

2019 6-day Guided Walking Cotswolds History and Heritage Tour Itinerary

Windsor, Stratford, Cotswolds, Blenheim Palace, Oxford



Duration	6 days / 5 nights
Start	London (London Paddington Railway station)
Finish	Oxford
Price From	\$US 2419

Our 6-day, 5-night tour will immerse you in England's iconic history and heritage, championing England in all its glory.

We give guests an in-depth understanding of the rich and varied past and exciting future! From the honey coloured Cotswold villages and busy little market towns you will be transported back into England as it was before mechanisation, where sheep and dry-stone walling were the biggest industries. The Cotswolds is perfect biking and walking country, we take the quietest roads, byways and paths so all you need to do is relax and enjoy the stunning vistas of chocolate box England. Global heritage sites abound with Windsor, home to the Queen and the majestic hunting ground of Windsor Great Park, the unique university city of Oxford, Churchill's Blenheim Palace and Shakespeare's Stratford all on our itinerary.

With stunning views around every corner, excellent accommodation, wonderful pubs and beautiful cuisine, Active England will give you an experience you won't forget.

Accommodation



Prestige - 4* hotel



Country - 3* hotel

Itinerary

Day 1 We collect you at 8.30 from London at Paddington Station, Platform 1, under the clock and take you by bus Windsor, which is about 1 hours' drive. We visit Windsor Castle, home to the Queen, where you will be given a private tour around the Castle, and Windsor Great Park where we walk through this grand estate, past the huge statue of George III, down the Long Walk and right into the back door of the Castle for a tour. Taking the bus to your hotel in Moreton-in-Marsh in the Cotswolds means a nice, gentle start to your holiday.

OPTIONS:

 4 miles

 Flat

Day 2 We visit Stratford-upon-Avon, the birthplace of Shakespeare, and home to the Royal Shakespeare Company and its theatre. We visit Shakespeare's Birthplace and a combination of the many houses associated with "the Bard" which are spread around the town. If you would like to see a production at the RSC we can organise this for you (bookings need to be made in advance however). On the way to Stratford we visit the beautiful American inspired gardens at Hidcote. The tour then returns to the market town of Moreton-in-Marsh for the evening.

OPTIONS:

 **4 miles**  **10 miles**
 **Rolling**  **Rolling**

Day 3 The tour then winds its way through the majestic countryside of the Cotswolds, taking in some of the most well-known towns and villages including Chipping Campden, Bourton-on-the-Water, The Slaughters, Snowhill and the majestic Broadway Tower. At Broadway Tower there are unrivalled views towards Wales, a disused Cold War bunker and an exhibition of William Morris' up in the tower itself. For lunch we stop at the gardens at Snowhill Manor, with its eclectic collection by the eccentric Charles Wade. At the Slaughters we visiting an old Cotswold Mill and have afternoon tea in Bourton on the Water before returning back to the Manor in Moreton in Marsh.

OPTIONS:

 **4 miles**  **9 miles**
 **Rolling**  **Rolling**

Day 4 We start at the North gate of the 2000 acre palace to walk around its beautiful woods and lakes; past the Column of Victory, celebrating the victory against the French at the Battle of Blenheim. On arrival at the Palace guests we provide guests with a sumptuous picnic over-looking the Capability Brown inspired gardens and give you a private tour of the historic house and beautiful gardens. The afternoon walk takes us into stunning Burford, the Gateway to the Cotswolds. There is an option, instead of an afternoon walk, to visit the home of William Morris, founder of the Arts and Crafts Movement.

OPTIONS:

 **4 miles**  **9 miles**
 **Rolling**  **Rolling**

Day 5 We head through the Cotswolds to the beautiful Cotswold town of Bampton, home to the hit show Downton Abbey, where we are entertained by a resident Downton Abbey and Cotswold expert (it is the village where all the outside filming is completed) then on to the home of William Morris, founder of the Arts and Crafts movement. We take all guests to Oxford in the afternoon for a good look round the historical university town and a walking tour, returning to Burford in the evening.

OPTIONS:

 **4 miles**  **8 miles**
 **Rolling**  **Rolling**

Day 6 We travel from Burford towards the stunning White Horse Hill, the Ridgeway and the Neolithic burial chamber at Wayland Smithy where the walking will end after lunch in the White Horse pub in Woolstone. We will then transport guests to Oxford or a mainline station by mid-afternoon.

OPTIONS:

 3 miles
 Rolling

 7 miles
 Rolling

The Details

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Level of Activity

This tour is rated 2/5 for difficulty meaning it's appropriate for guests going for a good ride and walk and can handle an incline or two. The terrain we cover is varied. We'll enjoy some gently rolling hills, with wonderful downhills and a few climbs which will be a bit more demanding. Your holiday, however, will be tailored by your guide to suit your individual preferences. Rewarding views are guaranteed. Daily distances range from 10-40 miles for the bikers and 4-10 miles for the walkers. Options for shorter or longer rides are available on all days.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

5 nights accommodation
All breakfasts & 4 dinners (in the
brasserie / bar)

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

International flights
Cancellation insurance
Items of a personal nature

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Entry into all iconic points of interest,
Blenheim Palace, Shakespeare's
Birthplace, a walking tour of Oxford,
Windsor Castle
All private tours
Transport throughout
Professional local guide
Walking Poles

Dinner drinks
Dinner in the a-la-carte
restaurants (the difference
between the bar / brasserie
option)
Gratuity for your local guide

To Book, go to <https://activeenglandtours.com/tours/6-day-guided-cotswold-history-and-heritage-tour-walking/>

For more information please call +44 1865 513007 or contact hello@activeenglandtours.com