



Walking Holidays in Britain's most Beautiful Landscapes

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The Cotswold Round

Picture a place of gentle hills and gorgeous stone villages. A place of honey coloured houses and luscious green meadows. A place of hedge lined country lanes. Picture this, and you have the Cotswolds. Our Cotswold Round is a circuit of some of the most picturesque towns and villages the Cotswolds has to offer. Their very names themselves an invitation to the inquisitive –Moreton-in-Marsh, Stow-on-the-Wold, Bourton-on-the-Water. Almost all of the round falls within the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Covering over 2000 square kilometers, it's the largest such protected area in England and Wales. Only Cheltenham lies outwith the boundary. On your journey you will walk through many nature reserves as well as Sites of Special Scientific Interest.

Cowslips carpet the grassland in spring and in summer look closely for the pyramidal orchid and bee orchid. Bluebell woods bring vibrant colour and sweet smelling lily of the valley fills air. The red kite and the skylark occupy the Cotswold sky. Rare butterflies flit from flower to flower and fortunate walkers may get to see a duke of burgundy or adonis blue. The ever present golden stone you'll see is Oolitic limestone, formed sometime around 150-200 million years ago, when the Cotswolds were covered by a warm sea. Hundreds of Cotswold villages are built entirely of this stone. Consequently the Cotswolds have more protected or listed buildings than any other region. You may spot some Cotswold Lions, these shaggy sheep are bred in small numbers today, but were once the foundation of England's wool trade with Europe. An industry amounting to almost 50% of the country's economy. The magnificent churches you'll see, many disproportionate in size to the villages they serve, were known as wool churches, constructed or enlarged by huge contributions from the wealthy wool merchants.

Accompanied by the sight of wildflowers and the sound of birdsong, this is a country walker's dream. A mix of open meadow, track, woodland, river bank and country lane combine to make our 59 mile Cotswold Round a relaxing walk through what you'll no doubt come to remember as quintessentially English countryside.



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Summary

Why do this walk?

- Walk in England's largest Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.
- Visit Belas Knap, one of Britain's finest Neolithic long barrows.
- Stroll through flower-rich limestone grassland.
- Relax in picturesque towns and villages.
- A chance to see rare butterflies and orchids.
- Enjoy panoramic views from Cleeve Common and Broadway Hill.
- Admire the incredible architecture of the wool churches.
- Enjoy nature reserves and Sites of Special Scientific Interest.
- Discover three centuries of history at the ruins of Hailes Abbey.
- See stunning works from the arts and crafts movement.

Essential Info

Length	5 - 8 nights
Full Route Length	59 miles / 95 km
Shortest length	45 miles / 73 km

Grade

Easy to Moderate



As with the Cotswold Way, this is a relatively easy trail in terms of walking. Making good use of the guidebook and maps will result in a pleasant introduction to long distance walking.

Terrain: Varied, but these are gentle wolds and not mountainous areas. The path rises and falls over the Cotswold Escarpment in the western section, and is lower, but still undulating, over farmland and through woods in the east.

What's it like underfoot? Pretty good. Predominantly on well-maintained paths and minor roads, although there are sections across fields and open hillside which can get a bit muddy in wet weather.

How much up & down? This trail is rolling and it does go up and down a bit, with some short steeper sections, but they are not prolonged. The highest point on the trail is 330m (1083ft). Ascents and descents are usually 150 - 200m (495 - 660ft).

Signposting: No designated 'Cotswold Round' waymarking. There are however occasional waymarkings for other routes such as the acorn marking of the Cotswold Way.

Navigation: By following the directions in your guidebook and confirming your position on the Ordnance Survey maps supplied, navigation should be

straightforward. At times, you will follow yellow arrow 'Public Footpath' signs. Be mindful that not all yellow arrows are relevant to your walk, so check carefully against your guidebook.

Route

Cheltenham to Winchcombe

This is a really pleasant start to your walking holiday. Leaving the town by the racecourse you begin a steady ascent through farmland, following hedgerows and woodland over Cleeve Common and onto Cleeve Hill, which at 330 m/1083 ft, is the highest point in the Cotswolds, and a magnificent viewpoint. Three radio masts near the summit will act as a guide. After which you enjoy a long easy decent into the village of Winchcombe following a combination of the Cotswold Way and Winchcombe Way, which at times, are one and the same. A fascinating feature on this section of the trail is Belas Knap at the charmingly named Humblebee How. Built around 3000 BC, Belas Knap is one of Britain's finest Neolithic long barrows. Restored on a number of occasions, the barrow is now cared for by English Heritage. Take time for a look around.

Winchcombe to Broadway

A fabulous stretch of gently undulating countryside following fields and tracks,



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once again making good use of the Cotswold Way and Winchcombe Way. Puck Pit Lane leads to the ruins of Hailes Abbey. Consider visiting the on-site museum where you can discover the treasures of Hailes, uncovering stories of the monks who lived and worshipped here for nearly three centuries. Between Hailes and Broadway you are treated to the captivating crossroads hamlet of Stanway and the delightful village of Stanton. Time should be set aside to savour the sights of these two lovely locations.

Broadway to Moreton-in-Marsh

This section of the trail begins with an enjoyable but fairly steep climb up to Broadway Tower at 312 m/1024 ft. After which comes gentle level walking along the Cotswold Way into Chipping Campden. The Heart of England Way/Monarchs Way then leads you over slightly more undulating ground to Moreton-in-Marsh. The tower on Broadway Hill is the second highest point in the Cotswolds. This iconic landmark, completed in 1798, was the brainchild of 18th century landscape designer Capability Brown. It was the architect James Wyatt who brought the idea to life for George William 6th Earl of Coventry. Wyatt's Saxon tower incorporates battlements, gargoyles, turrets and even balconies.

Moreton-in-Marsh to Bourton-on-the-Water

A combination of the Monarch's Way, Heart of England Way, Macmillan Way and Gloucestershire Way, will lead you from Moreton-in-Marsh to Bourton-on-the-Water. This is an absolutely stunning stretch of land through fields, along tracks, in and out of woodland and across beautiful meadows between picturesque villages you may never want to leave. One such village is Stow-on-the-Wold. Stow sits, as the name suggests, on a hill, at around 245 m/800 ft. Located at the junction of six roads, its market square is a centuries old meeting place. Take time to seek out St Edward's Parish Church whose north door is flanked by Yew Trees. It's an impressive sight, not to be missed.

Bourton-on-the-Water to Cheltenham

Walkers on this, the Cheltenham Circuit, as well as those on the Moreton-on-Marsh Circuit, must first aim for Guiting Power, from where their paths then split. The walk out to Guiting Power follows first, Windrush Way then latterly the Warden's Way/Diamond Way. A mix of meadow, track, woodland and river bank make for pleasant walking. From Guiting Power, meadow and farm track with some time spent on quiet tarmac roads lead to Cheltenham. The walking is predominantly rural, culminating in a thoroughly enjoyable descent into Cheltenham.

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. We recommend Cheltenham, Winchcombe, and Moreton-in-Marsh.

Cheltenham

Nestled at the foot of the Cotswold escarpment, Cheltenham is the perfect place to unwind prior to your walk, or relax and recharge at the end. Whichever you choose, Cheltenham is intimate and friendly, with a host of independent shops and incredible culinary experiences with everything from street food to Michelin starred fine dining. Cheltenham offers a wide range of traditional and modern culture, and on account of the number, size and frequency of the Regency style buildings, Cheltenham is regarded as Britain's most complete Regency Town. There's no shortage of parks, theatres, museums and examples of history and heritage alongside a contemporary leisure and nightlife scene.

Winchcombe

Winchcombe is an attractive small town noted for its rose covered cottages. 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 is



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worth a visit, as is the nearby Sudeley Castle. In 1547 Edward VI, son of Henry VIII gave Sudeley Castle to his uncle Thomas Seymour. Just six months on from Henry's death in 1547 his widow Katherine Parr married Seymour and moved into Sudeley, although not for long, she died the following year. Today the castle boasts beautiful gardens with no fewer than 80 varieties of roses. There's a busy calendar of exciting events too and you can discover Sudeley's many treasures in their fascinating exhibition.

Moreton-in-Marsh

The picturesque market town of Moreton-in-Marsh is an ideal location for anyone wishing to spend a day exploring Sezincote House and Gardens. Sezincote is a family-run estate spread over 4,500 acres of rolling Cotswold countryside. At its heart stands a 200-year-old Mogul Indian palace, set in a romantic landscape of temples, grottoes, waterfalls and canals, reminiscent of the Taj Mahal. Visitors are welcomed to the house and garden at set opening times. Whilst the estate is run as a traditional English mixed farming enterprise, the house is anything but traditional. It was built in the 'Indian Style', a unique combination of Hindu and Muslim architecture. It is credited with influencing the design of the Brighton pavilion following a visit by The Prince Regent in 1807. The gardens were

designed with the help of Humphrey Repton.

Getting There and Away

General travel information for the Cotswold Round 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 train or bus station, will also be included in the holiday pack on individual accommodation maps. To view train times please visit trainline.com where you can also purchase tickets in advance. For information on bus timetables please visit traveline.info. If you require secure car parking whilst walking this route, please contact us for detailed information.

Getting There:

By Air: The nearest International Airport to Cheltenham is Birmingham. Alternatives are London Heathrow or Gatwick. There is a railway station at Birmingham Airport (Birmingham International (BHI)) with frequent services to Cheltenham Spa via Birmingham New Street. From London Paddington station, regular trains run to Cheltenham Spa via Bristol Parkway.

By Public Transport: Cheltenham station (CNM) is located on the CrossCountry line

direct from Bristol Parkway.

By Road: Cheltenham is located just off the M40/M5 motorways. From the M40, exit at Junction 8 following signs for A40 and continue on this road until you come to Cheltenham. From the M5, leave at Junction 11 and follow the A40 into Cheltenham.

Getting Back:

As this is a circular route you will be walking back to your starting location so you can depart by the same means you arrived.



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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. You just turn up and walk!

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 or posted 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 mickledore.co.uk or telephone us during office hours.

Accommodation

Good accommodation and friendly hosts are an essential part of any holiday. We understand this and go out of our way to find the best. We put a great deal of effort into hand picking our accommodation and matching it to individual customer requirements. In selecting the accommodation, we look for helpful, friendly hosts with good quality, characterful accommodation close to the trail. For example, over the course of your trip you might stay in a village inn, a bed and breakfast in a converted barn, a Victorian guest house, and on a working farm. Occasionally we may use a chain hotel. We always try to arrange en suite accommodation, i.e. rooms with their own bathrooms, for each night of your stay. However, in some of the more remote locations accommodation is limited and occasionally we may have to book rooms with shared bathrooms for one or two nights of your holiday, (especially if the booking is made at short notice), but we will always let you know if this is likely to be the case.

Single Rooms

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

What We Provide

All Holidays

Accommodation Overnight Bed and Breakfast accommodation in selected hotels, farmhouses, village inns, guest houses and family B&Bs. 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, cafés and taxis.

Maps An Ordnance Survey Explorer (1:25000) maps covering the entire route.

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



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Emergency Telephone Support If you get in to difficulties during your holiday, we are always available to help, even out of office hours.

Options

Luggage Transport We will transfer your luggage between each overnight stop – 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 items you require during the day's walk. We ask you to limit your luggage to one bag per person, up to 18kg.

Packed Lunches We are unable to pre book packed lunches on this route. However, some accommodations will be happy to prepare a packed lunch if requested on arrival.

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. Allow about £30.00 per night.

Transport to the start & away from the finish Taxi or bus transport if you need to miss a stage (but we'll help you organise it if you need help)

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 mickledore.co.uk.

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 or drop us an email, or call in and see us if you're in Keswick.

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

- 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're all outdoor enthusiasts – we know what makes a good holiday, and we want you to have one!
- 100% financial protection – in the very unlikely event of Mickledore's financial failure, you receive a full refund.

Financial Protection

Your payments are fully protected against our financial failure. We are members of the Association of Independent Tour Operators (AITO), and the Association of British Travel Agents (ABTA). We have arranged bonding through ABTA. This



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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 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 holidays on the Cotswold Round. There are plenty of customer reviews on our website, but here are a couple of comments to give you a flavour:

The holiday was well organised and everything ran smoothly. Having met other walkers on the trail either "going it alone" or using other tour operators I think Mickledore seems better in comparison especially on accommodation and taxi transfers. Keep up the good work.

Wendy Hulse, Cheshire UK

I am a repeat customer, having done Coast to Coast with you in 2013. I knew everything would well-planned and easy from prior experience, and you didn't disappoint. The trip was very-well designed, the accommodations very nice, and the logistics were flawless. I was able to focus just on the enjoyment of walking and leave the logistics/planning to you. I also appreciate how clear and honest you are in your dealings.

Eric Sonnenschein, Washington USA

We would like to compliment you on your service and your information. Everything went very well. There were no (negative) surprises on the way. Accommodations were perfect, your information about restaurants was good, the transportation

of our luggage was perfect and we really enjoyed the walk.

Jacob Rutgers, Netherlands

All accommodations and helpful information, services, etc., were perfect for first-time visitors from the U.S. like us. We've not encountered such "walking holiday" tours before here in the States, even though we've hiked here at home fairly extensively, and we now understand what a pleasure it is to experience a travel service such as yours.

Jamie Childs, Arkansas USA

We love Mickledore and this was our seventh walking holiday with you (It won't be our last). We appreciated your helpfulness & responsiveness. You are THE best.

Paul Shellito, Massachusetts, USA
Cleveland Way, September 2024



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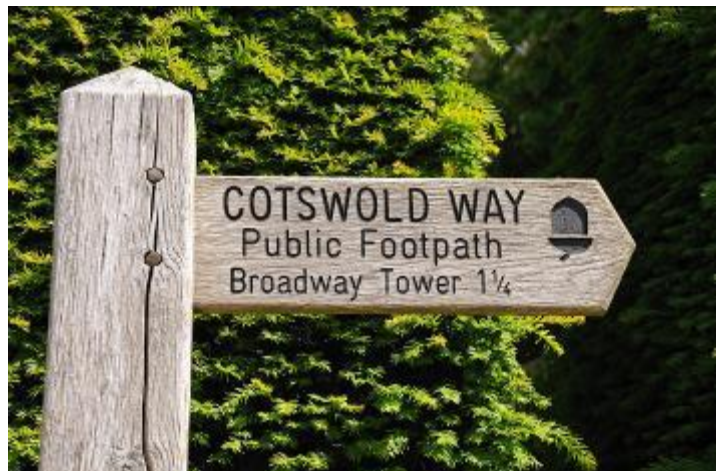
Cotswold Round: Cheltenham Circuit

Cheltenham Circuit in 4 Days Walking Code: CRC5				Cheltenham Circuit in 5 Days Walking Code: CRC6				Cheltenham Circuit in 6 Days Walking Code: CRC7			
		M	km		M	km		M	km		
Day 1	Travel to Cheltenham for your first night of accommodation			Travel to Cheltenham for your first night of accommodation			Travel to Cheltenham for your first night of accommodation				
Day 2	Cheltenham to Stanton	14	23	Cheltenham to Winchcombe	9	14	Cheltenham to Winchcombe then transfer to Broadway	9	14		
Day 3	Stanton to Moreton-in-Marsh	16	26	Winchcombe to Chipping Campden	13	21	Transfer back Winchcombe to then walk to Broadway	9	14		
Day 4	Moreton-in-Marsh to Bourton-on-the-Water	11	18	Chipping Campden to Stow-on-the-Wold	15	24	Broadway to Moreton-in-Marsh	12	19		
Day 5	Bourton-on-the-Water to Cheltenham	18	29	Stow-on-the-Wold to Guiting Power, transfer back to Stow-on-the-Wold	11	18	Moreton-in-Marsh to Bourton-on-the-Water	11	18		
Day 6	Depart from Cheltenham after breakfast			Transfer to Guiting Power then walk to Cheltenham	11	18	Bourton-on-the-Water to Guiting Power then transfer back to Bourton-on-the-Water	7	11		
Day 7				Depart from Cheltenham after breakfast			Transfer to Guiting Power then walk to Cheltenham	11	18		
Day 8							Depart from Cheltenham after breakfast				



Cotswold Round: Moreton-in-Marsh Circuit

Moreton-in-Marsh Circuit in 4 Days Walking Code: CRM5				Moreton-in-Marsh Circuit in 5 Days Walking Code: CRM6				Moreton-in-Marsh Circuit in 7 Days Walking Code: CRM8			
		M	km		M	km		M	km		
Day 1	Travel to Moreton-in-Marsh for your first night of accommodation			Travel to Moreton-in-Marsh for your first night of accommodation			Travel to Moreton-in-Marsh for your first night of accommodation				
Day 2	Moreton-in-Marsh to Bourton-on-the-Water	11	18	Moreton-in-Marsh to Bourton-on-the-Water	11	18	Moreton-in-Marsh to Stow-on-the-Wold	7	11		
Day 3	Bourton-on-the-Water to Winchcombe then transfer to Broadway	13	21	Bourton-on-the-Water to Guiting Power then transfer back to Bourton-on-the-Water	7	11	Stow-on-the-Wold to Bourton-on-the-Water	4	6		
Day 4	Transfer back to Winchcombe to then walk to Broadway	9	14	Transfer back to Guiting Power then walk to Winchcombe, then transfer to Broadway	6	10	Bourton-on-the-Water to Guiting Power then transfer back to Bourton-on-the-Water	7	11		
Day 5	Broadway to Moreton-in-Marsh	12	19	Transfer back to Winchcombe then walk to Broadway	9	14	Transfer back to Guiting Power then walk to Winchcombe	6	10		
Day 6	Depart from Moreton-in-Marsh after breakfast			Broadway to Moreton-in-Marsh	12	19	Winchcombe to Stanton	5	8		
Day 7				Depart from Moreton-in-Marsh after breakfast			Stanton to Chipping Campden	8	13		
Day 8							Chipping Campden to Moreton-in-Marsh	8	13		
Day 9							Depart from Moreton-in-Marsh after breakfast				





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Booking Form

Contact Details

Address

Mobile Telephone..... Landline telephone.....

Email.....Emergency Contact no

Your Holiday

Holiday Code.....Holiday Name.....

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 Y/N	No. Double Rooms <input type="text"/>	
Packed Lunches (not available for this route)	No. Twin Rooms <input type="text"/>	
Off Street Parking Y/N	No. Single Occupancy Rooms <input type="text"/>	
Return Transfer required (additional charge) Y/N		

Comments (special diets, other requirements etc):

Upon receipt of your booking form Mickledore will send by email a confirmation with the full price and 20% deposit cost required. You can pay by card or cheque (GBP only for cheque).

How did you hear about Mickledore Travel?



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