds (**60 miles**) which centres on Stow-on-the-Wold. The walk extends to Ebrington in the North, Oddington in the East, Northleach in the South and Guiting Power in the West. The Diamond Way takes the walker through some of the many delightful small villages in the area with golden stone cottages and welcoming country pubs.

The Donnington Way – based on the Cotswold brewery of Donnington in Stow-on-the-Wold, the Way's theme is the brewery and its 15 pubs. It visits Bourton-on-the-Water, Naunton, Guiting Power, Broadway, Chipping Campden and Moreton-in-Marsh.

The Macmillan Way

Walkers in the Cotswolds can enjoy a fascinating section of this **290 mile** long-distance path which was opened in 1996 and runs from Dorset to Lincolnshire. In the south west, the path enters the region south of Tetbury and follows a north-easterly direction



The Old Schoolhouse B&B

through Stow-on-the-Wold and onwards into Warwickshire. Its half-way point is right in the heart of the Cotswolds!

The Monarchs Way

This long-distance footpath follows the route that Charles II took during his escape after the battle of Worcester in 1651. For 6 weeks, hotly pursued by the parliamentary forces under Oliver Cromwell, he went north, then south through the Cotswolds and the Mendips to the South Coast and finally along the South Downs to Shoreham, where he then escaped to France. This long-distance walk (**610 miles**) uses footpaths and bridleways following the route that Charles took and enables you to visit many historic sites and buildings.

Things to do in Stow and nearby:

- The Cricket Museum
- St Edwards Church
- Antique shopping
- Visit the site of the Battle of Stow
- Nearby Bourton-on-the-Water has several attractions which are well worth a visit.
- Daylesford Organic

Visitor Information Centre

+44(0)1451 830341



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Accommodation that welcomes walkers

Bed & Breakfast

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Woodlands Guesthouse

www.woodlands-guest-house.co.uk

YHA in Stow-on-The-Wold

www.yha.org.uk

Cottages

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Old Brewery House,

www.staycotswold.com

Foxes Manor, Bourton-on-the-Water

www.foxesmanor.com

Honeysuckle Cottage, Blockley

www.thecountrycottage.co.uk

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