

# Cycling Safaris

## **COTSWOLDS 2018** **Self Guided Tour 7 days/6 nights**



Follow cycle routes through quintessentially perfect Cotswold countryside and villages, such as Chipping Camden and Upper Slaughter. Honey-coloured stone houses, hedgerowed lanes, gloriously blossoming and colourful gardens all contribute towards what has been designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

During this self-guided cycling tour every day has a highlight, from the discovery of Neolithic and Bronze Age monuments, to the romantic water gardens at Sezincote and the Brailes, an area mentioned in the Domesday Book. You will be cycling through many iconic areas of the Cotswolds and even a cycle through Stratford-upon-Avon is included, the birthplace of William Shakespeare.

With only one change of accommodation on this tour you can unpack and relax.

### **TOUR ITINERARY**

#### **DAY 1** **Moreton-on-Marsh**

Today you will arrive in Moreton-on-Marsh located at the head of the beautiful Evenlode Valley. This thriving market town has just one main street which is lined with shops and galleries.

Perhaps you would like to arrive on a Tuesday as this is when Moreton-on-Marsh is host to the largest open-air street market in the Cotswolds. Also of interest is the White Hart Royal Hotel, a former manor house that sheltered King Charles I during the Civil War.



The second option is a shorter ride of around 23 miles in the morning. This route takes you through Chipping Camden, a charming and historic town, once famous for its wool trade. This afternoon perhaps you would like to take a bus into Stratford to see where The Bard was born and explore.

The third option is to take a day of rest. Broadway is a really picturesque town to stroll through and perhaps you may wish to search out some antique and book shops, or have lunch in a tea room or local pub. You may also take the bus into Stratford-upon-Avon if you wish.

### **DAY 6** **Broadway Loop via Stanway House & Gardens** **29 miles / 47 km**

The route today takes you on a loop to the south and west of Broadway. Head out of town to the west and along pretty country lanes to Elmley Castle, a small village and where the ruins of the castle remain. Continue through the charming villages of Ashton under Hill, Alderton and Gretton.

Just south of Broadway is Stanway, a scenic village and where it is worth stopping to see Stanway Manor House and Gardens. Explore this outstanding Jacobean Manor House and the 18th century water gardens, the finest in all of England.

Arrive back in Broadway for your final evening. With plenty of restaurants and pubs to choose from, perhaps you would like to have a final dinner and a toast to celebrate your week of wonderful cycling.

### **DAY 7** **Departure**

Tour is complete after breakfast.



## **TOUR DATES**

Self guided tours can start on Saturdays from April until September.

(\*Shorter 4 night tour option also available, please contact us [info@cyclingsafaris.com](mailto:info@cyclingsafaris.com) for more details)

## **TOUR PRICE 2018**

This tour is priced in Sterling:

£710.00 per person sharing

£895.00 single room occupancy

## WHAT THE TOUR PRICE INCLUDES

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- 6 nights bed and breakfast 3 and 4 star accommodation
- 24 speed touring bike with a pannier bag, bike lock, repair kit, pump
- Tour Information pack
- Route details/Maps
- Luggage transfer each day
- Taxi transfer on last day to train station

You will buy your own lunches and dinner throughout the trip. You should budget for between £5 and £7 for lunch each day. Evening meal cost somewhere between £12 and £20. Nearly all restaurants in England now cater for vegetarians/special diets.

A taxi transfer from Broadway at the end of the tour is included to Moreton-on-Marsh train station. The journey takes about 20 minutes, depending on traffic.

## ACCOMMODATION

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The accommodation is allocated on a twin-sharing basis with a combination of 3 & 4\* B&Bs and hotels.

We ensure private facilities almost all of the time. We would be happy to help you organise extra accommodation for the start or the end of the week, you can contact the office directly for this and we will help with bookings or phone numbers if possible.

## WHAT TO BRING

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\*We would seriously recommend that you bring **padded cycling shorts and / or a gel saddle cover** which will definitely make your days cycling more comfortable. Cycling gloves are also a good investment. You can also bring your own saddle which should fit on our bikes.

\*We do not provide **rain gear** so be sure to bring your own light weight waterproofs.

\***We do not provide helmets, it is recommended you wear one, so please bring your own.**

\*Don't forget sun cream, sunglasses, sun hat.

## BIKE & FITNESS

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Bike hire is available as an optional extra. Full-aluminium and good-quality hybrid bikes are available and the bike will be delivered to you. The bike will be a Ridgeback Velocity Hybrid. Full details about the bike will be in your information pack. All rentals include a helmet, combination lock, a pump, a pannier with spare inner tube, tyre levers, and a handlebar bag.

There are also a small number of electric bikes for hire, which provide a power assisted ride. For more information on Ebikes please [click here](#).



## TRAVEL INFORMATION

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### **Getting to/from Moreton-in-Marsh**

The best way of getting to Moreton-in-Marsh is by train. There is a direct train from London Paddington Station which takes about one and a half hours. If you fly into London Heathrow, you can then take the Heathrow Express [www.heathrowexpress.com/](http://www.heathrowexpress.com/) to London Paddington and from here a train to Moreton-in-Marsh. You may fly into any of the other London Airports, such as London Gatwick, make your way by bus or train into central London and then to London Paddington.

It is also possible to fly into Birmingham Airport when travelling to Moreton-in-Marsh with a journey time under 3 hours by public transport. Birmingham has flights from Aberdeen, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Jersey, Isle of Man, Inverness, Dundee, Derry, Belfast, and Dublin, Shannon and many European and international destinations.

You can find further information about train times and schedules on the [www.nationalrail.co.uk/](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk/).

It is also possible to drive to Moreton-in-Marsh. On street parking is available however there is no secure parking.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

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### **What is the weather like?**

England and the Cotswolds have a very mild climate making it ideal for cycling. Although there are occasionally wet days, the rain never usually lasts very long and you are soon free to enjoy a clear view of the magnificent scenery once again.

### **Are there facilities to change money?**

There are banks in Oxford, Burford, Broadway, Stratford, Moreton in Marsh, Chipping Camden, Bourton on the Water and Bureau de Change in Birmingham airport (all open Monday - Friday, 9.30am - 5.00pm). Credit cards are also widely accepted. Traveller's cheques are accepted in banks.

## RECOMMENDED READING, VIEWING AND LISTENING

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William Shakespeare is an obvious choice.

Stratford & Oxford have many literary links, especially in children's stories through Lewis Carroll, CS Lewis and JRR Tolkien. Lewis and Tolkein met regularly at the Eagle and Child pub to read extracts to each other of their works.

Evelyn Waugh based his novel Brideshead Revisited on his time at Hertford College.

Oxford also provided the backdrop to the award winning detective series Inspector Morse.

Geoffrey Chaucer (Canterbury Tales) resided in Woodstock for some years.

J. M. Barrie was a frequent visitor to Stanway and is thought to have had the idea of Tinkerbell (from Peter Pan) when a moonbeam hit his bedroom wall.