



Cotswolds

TRAVEL GUIDE

Oliver's Travels

YOUR GREAT ESCAPE

With its rolling green hills and impossibly pretty rural villages, it's not hard to see why the Cotswolds is considered one of the most beautiful regions in England. The countryside beckons to travellers seeking tranquil escapes, kids will go crazy for wildlife, while breweries, survival courses and craft workshops cater to grown-up groups. Throw in some of the UK's best attractions that will appeal to culture-keen holidaymakers, and it's little wonder the Cotswolds is one of the most popular tourist destinations in the country.

COTSWOLDS 101

CURRENCY	POUND	TIME ZONE	GMT
ELECTRICAL	THREE PIN	HIGHEST TEMP.	21° C
LANGUAGE	ENGLISH	LOWEST TEMP.	4° C
EMERGENCY	999	PEAK SEASON	JAN-JUNE



COTSWOLD WAY

TRANSPORT TALK



BY WHEELS

The winding roads are sometimes no-go zones for public transport, so rental is the best option for those who want total freedom. Hire car companies are in major cities, such as Gloucester and Bath.



BY BIKE

With excellent views, natural beauty and quiet, winding lanes, cycling in the Cotswolds is a joy. Ride through the glorious countryside and admire the pretty villages, full of local culture and heritage.



BY TAXI

Booking a taxi in the Cotswolds is pretty simple. You can locate taxis outside major hubs and stations or you can pre book online through several taxi companies.



BY WATER

The Cotswolds is easy to reach from Europe, you have ferry services via Hull, Felixstowe, Harwich, Holyhead and Pembroke..



BY AIR

London Heathrow is only an hour's drive from the Cotswolds, and is the UK's largest international airport. The Cotswolds can also be reached easily from Birmingham and Bristol Airports.



BY BUS OR TRAIN

The main stations for access to the Cotswolds are in Cheltenham, Bath and Oxford. Regular bus services link the train stations to the villages further afield. Check [traveline](#) to plan your journey.

HIDDEN GEMS

Kiftsgate Court Gardens

Anyone with even a passing interest in gardening should make it their business to see **Kiftsgate Court Gardens**, a tranquil hill covered in trees and flowers..

Kelmscott Manor

This was the home of the artist and poet William Morris and is today full of the ephemera he collected throughout his lifetime.



Blockley

The small village of **Blockley** was built on the back of the silk industry. After mooching around its charming streets, take one of the walking trails that lead off from the town.

Fairford

The quiet village of **Fairford** isn't often on tourist itineraries, but it's well worth pulling over for nevertheless.

- ★ Hidden Gems
- ★ Picks for Kids
- ★ Best Activities
- ★ Foodie Delights



TOP PICKS FOR KIDS

Wildlife Up-Close



Exploring the natural world is one of the most fascinating gifts you can give your child. The [Slimbridge Wetland Centre](#) run plenty of activities that will keep your kids busy discovering nature.



Kayak on the Lake



The lakes of South Cerney are the ideal spot for a day of invigorating water sports. The [South Cerney Outdoor](#) Education Centre runs family lessons in canoeing, kayaking and sailing.



Chug through the hills



Travelling by steam train is a magical experience for children. [The Gloucestershire Warwickshire Railway](#) track cuts through the glorious hills of the Cotswolds,



Get Crafty



Children can create personalised souvenirs of their holiday in the Cotswolds at [The Paint Pot](#). The kids can pick their own blank ceramics, then decorate it with a design entirely of their choosing.



Ride with Dogs



[Arctic Quest](#) offer the opportunity to be pulled along by huskies in wheeled carts which mimic the sensations of icy exploration, only without any bitter winds and sub-zero temperatures.



Meet a Stag



[The Bird and Deer Park](#) in Prinknash looks like it has come straight out of a storybook. Speckled fallow deer lope through green parkland and drink from tranquil ponds.



MAP IT OUT: WHERE TO FIND THE BEST FOR KIDS



CROWD-PLEASERS: BEST ACTIVITIES

Aim High



PULL! The cry before a clay disc is launched into the air is the cue for you to scan the skies for your target. Try [Prescott Shooting](#) a harmless, fun way of experiencing a classic country sport..



Take a Cycling Tour



Book a private tour with [Cotswolds Adventures](#) and explore the region.

Seeing the Cotswolds on two wheels allows you to go off the beaten track to places you may never otherwise discover.



Scare yourself Silly



[Bill Spectre's](#) name hints at his affinity with the paranormal – something that will become increasingly apparent as he takes you around the haunted sights in Cotswolds.



Hunt for Treasure



[Pedego Electric Bikes](#) puts a twist on the typical sightseeing excursion by adding a treasure hunting element to increase group camaraderie during your cycling adventure.



Learn a Craft



In the heart of Cirencester, artists share their secrets with visitors to [New Brewery Arts](#). Classes are small enough that the tutors can give time to each participant as they attempt to hone their skills.



Test your Survival



Gather your group for a wilderness expedition that will show you how to survive away from the home comforts you know and love. [Hands On Bushcraft](#) run courses that cover skills from foraging to fire-starting.



MAP IT OUT: WHERE TO FIND THE BEST FOR GROUPS





BEST FOODIE DELIGHTS



Daylesford Cookery

Rustic charm meets modern elegance in this old barn in the heart of the Cotswolds, where the [Daylesford Cookery School](#) teach visitors how to cook like the pros leading you through the whole journey of a meal.



Wild Thyme

[Wild Thyme Restaurant](#) has established a reputation as one of the finest eateries in the Cotswolds. The food here is best described as Mediterranean-inspired British cuisine



Lick the Spoon

This chocolatier is all about indulgence. All of their food is made with loving, meticulous care. Give in to your cravings and splash out on boxes of the finest chocolate in the Cotswolds with [Lick the Spoon](#).



The Wild Rabbit

Half of the appeal of [The Wild Rabbit](#) is in the building itself, a country inn at its most picturesque. The food is equally appealing, with the kitchen delivering twists on pub classics with verve and style.



Dishes to try

This region is famous for its cheeses. The **Single Gloucester** is produced solely in the Cotswolds, so keep an eye out for it. If you're on the Oxfordshire side of the Cotswolds and head into one of the region's many tea shops, try a **Banbury cake**.



The Kingham Plough

[The Kingham Plough](#) can tell you the point of origin of every ingredient in the delicious meals they serve. The result is that their kitchen, which serves pub staples regularly wins awards for its menu.



MAP IT OUT: WHERE TO FIND THE BEST FOR FOODIES





We'd like to think we know travel pretty well. Since we first hatched [Oliver's Travels](#) in 2003 it's been essentially all we've talked about. You could call us obsessed.

Our extensive [blog](#), Oliver's Journal has got tons of information and inspiration on locations across Europe and the Caribbean. It's a one-stop shop for family-friendly holiday fun, the best group activities, foodie finds and a good dose of adventure. If you found this travel guide useful, (we hope you did!), you can find a whole host more on the blog, too!

At Oliver's Travels we don't do ordinary. From [family chateaux in France](#) and [luxury cottages in the Cotswolds](#), to Mediterranean [villas with pools](#) and [Caribbean beach villas](#), we have something for everyone, everywhere.



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