

Classic Cotswold Walk

Hotel-to-hotel  and   independent walking

- Quintessential Cotswolds: postcard-pretty villages, honey-colored houses, tea shops and rose-clad cottages
- Crystal clear rivers, ancient oak woods, rolling hills and fields full of lavender
- Charming Broadway, Jewel of the Cotswolds' and Bourton-on-the-Water, arguably the prettiest village in England
- Iron Age forts, Saxon castles, Roman paths and Medieval churches
- Flexible, interest-packed walking routes; high quality inns full of character



Breakaway's independent Classic Cotswold circular walk begins by the River Windrush in Bourton-on-the-Water, known as the 'Venice of the Cotswolds'. After one night here you walk to the ancient Saxon capital of Winchcombe, (famous for Sudeley Castle), before an escarpment trail with fantastic valley views leads to the world-famous coaching village of Broadway. From here you walk up to Broadway Tower, a tiny hilltop castle, before descending to C12 Moreton-in-the Marsh along the old Roman Fosse Way, then walk back to end in Bourton.

En route, you'll pass fields of purple lavender stretching into the distance, and hear thundering hooves on racing gallops as prize horses are exercised for Ascot; you'll see Iron Age forts standing sentinel on ancient hilltops, and visit stone follies marking viewpoints from where Oliver Cromwell supervised the burning of local Abbeys.

Everywhere you walk, you'll come across welcoming village pubs with friendly owners and excellent menus, and pass through villages so perfectly preserved they are used as locations for TV period dramas! Walks are all designed at  level, however, all can be shortened by taxi transfer for a small supplement. Our local expert partners manage this holiday on our behalf. Throughout you'll stay in high quality, hand-picked country inns and historic hotels oozing with quintessential charm and character, and with a choice of restaurants on your doorstep, evening meals are a further highlight.

CLASSIC COTSWOLD WALK | DAY BY DAY

Arrive in Bourton-on-the-Water

Regularly voted the prettiest village in England, Bourton-on-the-Water is one of the showpieces of the region and its hidden streets are crammed with tiny shops, Tudor houses and gourmet restaurants for dinner.

Bourton to Winchcombe (9mi/5hr or 13mi/6hr)

Walk alongside the Windrush, lined with bright daffodils, to the beautifully timeless villages of Naunton and Guiting Power. Then on through shady woodland before descending to the ancient Saxon capital of Winchcombe and nearby Sudeley Castle, last resting place of Katherine Parr, Henry VIII's sixth wife.

Winchcombe to Broadway (6mi/3.5hr or 10mi/5hr)

An ancient pilgrim's route leads from Winchcombe to the eerie ruined arches of Hailes Abbey. It's a gentle climb up to the Iron Age Fortress at Beckbury Camp for superb valley views. After passing Stanway House's magnificent gatehouse and tithe barn, enjoy a pub lunch in Stanton (used for TV period dramas it is so perfect!), then amble through open meadows to charming Broadway, Jewel in the Cotswold Crown.

Broadway to Moreton-in-Marsh (8mi/4hr or 12mi/6hr)

Today's walk takes you beneath the Worcestershire Hills, stopping off first at Broadway's Tower, the C18 folly inspired by Capability Brown, where you're rewarded with stunning unspoilt views. It's then a gentle descent to Chipping Campden's covered market, almshouses and silversmith. Stop for lunch in pretty Blockley, then descend to Batsford – the arboretum here is filled with spectacular Coral Bark Maple trees and russet berried Mountain Ash. Your final stretch is an easy stroll to the thriving market town of Moreton, located at the head of the beautiful Evenlode Valley.

Moreton to Bourton-on-the-Water (8mi/4hr or 12mi/6hr)

Follow the Roman Fosse Way before branching off through wheat fields and copses of hawksbeard and buttercups, and descend to the antique shops of Stow-on-the-Wold for lunch overlooking the stocks on the village green. Listen for woodpeckers in oak woods on the way to Lower Slaughter, from where a gentle stroll brings you back to the tourist honeypot of Bourton on the Water.

Leave Bourton-on-the-Water

Dates and Prices

All departure dates 2012

Tour Only

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| Sunday starts | \$1,934 |
| Monday, Thursday, Saturday starts | \$1,998 |
| Tuesday, Wednesday starts | \$2,042 |
| Friday starts | \$2,042 |

Singles: Add \$106 per night for Sunday departure only. Inquire for prices for all other days of the week.

Holiday type: Independent walking, hotel-to-hotel, no minimum group size.

Departs: Selected dates from May 6 to Oct 28.

Duration: 6 days (5 nights)

Meals: Breakfast

Other details: Please contact us for room upgrade and child prices.

Hotels: ★★ (5)

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Book now on 1-800-567-6286 - further details at www.breakaway-adventures.com