

# UNCOVER THE COTSWOLDS CIRENCESTER AND THE SOUTH COTSWOLDS



MIX & MATCH  
ITINERARY OPTIONS  
AVAILABLE



Cirencester



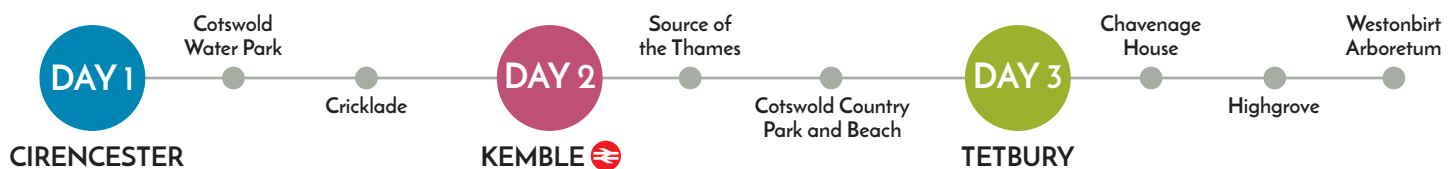
Highgrove

Discover the best of the South Cotswolds, from paddling adventures to sculpture parks, walking the rolling Cotswold hills to foraging and finding the source of the Thames.

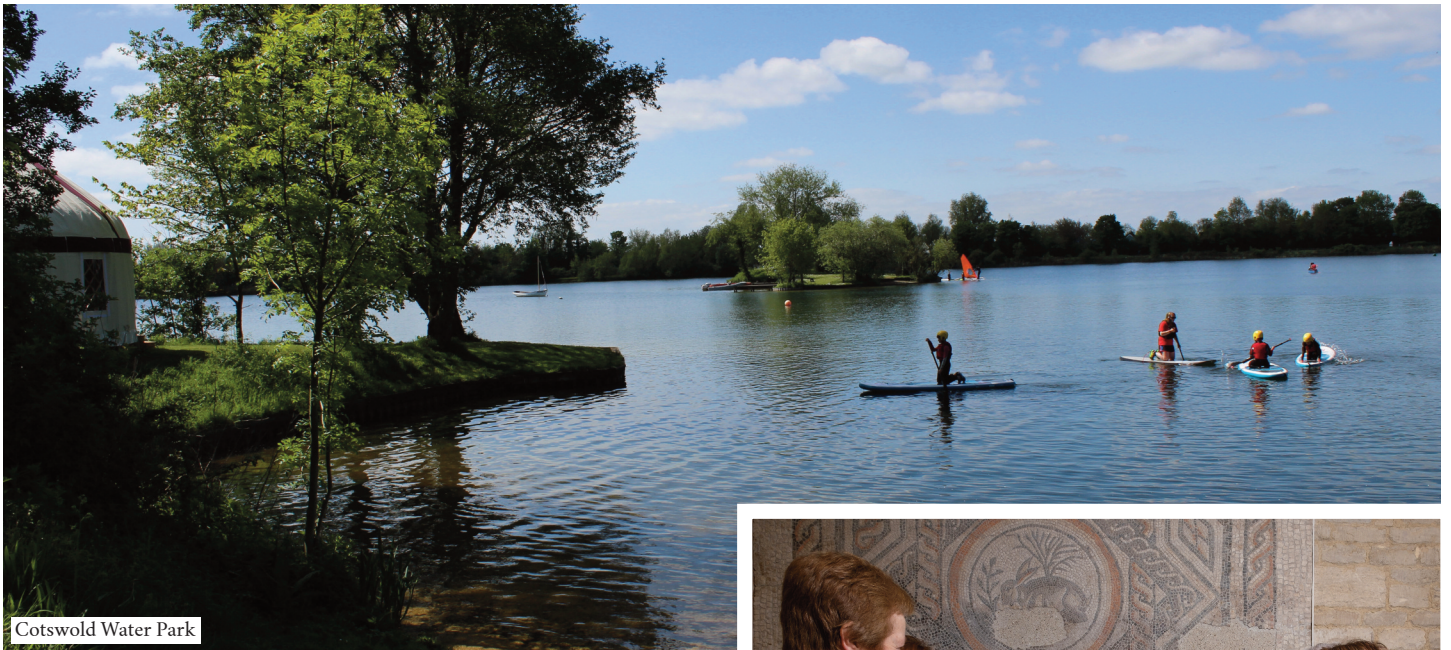
For those looking for an active long weekend, or a few days away from home, off the beaten track to uncover the hidden gems of the Cotswolds, ending each day in a cosy Cotswold pub for a well-deserved dinner. This suggested itinerary is suitable for families as well as couples and small groups, beginning and finishing in Kemble or Cirencester and can be tailored to your requirements. Guests can choose to do these days in any order. For this tour there is a need for guest to provide their own private transport, self-driving or using local taxis though many of these activities are accessible by bike or on foot.



Map © Cotswolds Tourism







Cotswold Water Park

## DAY 1 ROMANS, LAKES AND LECHLADE

There is easy regional access from London, Bath and Oxford by train into Kemble, within 60-90 minutes. Enjoy a morning of Romans and arts and crafts, before an active afternoon of paddling, cycling or swimming.

**MORNING OPTIONS** Arrive by train into Kemble, from where there are regular 20 minute buses into Cirencester, or travel directly by car into Cirencester.

**CIRENCESTER CORINIUM MUSEUM** The **Corinium Museum** is home to the impressive and significant exhibits from highly significant finds from the Roman town of Corinium and the wider Cotswolds area, leading you on a journey through time and charting the development of the Cotswolds from its prehistoric landscape to the modern day.

**SIDE-TRIP TO CIRENCESTER'S ROMAN AMPITHEATRE** Continue on your roman journey with a short 15 minute walk to the edge of town to see the **Cirencester Ampitheatre**, one of the largest in Britain, which could hold 8,000 people and today remains a massive earthwork you can wander around and along.

**NEW BREWERY ARTS COURSES** This fantastic **arts centre** in Cirencester runs workshops including calligraphy, printing, beeswax wraps, etching, watercolour, binding and more. With a packed calendar of courses running throughout the year, you'll be sure to find something to join in with during your trip and come away with a souvenir too! There's something for everyone with kids and teenage workshops as well as adult classes. Stay for a coffee or a bite to eat at their **café** on site.

### LUNCH & COFFEE BREAK STOPS

■ **The Fleece, Cirencester:** Expect a warm welcome into this traditional coaching inn in the heart of the town. With quality local food and a seasonal menu. Choose from a cosy bar or a relaxed dining room.

■ **Somewhere Else, Cirencester:** Great for brunch, lunch or coffees, and with a great atmosphere and menu from light tapas to steak, burgers and seasonal specials. Indoor and outdoor seating and private dining areas also.

■ **Tierra & Mar, Cirencester:** A fine dining Spanish restaurant. Perfect for tapas and light bites, with local suppliers.



Corinium Museum

■ **Made By Bob, Cirencester:** A great deli café with a variety of locally sourced food and a great atmosphere.

**AFTERNOON OPTIONS** Stay in Cirencester or drive 10 minutes to the Cotswold Water Park. At Lake 86 there are multiple activities available for groups, couples, families and individuals, good parking, a café, and bike hire options available.

**LAKE 86** At the **Cotswold Water Park Lake**, try out stand up paddle-boarding (SUP), canoeing, kayaking or rowing boats. Choose between craft hire, instructed sessions, SUP yoga or open water swimming. Enjoy a coffee break, light bite or full meal at the **Gateway Café** next door.

**HIRE A BIKE TO RIDE AROUND THE LAKES** If you'd like to spend your afternoon outdoors, **Bainton Bikes** offer self-service 24 hour bike hire. Hire a bike for a fantastic cycle ride alongside the picturesque lakes for an afternoon on two wheels.

**WALK TO CRICKLADE FOR AFTERNOON TEA** Walk from Lake 86 to Cricklade along 4 miles of footpaths through the lakes and countryside for a coffee at **The Cricklade Club**, a social kitchen and living room bar with great food, cakes and organic ingredients, or **The Barista** coffee and sandwich shop. Retrace your steps or catch the frequent bus (51) back to Lake 86, a short 12 minute journey.

### DINNER OPTIONS

■ **The Bakers Arms:** In the quiet pretty village of Somerford Keynes, a short walk from both of our accommodation suggestions. A traditional local pub with a great atmosphere serving pub classics and with a nice beer garden out back too.

■ **The Village Pub:** A ten minute drive away is The Village Pub at Barnsley. A few notches above your usual pub grub, delicious seasonal food, local produce a welcoming atmosphere.



## DAY 2 SCULPTURES, RIVERS AND LAKES

Enjoy a morning of exploring on foot or bookbinding before enjoying an 'Aquaventure' or booking a local foraging course.

### MORNING OPTIONS

**COTSWOLD ELEMENTAL SCULPTURE PARK** This incredible family run **sculpture park** is home to 'Elemental', a collection of exciting sculptures displayed outdoors, perfect for an morning's stroll, stopping for a slice of homemade cake at the Poppin Tearoom, which is also host to their indoor gallery.

**WALK TO THE SOURCE OF THE THAMES** Enjoy a 4 mile walk along the Thames to its source, from the sculpture park (8 mile loop), to a remote Gloucestershire meadow on the edge of the small village of Kemble, an area officially known as Trewsbury Mead, to spot the source marker stone. Or park in a small layby (suitable for a couple of cars only) nearby on the side of the A433 and walk from here to the famous stone. The source is usually dry for much of the year, but is a very nice walk no matter the season.

**HIDDEN GEM - FURTHER AFIELD IN TETBURY Book Binding Courses**, workshops and mornings with Ursula Jeakins in Tetbury. Pre-book a half-day including a light lunch. Books, boxes, gifts, albums and more. Small groups only. Book well in advance to check dates or book a private event.



### LUNCH & COFFEE BREAK STOPS

■ **The Gateway Café:** Is the perfect spot for lunches, afternoon teas, coffees cakes and snacks, set in the heart of the lakes so you won't have to travel far from your water activities, cycle routes or walking trails.

■ **The Thames Head Inn:** Sits next to the head of the River Thames, with a relaxed and friendly atmosphere, serving excellent food.

**AFTERNOON OPTIONS** *Travel to the Cotswold Country Park and Beach to try out the water obstacle course or find a local foraging course.*

**COTSWOLD COUNTRY PARK AND BEACH Aquaventure** is the largest inflatable water park in the area, with 23 action packed obstacles. Suitable for adults and children and making for a great afternoon of fun. From here you can also hire kayaks, SUPs, pedalos and or try out their high ropes course. **The Beach Shack** on site serves lunches, picnics, BBQs and pizzas to keep you fuelled for your activities.

**FORAGING WALKS AND COURSES** Don't fancy getting wet? Take a walk with **Wild Foods** who run foraging courses throughout the Cotswolds and in the Summer take guests out on **2-3 hour walks**. Check their website to see if there is a walk running during your stay.

**TOP TIPS** For a spot of pampering, why not try **the spa** at the De Vere Cotswold Water Park Hotel.

### DINNER OPTIONS

■ **De Vere Cotswold Water Park Hotel:** Eat out at the hotel's **Old Boat House** or **Brasserie** dining with a view on the lakeside tables and outside decking or enjoying the views from inside.

■ **The Bakers Arms:** A short distance away, in the quiet pretty village of Somerford Keynes or to **The Village Pub** at Barnsley, a ten minute drive away.



## DAY 3 POLO, FARM SHOPS, ROYAL GARDENS AND MORE

Take a beautiful morning walk to a country pub, explore a country manor, watch the polo at Cirencester, visit the gardens of HRH Prince of Wales at Highgrove or wander through Westonbirt Arboretum.

### MORNING OPTIONS

**MORNING WALK** Take a morning walk through the stunning countryside around Sapperton, a short 15 minute drive away, finishing for lunch or coffee at **The Bell at Sapperton**.

**SIDE VISIT TO THE ORGANIC FARM SHOP** Stop off at the **Organic Farm Shop** for more than just veg. From basket weaving and cooking courses (groups of 5-10) to ethical Christmas presents, organic textiles, vegan classics and tours of the farm available.

**CHAVENAGE HOUSE** Explore and tour around this family owned **Cotswold Manor**, unchanged for 400 years and recognisable as 'Trenwith House' from the popular TV series *Poldark*. Open season runs from 1st May to 30th September for the general public, day and casual visitors. Thursdays and Sundays plus Bank Holiday Mondays, 2-5 pm (last admission 4pm).

### LUNCH & COFFEE BREAK STOPS

■ **The Bell at Sapperton:** The perfect Cotswold Pub, with a locally sourced seasonal menu and a 'wine wall' to browse as you decide on the perfect meal accompaniment. On sunny days, dine outside in the garden, and on chilly days cosy up inside.

■ **The Daneway:** Full of rustic charm, and fitting in nicely with a morning walk around Sapperton, this gastro-pub serves great food in a perfect spot. With indoor and outdoor seating.

### AFTERNOON OPTIONS

**POLO AT CIRENCESTER** There is polo played most days (excluding most Mondays). Sunday is the traditional polo day, but **visitors** are extremely welcome to watch the matches throughout the week, buying a day membership of just £5 (cash strongly recommended) per person and the clubhouse open for food, drinks and more! For the year's fixture list please look at their website.

**HIGHGROVE** The private residence of TRH The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall. You can book to tour the gardens Prince Charles has worked to create, alongside his organic vegetable gardens, on a guided walk, enjoying afternoon tea in the café afterwards. It is important to book well in advance and arrive on time for your time slot, or else you will not be allowed to join the tour. A real royal treat.

**WESTONBIRT ARBORETUM** This stunning **arboretum** is home to 15,000 trees and shrubs, with 2,500 species of tree from all over the world and 17 miles of marked paths to explore. Wander at your leisure following walking trails, and even enjoy the trees from the canopy along the Tree Top Walkway. Join a **guided walk** at 11am or 2pm (check on the website for more details on dates available), to explore the wonders of Westonbirt with an expert. Look out for **further events**, arts and crafts, behind the scenes tours or even concerts at Westonbirt.

### TOURS & GUIDES

■ **The Wild Carrot Café and Cycling:** Specialises in cycling in the Cotswolds. Providing a fleet managed service for hotels and businesses and cycling tours and holidays. With a great **café** and lounge bar! You can even **stay** over in their Glamping tents, shepherds hut or oak lodge.

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**EXTEND YOUR TRIP** Easy access by vehicle to Kemble station, or continuing your ongoing journey by car. Should you wish to extend your trip, see our 'things to do nearby' for ideas of where to visit next.

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## USEFUL INFORMATION FOR THIS ITINERARY

### ACCOMMODATION SUGGESTIONS NEAR THE COTSWOLD WATER PARK

**De Vere Cotswold Water Park Hotel:** In the heart of the 152 lakes that form the water park, these stylish rooms and apartments offer the perfect sanctuary within which to unwind.

**Cotswold Sculpture Park, Somerford Keynes:** A unique glamping experience in a converted water tower or shepherds huts set within the sculpture park grounds, tucked into the woodlands and with views over the lakes.

**AIRPORTS AND TRAINS:** Easy access to Oxford from all London Airports, particularly Heathrow, and the Heathrow Express for direct trains into London Paddington, then on to Kemble. For all train times, **The Trainline** is an online booking platform

with up to date schedules and prices.

**THINGS TO DO NEARBY:** If your time is flexible and you want to see more of the Cotswolds, or further afield, here are some ideas. We'll happily provide more information and ideas tailored to your needs.

**Oxford:** Walking and cycling tours of the 'City of Dreaming Spires', key sites to visit including the Bodleian Library, quirky cafés, galleries, museums and even ghost tours are all on offer in this vibrant city.

**Stratford-upon-Avon:** Shakespeare's birthplace and the perfect place to see one of his plays.

**Bristol:** From the historic docks to Clifton Suspension Bridge, bustling independent shops, cafés and bars, and the M Shed to hot air balloon rides, bike hire along the canals and a zoo, there is something for

everyone here.

**Bath:** Home to the Roman Baths, and a World Heritage City, with stunning walks, included guided walks by Laugh at Bath or a Jane Austen Tour, arts, culture and even kayaking trips along the River Avon.

**Cardiff:** From intimate gigs to global sporting events, museums, a spectacular castle, harbour, and more.

**Great West Way route:** Linking London to Bristol along canals, the Thames, countryside paths, bike trails, back country driving lanes and more, through Windsor, taking a side trip to Stonehenge, and into Bristol.

**Cycling and Walking Tours:** Throughout the Cotswolds from a range of companies including **Active England Tours**, **Carter Company**, **Hikes and Bikes**, **Compass Holidays** and **Wild Carrot**.

Find out more at: [www.cotswolds.com/trade](http://www.cotswolds.com/trade)

For further information, advice, itinerary ideas, images and contact details: Contact [cotswoldstourism@cotswold.gov.uk](mailto:cotswoldstourism@cotswold.gov.uk)

[www.cotswolds.com](http://www.cotswolds.com)