



Walking Holidays in Britain's most Beautiful Landscapes

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## The Cotswold Way

The Cotswold Way is a long distance walk that 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 route 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.

The Cotswolds countryside is a haven for wild flowers, birds and insects. In springtime expect to see cowslips and hope to see orchids. Carpets of bluebells colour the woodlands, sweet with the scent of lily of the valley. When walking through meadows, watch out for rare butterflies such as the adonis blue or the duke of burgundy and high above you'll spot the skylark and the red kite.

If it all sounds like a scene from a picture postcard, then it's because it is. Quite simply, it's incredibly idyllic, it's quintessentially English and it's an absolute delight to walk.



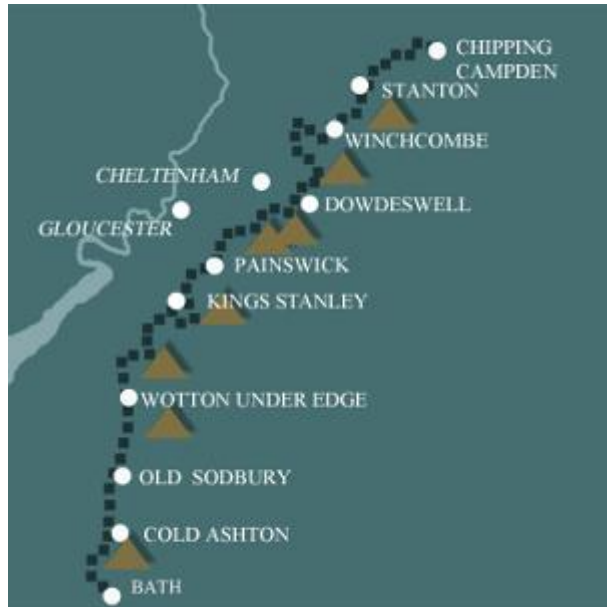
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## Summary

### 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





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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 countryside to Scottsuar 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 Nymphsfield 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.



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## 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. Please note extra nights at Bath are likely to require a surcharge.

## 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 train or bus station, will also be included in the holiday pack on individual accommodation maps.

To view train times please visit [trainline.com](http://trainline.com) where you can also

purchase tickets in advance. For information on bus timetables please visit [traveline.info](http://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 £30. 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.



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You can start on any day you like and we can arrange extra nights at any of the overnight stops 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. 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](http://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. 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. Occasionally we may use a chain hotel.

### 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 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.

### 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)!



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## 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 [mickledore.co.uk](http://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, 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!
- 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



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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](http://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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## The Cotswold Way

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		
		M	km		M	km		M	km
Day 1	Travel to Chipping Campden for your first night of accommodation			Travel to Chipping Campden for your first night of accommodation			Travel to Chipping Campden for your first night of accommodation		
Day 2	Chipping Campden to Winchcombe	18	29	Chipping Campden to Stanton	10	16	Chipping Campden to Stanton then transfer to Toddington	10	16
Day 3	Winchcombe to Dowdeswell then transfer to Cheltenham	11	18	Stanton to Cleeve Hill	13	21	Transfer back to Stanton then walk to Cleeve Hill	13	21
Day 4	Transfer back to Dowdeswell then walk 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 then transfer to Frocester	17	27	Birdlip to Painswick	9	14
Day 6	Dursley to Old Sodbury	19	31	Transfer back to King's Stanley then walk to Wotton-under-Edge	15	24	Painswick to King's Stanley then transfer to Frocester	9	14
Day 7	Old Sodbury to Bath	20	32	Wotton-under-Edge to Tolldown	17	27	Transfer back to King's Stanley then walk to Wotton-under-Edge	15	24
Day 8	Depart from Bath after breakfast			Tolldown to Bath	15	24	Wotton-under-Edge to Tolldown	17	27
Day 9				Depart from Bath after breakfast			Tolldown to Bath	15	24
Day 10							Depart from Bath after breakfast		







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## The Cotswold Way

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			
		M	km		M	km		M	km		
Day 1	Travel to Chipping Campden for your first night of accommodation			Travel to Chipping Campden for your first night of accommodation			Travel to Chipping Campden for your first night of accommodation				
Day 2	Chipping Campden to Stanton then transfer to Toddington	10	16	Chipping Campden to Stanton then transfer to Toddington	10	16	Chipping Campden to Stanton then transfer to Toddington	10	16		
Day 3	Transfer back to Stanton then walk to Cleeve Hill	13	21	Transfer to Stanton then walk to Winchcombe	7	11	Transfer to Stanton then walk to Winchcombe	7	11		
Day 4	Cleeve Hill to Birdlip	16	26	Winchcombe to Dowdeswell then transfer to Cheltenham	11	18	Winchcombe to Dowdeswell then transfer to Cheltenham	11	18		
Day 5	Birdlip to Painswick	9	14	Transfer back to Dowdeswell then walk to Birdlip	10	16	Transfer back to Dowdeswell then walk to Birdlip	10	16		
Day 6	Painswick to King's Stanley then transfer to Frocester	9	14	Birdlip to Painswick	9	14	Birdlip to Painswick	9	14		
Day 7	Transfer back to King's Stanley then walk to Wotton-under-Edge	15	24	Painswick to King's Stanley then transfer to Frocester	9	14	Painswick to King's Stanley then transfer to Frocester	9	14		
Day 8	Wooton-under-Edge to Old Sodbury	13	21	Transfer back to King's Stanley then walk to Wotton-under-Edge	15	24	Transfer back to King's Stanley then walk to Dursley	8	12		
Day 9	Old Sodbury to Cold Ashton	9	14	Wooton-under-Edge to Old Sodbury	13	21	Dursley to Wotton-under-Edge	8	12		
Day 10	Cold Ashton to Bath	10	16	Old Sodbury to Cold Ashton	9	14	Wooton-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				

## The Cotswold Way - Escarpment and Villages

Chipping Campden to Painswick in 5 Days Walking Code: CTN6			
		miles	Km
Day 1	Travel to Chipping Campden for your first night of accommodation		
Day 2	Chipping Campden to Stanton then transfer to Toddington	10	16
Day 3	Transfer back to Stanton then walk to Winchcombe	7	11
Day 4	Winchcombe to Dowdeswell then transfer to Cheltenham	11	18
Day 5	Transfer back to Dowdeswell then walk to Birdlip	10	16
Day 6	Birdlip to Painswick	9	14
Day 7	Depart Painswick after breakfast		



## The Cotswold Way - Long Barrows and Baths

Painswick to Bath in 5 Days Walking Code: CTS6			
		miles	Km
Day 1	Travel to Painswick for your first night of accommodation		
Day 2	Painswick to King's Stanley then transfer to Frocester	9	14
Day 3	Transfer back to King's Stanley then walk to Wotton-under-Edge	15	24
Day 4	Wooton-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		







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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	
Packed Lunches	Y/N No. Twin Rooms	
Off Street Parking	Y/N No. Single Occupancy Rooms	
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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