

England's Cotswolds Villages, Stonehenge & Bath

England Cultural Walking Adventure



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“Classic Journeys provides unbeatable access to experiences around the globe.”

— *Travel + Leisure*

The Quintessential English Experience

Sometimes, Stonehenge steams at dawn. We know because on our tours we've stood there among the great pillars—no crowds, no ropes to hold us back—and felt the sun stream across Salisbury Plain to touch our faces at the same moment it starts to warm the night-cooled sandstone. It is a simple, awesome, hold-your-breath moment. And you'll experience it yourself on this amazing journey through Southwestern England. Beforehand, we spend several days in the parts of the Cotswolds we love best. We'll show you our favorite paths that crook through Technicolor cottage gardens, across sweeping meadows and into the loveliest honeyed-stone villages in the land. This isn't just the superficially pretty England, it's the real thing—a rich cultural experience with personal introductions and remarkable access to non-public places. You'll simply never forget it.

DAY 1

BATH

- Explore the iconic baths that date to Roman times
- Follow in the footsteps of Jane Austen on a thoughtfully curated walk

If this is your first visit to Bath, you're in good company. The city has been a highly desirable walking destination since the Romans arrived in 60 AD. They found the hot springs and decided to build baths and a temple to worship the goddess Sulis Minerva. A few hundred years later, Bath Abbey was founded in the 7th century and the town became a religious center, and once again a walking destination for pilgrims.

A thousand years after that, the city's most famous resident, Jane Austen, arrived. Now, you'll follow in those famed footsteps as you wander the elegant city which provided inspiration for Austen's novels, *Northanger Abbey* and *Persuasion*. If you're also a fan of *'Bridgerton'*, you'll recognize iconic scenes as you take in the magnificent architecture of the Royal Crescent, Abbey Green, Bath Assembly Rooms, and the Holburne Museum.

On a thoughtfully curated walk, admire the honey-colored Georgian architecture, and stroll with your expert guide, from the iconic Royal Crescent, to the majestic Circus and spectacular Pulteney Bridge, one of the only two bridges in the world with shops built into it. (The other being the iconic Ponte Vecchio in Florence.) You'll explore the city's namesake baths, which still flow with hot water today. This evening, enjoy locally sourced cuisine in a historic Georgian setting, designed by architect John Wood the Elder himself.

Overnight: Bath

Meals: D

DAY 2

STONEHENGE / AVEBURY

- Stonehenge private visit
- Sit down to cream tea with warm scones and clotted cream

Today is Stonehenge. About 4,000 tourists troop through on a typical day, and every one of them will envy the private visit we arrange for you before or after the site is open to the public. (Time of day varies, depending on the season.) You'll be able to walk right up to the stone circle as Bronze Age pilgrims did. It's one of those experiences that you'll be bragging about for years to come.

Awesome as Stonehenge is, there are other prehistoric places nearby that are even bigger and just as mysterious. On one bare hillside, we'll see the silhouette of a white horse cut into a chalk hillside. And then there's Avebury where most of the modern town is surrounded by a huge circular moat and bank that were dug by hand over 4 millennia ago. It's no wonder so many superstitions surround these places. When you look at a double avenue of monoliths that stretch for a mile into the countryside, you can't help but wonder about the how and why of it all. Much easier to grasp is the appeal of cream tea—warm scones, clotted cream, strawberry jam, a cuppa—and we'll pause for one in the course of the afternoon. Later, we check in at our lovely hotel in Burford, a Cotswolds town on the banks of the River Windrush and enjoy a lovely dinner together.

Overnight: Burford

Meals: B, D

DAY 3

BLenheim ESTATE / 'DOWNTON' VILLAGE

- Walk from the grave of Winston Churchill to Blenheim Estate
- Explore the village where *"Downton Abbey"* was filmed

Wake up this morning and ready yourself for quintessential Cotswold scenery: the green rolling hills are dotted with sheep, meadows are lined with ancient walls of stone, and thatched roof cottages nestle in gardens.

Today, we're off to the nearby village of Bladon where Winston Churchill was buried. From here, a scenic walk leads to the impressive estate surrounding Blenheim Palace, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and Churchill's birthplace. A chance to stroll the sweeping lawns and formal gardens is a wonderful preview of the country walks that await in the days ahead. Lady Mary and Mrs. Patmore walked the lanes of our next village, and if you're a fan of *"Downton Abbey"*, you'll recognize Bampton as the stand-in for fictional Downton village. We'll follow in their footsteps, and even if you're not a fan of the series, you'll appreciate the quiet beauty of this place.

Tonight, dinner is at your leisure at one of the village's many restaurants or pubs.

Overnight: Burford

Meals: B, L

DAY 4

WINDRUSH RIVER/CHEDWORTH

- Walk along the River Windrush
- Visit an ancient Roman Villa
- Guided visit to the home of William Morris, founder of the Arts & Crafts movement

The Cotswolds was once a land of abandoned homes and villages due to the crash that happened when the advent of cotton fabric devastated the wool trade. We have that era to thank for preserving the local sights. But on this morning's walk along the Windrush River, we see a ghostly reminder of that time—an abandoned village where the church of a martyred saint stands alone in a field. After a lovely luncheon together, we spend time discovering the lifestyles of the rich and celebrated. First come the Romans. A country path leads us to Chedworth Roman Villa. Seventeen hundred years ago, wealthy Roman Britons built this extravagant home at the end of a secluded valley. Best of all, Chedworth is also a very active archeological site. In 2014, workers uncovered splendid mosaic floors, and state-of-the-art walkways make it possible for us to get close to these relics. It's a terrific chance to see how excavations are being conducted.

We're actually quite near the slow and winding waters of the upper Thames here, and one of the area's finest landmarks is Kelmscott Manor. The grand limestone affair was the country home of William Morris, founder of the Arts and Crafts Movement in the Victorian Era. Today, it has the finest examples anywhere of the intricate wallpapers and fabrics, as well as furniture that inspired the Arts and Crafts style, as we'll see on our guided visit.

Overnight: Burford

Meals: B, L

DAY 5

JANE AUSTEN COUNTRY

- Sample delicious cheeses and assorted sundries from a local organic farm
- Scenic walk along the Cotswold Way

Jane Austen based her novel *Mansfield Park* on her visits to Adlestrop. If she went for a stroll, it's easy to imagine that the views she got were the same as we see today on our country walk. We're headed for Daylesford, a town renowned for a fantastic organic farm (and its locavore restaurant in a white-washed barn). From rarebit and cottage pie to rhubarb syllabub, this is a great place to experience the current British passion for updating traditional dishes and a great chance for you to sample local cheeses like the the Double Gloucester and Bledington Blue, which are made from the milk of the happy cows grazing in the farm's pastures.

This afternoon, our footpath follows the famed Cotswold Way. Altogether the trail is 100 miles long, but we take a leisurely afternoon stroll on one scenic stretch that starts at the Broadway Tower. The quirky building is also known as the Highest Little Castle in the Cotswolds. As far as the eye can see, great meadows roll to the horizon.

The trail leads us right to Chipping Campden, the perfect village where we spend the next two nights. You may want to go for a stroll to browse the art galleries and shops before tonight's dinner in a historic 15th century pub.

Overnight: Chipping Campden

Meals: B, D

DAY 6

CHEDWORTH / CHIPPING CAMPDEN

- Private guided tour of Broughton Castle
- Afternoon tea in a splendid setting
- Visit with a silversmith

They don't build Cotswold towns more perfect than Chipping Campden. Walking the narrow streets is a step back in time. If you know where to look, you can find artisans like David Hart who still practice crafts as they have been for centuries. David is a silversmith who takes on private commissions, including some for the royal family. You'll visit his cluttered workshop, where his family has worked for more than 100 years, and see how their creations come to life. A pub lunch is the way to go here, and if you haven't discovered the shandy yet, this is the right time. The drink—a half-and-half blend of beer and carbonated

lemonade—is a great way to partake. Maybe you'll want to accept the challenge to a game of darts or chat with the locals on the riverside terrace.

Next, we experience the grandest possible end of the scale with a privately guided tour of Broughton Castle. Surrounded by a moat, it dates from the 1550's. The grand interiors were featured in the BBC production of *Wolf Hall*, and the manicured gardens are some of the country's finest. What better setting to pause for an elegant afternoon tea. (Yes, there will be scones and clotted cream.)

We return to the hotel to relax and change before our farewell dinner together and look back on an unforgettable trip after a day full of charm and countryside.

Overnight: Chipping Campden

Meals: B, L, D

DAY 7

MORETON-IN-MARSH

- Follow in the escaping footsteps of King Charles II on the Monarch's Way
- Meet trained falconers to learn their ancient craft

The Monarch's Way is a long-distance footpath that follows the escape route taken by King Charles II in 1651 after being defeated in the Battle of Worcester. Today, you can use it to make a decidedly scenic arrival to the Batsford estate, the one-time playground of the celebrated (and scandalous) Mitford sisters. Along the way, you'll pass through wheat and barley fields, and visit with tenant farmers, many of whom have lived and farmed the same holdings for generations. Falconry has been considered a noble pursuit for thousands of years. Once at the estate, meet trained falconers, who carry on this age old skill, teaching the birds of prey to hunt, and showing you how it's done. You'll get an inside look at the close relationship between falconer and bird, as well as close encounters with other birds of prey including eagles, hawks and owls.

Meals: B



Tour Hotels



Bath Priory Hotel

Just a short walk from the city center, this acclaimed Georgian style hotel is a peaceful and beautiful respite. Enjoy individually designed guest rooms, award winning restaurant and gardens, an luxurious on-site spa, and welcoming hospitality.

OVERNIGHT: Bath | **NIGHTS:** 1



Bay Tree Hotel

Since its first guests in 1565, this perfect Cotswolds hotel has been a favorite. The details are remarkable, from the high-raftered hall to the oak-paneled rooms, tapestries and flagstone floors.

OVERNIGHT: Burford | **NIGHTS:** 3



Cotswold House Hotel

This award-winning luxury hotel, will appeal to travelers visiting the Cotswolds, looking for tranquility, sublime comfort. The contemporary style makes Cotswold House and Spa one of the most admired boutique hotels in the Cotswolds.

OVERNIGHT: Chipping Campden | **NIGHTS:** 2

Tour Dates & Prices

To see the full list of dates and prices for this tour, go to our website by clicking [here](#).

Want to travel with just your group on a date of your choosing? Visit [CLASSICJOURNEYS.COM/PRIVATE](https://www.classicjourneys.com/private) to learn more about Private Journeys.

Trip Essentials

TRIP LENGTH	7 Days, 6 Nights
START	Lobby of the Bath Priory Hotel, Bath, England
END	Moreton-In-Marsh Rail Station, Moreton-In-Marsh, England
TERRAIN	Easy trails through meadows and over rolling hills. At your option, 2 to 4 hours of walking per day.

What's Included

- Award-winning hotels that provide you unlimited access to the people and places, culture and history you came to experience
- All breakfasts, 2 lunches and 4 dinners
- Full-time experienced guide(s) who are with you throughout the trip and handle behind-the-scenes logistics
- Admissions to scheduled events as noted in the detailed daily itinerary
- Gratuities for hotels, meals, and baggage
- All land transportation during the trip

Above & Beyond Benefits

- Invisible Check-In
- Privileged Access Events

READY TO BOOK?
CLICK TO MAKE A RESERVATION

Or give us a call

1-800-200-3887

Mon-Fri 8:00AM – 5:00PM PST

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AMBASSADOR CLUB

As a Classic Journeys guest, you are invited to join the Ambassador Club after your first Classic Journeys tour. As a member, you'll have access to [a whole suite of Ambassador benefits](#) you can use immediately and as often as you like.

ENJOY THE UNEXPECTED

When you travel with Classic Journeys, you can expect handcrafted surprises built into every trip, but some things just can't be anticipated. Unusual weather, a once-a-year festival or an unscheduled site closing will inspire us and your local guide to improvise and modify this itinerary. Likewise, the hotels named here are used on the majority of our trips, but occasionally one of them can't accommodate us. If that happens, you can count on us to let you know before departure and make sure you're in a hotel of equal or better quality. It's our goal to make your trip exceptional!

**Any discount offered cannot be combined with other offers, and only applies to published (regularly scheduled public) departure dates in our catalogs or on our website.

THE Classic Journeys Difference



HANDCRAFTING TRIPS OF A LIFETIME.

At the end of the day, we fundamentally believe that every guest on every departure of every trip should have a trip of a lifetime. We're fortunate to play the role of well-connected friend, linking our guests with amazing guides, artisans, winemakers, hoteliers, restaurateurs, naturalists, and too many others to list here.

That's what motivates me and our team — in our La Jolla HQ and around the world — every day. Join Us!

President & Founder



You can expect the highest standards:



Luxurious Lodgings:

Ours include coveted properties that appear in "World's Best" and "Gold List" rankings.



Included Activities:

You'll never be surprised with add-on fees on your activities that include snorkeling to cooking lessons.



Local Guides:

Your guides are locals who are always at your side like well-connected friends.



Small Group Travel:

With an average of just 10-12 guests, it's a small footprint that guarantees you access that's off-limits to larger groups.



Amazing Cuisine:

From Michelin-starred restaurants to lunch in a farmhouse kitchen, you'll have a seat for the region's signature dishes.



Unmatched Value:

"Excellent value" and "unbeatable access" are two of the reasons that Travel + Leisure has consistently voted us a World's Best Tour Operator.

You'll enjoy these handcrafted travel experiences in England...

- Walking the famed Cotswolds Way
- Accessing Stonehenge during a private visit without the crowds
- Touring Broughton Castle on a privately guided visit
- Enjoying enchanting and historic accommodations in Bath and the Cotswolds
- Strolling through picture-perfect English villages like Bampton, where scenes from "Downton Abbey" were filmed

"Wendy was excellent in all respects."

-Catherine L., Corona, NM,