

CYCLE THE COTSWOLDS: OXFORD TO BATH

PRIVATE GROUP ADVENTURE

Pedal through a rural paradise, passing timeless villages and picturesque pubs on the way

Discover Oxford, the Cotswolds and Bath, three picture-perfect illustrations of quintessential Englishness, on this culture-filled cycling adventure. We start in the university city of Oxford, where more than 30 prime ministers and 55 Nobel Prize winners attended world-acclaimed colleges, before beginning our cycling from beautiful Burford. It's then into the Cotswolds, a rural idyll cradling a nostalgic mix of historic villages, rolling countryside and, of course, centuries-old pubs. We end our cycling in Bath, where we tour the 2,000-year-old Roman spa complex and admire the iconic honey-stone Georgian buildings.

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

Highlights

- Cycle through the Cotswolds from Oxford to Bath, exploring historic towns and scenic villages along the way.
- Tour Oxford, city of scholars and statesmen
- Visit Bath's ancient Roman spa complex
- Stroll through Bibury, England's 'most beautiful village'
- Discover Bourton-on-the-Water, the 'Venice of the Cotswolds'
- Stop in Bampton, filming location for Downton Abbey



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TRIP CODE: **MUO**

PROGRAMME



Cycling

ACTIVITY LEVEL



Easy & Moderate

COMFORT LEVEL



Classic



Itinerary

DAY 1 Oxford, Bampton & Burford

Meet your guide at Oxford Station at 11 am, then tour the city's colleges, cobbled lanes, and the Turf Tavern—beloved by students and prime ministers alike. After lunch, head to Bampton, filming location for Downton Abbey, then pedal to Burford, where medieval shopfronts line the hill. Unwind over a welcome dinner at your inn.

Accommodation: The Prince of Burford

Distance covered: 20mi (32km)

Ascent: 499ft (152m)

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner



DAY 2 Bourton, Stow & the Slaughters

Cycle a classic Cotswolds loop: coffee in Bourton-on-the-Water, then on to Stow-on-the-Wold, site of the English Civil War's final battle. Stop at Daylesford's famed organic farm shop and pass through Upper and Lower Slough, where the River Eye gently links the villages. Return to Burford in time for golden-hour views.

Accommodation: The Prince of Burford

Distance covered: 35mi (56km)

Ascent: 1,998ft (609m)

Meals included: Breakfast



DAY 3 Bibury, Cirencester & Minchinhampton

Ride to Bibury, where Arlington Row's 17th-century cottages charm every camera. Continue to Cirencester—Roman Corinium—where ancient roads crisscross beneath Georgian streets. Then pedal across the wild grasslands of Minchinhampton Common, often dotted with grazing cattle, before arriving at Rodborough Hill for the night. Expect countryside quiet and pub comfort.

Accommodation: The Bear at Rodborough

Distance covered: 35mi (56km)

Ascent: 1,499ft (457m)

Meals included: Breakfast





DAY 4

Tetbury to Bath via the Fosse Way

Set off through Tetbury, home to Highgrove and one of England's best-preserved wool towns. Follow the Roman-built Fosse Way and canal paths into Bath. After lunch, visit the Roman Baths, then explore the Royal Crescent or Jane Austen Centre—your expert guide helps you make the most of your time here.

Accommodation: Hampton by Hilton Hotel

Distance covered: 40mi (64km)

Ascent: 1,499ft (457m)

Meals included: Breakfast



DAY 5

Lacock & Bradford-on-Avon Loop

Pedal past weavers' cottages and crooked lanes to Lacock, home to a 13th-century abbey and scenes from Harry Potter. Ride on to Bradford-on-Avon, where canals and medieval buildings frame the Avon Valley. Return to Bath for a farewell dinner—reminisce, toast your group, and maybe plot your next trip.

Accommodation: Hampton by Hilton Hotel

Distance covered: 35mi (56km)

Ascent: 1,345ft (410m)

Meals included: Breakfast, Dinner



DAY 6

Depart from Bath Spa

Enjoy a final breakfast together before your transfer to Bath Spa Station. From Oxford quads to Cotswold commons, Roman roads to riverside rides, it's been a week of timeless villages, easy laughter and shared miles. One last group photo, then it's wheels up—until the next group adventure.

Meals included: Breakfast

KEY INFORMATION

- Accommodation: 5 Classic nights (hotels)
- Five days of road cycling plus a canal path ride into Bath
- Countries visited: United Kingdom

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- All breakfasts, two dinners
- All accommodation
- Luggage transfer and support vehicle
- Two leaders for groups of six or more
- Standard bike hire (e-bikes available for additional cost)

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

A reasonable level of fitness is required; however, regular cyclists will not find this itinerary challenging. There are six days of cycling, mostly on small country roads and sometimes on rolling terrain.

JOINING INSTRUCTIONS

Start point: Oxford train station
Recommended arrival time: Meet the leader at 11 am

GETTING TO THE START POINT

Direct trains to Oxford operate from London Paddington every hour and take one hour. If coming from London Heathrow, take the Heathrow Express train to London Paddington (20 minutes) and then the Oxford train.

RETURN JOURNEY

There's a group departure transfer to Bath Spa Railway Station at 9am on the final day of the trip, where there are trains to London Paddington every 45 minutes. Alternatively, the station is just over a five-minute walk from our end hotel.

If you would like further information on these transfers, please speak to your sales representative.

Full joining instructions including local emergency numbers will be sent to you as part of our Final Joining Instructions. If you do not receive these at least a week before departure, or require them earlier please contact our office or your travel agent.

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

- Small backpack (for water bottle, camera etc)
- Refillable water bottle
- Cycling clothing and shoes

Equipment Hire

Included standard bike

The standard bike for this trip is a Giant Escape and Liv Thrive (touring/hybrid).



We will take your height at the time of booking to reserve equipment. If you have a preferred bike size, please request when booking.

E-bike upgrade

Electric bikes are available on this trip; prices from £184/US\$260/CAD\$350. Speak to your sales representative for more information.

Bringing your own bike

If you'd prefer to bring your own bike, please advise us at the time of booking and you will receive a discount on the price of the trip. However, you will be responsible for any extra

baggage charges; assembling and disassembling your bike; and bringing along spare parts and any tools specific to it. You should also ensure you have adequate insurance to cover loss, damage or theft.

Accessories and clothing

Bringing equipment from home

You're welcome to bring your own equipment, such as SPD pedals or clipless pedals, your own saddle (excluding the seat post), or gel saddle cover for the hire bikes. Your leader will help you fit these when bikes are distributed.

Helmets

Helmets are mandatory for everyone on a guided Exodus cycling trip. You must bring your own as, following best safety practice, they are not available for hire.

Cycling clothing

For all cycling trips we recommend:

- Padded cycling shorts: For destinations with more modest cultures, we also recommend loose 'over-shorts' for riding or rest stops
- Eyewear: Either sunglasses or eye protection with clear lenses to protect the eyes while riding
- Cycling gloves: Especially for riding off-road or on rugged surfaces
- Cycling shoes: Cycling is more efficient with stiff-soled shoes. We don't recommend open-toed shoes or sandals
- Small close-fitting backpack or bum bag (fanny pack): To keep spare clothing or essential items to hand during the ride

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.smarttraveller.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.

Ticks are known to be present in this region and can carry lyme disease, tick-borne encephalitis and other diseases. Please take care to protect yourself.

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 811 4374