



Walking Holidays in Britain's most Beautiful Landscapes

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Cotswold Way

The Cotswold Way runs for 102 miles (163km) from the medieval market town of Chipping Campden in the North Cotswolds, to the Historic City of Bath. Following the western edge of the Cotswold Hills, the Cotswold Way journeys through gently rolling, sheep-grazed pastures, stunning beech woodland, and dreamy, honey-coloured villages built from the delightfully warm Cotswold stone. You will cross ancient commons in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, pass neolithic burial barrows, beautiful stately homes, and historic battle sites. The path along the escarpment twists and turns, affording ever-changing views to the west towards the River Severn and the Malvern Hills.

Summary

Why do this walk?

- A gentle introduction to long-distance walking along one of the best way-marked National Trails in the country
- Sublime scenery, from gently rolling countryside to quintessentially English villages, with beautiful churches and cosy Cotswold Inns
- Steeped in history, you will encounter Medieval Wool Towns, Neolithic Burial Barrows, ancient abbeys and stately homes
- The UNESCO World Heritage Site of Bath with its Roman remains and Georgian Architecture.

Essential Info

Length 6 – 12 nights

Full Route Length 102 miles / 163 km

Shortest Break Length 46 miles / 73.5 km

Grade



Easy to Moderate

The Cotswold Way walks are ideal for regular walkers. Some days will be more challenging than others and the terrain will be mostly rolling countryside and well defined paths. In some sections there may be more hilly terrain and some bigger climbs, but not every day. For our self-guided holidays we recommend you can navigate from a map.

Terrain: Varied - but these are gentle wolds and not mountainous areas. The path rises up and down onto the Cotswold Escarpment in the northern section, and is lower, but still undulating over farmland and through woods towards the south.

What's it like underfoot? Pretty good.

Well maintained paths throughout, although sections can get a bit muddy in wet weather.

How Much Up & Down? This trail is rolling and it does go up and down a lot, with some short steeper sections, but they don't go on forever – the highest point is 330m (1083ft). Ascents and descents are usually 150 – 200m (495- 660ft)

Signposting: Generally good.

Navigation: Pretty straightforward. Well defined paths, and good signposting.



Route

Chipping Campden to Stanton

The Cotswold Way starts at the Town Hall in the centre of Chipping Campden, one of the most charming of all the picturesque settlements along the trail. The route climbs gradually up to Dover's Hill (230m/755ft) with views over the Vale of Evesham before continuing on to Broadway Tower, the second highest point along the trail at 312m (1025ft). After dropping down into the delightful village of Broadway, the trail climbs back up to Shenberrow Hill before descending into the idyllic village of Stanton.

Stanton to Cleeve Hill

From Stanton the path leads across meadows to the hamlet of Church Stanway. The route then begins its ascent back to the top of the escarpment at Stumps Cross from where it follows an ancient drove road for a while before reaching an Iron Age Hill Fort at Beckbury Camp. The path then descends to Winchcombe before climbing back up to Cleeve Common – the highest point of the trail

at 330m (1083ft). In bad weather, or for people with less time, a short-cut can be taken over the Common, cutting about 4 miles off the route.

Cleeve Hill to Painswick

This section follows the western edge of the escarpment with fine views down to Cheltenham and across the Vale of Gloucester. From an Iron Age Hill Fort, the path drops down to Dowdeswell reservoir then follows the scarp to Seven Springs, Leckhampton Hill leading eventually to Crickley Hill. From Crickley Hill the path traverses the combe through woods before arriving at Cooper's Hill and more panoramic views. Further woodland walking above Prinknash Abbey brings you to Painswick Beacon. From here it's a steady descent to the lovely old market town of Painswick.

Painswick to King's Stanley

Painswick is about halfway along the route, and many people choose to spend an extra night here to relax and enjoy the timeless architecture. The next section crosses open



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countryside to Scottsquar Hill, before entering the woodland that leads to Haresfield Beacon. The path then skirts between the towns of Stroud and Stonehouse before crossing the Stroudwater Canal and entering King's Stanley.

King's Stanley to Wotton-under-Edge

Regaining the escarpment by a steep path up to Pen Hill, the way continues through beech woodland until you reach the Nympsfield Long Barrow. Here there are superb panoramic views from Coaley Peak on Frocester Hill. The path returns to the woods with many ups and downs before descending to the small market town of Dursley. After descending to the valley, the way climbs steeply again onto Nibley Knoll and the stunning views from the Tyndale Monument. The path continues to traverse the escarpment, before descending into the old wool town of Wotton-under-Edge nestling at the foot of the hill.

Wotton-under-Edge to Bath

After a steep climb out of Wotton there is easy walking across gently rolling countryside to the pretty hamlet of Little Sodbury. After this the way then crosses the parkland of Dodington House, before entering the peaceful village of Tormarton. Easy walking then leads across farmland to Dyrham Park before climbing gently up to the tiny hamlet of Pennsylvania. From here the path climbs gradually up to the

top of Lansdown Hill. The trail then follows the escarpment again to Prospect Stile from where there are superb views down to Bath before descending to this magnificent city and completing the walk at the 15th Century Abbey.

Additional Days

We can arrange extra nights at any of the overnight stops, allowing for rest days, or giving you more time to explore the locality. Here are some suggestions:

Chipping Campden

Many people choose to spend an extra night in Chipping Campden before starting the trail, in order to soak up the mellow atmosphere of this charming medieval market town with its beautiful honey-coloured buildings dating back to the 14th Century. It also makes an excellent base for a day trip to Stratford-upon-Avon, Shakespeare's Birthplace, which is about an hour away by bus, (8 miles/16km) but please note that there are no buses on Sundays.

Winchcombe

Winchcombe, an attractive small town noted for its rose covered cottages is also a popular choice. It has an interesting church which is decorated with forty five grotesque gargoyles - each representing a local character from the 1460s, and also houses an altar cloth worked by Catherine of Aragon. The Winchcombe Folk & Police Museum or the hands-on Winchcombe Railway Museum are both

worth a visit, as is the nearby Sudeley Castle.

Painswick

Painswick, another delightful market town, is perfectly located for a halfway break with its elegant white stone buildings. From here you can visit the Rococo Garden, designed in the 18th century and claimed to be the only one of its kind in England.

Bath

Bath is the most popular choice for an extra night or two. This stunning city is designated by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site. The Cotswold Way ends outside the glorious Bath Abbey re-built during the reign of Elizabeth I. From here you can explore the superb Georgian Architecture including the Royal Crescent, the Circus, the Assembly Rooms and the sublime Pulteney Bridge. Or you can discover Bath's earlier history with a visit to the Roman Baths where you can soak your weary limbs in the newly refurbished Thermal Spa with its spectacular roof top views. Bath is a vibrant city with beautiful open spaces and many other attractions and museums to keep the visitor occupied. It is also renowned for its café and restaurant culture.

Getting There and Away

General travel information for the Cotswold Way route will be in your holiday pack including train and bus timetables where available. Detailed instructions on getting to your first night's accommodation by car, or on foot from the nearest



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train or bus station, will also be included in the holiday pack on individual accommodation maps. To view train times please visit www.nationalrail.co.uk where you can also purchase tickets in advance. For information on bus timetables please visit www.traveline.info

Getting There:

By Air: The nearest International Airport to Chipping Campden is Birmingham (about 35 miles /56km away). Alternatives are London Heathrow or Gatwick.

By Public Transport: The nearest Railway Station to Chipping Campden is at Moreton-in-Marsh, which has regular through trains from London Paddington. You can also get to Moreton-in-Marsh by train from Birmingham, Bath and Bristol but will need to change at Oxford or Reading. From Moreton-in-Marsh there are 3 buses a day (Monday – Saturday) to Chipping Campden, or you can get a taxi. It is 8 miles / 12km and will cost approximately £25. Please note that there are no buses on Sundays.

By Road: Chipping Campden is on the B4081, just off the A44 which runs between Oxford and Worcester. It takes about 45 minutes by car to either Oxford or Worcester.

Returning from Bath:

By Public Transport: From the end of the walk at Bath you can travel onwards by all forms of public transport, as it is well linked.

The nearest international airport is Bristol.

By rail: There are fast and frequent services which connect Bath to London (journey time 1hour 30 minutes) or Birmingham (2 hours). You can also get the train to Moreton-in-Marsh to collect your car if you have left it in Chipping Campden, but will need to change at Reading and then get the bus or a taxi from Moreton-in-Marsh back to Chipping Campden.

By Bus: National Express coach services serve Bath regularly.

How our Holidays Work

We specialise in self-guided walks because we think it's the best way to really experience local landscapes, cultures and history. You walk under your own steam, at your own pace, safe in the knowledge that we have organised everything, and help is only a phone call away. We book all your accommodation, move your luggage between overnight stops, provide you with maps and guidebooks and all the details you need for a successful holiday.

Inbuilt Flexibility

Our holidays are designed to be flexible and can therefore be tailored to suit your requirements. If you're looking for something different, or extra, from the holidays described here, give us a ring and we'll do our best to please. You can start on any day you like and we can arrange extra nights at any of the overnight stops allowing for rest days, or giving you

more time to explore the locality. You can book part of a walk if you don't have the time to complete the entire distance.

How to Book

Once you have decided which holiday you wish to book, please fill in the form at the back of this brochure which can then be emailed, posted or faxed to us. We will get in touch with you once we have received your booking to confirm your holiday details.

Alternatively you can either book online using our website at www.mickledore.co.uk or telephone us during office hours.

Accommodation

Good accommodation and friendly hosts are an essential part of any holiday. We make a special effort to find the hidden gems, as well as keeping a close eye on the quality of the more mainstream accommodation.

As well as visiting the accommodation ourselves, we ask all our customers to complete a short evaluation on each night's accommodation, which then gives us an insight in to the day-to-day operation, and lets us spot any potential issues before they become a problem. We have three former Keswick guest house owners on the staff – so we know the industry well.



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One of the great features of our Cotswold Way holidays is the quality of the accommodation, including small country house hotels, guest houses, bed and breakfasts and farm house accommodation. In selecting the accommodation we look for helpful, friendly hosts with good quality, characterful accommodation close to the trail.

Single Rooms

We are happy to book single rooms on this walk but cannot normally book more than 2 for any one group. Single room bookings include a supplement.

What We Provide

All Holidays

Accommodation Overnight accommodation in selected hotels, farmhouses, village inns, guest houses and family run B&Bs, including a Full English or Continental breakfast.

Guidebook A guidebook with route information, maps, photos and background information.

Information of Services Along the Route A comprehensive Service Info sheet, including services such as cash points, banks, post offices, village shops, inns, cafes and taxis.

Maps A waterproof map from Harvey Maps covering the whole route.

Personal Itinerary A personal itinerary setting out each overnight stop, including large scale maps of each accommodation, to ensure you find them easily.

Emergency Telephone Support If you get in

to difficulties during your holiday, we are always available to help, even out of office hours.

15% discount at Cotswold Outdoors We will issue you with a 15% Discount Card valid at all Cotswold Outdoor stores, and online, for the whole year on confirmation of your booking.

Options

Luggage Transport We will transfer your luggage between each overnight stop – if you leave your luggage at the accommodation when you set off in the morning, it will be moved on to your next B&B. You only need to carry a small day sack with the clothes and provisions you require during the day's walk.

Packed Lunches Provided for each day's walking and recommended on this holiday as there will not always be a handy shop or cafe on the route.

Off Road Parking If you are travelling by car we can usually arrange off road parking for the duration of your trip. (There may be a small charge for this).

Arrangement of return transport We can also arrange your transfer back to your car, (or advise you when public transport is a better option)!

What's Not Included

Evening Meals Your evening meal isn't included in the package, but we include full details and recommendations for each evening meal in your itinerary. You will normally be within walking distance of a pub and/or restaurant, or where there is good food available at the

accommodation, we'll book that for you.

Transport to the Start & Away from the Finish

You will need to pay for your own transport, but we can help you to make arrangements.

Taxi or bus transport along the way If you need to miss a stage you will need to pay for the cost of a bus or taxi, but we can help you to organise it.

Travel Insurance Even if you are based in the UK travel insurance is worth having.

Prices

Detailed prices for all our holidays are available on the website at www.mickledore.co.uk



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About Mickledore

Mickledore Travel is based in Keswick at the heart of the English Lake District. We are one of the leading specialists in self-guided walking and cycling holidays in the UK, and provide a friendly, professional and flexible service.

We are walkers and cyclists ourselves, so it really matters to us that you have a good holiday. We are still a small business, with a lot of local knowledge, and personal enthusiasm for the outdoors. If you've got any queries, we're always happy to help, so don't hesitate to pick up the phone, drop us an email or visit us in Keswick.

We specialise in UK holidays, and by concentrating on what we consider to be the best routes, we get to know the trails, accommodation, and local area really well.

- All your accommodation has been carefully selected and is regularly monitored.
- We listen to you and tailor each holiday to meet your requirements.
- We have an excellent level of customer service.
- We have 15 years experience, and very high levels of customer satisfaction.
- Peace of mind – help is only ever a telephone call away.
- We are all outdoor enthusiasts – we know what makes a good holiday, and we want you to have one!

- 15% discount card for all your outdoor equipment purchases from Cotswold Outdoors.
- 100% financial protection – in the very unlikely event of Mickledore's financial failure, you receive a full refund.

Book with Confidence

Financial Protection

Your payments are fully protected against our financial failure. We are members of the Association of Independent Tour Operators (AITO), and have arranged bonding through ABTA. This means that in the unlikely event of our financial failure, any monies you have paid to us will be refunded. This bonding is fully compliant with the Package Travel Regulations and provides 100% financial protection.

AITO Quality Statement



Mickledore Travel is a member of the Association of Independent Tour Operators. The Association represents Britain's leading independent tour operators. It promotes high levels of professionalism and a shared concern for quality and personal service. The Association encourages the highest

standards in all aspects of tour operating. Mickledore Travel abides by AITO's Code of Conduct and adheres to the Quality Charter which can be viewed at www.aito.com. Visit the website to find out more about the Association or call 020 8744 9280.

Client Feedback

We are proud of our reputation for quality walking holidays. There are plenty of customer reviews on our website, but here are a couple of comments to give you a flavour:

"Thanks again Mickledore for a great, memorable walking holiday. Would you use Mickledore again?: Yes, many of the B&B's said Mickledore was the best of the walking holiday companies they dealt with."

Mr David Neylon, Chelmsford, UK

"My husband and I agree that it was one of the best adventures we've ever had. The accommodations you booked for us were wonderful, the people fun, the food delicious. Thank you so much for putting together a wonderful vacation for us."

Becky Murphy, California, USA

"We would like to say how much we enjoyed our walk and without your excellent service this would not have been possible, many thanks and we look forward to next time. John."

John Hyde, Hertfordshire, UK.



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Our Itineraries

The Whole Cotswold Way

We offer 5 holidays covering the whole route. The longer the holiday, the shorter the distances that you have to walk each day. The most popular options are the 8 and 9 day walks across the Cotswold countryside.

Chipping Campden to Bath 100 miles / 161 km

	Chipping Campden to Bath in 6 Days Walking Code: CT7			Chipping Campden to Bath in 7 Days Walking Code: CT8			Chipping Campden to Bath in 8 Days Walking Code: CT9		
		Miles	km		Miles	km		Miles	km
Day 1	Travel to Chipping Campden for your first night's accommodation			Travel to Chipping Campden for your first night's accommodation			Travel to Chipping Campden for your first night's accommodation		
Day 2	Chipping Campden to Winchcombe	18	29	Chipping Campden to Stanton	10	16	Chipping Campden to Stanton	10	16
Day 3	Winchcombe to Dowdeswell	11	18	Stanton to Cleeve Hill	13	21	Stanton to Cleeve Hill	13	21
Day 4	Dowdeswell to Painswick	17	27	Cleeve Hill to Birdlip	16	26	Cleeve Hill to Birdlip	16	26
Day 5	Painswick to Dursley	15	24	Birdlip to King's Stanley	17	27	Birdlip to Painswick	9	14
Day 6	Dursley to Old Sodbury	19	31	King's Stanley to Wotton-under Edge	15	24	Painswick to King's Stanley	9	14
Day 7	Old Sodbury to Bath	20	32	Wotton-under-Edge to Tormarton	15	24	King's Stanley to Wotton-under Edge	15	24
Day 8	Depart from Bath after breakfast			Tormarton to Bath	17	27	Wotton-under-Edge to Tormarton	15	24
Day 9				Depart from Bath after breakfast			Tormarton to Bath	17	27
Day 10							Depart from Bath after breakfast		

Turn over for more Itineraries →



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	Chipping Campden to Bath in 9 Days Walking Code: CT10			Chipping Campden to Bath in 10 Days Walking Code: CT11			Chipping Campden to Bath in 11 Days Walking Code: CT12		
		Miles	km		Miles	km		Miles	km
Day 1	Travel to Chipping Campden for your first night's accommodation			Travel to Chipping Campden for your first night's accommodation			Travel to Chipping Campden for your first nights accommodation		
Day 2	Chipping Campden to Stanton	10	16	Chipping Campden to Stanton	10	16	Chipping Campden to Stanton	10	16
Day 3	Stanton to Cleeve Hill	13	21	Stanton to Winchcombe	7	11	Stanton to Winchcombe	7	11
Day 4	Cleeve Hill to Birdlip	16	26	Winchcombe to Dowdeswell	11	18	Winchcombe to Dowdeswell	11	18
Day 5	Birdlip to Painswick	9	14	Dowdeswell to Birdlip	10	16	Dowdeswell to Birdlip	10	16
Day 6	Painswick to King's Stanley	9	14	Birdlip to Painswick	9	14	Birdlip to Painswick	9	14
Day 7	King's Stanley to Wotton-under Edge	15	24	Painswick to King's Stanley	9	14	Painswick to King's Stanley	9	14
Day 8	Wotton-under-Edge to Old Sodbury	13	21	King's Stanley to North Nibley	12	19	King's Stanley to Dursley	8	12
Day 9	Old Sodbury to Cold Ashton	9	14	North Nibley to Old Sodbury	15	24	Dursley to Wotton-under-Edge	8	12
Day 10	Cold Ashton to Bath	10	16	Old Sodbury to Cold Ashton	9	14	Wotton-under-Edge to Old Sodbury	13	21
Day 11	Depart from Bath after breakfast			Cold Ashton to Bath	10	16	Old Sodbury to Cold Ashton	9	14
Day 12				Depart from Bath after breakfast			Cold Ashton to Bath	10	16
Day 13							Depart from Bath after breakfast		



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Cotswold Way North - Escarpment and Villages

This walk is the northern section of the Cotswold Way.

Walking over 5 days, the route follows the western edge of the Cotswold Hills with breath-taking views from the escarpment as it meanders through beautiful Cotswold villages.

Chipping Campden to Painswick 46 miles / 74 km

Chipping Campden to Painswick in 5 Days Walking Code: CTN6

		Miles	km
Day 1	Travel to Chipping Campden for your first night's accommodation		
Day 2	Chipping Campden to Stanton	10	16
Day 3	Stanton to Winchcombe	7	11
Day 4	Winchcombe to Dowdeswell	11	18
Day 5	Dowdeswell to Birdlip	10	16
Day 6	Birdlip to Painswick	9	14

Cotswold Way South - Long Barrows and Baths

This is a 5 day walk along the southern section of the Cotswold Way through stunning woodlands and past ancient historical sites.

Finishing in the sublime City of Bath, this walk is an excellent choice for those that do not wish to complete the whole Cotswold route, but want to get a taste of this delightful part of the country.

Painswick to Bath 56 miles / 90 km

Painswick to Bath in 5 Days Walking Code: CTS6

		Miles	km
Day 1	Travel to Painswick for your first night's accommodation		
Day 2	Painswick to King's Stanley	9	14
Day 3	King's Stanley to Wotton-under Edge	15	24
Day 4	Wotton-under-Edge to Old Sodbury	13	21
Day 5	Old Sodbury to Cold Ashton	9	14
Day 6	Cold Ashton to Bath	10	16
Day 7	Depart from Bath after breakfast		

Turn over for our Booking form →



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Booking Form

Contact Details

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Mobile / Alternative Tel: _____

Email: _____ Emergency Contact No: _____

Your Holiday

Holiday Name: _____ Holiday Code: _____ *(Hadrian's Wall: Add an "R" if starting in the West)*

Date of First Night: _____ Date of Last Night: _____

Party Members

Title	First Name	Last Name	Date of Birth

Options	Rooms Required:	Rest Days (give date & location)
Luggage Transport <input type="text"/>	No. Double Rooms <input type="text"/>	
Packed Lunches <input type="text"/>	No. Twin rooms <input type="text"/>	
Off Street Parking (there is normally a charge for this) <input type="text"/>	No. Single Rooms <input type="text"/>	
Transfer required (additional charge) <input type="text"/>	No. Triple Rooms (Double & Single) <input type="text"/>	

Comments (special diets, other requirements, etc): _____

Payment

Holiday cost per person <input type="text"/>	I enclose a cheque for the deposit value (GBP only, made payable to Mickledore Travel) <input type="checkbox"/>
Rest Days <input type="text"/>	I would like to pay by card (we will contact you to arrange this). <input type="checkbox"/>
Total cost per person <input type="text"/>	I would like to pay by bank transfer (we will contact you to arrange this). <input type="checkbox"/>
Number in group <input type="text"/>	
Total group cost <input type="text"/>	I confirm that the above details are correct and that I have read the terms and conditions available on the website. Signed _____ Date _____ Name _____
Deposit (20% of Total Cost) <input type="text"/>	
Single and solo supplements will be added where applicable.	

How did you hear about Mickledore Travel: _____