

# Explore with Cotswold Tours

The Cotswolds stretches across 800 square miles of landscape in the south-west of England, covering Gloucestershire, Oxfordshire, Warwickshire, Wiltshire and parts of north-east Somerset. The region is easily accessible to visitors coming to the UK, close to Bristol, Birmingham and London airports and a short 1 hour and 40 minutes on the train from London. If you're coming to England or planning a visit to the south-west of the country, then a day trip to the Cotswolds can be an experience you will never forget. The Cotswolds has been named as the second largest area of outstanding natural beauty in England and Wales so it's no wonder that people flock from all over the world to see the breath-taking views and explore some of the historical places in England.

## Hidden Villages and Cotswold Cottages

A typical Cotswold village has many ancient cottages of all sizes with thatched roofs, cosy wood burning fires, pretty rose-filled cottage gardens, a small primary school, local shop and a good, village pub. Cotswold villages can be found throughout the area, far from any town and down long country lanes of single tracks. The villages have strong communities where everyone knows each other and village life is friendly and relaxed. There's huge stately homes in many villages, smart and historical houses that have been standing for hundreds of years. Village life includes a lot of time spent outdoors with country walks, delicious food and local ales at the pub, cricket on the village green in the summer, paddling in the local river and flocks of walkers discovering the area.



## The Famous Cotswolds

The Cotswolds was once a very profitable area for sheep farmers and was known as one of the largest contributors towards the European wool trade. Cotswold Market towns were busy with sheep markets every week and cloth and tweed mills were common throughout the area to cater for the trade. Since the cloth trade moved to the north of England after the industrial revolution, the Cotswolds has reduced sheep farming and has been left idyllic and underdeveloped in terms of major industrialisation. The Cotswolds well-known for the beautiful countryside and rolling Cotswold hills, a gentle landscape that stretches for 800 square miles. Beautiful villages nestle between the hills and pretty market towns, resting peacefully and overlooking the landscape from the hills. The Cotswolds are also famous for the pale honey-coloured Cotswold stone that has been used to build through villages, towns and cities

and is well-known in the area complimenting the landscape that makes up the south-west of England.

## Beautiful Cotswold Towns

Cotswold market towns are a breath-taking vision of perfection with grand architecture of Cotswold stone that builds majestic town halls and beautiful homes. The market squares now have weekly markets with fresh produce and the towns offer charming gift shops, friendly cafes, busy local pubs and some great shopping experiences. Antique shops are popular in many Cotswold market towns, selling antique furniture and famous pieces of artwork from local artists and designers. Popular Cotswold market towns to visit include Moreton-in-Marsh, Stow-on-the-Wold, Burford, Chipping Norton, Witney and Woodstock. Each town has plenty of history and Cotswold tours enjoy telling visitors all the historical information that the Cotswolds is famous for. If you're planning on visiting the Cotswolds, make sure you experience going to some of the market towns. They are a picturesque vision of quintessential working towns with the beauty of the Cotswold stone architecture.



## Perfect Cotswold Tours

Private tours in the Cotswolds will give you the perfect day trip, experiencing some of the most beautiful areas in the Cotswolds. If you're staying in London, then you can get a direct train from London Paddington to Moreton-in-Marsh train station, taking only 1 hour and 40 minutes. Private Cotswold tours offer you a wonderful 6-hour day trip seeing all the best places, the most historical buildings, quaint villages and the stunning views of the area. The Secret Cottage Tour takes you on a fantastic 6-hour tour of the area and we also invite guests into our home to explore our 400-yearold cottage. Relax on our home and feast on homemade food for lunch and a traditional Cotswold cream tea in the afternoon. We pick you up from the train station in our luxury minibus and after the tour, we take you back to the train station so you can be back in London for your evening meal.