

MOTIVATE, EDUCATE AND REWARD



Bath, Oxford & THE COTSWOLDS

OFTEN REFERRED TO as the 'Heart of England', this glorious rural region epitomises everything people love about the English countryside: rolling pastures dotted with sheep, golden stone villages, magnificent stately homes, antique shops and a generous smattering of traditional country pubs.

Beloved by the royal family, and home to two of England's most iconic, historic cities, Bath and Oxford, it's a region that's guaranteed to impress and inspire – from a glass of champagne beside the steamy waters of the Roman Baths and a stroll past Oxford colleges steeped in history, to a private garden tour of Highgrove, country residence of HRH The Prince of Wales.

LOCATION & ACCESS

The main gateway to the Cotswolds is Bath or Oxford.

By road

From London to Bath: Approx. 2 hrs west/120 miles.

From London to Oxford:

Approx. 1.5 hrs northwest/60 miles.

By air

Nearest international airport:

London-Heathrow airport.

Alternative airports:

Bristol, Cardiff, Birmingham International airports.

By train

From London-Paddington to Bath: 1.5 hrs.

From London-Paddington to Oxford: 1.5 hrs.



Bath



The Roman and Georgian splendour of Bath is so outstanding that the whole of this golden-stone city is a World Heritage Site.

It was the Romans who transformed Bath into England's first spa resort and the city regained popularity in the 18th century when fashionable society flocked here to take the spa waters. Today's visitors can trace artists and writers like Jane Austen against the magical backdrop of its magnificent architecture. Bath still retains its elegant air with its smart boutique shops and galleries, dainty tearooms and fine restaurants, and with festivals, theatre and music performances, it has captivating year-round entertainment to match.

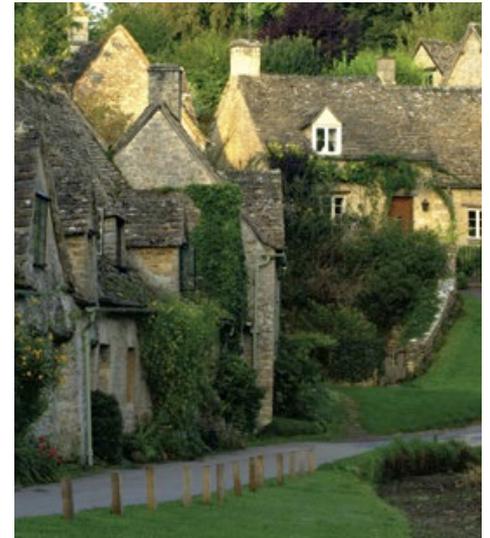
Oxford



This beautiful city of spires and domes is known the world-over as the home of England's first university, founded 1167. Its 38 colleges have given rise to many well-known scholars from Romantic poet Percy Bysshe Shelley, unceremoniously expelled for his revolutionary writings, to modern-day names including physicist Stephen Hawking and former British Prime Ministers Tony Blair and Margaret Thatcher.

Crammed with architectural gems, Oxford's picturesque buildings include the circular Radcliffe Camera and Bridge of Sighs, based on the Venice landmark. With its bicycling students, museums, punt boats and riverside walks, it's a lovely place to explore by day while its student population ensures a lively nightlife scene.

The Cotswolds



Honey-coloured buildings drip with roses, antique shops beckon and old country pubs recall a way of life little changed over the centuries in the sleepy villages of the Cotswolds. This charming rural region is formed by the six English counties of Worcestershire, Gloucestershire, Wiltshire, Oxfordshire, Warwickshire and Bath & North East Somerset.

It is an area much loved by English and international visitors alike for its gentle hillsides ('wolds') carved with meandering river valleys and its beautifully-preserved typically English limestone villages. The area's mansions and magnificent churches stand testament to the fortunes made through the medieval wool trade.

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ARRIVAL

Sit back and relax as a fleet of chauffeur-driven Range Rovers whisk your guests to their selected hotel. Since the Range Rover was officially launched back in 1970, this luxury four-wheel drive vehicle has been a British icon which has stood the test of time. Now in its fourth generation, its airy interior and renowned off-road handling continue to epitomise good country living – the perfect introduction to your guests' England experience.



WHERE TO STAY

Ellenborough Park, Cheltenham Spa
★★★★★ **60 rooms and suites**



Ellenborough Park is a 15th-century manor house on the original Cheltenham Racecourse estate, which has been restored as an exceptional destination hotel.

Located in the rolling English countryside, just 10 minutes from the genteel town of Cheltenham Spa, adjacent to the world-famous Cheltenham Racecourse, the hotel comprises 60 large bedrooms and suites individually designed by English interior designer Nina Campbell, an Indian-themed spa and a heated outdoor swimming pool.

From formal dining in the oak-panelled Beaufort Dining Room to afternoon tea in the Great Hall by the roaring fire, the hotel exemplifies country living at its finest.

Lucknam Park, Bath
★★★★★ **42 rooms and suites**



Lucknam Park is unspoilt, country house living at its very best and the ideal place to leave everyday life behind.

Truly one of England's finest five-star country house hotels, it features 42 luxurious rooms and suites set in 500 acres, together with fine dining, first-class spa treatments and leisure facilities and four elegant meeting rooms, providing a distraction-free setting for business brainstorming.

Located in the heart of the English countryside, just 20 minutes from historic Bath, Lucknam Park is a proud member of Relais & Chateaux and holds a number of accolades including a Michelin Star and Visit Britain Gold Award.

Malmaison Oxford
★★★★ **95 rooms and suites**



The Malmaison Oxford is the leading four-star hotel in Oxford, offering luxurious accommodation in the former city gaol next to of the iconic castle.

Located in city centre, the hotel is a landmark building with elegance and personality aplenty. Each of the 95 bedrooms have been cleverly converted from a prison block to light and lavish spaces with beautiful views across the city. Small touches of the past are retained with the original locks and doors remaining as part of the hotel.

Join the craze for covert cuisine in one of the comfy converted prison cells for a unique private dining experience or join other guests at MALBAR, a cocktail bar with a truly unique atmosphere.

ACTIVITIES

Cotswold Water Park
(Full Day or Half Day)



Welcome to the only British Water Ski Affiliated Commercial Ski Centre in the Cotswolds where it's all about having fun on the water. The largest area of inland water in England, with 150 lakes spread across 40 square miles (103 sq km), this vast man-made site has been specifically designed not only to provide a habitat for wildlife but also to maximise the watersports experience.

From sailing, canoeing and waterskiing to wakeboarding, windsurfing and playing on the towable inflatables, and with a wealth of expert tuition on hand, it's the ideal place for your guests to test their mettle and 'have a go'.

Highgrove Garden Tour & Champagne Welcome (Half Day)



Highgrove House near Tetbury is the family home of HRH The Prince of Wales (Prince Charles) and HRH The Duchess of Cornwall and one of four residences owned by His Royal Highness.

Since his arrival in 1980, the Prince has devoted much energy to transforming the gardens around the house. The result is one of the most creatively inspired gardens of today, and one that embodies the organic and sustainable principles that the Prince has for so long championed.

Find out more on this fascinating private guided tour. Afterwards, guests can return to the Orchard Restaurant for a delicious afternoon tea served with a glass of chilled Highgrove champagne.



The 'Cotswold Job' Car Treasure Hunt (Full Day)



Just like in its famous film counterpart, *The Italian Job*, the iconic English Mini is the star of this enjoyable, high-paced treasure hunt.

Your guests' day starts with an initial briefing and an outline of their mission, complete with touch-screen smart phones or an iPad and a whole range of high-tech kit to see them through their action-packed adventure. Then they can grab the keys to their Mini and take off with their colleagues on an amazing journey through the country lanes while collecting as many clues as they can to be the winning team.

Antiques Bargain Hunt (Half Day)



The Cotswolds are synonymous with antiques, with picture-postcard villages like Broadway, Burford and Stow-on-the-Wold brimming with antique emporiums and tiny treasure troves, offering the broadest choice available outside London.

At the beginning of this challenge, each team is given a set amount of money with which to purchase antiques. Their objective is to find items that will earn their team a profit when later sold at auction. Each team is accompanied by an antiques trade expert, though it is the contestants' decision whether to heed the advice given by their expert. Then off to the auction to see which team has made the most profit!

Behind the Scenes Tour of a Premier Horse-Racing Yard (Half Day)



'Jackdaws Castle is without doubt one of Europe's premier training establishments; you really do have to see it to believe it.'

Join racehorse trainer Jonjo O'Neill on a behind-the-scenes tour of Jackdaws Castle, a 500-acre estate close to Cheltenham. This exclusive tour allows guests to watch the horses in training before being driven alongside them as they work up a gallop. Guests can also tour the main yard to meet the stable stars as well as visit the equine pool where many of the horses swim and use the solarium; they may even get to meet one of the UK's champion jockeys.

Bicester Designer Outlet Shopping (Half Day)



Shopping is one of the great pleasures of travelling and a visit to Bicester Designer Village represents a truly superior shopping experience, with an unrivalled selection of both international and quintessentially English fashion, homeware and luxury brands, all in one location.

Your guests can spend their time browsing over 130 boutiques whose famous names include Anya Hindmarch, Cath Kidston, Karen Millen, Matthew Williamson, Missoni, Mulberry, Penhaligon's, Sandro, Temperley London, Tory Burch and Vivienne Westwood. What's more, all of the outlets offer up to 60% off all year round, meaning your guests can also pick up a bargain on the way.

Bath Walking Tour (Half Day)



The golden city of Bath has been welcoming visitors for over 2,000 years. Designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Bath presents some of the finest architecture in Europe, with over 5,000 listed buildings.

On this walking tour, guests can drink in the sights including the Roman Baths and Pump Room that first gave Bath its name, the graceful sweep of the Royal Crescent and Pulteney Bridge, designed by famous British architect Robert Adam. The surrounding seven hills, the River Avon running through the heart of the city and the towers of Bath Abbey also combine to create a memorable first impression.

Oxford Walking Tour (Half Day)



Oxford has been a world-famous seat of learning and excellence for 700 years and walking through Oxford's wide streets and winding back lanes offers glimpses of courtyards and gardens, museums and colleges, little changed over the centuries.

The city's charming scenery has been the inspiration for many writers, including Lewis Carroll and JRR Tolkien, not to mention the backdrop for films and TV series such as Harry Potter and Inspector Morse. It's also a great place to take to the river on a traditionally-crafted punt boat from which you can drift past historic colleges, the botanic gardens and sleepy meadows out into the tranquil English countryside.

GALA DINNER OPTIONS

Blenheim Palace, near Oxford

Up to 300 dinner guests



With a history spanning over 300 years, there are few dining venues to rival Blenheim Palace. Home to the 11th Duke and Duchess of Marlborough, this exquisite Baroque Palace, set in 2,000 acres of 'Capability' Brown-landscaped parkland, is the celebrated birthplace of former British Prime Minister Sir Winston Churchill and a World Heritage Site.

The Palace has an array of stunning settings for exclusive banqueting hire. These include The Orangery overlooking the private Italian Garden, as well as The Great Hall and The Long Library, all with hospitality of the highest standard to turn any dining event into a truly memorable occasion.

Roman Baths & Pump Room, Bath

Up to 200 dinner guests



Originally built for hospitality and entertainment, the Roman Baths and adjacent Pump Room create a delightful and unusual setting for a gala dinner.

Dating back some 2,000 years, the Roman Baths are at the heart of this UNESCO World Heritage city and make a magical setting for a drinks reception, with guests mingling beside the torch-lit, steaming waters, soaking up the unique atmosphere of the Great Bath. Afterwards, they can continue the evening with dinner in the elegant Pump Room, built in 1795 as the focal point of Georgian Society and one of the most atmospheric venues in the country.

Longleat House, near Bath

Up to 100 dinner guests



Longleat is widely regarded as one of the best examples of high Elizabethan architecture in England and one of the country's most exquisite stately houses.

Home to the 7th Marquess of Bath, and packed with treasures and heirlooms acquired over generations, it offers a choice of spectacular venues for entertaining. From the exclusive Green Library and exotic Orangery to the unique atmosphere of The Great Hall with its high wooden-beamed Elizabethan ceiling, all are perfect settings for dinner. For something different, try Lord Bath's private Banqueting Suite, whose silver doors and ancestral portraits will be the talking point of any evening.

OTHER DINING OPTIONS

Unique to the Cotswolds



The gently rolling hills, dotted with sheep, and rich fertile soil of this rural region means there's no shortage of tasty local produce on the menu.

Cotswold lamb is a particular favourite as are Gloucester Old Spot Pork sausages, best served with creamy mashed potato and local Tewkesbury mustard. Flavoursome trout also thrive in the alkaline waters of the limestone hills, while the Vale of Evesham is famed for its fruit. Visit in late summer when you can savour apples and plums, slowly stewed in a delicious crumble or pie. Round off your meal with some Cotswold cheese – with over 100 varieties, there's plenty to choose from.

Dining in Tetbury



This picturesque Cotswold town, set around its 17th-century pillared Market House, is crammed with fine old buildings. The town is renowned for its proximity to Prince Charles' residence at Highgrove and many businesses bear the Prince's feathers as a sign they supply the Royal Household.

With its plethora of antiques shops and wide range of eating establishments, it's a lovely place to stop for a leisurely lunch. Whether you opt for the relaxed informal atmosphere of a traditional Cotswold inn or one of the friendly restaurants or brasseries, you can expect exciting menus and delicious local food.