



Walkers
BRITAIN
& EUROPE

best of the cotswolds on foot - guided

**genuine
active
experiences**

GRADE:



IMPORTANT NOTES

DN1-For self guided hiking options in the Cotswolds consider a 5-day walk (code WMW), 6-day option (code TCO), 8-day walk (code UCO), or the full Cotswold Way (code WAD).
DN2-Enquire about the possibility of sharing a room with a traveller of the same gender.

Founded in 1973, Walkers' Britain & Europe (formerly Sherpa Expeditions) specialises in self-guided inn-to-inn, escorted walking and cycling holidays throughout the United Kingdom and Europe. We offer a wide range of trips, from rambles to leisurely cycles and challenging hikes. We are constantly pioneering new trails and refining our self-guided holidays to an art. Over many years our leaders, local representatives and travellers have all contributed to the detailed trail notes we provide, making them the definitive guide to the areas we visit. Whether you want to explore England's Coast to Coast, cycle the British Isles, walk in the Scottish Highlands, or take an active holiday in an iconic European destination such as Provence in France, Andalucia in Spain, or Piedmont in Italy; you can rely on Walkers' Britain & Europe.

TRIP NAME:	BEST OF THE COTSWOLDS ON FOOT - GUIDED
TRIP CODE:	ECY
TRIP DURATION:	9 DAYS
GRADE TEXT:	INTRODUCTORY TO MODERATE - 2
ACTIVITY:	GUIDED WALKING
ACCOMMODATION:	8 NIGHTS HOTELS/ GUESTHOUSE/B&B'S
DATE DETAILS:	→ 2027 04 JUN - 12 JUN, 24 SEP - 02 OCT

highlights

- Walk through the heart of the Cotswolds countryside with an expert guide
- Revel in the colours of an English summer garden at Snowhill Manor
- Classic Cotswold Villages: Broadway, Painswick, Winchcombe
- Visit Sudeley Castle, home of Katherine Parr, Henry VIII's last wife
- Spend a night in the Regency city of Bath & promenade along the Crescent
- Hike parts of the Monarch's Way and the Cotswold Way National Trail

the trip

Discover the timeless charm of the Cotswolds on this guided walking holiday. If you love exploring on foot, and enjoy taking time to appreciate the history and character of the places you visit, this journey is for you. Backed by 30 years of expertise, we have created the ultimate Cotswolds hiking trip blending our favourite trails, towns and English gardens. This is a holiday built for hikers, linking rolling countryside and classic trails with historic houses and heritage landmarks.

Each day you walk through the landscapes that define the Cotswolds; quiet farmland footpaths, riverside trails, ancient woodlands and scenic sections of the Cotswold Way, a British National Trail. Along the way, discover honey-coloured market towns like Stow-on-the-Wold, Chipping Campden and Painswick, where historic pubs and traditional village greens reflect England's rich rural heritage.

What sets this trip apart is the combination of great walks with unhurried visits to some of the area's most fascinating sights. Explore the celebrated outdoor rooms of Hidcote Manor Garden, wander the gardens of Snowhill Manor, visit the ruins of Hailes Abbey, discover the royal connections of Sudeley Castle and enjoy time in the unique Rococo Garden at Painswick.

With an expert guide handling the logistics and bringing the region's stories to life, you can unplug; walking through the heart of England at a pace that allows you to appreciate it.



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itinerary at a glance

Day 1	Arrive in Moreton-in-Marsh
Day 2	Walk to Stow-on-the-Wold – 12km/7.5m – 4 hrs
Day 3	Chipping Campden & Hidcote Manor Garden – 5km/3 miles – 1 hr
Day 4	Walk the Cotswold Way to Broadway – 9.7km/6 miles – 3 to 4 hrs
Day 5	Visit Snowhill Manor and walk to Winchcombe via Hailes Abbey – 14km/8miles – 4 hrs
Day 6	Circular walk to Belas Knap Long Barrow & Sudeley Castle – 9km/5.5 miles – 3 hrs
Day 7	Painswick & Rococo Garden – 2 km/1.5 miles – 1 hr
Day 8	Transfer to Landsdown Hill & walk to Bath – 11km/7 miles - 3.5 hrs
Day 9	Arrangements end after breakfast

detailed itinerary

Note: IMPORTANT: Walking early or late in the season you need to be mindful of shorter daylight hours and be prepared for changeable weather conditions.

Due to high weekend demand it is really difficult to secure one night bookings in Broadway & Bourton-on-the-Water on a Friday & Saturday night, so please bear this in mind when choosing your start date or consider booking an extra night here. If you are restricted by dates and must have only one night in Broadway, then you should expect to pay a supplement that could be anything up to the cost of one additional night.

UK Bank Holidays weekends are very busy and need to be requested well in advance.

PUBLIC HOLIDAYS 2026

03-Apr Good Friday

06-Apr Easter Monday (England only)

04-May Early May Bank Holiday

25-May Spring Bank Holiday

03-Aug Summer Bank Holiday (Scotland only)

31-Aug Summer Bank Holiday (England only)

DAY 1	Arrive in Moreton-in-Marsh
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Make your way to the charming market town of Moreton-in-Marsh, one of the principal gateways to the Cotswolds and easily accessible by train (1h30) from London. Settle into your accommodation and take time to explore the town's historic high street, lined with handsome stone buildings, independent shops and traditional inns. If time permits, you may wish to visit nearby Batsford Arboretum, home to one of Britain's largest collections of trees and shrubs and a wonderful introduction to the gardens that feature throughout the week.

Accommodation: Overnight in a historic 4-star hotel on the High Street.

meals: **NIL**



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DAY 2 Walk to Stow-on-the-Wold – 12km/7.5m – 4 hrs

Follow the Monarch's Way, tracing the escape route of King Charles II after his defeat at the Battle of Worcester in 1651, across the high wolds to Stow-on-the-Wold. The "wolds" are the gentle rolling hills, and "cot" is the name of a sheep enclosure referencing back to the time this region built prosperity on the wool produced by its plentiful sheep. Following quiet footpaths and farm tracks, you will cross rolling countryside, pass through picturesque hamlets and enjoy far-reaching views across the surrounding hills. Your destination, the historic market town of Stow-on-the-Wold, is the highest of the Cotswold towns and renowned for its impressive market square, antique shops and centuries of wool trading history. After time to explore, transfer (included) to Chipping Campden for your overnight stay.

Accommodation: Two nights in an 18th century inn with a friendly and welcoming atmosphere serving cask ales and home-cooked food.

meals: **B**

DAY 3 Chipping Campden & Hidcote Manor Garden – 5km/3 miles – 1 hr

Spend the morning exploring Chipping Campden, often considered one of the most beautiful towns in the Cotswolds. Its elegant high street showcases the wealth generated by the medieval wool trade and is lined with fine honey-coloured limestone buildings. From town, you will walk along footpaths and quiet roads through the surrounding countryside to Hidcote Manor Garden, one of England's most celebrated gardens. Created in the Arts and Crafts style, Hidcote is famed for its series of beautifully designed outdoor rooms, colourful borders and intimate garden spaces. Take time to explore the gardens created by Major Lawrence Johnston between 1907 and 1938. Entry to this National Trust property is included and you will have time to explore before taking a return transfer to Chipping Campden for a second night where you can settle into your inn for dinner.

meals: **B**

DAY 4 Walk the Cotswold Way to Broadway – 9.7km/6 miles – 3 to 4 hrs

Today you will walk the first section of the Cotswold Way. Starting at the Market Hall in Chipping Campden, the trail winds through agricultural land and open hills. Enjoy the view from Dover's Hill, passing through wheat fields and woodlands before the climb to Broadway Tower from where you can enjoy the panoramic view (entry included). Roll downhill to Broadway where you will be staying tonight. Broadway is often described as the "Jewel of the Cotswolds", renowned for its "broad" main street lined with honey-coloured limestone buildings, independent boutiques and inviting cafés.

Accommodation: Overnight in a hotel in the heart of the town.

meals: **B**



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DAY 5 Visit Snowhill Manor and walk to Winchcombe via Hailes Abbey – 14km/8miles – 4 hrs

After a short included transfer, begin the day at Snowhill Manor and Garden. A fabulous 16th century house, it is a treasure trove of quirky and curious objects. The collection was created by Charles Wade, a man fascinated by anything hand-crafted and made with skill. There is a beautiful themed garden to walk through - established by Mackay Hugh Baillie Scott. Rejoining the Cotswold Way, walk from Snowhill to the atmospheric ruins of Hailes Abbey, a ruined 13th century Cistercian Monastery. This was a medieval site of pilgrimage on account of its revered relic, the "Holy Blood of Hailes", a vial of blood reputedly from Christ and later discovered to be honey coloured with saffron. The monastery was destroyed as part of dissolution following Henry VIII's Reformation in 1539. Note it is only possible to visit the Abbey on the first weekend of each month. Continue on foot through the Cotswold landscape towards the historic town of Winchcombe where you will spend two nights. Winchcombe is one of the Cotswolds' most historic market towns, with a rich heritage stretching back to Saxon times.

Accommodation: Two nights in a 16th century former coaching inn in the heart of the town.

meals: **B**

DAY 6 Circular walk to Belas Knap Long Barrow & Sudeley Castle – 9km/5.5 miles – 3 hrs

Today's circular walk showcases some of the finest scenery surrounding Winchcombe as you follow sections of the Cotswold Way through peaceful countryside. Along the route, visit Belas Knap Long Barrow, one of Britain's best-preserved Neolithic burial chambers. Dating back more than 5,000 years, this impressive monument offers a fascinating glimpse into prehistoric Britain and enjoys commanding views across the surrounding landscape.

The walk also takes you to Sudeley Castle, one of England's most interesting historic estates. Set within beautifully landscaped gardens, the castle has played a significant role in British history for over a thousand years. It is perhaps best known as the home and final resting place of Katherine Parr, the last wife of Henry VIII, whose tomb can be found within the castle grounds. After time to explore the castle and gardens, return to Winchcombe for a second evening in this charming Cotswold town.

meals: **B**

DAY 7 Painswick & Rococo Garden – 2 km/1.5 miles – 1 hr

Transfer to the charming market town of Painswick, often known as the "Queen of the Cotswolds" for its elegant architecture and beautifully preserved streetscape. Take time to explore its narrow lanes, historic stone buildings and remarkable churchyard, famed for its ancient yew trees, before setting out on a walk to Painswick Rococo Garden. Created in the 18th century as a pleasure garden for entertaining guests, it is the country's only surviving Rococo garden, renowned for its whimsical design, hidden follies and beautifully landscaped grounds. It's a short walk of around 1km out and back so there is plenty of time to explore, shop for souvenirs and enjoy Painswick, our teams' favourite Cotswold town.

Accommodation: Overnight in a comfortable hotel in the town centre.

meals: **B**

DAY 8 Transfer to Landsdown Hill & walk to Bath – 11km/7 miles - 3.5 hrs

Take a short transfer to Landsdown Hill and follow the final stage of the Cotswold Way through quiet countryside to enter the elegant World Heritage city of Bath. Explore the Roman Baths, Georgian architecture, Royal Crescent and beautiful city gardens. An extra night here to allow additional time to explore is highly recommended.

Accommodation: Overnight in a centrally located guesthouse well-placed for exploration.

meals: **B**



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DAY 9

Arrangements end after breakfast

Tour arrangements end after breakfast. You can spend further time exploring Bath. Please speak to a member of our team should you wish to book additional nights' accommodation. Trains depart from Bath Spa Station at regular intervals to London and other UK cities.

meals: B

additional supplements

At the time of booking we aim to offer our usual choice of accommodation, however if these are not available then alternatives are used (and on occasion a small supplement may apply). If these are of a different standard and / or a supplement applies you will be informed on confirmation of your booking.

inclusions

- 8 breakfasts
- 8 nights B&B accommodation on a twin share basis usually with ensuite facilities
- All transfers and transport specified in the itinerary
- Entrance fees to Hidcote Manor Garden, Broadway Tower, Snowhill Manor, Sudeley Castle & Painswick Rococo Gardens
- Experienced walking guide who will accompany the group throughout
- One piece of luggage per person transferred from Inn to Inn, not exceeding 20kg
- Digital information pack including Navigational App, route notes & maps
- Emergency hotline

items not included

- Lunches, dinners and drinks
- Entrance fees not specified
- Items of a personal nature
- Travel insurance
- A supplement will apply if you are travelling solo or book a single room

trip grading - introductory to moderate

We grade this walk as Easy to Moderate compared to our other UK tours. The route is gently hilly rather than mountainous, and the weather is rarely too severe for walking. Villages are frequent along the way, offering regular opportunities to rest or explore. On Day 7, a shorter walk option is available, providing extra flexibility towards the end of the itinerary.

way marking

Trails are footpaths (generally waymarked) and parts of the Cotswolds Way (generally well waymarked). The route crosses fields and woodlands. One feature of the tour are the many stiles (little ladders over fences).

what you carry

As the walks are fully supported you only need to carry a daypack with your daily requirements including raincoat, lunch supplies, waterbottle, warm top, camera etc.



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dietary requirements

Provided we are advised in advance we are able to cater for vegetarian diets and can assist with medically recommended diets (allergies and intolerances). Please ensure you discuss your requirements with us well in advance to determine whether we can cater on your chosen adventure. Please note that options are likely to be limited in remote locations or alternatives may be more expensive or unavailable. There may be times when those with special requirements may need to provide their own food. Passengers must travel with all necessary medications for food allergies and be capable of self-administering these medications.

accommodation

PRE TOUR

We strongly recommend that if you would like pre or post tour accommodation that you request with your Travel Consultant or our team now.

DURING TOUR

Described is the normal accommodation that we use on this tour. At the time of booking please be aware that other places might be used instead, if these choices are full or closed for whatever reason. NOTE: A supplement applies to overnight stays in Mickleton on a Friday or Saturday evening. Rooms generally do not have baths. The main reason being that they take up a lot of space, some hotels/guesthouses may have a separate room in the house where a bath is available to guests, but in the main it is showers.

check in/out

It is generally normal practice when staying in hotels that you check-in on or after 2pm and checkout by 10am the following morning. Guesthouses/bed & breakfast establishments are normally check-in on or after 4pm and checkout by 10am.

luggage

We do not offer porter service on our holidays. You must be able to move your own luggage to and from your rooms. This more than likely involve stairs as many of the properties we stay in do not have lifts. Sometimes your luggage will have been taken to your room awaiting your arrival however do not be surprised if it is waiting for you to take up to your room and you are asked to bring it down again the next morning.

getting there

BY TRAIN

To reach Moreton-in-Marsh, take a direct train from London Paddington. Services run regularly throughout the day and the journey takes approximately 1 hour 30 minutes, making the Cotswolds easily accessible from central London.

BY AIR

The nearest International Airport is London Heathrow. From Heathrow take a train into Central London and then a direct train from Paddington Station to Moreton-in-Marsh.

BY BUS

You can take the bus to Moreton-in-Marsh. Travel from London Victoria Station via Cheltenham, Stratford-upon-Avon or Oxford. The journey takes 3-4 hours.

insurance

All clients must have appropriate cover for the activities included for the duration of our trip.

fast facts

COUNTRIES VISITED

England



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VISAS

Australian, Canadian, New Zealand and US Passport holders who are travelling to the UK on or after 8 January 2025, will need to apply for an electronic travel authorisation (ETA). The best way to do this is to download the app - UK ETA - from the App Store or Google Play. Ensure you download the correct app - it has a crown as its logo. There is also an option to apply online but this is not the preferred method. It costs £10 to apply. Everyone travelling needs to get an ETA, including babies and children. see <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-an-electronic-travel-authorisation-eta> for further information.

CLIMATE

Our Cotswolds trips run between March and October, during the European spring, summer and autumn. Average temperatures range between 9 and 17 degrees Celsius. The weather in this part of England can be variable but is often settled and perfect for hiking.

MIN GROUP SIZE

6

MAX GROUP SIZE

12

MOBILITY REQUIREMENT

This trip is not suitable for people with limited mobility.

how to book

To book this trip, go to our website to make a booking online or download our PDF booking form. If you complete a PDF booking form, please return it to us via email.

e-newsletter

To keep up to date with our new and exciting adventure opportunities, special promotions and adventure news, subscribe to our monthly e-newsletter! You can do this on line through our website, www.walkersbritain.co.uk or contact our office.

social networks

facebook: facebook.com/walkersbritaineurope

Instagram: @walkersbritaineurope #walkersbritaineurope

Youtube: [@walkersbritain7604](https://youtube.com/@walkersbritain7604)

IMPORTANT NOTE

THESE TRIP NOTES REPRESENT THE MOST CURRENT INFORMATION AVAILABLE FOR THIS ITINERARY, AND SUPERSEDE ANY INFORMATION DETAILED IN THE CURRENT BROCHURE, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE ITINERARY AND PRICE.

talk to us

If you require any further assistance regarding this trip or any other holiday, please contact the team at Walkers' Britain & Europe.