

## ENGLAND – THE COTSWOLDS

8-days / 7-nights centre-based at Bourton-on-the-Water – one-hotel GUIDED walking tour



**The Cotswold Way** in central England provides some of the country's most scenic walking with medieval churches, country estates, ancient sites and Roman villas. The region is famous for all that is quintessentially English, with traditional stone cottages, handsome manor houses, rolling hills, cornfields and lush green valleys.

Our guided Classic Walking holidays here are perfect for beginners and serious walkers alike, allowing you to discover this most English of landscapes. Walk parts of the Cotswold Way National Trail through the very heart of England. Ramble through lush green fields and past rolling hills along ancient tracks. See stately homes, traditional and unique ancient golden-stone villages and country market towns. There are village-to-village walks as well as delightful paths through woodlands, beside farm pastures and grazing meadows and across the Cotswold plateau. Chipping Campden, Stow-on-the-Wold and Broadway are iconic villages built from golden Cotswold stone, close to our base at Bourton-on-the-Water.

Each week of walking includes a free day midweek to explore the local area, walk independently or simply relax at your accommodation. On your free day, you may like to tour Blenheim Palace, the ancestral home of Sir Winston Churchill, or visit the historic university city of Oxford or Stratford-upon-Avon, Shakespeare's birthplace.

**Cost from:** **\$2385** per person twin share      Single supplement on request.

**2023 Departures:** 27 January, 17 February, 3, 17, 31 March, 5, 26 May, 2, 16, 30 June, 14 July, 18, 25 August, 27 October, 10, 24 November, 8 December

**Includes:** 7-nights in a comfortable room with ensuite bathroom, full board (breakfast, picnic lunch & dinner), experienced walks leader, 5 guided walks, transport associated with the walks, evening social activities.

**Not included:** Transport to/from the house, drinks, personal expenses, transport/activities on your free day.

**A typical 'Classic Walking' day** offers you a choice of two or three guided walks, each of varying length and ascent. All our different graded walks use a combination of riverside, field and woodland paths, with some stiles and kissing gates, to reach picturesque towns and villages.

A walking holiday based at Bourton-on-the-Water is particularly recommended if you are new to walking or prefer easier terrain. If you are new to walking then start at the easier level, where the pace is the gentlest. We have plenty of stops to enjoy the views and to rest. As your holiday progresses you may feel confident to try a more challenging level or stick to the same level – it's entirely your choice.

**Call OUTDOOR TRAVEL on 1800 331 582 for details or reservations**



**Our unique accommodation:** Harrington House at Bourton-on-the-Water is of considerable architectural interest, dates from Tudor times and was enlarged during 1730-40, and again in the 1920s. Built of traditional Cotswold stone it is quietly tucked away just a few metres from the heart of the popular tourist village of Bourton-on-the-Water. This is one of the showpiece villages of the Cotswolds, with its green bisected by the clear waters of the River Windrush. There is plenty of shopping, banks, cafés, a model village, and railway station in the town.

### Suggested itinerary:

**Day 1:** Arrival day – plan to arrive by mid-afternoon.

**Day 2 – 3:** Full day walking options

**Day 4:** There are no organised walks today, so you may explore the area independently or just relax.

**Day 5 – 7:** Full day walking options

**Day 8:** Departure day – tour ends after breakfast



**Easier Walks:** Up to 7½ miles (12km) with easy gradients. Up to 650ft (200m) of ascent in a day.

**Possible walks may include:** Walking from Bourton-on-the-Water through the meadows to the chocolate-box villages of Upper and Lower Slaughter. Wander along the delightful valley of the River Windrush. Visit the picturesque market towns such as Stow-on-the-Wold, whose golden stone houses so epitomise the area.



**Medium Walks:** Up to 9 miles (14.5km) on well graded paths. Up to 950ft (290m) of ascent.

**Possible walks may include:** Sample all the elements of the enchanting Cotswold landscape by walking over gentle undulating green hills, past historic hamlets and churches to Broadway, perhaps the most picturesque of all the Cotswold villages. Soak up the panoramic views as we cross the gently undulating hills to the fascinating town of Chipping Campden. Explore the ruins of Chedworth Roman villa, dating from AD120.



**Harder Walks:** Up to 12 miles (19km) on gently undulating paths. Up to 1400ft (430m) of ascent.

**Possible walks may include:** Trace the route of King Charles II's escape from the Battle of Worcester along the 'Monarch's Way', or walk over Ilmington Down to Chipping Campden. Other walks in the area can take us down the limestone escarpment to Winchcombe or to the Roman town of Cirencester

**Outdoor Travel** walking holidays are available in many parts of the United Kingdom, Ireland and across Europe including Wainwright's challenging **Coast-to-Coast** trail, the **Cotswolds**, the spectacular coast of **Cornwall**, the **Yorkshire Dales**, the **West Highland Way** in Scotland or **Snowdonia** in Wales or the **Ring of Kerry** in Ireland. In France see the Dordogne, Alps, Provence or Riviera Coast, walks too in Austria, Spain or Italy. Walk the **Way of St James** from Le Puy in France to Santiago in Spain or the **Via Francigena** – the pilgrims' Road to Rome.

### Contact Outdoor Travel for details and reservations:

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