

7 Night Cotswolds Walking with Sightseeing Holiday

Trip style: Walking with sightseeing

Destination: 📍 Cotswolds

Trip code: BTN07-WOD01

Grades: 1

Carbon Footprint: 🌳 184kg CO2



HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

These holidays offer a perfect mix of short, guided walks (4-5 miles), combined with time spent sightseeing. Visit a selection of standout highlights in the Cotswolds with hassle-free coach travel and the help of an HF Holidays Leader.

WHAT YOU'LL LOVE

- Discovering the best of the Cotswold countryside on foot
- Visiting Sudeley Castle, once home to Queen Catherine Parr
- Spending time in Batsford Arboretum
- Admiring spectacular mosaics at Chedworth Roman villa
- Exploring Hidcote Manor's gardens
- Staying in Grade II-listed Harrington House
- A more personalised experience thanks to small group sizes (maximum 15 people)

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- En-suite accommodation in our 4-star country house
- Cream tea on arrival day
- Cooked or continental breakfast every morning
- Daily packed lunches
- Three-course evening meals, plus tea & coffee
- Guided walks and sightseeing visits with an experienced HF Holidays Leader
- All transport to and from walks and sites of interest
- Easy-to-follow routes, maps, and information in our Discovery Point if you want to explore independently

Please note - Entrance fees are not included. See more information tab for details.

TRIP SUITABILITY

This trip is graded level 1 with walks of up to 5½ miles and minimal ascent.

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: Hailes Abbey and Sudeley Castle

We start with a visit to a 13th-century Cistercian Abbey set high in the Cotswolds Hills. Walking along the Cotswolds Way we reach Winchcombe and then continue on to visit Sudeley Castle - steeped in history, the castle was once home and is now the burial place of Queen Catherine Parr, one of Henry VIII's many wives. 3 miles (5km) with 250 feet (80m) ascent

Day 3: Batsford Arboretum and Broadway

We'll begin today with a walk around the arboretum, a superb collection of trees set in the beautiful grounds of a Georgian mansion. A short transfer and we arrive at Dovers Hill and follow the Cotswolds Way to Broadway Tower; a folly built by the Earl of Coventry, with unrivalled views. Then on to the village of Broadway - often referred to as the 'Jewel of the Cotswolds'. 5 miles (8½km) with 400 feet (120m) of ascent.

Day 4: Free Day - The Cotswolds

Discover more about Harrington House and the local area for ideas on how to make the most of your free day.

Day 5: Chedworth Roman Villa and Northleach

Chedworth Roman Villa boasts spectacular mosaics plus examples of Roman underfloor heating and bathhouses. We've plenty of time to explore before starting our walk to Northleach, with its amazing wool church (wool once powered the economy of medieval England - the Cotswolds were the heart of the industry). 5½ miles (9km) with 600 feet (180m) of ascent.

Day 6: Roman Cirencester and the source of the Thames

From Coates our walk takes us to the source of the Thames and then follows in the footsteps of Charles II, along the Monarchs Way. Our end point today is the Roman Amphitheatre and Cirencester, for a visit to the Corinium Museum to discover the stories and histories of the Roman town of Corinium Dobunorum. 6 miles (9km) with 250 feet (80m) of ascent.

Day 7: Hidcote Manor Gardens and Chipping Campden

Hidcote is arguably where modern small garden design began. The arts and crafts garden provides plenty of inspiration! After our visit, we walk along part of the North Cotswolds Diamond Way, crossing undulating farmland and woods, dipping into valleys, before reaching the picture-postcard honey-coloured houses of Chipping

Campden, and its many tea shops! 3½ miles (6km) with 150 feet (50m) of ascent.

Day 8: 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 - UK Guided Walking

The UK has a famously unpredictable climate so it's best to be prepared for weather that's sunny one minute and raining the next. To make it easier, here's a list of items you should consider packing. Essentials Suitable footwear such as waterproof walking boots that provide ankle support and good grip Waterproof and windproof jacket Comfortable clothing (jeans & waterproof capes are not suitable) Mid-layer(s) to keep you warm. Fleeces make a good choice Waterproof overtrousers Gloves and a warm hat Rucksack with waterproof liner Flask for hot drinks Water bottle (at least 1 litre capacity) Sunscreen UV sunglasses For holidays operating October through to the end of March, please also bring the following on your walks: spare warm clothing spare high energy food head torch and spare batteries please note for the October to March season your waterproof jacket needs to offer a high level of waterproofing and wind resistance, and a hood. Look for a waterproof jacket with sealed/taped seams and a minimum HH (hydrostatic head - this is the rating given on waterproof jackets) of 10,000mm+ Recommended Several base layers (long-sleeve or short-sleeve) Cushioned walking socks to avoid blisters First aid kit, including plasters and insect repellent Sit mat Waterproof pouch for valuables Rubbish bag (remember to always leave no trace) Wallet/purse Camera Walking poles
