

# A weekend with walks in Stroud



## AT A GLANCE

- Stay in a cosy cottage or B&B
- Visit Stroud Farmers' Market, Events and Festivals
- Enjoy independent shopping
- Walk along the canal or Rodborough Common
- Visit the Museum in the Park



## Bohemian Stroud

### Cloth, commons and canals...

Brimming with independent shops, cafés and galleries, bohemian Stroud has been described by Jasper Conran as 'the Covent Garden of the Cotswolds' thanks to its fabulous farmers' market. You will find an eclectic mix of shops against the dramatic backdrop of the beautiful Five Valleys, selling everything from vintage to vinyl and fossils to fairies.

The Cotswold Way runs through Stroud and Rodborough, Minchinhampton and Selsley Commons overlook the town - popular with walkers, kite-flyers and those looking for a locally-made Winstones ice-cream.

Writers and artists have been drawn to the five valleys encircling the town. The

Slad Valley's most famous resident was Laurie Lee, author of "Cider with Rosie". A varied programme of festivals throughout the year includes textiles, music and contemporary art.

Stroud is most often characterised by its industrial heritage. Some of the former textile mills, strung along the valleys, occasionally open to visitors. Stroud's history can be discovered today through the Heritage Board Map Trail.

Restoration of the Stroudwater Canal is currently underway to return it to its former glory. Enjoy a walk along the tow path and drop into the Canal Visitor Centre located at Wallbridge Lock to find out more.

**Walking in or around Stroud:**  
**Short walks** – all of these routes are

available to download or from Stroud Visitor Information Centre

**Historical Trail approx 1 mile** - A series of information boards tell Stroud's history with some charming tales of local events and characters. This circular route starts in St Laurence churchyard, home to the last duel ever fought on British soil.

**Stroud Centre to Stratford Park approx 2.5 miles** – This circular route leaves the town and heads to the 56 acres of Stratford Park. The arboretum and lake make it the ideal location for a picnic. The park also includes a leisure centre, children's play area and an excellent museum.

**Cloth, Coal & Canals approx 3.5 miles** - This walk, in association with the Royal Geographical Society, follows the



The Great  
**Cotswold**  
wold  
Outdoors



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canal towpath from Stroud to Stonehouse, telling the history of the Stroud Valley. Mills, locks, bridges, wildlife and beautiful scenery dot the route. Return to Stroud by foot, bus or train. Available as a booklet or audio or downloadable format.

**Rodborough & Kingscourt** approx 3.7 miles – A circular walk from the centre of Stroud taking in small villages, open hill tops with lovely views and former mill buildings. Available to download.

**Whiteshill to Haresfield Beacon** approx 3.1 or 4.8 miles – This circular walk from The Star Inn (about 10 minutes by bus from Stroud) follows the Cotswold Way to Haresfield Beacon. The beacon is often rated as one of the outstanding highlights on the Cotswold Way and views extend to the Severn Estuary, Brecon Beacons and beyond. Available to download

**Commons & Canals: The Selsley Circuit** approx 5 miles – Begin from King's Stanley (approx 15 minutes by bus from Stroud) and wind along the Cotswold Way, through sheltered beech woodlands and rich open grassland. Grand Victorian mills sit alongside the tranquil waterway. Available to download

**Brimcombe, Golden Valley and Thames & Severn Canal** approx 7.4 miles - The Golden Valley of the River Frome was named from the wealth that came from the textile industry. This circular walk (about 15 minutes by bus from Stroud) includes woodland, pools and streams, industrial heritage and the towpath of the Thames & Severn Canal. It is close to Westley Farm Cottages. Available to download



**The W.A.S Way** approx 11 miles – A circular route following public footpaths around the entire boundary of Stroud. It offers fantastic views from each of the five valleys and explores many quiet, hidden corners of the town. Available to download

### Longer walks:

*Stroud is on the route of the:*

**The Cotswold Way** National Trail – From Chipping Campden to Bath, just over 100 miles of magical walking encompasses long distance views from the Cotswold escarpment, picturesque villages and famous, ancient sites.

### Things to do in Stroud

- Museum in the Park
- Rodborough Common
- Shambles Market
- Stroud Farmers' Market
- Stroud Valleys Artspace
- Stroudwater Canal
- Subscription Rooms

### Accommodation that welcomes walkers

#### Bed & Breakfast

**The Star Inn**, Whiteshill, Stroud. Located just off the Cotswold Way C1670 Grade 2 Listed Cotswold stone Inn. Sympathetically restored. Don't worry about muddy boots on our slate tiled floors. Real ales served

straight from the barrel. 4 Star Accommodation. Locally sourced pub food.

T: +44 (0) 1453 765321 [www.the-star-inn-whiteshill.co.uk](http://www.the-star-inn-whiteshill.co.uk) (including 6 local walks) Twitter @tsiwhiteshill

**The Amberley Inn**, Amberley, Stroud [www.theamberleyinn.co.uk](http://www.theamberleyinn.co.uk)

#### Cottages

**Westley Farm**, Chalford, Stroud.



Walk into wild-flower meadows, hidden valleys and ancient bluebell woods straight from your cottage door. Five farm cottages with log fires. Choice of walkable good local pubs. Pets welcome. [www.westleyfarm.co.uk](http://www.westleyfarm.co.uk) [twitter.com/WestleyFarm](https://twitter.com/WestleyFarm) [www.facebook.com/westleyfarm](https://www.facebook.com/westleyfarm) 01285 760262

**Washbrook Cottage**, Painswick [www.washbrookcottage.co.uk](http://www.washbrookcottage.co.uk)

### Visitor Information Centre

+44(0)1453 760 960

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