

# 7 Night Cotswolds Discovery Tour

**Trip style:**

**Destination:**  Cotswolds

**Trip code:** BTN07-HCR05

**Carbon Footprint:**  184kg CO2



## HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

This Cotswolds Discovery Tour is a great way to tick-off all the must-sees. Visit classic towns, explore the Taj Mahal-inspired Sezincote House, and spend time at Blenheim Palace – birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill. You'll also get to relax at Hidcote Manor Gardens, ride on the Gloucestershire & Warwickshire Steam Railway, and learn about the royal history of Sudeley Castle – resting place of Catherine Parr, the only one of Henry VIII's six wives to outlive him.

## WHAT YOU'LL LOVE

- Taking a ride on the Gloucestershire Warwickshire Steam Railway
- Uncovering the storied past of Sudeley Castle
- Getting a taste of India in the Cotswolds at Sezincote House
- Discovering gilded Blenheim Palace, birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill
- Visiting Hidcote Manor Gardens

## WHAT'S INCLUDED

- 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
- Guided sightseeing with an experienced HF Holidays Leader
- All transport to and from 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

### Trip suitability

Our Discovery holidays give you the opportunity to immerse yourself in the culture of the local area through **active sightseeing**.

On each Discovery day, you will be walking throughout the course of the day as you explore the venues and locations we visit. You'll also be hopping on and off the coach throughout - you should expect to spend the majority of the day on your feet. Most of this walking will be at attractions but some may be across country tracks or footpaths so be sure to **bring sturdy shoes**. There will also be stairs to climb in the majority of the venues you visit, though other more accessible options may be available. At some venues, there may also be uneven surfaces, such as cobbles or rocky paths.

## 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.

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### **Day 2:** Bibury & Cirencester

It all begins with a journey southward towards Bibury, the charming village famous for its flower-lined stretch of cottages known as Arlington Row. Next it's on to Cirencester, the largest town in the Cotswolds. There's over 2000 years of history here and you can spend time in the town's museums or exploring at leisure.

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### **Day 3:** Broadway & Sudeley Castle

Our first visit of the day brings us to Broadway, a beautiful Cotswold village packed with honey-coloured shops and houses. From here, we'll take a ride on the Gloucestershire & Warwickshire Steam Railway to Winchcombe before then exploring Sudeley Castle. This 11th century stronghold is one of the area's showstopping attractions and boasts many a royal connection.

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### **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.

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### **Day 5:** Blenheim Palace

After a stop at the ancient Rollright Stones, we'll spend much of the day at Blenheim Palace. The birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill and home to the Dukes and Duchesses of Marlborough, Blenheim is a UNESCO World Heritage Site packed with historical treasures. Don't miss the famous Marlborough Tapestries (the 'Victories Series') in the Green Writing Room.

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### **Day 6:** Cotswold Villages & Sezincote House

Discover some of the prettiest towns and villages in the Cotswolds and experience a touch of India nestled amongst the rolling green of the Gloucestershire countryside. All Mughal-style minarets, onion domes, and lavish gardens layered with water features and Hindu sculptures, Sezincote House stirs the imagination for those interested in the history of the British Raj.

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### **Day 7:** Chipping Campden & Hidcote Manor

Our final day begins with a stop in Chipping Campden, the Cotswold town celebrated for its historic high street and marketplace. In the afternoon, we'll continue to the National Trust-owned Hidcote Manor Gardens. Once at the heart of the Arts and Crafts Movement, this country estate spans over 10 acres of thoughtfully curated outdoor spaces.

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**Day 8:** Departure Day

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before making your way home.

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## 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.