



TERRA & TU
CULTURAL JOURNEYS
by Nat Hab

Vibrant Traditions & Personal Connections



The Cotswolds: Exploring England's Classic Countryside

Discover Highlights & Hidden Corners of Britain's Most Enchanting Landscape



Vibrant Traditions & Personal Connections

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Trip Details:

Days
8 Days /
Apr–Oct

Price
From \$11295

The Cotswolds: Exploring England's Classic Countryside

Discover Highlights & Hidden Corners of Britain's Most Enchanting Landscape

On walks through ancient beech forest and tranquil meadows, along hedgerows and narrow cobbled lanes, an idyllic tableau of traditional England awaits. The Cotswolds is Britain's largest designated National Landscape, 800 square miles of glorious scenery: picture-postcard villages of honey-colored stone, pastures dotted with sheep, medieval church spires and burbling streams. On a full-week foray into a setting most visitors merely skim, explore secret byways and hidden hamlets, with private tours of lavish gardens, artisan farms, gourmet picnics, and pints at local pubs that date back centuries. Enjoy exclusive access to Highgrove House Gardens on the royal estate of King Charles III, where a private tea awaits. In the evenings, Britain's finest country house hotels provide a luxurious retreat, renowned for their bucolic settings and sustainable farm-to-table fare. Discover a romantic rural sojourn that's decidedly genteel.

Trip Highlights

- Most visitors go for a day—but the only way to know the peace and magic of this quintessential English landscape is to slow down and find its secret hideaways
- Wander tucked-away villages surrounded by unspoiled nature, and stay at historic luxury inns set among exuberant gardens, brooks, meadows and woodlands
- Join us for behind-the-scenes visits to grand estates and gardens, including King Charles' Highgrove House, plus private falconry and sheep dog demonstrations



Vibrant Traditions & Personal Connections



Trip Details:

Days
8 Days / Apr–Oct

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From \$11295

The Cotswolds: Exploring England's Classic Countryside Itineraries

Discover Highlights & Hidden Corners of Britain's Most Enchanting Landscape



2026 Itinerary

On a wide-ranging itinerary focused on nature, 2026 departures include Wytham Woods Nature Reserve and Slimbridge Wetland Center. We also visit Minster Lovell and Bibury.



2027 Itinerary

In 2027, we've shifted some of the inclusions on our all-encompassing itinerary to add an exclusive tour of Thorougham Court's private Arts & Crafts garden, plus a stay in Tetbury.



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Itinerary At A Glance

Day 1

Oxford, United Kingdom—City Tour /
Minster Lovell

Day 2

Wytham Woods Nature Reserve /
Bibury / Bampton / Windrush Valley
Walk

Day 3

Highgrove House—Private Garden
Tour / Westonbirt National
Arboretum

Day 4

Slimbridge Wetland Center / Private
Tour of Painswick Rococo Garden /
Falconry Experience

Day 5

Sapperton Valley Nature Reserve /
River Eye Walk / Upper Slaughter

Day 6

Dawn Chorus Walk / Classic
Cotswold Villages / Honeydale Farm

Day 7

Sheepdog Demonstration / Scenic
Country Walk / Private Tour of
Hidcote Gardens

2026 Itinerary

Discover Highlights & Hidden Corners of Britain's Most Enchanting Landscape

OXFORD / MINSTER LOVELL

Day 1: Begin in Oxford and cross into the heart of the Cotswolds

- Explore Oxford's 15th-century Bodleian Library and the historic colleges on a guided walking tour
- Join your Expedition Leader for a welcome dinner at your inn in Minster Lovell

Our Cotswolds sojourn begins this afternoon in Oxford with a guided walking tour of England's most famous university town. Admire the architecture and heritage of the 15th-century Bodleian Library and several of the colleges that comprise Oxford University, founded by King Henry VIII in 1546. Leaving Oxford, we head west into the heart of the Cotswolds. This rural region, whose name comes from the Old English "cot" for sheep enclosure and "wold," meaning hill—"sheep pens among rolling hills"—spans 800 square miles and is protected as Britain's largest National Landscape. Arrive at Minster Lovell, where a welcome dinner awaits at our inn. This perfectly preserved village of stone cottages with classic thatched roofs enjoys a romantic setting on the River Windrush.



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Itinerary At A Glance

Day 8

Upper Slaughter / London / Depart

WYTHAM WOODS NATURE RESERVE / BIBURY / BAMPTON / WINDRUSH VALLEY

Day 2: Classic Cotswold villages the tourist crowds miss

- Tour Wytham Woods with a private conservator among 500 plant species and ancient woodland
- Walk Arlington Row in Bibury past stone weavers' cottages built in the 14th century
- Follow an easy path through Widford, Swinbrook and Asthall past grazing sheep

This morning, explore Wytham Woods Nature Reserve, owned and maintained by Oxford University since 1942 as a site for ecological research. We tour the “backyard natural laboratory” of the university with a private conservator who introduces us to its rich collection of flora and fauna, with more than 500 species of plants, 800 species of butterflies and moths, abundant birds and badgers, spring-fed peat fens, and a wealth of woodland habitats including ancient semi-natural woodland dating to the last Ice Age and secondary woodland intact since the 17th century. Wytham Woods is among the most-studied woodlands in the world, and we learn about the history of research and conservation efforts during our visit.

Next, a scenic drive on country lanes brings us to one of the most picturesque villages in the Cotswolds, Bibury on the River Coln, where we walk along Arlington Row with its stone weavers' cottages built in the 14th century. Continue to the charming village of Bampton, where many external scenes from Downton Abbey were filmed, then to Burford, whose classic cottages sweep down a long hill to the River Windrush. The Windrush Valley is one of the prettiest walking destinations in the Cotswolds, and we follow an easy path leading through the postcard-perfect hamlets of Widford, Swinbrook and Asthall. In contrast to the Cotswolds' more heavily touristed towns, these are unspoiled villages that evoke the traditional England of the imagination. The settings are quintessentially Cotswolds, with medieval churches, thatched cottages, cozy pubs, and stone bridges spanning the river. The scenery is as bucolic as it gets, with the trail skirting pastures filled with grazing sheep enclosed by dry stone walls. The area abounds in sheep, as it has for centuries, and numerous small wildlife species inhabit the hedgerows. Expect abundant wildflowers in spring and summer, a rich palette of warm colors in autumn, and varied bird sightings along the way. Return to Minster Lovell for a second night.



Vibrant Traditions & Personal Connections

HIGHGROVE HOUSE / WESTONBIRT NATIONAL ARBORETUM

Day 3: Two great Cotswold gardens, one of them a king's

- Tour the private gardens at Highgrove House, King Charles III's Cotswold country residence
- Walk from the formal Sundial Garden to the unstructured Wildflower Meadow
- Explore Westonbirt Arboretum's collection of more than 2,500 tree species from around the world

This morning, enjoy a private guided tour of the gardens at Highgrove House, the country residence of HRH King Charles III, who is an ardent supporter of wildlife conservation and rural landscapes in Britain. Such was his love for the landscape, history and people of the Cotswolds that Charles chose to make this 1796 manor house his personal home. The gardens, more than 35 years in the making, reflect great diversity, from the genteel setting of the Sundial Garden to the unstructured beauty of the Wildflower Meadow.

After lunch at Highgrove, continue to Westonbirt National Arboretum, where you have a choice of a guided interpretive tour or free time to wander the woodlands and gardens. A vital location for research and conservation, Westonbirt holds one of the most important plant collections in the world. Its more than 2,500 tree species include rare and intriguing flora from the farthest corners of the globe. The magnificent botanical collection got its start in 1829 by wealthy Victorian landowner Robert Holford, whose passion for nature and botany grew in tandem with the expansion of the British Empire, when naturalist explorers were bringing back new and exotic species from far-flung lands. Holford financed plant-collecting expeditions around the world, and the arboretum still contains many of the original specimens brought back from these forays.

Please note: *On occasion, unexpected changes in the King's schedule may force us to alter or cancel our visit to Highgrove House and Gardens today, since it is his personal residence. When that is the case, we will try to go on another date, or we will substitute an alternate activity.*



Vibrant Traditions & Personal Connections

SLIMBRIDGE WETLAND CENTER / PAINSWICK ROCOCO GARDEN

Day 4: Britain's birds, wild and on the glove

- Look for cranes and kingfishers across Slimbridge's wetlands, Sir Peter Scott's avian Serengeti
- Walk England's only surviving rococo garden, laid out in the 1740s at Painswick
- Handle a hawk, owl, falcon and eagle with a falconer versed in British falconry

This morning's visit to a globally important nature reserve offers a rich encounter with conservation leadership in action. Encompassing 650 acres of wetlands along the Severn Estuary, Slimbridge Wetland Center was established in 1946 by Sir Peter Scott, son of Antarctic explorer Captain Robert Scott. Seeking to protect the birds he loved and their habitat, he set up the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT) at Slimbridge as a center for science, conservation and public access to nature. Scott presented the BBC's first live television wildlife programs from Slimbridge, created the IUCN red list that indicates whether species are threatened or endangered, co-founded WWF—World Wildlife Fund—and designed its iconic panda logo.

We are inspired by Sir Peter's vision as we explore Slimbridge, which he called the "avian Serengeti," given the vast number of wild birds that frequent this mosaic of reedbed, grazing marsh, ponds, pools and riverside flooded meadow. Migrating birds pass through in spring while hatchlings appear in early summer, including kingfishers and cranes. From summer warblers to autumn waders, the activity is lively no matter when we visit. The center also breeds rare and endangered birds that are later released to the wild in their native habitats. We learn why wetlands are crucial to the planet's survival, why they are endangered, and what we must do to preserve and restore them.

This afternoon, enjoy lunch and a private horticultural walk through Painswick Rococo Garden, tucked into a hidden valley just off the Cotswold Way footpath that winds through the hills. Designed in the 1740s for the owner of Painswick House, it was restored in the 1980s to evoke its original sense of fanciful whimsy and joie de vivre. "Rococo" refers to a period of art fashionable in Europe in the 18th century, characterized by ornamental decoration. England's upper middle classes loved to show off their wealth by indulging in the flamboyant and frivolous, and gardens like this one were an elaborate entertainment space to delight their guests. Today, it is England's only surviving rococo garden. Highlights of our tour may include heritage roses, fiery day lilies, an orchid-filled wildflower meadow, and a focus on butterfly conservation. This afternoon, we're met by a falconer for an interactive birds of prey experience. We'll meet several raptors—typically a hawk, owl, falcon and eagle—which we get to handle and watch fly as we learn about the history of British falconry.



Vibrant Traditions & Personal Connections

SAPPERTON VALLEY NATURE RESERVE / UPPER SLAUGHTER

Day 5: Fairytale villages of Upper and Lower Slaughter

- Explore Sapperton Valley Nature Reserve, following an 1789 canal through woodland and wet meadows
- Stroll the mile between Lower and Upper Slaughter along the River Eye
- Check in to a country house hotel, your home for the days ahead

Just up the road lies the Sapperton Valley nature reserve. The narrow, steep-sided valley contains a mix of woodland, marsh and wet meadows along the River Frome. A stretch of the Severn and Thames Canal, built in 1789 but disused since the early 20th century, runs through the reserve. Explore it on a walk among the tall trees, lush vegetation, wild herbs and wildflowers that grow in season, learning about local conservation efforts to restore butterfly populations. Afterwards, continue to a local pub for lunch.

The afternoon holds a stroll through one of the Cotswolds' most enchanting settings. The villages of Upper and Lower Slaughter have names that derive from the Saxon word *slothre* or *sloh*, meaning "slough" or "marshy place," rather than any grisly heritage. Connected by a peaceful mile walk along the River Eye, the villages look straight out of a fairytale with their tiny cottages, steeped churches, stone walls, trailing roses and picturesque old mill. Our walk concludes in the tiny hamlet of Upper Slaughter, where we find the luxurious country house hotel that will be our home for the next three nights.



Vibrant Traditions & Personal Connections

STANTON / SNOWSHILL / HONEYDALE FARM

Day 6: Meet the farmers who keep the Cotswolds working

- Rise early for a dawn chorus walk, naming the songbirds with a local naturalist
- Walk to Stanton and Snowhill, built of golden limestone with cottages from the 1500s
- Tour Honeydale Farm's heritage orchard and micro dairy, learning regenerative Cotswold farming

Rise early for a "dawn chorus" bird walk with a local naturalist, who helps us identify the songbirds we hear as we greet the morning. Return to the inn for a hearty English breakfast, then set out to explore a collection of small Cotswolds villages, starting in Stanway, which is famous for its Jacobean manor house with a gravity-fed fountain that reaches heights of nearly 300 feet. Neighboring Stanton is considered one of the most picturesque towns in the Cotswolds. Many of its cottages were built in the mid-1500s, and the church dates to the 9th century. Walk on to Snowhill, built of golden Cotswold limestone, which lies near two long-distance footpaths, the Winchcombe Way and Cotswold Way.

As we weave our way through the bucolic landscape, we observe how the traditional rural heritage of the Cotswolds has shaped the region over the centuries. More than 80% of these rolling hills is agricultural land. Nature here has been managed and conserved by the farming community, which continues its commitment to careful stewardship today. At Honeydale Farm, learn about sustainable agriculture in the Cotswolds. Committed to ecological farming and public education, the FarmED program on the 107-acre site seeks to reconnect people to the land in ways that will nourish them and the Earth both. Our private guided walking tour covers the heritage orchard, kitchen garden, meadows and woodland as we learn about natural flood management, regenerative agriculture, the micro dairy, and the heritage wheat the farm grows for artisan bread making. This evening, enjoy a dinner featuring local farm-to-table fare at an inviting country inn.



Vibrant Traditions & Personal Connections

MICKLETON / EBRINGTON / HIDCOTE

Day 7: Sheepdogs at work in the northern Cotswolds

- Watch a sheepdog and handler work the flock at Mickleton Farm
- Walk village to village from Ebrington to Hidcote across the northern Cotswold hills
- Tour Hidcote Gardens privately, one of England's finest displays of flora

This morning, watch a live sheepdog demonstration at Mickleton Farm, where we learn about the communication between the dogs and their handlers and witness the remarkable way the sheep respond to the dogs' movements. Then we enjoy another village-to-village walk, connecting our lunch stop in Ebrington with our garden tour at Hidcote, as we amble across the rolling hills of the northern Cotswolds. Following paths through grassy fields, and along ancient farm tracks and quiet lanes, we traverse open countryside with expansive views. The route over the limestone terrain rises and falls gently, with a few steady climbs that offer more reward than challenge. Each season unveils its own natural beauty: spring brings fresh green fields and hedgerows strewn with wildflowers; summer offers dry, sun-warmed trails beneath lush, shady canopies; and autumn paints the countryside in rich golds and russets.

At Hidcote Gardens, we have private tour of this National Trust property regarded as one of the finest displays of flora in England. Hidcote's designer, Lawrence Johnstone, sourced plants for the gardens from around the world and donated the site to the National Trust in 1948—making it the first of many significant British gardens the Trust would acquire. This evening, a festive farewell dinner awaits as we gather around the table one last time.

UPPER SLAUGHTER / LONDON

Day 8: Head home from the Cotswolds, or explore England further

- Transfer from Upper Slaughter to London's Heathrow Airport for flights home
- Extend your stay to visit Blenheim Palace, Bath, or Stratford-upon-Avon nearby

An early morning transfer is included from our hotel in Upper Slaughter to London's Heathrow Airport, about a two-hour drive, for those who are flying home or headed to other travels. If you choose to remain in the region for further exploration on your own, you can leave any time before scheduled checkout from our hotel—consider a visit to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Blenheim Palace, Sudeley Castle, the Roman city of Bath, or Shakespeare's childhood home of Stratford-upon-Avon—all are nearby.

Please note: While all activities listed on our itinerary will be included, some may take place on days or times that are different from what is shown, depending on local schedules.



Vibrant Traditions & Personal Connections



Itinerary At A Glance

Day 1

Oxford, United Kingdom—Walking Tour / Tetbury

Day 2

Westonbirt National Arboretum / Private Falconry Experience

Day 3

Highgrove House—Private Garden Tour / Scenic Country Walk / Private Tour of Painswick Rococo Garden

Day 4

Througham Court—Private Garden Tour / Woolpack Pub / Slad Valley Walk

Day 5

Sapperton Valley Hike / River Eye Walk / Upper Slaughter

Day 6

Dawn Chorus Walk / Classic Cotswold Villages / Honeydale Farm—Private Tour

Day 7

Sheepdog Demonstration / Scenic Country Walk / Private Tour of Hidcote Gardens

2027 Itinerary

Discover Highlights & Hidden Corners of Britain's Most Enchanting Landscape

OXFORD / TETBURY

Day 1: Explore Oxford's historic colleges before entering the Cotswolds

- Walk through Oxford past university colleges and the 15th-century Bodleian Library
- Travel west into Britain's largest National Landscape
- Join your Expedition Leader and fellow travelers for a welcome dinner in Tetbury

Our Cotswolds sojourn begins this afternoon in Oxford with a guided walking tour of England's most famous university town. Admire the architecture and heritage of the 15th-century Bodleian Library and several of the colleges that comprise Oxford University, founded by King Henry VIII in 1546. Leaving Oxford, we head west into the heart of the Cotswolds. This rural region, whose name comes from the Old English "cot" for sheep enclosure and "wold," meaning hill—"sheep pens among rolling hills"—spans 800 square miles and is protected as Britain's largest National Landscape. Our destination for the next two nights is Tetbury, where a welcome dinner awaits at our inn. Tetbury lies among gently rolling hills on the site of an ancient hill fort, and during the Middle Ages, it became an important market town for Cotswold wool and yarn, which was the main source of the town's wealth.



Vibrant Traditions & Personal Connections

Itinerary At A Glance

Day 8

Transfer to London / Depart

WESTONBIRT NATIONAL ARBORETUM

Day 2: Handle and watch birds of prey with a British falconer

- Meet hawks, owls, falcons and eagles during a private interactive experience
- Learn how falconers train and fly each bird
- Tour Westonbirt National Arboretum privately among more than 2,500 tree species

This morning, take a private guided tour of Westonbirt National Arboretum. A vital location for research and conservation, Westonbirt holds one of the most important plant collections in the world. Its more than 2,500 tree species include rare and intriguing flora from the farthest corners of the globe. The magnificent botanical collection got its start in 1829 by wealthy Victorian landowner Robert Holford, whose passion for nature and botany grew in tandem with the expansion of the British Empire, when naturalist explorers were bringing back new and exotic species from far-flung lands. Holford financed plant-collecting expeditions around the world, and the arboretum still contains many of the original specimens brought back from these forays. After lunch, join a local falconer for an interactive birds of prey experience. We'll meet several raptors—typically a hawk, owl, falcon and eagle—which we get to handle and watch fly as we learn about the history of British falconry.



Vibrant Traditions & Personal Connections

HIGHGROVE HOUSE / PAINSWICK ROCOCO GARDEN

Day 3: Tour King Charles III's private gardens at Highgrove

- Explore gardens developed over more than 35 years around the royal residence
- Walk from Prinknash Abbey to Painswick Beacon for views across the Severn Valley to Wales
- Join the head gardener for a private tour of England's only surviving rococo garden

This morning, enjoy a private guided tour of the gardens at Highgrove House, the country residence of HRH King Charles III, who is an ardent supporter of rural landscapes and wildlife conservation in Britain. Such was his love for the landscape, history and people of the Cotswolds that Charles chose to make this 1796 manor house his personal home. The gardens, more than 35 years in the making, reflect great diversity, from the genteel setting of the Sundial Garden to the unstructured beauty of the Wildflower Meadow.

Following lunch at Highgrove, head to Prinknash Abbey, home to a Benedictine monastic community devoted to a life of prayer, work and study. The abbey is the starting point for a scenic walk on woodland trails to Painswick Beacon, an Iron Age hill fort offering 360° views over the Severn Valley and across to Wales. From here, we continue to Painswick Rococo Garden, tucked into a hidden valley just off the famous Cotswold Way footpath, for a private tour with the head gardener. Designed in the 1740s for the owner of Painswick House, it was restored in the 1980s to evoke its original sense of fanciful whimsy and joie de vivre. "Rococo" refers to a period of art fashionable in Europe in the 18th century, characterized by ornamental decoration. England's upper middle classes loved to show off their wealth by indulging in the flamboyant and frivolous, and gardens like this one were an elaborate entertainment space to delight their guests. Today, it is England's only surviving rococo garden. Highlights of our tour may include heritage roses, fiery day lilies, an orchid-filled wildflower meadow, and a focus on butterfly conservation.

Please note: On occasion, unexpected changes in the King's schedule may force us to alter or cancel our visit to Highgrove House and Gardens today, since it is his personal residence. When that is the case, we will try to go on another date, or we will substitute an alternate activity.



Vibrant Traditions & Personal Connections

THROUGHAM COURT / SLAD VALLEY

Day 4: Enter a private Arts and Crafts garden at Thorougham Court

- Tour Christine Facer Hoffman's six-acre estate, normally closed to the public
- See how Arts and Crafts design meets scientific ideas in gardens inspired by the planets and Fibonacci sequence
- Walk through the Slad Valley and its four small nature reserves after lunch at Laurie Lee's favored Woolpack Pub

This morning, we tour a very special private garden at Thorougham Court that offers a window on the influential Arts and Crafts Movement in Britain. By the early 20th century, the Cotswolds had become an important center for the movement, which favored the handmade and vernacular over industrial mass-production. Headed by poet and designer William Morris, the approach sought to marry practicality with artistry through traditional craftsmanship. In addition to its influence on interior decoration, the philosophy shaped garden design, and we witness that heritage at Thorougham Court. Off limits to the general public, the 6-acre grounds are garden designer Christine Facer Hoffman's private estate, hidden away in a remote Cotswold valley. In addition to stewarding the original 1930s Arts and Crafts landscape designed by famed Cotswold architect Norman Jewson—known for its manicured yew topiaries and dry stone wall terracing—Hoffman has expanded her garden for use as a personal “laboratory” to experiment with new concepts. An esteemed scientist before she became a landscape architect and horticulturalist, Hoffman's contemporary garden areas are inspired by scientific principles and theories found in nature. Explore the universe in the Cosmic Evolution Garden, with stone spheres representing the planets, and follow Fibonacci's Walk in the meadow, enlightened by Hoffman's personal interpretation.

Continue to the village of Slad where we have lunch at the famous Woolpack Pub, a favorite of novelist and poet Laurie Lee. The Cotswolds' most famous author, Lee was raised in this tiny town that remains largely overlooked by tourism. Afterward, a walk through the Slad Valley reveals an idyllic vale untouched by development, with four small nature reserves to explore. This region was once the heart of England's wool industry in the Middle Ages, which generated so much wealth for the Cotswolds.



Vibrant Traditions & Personal Connections

SAPPERTON VALLEY / RIVER EYE / UPPER SLAUGHTER

Day 5: Walk between Upper and Lower Slaughter along the River Eye

- Hike through Sapperton Valley past woodland, wet meadows and a disused 18th-century canal
- Follow the river between stone cottages, churches and an old mill
- Settle into a country house hotel in Upper Slaughter

Just up the road lies the Sapperton Valley nature reserve, a narrow, steep-sided valley containing a mix of woodland, marsh and wet meadows along the River Frome. A stretch of the Severn and Thames Canal, built in 1789 but disused since the early 20th century, runs through the reserve. Explore it on a walk among the tall trees, lush vegetation, wild herbs and wildflowers that grow in season, learning about local conservation efforts to restore butterfly populations. Afterward, continue to a local pub for lunch.

The afternoon holds a stroll through one of the Cotswolds' most enchanting settings. The River Eye, more of a sleepy stream, joins the tiny villages of Upper and Lower Slaughter, names that derive from the Saxon word *slothre* or *sloh*, meaning "slough" or "marshy place," rather than any grisly heritage. Connected by a peaceful mile walk along the riverbank, the villages look straight out of a fairytale with their tiny cottages, steeped churches, stone walls, trailing roses and picturesque old mill. Our walk concludes in the tiny hamlet of Upper Slaughter, where we find the luxurious country house hotel that will be our home for the next three nights.



Vibrant Traditions & Personal Connections

COTSWOLD VILLAGES / HONEYDALE FARM

Day 6: See how farming and conservation sustain the Cotswold landscape

- Rise early to identify songbirds during the dawn chorus with a local naturalist
- Explore the stone villages of Stanway, Stanton and Snowhill
- Tour Honeydale Farm privately to learn about regenerative agriculture, heritage crops and its micro dairy

Rise early for a sunrise bird walk with a local naturalist, who helps us identify the songbirds we hear as they greet the morning in an exuberant dawn chorus. Return to the inn for a hearty English breakfast, then set out to explore a collection of small Cotswolds villages, starting in Stanway, which is famous for its Jacobean manor house with a gravity-fed fountain that reaches heights of nearly 300 feet. Neighboring Stanton is considered one of the most picturesque towns in the Cotswolds. Many of its cottages were built in the mid-1500s, and the church dates to the 9th century. Continue to Snowhill, built of golden Cotswold limestone, which lies near two long-distance footpaths, the Winchcombe Way and the Cotswold Way.

As we weave our way through the bucolic landscape, we observe how the traditional rural heritage of the Cotswolds has shaped the region over the centuries. More than 80% of these rolling hills is agricultural land. Nature here has been managed and conserved by the farming community, which continues its commitment to careful stewardship today. At Honeydale Farm, learn about sustainable agriculture in the Cotswolds. Committed to ecological farming and public education, the FarmED program on the 107-acre site seeks to reconnect people to the land in ways that will nourish them and the Earth both. Our private guided tour covers the heritage orchard, kitchen garden, meadows and woodland as we learn about natural flood management, regenerative agriculture, the micro dairy, and the heritage wheat the farm grows for artisan bread making. This evening, enjoy a dinner featuring local farm-to-table fare at an inviting country inn.



Vibrant Traditions & Personal Connections

HIDCOTE GARDENS

Day 7: Watch sheepdogs work a flock on a Cotswold farm

- See how trained dogs respond to a handler's commands to move sheep
- Walk from Ebrington to Hidcote across fields, farm tracks and rolling hills
- Tour Hidcote Gardens privately before a farewell dinner

This morning, watch a live sheepdog demonstration at Mickleton Farm, where we learn about the communication between the dogs and their handlers and witness the remarkable way the sheep respond to the dogs' movements. Then we enjoy another village-to-village walk, connecting our lunch stop in Ebrington with our garden tour at Hidcote, as we amble across the rolling hills of the northern Cotswolds. Following paths through grassy fields along ancient farm tracks and quiet lanes, traverse open countryside with expansive views. The route over the limestone terrain rises and falls gently, with a few steady climbs that offer more reward than challenge. Each season unveils its own natural beauty: spring unveils fresh green meadows and hedgerows strewn with wildflowers, summer offers dry, sun-warmed trails beneath lush, shady canopies, and autumn paints the countryside in rich golds and russets.

At Hidcote Gardens, we have private tour of this National Trust property regarded as one of the finest displays of flora in England. Hidcote's designer, Lawrence Johnstone, sourced plants for the gardens from around the world and donated the site to the National Trust in 1948—making it the first of many significant British gardens the Trust would acquire. This evening, a festive farewell dinner awaits as we gather around the table one last time.

LONDON

Day 8: Depart the Cotswolds for London

- Transfer from Upper Slaughter to Heathrow Airport for homeward flights

An early morning transfer is included from our hotel in Upper Slaughter to London's Heathrow Airport, about a two-hour drive, for those who are flying home or headed to other travels. If you choose to remain in the region for further exploration on your own, you can leave any time before scheduled checkout from our hotel—consider a visit to the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Blenheim Palace, Sudeley Castle, the Roman city of Bath, or Shakespeare's childhood home of Stratford-upon-Avon—all are nearby.

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Vibrant Traditions & Personal Connections



Accommodation Details:

Minster Mill

Calcot & Spa

Lords of the Manor

The Painswick

For detailed descriptions, visit
nathab.com/cultural-journeys/cotswolds-england-nature-tour/accommodations

The Cotswolds: Exploring England's Classic Countryside Accommodations

Discover Highlights & Hidden Corners of Britain's Most Enchanting Landscape



Minster Mill

On the banks of the River Windrush and surrounded by 65 acres of gardens, wildflower meadows and woodlands, this new luxury inn features a heritage exterior with an airy, contemporary atmosphere within.



Calcot & Spa

One of the premier accommodations in the Cotswolds, this luxurious 16th-century manor house hotel sits on 220 acres of rewilded countryside, offering an immersive encounter with nature and local wildlife.



Lords of the Manor

This family-owned 17th-century country house inn offers refined hospitality in one of England's most unspoiled and attractive tiny villages, set among eight acres of gardens along the tranquil River Eye.



Vibrant Traditions & Personal Connections



The Painswick

One of the most exquisite boutique hotels in the Cotswolds, the Palladian-style Painswick dates to the late 18th century at the height of the wool trade—today it offers 17 luxurious rooms appointed in elegant, traditional English decor.



Vibrant Traditions & Personal Connections

What Makes Terra & Tu Different?

The Cotswolds—famous for its villages of golden limestone, exquisite gardens, small organic farms and grand country estates—embodies a vision of rural England that's rarely realized in contemporary times. We've gone to great lengths to design an encounter with the Cotswolds that delivers on that romantic expectation—but to find it, you must not choose a conventional tour. Find out what sets our Cotswolds journey apart:

1

Explore A Treasured National Landscape in Depth

The Cotswolds is Britain's largest National Landscape, one of 38 such areas of countryside in the UK designated for conservation in recognition of their outstanding rural beauty and land value. Most visitors to the Cotswolds come for just a day, often on a coach tour from London or Oxford, racing from one packed town to the next. In contrast, we've created a peaceful, personalized experience. Our itinerary features lesser-known places and interactions that reveal the true natural beauty of the Cotswolds, along with a more private take on famed highlights you wouldn't want to miss.

2

Private Tours & Exclusive Experiences

A hallmark of our itinerary is the number of special private experiences we've arranged. You won't be held up in long queues or bumping shoulders with dozens of other visitors at coveted sites. Enjoy private tours of Hidcote and Painswick gardens plus the royal gardens at Highgrove House; private falconry and sheep dog demonstrations; and other behind-the-scenes activities featuring presentations with local experts. We don't think you'll find anywhere near this privileged access on another trip!

3

A Small Group Offers Access to Less-Visited Destinations

With only 14 travelers, we can navigate narrow country roads and one-vehicle lanes hemmed by hedgerows, which are off limits to motorcoaches. We thus get to places others can't, including tiny villages that exude all the charm you expect in the Cotswolds, plus local pubs and family farms that can't accommodate bus tours. We're also able to stay in intimate inns with personalized service.

4

A Focus on Nature & Conservation

If you're inspired by examples of conserving nature and rural vistas amid human presence (after all, there have been people living, farming and working in the Cotswolds for 6,000 years), this trip is for you. Local families and the national government alike are dedicated to preserving and restoring these irreplaceable landscapes, which we discover on footpaths and scenic byways. In addition to admiring classic architecture and glorious gardens, we explore nature reserves of ancient hardwood forest, wildflower meadows, marshes, streams and hedgerows. We also witness the wonder of "rewilding," inspired by local efforts to return hard-worked terrain to its natural state.



Vibrant Traditions & Personal Connections

5

A Dedicated Expedition Leader, Plus Local Experts for Enhanced Interpretation

You'll benefit from the exceptional attention and flexibility from start to finish that only a Nat Hab Expedition Leader can provide. Our guides are a font of knowledge about the natural and cultural history of the Cotswolds, including conservation commitments that are central to preserving this unique landscape, villages and way of life. Local experts also lend detail and insight to augment your experience. From organic farmers and gardeners to bird conservationists and cheese makers, the specialist guides who join us add to your appreciation for the region, its nature and its people.

6

Country House Hotels Offer Luxury, History & Hospitality

Nature travel isn't necessarily about the accommodations. But in the Cotswolds—on *our* itinerary—they are a highlight! We've selected several of the region's finest country house hotels, with centuries of history and the character to go with it. We stay in the most idyllic Cotswolds settings, with inns set in peaceful stone villages, surrounded by gardens, manicured lawns, rolling countryside and wild nature. All offer elegant guest rooms and amenities, with dining rooms managed by award-winning chefs who tap local purveyors for the finest and freshest ingredients.

7

Farm-to-Table Food Culture Offers Outstanding Local Fare

There is a big emphasis in the Cotswolds on "field to fork" food: local, organic artisan production of cheese, cream, lamb, pork, trout, berries, honey, cider, ale and more. The inns and pubs where we take our meals source many of their ingredients from known local producers. For nature lovers who are also foodies, this trip won't disappoint!

8

Outstanding Expedition Leaders

We're known for the quality of our guides, and you'll find that the leadership on this trip is no exception! With a deep knowledge of England's diverse ecosystems, your Expedition Leader enhances your adventure in a way that makes you feel safe, cared for and enlightened. **Read our Expedition Leader bios** and traveler comments regarding the quality of our leaders.

9

Our Quality-Value Guarantee Ensures a Rewarding Experience

With Natural Habitat Adventures, you get our exclusive guarantee, promising that we will meet the lofty expectations set in our promotional materials. To our knowledge, this is the most impressive guarantee made by any adventure travel company. for yourself!

10

Feel Good About Your Carbon-Neutral Journey

We care deeply about our planet, as we know you do. When you travel with us, the carbon emissions from your trip are 100% offset—including your round-trip flights from home. Natural Habitat Adventures has been the world's first carbon-neutral travel company since 2007.



Vibrant Traditions & Personal Connections



Dates & Pricing Summary:

Prices:
From \$11295

Group Size:
Limited to 14
Travelers

The Cotswolds: Exploring England's Classic Countryside Dates, Pricing & Info

Discover Highlights & Hidden Corners of Britain's Most Enchanting Landscape

2026 Departures

DEPARTURE → RETURN	PRICING	NOTES
Sep 9 - Sep 16, 2026	\$11295	
Sep 23 - Sep 30, 2026	\$11295	

2027 Departures

DEPARTURE → RETURN	PRICING	NOTES
Apr 20 - Apr 27, 2027	\$11695	
Apr 27 - May 4, 2027	\$11695	
May 4 - May 11, 2027	\$12095	
May 11 - May 18, 2027	\$11695	



Vibrant Traditions & Personal Connections

Dates & Pricing Summary:

Prices:
From \$11295

Group Size:
Limited to 14
Travelers

DEPARTURE → RETURN	PRICING	NOTES
May 18 - May 25, 2027	\$11695	Natural Habitat Explorers Pricing Available
May 25 - Jun 1, 2027	\$11695	
Jun 1 - Jun 8, 2027	\$12095	Natural Habitat Explorers Pricing Available
Jun 8 - Jun 15, 2027	\$11695	Women's Journey
Jun 15 - Jun 22, 2027	\$11695	
Jun 22 - Jun 29, 2027	\$11695	
Jul 20 - Jul 27, 2027	\$11695	
Aug 17 - Aug 24, 2027	\$11695	
Sep 7 - Sep 14, 2027	\$11695	
Sep 21 - Sep 28, 2027	\$11695	
Oct 5 - Oct 12, 2027	\$11695	

2028 Departures

DEPARTURE → RETURN	PRICING	NOTES
Prices not confirmed for 2028		
Apr 22 - Apr 29, 2028	From \$12395	
May 6 - May 13, 2028	From \$12395	
May 9 - May 16, 2028	From \$12395	
May 13 - May 20, 2028	From \$12395	
May 16 - May 23, 2028	From \$12395	
May 20 - May 27, 2028	From \$12395	
May 23 - May 30, 2028	From \$12395	
May 30 - Jun 6, 2028	From \$12395	
Jun 6 - Jun 13, 2028	From \$12395	



Vibrant Traditions & Personal Connections

DEPARTURE → RETURN	PRICING	NOTES
Prices not confirmed for 2028		
Jun 13 - Jun 20, 2028	From \$12395	
Jun 20 - Jun 27, 2028	From \$12395	
Jun 27 - Jul 4, 2028	From \$12395	
Jul 4 - Jul 11, 2028	From \$12395	
Aug 19 - Aug 26, 2028	From \$12395	
Sep 5 - Sep 12, 2028	From \$12395	
Sep 12 - Sep 19, 2028	From \$12395	
Sep 19 - Sep 26, 2028	From \$12395	

Pricing

See <https://nathab.com/cultural-journeys/cotswolds-england-nature-tour/dates-fees> for the latest pricing details.

Included

Accommodations, services of Nat Hab's professional Expedition Leader(s) and local guides, all meals from dinner on Day 1 through breakfast on final day, some gratuities, airport transfer for those arriving by air on Day 1 and on final day, all activities and entrance fees, all taxes, permits and service fees.

Not Included

Travel to and from the start and end point of your trip, alcoholic beverages, some gratuities, passport and visa fees (if any), optional activities, items of a personal nature (phone calls, laundry, etc.), airline baggage fees, required medical evacuation insurance, optional travel protection insurance.



Vibrant Traditions & Personal Connections

Important Information About This Trip

This refined culture and nature adventure is especially for those who value and appreciate the various aspects of this historic landscape where humans have been part of the mix for 6,000 years, living in harmony and stewarding the land. For travelers who have a special interest in protected traditions as well as conservation and historic preservation, the Cotswolds are like a living laboratory for observing this commitment in action. Garden aficionados will be in heaven on this trip. The Cotswolds' celebrated gardens, both grand and small-scale, are simply unsurpassed and we will enjoy multiple private garden tours. And for those who appreciate fine food and drink, and distinctive accommodations steeped in history and local character, our trip showcases some of Britain's very best.

Please note that on occasion, unexpected changes in the King's schedule may force us to alter or cancel our visit to Highgrove House and Gardens on Day 4, since it is his personal residence. When that is the case, we will try to go on another date, or we will substitute an alternate activity.

Mandatory Insurance

Since the areas we travel to are remote and wild (that's why we go there!), we require that all guests have, at minimum, medical evacuation insurance for this program. This is for the safety of all guests. We require that your chosen independent insurance plan includes at least \$250,000 in medical evacuation coverage.

To protect your investment and to provide peace of mind while you travel, we also strongly recommend purchasing comprehensive travel insurance. Plans may cover everything from medical treatment to trip cancellations and delays and lost luggage. Please contact our office if you would like more information about the medical evacuation and comprehensive travel insurance policies we offer by calling 800-543-8917.

Getting There & Getting Home

This trip begins and ends in London. **Arrive at Heathrow Airport by 11 am on Day 1** to join the group and transfer to Oxford for a guided walking tour and our Day 1 welcome dinner.

You may depart London any time after 11 am on the final day. Nat Hab will provide one group transfer to London Heathrow, typically departing early in the morning. Please keep this in mind when booking flights, as later departures may result in additional waiting time at the airport.

Our Natural Habitat Adventures Travel Desk can best assist with your travel reservations, as our staff is familiar with the specific requirements of this program and can help arrange the most efficient itinerary. Please call us at 800-543-8917. While we offer the best available rates to us on airfare and additional nights accommodations, you may occasionally find special web rates or lower fares online.



Vibrant Traditions & Personal Connections



Extension Details:

Scotland's Wild Highlands & Islands
\$13395

The Cotswolds: Exploring England's Classic Countryside Extensions

Discover Highlights & Hidden Corners of Britain's Most Enchanting Landscape



Scotland's Wild Highlands & Islands

Explore ragged coast and rugged mountains from the Outer Hebrides to Highland heights as we discover a land of lochs, whales, seabirds, wildflowers, granite islands and prehistoric cultures.

\$13395



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CULTURAL JOURNEYS
by Nat Hab

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