

Secret Cottage – Bibury and Arlington Row in the Cotswolds

Our Cotswold Day-Trips take to all sorts of fascinating and picturesque places. Bibury, situated seven miles from Cirencester, is the sort of picture-perfect village you imagine when you think of the Cotswolds.

It's a popular Gloucestershire beauty spot and it's easy to see why...

It's captured the hearts of many and even textiles designer William Morris described Bibury as 'the most beautiful village in England'.

Seeped in history, one of the most visited tourist spots in Bibury is Arlington Row – it's a row of old weavers cottages built in 1380. With their steeply pitched roofs, these honey coloured stone cottages were once the houses of weavers who supplied cloth for the nearby Arlington Mill. These cottages are now owned by the National Trust and were restored in 1929.

Running through the centre of the town is the River Coln – teeming with trout and inhabited by ducks- which was originally used to wash the wool and for household use.

Next to the river you'll find 'Rack Isle'; which is where the wool used be be hung on racks to dry after it had been washed. This is now an important National Trust Wildfowl Reserve where you might spot moorhens, yellow iris and water voles.

Amenities in the area include a primary school, a Saxon church that dates back to the 8th century – the Church of St Mary – and a Baptist chapel. The Church has an intriguing claim to

fame: In 1992, a stained glass window from this church in the Cotswolds was featured in the Christmas stamp set issued by the Royal Mail!

There are plenty of attractions including the famous Bibury trout farm where you can catch your own tea! If you'd rather someone else did all the preparation there is a restaurant that will cook fresh trout for you.

Find out more about our Cotswolds Tour; you never know – you might end up experiencing the most beautiful village in England for yourself!