

A scenic view of a Cotswolds village street. The street is paved and has several puddles. On the left, there are stone houses with gabled roofs and windows. A large purple flower basket hangs from a window. On the right, there are more stone houses and a green lawn. Three people are walking on the path, one pointing towards the houses. The sky is blue with white clouds.

CLASSIC JOURNEYS

THE WORLD'S FINEST WALKING TOURS

Cotswolds

England's Stonehenge & Countryside Villages



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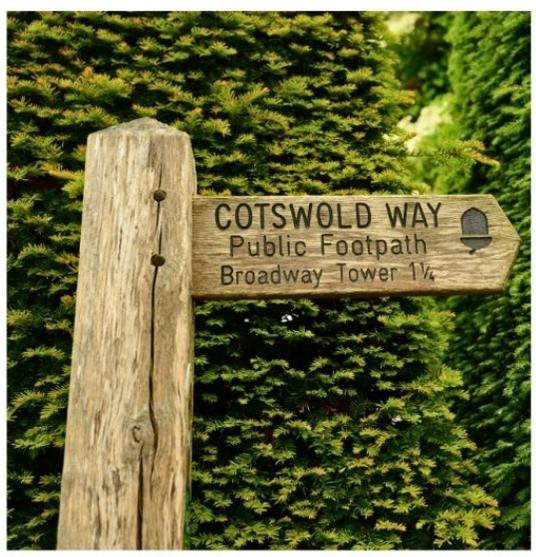
*Classic Journeys
provides unbeatable
access to experiences
around the globe.”*

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TRAVEL + LEISURE

The Quintessential English Experience

Sometimes, Stonehenge steams at dawn. We know because we've stood there on Salisbury Plain among the great pillars—no crowds, no ropes to hold us back—on a private 'only with Classic Journeys' visit. Join us through Southwestern England, spending several days in the Cotswolds leading you along our favorite paths that crook through vivid cottage gardens, across sweeping meadows, and into the honeyed stone towns. Enjoy dining with friends in their manor house and visiting the tea-shop lady when her scones are warm and fresh. This is more than the superficially pretty England, it's the real thing with days full of rich cultural experiences, personal introductions and remarkable access to non-public places.



DAY 1 »

Oxford/Blenheim Palace

- Explore Oxford's "Dreaming Spires" on a curated walk through medieval streets and campus
- Walk Blenheim Palace grounds, passing Capability Brown's lake and Churchill's proposal site

Your Cotswolds adventure begins with a proper English afternoon tea in Oxford. Savor delicate finger sandwiches, freshly baked scones with clotted cream and jam, and a selection of pastries, all accompanied by a pot of fragrant Earl Grey. Your expert local guide then leads you on a walk through the historic town, marveling at the medieval architecture that earned Oxford its "City of Dreaming Spires" nickname.

As the afternoon unfolds, you leave the city behind for a curated countryside walk to Blenheim Palace. Your path takes you through meadows dotted with grazing sheep and past the lake created by famed landscape architect Capability Brown. You arrive at the UNESCO World Heritage Site on foot, passing the Temple of Diana where Churchill proposed to his wife. Your guide, with their insider access, takes you through the palace, sharing fascinating stories about the Churchill family and the palace's 300-year history.

MEALS: L, D

OVERNIGHT: BURFORD

DAILY MILEAGE OPTIONS: SEE CURATED WALKS CHART

DAY 2 »

Windrush Valley/Minster Lovell

- Discover hidden Cotswolds villages along the Windrush River, avoiding tourist "honeypots"
- Explore picturesque Minster Lovell, learning about thatched roofs and 12th-century ruins

What's a 'honeypot' and why do you want to avoid it? Find out for yourself on a cinematic footpath along the Windrush River Valley. Many of the villages in these parts have become 'honeypots', the locals' way of referring to a place that draws tourists like bees to honey. Happily, for you, your expert local guide is also your well-connected friend, and so able to lead you to postcard-perfect villages like Asthall and Swinbrook. These quintessential Cotswolds villages are filled with what you hope for in your explorations: technicolor gardens, cozy pubs, thatched cottages, and medieval churches.

Refreshed and refueled from lunch at a historic pub that you may want to augment with a pint, join your guide on an afternoon walk to the village of Minster Lovell. The beautiful old cottages in this part of the Cotswolds are photogenic beyond belief. Half-timbered homes with thatched roofs greet you as soon as you arrive. Ambling along the one lane in the village takes you back in time to the 11th and 12th centuries. On foot at eye level, you're perfectly positioned to learn about thatching, and how the roofs are made and maintained.

A highlight of the day's explorations is a late afternoon visit to the picturesque ruins of Minster Lovell Hall, just a short footpath away in the countryside. Dating to the 12th century, the main part of the home was constructed by William, Baron of Lovell, who through marriage and good fortune was one of the richest men in England. He chose the location well and sited it in a beautiful rural setting beside the river Windrush.

MEALS: B, L

OVERNIGHT: BURFORD

DAILY MILEAGE OPTIONS: SEE CURATED WALKS CHART

DAY 3 »

Banbury / Hidcote Gardens

- Bake scones in a local home, then walk scenic footpaths through sheep-dotted meadows
- Tour Hidcote Manor's famous gardens with an expert, exploring formal rooms and natural areas

Begin your day with a walk through the quaint neighborhood of Banbury to arrive mid-morning at the home of a baker who is a friend of ours. It's your chance to pretend you're in The Great British Bake Off. In a very fun, hands-on experience, you'll learn to bake scones, and then sit down for a delicious and classic English tea. Tell your Fitbit or smart watch to relax. For every scone you've tasted, you can walk it off on a scenic footpath that includes charming stone bridges and crosses a style or two as you pass through meadows filled with grazing sheep sheltered by the iconic honey-colored dry-stone walls.

Continue to Chipping Campden, which marks the northern edge of the famed Cotswold Way footpath that begins south in Bath. So, there is a sort of celebratory lift to every footstep today as you walk to Hidcote Manor. Hidcote is the world-famous garden created by celebrated horticulturalist, Major Lawrence Johnston. His name and 'Hidcote' have become synonymous with the best forms of many plants, including *Hypericum* 'Hidcote', *Lavandula* 'Hidcote' and *Rosa* 'Lawrence Johnston'. Waiting for you among the 10+ acres is an expert on English gardens, who leads you through the formal garden 'rooms' near the house and natural areas that blend in with the surrounding countryside.

MEALS: B, L, D

OVERNIGHT: CHIPPING CAMPDEN

DAILY MILEAGE OPTIONS: SEE CURATED WALKS CHART

DAY 4 »

Chastleton Manor/Adlestrop

- Walk Jane Austen's Cotswolds, visiting Adlestrop village and touring Jacobean Chastleton Manor
- Picnic with local delicacies at a village church, then hike to Dover's Hill amphitheater

Today, you'll walk in Jane Austen's shoes as you explore the charming village of Adlestrop, the inspiration for her novel *Mansfield Park*. Your country walk offers views that have remained largely unchanged since Austen's time, allowing you to experience the landscape through her eyes. The Cotswolds, renowned for its picturesque villages with whimsical names like Bourton-on-the-Water and Upper and Lower Slaughter, provides a quintessentially English backdrop for your journey.

Begin your day with a visit to a local organic farm, where you'll discover the region's finest culinary treasures. Learn about traditional farming methods and sample some of the Cotswolds' most beloved produce. Next, embark on a private tour of the magnificent Chastleton Manor, a Jacobean country house frozen in time. For lunch, pause at a quaint village church for a delicious picnic featuring the local delicacies you learned about earlier: organic Gloucestershire ham, creamy Bledington Blue and Penyston Brie cheeses, delicate smoked salmon, crisp biscuits, and tangy fig chutney. Savor these flavors while surrounded by the tranquil beauty of the English countryside.

In the afternoon, your footpath leads you into the idyllic setting of Dover's Hill. This natural amphitheater, with its sweeping views over the Vale of Evesham, was once the site of the original English Olympic Games, started by Robert Dover in 1612. As you walk, keep an eye out for grazing sheep and cattle dotting the patchwork quilt of emerald meadows. Your walk concludes as you arrive on foot at your perfectly-sited accommodations, ready to relax and reflect on a day filled with history, culture, and natural beauty.

MEALS: B, L

OVERNIGHT: CHIPPING CAMPDEN

DAILY MILEAGE OPTIONS: SEE CURATED WALKS CHART

DAY 5 »

Bibury / Chedworth

- Stroll through Bibury, "England's most beautiful village," and surrounding small-scale farms
- Explore Chedworth Roman Villa's active archaeological site and newly uncovered mosaic floors

Savor a breakfast of local yogurt, fresh fruits and preserves on warm bread. Your morning walk begins in the village of Bibury. Originally built in the 14th century, it was first a location for the neighboring monasteries to store wool, then its row of weavers' cottages were restored and it's often been referred to as the 'most beautiful village in England'. From Bibury, the walk leads through small-scale farms separated by ancient stone walls and 'kissing gates', with landscapes rich with birds, wildflowers, and butterflies.

Your afternoon explorations take you to Chedworth Roman Villa, which is one of the grandest country houses of 4th century Roman Britain. The valley where Chedworth is located offers cinematic countryside views, with stands of poplar and chestnut trees separating fields where sheep graze and pheasants roam. Your footpath crosses a charming bridge over the River Cohn and passes through the estate which was built seventeen hundred years ago by wealthy Roman Britons. Now, Chedworth is an active archeological site. In 2014, workers uncovered splendid mosaic floors, and state-of-the-art walkways make it possible to get close to these relics. It's a terrific chance to see how excavations are being conducted.

MEALS: B

OVERNIGHT: BATH

DAILY MILEAGE OPTIONS: SEE CURATED WALKS CHART

DAY 6 »

Stonehenge / Bath

- Walk ancient pathways to Stonehenge at dawn for insider access within the stone circle
- Stroll Bath's Roman baths, medieval abbey, and Georgian landmarks like Royal Crescent on a curated walk

Your day begins with an extraordinary 'Only with Classic Journeys' experience. At dawn, your guide leads you along prehistoric footpaths through the misty fields of Salisbury Plain—the very routes once traveled by Bronze Age pilgrims. You walk in peaceful solitude across the plain as the sun rises, arriving on foot at eye level for an exclusive guided visit of Stonehenge before it's open to the 'madding crowds'. And unlike the crowds who arrive later by bus, you'll have the freedom to linger, step close to the towering monoliths, and absorb their extraordinary presence. Your guide brings the site's mysteries to life, sharing how its stones were aligned to the solstice sun and what they reveal about the people who built them more than 4,000 years ago.

Afterward, journey to Bath for a layered historical walk. Start at the Roman Baths, where steaming thermal waters still flow, then admire Bath Abbey's medieval spires. Continue to Georgian landmarks like the Royal Crescent's sweeping crescent of townhouses and Pulteney Bridge's shop-lined arches—a rarity shared only with Florence's Ponte Vecchio. Your guide ties together eras, revealing how Romans, medieval pilgrims, and Jane Austen all shaped this UNESCO city.

MEALS: B, D

OVERNIGHT: BATH

DAILY MILEAGE OPTIONS: SEE CURATED WALKS CHART

DAY 7 »

Bath

- Savor a final English breakfast with time for a morning stroll
- Relax in an optional spa soak in rooftop thermal pools overlooking Bath's skyline

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast at your hotel. You might opt for a final stroll through Bath's Georgian streets, browsing independent boutiques, or indulge in a rooftop thermal spa soak—the city's modern homage to its ancient Roman roots. Depart mid-morning refreshed, carrying memories of curated walks, hidden Cotswolds villages, and Stonehenge's timeless magic.

MEALS: B

DAILY MILEAGE OPTIONS: SEE CURATED WALKS CHART

Tour Hotels



[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.

NIGHTS: 2 nights



[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.

NIGHTS: 2 nights



[Bath Priory Hotel](#)

A luxurious country house nestled within award-winning gardens, The Bath Priory is a stunning hotel near the center of Bath. Enjoy its upscale accommodations, spa, restaurant as well as its charming English hospitality.

NIGHTS: 2 nights

Curated Walks

CONNECT. ON FOOT. AT EYE LEVEL.

Join us to walk the most cinematic footpaths in a region. With thoughtfully curated walks that are about so much more than just counting miles. Yes, it's likely that your Fitbit or Apple watch will buzz when you hit your step count. But you probably won't notice because your soul will be buzzing from the connections you make with the people and place. Each day, we'll offer you one or two walks. Each walk is generally between an hour or two in duration. And our support vehicles are often nearby and add to your flexibility. Choose one or both to curate the right amount of walking for you each day. It's why Forbes magazine calls our tours their 'Luxury Walking Favorite'.

CURATE YOUR OWN MILEAGE OPTIONS EACH DAY

	MINIMUM	AVERAGE	MAXIMUM
Day 1	3	5.5	7.5
Day 2	2.5	5	8.5
Day 3	2	3.5	8
Day 4	2	4	6
Day 5	2	3.5	5.5
Day 6	3	5.5	9
Day 7	*	*	*

*No scheduled walks

ROUTE NOTES

The terrain on this trip includes a mix of paved and cobblestone streets in Oxford, Bath and the Cotswolds villages; as well as well-maintained countryside and riverside trails; and shepherds' paths of compressed dirt and stone. The footpaths offer a selection of level, rolling and hilly terrain with some limited elevation gain and loss.

THE ART OF THE UNPLANNED:

CRAFTING UNFORGETTABLE MOMENTS

We've carefully crafted each day's walking adventures with our expert local guides. Your daily itinerary serves as a well-thought-out plan, and we empower our tour leaders to adapt to unexpected opportunities or challenges. Whether it's an impromptu local invitation or a weather-related change, we're adept at making adjustments. So, while your experience may closely follow the itinerary, it might also include some variations. In essence, we invite you to "expect the unexpected" – knowing that our promise is to provide you the most genuine and authentic walking tours in the world.

Arrival & Departure

→ ARRIVAL DETAILS

LOCATION: Lobby of The Randolph Hotel
CITY: Oxford, England
TIME: 10:30 AM

→ DEPARTURE DETAILS

LOCATION: Lobby of the Bath Priory Hotel
CITY: Bath, England
TIME: 9:00 AM

The Classic Journeys Difference

- ▶ **CURATED WALKS THAT LEAD TO 'ONLY WITH CLASSIC JOURNEYS' EXPERIENCES**
 - Immerse and connect you across cultures as you explore on foot
- ▶ **EXCEPTIONAL LOCAL GUIDES**
 - Bring authentic experiences to life
- ▶ **ENCHANTING ACCOMMODATIONS**
 - Where luxury and local mean you feel at home
- ▶ **EAT LIKE (& WITH) THE LOCALS**
 - Local flavors and time to savor the moments together
- ▶ **SMALL GROUPS, GUARANTEED**
 - Mean deeper, richer experiences while making friends along the way
- ▶ **REGENERATIVE TRAVEL**
 - We take strides to preserve cultures, traditions, and nature

What's Included

- Accommodations for 6 nights
- All breakfasts, 4 lunches and 3 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**
When your group arrives, we whisk you and your bags to your room immediately.
- ▶ **PRIVILEGED ACCESS EVENTS**
One-of-a-kind access to remarkable people, places and activities arranged just for you.

Enhancing Your Journey

We're constantly seeking ways to improve your experience. Count on us to update you with any significant changes before departure. Minor adjustments may be communicated by your guides during the trip to ensure you have the best possible journey.