

Cotswold Villages Hidden Gems and Local Knowledge

Welcome to the Villages and Market Towns of the Cotswold's

DURATION - 8 HOURS

The Cotswolds is a range of hills in west-central England, sometimes called the "Heart of England", an area 25 miles (40 km) across and 90 miles (145 km) long. The area has been designated as the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The highest point in the Cotswolds range is Cleve Hill at 1,083 feet (330 m), 4 km to the north of Cheltenham.

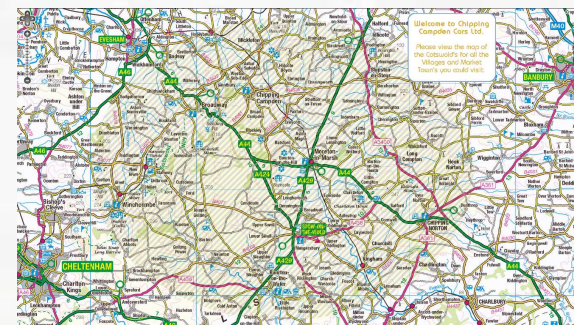
The area is characterised by attractive small towns and villages built of the underlying Cotswold stone (a yellow oolitic limestone). This limestone is rich in fossils, in particular fossilised sea urchins. In the Middle Ages, the wool trade made the Cotswolds prosperous; hence the Speaker of the British House of Lords sits on the Woolsack showing where the Medieval wealth of the country came from. Some of this money was put into the building of churches so the area has a number of large, handsome Cotswold stone "wool churches". The area remains affluent and has attracted wealthy people who own second homes in the area or have chosen to retire to the Cotswold's.



Typical Cotswold towns are Bourton-on-the-Water, Broadway, Burford, Chipping Norton, Cirencester, Moreton-in-Marsh, Stow-on-the-Wold and Winchcombe. The town of Chipping Campden is notable for being the home of the Arts and Crafts movement, founded by William Morris at the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th centuries. William Morris lived occasionally in Broadway Tower a folly now part of a country park. Chipping Campden is also known for the annual Cotswold Games, a celebration of sports and games dating back to the early 17th century.

The Cotswolds were designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) in 1966, with an expansion on 21 December 1990 to 1,990 square kilometres (768 sq mi). Since then the official area of the Cotswolds AONB increased to 2,038 square kilometres (787 sq mi). In 2000 the government confirmed that AONBs had the same landscape quality and status as National Parks. 2006 is the 40th anniversary of The AONB.

Map of the Classic Cotswolds Villages Tour



More Tours of the Cotswolds

Half-Day Introduction to the Cotswold's Tour (Affordable)

Chance to visit and photograph the prettiest villages that the Cotswold's has to offer. Discover the villages of honey coloured stone, manor houses, charming churches, dry-stone walls and real country pubs.

[VIEW HALF-DAY COTSWOLD](#)

Tour Oxfordshire, Blenheim Palace and Woodstock

Steeped in history, the university city of Oxford and the surrounding countryside is a fascinating area to explore and to discover. Oxford, the 'city of dreaming spires' has a fascinating history and is famous for its prestigious Oxford University, 38 colleges. The Radcliffe Camera, Bodleian Library and Bridge of Sighs make up just a few of the famous picturesque buildings of Oxford.

[VIEW TOUR OF BLENHEIM PALACE](#)

Tour Stratford upon Avon and Shakespeare's Country

One of the most famous towns in the country, Stratford plays host to Shakespeare's Birthplace, the Royal Shakespeare Theatre and is surrounded by spectacular sights such as Warwick Castle, Ragley Hall and Charlecote Park.

[VIEW TOUR OF STRATFORD UPON AVON](#)

ABOUT US



The Gladwin family have farmed in the Cotswolds for many generations and have an unrivalled knowledge of the area, its history and what makes this part of England so very special.

Local knowledge means you're getting an exceptional private tour, a wealth of Cotswold's knowledge, giving you the opportunity to visit places not on the usual tourist trail, as well as the popular destinations.

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