

# The Cotswolds – Woodstock

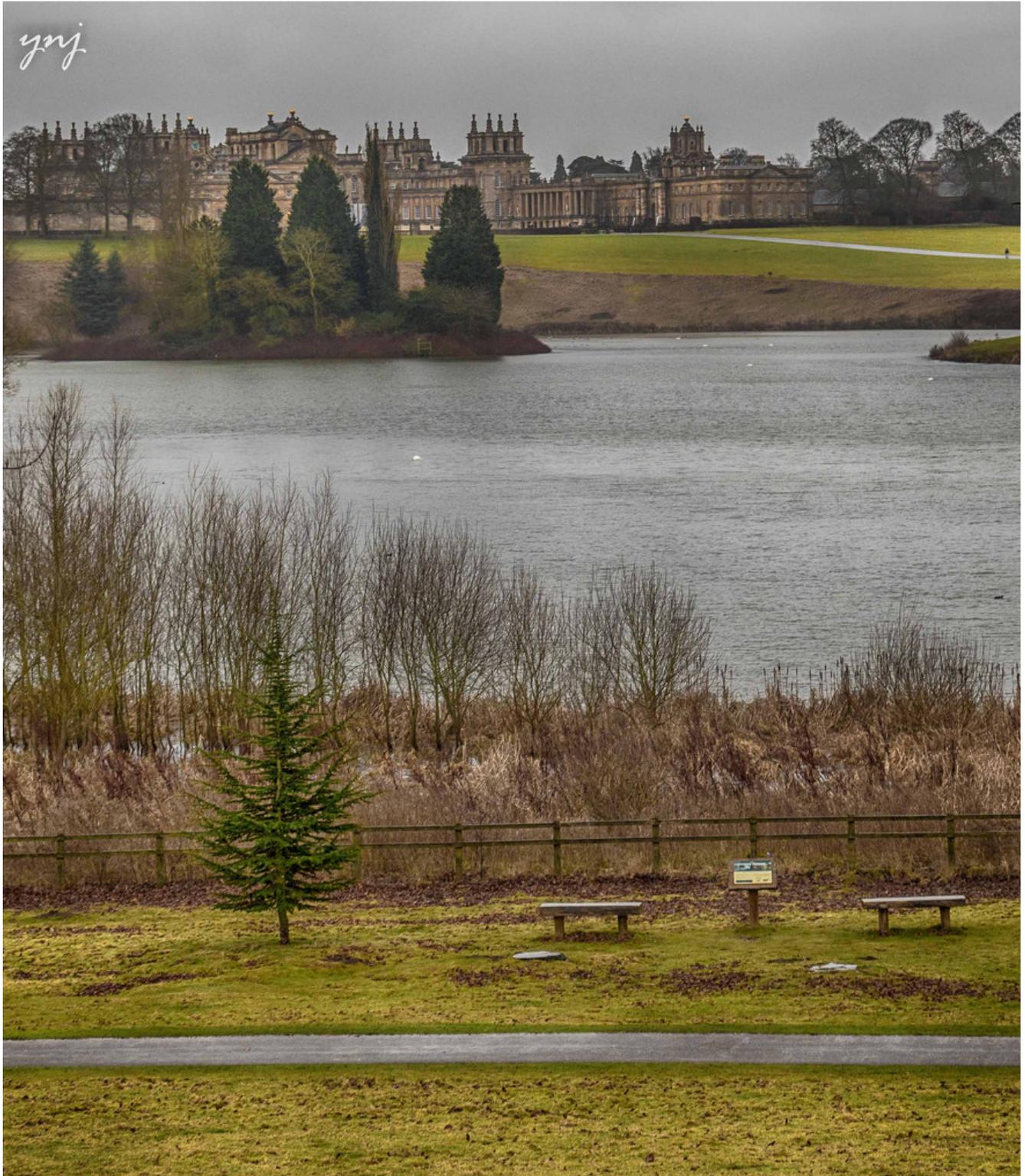
Located between Oxford and Chipping Norton is the pretty historic town of Woodstock. The town is home of the stunning Blenheim Palace Estate. Woodstock is a busy and bustling town, popular with visiting tourists because of the well-known palace and charming collection of antique shops. The local boutiques and gift shops include memorabilia, items of English heritage and pretty, picturesque postcards of The Cotswolds. In the heart of the town is the Oxfordshire Museum, where you can learn about the town and county's history. Woodstock is just 8 miles' distance from Oxford with a regular direct bus route, making travelling to the town easy.

The Cotswolds have been named as an area of outstanding natural beauty in England which is no surprise to anyone visiting the area. Stretched across the rolling hills of the Cotswolds and several counties, the regions boundaries extend into Gloucestershire, Warwickshire, , Worcestershire Wiltshire and Oxfordshire. Lush green grass covers a large part of the area, alongside charming wild woodland and pretty market towns.

## The Great Blenheim Palace

Woodstock is famous for what is considered by some, the most beautiful and stunning palace in England. Set in 2000 acres of land that was once known as Blenheim Park, the palace was a gift to the 1<sup>st</sup> Duke of Marlborough John Churchill. Given to him by Queen Anne to reward him for his victory over France for the War of the Spanish Succession, the palace was in desperate need of restoration so she also awarded him with £240,000 to fund the rebuild. Sir Winston Churchill was born at the palace in 1874 and he also proposed to his wife Clementine Hozier in the palace grounds at the Temple of Diana. When Sir Winston Churchill died, he was buried with

other members of the Churchill family in the nearby village of Bladon. Blenheim Palace is still owned by the estate of the late John Spencer-Churchill who was the 11<sup>th</sup> Duke of Marlborough and it has remained in the Churchill family for many decades. This charming Cotswold attraction is an amazing site with enormous stunning lawns, a huge lake and the magnificent palace overlooking the grounds. Discover the State Room Tours, the Churchill Exhibition, the Formal Gardens Walking Tours and seasonal events such as the Christmas Craft Fair, Battle Proms and Blenheim Palace Flower Show.



## Famous History of Woodstock

Woodstock was noted in The Domesday Book of 1086 as a royal forest where English Kings would regularly stay in the area. Henry I had a menagerie in the park and Woodstock town was famous for the romantic courtship between King Henry II and Rosamund Clifford. In the 13<sup>th</sup> Century, The Bear Hotel was

built as a coaching inn, providing a place to stay for travellers passing through the area. Elizabeth I was just a princess when she lived in Woodstock in 1554, staying in a lodge which is now known as Blenheim Estate and held captive for her safety during the uprising to overthrow Queen Mary I. Elizabeth was unable to live in Blenheim Palace because the house was in such a poor condition that it was completely uninhabitable. Thomas Chaucer, famous Speaker of the House of Commons also lived in Woodstock and you can find his house at the foot of Chaucer Lane, distinctively identified by a heritage plaque outside.

## **Woodstock & Cotswolds Tour**

The Cotswolds is an area famous for its weaving trade and the 'Textiles Trail' in Woodstock houses the Blenheim Palace Tapestries, the fascinating Woodstock Wallhangings in the Town Hall and the charming Stonesfield Embroidery at The Oxfordshire Museum. The Oxfordshire Museum exhibits local art, archaeology, landscape, wildlife and local history. It includes details about the county's advanced industries from the Dinosaur Garden to nuclear power in nanotechnology. If you're thinking of visiting Woodstock and the Cotswolds, why not book yourselves a tour with The Cotswolds Secret Cottage Tour and be taken to all the top places in The Cotswolds. You will see pretty Cotswold villages, charming market towns, some of the best tourist attractions, magnificent stately homes, meandering streams through thatched cottage hamlets and houses built from the honey-coloured Cotswold limestone. If you're visiting from London, then it's only 1hr 40 minutes on the train from Paddington to Moreton-in-Marsh station. You will be picked up in our luxury 7-seater minibus and returned after the tour to the station, in time to get back to London for the evening. The tour takes 6-hours showing you all the beautiful places in the Cotswolds. We take you home to the Secret Cottage for a delicious home cooked buffet lunch, and stop there in the morning for coffee and pastries, then a wonderful

traditional Cotswold cream tea in the afternoon. Don't miss out as we get booked up quickly! Book your Cotswold Tour today.