

3 Night Rambles with a Sketchbook Holiday in The Cotswolds

Trip style:

Destination: 📍 Cotswolds

Trip code: BTN03-PDW05



HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

Let the ever-charming Cotswolds fuel your creativity on our Rambles with a Sketchbook holiday staying at our characterful country house in the picture-perfect village of Bourton-on-the-Water. Enjoy short walks guided by an HF Holidays Leader and capture the Cotswolds' beauty at Ilmington, Bibury, and Winchcombe with the help of an expert art tutor. Perfect for those who've experienced our Introduction to Drawing breaks but also open to beginners, this holiday allows you to develop your artistic skills while drawing inspiration from stunning surroundings.

WHAT YOU'LL LOVE

- Developing your sketching skills
- Exploring the local area with an HF Holidays Leader
- Having an expert art tutor on hand for advice and guidance
- Building your expertise and trying new techniques
- Small groups of 15 people or fewer

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Expert tuition with a HF art tutor
- Loan of wooden A3 art boards
- Guided walking with experienced HF Holidays Leaders
- Comfortable en-suite accommodation in our country house
- Cream tea on arrival day
- Cooked or continental breakfast every morning
- Daily packed lunches
- Three-course evening meals, plus tea & coffee
- Easy-to-follow routes, maps, and information available in our Discovery Point if you want to explore independently

TRIP SUITABILITY

This holiday is active and requires that you carry your own kit throughout the day. Walks on this holiday type can be up to 8km (5 miles), with up to 200m (650 feet) of ascent, though more precise walk distances and ascent can be seen on the itinerary. These walks will take you across uneven, grassy terrain where the ground can be slippery underfoot, so please come prepared for this.

ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrival Day

Check-in at the hotel is available from 16:00. If you are a member you can arrive at the house from 14:00. Enjoy a complimentary cream tea at 16:30 and meet other guests.

Day 2: Lower Slaughter & Bourton

On your Rambles with a Sketchbook holiday, you will spend most of the time away from the house, carrying your equipment with you. During the day, you'll venture out on foot or by coach to places of artistic interest that have been carefully selected by your leader. You won't be walking far, or taking up any great ascents or descents, but you will need to take some of your equipment out with you. Your leader will advise you on which materials you'll need each day so you can pack lightly when leaving the house. We begin our Rambles with a Sketchbook holiday with a jaunt to nearby Lower Slaughter, a picture-perfect Cotswold village settled beside the River Eye. Later we'll return to Bourton-on-the-Water to enjoy some time sketching the 'Venice of the Cotswolds'. Distance: 5km (3 miles) Ascent: 60m (150ft)

Day 3: Fish Hill to Broadway

Starting at nearby Fish Hill, we take a fairly flat route towards Broadway Tower to start the day. Sitting high above the Cotswold landscape, the tower is a key landmark in the local area and offers wide-ranging views of our surroundings. Later, we descend towards Broadway village, following the Cotswold Way path. Distance: 5km (3 miles) Ascent: 40m (150ft)

Day 4: Departure Day

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before making your way home.

Harrington House

You get the best of all worlds at this Grade II-listed retreat just a skip away from the heart of Bourton-on-the-Water – the impossibly pretty Cotswolds town with chocolate-box cottages, old-fashioned tearooms, and low-arched stone bridges that span the River Windrush. Not only will you be within walking distance of the Cotswold Motoring Museum, the Model Village, and Birdland Wildlife Park & Gardens, but it's an easy drive from village beauties Broadway and Bibury. For walkers and hikers, there's no shortage of thrills, especially for those keen to explore the well-trodden trails and paths around the Windrush Valley, Lower and Upper Slaughter, Gloucestershire Way, Cotswold Way, and Monarch Way.

A warm welcome

We want you to feel comfortable from the moment you arrive. You'll find a welcome pack in your room with guest registration forms, menus, order forms for dinners and picnic lunches, the Wi-Fi password, and the front door code. Our houses are locked at night, so we recommend noting the Duty Manager's number on arrival in case of an emergency (or getting locked out).

Evening entertainment

While evening entertainment varies from house to house, HF Holidays Inter-House Quiz night held after dinner on Wednesdays is a weekly staple. Your HF Holidays leader may be around for tips on guided and self-guided walking routes as well as visit-worthy local attractions.

Walks talks

Our HF Holidays walk leaders host guided walking information briefings before dinner on guided walking holiday arrival days. This is followed by a group Walks Talk for information on the following day's guided walks (held before dinner every evening). Self-guided walking guests are, of course, welcome.

The walking day

Prior to setting off on guided walks, your HF Holidays Leader will run you through a short safety briefing. There's also an up-to-date weather forecast on display at the house to ensure you have appropriate clothing and footwear. If you choose to do your own walks or are on a self-guided walking holiday, we ask that you please complete an Independent Walker Card each day. These can be found near the Discovery Point in the house.

Walking safety - SHARED WITH ALL

Walks may be changed for safety reasons and are subject to a maximum and minimum number of guests. Leaders always consider the safety of the group as a whole, and may need to alter or curtail the walk if the conditions dictate. Your leader may refuse to accept a guest where clothing, equipment or behaviour is unsuitable. In the event of a problem all leaders carry a mobile phone, first aid kit, group shelter, spare maps and a compass. Please note: If you choose to leave the group your leader is no longer responsible for you. If you have a particular health condition or disability please put this on your guest registration form. This information will be confidential to your leaders and the house manager, but leaders do need to take account of any issues when planning walks. Please carry a copy of these trip notes with you, or note down the contact phone number for your accommodation (details in the travel section) should you need them in case of emergency.

Packing list - Rambles with a Sketchbook

What to Bring On our Rambles with a Sketchbook holidays, you will carry all kit with you throughout your walks and will not have access to the coach for the duration of the day. We advise packing light wherever possible.

For Sketching H/HB/B pencils Sketchbook with good quality cartridge paper – size to suit (A5 is popular) Pencil sharpener Eraser Portable and lightweight easel and stool (optional) Wider range of pencils or graphite sticks (optional)

For Walking To enjoy your walking comfortably and safely, it is essential that your footwear, clothing and equipment are suitable for the conditions likely to be encountered. Britain is famous for its changeable weather, so our advice is to come prepared for all eventualities. Please bring a rucksack, a thermos flask for a hot drink, a water bottle (at least 1 litre) and first aid kit – your leader's first aid kit doesn't contain any medication or blister kits (such as Compeed).
