



Overige

1. In veel plaatsen in Engeland kunt u uw auto tijdens uw vakantie niet gratis parkeren. Bent u van plan met de auto te reizen vermeld dit bij uw boeking; vaak kunnen wij u een suggestie doen waar u uw auto voor meerdere dagen betaald kunt parkeren.
2. Tijdsverschil: in Engeland is het één uur vroeger.
3. Elektra: voor Engeland heeft u een verloopstekker nodig, van Brits naar continentaal.

Reisbeschrijving

We start our walk at the beautifully preserved Oxfordshire town of Burford, with its wide main street sloping down to the river Windrush. It is a town which still preserves memories of the upheavals accompanying the English Civil War in the 17th century. We follow the Windrush upstream into Gloucestershire, passing the villages of Little Barrington, Windrush and Great and Little Rissington on the way, to Bourton-on-the-Water, once a crossroads on the Roman Fosse Way and now a delightful and ever popular attraction for visitors with its series of footbridges over the Windrush which flows beside the main street.

From Bourton-on-the-Water we head up the Windrush valley, now narrower and steeper-sided, to the perfectly situated village of Naunton; then across the plateau to the two famous Slaughters (Upper and Lower) on the tiny River Eye. The Slaughters are known as 'thankful' villages since, although they sent men to both world wars, all returned safe home. We continue to the ancient hilltop town of Stow-on-the-Wold, whose streets, now home to a good number of antique shops, crowd around the market square in which the old punishment 'stocks' still stand.

From Stow the longer walks continue past the everflowing spring of Stow well to the village of Broadwell. Then we continue via Donnington (its brewery still producing traditional English Ale on sale in many local pubs) to Longborough and Bourton-on-the-Hill, near which are the extraordinary Moghul (Indian) architecture of Sezincote House (limited opening), fine gardens at Sezincote and Bourton House (both limited opening), and the famous tree garden of Batsford Arboretum (open daily). Day 4 ends in the well-preserved late 18th century/early 19th century streets of the silk mill town of Blockley. We continue through woods and across farmland to tiny Broad Campden, with its 17th century Quaker Meeting House, and on to celebrated Chipping Campden, doyen of all Cotswold wool towns. Its busy main street is a treasure house of the finest domestic architecture in a range of styles, and also contains the famous market building. It is barely a half-day's walk from Blockley to Chipping Campden, and our itinerary allows time for an excursion on foot or by taxi to the magnificent National Trust gardens four miles away at Hidcote Manor (closed 1 or 2 days per week). Adjacent to Hidcote Manor is another famous garden at Kiftsgate Court, known for its roses and its panoramic views.



n.b. You should check opening days of Sezincote House, Bourton House Garden. Hidcote Manor garden and Kiftsgate Court garden, and Snowhill Manor if you want to be sure of visiting some of these attractions.

In Chipping Campden. Another chance to visit one of the nearby gardens, or (not Sundays), for a day trip by bus to Stratford-on-Avon and back. Direct bus in each direction about 8 times per day on Mondays to Saturdays, journey time 1 hour to 1 hour 15 minutes.

Day 7 (6-night tour). Depart Chipping Campden. Taxi (not included in tour price) to train station at Moreton-in-Marsh on the Cotswold Line, with direct trains to Oxford, Reading (for rail or bus link to Heathrow airport), London Paddington, Worcester and Hereford. It is also only a 16km bus or taxi ride from Chipping Camden to Stratford-on-Avon.

Day 7 (8-night tour); Next you turn south along the Cotswold Way long distance trail (now a designated National Trail) which alternately follows the crest and the foot of the great Cotswold escarpment. We cross from Gloucestershire into Worcestershire and reach the much admired village of Broadway, its main street lined with palatial houses of Cotswold stone. We continue to the equally beautiful and quite undeveloped village of Stanton, with an opportunity *en route* to visit the fine Elizabethan manor at Snowhill, whose name reflects the severe winters which can afflict the higher and more exposed parts of the Cotswolds. Snowhill Manor, owned by the National Trust, is a treasure house of collectors items and *objets d'art* and is open to the public 6 days per week. After Stanton the Cotswold Way, now in Gloucestershire again, passes the exquisite gatehouse of Stanway Manor (possibly the finest single piece of architecture on this tour - exterior always accessible). You see the tiny Saxon and gothic church of Farmcote and descend the escarpment to the ruins of Hailes Abbey (open daily). Until the Dissolution of the Monasteries under Henry VIII this Cistercian abbey was a staging point on the medieval Salt Way along which salt was transported from mines in Worcestershire to the Thames at Lechlade, whence it was shipped by barge to London. Our tour ends at the ancient town of Winchcombe, once a capital of the kingdom of Mercia. Close by and open daily is Sudeley Castle, where Henry VIII's last wife, Katherine Parr, lived and died. Energetic walkers could also include a visit to the well-preserved long barrow (Neolithic burial chamber) high above Winchcombe at Belas Knap (always open), or to the temporarily uncovered mosaic floor of a Roman 'villa' (manor farm house) in the woods near Sudeley. An extra day at Winchcombe would provide an opportunity to visit both Belas Knap and Sudeley Castle at leisure.

Depart from Winchcombe by taxi to train station at either Evesham or Cheltenham, or by bus to long-distance bus station at Cheltenham.

Houses, castles and gardens open to the public 2009

Our Cotswold Villages hiking route takes you close to a number of National Trust, English Heritage and privately owned houses, gardens, ruins etc. It is not feasible to plan to visit all of them during your week's walk; and which you can visit will depend on whether they are open on the day you pass. Some of them are open every day throughout our season: e.g. Batsford Arboretum; Hailes Abbey Ruins. Others have restricted days and times. You may wish to arrange your starting day so as to make it easier to visit some of those which have closed days. Please ask us for advice on this. Note



that Day 1 is your arrival day in Burford and that our normal itinerary has just one night in each village/town. Extra nights can be included at the time of booking, and with a bit of juggling it is possible to fit most of the places listed below into your itinerary.

If you only include one of these, try to make it **Hidcote Manor**. But **Bourton House** runs it close! With Kiftsgate and Sezincote also close by the Chipping Campden and Blockley district should not be missed by garden enthusiasts!!

Day 4 - Stow-on-the-Wold to Blockley

(pm) **Sezincote House and **garden**. Owned by Dr E Peake. Exotic oriental water garden designed by Repton and Daniell, House, with large semi-circular orangery, in Moghul style by S.P.Cockerell. Also a formal garden outside the orangery and a well-preserved 'haha' overlooking the park. Close to our route approaching Bourton-on-the-Hill village. Limited opening all year round except December. In 2009 gardens open throughout the year except December, on Thursday and Friday afternoons, also Bank Holiday Mondays, 2.00pm to 6.00pm, or dusk if earlier. In 2009 the house is open as the gardens but from May to September only. Charges in 2009: house and garden £8 (guided tour), garden only £5. Day 4 is quite a short walk and if it is an open day your start from Stow can be delayed so as not to reach Sezincote too early. However the garden (recommended) may in practice be open earlier than 2pm; if the gate is unstaffed there is a money box for payments. Tel 01386 700444. www.sezincote.co.uk.

***Bourton House Garden**. Owned by Mr and Mrs Richard Paice. A superb modern garden surrounding an 18th C Manor house and 16th C tithe barn. On our route in village of Bourton-on-the-Hill, 1.5km after Sezincote. In 2009 open by arrangement only for pre-booked tours (minimum 20 people). 2009 admission £5.50. Tel 01386 700754. www.bourtonhouse.com.

(pm) **Batsford Arboretum**. This is for tree enthusiasts! Not an ordinary garden. Normally open daily throughout our season from 10am to 6pm; last entry 4.45pm. In 2008 entry £6.00 concessions £5, children £2. Adjacent is a falconry with similar opening times. For some visitors the attraction of Batsford will be the Apple Store Tea Room. Lunches and teas served! "A selection of delicious home-made soups, sandwiches and confectionery awaits all visitors to the Arboretum and the Garden Centre. Hot and cold drinks are available as well as a selection of beer and wine served with food". Tel 01386 701441. www.batsarb.co.uk.

Day 4 or 5 - Blockley

Day 4 (pm) or 5 (am). **Mill Dene Garden**, Blockley. Owner Wendy .Dare. Small (1 ha) quirky garden close to centre of village. In 2009 open April to September, Tuesday to Friday, 10.30am to 5.00pm. At least 1 hour stay recommended. Last entry 4pm. In 2009 also open Saturday mornings 9.30am to 12 noon. In 2009 closed for one week from 12 July. 2009 admission £5. Tel 01386 700 457. www.milldenegarden.co.uk.

Day 5 or 6 – Chipping Campden

Day 5 pm or Day 6. ****Hidcote Manor Garden**. National Trust. World famous as one of England's finest gardens, created in early 20th C by American Lawrence Johnston. In 2009 open from 14 March to 2 November daily except Thursdays & Fridays. In July and August 2009 also open Thursdays and Fridays. Times: 10.30am to 6pm, except in October 10.30am to 5 pm. Last admission 1 hour before



closing time. A 4-mile taxi ride/2 hour walk from Chipping Campden. Detailed walking directions in both directions provided, from and back to Chipping Campden. In 2009 admission for adults £9 including 'donation'. There is a restaurant on site for lunches. Tel 01386 438 333.
www.nationaltrust.org.uk.

***Kiftsgate Court Gardens.** Owned by Mr and Mrs J.G.Chambers. This garden with its fine roses is almost next door to Hidcote Manor Garden. In 2009 open in May, June and July (the best months) open daily except Thursdays and Fridays 12 noon to 6pm; in August open daily except Thursdays and Fridays 2pm to 6pm; in April and September open Sunday, Monday and Wednesday 2 to 6pm. Closed in October. Admission in 2009 £6.50 per adult. Tel 01386 438 777 website: www.kiftsgate.co.uk.

Note: to visit both Hidcote and Kiftsgate you need a full day or two full half-days.

Day 7 - Chipping Campden to Stanton

(am). **Broadway Tower.** A 'folly' dating from around 1790. A magnificent viewpoint. Once inhabited by designer William Morris. In 2007 open daily April to October 10.30am to 5pm. In winter Saturdays and Sundays only, shorter hours. Opening times may depend on the weather – the location of the tower is exposed to wind and rain. Admission £3.80 in 2007. Tel 01386 858038.
www.broadwaytower.co.uk.

(pm). **Snowhill Manor.** Owned by National Trust. Between Broadway and Stanton, close to our route. Elizabethan Manor house with extraordinary collection of crafts and design. 'Arts and crafts' style garden laid out by Charles Paget Wade, now run on organic principles. In 2009 the house will open from 14 March until 1 November daily except Mondays and Tuesdays, but does open Bank Holiday Mondays. Open hours 12 noon to 5pm. Last admission to house 4.10pm. In 2009 the gardens will open on same days as the house, 11am to 5.30pm. 2009 admission to house £8.50 including 'donation', garden only £4.60. Tel 01386 852410. www.nationaltrust.org.uk.

Day 8 -Stanton to Winchcombe

Stanway House and Baroque Water Garden. Owned by Lord Neidpath. Beautiful – and beautifully furnished – Cotswold Manor house. Restored 18th C water garden with gravity-powered fountain now claimed to be 90m high – it bears comparison with the Geneva fountain. On our route but restricted opening, unlikely to fit in with our itinerary unless you spend an extra night at Stanton. In 2009 house and garden open 2 afternoons per week (Tuesdays and Thursdays) in June, July and August only. Hours 2pm to 5pm. In 2009 entry to house and fountain £6, garden only £4. Best feature of the buildings is the gatehouse, which can be viewed from the road outside at any time without charge and is directly on our walking route. When the fountain is flowing is visible from quite a distance...so you don't need to buy a ticket to see it. Tel 01386 584469 website:
www.stanwayfountain.co.uk.

(Mid-part of day) **Hailes Abbey** ruins. Owned by English Heritage and National Trust. Founded in 1246. Except for 17 surviving arches it was demolished in 16th C by agents of Henry VIII. Lovely surroundings, small museum. On Discerning Traveller route walking route. In 2009 open every day 1 April to 31 October, opens 10am, closes 5pm, except in July and August closes 6pm, in October closes 4pm. A visit takes about 30 minutes. 2009 admission £3.80. Tel 01242 602 398. www.english-heritage.org.uk.



Cotswold Villages
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Day 8 or 9 - Stanton to Winchcombe

Sudeley Castle, about 1.5km from Winchcombe. Owned by the Dent family and home of Lord and Lady Ashcombe. Former home of Henry VIII's last wife Katherine Parr. Other former visitors include Henry VIII, Anne Boleyn, Lady Jane Grey, Elizabeth I, and Charles 1. Buildings heavily altered during 19th C restoration by George Gilbert Scott. In 2009 castle and gardens open daily 30 March to 1 November, 10.30 to 5pm. Last admission 1 hour before closing. 2009 prices adults £7.20 (concessions £6.20). Tel 01242 602308. www.sudeleycastle.co.uk. Not our favourite castle but undeniably popular...

Belas Knap Long Barrow. A spectacular prehistoric tomb high on the Cotswold escarpment about 1.5 hours walk from Winchcombe along the well-marked Cotswold Way trail. Can be visited by fit walkers after walking from Stanton to Winchcombe, or if spending an extra day at Winchcombe. Open at all times without charge.

- ** Our favourites!
- worth a journey
- * worth a detour

For more information on National Trust sites see website: www.nationaltrust.org.uk/places

For more on English Heritage sites (Hailes Abbey) see www.english-heritage.org.uk
