

7-Night Cotswolds Gentle Walking Holiday

Tour Style: Gentle Walks

Destinations: Cotswolds & England

Trip code: BNBEW-7

Trip Walking Grade: 1



HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

Gentle hills, picture-postcard villages and tempting tea shops make this quintessentially English countryside perfect for walking. You'll discover glorious golden stone villages with thatched cottages, mansion houses, pastoral countryside and quiet country lanes.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- High quality en-suite accommodation in our country house
- Full board from dinner upon arrival to breakfast on departure day
- 5 days guided walking; 1 free day
- Use of our comprehensive Discovery Point
- Choice of up to three guided walks each walking day
- The services of HF Holidays Walking Leaders

HOLIDAYS HIGHLIGHTS

- Admire the gentle hills, picture-postcard villages and tempting tea shops make this quintessentially English countryside perfect for walking
- You'll discover glorious golden stone villages with thatched cottages, mansion houses, pastoral countryside and quiet country lanes
- Let our leaders bring classic routes and offbeat areas to life
- In the evenings relax in our country house where you can share a drink and re-live the days adventures

TRIP SUITABILITY

This trip is graded Activity Level 1, This easier variation of our best-selling Guided Walking holidays is the perfect way to enjoy a gentle exploration of the Cotswolds. The choice of three guided walks of 3 or 4 miles.

ITINERARY

Day 1: Arrival Day

You're welcome to check in from 4pm onwards.

Day 2: The Slaughters And The Windrush Valley

Option 1 - The Lower Slaughter

Distance: 4 miles (6.5km)

Ascent: 100 feet (40m)

In Summary: We start by following the Monarch's Way before crossing the Windrush valley passing some of the quarry lakes to Salmonsbury Camp and Bourton.

Highlight: At the end of your walk there is plenty of time to explore Bourton-on-the-Water. Enjoy a pint in one of the pubs, visit the shops, or find a bench beside the River Windrush and soak up this charming rural village.

Option 2 - Around The Slaughters

Distance: 6 miles (10.5km)

Ascent: 400 feet (80m)

In Summary:: On this circular walk from Bourton we visit the pretty villages of Lower and Upper Slaughter following the river Eye, before returning to Bourton via Salmonsbury Camp.

Highlight: The twin villages of Upper and Lower Slaughter are just a couple of miles' walk from Bourton-on-the-Water. The River Eye flows through these most picturesque of villages, creating a picture-postcard scene.

Option 3 - Along The Windrush Valley

Distance: 7½ miles (11.5km)

Total ascent: 560 feet (180m)

In Summary: We follow the Monarch's Way to Clapton-on-the-Hill; we then take the route across the valley to Little Rissington with its 'plague church'. We return via the quarry lakes to Bourton.

Highlight: Visit the 'plague church' at Little Rissington with its memorial window to the Red Arrows and the graves of those killed at the nearby RAF Flying School.

Day 3: Broadway

Option 1 - Fish Hill To Broadway

Distance: 3 miles (5km)

Ascent: 140 feet (40m)

In Summary: Starting at Fish Hill we follow a gentle walk along the Cotswold Way with time to visit Broadway Tower. Then descending to spend time exploring Broadway.

Highlight: Broadway Tower was the brainchild of the great 18th Century landscape designer, Capability Brown. His vision was carried out for George William 6th Earl of Coventry with the help of renowned architect James Wyatt and completed in 1798.

Option 2 - Snowhill & Broadway

Distance: 7 miles (11.5km)

Ascent: 650 feet (200m) of ascent.

In Summary: From Ford we walk to the pretty village of Snowhill and then take field paths to Broadway with its beautiful cottages of mellow Cotswold stone.

Highlight: Our walk ends in the ever-popular showpiece village of Broadway, with its beautiful cottages of mellow Cotswold stone.

Option 3 - Temple Guiting To Broadway

Distance: 9 miles (14.5km)

Ascent: 750 feet (220m)

In Summary:: After walking to Temple Guiting we walk north following the River Windrush near to its source. We then follow the same route as the Easier Walk from Ford.

Highlight: Take time to explore delightful Snowhill with its timeless church and National Trust manor house.

Day 4: Free Day

[Discover more about Harrington House and the local area](#) for ideas on how to fill your free day.

Day 5: Chedworth Roman Villa

Option 1 - Hampnett To Chedworth

Distance: 4 miles (6.5km)

Ascent: 450 feet (140m)

In Summary: We start this walk by exploring the beautiful 12th century church of Hampnett. It has the most astonishing ornate patterns of mock-medieval stencilling all over the inside. We then follow the Macmillan Way to the small rural parish of Yanworth. Finally we arrive at the Roman Villa at Chedworth.

Highlight: St George's church in Hampnett with its beautiful Victorian stencilling.

Option 2 - Northleach To Chedworth

Distance: 5½ miles (8.5km)

Ascent: 600 feet (180m)

In Summary: The market town of Northleach is our start. Explore the town and its impressive church of St Peter and St Paul one of the finest examples of the Cotswold perpendicular style. We then head towards Hampnett, and follow the same route as the Gentle Walk to Chedworth Villa.

Highlight: Our walk finishes at the Chedworth Roman Villa. Now managed by the National Trust, this is one of England's best preserved Roman sites, with fine mosaics dating from AD120-400.

Option 3 - Farmington To Chedworth

Distance: 8 miles (13km)

Ascent: 800 feet (260m)

In Summary: Starting in the small village of Farmington, we follow the Diamond Way south passing the lake to Upper End, turning west to Northleach. Once there we follow the same route as the Easier Walk.

Highlight: Northleach's ancient Market Place and its half-timbered buildings dating from the 15th and 16th Centuries.

Day 6: Hailes Abbey & Sudeley Castle

Option 1 - Hailes Abbey To Sudeley Castle

Distance: 2½ miles (4.5km)

Ascent: 200 feet (60m)

In Summary: We have time to explore Hailes Abbey and the church before a gentle walk to Winchcombe.

Views of the heritage steam railway before arriving at Sudeley Castle.

Highlight: Sudeley Castle - steeped in history, the castle was once home and is now the burial place of Queen Catherine Parr, one of Henry VIII's many wives.

Option 2 - Toddington To Sudeley Castle

Distance: 6½ miles (10½km)

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 and finishing at Sudeley Castle.

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

Option 3 - Winchcombe To Sudeley Castle

Distance: 7½ miles (12km)

Ascent: 950 feet (300m)

In Summary: Enjoy the views over the far reaching Evesham Vale, before passing Hailes Abbey and following the Cotswold Way back to Winchcombe and finishing at Sudeley castle.

Highlight: The little chapel of ease at Farmcote is a hidden gem.

Day 7: Chipping Campden And The Cotswolds

Option 1 - Along The Diamond Way To Chipping Campden

Distance: 3½ miles (5½km)

Total ascent: 150 feet (40m)

In Summary: We walk along part of the North Cotswolds Diamond Way, crossing undulating farmland and woods, dipping into valleys, before reaching the picture postcard honey-coloured houses of Chipping Campden, and it's many tea shops!

Highlight: Chipping Campden is another fine market town whose wealth derived from affluent wool merchants in the 14th and 15th centuries.

Option 2 - Ilmington To Chipping Campden

Distance: 6½ miles (10½km)

Total ascent: 650 feet (200m)

In Summary: From Ilmington we cross the ridge of Pig Lane before descending past the 18th century Foxcote House, and through Ebrington to join the Monarch's Way into Chipping Campden.

Highlight: Hunt out the 11 mice carved into the pews in Ilmington's fine Norman church.

Option 3 - Hidcote To Chipping Campden

Distance: 9 miles (14½km)

Total ascent: 900 feet (300m)

In Summary: Starting at the National Trust's Hidcote Manor with its spectacular gardens, we walk across country to Ilmington and follow the route of the Easier Walk into Chipping Campden.

Highlight: Hidcote gardens are designed in an Arts & Crafts style and are famed for its colourful outdoor 'rooms'; each planted in a different style.

Day 8: Departure Day

Enjoy a leisurely breakfast before making your way home.

ACCOMMODATION

Harrington House

In one of the prettiest spots in the Cotswolds, Harrington House provides a stylish escape in the form of a traditional country retreat, with the trimmings and flourishes you'd expect. All set in a stately Georgian house that mirrors the mellow architectural styles of the Cotswolds and retains many of its original features; the most breathtaking is the sunny walled garden, surrounded by attractive landscaped gardens. As well as 29 bedrooms, two lounges, a cosy bar and pleasant dining room, there are further feathers in this handsome house's hat. Quintessential English countryside, described by JB Priestly as, 'the most English and least spoiled of all our countryside', is just a short stroll away with pretty villages such as Chipping Campden and the Slaughters, rolling landscapes and classic trails from the Cotswold Way to the Gloucestershire Way and Monarch Way waiting for you to discover them.

Matchless Country House Accommodation

Accommodation Info

Need To Know

Important Covid-19 Steps We Have Taken For Guest Safety: Please Read

As we slowly reopen in the wake of the Coronavirus lockdown, our country house stays are set to be organised a little differently; extra steps have been taken to keep our guests, house teams and leaders safe while we return to action. We ask all our guests to respect the measures put in place.

Initially the overall capacity of the houses has been reduced. Guests must wear face coverings in public spaces. To adhere to social distancing guidelines, we have taken the necessary steps to space out furniture and seating in public areas. In addition, a one-way system will be in place around the house. Adequate signage will be displayed to support the direction of travel to be followed by guests and house teams.

As a temporary measure, we will not be servicing rooms during a stay. Extra tea, coffee, milk, and toiletries will be made available on request for all guests. It is recommended that guests bring their own toiletries for the duration of their stay. We have removed all non-essential and reusable items from our rooms for the meantime

including cushions, hairdryers, bathrobes, bed throws, and printed materials to reduce the number of items that need to be disinfected. Hairdryers will be available on request. Clean towels will be available on request. We will though be increasing the frequency of cleaning in our public areas providing particular attention to frequently touched items including door handles and handrails.

For now, there is no cream tea on arrival day. We have also adapted our food offering to remove all buffets and open food items. Different sittings may be required for breakfast and dinner due to the occupancy and size of the house. Picnic lunches will now be pre-ordered the night before from an order form in the room. The bar in each country house will be open, and we will be offering a table service for drinks. At this time there is no, or only a very limited, evening social programme available. Outdoor swimming pools at those houses that have them will re-open throughout August, except at Freshwater Bay House, where the pool will remain closed for 2020. Indoor swimming pools will remain closed.

For more information and to see all the steps taken, [visit our page on how house stays will be adapted](#).

Rooms

Tea & coffee-making facilities, TV, Hairdryer, Toiletries, Wi-Fi

Stay in one of the main building's beautifully presented rooms or in the adjacent cottages. With 26 bright and airy bedrooms, Harrington House has plenty of space and there's a range of Good, Better and Best Rooms to choose from: for a stylish stay opt for rooms 1 or 2, both large master bedrooms located on the first floor that come complete with some of the original Palladian features dating back to 1730, pretty feature wallpaper and views out of the front of the building of classic Cotswolds scenery. Alternatively, for a romantic hideaway, plump for Room 23 in the Windrush Cottage and toast your good taste in the private garden that adjoins this large twin room.

All 'Good' rooms are ensuite and furnished to a high standard. There are also several 'Better' and 'Best' Rooms that are either larger or have a desirable view, a more luxurious mattress and larger television – upgrade your stay for just an extra £15-25 per person per night. You can choose a specific room for an extra £30 per room, subject to availability. Upgrade supplements still apply.

Facilities

Free Wi-Fi, boot room and drying room, attractive garden, multi-purpose activity room, lounge, library and board games to borrow

After a day ambling through the Cotswolds, come back to the house and its specially tailored walkers' facilities. Relax by sitting in the gardens or having a game of croquet on the lawn. Retire to either of the two lounges or climb the sweeping stately staircase to the very top of the house where there's an observatory looking out across the rooftops of the village. Then pop in to the snug bar for a pint of local ale and a chin wag with fellow guests about their discoveries.

Food & Drink

As at all our country houses, holidays are full board, from afternoon tea served as a welcome treat through that evening's meal to a hearty breakfast on the day of departure. Lunch is a chance to stock up on our famous picnic snacks. Food at Harrington House is hearty and has a strong emphasis on ingredients from the area and seasonal produce. Once a week the dining room hosts a Local Food Night, when, over a sociable evening, you might tuck in to Cotswold leg of lamb, Bibury rainbow trout and a selection of Gloucestershire cheeses, accompanied with Harrington House homemade chutneys.

Accessibility

For accessibility and assistance information, please contact our expert team on 020 3974 8865

TRAVEL DETAILS

Our address is: Harrington House, Sherborne Street, Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire, GL54 2BY
Tel: [01451 821213](tel:01451821213)

By Train:

The nearest railway station is Moreton-in-Marsh. However, the nearest mainline station is at Cheltenham Spa which may be more convenient. For train times and route planning by train visit www.nationalrail.co.uk or phone 03457 48 49 50.

By Taxi:

From Moreton-in-Marsh station a taxi takes approximately 20 minutes and costs £22 if pre-booked. From Cheltenham Spa station a taxi takes around 35 minutes and costs £42 if pre-booked. Please note these are 2020 prices relevant to a 4-seat taxi. 8-seater taxis will be more expensive.

Limozena, our current recommended taxi company, can confirm prices on booking and they will arrange shared taxis wherever possible. To book your taxi please phone or email at least 7-days in advance:

Limozena*
Tel: +44 (0) 1451 820972
Email: denwalmsley@yahoo.co.uk

The return taxi journey can be arranged on your behalf by the Harrington House Manager.

*Limozena is not owned or managed by HF Holidays

By Bus:

From Moreton-in-Marsh station catch the 801 bus to Bourton-on-the-Water, from where it is a short walk to our Country House. Alight next to the Edinburgh Woollen Mill Shop. Cross the road to the war memorial and continue across the bridge. Follow this road for 150 metres until the road forks. Harrington House is on the left.

By Car:

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 for approximately 100yds. Just before the road forks, Harrington House is on the left. Look out for our sign. A car park is available in the grounds with free parking.

Travelling From Overseas

For most guests, travelling to London Heathrow airport is the most convenient option.

From Heathrow first take the train to London Paddington station. From here there are direct trains to Moreton-in-Marsh. It's a relatively straightforward journey - just over 2 hours. See www.nationalrail.co.uk for train times.

From Moreton-in-Marsh you can travel on to Bourton-on-the-Water by bus or taxi (see above).

LOCAL AREA

Bourton-on-the-Water is situated at the heart of the Cotswolds, a beautiful area of rolling green hills and attractive stone towns and villages.

Harrington House is located in a quiet street, just 100 metres from the centre of Bourton. This is one of the most

popular villages in the Cotswolds, frequently busy with visitors. The River Windrush winds its way through the central village green and is crossed by a series of attractive stone bridges.

Bourton-on-the-Water is a popular destination in its own right with its specialist shops and attractive village green. Local attractions include the motor museum, model village and Birdland wildlife park, all within easy walking distance.

The village has a good range of facilities including a small supermarket, post office, newsagent, pubs and bank.

During your stay at Harrington House you may enjoy visiting the following places of interest:

Chipping Campden

The mellow market town of Chipping Campden, about 30 minutes' drive north of Bourton-on-the-Water, is one of the most visited towns in the Cotswolds.

Hidcote Manor Gardens

Owned by the National Trust, Hidcote is a small manor house with an exceptional garden designed in the Arts and Crafts style. Around 35 minutes' north from Bourton-on-the-Water. www.nationaltrust.org.uk/hidcote

Broadway

Considered as one of the most beautiful villages in Britain it is easy to see why so many visitors are attracted to Broadway. Don't let this put you off; Broadway is still worth a visit. To get away from the crowds, consider a walk to Broadway Tower for stunning views of the Vale of Evesham. Around 30 minutes' drive from Bourton.

Stratford-upon-Avon

Famous for its Shakespeare connections, Stratford is an attractive town spanning the River Avon. Of particular interest are the Royal Shakespeare Theatre and the Shakespeare Birthplace Museum. Around 40 minutes' drive from Bourton. www.rsc.org.uk or www.shakespeare.org.uk

Blenheim Palace

Blenheim Palace is one of the grandest and best-known stately homes in Britain. It sits in extensive parkland and is also famous as the ancestral home of Winston Churchill. www.blenheimpalace.com

Cheltenham

The fine Regency spa town of Cheltenham has an excellent range of shops and facilities. Cheltenham is around 25 minutes' drive from Bourton, and can also be reached by an hourly local bus.

Gloucester

The Cathedral city of Gloucester is about 35 minutes' drive to the west of Bourton. The fine Norman cathedral is well worth visiting, as is the National Waterways Museum. www.gloucestercathedral.org.uk or www.canalrivertrust.org.uk

Gloucestershire & Warwickshire Railway

Ride the steam railway through attractive Cotswold countryside from Cheltenham to Toddington about 30 minutes' drive from Bourton. Now restored, this was once the Great Western main line to Birmingham. www.gwsr.com

Oxford

The famous university city of Oxford is about an hour's drive from Bourton-on-the-Water. You may wish to stroll through the historic colleges or visit the Ashmolean Museum. www.ashmolean.org

Hidcote Gardens image ©National Trust Images/Jonathan Buckley

USEFUL HOLIDAY INFORMATION

What To Bring

Essential Equipment

- Rucksack with a waterproof liner,
- Thermos flask for hot drink,
- Water bottle (at least 1 litre)
- Spare high-energy food such as a chocolate bar.
- Small torch
- First aid kit – your leader's first aid kit doesn't contain any medication or blister kits (such as Compeed)

Optional Equipment

- Walking poles are useful, particularly for descents
- Insect repellent,
- Sun hat,
- Sunglasses
- Sun cream
- Camera

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.

HOW TO BOOK

When you're ready to book, you can choose to **book online** or book **over the phone**. Our website offers secure online booking for our holidays, is available 24/7, and offers more in-depth information about all our holidays. If you prefer to call us, our experienced and knowledgeable team are available to answer any specific questions you have and can offer guidance as to which holiday is best suited to your needs.

Our office is open: Monday to Friday: 9am – 7pm Saturday: 9am – 1pm Sunday & Bank Holiday Monday: closed

PAYING YOUR DEPOSIT

To secure the holiday of your choice, you will need to pay a deposit: UK & European Holidays: £150 per person and Worldwide Holidays: £250 per person. You can pay your deposit by debit or credit card with no additional card fees charged or make an online BACS payment directly into HF's bank account, please see details under BACS payments. You can also pay your deposit by cheque within seven days of booking. Cheques should be made payable to 'HF Holidays Ltd' with your booking reference / Order ID on the back.

NON-MEMBER FEE

Non-members can join our holidays by paying a Non-Member's fee of £20 per person per holiday. Alternatively, full membership is available from £100 – visit hfholidays.co.uk/membership for details.

BACS PAYMENTS

Please quote your booking reference / Order ID when you make your payment online: Bank Name: Svenska Handelsbanken AB (publ) Account Name: HF Holidays Ltd Account Number: 35923304 Sort Code: 40-51-62 IBAN: GB92HAND40516235923304 Swift / Bic Code: HANDGB22

Once we have received your booking and deposit, we will send a confirmation invoice to the lead name. Please check this carefully. For bookings 'with flights' it is essential that the names on your booking confirmation invoice match those on your passport for bookings overseas. Please advise us immediately of any errors. Any name changes after the balance of your holiday has been paid will be subject to a fee levied by the airline.

MANAGE MY BOOKINGS

Payments can also be made through the Manage My Booking function on our website. Click on the link at the top of our homepage. This is available to all customers who provide an email address at the time of booking.

YOUR FINAL BALANCE

The balance is due 10 weeks before departure. As with paying your deposit, you can pay your final balance by debit or credit card, make an online BACS payment directly into HF's bank account or pay by cheque.

TRAVEL INSURANCE

Travel insurance is an important part of any booking and essential for one of our holidays. HF Holidays works with specialist. Insurance Brokers Campbell Irvine Direct. For more information or to obtain a quote call them on 01702 427 236 or visit hfholidays.co.uk/insurance

PEACE OF MIND

ATOL:

The air holidays and flights in this brochure are ATOL-protected, since we hold an Air Travel Organiser's Licence granted by the Civil Aviation Authority. Our ATOL number is ATOL 710. In the unlikely event of our insolvency, the CAA will ensure that you are not stranded abroad and will arrange to refund any money you have paid us for advance bookings. For further information visit the ATOL website atol.org.uk

MEMBER OF ABTOT:

HF Holidays is a member of ABTOT (The Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited) which provides financial protection under the Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations 1992 for HF Holidays Ltd and in the event of their insolvency, protection is provided for the following: 1. non-flight packages commencing in and returning to the UK; 2. non-flight packages commencing and returning to a country other than the UK; 3. flight inclusive packages that commence outside of the UK and Republic of Ireland, which are sold to customers outside of the UK and Republic of Ireland. 1, 2 and 3 provides for a refund in the event you have not yet travelled. 1 and 3 provides for repatriation. Please note that bookings made outside the UK and Republic of Ireland are only protected by ABTOT when purchased directly with HF Holidays Ltd.

TRIP NOTE VALIDITY

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.

PRICE GUARANTEE

We promise that our earliest published prices will always be the best and if we reduce our holiday price after your booking has been confirmed, we will pass this reduction on to you. Our price promise applies if any subsequent offer price is for an identical holiday, duration, location and date and does not cover any optional extras, flights or additional services.

Document produced: 22-10-2020

