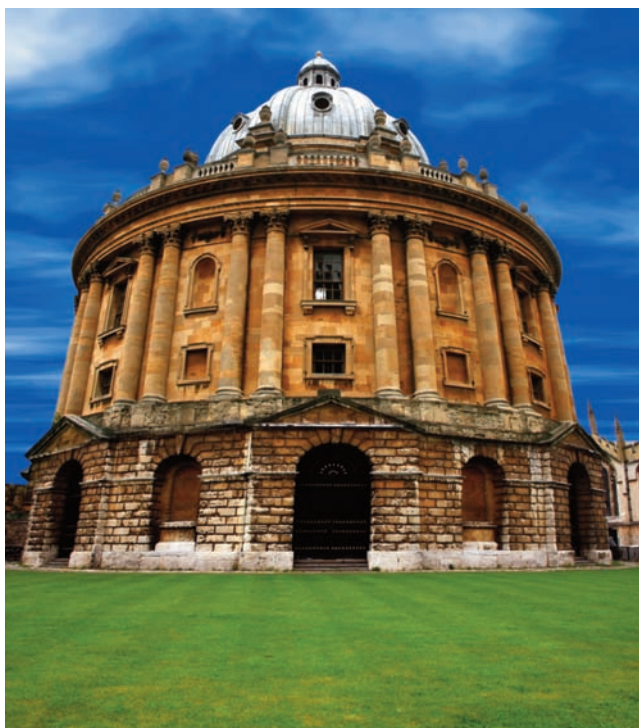


Stratford to Oxford Walk

Hotel-to-hotel  and   independent walking

- Over 800 years of history, art and culture: magnificent castles, stately homes, award-winning gardens, gourmet restaurants
- Visit Stratford's world-famous Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC) Theatre
- Stay in Oxford, 'The City of Dreaming Spires', and home to the most prestigious University in the country
- Totally unspoiled rural walking paths: choice of distances most days



This independent linear walking holiday takes in some of England's finest historic sights! Starting in the achingly creaky half-timbered town of Shakespeare's famous Stratford Upon Avon, you flirt the northern fringe of the Cotswold Hills to arrive in Chipping Norton, an attractive C15 wool town, where you'll spend the night. From here, it's off through bluebell-filled woods to diminutive Woodstock village where Churchill's birthplace, Blenheim Palace is now a UNESCO-listed heritage site, and one of the loveliest country houses in England. Your final stretch takes you to Oxford's legendary dreaming spires where no visitor can fail to be inspired by the botanical gardens, Bodleian library and dozens of world-famous historic colleges. Freedom and flexibility have been built into every stage of this holiday, meaning you can add in extra nights en route, or shorten the trip to suit busy diaries. On most days, the walks can be shortened by using local taxis (we arrange for a small supplement) and we've left all meals flexible as there are so many options at every stage of your route.

STATFORD TO OXFORD WALK | DAY BY DAY

Arrive in Stratford

The Royal Shakespeare Company is the most famous theatre company in the world – why not take in a show? You spend two nights here.

Discover Stratford 5km/3mi/2hr

Visit Shakespeare's birthplace, Holy Trinity Church where he is buried, and wander the curio shops that line Stratford's narrow streets. This afternoon, enjoy a 'warm up' circular walk along both banks of the River Avon – you can spot mute swans and the flash of blue kingfishers hunting for lunch under weeping willows, as colorful narrow boats chug past.

Shipston On Stour to Chipping Norton 9mi/5hr or 15mi/6.5hr

After a short 15 minute transfer (included) to Shipston on Stour – once an important sheep market town – you follow the Stour riverbank before ascending to rustling Whichford Wood for panoramic views to the distant Cotswolds. Enjoy lunch in Long Compton before visiting the Bronze Age Rollright Stones – an eerie stone circle by the tombs of The Whispering Knights. On arrival in Chipping Norton – 'Chippy' to the locals – visit St Mary's church, one of the richest and most ornate in Oxfordshire, located next to the remains of an ancient Norman castle!

Chipping Norton to Woodstock 16mi/7.5hr or 10mi/6hr

Follow the River Glyme to abandoned ruins of villages at Chalford, whose residents were evicted 500 years ago by Oriel College, Oxford. Criss-cross the Glyme valley before passing C18 Ditchley Park (used for wartime conferences by Churchill). You end the day walking through the pristine 2000-acre Blenheim Estate where Winston Churchill spent his childhood. We recommend you add an extra night to explore the spectacular Baroque palace fully, or visit tomorrow morning. Dine out tonight in one of Woodstock's enticing boutique restaurants.

Woodstock to Oxford 10mi/6hr or 8mi/4hr

Enjoy views of wooded Wytham Hill and the Vale of the White Horse as you leave Woodstock and pass through Bladen, last resting place of many of the Churchill family. After lunch in Yarnton, you meet the Oxford Canal, and follow narrow boats alongside the tow path into the city. Drink in the atmosphere of Oxford this evening as college students spin past on bicycles, and church bells chime across the spires.

Depart Oxford

Depart from Oxford rail station, or stay on for extra night(s) in the city.

Dates and Prices

All departure dates 2012

Tour Only

Sunday starts	\$1,998
Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday starts	\$2,059
Friday starts	\$2,114

Singles: Add \$117 per night for Sunday departures. 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: ★★★★★ (4), ●●●● (1)

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