

# Your Guide To

## Winchcombe



## ‘Castles, queens and a walkers paradise’

Winchcombe is an elegant and timeless Cotswold town, with the magnificent Sudeley Castle & Gardens being the main draw. But venture down the narrow side streets and you’ll also find a mix of fascinating and beautiful Cotswold stone cottages and ancient black and white half-timbered buildings.

Winchcombe is a walker’s haven, with the figure of eight Winchcombe Way centered on the town and the Isbourne Way passing through it – no wonder that it holds Walkers are Welcome status, one of only 100 towns in the UK to do so.

The town is also a foodie destination with a choice of eating out options that range from traditional pubs to gourmet dining and local cafes, plus excellent delis to stock up the kitchen and create picnics.

Winchcombe has a superb range of galleries, boutiques, interior design, and antique shops. More recently, Winchcombe was put on the map by the arrival of the Winchcombe Meteorite, one of the oldest meteorites to land on Earth and thought to date to the formation of our Solar System 4.6 billion years ago. The meteorite, and the chunk of driveway that it fell on, are now both safely on display at the Natural History Museum in London and another part is on display in Winchcombe Museum.

*We hope you enjoy your stay in this much-loved part of the Cotswolds!*

## Bolthole Retreats

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## Quintessentially Cotswolds:

### Sudeley Castle & Gardens, Winchcombe

Steeped in one thousand years of history, and the resting place of Henry VIII's sixth wife Katherine Parr, Sudeley Castle makes for a fascinating day out, with 10 award-winning gardens set in the 1,200-acre estate, a pheasantry (housing one of the largest collections in the world of rare and endangered pheasants), and a huge adventure playground, not to mention the vast number of events including the ever-popular Spectacle of Lights, also taking place throughout the year.

### Gloucestershire Warwickshire Steam Railway, Winchcombe

The Gloucestershire Warwickshire Steam Railway (GWSR) is a steam and diesel heritage railway. Since 1981, the volunteers have restored over 10 miles of line, together with platforms, buildings, steam, and diesel locomotives and rolling stock. In addition to a scheduled service, GWR hosts a number of galas and enthusiasts' events throughout the year, including the ever-popular Santa Specials.

### Hailes Abbey, Hailes

The medieval Abbey was once one of the most important pilgrimage sites in England, with visitors flocking to see the Holy Blood of Hailes, believed to be the blood of Christ. The holy relic was destroyed during Henry VIII's dissolution. Today you can visit the Abbey and the museum, which tells the tale of the history of this historically significant site.

### Adam Henson's Cotswold Farm Park, Guiting Power

Sitting in the heart of the Cotswolds, overlooking the Windrush Valley, this is a fabulous day out for the whole family. See rare breeds, spot new arrivals in the animal barn, follow the wildlife trails, and spend time in the glorious countryside. There's plenty to do whatever the weather, with an adventure playground, Farm Safari, Maze, Tractor School, Sandpits and Jumping pillows. Adam's kitchen café-restaurant and the Farm Park shop are both open to visitors and the public.

## Broadway Tower, Broadway

This iconic landmark can be spotted from miles around. It's the second highest point in the Cotswolds, on a clear day you can see as far as Wales and the views are truly spectacular. E-bikes are available for hire or simply take your time exploring the 50-acre estate including a resident herd of red deer. There's a café for refreshments and you can also book to explore the old nuclear bunker too.

## Cleeve Hill, Cleeve

On the north-eastern edge of Cheltenham, Cleeve Hill is the highest point in Gloucestershire and the highest peak in the Cotswolds. Criss-crossed by countless footpaths, including the Cotswold Way National Trail, the breath-taking views take in the Malvern Hills and on a clear day the Black Mountains in Wales. There are oodles of open space, quite a few sheep, a golf course and Neolithic long barrow – Belas Knap. This English Heritage scheduled ancient monument has been described as an 'outstanding example representing a group of long barrows commonly referred to as the Cotswold-Severn group'.

## Stanway House, Stanway

Stanway is a beautiful example of a Jacobean manor house lived in by the same family since the 16th century. Explore the medieval Tithe Barn, 18th century water garden and see the Stanway Fountain, the highest gravity fed fountain in the world.

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## Connect with Culture:

### Winchcombe Museum

Dedicated to all things Winchcombe, the Winchcombe Museum takes visitors through the historical heritage of the town and surrounding area. Displays include pieces from the Winchcombe Pottery, drawings from the excavation of Neolithic burial site Belas Knap, and curious relics including an Iron Age cup, a WWII field telephone found in the tower of St Peter's church and part of the Winchcombe Meteorite.

### Winchcombe Pottery

The much-acclaimed pottery is actually made in Winchcombe and has been since at least 1800. Each item is thrown by hand following the classic slipware style, using Winchcombe clay to make bowls, plates, dishes, jars and more.

### The Everyman Theatre

The Everyman Theatre in Cheltenham was designed by famed architect Frank Matcham, who was responsible for the London Palladium, Coliseum and Hippodrome amongst others, and has been entertaining audiences since 1891. The theatre showcases a wide range of productions encompassing ballet, opera, music, comedy, musicals, and a hugely popular Christmas pantomime.

### Snowhill Manor

Managed by the National Trust, Snowhill is the eclectic home of Charles Wade. He was an architect and artist with a passion for the unusual. His collections are quirky and avant-garde and as you wander through the atmospheric rooms, you'll find thousands of objects from the tiniest of toys to genuine Samurai armour. The gardens are also beautiful.

## Cheltenham Festivals

Cheltenham is well known for its spectacular festivals which bring a flourish of life and entertainment to the town throughout the year. Starting in May with the Jazz Festival, the Science Festival and Food & Drinks festival are in June, followed quickly by the music festival in July and the literature festival in October. Each showcases the talents of celebrities and offers great free events alongside the big-name tickets.

## Longborough Festival Opera

The beautiful setting of the Longborough opera house, which has two bars, a choice of dining venues and picnic options, shows acclaimed performances during their annual season. Even if you are not an opera aficionado, this is an experience not to be missed.

## Broadway Arts Festival

The Broadway Arts Festival is a biennial event that celebrates the unique, artistic heritage of the village, forged by the famous colony of American writers and artists who found inspiration here during the late 19th century. Encompassing different locations throughout the village, you'll find workshops, outdoor theatre, exhibitions, talks, live music, and garden tours.



## Wine and Dine:

### Corner Cupboard Inn, Winchcombe

Perfect for: Lunch and dinner

15<sup>th</sup> century inn with roaring fires and oak beams. Local pub with classic pub food and a friendly welcome.

### The Greasiest Spoon, Winchcombe

Perfect for: breakfast, brunch, and vegan

Despite the name, this family run café serves excellent breakfasts with a range of vegan dishes too. Takeaways are available and they offer private catering too.

### 5 North Street, Winchcombe

Perfect for: lunch and dinner

An informal dining room with Michelin-star chef Gus Ashenford at its helm, serving a variety of menus inspired by seasonal and local foods. A lovely spot for a special occasion.

### The Lion Inn, Winchcombe

Perfect for: lunch and dinner



A 15th century coaching inn with a garden serving British cuisine using locally sourced, seasonal ingredients, even using locals' spare home-grown fruit and veg.

### Plaisterers Arms, Winchcombe

Perfect for: lunch, dinner

A lovely old traditional Cotswold pub with a shady rear garden, which is great for dogs on sunny days, serving good pub classics.

### Royal Oak, Gretton

Perfect for: lunch, dinner

A family friendly pub serving classic pub food with a local twist. Sit in the garden

and watch the Gloucestershire Warwickshire Steam train chugging by.

### Gardeners Arms, Alderton

Perfect for: lunch, dinner, vegan and Sunday lunches

16<sup>th</sup> century pub with an extensive menu of pub classics and substantial vegan options too. Their Sunday roasts are exceptionally popular, and booking is recommended.

### The Hollow Bottom, Guiting Power

Perfect for: dinner

So named by the locals for being the pub in the hollow at the bottom of the village. This popular pub has an interesting menu using wonderful British and local produce. Booking is recommended.

### The Mount, Stanton

Perfect for: lunch, dinner

As the name suggests, this pub sits in an elevated position in a pretty village not far from Broadway. The far-reaching views from the terrace are wonderful and pair perfectly with your meal. Booking is recommended.

### The Plough Inn, Ford

Perfect for: lunch, dinner and Sunday roasts

This popular pub has a wonderful atmosphere and an extensive menu of superb pub classics and roasts on a Sunday. The pub is across the road from Jackdaw's Castle, Jonjo O'Neill's racing stables so expect a horsey vibe. The pub and garden is child and pet friendly.



# Cotswold Explorers:

## Cotswold Lavender, Snowshill

Cotswold Lavender is home to a patchwork of purple-hued fields that burst into life every summer. For a brief eight-week period the farm is open for you to stroll through the fragrant fields. Learn how it's used and then pick up lavender-scented goodies in the on-site shop before you leave.

## Belas Knap and Cleeve Hill

On the north-eastern edge of Cheltenham, Cleeve Hill is the highest point in Gloucestershire and the highest peak in the Cotswolds. Criss-crossed by countless footpaths, including the Cotswold Way National Trail, the breathtaking views take in the Malvern Hills and on a clear day the Black Mountains in Wales. There are oodles of open space, quite a few sheep, a golf course and Neolithic long barrow – Belas Knap. This English Heritage scheduled ancient monument has been described as an 'outstanding example representing a group of long barrows commonly referred to as the Cotswold-Severn group'.

## Prescott Hill Climb, Gotherington

Established in 1938 by the Bugatti Owners' Club, the Prescott Speed Hill Climb is set in a 69-acre location surrounded by stunning Cotswold countryside where weekend-long classic car and bike events are held as well as the British and Midland Hill Climb Championships. Learn to drive the historic hill climb alongside an expert instructor following in the tyre tracks of the greatest drivers including Stirling Moss, Peter Collins, and Graham Hill.

## Regency Cheltenham Spa

This vibrant town is bursting with history, but it's also jam-packed with culture, the arts, and an impeccable racing pedigree. From a much-celebrated annual literary festival attracting authors from across the globe to fabulous music, jazz and science events, Cheltenham is a place to refresh the mind and the soul.

## Batsford Arboretum, Batsford

This stunning Arboretum is a wonderful spot to let off steam. Follow the woodland trails (there's a trail especially for children with a prize at the end), through the beautiful estate surrounded by clouds of wildflowers, trees, and plants. Batsford is always beautiful, but it really comes into its own during the spectacular Autumn months.

## Bourton-on-the-Water

This picture-postcard village lies offers a wealth of attractions including Birdland Park and Gardens, the Model Village, Dragonfly Maze, and the Cotswold Motoring Museum. Wander alongside the riverside walk, as the River Windrush flows through the centre of the village, before refuelling with a cream tea in one of the lovely independent cafes.

In February 2021 a 4.6-billion-year-old meteorite landed on a driveway in Winchcombe!

# Ultimate Days Out for the Family:

## Fairytale Farm

Divided into six zones, including Huff and Puff, Enchanted Walk, and Fairy Dell, Fairytale Farm has something to keep the whole family entertained. With animals including pigs, goats, ponies, lambs, chickens, rabbits, and alpacas, as well as an adventure playground, Fairytale Farm has enough to do to keep children occupied for hours. What's more, because they're having so much fun, it won't feel like learning at all!

## Crocodiles of the World

Dedicated to the conservation of these much-maligned creatures, you'll be able to see 17 of the 24 species currently found in the world including fresh and saltwater crocodiles, caiman, and alligators. For those who want to get even closer, there are wild keeper experiences for children and grownups alike.

## Cotswold Wildlife Park

Discover one of the UK's largest zoological collections and exciting gardens. There are a range of animal sections including birds, mammals, primates, reptiles and amphibians. There are also beautiful gardens including the Victorian walled garden and mature tree planting landscape. Seasonal events are arranged, as well as daily activities which include penguin and lemur feeding.

## Birdland Park & Gardens

Set in nine acres of gardens and woodlands, children can discover an amazing world of birds and their Jurassic ancestors, all on the outskirts of a beautiful Cotswold village. From King Penguins and comical Humboldts to life-sized dinosaur statues lurking in the woodland, there's something around every corner.

## Broadway Activity Park

A 3-acre recreation ground that has been turned into a state-of-the-art activity park to be used and enjoyed by the whole community. The park is divided into 4 specific areas for different age groups and the distance between these areas is open grassland. There is lots of great play equipment including a seesaw, climbing poles, twin fly spinners, climbing towers, a skate ride simulation and more.

## Relax and Revive:

### Bamford Wellness Spa, Kingham

Set on the Daylesford organic farm, Bamford Spa offers a holistic approach to relaxation and healing. A range of treatments use both modern and ancient techniques to fully relax the body and let the mind quiet. Classes are available and you can purchase access to The Spring wet spa.

### C-Side Spa, Cowley

The magnificent surroundings of Cowley Manor make the C-Side Spa a luxurious escape. After enjoying a treatment of your choice and a swim in the indoor or outdoor pool, wander the grounds where you will find natural springs and lakes.

### Dormy House Spa, Broadway

An award-winning spa just outside the heart of Broadway, a picturesque Cotswold location. You will find a menu of treatments, relaxed spa café and fitness suites alongside the candlelit infinity pool.

### Hatherley Manor Spa, Cheltenham

Take some time for yourself at Hatherley Manor Spa. A thermal suite lets you choose your favourite way to rejuvenate or meditate in their tranquil relaxation room. Visit for a treatment and spend some time in the pool for a break away from life's stresses.

### Cotswold House Spa, Chipping Campden

Open for spa days or treatments, Cotswold House Spa also has a hair salon and nail bar on site. Found in the centre of Chipping Campden, combine your spa day with a stroll around the town.

## Ellenborough Park Spa, Cheltenham

The luxurious Ellenborough Park will not disappoint. Surrounded by countryside on the outskirts of Cheltenham you can enjoy the grounds after your favourite treatment or treat yourself to afternoon tea.

## The Elan Spa at The Greenway, Cheltenham

This oasis of calm is an ideal retreat to relax and unwind while on holiday in the Cotswolds. With a choice of day packages and mini spa days you will find something that will fit your needs perfectly.

## The Lygon Arms Spa, Broadway

The Lygon Arms on the main street in Broadway is a wonderful place to while away a few hours with a treatment before spending time relaxing and enjoying the peace and quiet on a lounger. The Lygon is also home to the James Martin Grill for a delicious meal.

## The Garden Spa at Minster Mill, Minster Lovell

Choose how you want to spend your time by booking either a spa day, a treatment, or add on use of the pool facilities. This space only allows eight users at a time, making it a truly relaxing experience.

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