

TOWNS &
VILLAGES GUIDE



COTSWOLDS



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Welcome to the Cotswolds Towns and Villages Guide

At about one hundred miles from north to south, The Cotswolds area is bigger than many people realise. Hidden here are hundreds of small towns and villages that combine into a harmonious and romantic place to visit.

The busy market towns, formally the centres of the wool trade, are still the focus of activity in the Cotswolds.

The villages are the true jewels in the Cotswold crown, their honey-coloured stone buildings, old-world charm and tranquility summing up so much of the Cotswold magic. In fact, most villages - and towns for that matter - are attractive but just a few have captured the limelight and appear frequently on calendars and book covers, so this guide gives you a brief insight to some of the hidden villages that sometimes are missed off the tourist trail.

Vineyard Street, Winchcombe

Alderton

On the Cotswold edge between Tewkesbury and Winchcombe, with timber-framed buildings, Cotswold stone and many traditional thatched roofs. The 14th century church was restored internally in the late 19th century; however it still contains a medieval long iron-bound chest.

Aldsworth

Just off the Cirencester to Burford road, some 3 miles from Bibury in good open Cotswold country. Large fields surround the small village with its many 18th and 19th century buildings. The church has a short spire and in the sloping graveyard are the tombs of the Garnes, who pioneered the conservation of the Cotswold sheep breed.

Amberley

This charming village is set on a high, breezy ridge, on the edge of Minchinhampton Common, and has 14th century monastic origins. The churchyard is the last resting place of P.C.Wren, the author of 'Beau Geste'.

Ampney Crucis

There are three Ampneys named after the brook of that name. Ampney Crucis is the largest, boasts two former water mills and a riverside hotel. Its Holy Rood church seems almost hidden by trees. More isolated Ampney St Mary church, all that remains of the lost village, is in open farmland. The hamlet of Ampney St Peter is in a quiet cul-de-sac off the main road.



Hundreds of small villages, Roman history and idyllic riverside towns, combine into a harmonious and romantic place to visit.



IMAGES LEFT TO RIGHT

The Victoria Inn, Eastleach, Walkers in the Cotswolds.

Arlingham

This small village occupies a peninsula on a sharp bend of the River Severn, close to the Severn Way. The area is easy to explore using the Arlingham circular walks, giving excellent views of the river, Forest of Dean and May Hill. The 14th century church contains some of the oldest glass in Gloucestershire.

Ashleworth

Set in the Severn Vale close to Tewkesbury, this pretty village has an historic riverside pub, 16th century manor house, 15th century tithe barn (NT – summer opening) and Ashleworth Ham, a nature reserve.

Ashton Keynes

A large village with the still-infant River Thames running alongside the main street, 5 miles south of Cirencester and just over the county boundary in north Wiltshire. Nearby are Somerford Keynes and Poole Keynes, nestled amongst the lakes of the Cotswold Water Park.



Bampton

Bampton is a large, lively village with a good range of amenities, including the West Oxfordshire Arts Gallery housed in the town hall which has a rolling programme of exhibitions. For generations Bampton has been famous for its Morris Dancing traditions, celebrated each late May Bank Holiday with the Bampton Day of Dance.

Visitors may recognise St Mary's church, cottages and the old Grammar School building as Bampton was used to film the village scenes in the popular TV drama 'Downton Abbey'. Why not pop into the old Grammar School yourself to view an impressive collection of old photographs forming the Bampton Community Archives.

The Barringtons

These two villages face each other across the River Windrush a little west of Burford. Little Barrington clusters around a sloping green, with the church just down the lane. On the hill, Great Barrington is dominated by Barrington Park with its smart uniformity of stone houses and farms well set into the landscape.

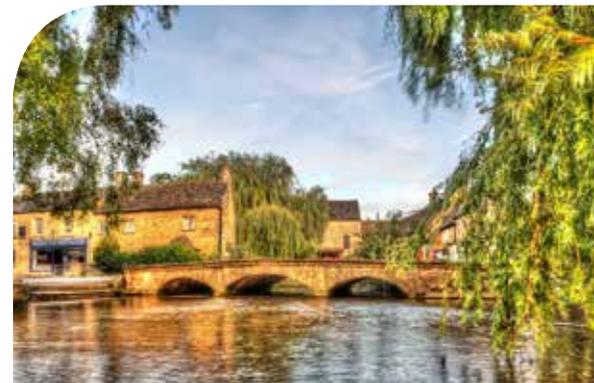
Berkeley

The centre-piece of Berkeley is the magnificent 12th century Berkeley Castle with its dark and brooding bloodstained history, where Edward II was brutally murdered in 1327. It is the oldest inhabited castle in England, having been home to 24 generations of the Berkeley family.

The little town itself is well worth exploring and includes Dr Jenner's House. It was from this house in 1796 that Edward Jenner pioneered the vaccination against smallpox that changed the world. Edward Jenner was born in Berkeley and The Chantry, where the museum is located, was his home for 38 years.

Bibury

William Morris called Bibury 'the most beautiful village in England' and it remains most attractive in its setting alongside the River Coln. Two communities (the other is Arlington) form the village, and the 14th century Arlington Row (of weavers Cottages) provides the focal point with Rack Isle, an open wetland meadow. Opposite, Bibury Trout Farm is a popular attraction. The church has a number of Saxon features. Just up the Coln Valley is Ablington, enjoying its seclusion, with a fine example of a Cotswold manor house dating from 1590.



IMAGES LEFT TO RIGHT

The gardens at Berkeley Castle
Arlington Row, Bibury
Bourton on the Water.

Birdlip

Enjoys an elevated position on the Cotswold scarp and from Barrow Wake viewpoint there are fine views across the Vale of Severn and the city of Gloucester to the Malvern Hills. Nearby Crickley Hill Country Park offers woodland walks and similar views from within the ramparts of an iron age hillfort.

Bishop's Cleeve

North of Cheltenham, this village lies at the bottom of Cleeve Hill, the highest point in the Cotswolds. The centrepiece of the village is the fine 12th century church with many Norman features. The village also includes shops, pubs in walking distance, an old rectory; a house dating from the 13th century, and a beautiful tithe barn. This is a great location for Cheltenham and the racecourse.

Bisley

Bisley overlooks the Frome valley. It is full of character with rows of Cotswold stone cottages rising up in terraces from the main street. Bisley's five wells are annually blessed and decked with flowers by local children every year on Ascension Day.

Bledington

The large green with its stream provides a village focus, with a rather good pub in one corner. Morris dancers perform here and a maypole appears at the right time of year. Walking choices include the Oxfordshire Way. Nearby hamlets at Foscot and Bould are typical of the quiet Evenlode valley.

Blockley

One of the larger Cotswold villages, Blockley was a main centre of the silk industry in the 18th and 19th centuries. The evidence remains in impressive mills (all now converted into homes) along the Knee Brook, which rises in Dovedale Woods above the village. Excellent local café.

Bourton-on-the-Hill

Hillside village near Moreton-in-Marsh, home to one of the Cotswold's finest 16th century barns, standing in the delightful gardens of Bourton House.

Bourton-on-the-Water

Bourton is probably the most visited village in the Cotswolds, and often referred to as the 'Venice of the Cotswolds' because the River Windrush runs right through the centre. Clear sparkling water



Brimscombe Port is a key area associated with the Cotswold Canals regeneration project.

Broad Campden

Close to Chipping Campden but with its own identity based around the influences of the Arts and Crafts movement. C R Ashbee, the architect who did so much for nearby Campden, lived here for a while early last century. There is an interesting mix of stone and thatch buildings, and a rare survival of a 17th century Friends Meeting House.

Broadway

A famous Cotswold beauty spot, and popular throughout the year. As its name suggests, Broadway is dominated by a wide main street lined with shops, restaurants, hotels and plenty of antique shops. The Cotswold scarp runs down through the valley into the Evesham Vale. St Eadburgha's church is tucked away on the Snowhill Road, but worth finding.

Broadwell

Near Stow, Broadwell is an attractive village with a large village green. Nearby Evenlode, alongside its river, is in good Cotswold farming country with stone farmhouses and cottages.

Buckland

This small Cotswold stone village is overlooked by an Iron Age settlement. Pleasant cottages, beautiful village gardens and a fine manor house hotel make for a wonderful setting. Buckland church has 15th century glass and an exquisite carved and painted panel. The church was a favourite of William Morris, who personally paid to have the stained glass re-leaded.

and the attractive low bridges crossing it make for a charming scene, especially at the quieter times of day and quieter months of the year. There are pubs, shops, restaurants, tea-rooms and an unusually high number of visitor attractions for such a small place – which makes it a good option if the weather isn't good.

There is a long history of tourism here – the Model Village (a model replica of Bourton itself) opened in 1937 and Birdland, opened twenty years later. Other attractions include one of Britain's best small motor museums. St Lawrence's church is notable for its domed tower, unique in the Cotswolds. Salmonsbury Meadows have been saved as a wildlife reserve, and the Iron Age site of Salmonsbury Camp can be traced in outline.

Brimscombe

Brimscombe is located in the narrow Frome Valley, just outside Stroud. This was an important centre in the Industrial Revolution with its canal and rail links. Evidence can still be seen in the former textile mill buildings.



IMAGES LEFT TO RIGHT

Broadway Tower, Snowhill Lavender Farm near Broadway Castle Coombe, Chalford Round House, Burford High Street.

Burford

The first sight of the steep main street leading down to the medieval bridge over the River Windrush sets the scene for Burford, one of the most attractively-sited of Cotswold towns.

Full of lovely old stone houses, the town presents some of its best 17th and 18th century frontages to the High Street, although earlier buildings often lie hidden behind, glimpsed through narrow alleyways and courtyards; these are relics of the town's great days as a major wool market in medieval England. Burford is well placed for exploring the Cotswolds and is a renowned centre for the antiques trade.

Cam

Situated close to Dursley, Cam is a vibrant community with lots to do and numerous walks providing spectacular views from points like Cam Peak, Long Down and Stinchcombe Hill. To the south, the Tyndale Monument is clearly visible, a memorial to the first translator of the Bible into English.

Cam has an interesting history based on the wool industry. Some fine old houses and examples of weavers' cottages remain. Cam Mills continues to make the cloth for championship tennis balls and snooker baize.



Castle Combe

Castle Combe lies in a valley and is considered one of the loveliest villages in the Cotswolds. This delightful village with picturesque views from the bridge was once a weaving town at the heart of the Cotswolds wool trade. The village is built around the 14th century Market Cross with the old water pump beside it. St. Andrew's church is around 12th century and of particular interest inside is the modified 15th century faceless clock (one of the oldest working clocks in England) which used to ring the hours from the tower.

You may recognise the village, as it frequently finds favour as a backdrop for period television and films.

Nearby Castle Combe motor car racing circuit is said to be one of the fastest in Britain.

Chalford

Chalford lies along the Golden Valley, close to Stroud. Houses perch high on a steep valley side and it is known as 'the Alpine Village of the Cotswolds'. Donkeys were traditionally used to deliver household items and this still occasionally happens today. One of the most distinctive buildings is the Round House, built by the Thames and Severn Canal Company. Damien Hirst has a studio here and there are some interesting former woollen mills.

Charlbury

Nestling in the beautiful Evenlode Valley, this town combines rural charm with a bustling working town life. Surrounded by the remains of the Wychwood Forest, Charlbury is full of fascination and has a small local museum which charts the town's past, including the glove-making industry for which the town was once famous. The town is a great base for walking and cycling and has its own mainline train station.



Chedworth

Typically Cotswold, and attractively spread out along the valley side, Chedworth is really several communities in one. The focus is the fine church of St Andrew, with a delightful waterspout nearby. In Chedworth Woods a mile north of the village, is one of the best preserved Roman villas in Britain.



Cheltenham

The most complete Regency town in the UK provides the backdrop to a year-round event programme, enviable foodie scene and buzzing nightlife. Known for its horse racing, festivals and first-class schools (not to mention government spy base GCHQ), Cheltenham also has great shopping and a cosmopolitan vibe.

Nestled at the foot of the Cotswolds, visitors to Cheltenham can enjoy internationally renowned events and festivals all year round. You'll find boutique accommodation, fabulous cafes, award-winning bars and restaurants, as well as independent and high street shopping in a cosmopolitan atmosphere. And once you're done taking in the cosmopolitan atmosphere, get outdoors to soak up the stunning views over the valley just a short drive, cycle, run or walk away...

Chipping Campden

Campden's long and flowing main street gives the town its shape and style. Frequently described as the 'jewel in the crown' of the Cotswold towns, Chipping Campden is also one of the best preserved and most historically important towns here.

A planned town of the late 12th century, its layout of properties can still be traced, the High Street following the line of an important trading route. The ancient word 'Chipping' refers to a market. The Market Hall, built in 1627 for the sale of butter, cheese and poultry, still stands.

This is a place to take in the atmosphere – surrounded by buildings such as Grevel House, Woolstaplers Hall (14th century), the Market Hall and Town Hall, the church of St James is a fine Cotswolds 'wool church'.



IMAGES LEFT TO RIGHT

Chipping Campden, Regency
Cheltenham, Charlbury,
Cirencester Market Place,
Bliss Mill, Chipping Norton.

Alongside are the gates of Campden House, much damaged in the Civil War. On nearby Dover's Hill, Captain Robert Dover founded the Cotswold Olimpicks in the 17th century, and they are still celebrated every year – a bizarre mix of sports, games and village festivities.

Chipping Norton

The highest town in Oxfordshire and once an important centre of the wool trade, Chipping Norton was given a charter by King John in 1205 to hold a wool fair. This later became a mop fair, a tradition still maintained as a funfair. St Mary's church reflects the prosperity of the town's wool merchants living here in the 15th century. There are some attractive almshouses in Church Street.

Cirencester

'The Capital of the Cotswolds'
This is a place with ancient origins. The Roman fort, later town, of *Corinium Dobunorum* was an important regional capital (there's still an atmospheric grassed over amphitheatre), mentioned by Ptolemy (as *Korinison*) in his Geography, written about AD 150. All this makes the award-winning Corinium Museum very much more than the average town museum,



where you can experience life as a Roman, and marvel at the stunning mosaics.

The church of St. John the Baptist dominates the town's market place, in 'woolgothic' style (a reference to the importance of income from the wool trade in medieval times). The porch is a landmark building built by the abbey in 1490 and designed to serve as a public meeting place as well as the main entrance to the church.

Cirencester is an important tourism and crafts centre. The Visitor Information Centre is located at the Corinium Museum. It has an arts centre with workshops in a converted brewery, and there are regular craft fairs, antique fairs and auctions.

Cirencester has a wonderful variety of quality shops and the street market is one of the oldest. The town has other quirky discoveries such as Cirencester's Open Air Swimming Pool which is Britain's oldest, run by volunteers and uses natural spring water. There are open spaces too: the Abbey grounds and the extensive 18th century parkland landscape of Cirencester Park, the Bathurst family's ownership for over three centuries.



Cleeve Hill

The highest point of the Cotswolds with spectacular views across the Severn Vale to the Forest of Dean, Malverns, and even to the Black Mountains and Brecon. The hill is a large area of open common – a Site of Special Scientific Interest (orchids and butterflies). On the municipal golf course you can play in and around an Iron Age hillfort.

Coberley and Cowley

In the valley of the River Churn and only a few miles south of Cheltenham, these two villages are off the main Cirencester road and retain a sense of remoteness. Coberley church seems hidden behind barn doors but is rewarding. Estate cottages form the core of the village from Sir James Horlick's time in the local mansion. Close by is Severn Springs, source of the Churn and arguably the real source of headwater for the Thames.



IMAGES LEFT TO RIGHT

Odde's Chapel, Deerhurst Cleeve Hill, Compton Abdale, Colesbourne Church.

Colesbourne

A small village straddling the A435, half way between Cheltenham and Cirencester. Colesbourne gets a mention in the Domesday Book but there is evidence of earlier occupation – the iron age hillfort, Norbury Camp, is situated close by to the north of the village. The church dates back to the 12th century. Colesbourne Park, belonging to the Elwes family for about 200 years, is open to the public during February and early March for its famous snowdrop show and the village fete is held in the grounds.

Coln St Aldwyns & Valley

Between Bibury and Fairford, in the quiet valley of the Coln, this is one of three villages close together – Hatherop and Quenington are the others. Good, easy walking country in a picturesque landscape of parkland, woods and water meadows.

Compton Abdale

Tucked away in a deep valley only 4 miles west of Northleach. Approach over the hill on the Whiteway from the south and enjoy the descent – almost on top of St Oswald's church tower. The focal point is a delightful stone water spout in the shape of a crocodile. Not many of those in the Cotswolds!



Crudwell

The village is an attractive stone-built village spread around two small greens. There is an interesting medieval church. The former rectory was built in the 16th century and is now a hotel.

Daglingworth

Just outside Cirencester and the first of the villages along the Duntisbourne valley. Turn off for the village church which is alongside the square and imposing Daglingworth House. Inside, a fine group of late Saxon carvings adorn the church walls. At Lower End, a circular medieval dovecote. On the hill, Itlay's few houses cluster together enjoying fine views.

Deerhurst

This very historic small village with its orchards and timber-framed cottages, is close to Tewkesbury. The priory of St. Mary is the only surviving Anglo-Saxon monastic church in England. Odde's Chapel (English Heritage) was built in 1056. The village is located on the Severn Way.

Donnington

On the hill a mile or so north of Stow, with extensive views over the Evenlode Valley. In 1646 this was the site of a famous battle in the English Civil War, when Lord Astley and 3,000 Royalists were defeated by Parliamentary forces. Donnington Mill is the home of a country brewery which has given its name to a well-known local ale.

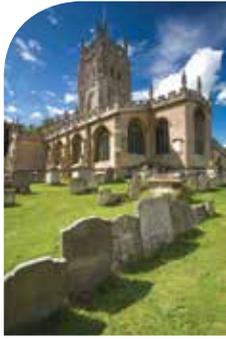


Down Ampney

The vicarage was the birthplace of Ralph Vaughan Williams, whose tune for the hymn 'Come Down O, Love Divine' is named "Down Ampney" in his honour. There is a fine church, with memorials from the nearby airfield, from where Dakotas flew in support of the D-Day invasion.

Dumbleton

Dumbleton is an estate village, with the magnificent Dumbleton Hall set in 16 acres of terraced gardens and woodland. The rest of the village is made up of beautiful Cotswold stone, timber-framed and thatched buildings, as well as a lovely church.



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The Cotswold Way sign, St Mary's church Fairford, Duntisbourne, Cricket on the green in Frampton on Severn.

The Duntisbournes

A string of attractive villages along the valley of the tiny Dunt Stream. The valley is a joy to visit, hidden away but just north of Cirencester. Duntisbourne Abbots is the largest but still intimate in scale. Lots of stone walls line the lanes and paths. Duntisbourne Leer, Rouse and Middle Duntisbourne are hamlets, the church at Rouse being one of the glories of Cotswold church architecture, beautifully sited on the steep-sided valley.

Dursley    

Surrounded by hills, and sitting on the Cotswold Way, Dursley offers secluded walks with breathtaking views. The town is centered upon a delightful 18th century market house, which is also a Town Hall. Originally renowned for its woollen cloth,

and later, its world-famous Lister-Petters engines, Dursley is fast becoming a centre for the arts. The regular exhibitions and workshops at Kingshill House and the nationally acclaimed Prema Arts Centre nearby are complemented by the Twinberrow Woods Sculpture Trail.

The Eastleaches 

Turville and Martin – face one another across the little River Leach, their Norman churches merely a couple of stone throws apart. Two bridges connect the villages – a road bridge and a long footbridge of large flat stones, known as Keble's Bridge.

Ebrington 

Stone and thatched cottages and old farmhouses give this long village its character in the gently folding hills east of Chipping Campden. Three oak trees are on a tiny village green at the heart of the village.



Fairford  

The town sits on a lovely stretch of the River Coln and owes its fortune to its location – an important coaching town on the old London to Gloucester route. Some of the inns and hotels are reminders of this. As with so many villages, its great glory is the parish church, St Mary's, which is a fine 'wool church', with a complete set of 28 medieval stained glass windows. The Coln is a slow and lazy river, offering delightful walks in quiet countryside.

Filkins  

This small, beautiful village is a hidden gem with enchanting stone houses, several of which have the characteristic slab fencing, including the tiny Swinford Museum. The 18th century Cotswold Woollen Weavers and Stonemasons are a must for any visitor, where you can see and buy the traditional local crafts.

Ford 

A hamlet on the slopes of the upper Windrush, less than 2 miles below its source above Taddington. Good walking country – up the valley to Cutsdean and Taddington, or down to Temple Guiting.

Frampton-on-Severn   

The village lies close to the River Severn, on the edge of the Cotswolds, and is well-known for its bustling village life, summer cricket on the Green (reputedly the largest village green in England) and Frampton Country Fair. Frampton Court, a Georgian stately home with an octagonal tower and dovecote, is open to the public by appointment.

Frampton Mansell  

This small village is attractively sited above the steep 'Golden Valley' of the Frome between Chalford and Sapperton, its church a prominent feature. This is a good walking area, including the Stroudwater canal towpath in the valley below.

Frocester   

The village of Frocester lies below the Cotswold escarpment, four miles west of Stroud. It was the site of a Roman settlement on a Roman road which ran from Cirencester to Arlingham. The farm shop is worth a visit and the Frocester Beer Festival is very popular locally.

Gotherington   

A village at the foot of the Cotswold scarp which is a mix of thatched cottages, Cotswold stone and black & white timber-framed buildings. It has a good local pub.

Great Tew 

In 1808 George Frederick Stratton, owner of the estate, engaged garden designer John Loudon, who laid out north and south drives and planted ornamental trees in and around the village. Great Tew is a 'picture book' village with its charming ironstone cottages, thatched and gabled roofs, mullioned windows and colourful gardens.

Gretton  

This small village, 1.5 miles from Winchcombe, has several attractive half-timbered cottages prettily situated around the 15th century tower of its otherwise demolished medieval church.





IMAGES LEFT TO RIGHT

Guiting Power church, View to Lechlade, Hailes Abbey, River Thames.

Guiting Power

In the heart of the north Cotswold country in the upper reaches of the Windrush valley. There is a small village green, with a pub at either end and excellent walking along paths and lanes into Guiting Wood and over the hills. Adam Henson's Cotswold Farm Park is nearby.

Hailes

2 miles from Winchcombe, Hailes is well-known for the remains of the great Cistercian Abbey (English Heritage). The Abbey once drew royalty and pilgrims to this lovely spot in the Cotswolds. After the Dissolution, the remains became romantic and remote. The village is on the Cotswold Way.

Haresfield

Haresfield Beacon is an ancient hillfort and a famous local beauty spot (713 feet) with spectacular views over the Severn Estuary and Wales.

Inchbrook

South of Woodchester and 2 miles from Stroud, hamlets cluster along the valley. The extensive Woodchester Park, preserves a hidden environment based around the gaunt and fascinating Woodchester Mansion. Nearby Dunkirk Mill Centre offers the opportunity to see a working water wheel powering a rare piece of historic textile machinery.

Kemble

5 miles south-west of Cirencester and best known for its railway station on the main London line, itself now a fine and listed example of a country junction station. The heart of the village around the church retains its rural atmosphere. Popular airshows take place regularly at Cotswold Airport.



Kempford

Large village close to Fairford and alongside the River Thames, which is on the Gloucestershire/Wiltshire county boundary. At one end the large and impressive St Mary's church. John of Gaunt, son of Edward III and lord of the manor is credited with building the tower between 1386 and 1399.

King's & Leonard Stanley

The Cotswold Way runs through King's Stanley which has been awarded Walkers are Welcome status. Stanley Mill, built in 1812, used to manufacture fine cloth and the village is rich in Roman and medieval history. Leonard Stanley was a prosperous wool village, visited by Henry VIII in 1535. Sir Stanley Spencer, one of the greatest British artists of the first half of the 20th century, painted 'Us in Gloucestershire' and 'The Wool Shop' whilst living at the White Hart pub.

Kingham

Another well-known railway station and former junction on the Oxford-Worcester Cotswold Line, and in the valley of the Evenlode. The large village is a mile away, attractively grouped around its church and a green.

Lechlade-on-Thames

The source of the River Thames is in the Cotswolds and the river begins its working life here becoming navigable and leading to London. Today, Lechlade is popular with leisure traffic on the river, overseen by the Neptune-like statue of Old Father Thames at St John's Lock, the highest navigable point of the river. A market town, Lechlade is focused around a market place and the church of

St Lawrence, whose spire is a landmark across the meadows. In the churchyard, the poet Shelley sat and found the inspiration to compose 'A Summer Evening Churchyard, Lechlade' in 1815. The verse is inscribed by the churchyard entrance. Nearby Buscot House can be visited along a towpath walk from Lechlade. Also nearby, Kelmscott Manor was William Morris's summer home for 25 years.

Longborough

Well-sited on the hill slopes above the Evenlode Valley just north of Stow-on-the-Wold. Quite a large village and the source of one of the original Cotswold Morris Dancing traditions. The village has been awarded Walkers are Welcome status and has an excellent village shop and community.

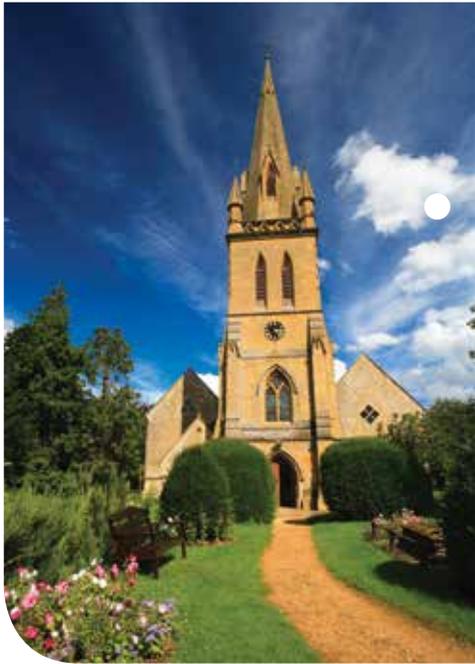
Malmesbury

Located in the southern Cotswolds, the town is England's oldest borough with a rich history and stunning abbey which dominates the town.

Visit the original Market Cross, the Norman Abbey with its tomb of King Athelstan and the free Athelstan Museum, and the beautiful Abbey House Gardens.

The charming honey-stone streets offer visitors the chance to enjoy a thriving high street with an array of independent retailers and a weekly farmers' & artisan market (taking place on a Friday) or for a different perspective of the town walk along the River Avon.





IMAGES LEFT TO RIGHT

St David's church Moreton in Marsh, Picnic Minchinhampton Common, view across Minchinhampton Common, delicious puddings, the High Street Moreton in Marsh, Nailsworth.



Minchinhampton    

This delightful market town on the edge of Minchinhampton Common contains Cotswold stone cottages, many dating back to the 17th century and the medieval wool trade. There is a good choice of cafes and restaurants and a bustling country market. There are breathtaking panoramic views of the Stroud Valleys from the Common and rare orchids and butterflies can be spotted along with freely roaming horses and cattle. The Princess Royal lives at Gatcombe Park on the edge of town.

Miserden   

Together with Edgeworth just down the road, this is attractive and wooded countryside. The 17th century Manor House overlooks the Golden Valley of the River Frome and is at the heart of a thriving estate and village community. Edgeworth is scattered around the hillside and Sudgrove is a farming hamlet between the two.



Moreton-in-Marsh     

Moreton is located on the northern edge of the Cotswolds and has excellent public transport links via a direct link to London by rail and local coach routes by road. Nearby, is the Four Shires Stone marking the old meeting point of four counties: Gloucestershire, Warwickshire, Worcestershire and Oxfordshire.

The town has a long and wide High Street, a clue to its origins as a planned market town of the 13th century. There are some fine buildings, including its rare Curfew Tower with its original clock and bell, dated 1633. Houses and shops of the 18th and 19th century line the High Street, and in the centre is the Redesdale Hall, dating from 1887, the town's main public hall.

Every Tuesday Moreton has the largest open-air street market in the Cotswolds, with a Charter granted by Charles I. The annual Moreton Show is a major celebration of past and present farming life in this area, held in September.



Nailsworth     

Nailsworth is a lively, artistic town nestling in a wooded valley and renowned for its award-winning restaurants, pubs, cafes and other food outlets including a celebrated local bakery (home to The Fabulous Baker Brothers) and food emporium, as well as some lovely, small independent shops.

There is a mill trail and Nailsworth has the largest number of working water wheels per square mile in the country. Ruskin Mill (a centre for artistic activity) and the Stroudwater Textile Trust's Weaving Shed at Gigg Mill are nearby. An eight-mile cycle-way follows the old railway line to Stonehouse. Close by is the Nailsworth Ladder leading to National Trust common land and the mysterious and haunted Woodchester Mansion.

The Nailsworth Festival takes place annually with a programme of art and music events.



Map of the Cotswolds





Naunton

The River Windrush flows through the village and its water meadows, making it as picturesque as any of its neighbours in the hills between Stow and Cheltenham. Mentioned in the Domesday Book as *Niwetone*. Climb the hill for a really good view of the church and village.

Northleach

This beautiful town has been bypassed, and so returned to a time when traffic was more of a novelty. The magnificent church of St Peter and St Paul at Northleach can claim to be a ‘Cathedral of the Cotswolds’. Here is the best of Cotswold stone used to create a fine example of the 15th century Cotswold Perpendicular, with some of the best wool merchants’ brasses in the country. The church stands just off the market place - in fact there are two open spaces, the Market Place and The Green. A walk along the entire length of the High Street is recommended; the medieval property boundaries – the burgage plots – can still be traced from the town’s foundation in the 13th century.

Northleach is renowned for being the town with a workhouse at one end and a prison at the other. In the centre of the town is a museum of mechanical music, a rare treat. Amongst the earlier buildings are Dutton Almshouses ‘for women’ built in 1616. Over the hill, Eastington is one of a number of small settlements along the valley of the River Leach; delightful walking country and ‘pure Cotswold’.



IMAGES LEFT TO RIGHT

Naunton, Northleach, Painswick.

North Nibley

A thriving village community situated on the edge of the south Cotswolds and the site of the last private battle of England – The Battle of Nibley Green in 1470. William Tyndale, translator of the Bible into English and martyr, has a monument situated high above the village; climb the steps to the top for an extensive view over the Severn Vale. The annual Nibley Festival is popular with families.

Oakridge Lynch

Located near Bisley, Oakridge is perched above the Golden Valley of the River Frome. It was the scene of a riot against the reopening of a smallpox hospital, as recently as 1896. The Butchers Arms is an 18th century stone pub.

Oddington

There are two – Upper and Lower – just off the A436 east of Stow. Together they make a long and attractive village with an isolated but much-loved old church half a mile down the track to Bledington Heath. Inside, marvel at the enormous Day of Judgement wall-painting from the early 15th century, and the splendid pulpit and fittings – a wonderful interior, straight out of an earlier age.

Owlpen

A Tudor manor house, church, farm and a few cottages make up this small community below the hills of the steep-sided valleys south and west of Stroud. Owlpen Manor is open to visitors, a charming example of Cotswold vernacular – one of the most haunted houses in the west of England.

Painswick

This historic wool town is known as ‘The Queen of the Cotswolds’ and is one of the finest and best-preserved Cotswolds settlements. It is at the mid-point of the Cotswold Way and surrounded by marvellous walking country.

The Rococo Gardens, Painswick Beacon and the picturesque villages of Sheepscombe, Edge and Slad are all within a mile or so of the centre. New Street contains the oldest building in England to house a Post Office, the country’s oldest bowling green and one of the most memorable churchyards in the country – with 99 yew trees.

This small town has become well-known for its award-winning hotels and inns, specialist craft and antique shops and its summer Arts Festival.

Poulton

Between Cirencester and Fairford, the village is in an open farming landscape with long views across the fields. A small village green adjoins the main road outside the village pub. St Michael’s is a good Victorian church by Butterfield of 1873/4. Ready Token is a small community at the meeting of several minor roads, and named after an inn where ready cash, or tokens, were required.



Postlip

Only 1 mile from Winchcombe, Postlip is in the Isbourne Valley below Cleeve Common where you can find excellent walking. There are very fine Cotswold stone buildings here including the church, Jacobean manor house and tithe barn.

Rendcomb

Out of sight from the Cirencester to Cheltenham road in the Churn Valley below, Rendcomb enjoys the seclusion of a village off the main road. Its major feature is Rendcomb College, founded by the Wills family in 1920 around the imposing Victorian house built in 1867 for the Goldsmid banking family. The grounds are well landscaped and incorporate St Peter’s church, a fine example of 16th century rebuilding in the Perpendicular style, typically Cotswold. Down the valley towards Cirencester is North Cerney, also set back off the road but with a perfectly-sited church in the valley.



Sharpness

Sharpness is one of the most inland ports in Britain and is a working port noteworthy for its industrial heritage. It is located on the Severn Way and from the picnic area, you can sit and watch the ships go by.

There is a lovely walk or cycle along the Gloucester & Sharpness Canal to the ghostly Purton Hulks - the nation's largest collection of nautical wrecks.

Sheepscombe

Sheepscombe has one of the loveliest imaginable locations, close to the town of Painswick and surrounded by beech wood hills and flower-rich grassland.

The Rissingtons

Once there were three, now there are four: the new village of Upper Rissington emerging from the former Little Rissington RAF base along the hilltop between Windrush and Evenlode Valleys. Great and Little Rissington are good vernacular Cotswold villages on the hillside with some fine cottages and farmhouses. Wyck Rissington on the Oxfordshire Way enjoys a large, open central green and a church where the composer Gustav Holst was an organist a century ago.

Saul

The village of Saul is at the junction of the Stroudwater and Gloucester & Sharpness Canals. There is a tea room where visitors can enjoy the view at Saul Junction. The nearby Saul Heritage Centre is open on Saturday and Sunday afternoons throughout the year. From here runs one of the Cotswold Canals trip boats - the Perseverance.

Sherborne

Another Cotswold estate village, now largely owned by the National Trust. Sherborne Park dominates, the house now converted into apartments, the parkland accessible to visitors. Part of the house is the church with some fine memorials to the Duttons, who spent their wealth in this valley just east of Northleach.

Shilton

The attractive ford across 'The Shill' brook, the open village green, 17th century pub and pretty stone cottages are much photographed and make the village of Shilton a true Cotswold experience.

Slad

Thousands know Slad through Laurie Lee's novel *Cider with Rosie*. Many of Lee's locations are recognisable, including the Woolpack Inn. You can also see the churchyard where Lee is buried. There are some lovely walks in the Slad Valley.



IMAGES LEFT TO RIGHT

Slad, Lower Slaughter, Saul Junction, Bridge House and swing bridge.



The Slaughters

Upper and Lower Slaughter share a fascinating name, which derives from 'miry place' which it certainly isn't now! The link (and the fascination) is the tiny River Eye, tributary to the nearby Windrush.

Considered to be one of the prettiest villages in the Cotswolds and probably one of the most photographed, it attracts visitors from all parts of the world. The village has been used frequently as the setting for both commercial and fictional film and television productions.

Artists are to be seen regularly either painting scenes of the village or displaying their wares during the summer months at the frequent artists' exhibitions held in the village hall.

Upper Slaughter is equally attractive - a 'sainted village' meaning that it lost nobody in the First World War.

Slimbridge

Slimbridge is a tiny place best known for the extraordinary Wildfowl and Wetland Trust Reserve on the banks of the Severn Estuary. The Gloucester and Sharpness Canal runs through the village. On the canal towpath, next to the bridge, is the Slimbridge Boat Station, which is a cafe, general store and boating resource centre. The village itself has one of the best 13th century churches in Gloucestershire.

Snowhill

This charming and unspoilt village is a short distance by car from Broadway. There is a striking church and a row of much photographed cottages. Opposite is Snowhill Manor, given to the National Trust by its eccentric owner Charles Paget Wade and filled with the spoils of a lifetime of collecting. Snowhill Lavender Farm beautifully enhances the summer landscape.

South Cerney



A large village conveniently placed for access to Cirencester 4 miles away and the nearby Cotswold Water Park, over 30 square miles of lakes zoned for specific forms of recreation. Here you can be active or passive, lively or contemplative. Visit All Hallows church during your stay and walk along Bow-Wow – it's as good as its name!

Stanton



Stanton is an outstanding beautiful village, situated below the wooded Cotswold edge, on the Cotswold Way. The medieval parish church has some early 14th century wall paintings and grooves on the backs of pews, marks made when shepherds used to tie their dogs.

Stanway & Wood Stanway



This estate village is centred upon the magnificent Stanway House with its baroque gatehouse and formal gardens with the highest gravity fountain in the world. The beautiful tithe barn and medieval church are also part of the Stanway Estate. The village has a thatched wooden cricket pavillion, presented to the village by Sir James Barrie, the author of Peter Pan. Stanway is on the Cotswold Way.

Wood Stanway is a delightful little hamlet set at the foot of the Cotswold escarpment. The village is set around an orchard.

Stonehouse



Stonehouse is an ideal centre for people walking the Cotswold Way, cycling National Cycle Route 45 or visiting the Stroudwater Canal. The traditional High Street has good parking. Doverow Hill is Stonehouse's best-known landmark, with views of the River Frome Valley and the Severn Vale.



Mentioned in the Domesday Book, Stonehouse retains many historic buildings – many using the town's locally made bricks. Stonehouse Court was once home to a cousin of William the Conqueror and a large stone in the garden reputedly marks the burial site of Oliver Cromwell's horse. St Cyr's church on the canal next to Stonehouse Court is a gem not to be missed.

Stow-on-the-Wold



At nearly 800ft, Stow is the highest of the Cotswold towns, and famous as a centre for antiques. Stow has a long history and probably dates from a prehistoric fortified settlement on top of the hill. The Roman Fosse Way from Cirencester to Leicester passes through it, 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.

The Market Square is large and still impressive. Surrounded by houses, shops and inns all built in the local stone it gives the feeling of being the focus of town life over many centuries.



Indeed it was host to some of the Cotswolds' largest sheep fairs, with up to 20,000 sheep herded into the square for sale. The medieval Market Cross is a reminder of those times and it has recently been carefully repaired.

Stow has 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 and was damaged as a result. Repaired and restored over many years, it remains a fine building in the Cotswold tradition.

Stroud



In 'the Covent Garden of the Cotswolds', you will find an eclectic mix of galleries, cafes and shops – selling everything from fossils to fairies and vintage to vinyl - and one of the best farmers' markets in the country. Set against the beautiful backdrop of the Five Valleys, the town is easily reachable by train, bus or car. Stroud thrived on its woollen mills in the Revolution, some of which now open to visitors to enjoy guided tours.



IMAGES LEFT TO RIGHT Stanton, Stow-on-the-Wold, Stroud Farmers' Market.

The town features some interesting landmark buildings and you can learn more on the Heritage Board Map Trail, from the Tourist Information Centre in the historic Subscription Rooms. Nearby, beautiful Stratford Park offers a leisure centre, lakeside walk and the fascinating Museum in the Park.

Stroud is now a centre for the creative industries, with writers, artists and craftspeople residing in the five sweeping valleys encircling the town, made famous by Laurie Lee's *Cider with Rosie*.

Throughout the year, the town is home to a varied programme of festivals including contemporary textiles and arts. The Cotswold Way runs close by and Rodborough, Minchinhampton and Selsley Commons overlook the town.

A huge project is underway to restore the Stroudwater canal back to its former glory. Take the opportunity to walk or cycle along the tow path (Thames and Severn Way) stopping at a traditional pub or café on the way. To find out more, drop in to the Cotswold Canals Centre located at Wallbridge Lock in Stroud.





IMAGES LEFT TO RIGHT

Swinbrook, St Mary's church, Tetbury, Market Hall Tetbury, Goods Shed Tetbury, River Avon Tewkesbury.

Sudeley 🗑️ 🏠 🏠

Just 1 mile from the famous Sudeley Castle, this small village has wonderful views over the Cotswold town of Winchcombe. Set high on the Cotswold scarp, this village is also within walking distance of the spectacularly sited Neolithic Belas Knap Barrow and Spoonley Wood Roman Villa, although you'll need to be fairly fit to make the hill climb.

The Swells 🗑️

Upper and Lower Swell are on the banks of the river Dikler, down the hill 1 mile west of Stow-on-the-Wold. Lower Swell is grouped around its triangular village green with a war memorial by Lutyens. Upper Swell on the Broadway road has an old water mill.

Swinbrook 🗑️

A quiet Cotswold village a few miles away from Burford, Swinbrook is famous for the 17th century monuments to the Fettiplace family in the small church of St Mary's. Four of the famous Mitford sisters are buried in the churchyard.

Teddington 🗑️

A pleasant village at the foot of the orchard clad Oxenton Hill. The medieval parish church has very fine early English stonework in its west window and lower arch.



Temple Guiting 🗑️

Small village situated in the Windrush Valley. The church has a fine 18th century tower and Georgian classical windows. Good walks through the wooded valley.

Tetbury 🗑️ 🏠 🏠 🗺️ 🏠

The Market House in the centre of Tetbury is an immediate reminder of the history of the town. Built in 1655 and supported on three rows of bulging stone pillars, it was designed as the 'Great Tolsay' (as at Burford) for the sale of wool and yarn, and still has a market use today. Tetbury, in fact, has much earlier origins going back to the 7th century and probably into prehistory as a defended hilltop site.

Today the small market place is still its focal point. Long Street and other streets have a fine display of historic buildings, and the town is a busy commercial centre. It is also famous for its royal connections with Highgrove nearby. Visit the rail lands and Goods Shed, which have now been restored.



A walk down the old Chipping Steps and round into Gumstool Hill reveals another part of Tetbury's history, with 17th century weavers cottages. Gumstool Hill gets its name from the reputed site of the old ducking stool, a very visible method of punishment. This area is still used for the annual Woolsack Races, a long-standing tradition which requires 65lb woolsacks to be carried by the contestants up and down the 1-in-4 hill.

The tall spire of St Mary's church is a landmark from the west. Inside the church is a Gothic style gem of space and light with a magnificent plaster ceiling. The town's old police cells now form the Tetbury Police Museum.

Wander down to the recently renovated Victorian railway building and discover a thriving, creative Arts Centre & café.

Tewkesbury 🗑️ 🏠 🏠 🗺️ 🏠

Tewkesbury is an historic place, known to Shakespeare (Falstaff has the line "Wit as thick as Tewkesbury mustard" and Dickens (who 'used' the Royal Hop Pole Inn in Pickwick Papers). The mustard, by the way, is available locally and worth trying – a blend of mustard flour and grated horseradish root.

The town lies where the Rivers Severn and Avon meet, a fact that has prevented urban sprawl and ensures that today, Tewkesbury offers one of the best medieval townscapes in England.



Delightful timber-framed, mellow-brick houses and narrow alleyways surround an outstanding 12th century Benedictine Abbey.

The Norman Abbey tower provides spectacular views of Bredon Hill, the Malverns, and the scarp face of the Cotswolds.

The Heritage Centre is located in the Old Hat Shop, a grade II star listed, timber-framed building in the town centre.

The centre presents the history of Tewkesbury, whilst linking to town gems such as one of the oldest Baptist Chapels in England or nearby medieval merchants' cottages. This should be your first port of call in Tewkesbury.

Walking routes that pass through Tewkesbury include the Severn Way, the Gloucestershire Way and routes that take in the River Severn and the Tewkesbury Battle Trail.

A dramatic medieval festival in July re-enacts the Battle of Tewkesbury, the decisive War of the Roses battle in 1471.





IMAGES LEFT TO RIGHT
Cycling in the Cotswolds, Westonbirt, Farmers' Markets, Winchcombe, Uley Old Spot.

Tirley

Tirley lies near the bank of the River Severn a few miles from Tewkesbury. The medieval parish church lies at a distance from the village in the flood meadows. Signs show the flood levels of the past. Close to Ashleworth Ham Nature Reserve.

Toddington

Toddington Manor was acquired by Damien Hirst, forming a fine group with a Victorian parish church (not open to the public but you'll sneak a glance through a hedgerow). The village is also home to the preserved Gloucestershire Warwickshire Steam Railway.

Todenham

On by-roads in the countryside between Moreton-in-Marsh and Shipston, the village remains remarkably unspoilt with a dignified manor house and a fine tower and octagonal spire to the church.

Nearby Great Wolford and Little Wolford are equally attractive, one has a tall church spire as a landmark and the other a fine 16th century manor house.

Turkdean

2 miles north of Northleach, this small village is pleasantly sited on a hillside, with the hamlet of Lower Dean in the valley below. There is a good circular walk from Turkdean, taking in the village of Notgove.

Twynning

An ancient crossroads where an Iron Age hillfort, later became a Roman camp. The river crossing was of great strategic importance in past times – the Cavalier forces of King Charles I camped on the banks. The village setting now conjures images of village green cricket.



Uley

2,500 years ago, Uley Bury, a great Iron Age hillfort, dominated the area. Set in a stunning valley, one of the prettiest in the area, the church is a gem. Uley Brewery is an excellent supplier to local pubs. Prema Arts is an independent rural arts centre with a national reputation.

Westonbirt

Home of the National Arboretum – the finest collection of trees and shrubs in Europe spread throughout 600 acres of glorious Cotswold countryside.

Weston-sub-Edge

Together with Aston-sub-Edge, lies below the escarpment on the edge of Evesham Vale near Broadway. Fine 17th century stone farmhouses and cottages around the square and up the hill. At Aston, an impressive old manor house and an interesting little church.

Willersey

1.5 miles from Broadway set beneath the Cotswold scarp with many handsome Cotswold stone buildings. A village duck pond leads to a pinnacled and gargoyled church. The church attracts attention – there has been a building here since the late 7th century. Good walks, including parts of the former railway line.



Winchcombe

Winchcombe is an unspoilt golden-coloured market town set above the River Isbourne on the Cotswold edge. Cottages, small shops, good pubs and tea rooms give the town a warmth all of its own.

An important centre in Saxon times, Winchcombe later became the site of one of the largest Benedictine monasteries in England. Although the abbey has now gone, the town thrives. The stone church of St Peter displays an altar cloth worked by Catherine of Aragon. Outside the church there are 40 gargoyles, said to represent local town characters from the 1460s. Dent's Terrace is a splendid set of almshouses and there are beautiful sets of cottages on Vineyard Street.



Winchcombe borders Sudeley Castle, which is renowned for its 1,000 year royal history and beautiful gardens. Winchcombe is a great base for walkers, with the Cotswold Way, Gloucestershire Way and Wychavon Way all passing through. The Wardens Way & Windrush Way both start and finish here. Nearby, Belas Knap is a Neolithic barrow in a spectacular location above Humblebee Woods (beloved of Tolkien). The town has been awarded The Walkers Are Welcome status and hosts an annual walking festival in May, as well as a new music and arts festival.

The Witcombes

Little and Great Witcombe are quiet locations set at the foot of the Cotswold escarpment, with easy access to Cheltenham and Gloucester. Great Witcombe has a fabulous Roman Villa where you can roam around and picnic in ancient settings. The ancient tradition of cheese rolling also takes place nearby at Coopers Hill every year on the second Bank Holiday in May, where contestants chase a Gloucester cheese down a very steep hill!



Withington

Village on the River Coln with six converging lanes - an almost secret layout amongst the trees.

Witney

The town was once world-famous for its blanket making and there is a wonderful museum in the Blanket Hall dedicated to retelling this history. Much of the architecture in the town reflects the prosperity brought by the wool trade including the church of St Mary the Virgin with its 150ft spire.

Visitors can also walk the Wool Trail to learn more about the town. Located within the town is Cogges Manor Farm where animals help to bring this old evocative rural farm to life and you can enjoy a picnic in the orchard. The buildings have been used for filming including 'Downton Abbey'.



IMAGES LEFT TO RIGHT

Witney High Street, Witney Corn Exchange, The Ancient Ram Inn, Wotton under Edge, Winchcombe, Sudeley Knot Garden, Stone steps, Wotton under Edge.

Woodchester

Woodchester is notable as the location of Woodchester Roman Villa and home to the famous 'Woodchester Pavement'. Nearby, the unique Woodchester Mansion, described as an unfinished Gothic masterpiece, stands in a landscaped valley, privately owned by the National Trust.

Woodstock

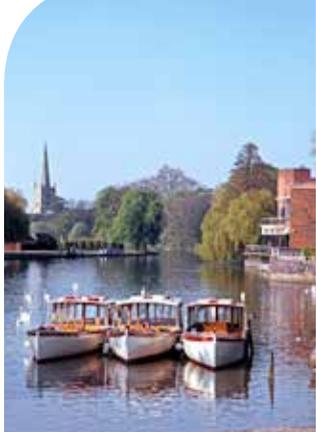
Woodstock, home to the world heritage site Blenheim Palace, is a fine Georgian town with a distinct royal heritage. It contains many attractive period buildings including the 17th century Fletcher's House, home to The Oxfordshire Museum, the 18th century Town Hall and the church of St Mary Magdelene with its musical clock. The town has a fine selection of shops, pubs and restaurants.



Wotton-under-Edge

The 'Edge' refers to the Cotswold edge, under which Wotton-under-Edge nestles, overlooking the Severn Vale. An interesting Heritage Centre tells some of the history of the town. This is an excellent centre for walking and is on the Cotswold Way. Its main street has been called a 'department store within a street'. The Wotton Electric Picture House, an all-digital cinema, attracts both mainstream and contemporary films.

There is a vibrant community arts centre, a highly respected auction room and the town has an outdoor swimming pool, open in summer. There is a strong community spirit and an annual music and arts festival. On summer Sunday afternoons, visitors can enjoy the excellent 'Town Hall Teas' in the Town Hall.



IMAGES LEFT TO RIGHT

The River Avon, Roman Baths, view towards Gloucester Cathedral, Tom Tower, Oxford, Stratford upon Avon.



The Cotswolds – A Centre for Exploration

The Cotswolds is an excellent base to stay and discover some of Britain's other famous towns and cities which are all within easy reach.

Bath

A World Heritage Site with a magnificent setting; all routes from the Cotswolds descend spectacularly into the broad valley of the River Avon. Bath is home to some of the most impressive architectural sights in the world such as the Royal Crescent, the Circus and Pulteney Bridge. At the heart of the city centre, next to Bath's imposing Abbey, is the Roman Baths Museum, which gives a fascinating insight into the original bathing complex and the great Roman temple of Sulis Minerva. Above the Museum in the 18th century Pump Room you can taste the waters, enjoy a meal

and listen to music from the Pump Room Trio. Bath has a wide variety of museums and galleries, festivals, events and visitors can once again relax in the waters at Bath Thermae spa, with its open-air rooftop pool.

Forest of Dean

The Forest of Dean and onwards to the Wye valley is located on the other side of the River Severn and in easy reach of the Cotswolds. Here you will find a different landscape to discover and enjoy, with a host of great activities and entertainment there is something for everyone.

Adventure-seekers can experience excellent mountain biking, cycle tracks, as well as zip-wires, or kayaking on the river. With a great range of attractions, from the magical Puzzlewood to caves and steam trains, or one of the many walking routes such as the Sculpture Trail, spectacular views are just around the corner.



Gloucester

Did you know that the Roman name for Gloucester is *Glevum*? Gloucester boasts a wealth of fine, ancient buildings and monuments that have borne witness to countless defining moments in British history.

At the city's heart stands one of the country's most breathtaking cathedrals and yet, only a few minutes' walk away, you enter another world of ships of all shapes and sizes, in the dramatic setting of the Victorian Docks. This area has a great mix of museums, bars, cafes and the Quays Designer Outlet shopping centre. Most of Gloucester's heritage can be visited on foot, including the Folk Museum and The Tailor of Gloucester's shop, from Beatrix Potter's story. The city enjoys a great annual programme of festivals and events for all ages and tastes.

Oxford

An important historic city renowned for its university colleges, Botanic Garden, museums and skyline of dreaming spires. You can discover the history and heritage of a city that is home to 1,500 listed



buildings from every major period of British architectural history from the 11th century onwards. The best way to see the city is to explore on foot with one of the many walking tours or hire a bike to get around and the excellent 'Park and Ride' system ensures an easy ride into town from the car parks located on the outskirts.

Stratford-upon-Avon

Forever associated with Shakespeare, on whose memory most of the town's visitor attractions are based. Easily accessed from the north Cotswolds, visitors can see world-famous attractions including the Royal Shakespeare Company, Shakespeare's Birthplace and Mary Arden's Farm all bringing history and heritage to life. Nearby Warwick Castle, Compton Verney and the British Motor Museum are all in easy reach of the wider area to ensure your visit to the Cotswolds is complete.



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Please use the international dialling code when calling from outside the UK

*Visitor information point, limited services



Our friendly staff are here to help you get the most from your visit to the Cotswolds. With a wealth of local knowledge, these are some of the services they provide:

- Accommodation booking – in advance of your visit or when you arrive.
- Local attraction information – where to go and what to see, including opening times and prices.
- Ticket sales – for local events, theatres, coach and bus tours.
- Maps and guide books.
- Walking and cycling information.
- Local transport information.
- Souvenirs and gifts.

By Rail

Easily accessible by rail with mainline stations at Cheltenham, Charlbury, Gloucester, Hanborough, Kemble (for Cirencester), Kingham (for Stow-on-the-Wold), Moreton-in-Marsh, Ashchurch (for Tewkesbury), Cam & Dursley and Stroud. National Rail Enquiry Line: 08457 48 49 50.

By Road/Coach

The motorway network provides easy access via the M4 or M40 from London and the South East, M4 from Wales and M5 from the North, Midlands and South West.

National Express coaches operate daily services from many parts of the UK to Cirencester, Cheltenham, Gloucester, Oxford, Stroud and Tewkesbury. From these destinations, local coach companies operate services to reach other towns and villages, such as Bourton-on-the-Water, Burford, Woodstock, Stow-on-the-Wold, Moreton-in-Marsh, Chipping Norton, Witney, Chipping Campden, Painswick, Tetbury, Winchcombe and Tewkesbury.

For full details, visit:
www.nationalexpress.co.uk
and www.traveline.info



Lower Slaughter, Pulkham

The Cotswolds has a wide variety of tour companies that can help you see the area:
www.cotswolds.com/tours

For those that wish to self-drive please see some sample itineraries at:
www.cotswolds.com/inspire-me



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