

WALKING THE COTSWOLDS

PRIVATE GROUP ADVENTURE

Discover England at its most attractive: golden market towns, historic estates, and country trails to explore on foot

Walk the Cotswolds, where bucolic rolling hills shelter ancient market towns and grand manors with magnificent gardens. We see the best of the region on this culture-rich walking adventure, which visits honey-stone villages, Sir Winston Churchill's Blenheim Palace, King Charles' Highgrove House, and the historic cities of Bath and Oxford. Also experience traditional British hospitality, staying in three ancient inns, where evenings can end with a pint together – just as walkers have done here for centuries.

This tour is specifically designed as a private departure only and can be operated on a date of your choice.

Highlights

- ▶ Embark on scenic Cotswolds walks and visit historic landmarks
- ▶ Tour King Charles' Highgrove House, and his expertly maintained gardens
- ▶ Visit the chocolate box villages of Bibury, Chipping Campden, Broadway, Tetbury and Burford
- ▶ Explore magnificent Blenheim Palace
- ▶ Enjoy staying in three centuries-old inns



WALKING THE COTSWOLDS

TRIP CODE: **TUO**

PROGRAMME



Walking & Trekking

ACTIVITY LEVEL



Easy & Moderate

COMFORT LEVEL



Classic



Itinerary

DAY 1

Tetbury & Highgrove Gardens

Meet your expert guide at Kemble Station and head straight into 1,300 years of Tetbury history. Climb Gumstool Hill, visit St Mary's, and (if royal schedules allow) explore King Charles' Highgrove Gardens. Reconnect with your group over a cosy countryside dinner—no icebreakers needed, just good food and great company.

Accommodation: The Bear at Rodborough (or similar)

Distance covered: 2mi (3km)

Ascent: 82ft (25m); Descent: 115ft (35m)

Meals included: Dinner



DAY 2

Roman Roads to Bath

Follow an old Roman road into Bath, arriving as travellers did 2,000 years ago. Tick off the Royal Crescent, Bath Abbey and the famous Roman Baths. There's even time for a pub stop in Nailsworth on the way back—because great walking trips deserve equally great pints.

Accommodation: The Bear at Rodborough (or similar)

Distance covered: 7mi (11km)

Ascent: 295ft (90m); Descent: 394ft (120m)

Meals included: Breakfast



DAY 3

Bibury, Monarch's Way & Burford

Start in Bibury, wander past Arlington Row, then follow the Monarch's Way to Chedworth Roman Villa. Your guide brings the stories to life, from Roman grandeur to Civil War secrets in Burford's church. Afterwards, you can explore the high street, pop into the church, and enjoy some well-earned free time.

Accommodation: The Prince of Burford (or similar)

Distance covered: 5mi (8km)

Ascent: 276ft (84m); Descent: 292ft (89m)

Meals included: Breakfast





DAY 4

Blenheim Palace Walk & Tour

Stroll through Blenheim's sweeping parkland—Capability Brown at his most theatrical—past lakes, streams and sculptures. After a picnic among fountains and hedgerows, head inside for tales of statecraft and Winston Churchill's early days. Then it's off to Moreton-in-Marsh: your final stop and a market town that knows how to unwind properly.

Accommodation: The Redesdale Arms (or similar)

Distance covered: 5mi (8km)

Ascent: 190ft (58m); Descent: 748ft (228m)

Meals included: Breakfast



DAY 5

Chipping Campden to Broadway

From Chipping Campden, walk to Broadway via Hidcote's famous garden rooms. Your guide leads the way to Broadway Tower before descending into one of the prettiest villages in the Cotswolds. Here, you can wander among honey-stone buildings and visit the Lygon Arms—once a haunt for both Charles I and Cromwell.

Accommodation: The Redesdale Arms (or similar)

Distance covered: 5mi (8km)

Ascent: 253ft (77m); Descent: 827ft (252m)

Meals included: Breakfast & Dinner



DAY 6

Oxford & Farewell

Wrap things up with a walking tour of Oxford's spires, courtyards and cobbled lanes. Visit a college, pause at the Turf Tavern, and watch punters drift along the river. After lunch, it's time for goodbyes—but the city's direct train links make heading home almost too easy.

Distance covered: 3mi (5km)

Ascent: 92ft (28m); Descent: 89ft (27m)

Meals included: Breakfast

KEY INFORMATION

- Accommodation: 5 Classic nights (inns)
- Six days of guided walking
- Countries visited: United Kingdom

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- All breakfasts, two dinners
- Entry into Highgrove (subject to availability). Roman Baths, Chedworth Roman Villa, Blenheim palace & Hidcote Gardens entry
- Leader and Minibus throughout

Accommodation

Stay in charming historic inns with comfy rooms, British cuisine with a modern twist, and cozy pubs to unwind in.

Stroud – The Bear at Rodborough: 17th-century inn with English-style rooms, seasonal dining, and cask ales.

Burford – The Prince of Burford: Country-style rooms, gastropub fare, and local Butcombe beers.

Moreton-in-Marsh – The Redesdale Arms: Classic meets modern in this 17th-century inn with local British cuisine



Essential Info

IS THIS TRIP FOR YOU?

This trip is graded **Activity Level 2 (Easy & Moderate)**. For more information on our trip gradings please visit our [Activity Level Guidelines](#) page. If you have any queries about the difficulty of the trip, please do not hesitate to contact us.

- **Walking days:** Six
- **Maximum height gained:** 295ft (90m)
- **Maximum walking distance:** 7mi (11km)
- **Average distance:** 4mi (7.1km)

We walk on well-maintained paths over varied terrain, though the Cotswolds are known for their rolling hills, so expect some steeper sections.

Following a review of all our trips we have categorised this trip as generally not suitable for persons of reduced mobility. However if you are a regular traveller on such trips, please contact customer services to discuss the trip and your personal condition.

JOINING INSTRUCTIONS

Start point: Kemble train station

Recommended arrival time: Meet the leader at 11am

GETTING TO THE START POINT

Indirect trains to Kemble via Swindon operate from London Paddington every hour and take 1hr 20min. If coming from London Heathrow, take the

Heathrow Express train to London Paddington (20 minutes).

RETURN JOURNEY

The last day finishes with a guided walk around Oxford. From here, there are direct trains to London Paddington station.

WEATHER & SEASONALITY

Rain can fall at any time of year; however, the temperatures typically rise from around 12C (54F) in April to the high 20Cs (around 80F-85F) or above in September. Like most of the UK in recent years, there have been some hotter days in the middle of summer.

WHAT TO TAKE

Essential Equipment

- Walking boots with good grip and ankle support
- Small backpack (for water bottle, camera etc)
- Refillable water bottle
- Hat and gloves
- A warm two-season jacket or sweater/fleece
- Waterproof/windproof jacket (preferably Gore Tex) and waterproof trousers
- We also advise using dry flow wicking clothing rather than cotton as it dries much quicker and is more comfortable when trekking

Optional Equipment

- Walking poles

Practical Info

VISA - UNITED KINGDOM

Travellers from the US and EU normally do not need a visa to enter the United Kingdom. Please note, visa requirements often change and it is your responsibility to obtain any required visas for this trip. Therefore, we recommend that you check with the nearest embassy or consulate of your chosen destination(s), including any countries you may be transiting or transferring through.

Some local governments provide guidance on what visas their citizens need. To help, we've gathered a selection of useful links below.

Australia: www.smartraveller.gov.au/destinations/europe/united-kingdom

Canada: www.travel.gc.ca/destinations/united-kingdom

USA: www.travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages/UnitedKingdom.html

VACCINATIONS AND HEALTH

United Kingdom

There are no required vaccinations. However, you may want to consider vaccinations for polio, tetanus and rabies (bat lyssavirus). Please confirm with your doctor or travel clinic.

LOCAL TIME

United Kingdom's time zone:
Europe/London (UTC +01:00)

ELECTRICITY

United Kingdom's electricity: Plug type G (three rectangular pins) – 230V, 50Hz

MONEY

United Kingdom's currency:
Pound sterling (GBP)

Extra Expenses & Spending Money:

A typical lunch costs £15, dinner £25, a pint of beer £5, and a glass of wine £4-£7

TIPPING

Although optional, a tip for the leader at the end of the trip is greatly appreciated. As a guideline, we recommend a starting point of £50 per person for the guides.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION:

All vehicles used by us should be equipped with working seatbelts, except where approved by us based on the vehicle type or journey. Wherever seatbelts are available, we require our customers to use them for their own safety, even where it may not be a legal requirement.

Private Group Adventures

This tour is specially designed as a private departure and can be operated on a date of your choice. Please contact our sales team for prices and more information:

EMAIL: PRIVATEDEPARTURES@EXODUS.CO.UK | OR CALL: 0203 733 6775