

## 1776 – The 250th Anniversary of American Independence – Guided



### Trip Overview

This journey traces the story from London's imperial heart to the ancestral home of the Washington family, before settling into the timeless calm of the Cotswolds, where honey-stone villages, river walks, and elegant manor house stays provide the setting for a story that changed the world. History, beautifully told, with just a touch of good humour between allies sitting across the pond. you'll discover subtle nods to 1776 etched into bridges and clock towers, gentle reminders that history lingers in the most unexpected places. And if you happen to spend the Fourth of July here? Even better. There's no more charming way to celebrate independence than with a glass of English sparkling wine in a Cotswold garden, reflecting on how it all turned out rather well in the end.

### Highlights

- ☆ American History in London
- ☆ George Washington's ancestral home of Sulgrave Manor
- ☆ 1776 connections in the Cotswolds
- ☆ Two nights at an elegant Cotswold country hotel
- ☆ Blenheim Palace World Heritage Site

### Inclusions

- ✓ Professional guide
- ✓ Private transfers
- ✓ All entry as indicated on the itinerary
- ✓ Breakfast, Lunches and Dinners

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## Day 1 – Londo: Britain and the Road to Revolution



Your journey begins in London, where the story of American independence has its British roots. After arriving and settling into your hotel at Paddington, head out to explore the capital's historic heart. In Westminster, the great institutions of Crown and Parliament set the stage for 18th-century imperial policy. St Paul's Cathedral stands as a symbol of Britain's growing global power, while in the City of London, the financial machinery of empire shaped trade, taxation and colonial governance. You'll also see the exterior of Benjamin Franklin's London home, where

he spent nearly sixteen years navigating the increasingly strained relationship between Britain and her colonies. This evening, dine at leisure in one of London's atmospheric historic taverns, places where political debate once echoed through candlelit rooms.

## Day 2 – Washington Ancestry & The Cotswolds



This morning, take the train from London into the English countryside, arriving in Banbury. From here, travel to Sulgrave Manor, the ancestral home of the Washington family. Built in the 16th century by Lawrence Washington, this peaceful Northamptonshire manor provides a tangible link between rural England and the future first President of the United States. As you explore its rooms and gardens, the transatlantic journey of the Washington family begins to take shape. After a relaxed lunch in the charming Cotswold village of Charlbury

where a clock tower bears the date 1776 – we continue into the honey-coloured heart of the Cotswolds. Your home for the next two nights is Lords of the Manor in Upper Slaughter, a refined country house hotel surrounded by tranquil gardens and rolling countryside.

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## Day 3 – Cotswold Landscapes & 1776 Connections



Today is devoted to the gentle beauty of the Cotswolds. From Lower Slaughter, follow a peaceful riverside path to Bourton-on-the-Water, its low stone bridges spanning the River Windrush. Among them, you'll notice a small but striking detail — a bridge marked "1776," a quiet reminder that while revolution stirred across the Atlantic, life here in rural England continued much as it had for generations. Continue on to Stow-on-the-Wold, once a thriving wool town enriched by Britain's expanding trade networks.

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## Day 4 – Blenheim Palace – UNESCO World Heritage Site



Following a morning transfer, we visit Blenheim Palace, one of Britain's grandest stately homes and a symbol of imperial confidence in the early 18th century. Built as a reward for military victory, its vast scale and opulent interiors reflect the aristocratic world that stood in contrast to the emerging republican ideals across the Atlantic. Come the afternoon, we continue to Oxford and settle into The Old Parsonage Hotel, an intimate and characterful retreat that provides a fitting close to your journey.

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## Day 5 – Farewells & onward travel



Depart at your leisure after a final hearty English Breakfast. Transfers are available to Oxford station where there is a direct train connection to London Paddington, allowing for seamless onward travel.