

# HF Book Club in The Cotswolds: Secrets & Spies

**Trip style:**

**Destination:** 📍 Cotswolds

**Trip code:** BTN04-ABC05

**Carbon Footprint:** 🌳 113kg CO2



## HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

For fans of fiction writing that focuses on espionage and intrigue, our Secrets & Spies Book Club break seals the deal. Not only will you get to dive deeper into this genre and explore its ever-evolving narratives, but you'll be staying in the comfort of Harrington House - our characterful country house in Bourton-on-the-Water. These holidays are the perfect way to connect with like-minded spy-fiction fans and fabulous for solo travellers looking for friendship-forming experiences.

## WHAT YOU'LL LOVE

- Meeting like-minded book lovers
- Discussing a variety of literary works
- Enjoying a guided sightseeing visit
- Group discussions with our expert leaders
- Connecting with other spy fans

## WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Free-flowing literary discussions throughout your holiday
- Transport to and from venues on your excursion day
- Entry to Bletchley Park
- 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

## 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:** Bletchley Park

This holiday wouldn't be complete without a visit to Bletchley Park, home of Britain's wartime code-breaking efforts, and a venue which embodies all things secrets and spies. We'll have plenty of time to explore all that Bletchley Park has to offer. Entry to the site is included in the price of this holiday.

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### **Day 3-4:** HF Book Club

This Book Club break will explore the shadowy world of spies and secrets as represented in literature. Your leaders will facilitate discussions about the themes and topics featured in their chosen titles and there'll be an open forum to discuss opinions. Reading List Agent Sonya by Ben McIntyre Recounting the life of Ursula Kuczynski, Agent Sonya tells the true story about a German woman who becomes a Soviet spy. The story follows Ursula from her homeland to China, Switzerland, and finally the Cotswolds where she settles down to bake scones and run an intelligence network. Star of the Sea by Joseph O'Connor Set aboard an emigrant ship from Dublin to New York during the harsh winter of 1847, at the height of the potato famine Star of the Sea follows the stories of some of the key passengers on board whose lives, we discover, are intertwined. It is a novel full of secrets to be revealed, with a dark air of menace as a murderer tracks his victim, while all the time being spied upon himself. Julia by Sandra Newman Julia Worthing works in the Fiction Department at the Ministry of Truth. She knows how to survive under the iron rule of the Party and its leader, Big Brother. It is a world of constant surveillance and closely guarded secrets. But when she meets Winston Smith, she begins to lose her grip and can no longer safely navigate her world. A retelling of Nineteen Eighty-Four, by George Orwell, this book may be read independently of the original, and there is no expectation to do so for this holiday.

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### **Day 5:** 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.