

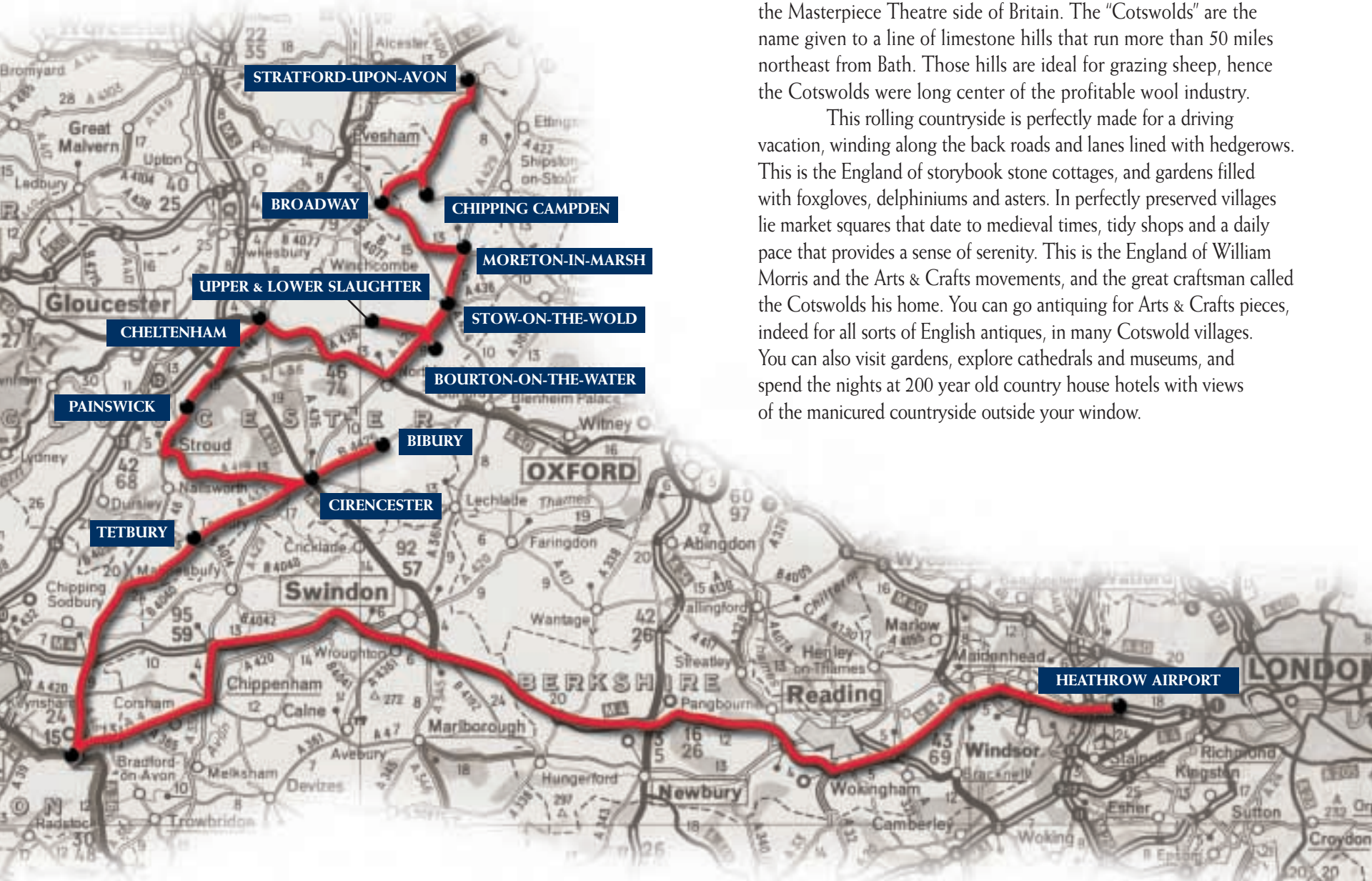
AVIS *Personally Yours*[®]



Bath & The Cotswolds



BATH & THE COTSWOLDS



THERE ARE VIEWS OF SHEEP grazing in rich green meadows, thick stone walls, immaculately tended fields and houses built of honey-colored stone. This is the Cotswolds, the heart of England, the Masterpiece Theatre side of Britain. The "Cotswolds" are the name given to a line of limestone hills that run more than 50 miles northeast from Bath. Those hills are ideal for grazing sheep, hence the Cotswolds were long center of the profitable wool industry.

This rolling countryside is perfectly made for a driving vacation, winding along the back roads and lanes lined with hedgerows. This is the England of storybook stone cottages, and gardens filled with foxgloves, delphiniums and asters. In perfectly preserved villages lie market squares that date to medieval times, tidy shops and a daily pace that provides a sense of serenity. This is the England of William Morris and the Arts & Crafts movements, and the great craftsman called the Cotswolds his home. You can go antiquing for Arts & Crafts pieces, indeed for all sorts of English antiques, in many Cotswold villages. You can also visit gardens, explore cathedrals and museums, and spend the nights at 200 year old country house hotels with views of the manicured countryside outside your window.

BATH & THE COTSWOLDS

(Mileage is estimated from each preceding city or site. Before you begin your trip, please note: For space reasons, we could not provide the most detailed map with this brochure. We recommend the use of

Michelin Map No. 404

Great Britain: South East/Midlands/East Anglia
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HEATHROW

From the gateway to the United Kingdom, head west to Bath to begin your exploration.

98 Miles

BATH Bath, England's most famed spa town, is unlike any other city in Britain. Bath is a spectacularly harmonious city, thanks to architect John Wood and his eponymous son, a city built with stone from the nearby Cotswold hills. Solid, substantial and pleasingly symmetrical, Bath is famed for such features as the Royal Crescent, a half-moon row of houses. But it's the waters that drew the Romans here, and later, in 1702, Queen Anne, who made spa-going fashionable. Visit the Roman Baths, which were dedicated to the goddess Sulis Minerva, and the adjoining museum. Afterwards, step into the adjacent Pump Room for tea and tunes from a classical ensemble, the Pump Room Trio. You should at least try a sip of the famed mineral water itself, which is something of an acquired taste.

25 Miles

TETBURY Tetbury is well-known for Royalty spotting and antiques. The former became a pastime when Prince Charles and the late Princess Diana took up residence at nearby Macmillian Place, a 350-acre Georgian estate. Nowadays, one is apt to spot Prince Charles and his companion Camilla Parker Bowles on their way to a horse meet from his current country home, Highgrove House. This engaging village is without a doubt one of the great antiquing centers of England. It's anyone's guess how many antique shops there are, but certainly more than 50. Before or after shopping, pop in to the Parish Church of St. Mary the Virgin. This 18th century building with its exceedingly tall spire has been singled out as the best example of a Gothic Georgian church in the country. Beyond the glitter of Royalty and the shimmer of English silver, Tetbury boasts the Market House of Tetbury, a 17th century market hall.

9 Miles

CIRENCESTER This market town was the center of the Cotswold wool industry. But its origins go back much further, to its Roman Days, when it was known as Corinium and it was the meeting point of five well-traveled roads. Today, Cirencester is still a functioning market town, with cheese, fish, flowers and herbs sold every Friday in the alfresco market. Go there, but then leave the bustling market and take in some of the town's lovely vistas, walking alongside the River Churn from Barton Lane to the Abbey Grounds. Anyone seriously interested in Roman times shouldn't miss the Corinium Museum, which houses Roman remains found in and around Cirencester, including mosaics and pottery. The Brewery Arts Centre houses 15 artisans producing jewelry and basketry while the Cirencester Antique Market holds a weekly rummage sale where postcards, period furniture and vintage luggage can be found.

7 Miles

BIBURY No less an aesthete than William Morris thought Bibury the most beautiful village in England. You can judge for yourself, because Bibury is impossibly scenic, well-situated and unspoiled. Arlington Row, for example, is as fine a collection of 17th century gabled cottages as one could hope to find. Don't miss the Cotswold Country Museum, which gives a fair idea of rural life centuries ago.

26 miles

PAINSWICK This little village is all that one expects of the Cotswolds. The town's well-preserved architecture was built entirely with Cotswold stone, and the 18th century views to rolling hills and farmland remain unspoiled. Architecturally-speaking, there are medieval cottages, 16th and 17th century houses, prosperous 18th century merchants houses and respectable 19th century dwellings. Painswick plays host to the Clipping Feast every September, an early medieval ceremony that is thought to be derived from pagan Celtic times. In the ceremony, children and adults hold hands and circle around St. Mary's Anglican Church, the circle moving one way and then another, as hymns of thanksgiving are sung. The 14th century church itself can be visited anytime. In the churchyard are 99 yew trees, which seem imbued with a magical power all their own.

11 Miles

CHELTENHAM This is one of England's most famous, as well as most fashionable, spa towns. Cheltenham's Imperial Gardens are a major draw for visitors, but the Regency architecture, with splendid iron-work balconies, is also lauded. The Promenade, the city's main street, is a thoroughfare that has been dubbed the most beautiful street in all of Britain. Of prime interest is the Cheltenham Art Gallery & Museum, which houses one of the finest collections of Arts & Crafts furniture, paintings and objects in the world. Consequently, devotees of William Morris and his followers continue to make pilgrimages here. Of note is the Everyman Theatre, an ornate Victorian-era opera

house. The diminutive 658 seat theatre really comes alive during a performance. Culture aside, some of the best shopping in the Cotswolds can be found in the city's Montpelier and Suffolk quarters. And anyone interested in horse racing would be wise to dress smartly and go to the city's racecourse for a meet.

19 Miles

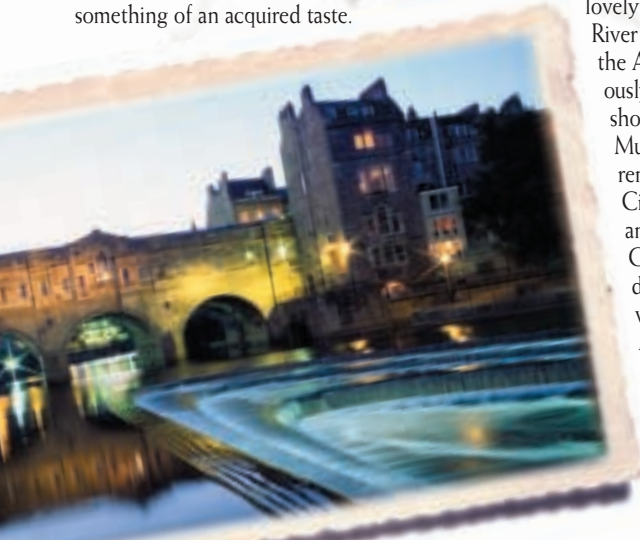
STOW-ON-THE-WOLD

Stow-on-the-Wold is the kind of place where a day can be profitably spent wandering in and out antique shops, woolen shops and tea shops. If you're in the market for a vintage watering can, a bible box or horse brasses, you've come to the right place. Stow, as it's commonly abbreviated, is the antiques capital of the Cotswolds, if not England. While there are more than 60 shops in Stow, it's not so much the number of shops as the extraordinarily high quality and range of goods available in them. Set them in an impossibly quaint village like Stow and it's easy to see why the village is considered one of the gems of Britain.

6 Miles

BOURTON-ON-THE-WATER

Situated on the banks of the Windrush River, Bourton-on-the-Water has been called the Venice of the Cotswolds. Visions of gondolas aside, the 15th and 16th century architecture, the immaculate gardens and the peaceful air are unmistakably the Cotswolds at their finest. The town boasts several small museums, including the Bourton Model Railway Exhibition and Toy Shop and Birdland, the latter a preserve housing some 1,200 birds. The Cotswold Motor Museum is also a find, with automobiles and advertising memorabilia on display.





9 Miles

UPPER & LOWER SLAUGHTER

These two idyllic villages, set close by, are built of honey-colored Cotswold stone. Despite the fearsome moniker, "Slaughter" is said to derive from "de Sclothe," the name of the original Norman landowner. Another version has it that it's based on the Anglo Saxon word "slough" for muddy place. In any event, Upper Slaughter has a stream that literally crosses the road, a true medieval ford that any auto can easily cross.

14 Miles

MORETON-IN-MARSH A 17th-century market hall, a curfew tower and High Street that was once a Roman thoroughfare mark this town. There's a lively market every Tuesday and nearby Sezincote House, built in 1805 by one Charles Cockerell in the Moghul style, is a delightful eccentricity.

10 Miles

BROADWAY Possibly the most famous, and most visited, of the Cotswold towns, Broadway is nonetheless deserving of such admiration. Overlooking the vale of Eversham, the town boasts a spacious and gracious High Street that epitomizes the country grandeur of the Cotswolds. What could be more in keeping with the fanciful nature of the Cotswolds than the Broadway Teddy Bear Museum, a showcase for artisans and a museum displaying some of the rarest teddies in the world, all housed in an 18th century building? At the edge of town is the Broadway Tower Country park, a classic folly built by the 6th earl of Coventry. Climb up the tower for the single most sweeping view in the Cotswolds, taking in 12 shires on a good, clear day. Just south of Broadway, Snowhill Manor is one of the most unusual properties owned by the National Trust. The 17th century house was formerly owned by a 20th century collector, Charles Paget Wade, who collected everything from mousetraps to Narwhal tusks.

7 Miles

CHIPPING CAMPDEN The market hall in this wonderful village is perhaps the finest in the Cotswolds. Don't miss the marker stone pointing to Bath, which lies 100 miles away on the well-worn footpath known as the Cotswold Way. The houses along the High Street were built by wealthy medieval merchants and frankly haven't changed that much, resulting in a marvelous time-travel experience back centuries. Four miles north of town, Hidcote Manor Gardens are a must-see. The creation of an American horticulturist, Major Lawrence Johnson, Hidcote ranks as one of the masterpieces of classic English gardens. The 10-acre spread was created in 1907 and consists, in true English fashion, of individual gardens or rooms that are separated by hedges, herbaceous borders, trees and shrubs.

12 Miles

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

Shakespeare's hometown may have its commercial side, but it also has such outstanding treats as the Royal Shakespeare Theatre. From April until late January, Britain's finest actors can be found pounding the boards here in "The Merchant of Venice," "Hamlet," "As You Like It" and other works by the master. The half-timbered structure that is Shakespeare's Birthplace is filled with furnishings and a period kitchen. More evocative still is Anne Hathaway's Cottage, where Shakespeare's wife lived before her marriage to the Bard. The cottage's charming garden and orchard still evoke the period.

HOTELS

The Bath Spa Hotel is set on seven acres of landscaped grounds, complete with a Grecian Temple and a Victorian-era grotto. The 98-room hotel has generously portioned rooms and feels like a spacious and posh country house, albeit with the modern day creature comforts of a spa. Sydney Street, Bath. Tel: 01225 444424; Fax: 01225 444006.

Calcot Manor is a superb country house hotel with a terrace, croquet lawn, outdoor pool and an architecturally significant 14th century tithe barn on its manicured grounds. The 25 rooms are furnished with antiques and lovely fabrics. The public rooms are cozy and inviting. On A4135 near Tetbury. Tel: 01666 890 391; Fax: 01666 890 394.

Lords of the Manor is the quintessential country house hotel, set on eight acres of perfectly groomed parkland and a lake. The walled garden is made for a stroll, drink in hand. The 27 guestrooms are filled with plush, overstuffed furniture, with a true Victorian feel. The public rooms, with roaring fireplaces, fine dining and the views over the grounds, give a feeling of rare contentment. Off the A429 in Lower Slaughter. Tel: 01451 820243; Fax: 01451 820696.

The Painswick Hotel is located in the former rectory of St. Mary's Church. The Palladian-style property has 19 guest rooms with canopied beds, period engravings, and plush fabrics. The public rooms, with fires, antique furniture and views of the rolling Cotswolds, are all that a village hotel should be. The croquet lawns are also delightful. Kemps Lane, Painswick. Tel: 01452 812160; Fax: 01452 814059.



The Lygon Arms has long been considered one of the finest properties in England. The oldest parts of the 65-room inn date from at least 1532. The public rooms are chock-a-block with antiques, enormous fireplaces, dark paneling and brasses. Rooms are comfortable English-country in style. Though it sits on the main thoroughfare, it overlooks three acres of lawns, flower gardens, stone walls and well-tended roses. High Street. Broadway. Tel: 01386 852255; Fax: 01386 858611.

Feathers Hotel is a 17th century structure that was transformed in the 1980's into a chic getaway by Gordon Campbell Gray, who more recently opened London's One Aldwych hotel. Market St., Woodstock; Tel: 44-1993-812-291; Fax: 44 1993 813158.

RESTAURANT

Le Manoir aux Quat' Saisons has been singled out as perhaps the finest restaurant in Britain. Situated in a gorgeous manor house, it is the work of chef Raymond Blanc, whose daring and imaginative cuisine includes such entrees as pan fried fillet of cod served with potato puree and turkey juice scented with capers and roasted hen pheasant filled with wild mushrooms. Church Road, Great Milton, Oxford. Tel: 01844 278881; Fax: 01844 278847.



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