


# Cotswold Way Guided Trail

**Trip style:** Guided trails

**Destination:**  Cotswolds

**Trip code:** BTN10-LCV01

**Grades:** 1, 3

**Carbon Footprint:**  280kg CO2



## HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

The Cotswold Way covers 100 miles of rolling English countryside, dotted with medieval churches, timber-framed villages, and historic stately homes. This guided trail holiday starts in leafy-laned Chipping Campden and ends in Bath, the English spa town with over 2,000-years of Roman history. Along the way, we'll visit several standout highlights including the ghostly ruins of the 13th century Hailes Abbey and Cooper's Hill – home of Gloucestershire's famously weird and wonderful cheese-rolling championships.

## WHAT YOU'LL LOVE

- Exploring miles of English countryside from Chipping Campden to Bath
- Visiting honey-coloured villages and charming market towns
- Discovering the region's rich history
- Passing historic sites, such as Hailes Abbey
- Exploring the Roman-founded city of Bath
- A more personalised experience thanks to small group sizes (maximum 15 people)

## WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Comfortable en-suite accommodation in our country house
- Cooked or continental breakfast every morning
- Daily packed lunches
- Three-course evening meals, plus tea & coffee
- Guided walks with an experienced HF Holidays Leader
- All transport to and from walks where necessary

## TRIP SUITABILITY

This Guided Walking /Hiking Trail is graded 3 which involves walks / hikes on well-defined paths, though often in hilly or upland areas. These may be rough and steep in sections and will require a good level of fitness. It is your responsibility to ensure you have the relevant fitness required to join this holiday.

### Your fitness

We want you to be confident that you can meet the demands of each walking day and get the most out of your holiday. Please be sure you can manage the mileage and ascent detailed in the daily itineraries. It is important for your own enjoyment, and that of your fellow guests that you can maintain the pace.

It makes a lot of sense to spend time getting some additional exercise before your holiday. We suggest that you try to fit in a number of longer walks, including some on hilly terrain. Other exercises such as cycling, jogging and swimming are also excellent for developing increased stamina.

## 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: Chipping Campden to Stanway House

We begin our walk from the market town of Chipping Campden, we follow the trail up onto Dovers Hill offering fine views of the surrounding landscapes. We descend to Broadway Tower, a folly built in 1799 by the Earl of Coventry and then on to the village of Broadway. We then continue through fields to Stanway House; famous for its thatched village cricket pavilion, this is a Jacobean mansion with a magnificent gateway and a wonderfully preserved tithe barn. Distance 12 miles (19km) with 1500 feet (450m) of ascent

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### Day 3: Stanway to Cleeve Common

Leaving Stanway House we follow the trail to Hailes Abbey, which was founded by the Cistercians in 1215. We then walk through Winchcombe and pass the Neolithic barrow of Belas Knapp, finishing our walk at Cleeve Common. Distance 12 miles (19km) with 1,410 feet (440m) of ascent

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### Day 4: Cleeve Common to Star College

We begin the day with an ascent onto Cleeve Hill the highest point on the Cotswold Way, we then walk past Dowdeswell Reservoir and pay a visit to Seven Springs where the River Thames rises. We then pass the Devils Chimney and ascend Leckhampton Hill. Distance 12 miles (19km) with 1,800 feet (550m) of ascent

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### Day 5: Star College to Painswick

We follow the trail to Crickley Hill Country Park, where archaeologists have been at work nearly 20 years, unearthing remnants from different occupations dating back to about 4,000BC. We then walk through ancient beech woodland and up on to Cooper's Hill, infamous for cheese rolling. We then walk along to Painswick Beacon and an iron age camp. Distance 11 miles (17.5km) with 1,900 feet (580m) of ascent

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### Day 6: Painswick to Coaley Peak

Leaving Painswick we walk to Standish wood, where we see 'spectacle' stocks and the wonderful St Mary's church, with its 99 yew trees. We then reach the Stroudwater Canal and ascend onto the escarpment passing the Nympsfield Neolithic long barrow. Distance: 13 miles (20.5km) with 2,250 feet (680m) of ascent.

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### Day 7: Coaley Peak to Wotton Under Edge

Starting our walk today from Coaley Peak we follow the trail through the town of Dursley crossing Stichcombe Hill and passing through North Nibley. We then ascend Wotton Hill to see the Tyndale Monument, a 111 foot

commemoration of William Tyndale, who was executed in 1536 for opposing Henry VIII's divorce and translating the bible into English. We then descend to Wotton under Edge. Distance 12 miles (19km) with 1,850 feet (560m) of ascent

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**Day 8:** Wotton Under Edge to Little Sodbury

Passing through the town of Wotton we ascend Wortley Hill. We then travel through the Cotswold countryside with views of Newark Park a Grade 1 listed country house, before ending our day at the St Adeline Church in Little Sodbury. Distance: 11 miles (17km) with 1,500 feet (450m) of ascent.

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**Day 9:** Little Sodbury to Cold Ashton

We leave Little Sodbury and its iron age hill fort and pass through the Georgian park lands of Dodington and Dyrham. We follow the Cotswold escarpment to Cold Ashton. Distance: 10 miles (17km) with 1,180 feet (360m) of ascent.

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**Day 10:** Cold Ashton to Bath

We follow the trail passing through Lansdown Racecourse an area steeped in history including one of the major battles of the English Civil war. We head towards Bath passing The Royal Crescent and The Roman Baths before completing the Cotswold Way at Bath Abbey, with time to explore the beautiful city of Bath. Distance: 10 miles (16.5km) with 1,100 feet (340m) of ascent.

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**Day 11:** 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.