

# 4 Night Cotswolds Guided Walking Holiday

**Tour Style:** Guided walking

**Destinations:** Cotswolds, United Kingdom & England

**Trip code:** BNBOB-4

1 & 2



## HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

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You get the best of all worlds in the Cotswolds, a designated National Landscape that never fails to enchant with honey-coloured villages, old-fashioned tearooms, historic attractions, and a wealth of walking delights. As a fabulous introduction to the area, this holiday is perfect for those keen to enjoy beautiful scenery and the choice of up to three different-grade daily guided walks around the Windrush Valley, the Slaughters, and parts of the Cotswold Way.

## WHAT'S INCLUDED

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- 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 walking with experienced HF Holidays Leaders

- Choice of up to three guided walks (on walking days)
- All transport to and from walks where necessary
- Easy-to-follow routes, maps, and information in our Discovery Point if you want to explore independently

## HOLIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

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- Discovering the gorgeous Cotswolds countryside on foot
- Exploring postcard-pretty villages with thatched cottages
- Spending time with like-minded people in the great outdoors
- Finding new routes and places to explore with your HF Holidays Leader
- Staying just a skip away from the heart of Bourton-on-the-Water
- Relaxing at Harrington House, our Grade II-listed country house

## ITINERARY VERSION 2

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### Day 1: Arrival Day

Enjoy a complimentary cream tea on arrival, served from 4.30pm.

### Day 2: Bourton To Cold Aston

#### Option 1 - Bourton To Cold Aston

**Distance:** 6½ miles (10.5km)

**Ascent:** 550 feet (160m)

**In summary:** This walk leaves Bourton-on-the-Water on the Windrush and Gloucestershire Ways to arrive in Cold Aston. A lovely village arranged around a green and a sycamore tree. The Plough Inn is an ideal place for some refreshment. The walk continues across fields and around farms on the Sabrina Way and Monarch's Way back to Bourton-on-the-water.

**Highlight:** Do look around at various times for some super views towards Little Rissington.

#### Option 2 - Cold Aston And Clapton

**Distance:** 8½ miles (13.5km)

**Ascent:** 600 feet (180m)

**In summary:** This walk leaves Bourton-on-the-Water on the Windrush and Gloucestershire Ways to arrive in Cold Aston. A lovely village arranged around a green and a sycamore tree. The Plough Inn is an ideal place for some refreshment. The walk continues across fields and around farms on the Sabrina Way. The route then goes to Clapton on the Hill, before descending down through Marshmouth Farm and back into Bourton.

**Highlight:** The lovely church at Clapton on the Hill.

#### Option 3 - Cold Aston, Notgrove And Turkdean

**Distance:** 12miles (19km)

**Ascent:** 1,100 feet (280m)

**In summary:** This walk leaves Bourton-on-the-Water on the Windrush and Gloucestershire Ways to arrive in Cold Aston. A lovely village arranged around a green and a sycamore tree. The Plough Inn is an ideal place for

some refreshment then we continue to Notgrove, followed by Turkdean, another lovely village. Then back to Cold Aston on the Macmillan Way before turning off on Monarch's Way back to Bourton.

**Highlight:** Explore picturesque Notgrove with its Manor house and beautiful church.

## Day 3: Around Winchcombe

### Option 1 - Toddington To Winchcombe

**Distance:** 6½ miles (10.5km)

**Total ascent:** 450 feet (140m)

**In summary:** Walk through gently rolling countryside, passing a heritage railway, ancient churches, and the ruined Hailes Abbey, before ending the day at the interesting Cotswold town of Winchcombe.

**Highlight:** The ruins of Hailes Abbey. Richard Earl of Cornwall, founded the Abbey in 1246, to thank God after he survived a shipwreck.

### Option 2 - Winchcombe Circular

**Distance:** 8½ miles (13.5km)

**Ascent:** 1,000 feet (320m)

**In summary:** Enjoy the views over the far reaching Evesham Vale, before passing Hailes Abbey and following the Cotswold Way to end at Winchcombe.

**Highlight:** The little chapel of ease at Farmcote.

### Option 3 - Langley Hill, Cleeve Hill & Belas Knap

**Distance:** 10½ miles (17km)

**Ascent:** 1,450 feet (440m)

**In summary:** Ascend Langley Hill with views out towards the Vale of Evesham and the Malvern hills, before continuing on to Cleeve hill, the highest point in the Cotswolds, with stunning views of Winchcombe and Sudeley castle in the valley below.

**Highlight:** Belas Knap - a Neolithic long barrow situated on Cleeve hill.

## Day 4: Following The Monarch's Way Through The Cotswolds

### Option 1 - Broadwell To Bourton

**Distance:** 6½ miles (10.5km)

**Total ascent:** 550 feet (160m)

**In summary:** A walk along the Monarch's Way from the village of Broadwell to Bourton-on-the-Water. We'll stop to explore Stow-on-the-Wold and the delightful village of Lower Slaughter.

**Highlight:** Timeless Lower Slaughter was voted the 'most romantic street in Britain'. With its idyllic cottages and watermill. This is delightful spot to stop and relax.

## Option 2 - Longborough To Bourton

**Distance:** 9 miles (14km)

**Total ascent:** 700 feet (220m)

**In summary:** This walk starts in the village of Longborough. We'll head first to Stow-on-the-Wold, then on to Lower Slaughter and Bourton-on-the-Water.

**Highlight:** Stow-on-the-Wold is the highest town in the Cotswolds. Explore the market square, once the site of the town's annual sheep fairs.

## Option 3 - Moreton-in-Marsh To Bourton

**Distance:** 11½ miles (18.5km)

**Total ascent:** 900 feet (280m)

**In summary:** Follow the Monarch's Way through gently rolling countryside. Starting from Moreton-in-Marsh our route takes us through Stow-on-the-Wold and Lower Slaughter back to Bourton.

**Highlight:** Our walk follows the Monarch's Way - the escape route of Charles II to Shoreham and France after his defeat at the battle of Worcester in 1651.

## Day 5: Departure Day

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before making your way home.

## ACCOMMODATION

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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.

## Country House Accommodation

### Rooms

Designed with your comfort in mind, Harrington House has 27 well-appointed guest rooms available in three categories: Classic, Premium, and Superior.

**Classic Rooms** are comfortable en-suite guest rooms, ideal for a peaceful night's sleep. Amenities include free Wi-Fi, tea and coffee-making facilities, toiletries (hand wash, shampoo, and shower gel), and a TV.

**Premium Rooms** are more spacious en-suite guest rooms\*. Amenities include free Wi-Fi, tea and coffee-making facilities, toiletries (hand wash, shampoo, body lotion, shower gel), and a 32-inch TV. Extras include bathrobes, slippers, and comfortable mattresses.

**Superior Rooms** are even more spacious en-suite guest rooms offering upgraded views of the surroundings\*. Amenities include free Wi-Fi, tea and coffee-making facilities, toiletries (hand wash, shampoo, body lotion, shower gel), and a 32-inch TV. Extras include bathrobes, slippers, and comfortable mattresses.

**We love:** Rooms 1 and 2 on the first floor for their master bedrooms, original Palladian design, and lovely views. Room 24 in the Windrush Cottage is a large twin room with its own private garden.

The **Choose Your Room** service is available at our UK country houses, allowing you the option of choosing and confirming a specific room for an extra charge of £30 per room. This is subject to availability. Upgrade supplements apply.

### Check in & check out

You are welcome to check in from **4:00pm at the earliest**. On arrival, you'll enjoy a complimentary cream tea and get to meet your fellow guests, our HF Holidays Leaders, and the rest of the friendly team.

On the day of departure, we kindly ask all guests to check out by **10:00am**. You'll be asked to settle your bill prior to leaving. You may, of course, make a charitable donation to our HF Holidays Pathways Fund if you wish. Please note that we only accept card payments.

### Room supplements

Superior	Premium single	Premium double/twin	Choose your room
£25 pppn	£20 pppn	£20 pppn	£30 per room

\*Views and layout reflect each properties unique character and location

## About Your Stay

### 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, the HF Holidays Big Pub Quiz 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 Leaders host guided walking information briefings before dinner on arrival days. This is followed by a group Walks Talk for information on the following day's walking delights (held before dinner every evening). Self-guided walking guests are, of course, welcome.

### The walking day

Prior to setting off on 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.

## Food & Drink

Led by experienced chefs, we serve a wide range of dishes made with fresh and seasonal ingredients. We always aim to source the best produce available and use home-grown herbs and vegetables from our own gardens whenever possible. Additionally, we have a licensed bar with beers, soft drinks, and a superb selection of spirits. Full-board comes as standard and includes a cream tea on arrival and a hearty breakfast

on departure day.

HF Holidays understands the importance of managing allergens effectively to ensure food is safe for guests with food allergies. Whilst we are always able to confidently inform guests which allergens are present in our ingredients and dishes, we are unable to guarantee absolute freedom from the 14 main allergens in our kitchens. Vegetarian and vegan menu choices are available. If you have allergies, food intolerances, or any special dietary requirements, please inform our reservation team at the time of booking.

## Accessibility

For accessibility and assistance information, please contact our expert team on [020 3974 8865](tel:02039748865) or view the accessibility information online for [Harrington House](#)

## TRAVEL DETAILS

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### Address

Harrington House  
Sherborne Street  
Bourton-on-the-Water  
Gloucestershire GL54 2BY

Tel: [+44 \(0\)1451 821213](tel:+44(0)1451821213)

### By Train

The nearest station is Moreton-in-Marsh.

However, the nearest mainline station is at Cheltenham Spa.

Check National Rail for train times and routes.

### By Taxi

From Moreton-in-Marsh, it's a nine-mile journey taking 20 to 30 minutes.

From Cheltenham Spa, it's an 18-mile journey taking 35 to 45 minutes.

For pricing, please contact Limozena taxis directly.

### Limozena

You can pre-book a taxi from our recommended company, Limozena\*. We recommend booking your taxi at least seven days in advance by contacting:

Tel: [+44 \(0\)1451 820972](tel:+44(0)1451820972)

Email: [denwalmsley@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:denwalmsley@yahoo.co.uk)

A return journey can be arranged on your behalf by the HF Holidays House Manager at Harrington House.

\*Limozena is not owned or managed by HF Holidays.

### By Bus

The 801 bus goes from Moreton-in-Marsh to Bourton-on-the-Water and takes about 30 minutes. Alight next to the Edinburgh Woollen Mill Shop from where it's a short walk to Harrington House.

## By Car

There's free car parking at Harrington House if you decide to drive.

### Directions

From the A429 take the road into the centre of Bourton-on-the-Water. At the war memorial by the village green, turn into Sherborne Street. Cross the narrow bridge and continue to just before the road forks. You'll find Harrington House on the left.

## By Air

The nearest airport is London Heathrow Airport.

### From the airport

Take the train to London Paddington station from where there are direct trains to Moreton-in-Marsh, which takes just over two hours. Then you can get the bus or a taxi to Bourton-on-the-Water.

## LOCAL AREA

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Whether you're enjoying a guided or self-guided walking holiday, there's always the opportunity to linger for longer. Here's our pick of the very best things to see and do within easy travelling distance of Harrington House.

### Bourton-on-the-Water

For chocolate-box cottages, old-fashioned tearooms, and low-arched stone bridges that span the River Windrush, this Cotswolds town is only 100 metres away. Highlights include the Cotswold Motoring Museum, the Model Village, and Birdland Wildlife Park & Gardens.

### Chipping Campden

A 30-minute drive north of Bourton-on-the-Water, this small market town was once at the heart of the Arts and Crafts Movement. A not-to-be missed highlight is the National Trust-owned Hidcote Manor Gardens in the nearby village of Hidcote Bartrim.

### Bibury

Described by William Morris as 'the most beautiful village in England' for good reason, this charming town is just a 20-minute drive away. Don't miss the National Trust-owned Arlington Row – England's most photographed street.

### Broadway

A 30-minute drive away, this lovely town is best known for its horse chestnut tree-lined High Street, Broadway Tower, Broadway Museum & Art Gallery, and Lygon Arms Hotel where Oliver Cromwell spent the night before the Battle of Worcester in 1651.

### Cotswold Farm Park - Home Of Adam Henson

Established in 1971 by Joe Henson, father of farmer and BBC's Countryfile presenter Adam, this fun-filled park is just a 10-minute drive away. There's over 50 flocks and herds of farm animals, including Gloucestershire Old Spot Pigs and Highland cattle.

## Stratford-Upon-Avon

The birthplace of William Shakespeare, this attractive market town is a 40-minute drive away. Highlights include The Swan Theatre and the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Shakespeare's Birthplace, Shakespeare's Distillery, and Anne Hathaway's Cottage.

## Blenheim Palace

Home to the 12th Duke of Marlborough and the birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill, this designated UNESCO World Heritage Site is set in extensive parkland. Don't miss the famous Marlborough Tapestries (the 'Victories Series') in the Green Writing Room.

## Cotswold Wildlife Park And Gardens

A 25-minute drive away, this 160-acre park is home to over 260 species of animals. It also has one of the largest reptile collections in the UK; expect to see crocodiles, lizards, frogs, snakes, such as green anacondas, and venomous snakes including black mambas.

## Cheltenham

A 25-minute drive away, this Gloucestershire spa town is most famous for its horseracing, festivals and Regency heritage. Highlights include the award-winning Pittville Park for its magnificent pump room and Montpellier for its independent boutiques.

## Gloucester

Home to one of the UK's most stunning cathedrals, this lovely city on the River Severn is a 35-minute drive away. Don't miss the Gloucester Docks, Robinswood Hill Country Park, Soldiers of Gloucestershire Museum, and the Gloucester Quays.

## Gloucestershire Warwickshire Steam Railway

This volunteer-operated and lovingly-restored steam and diesel heritage railway uses part of the former Great Western Railway's main line route from Birmingham to Cheltenham (it used to run via Stratford-upon-Avon). It is just a 30-minute drive away.

## Oxford

An hour's drive away, this famous university city offers a wealth of historic attractions and museums. Some of the city's best vantage points can be found at St. Martin's Tower, the University Church of St. Mary the Virgin, and St. Michael Northgate.

## USEFUL HOLIDAY INFORMATION

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### Essential Information

The UK has a famously unpredictable climate so it's best to be prepared for weather that's sunny one minute and raining the next. To make it easier, here's a list of items you should consider packing.

#### Essentials

- Suitable footwear such as waterproof walking boots that provide ankle support and good grip
  - Waterproof and windproof jacket
  - Comfortable clothing (jeans & waterproof capes are not suitable)
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- Mid-layer(s) to keep you warm. Fleeeces make a good choice
- Waterproof overtrousers
- Gloves and a warm hat
- Rucksack with waterproof liner
- Flask for hot drinks
- Water bottle (at least 1 litre capacity)
- Sunscreen
- UV sunglasses

### Recommended

- Several base layers (long-sleeve or short-sleeve)
- Cushioned walking socks to avoid blisters
- First aid kit, including plasters and insect repellent
- Sit mat
- Waterproof pouch for valuables
- Rubbish bag (remember to always leave no trace)
- Wallet/purse
- Camera
- First-aid kit

## Safety On Your Holiday

Walks may be changed for safety reasons and are subject to a maximum and minimum number of guests.

Leaders always consider the safety of the group as a whole, and may need to alter or curtail the walk if the conditions dictate. Your leader may refuse to accept a guest while clothing, equipment or behaviour is unsuitable. In the event of a problem all leaders carry a mobile phone, first aid kit, group shelter, spare maps and a compass.

**Please note:** If you choose to leave the group your leader is no longer responsible for you.

If you have a particular health condition or disability please put this on your guest registration form. This information will be confidential to your leaders and the house manager, but leaders do need to take account of any issues when planning walks. Please carry a copy of these trip notes with you, or note down the contact phone number for your accommodation (details in the travel section) should you need them in case of emergency.

## TRIP NOTE VALIDITY

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These Trip Notes are valid based on the date printed at the bottom of the page. They will occasionally be updated post booking and pre-departure. We will send you the latest trip notes prior to departure through a link in your pre departure documents or we can send you a copy in the post if preferred.

In booking this trip you should be confident in your ability to participate in all activities described in these Trip Notes. If you have any doubt about your suitability you should call HF Holidays and ask to speak to one of the team about this itinerary.

The information in these Trip Notes is given in good faith. Where differences exist between the Trip Notes and our current brochure, the Trip Notes supersede the brochure. All holidays can be subject to unexpected changes; so please be prepared to be flexible where necessary. At times, it may not be possible to follow the itinerary as planned due to weather conditions, political, physical or other factors. In these circumstances we will make the best possible alternative arrangements to maintain the integrity of the original itinerary.

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