

THE TOP 100 THINGS TO SEE, DO AND EXPERIENCE IN THE COTSWOLDS

INN

THE COTSWOLD BUCKET LIST WELCOME



We can't imagine being anywhere other than the beautiful Cotswolds – it's 790 square miles of wow! Everyone knows it's filled with stunning scenes and tantalising tea rooms, but there's far more to the Cotswolds than meets the eye. As an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, it stretches a lot further than you might realise – from Broadway in the North Cotswolds to Burford in Oxfordshire, and all the way down to Bath and the far reaches of Wiltshire. In fact, there are hundreds of hidden gems just waiting to be discovered.

That's why we're excited to present the definitive Cotswold Bucket List – the top 100 things to see, do and experience in the Cotswolds. From the loveliest views and top attractions to the region's best eateries and secret hideaways, we've got it covered.

Each entry in The Cotswold Bucket List has been recommended by a local resident, so you can be sure that every new stop on your Cotswold adventure is well worth the effort. We'll admit, we've used a bit of artistic licence on a few that are located just on the edge of the region, but they're so good that we couldn't leave them out. All that's left for you to do now is get out there and start ticking things off your list!

Charlotte Knowles

General Manager, The Old Stocks Inn

PS: We'd love to see your new-found discoveries, so share them with us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter by using the hashtag #cotswoldbucketlist



WALKING

□ PAINSWICK ROCOCO GARDEN

Painswick Rococo Garden is the UK's only surviving complete rococo garden and a real hidden gem. Designed in the 1740s as a flamboyant pleasure garden, you'll find fanciful garden buildings and stunning views of the surrounding countryside to while away the hours.
www.rococogarden.org.uk
GL6 6TH

□ BOURTON TO LOWER SLAUGHTER WALK

If long hikes aren't your thing, the Bourton to Lower Slaughter walk should be right up your street at a leisurely 1.3 miles. The walk takes you through beautiful countryside, across fields, alongside the river and into Lower Slaughter before you know it. Once in Lower Slaughter, you will come across Copse Hill Road, named Britain's most romantic street.
www.cotswolds.info/places/bourton-on-the-water.shtml
GL54 2AP

□ LECKHAMPTON HILL AND DEVIL'S CHIMNEY

On the outskirts of Cheltenham, Leckhampton Hill offers a gorgeous view of the Cotswolds. It's also home to the intriguing Devil's Chimney, a rock formation that juts out from the hill. Legend says the devil lives deep inside the hill and it really is his chimney – tread carefully!
www.leckhamptonhill.org.uk
GL53 9QQ

□ CLEEVE HILL

On a clear day, you can see for miles from Cleeve Hill – it's the highest point on the Cotswold Hills. On the outskirts of Cheltenham, the hill boasts stunning views and is a great place to take those holiday selfies, but don't forget to take your scarf and your woolly jumper to fend off the wind!
www.cleevecommon.org.uk
GL52 3PW

□ BROADWAY TOWER

The Cotswolds' highest folly, Broadway Tower was the brainchild of renowned landscape designer Capability Brown. As well as stunning views, the tower has plenty for history buffs to enjoy, including an RAF lookout tower and a nuclear bunker.
www.broadwaytower.co.uk
WR12 7LB

□ KOREA FRIENDSHIP TRAIL

The Korea Friendship Trail is a circular walk that's part of the 102-mile-long Cotswold Way. Don't worry, this one's nice and easy! It takes in breathtaking views at the top of Stinchcombe Hill near Dursley, and is often called 'one of the most beautiful meanderings' on the main trail.
www.nationaltrail.co.uk/cotswold-way
GL11 4JQ



□ FIVE VALLEYS WALK

The Five Valleys – Chalford Valley, Nailsworth Valley, Ruscombe Valley, Slad Valley (of Cider with Rosie fame) and Painswick Valley – all converge on Stroud, one of the Cotswolds' quirkiest towns. Every September, people get together to take part in the 21-mile circular Five Valleys Walk to raise money for Meningitis Now.

www.meningitisnow.org/support-us/featured-events/five-valleys-walk-2017/
GL5 1AJ (centre of Stroud)

□ COALEY PEAK PICNIC SITE

Coaley Peak, on the outskirts of Stroud, offers some of the best views in Gloucestershire. If you're taking a walk along the Cotswold Way, grab your picnic basket, fill it with yummy treats and stop off here for views from across the Five Valleys and the Forest of Dean with some great selfie opportunities.

www.gloucestershire.gov.uk
GL10 3TP

□ DURSLEY SCULPTURE TRAIL

Sculpted by the local community, Dursley Sculpture and Play Trail in Twinberrow Woods was created by people aged 6 to over 90! The trail is always evolving, so you'll find something new every time you visit.

www.valevision.org.uk/projects_sculpture.htm
Off the A4135, on the outskirts of Dursley

□ COLN ST ALDWYNS TO BIBURY WALK

Bibury is often considered to be one of the most beautiful villages in the area and features the Arlington Row cottages – the most photographed scene in the Cotswolds. This gentle walk from Coln St Aldwyns offers a chance to soak up some stunning Cotswold countryside. Even better, it's a great walk for dog owners.

www.escapetothecotswolds.org.uk
GL7 5AN

□ BATH SKYLINE WALK

The World Heritage City of Bath is beautiful, unique and historic. It looks great from the ground, but what about viewing it from a completely different angle? The picturesque Bath Skyline walk takes you through the countryside surrounding Bath, giving you magnificent views of the city while burning up some serious energy!

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/bath-skyline/trails/bath-skyline-walk
BA2 6EP

□ WALK TO ST MARY TORY

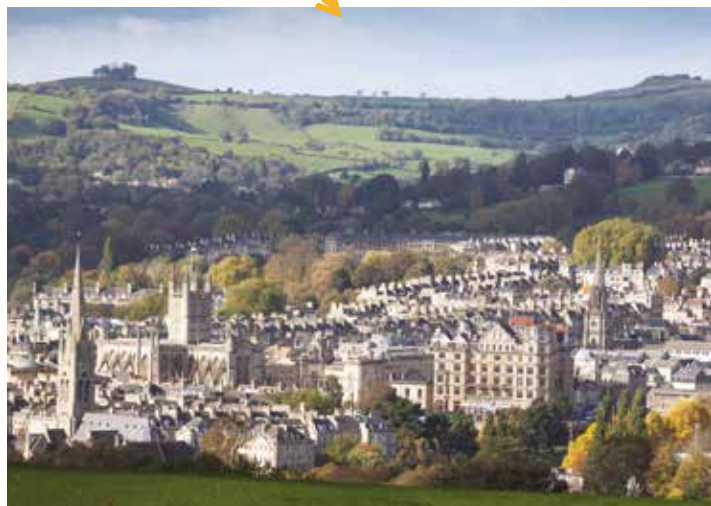
Bradford on Avon has a winning combination of river, canal and fabulous architecture, and no building is more beautiful than the chapel of St Mary Tory on the hill. Take a relaxing walk up the hill to see the stunning church and sublime views across the Wiltshire countryside.

www.bradfordonavon.co.uk
BA15 1NN (St Mary Tory)

□ WINCHCOMBE WALKING FESTIVAL

The little Gloucestershire town of Winchcombe comes to life every May with the three-day Winchcombe Walking Festival. There are a large selection of walks to choose from, including an early morning dawn chorus walk and a gruelling 21-mile hike. Our favourite is the walk to the pub for lunch!

www.winchcombewelcomeswalkers.com/festival
GL54 5LJ



HISTORICAL

☐ SUDELEY CASTLE

Sudeley Castle & Gardens, situated in the town of Winchcombe, has played an important role in English history for over 1,000 years. With strong Tudor connections, it even boasts a queen buried in its grounds. The adventure playground is a must for little ones, but grown-ups might prefer the peace of the gardens.

www.sudeleycastle.co.uk

GL54 5JD



PHOTO CREDIT: KIM GIBBON

☐ KELMSCOTT MANOR

On the banks of the Thames in the picturesque village of Kelmscott is Kelmscott Manor, the Cotswold retreat of William Morris, his family and fellow artists. The manor, its gardens, barns, dovecote, meadow and stream were a constant source of inspiration to Morris, who was one of the leading lights of the Victorian arts and crafts movement.

www.sal.org.uk/kelmscott-manor

GL7 3HJ



☐ GLOUCESTER CATHEDRAL

A stunning example of medieval architecture, Gloucester Cathedral is the final resting place of King Edward II and often imparts a sense of peace on its visitors. However, Harry Potter fans might leave the cathedral with a touch of magic, as it was transformed into Hogwarts for the films. Don't forget your wands!

www.gloucestercathedral.org.uk

GL1 2LX

☐ SOLDIERS OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE MUSEUM

The Soldiers of Gloucestershire Museum on Gloucester Docks is dedicated to the memory of all the Gloucestershire soldiers who have served their country. While you're there, you can try on army uniforms and a rifleman's backpack, and discover first-hand what it was like to be in a World War I trench.

www.soldiersofglos.com

GL1 2HE

☐ HIGHNAM COURT GARDENS

It's easy to lose yourself in Highnam Court Gardens – they're some of the most beautiful in the UK. Planted by owner and accomplished artist Thomas Gambier Parry in the 1870s, they were neglected for a century but have been restored to their former glory in recent years.

www.highnamcourt.co.uk

GL2 8DP



□ **BLenheim PALACE**

The breathtaking Blenheim Palace is a World Heritage Site and the birthplace of Winston Churchill. Step back in time and discover 300 years of history at the palace, a masterpiece of Baroque architecture. www.blenheimpalace.com
OX20 1PP

□ **ST MARY'S CHURCH, PAINSWICK**

In the heart of beautiful Painswick, the spire of St Mary's Church towers above the town. Take the time to count the perfectly trimmed yew trees in the churchyard and you'll find that there are 99 of them. Legend says that a 100th tree will never grow, and if it did, the devil would pull it out! www.stmaryspainswick.org.uk
GL6 6QB

□ **SWINDON & CRICKLADE RAILWAY**

Whether you're 2 or 102, few people can resist a heritage railway, and Swindon & Cricklade is one of the best. Step back in time and enjoy vintage steam and diesel-hauled trains, lovingly restored and run on a railway built by volunteers. Trains run on Saturdays and Sundays on a four-mile round trip, running in three restored stations. www.swindon-cricklade-railway.org
SN25 2DA

□ **CHASTLETON HOUSE**

Chastleton House is like a Cotswolds time capsule, remaining unchanged for 400 years. It's also where croquet was invented. During the summer, you can enjoy a game on the very lawns where the rules were first established. Just be careful with those mallets – they're heavier than you might think! www.nationaltrust.org.uk/chastleton-house
GL56 0SU

□ **CORSHAM COURT**

Corsham Court in Wiltshire is a privately owned historic house with one heck of an art collection. The collection includes a painting by Sir Anthony Van Dyck and a portrait of Queen Elizabeth I, making it a necessary pilgrimage for both expert and novice art lovers alike. www.corsham-court.co.uk
SN13 0BZ

□ **OXFORD BUS MUSEUM**

All aboard for a journey through public transport history! The Oxford Bus Museum tells the story of bus and coach travel around Oxfordshire over the last 130 years. And it wouldn't be Oxford without bikes, so the museum has a collection of 40 vintage and rare ones! www.oxfordbusmuseum.org.uk
OX29 8LA

□ **THE ROLLRIGHT STONES**

The Rollright Stones is an ancient site on the Oxfordshire/Warwickshire border – a place of mysterious beauty and subtle energy. On the solstices, it plays host to local druids, who welcome everyone to come and celebrate the peace and beauty of the stones. www.rollrightstones.co.uk
OX75 QB

□ **TEWKESBURY MEDIEVAL FESTIVAL**

Europe's biggest and best free medieval festival takes place in the historic riverside town of Tewkesbury every year. Stick around for the big battle, or stroll around the camp and sample authentic treats and beers made to the same recipes as they were in the 1400s. www.tewkesburymedievalfestival.org
GL20 5RZ (Tewkesbury Abbey)



PHOTO CREDIT: NATIONAL TRUST IMAGES / MARK BOLTON

□ **LACOCK**

Lacock village in Wiltshire is owned almost in its entirety by the National Trust and is very popular with visitors due to its unspoiled appearance. While your kids might recognise it as the hometown of YouTuber Zoella, you'll more likely remember seeing flashes of it in numerous period dramas and movies. www.nationaltrust.org.uk/lacock-abbey-fox-talbot-museum-and-village
SN15 2LG



ADVENTURE

❑ COTSWOLD LAVENDER

Is there anything more beautiful to photograph than fields of lavender as far as the eye can see? On the outskirts of Broadway, 35 varieties of lavender are grown to produce the highest quality English lavender essential oils. Walk among the 250,000 lavender plants and enjoy a cream tea or light lunch in the tea room – the lavender scones are divine!

www.cotswoldlavender.co.uk

WR12 7JY

❑ CASTLE COMBE

Known as the 'prettiest village in England', visitors have been enjoying the charm of Castle Combe in Wiltshire for more than a century. The houses are hundreds of years old, constructed in typical Cotswold style, with thick walls and natural stone roofs. Make sure you visit the 'honesty box' cake kiosk – a pay-what-you-want community endeavour filled with decadent treats.

www.castle-combe.com

SN14 7HS

❑ FAR PEAK CLIMBING CENTRE

Home to Gloucestershire's highest artificial climbing tower, Far Peak is tons of fun for both kids and adults. If 15 metres of climbing wall is a bit too high for you, there are plenty of smaller indoor walls for you to have a go on, or you can sit back and watch while enjoying a cake and a coffee at the centre's rooftop café.

www.wildrockclimbing.co.uk

GL54 3AP



□ WYCHWOOD WILD GARDEN

Wychwood Wild Garden is a beautiful community-managed hidden woodland and garden. A hundred lime trees, some over 250 years old, take you into this magical place. Its pond, waterfalls, canals and thousands of trees are usually only known to locals, but this Cotswold paradise was too good to miss off the list.

www.wychwoodwildgarden.org.uk
OX7 6DG

□ GLOUCESTER RUGBY

Looking for world-class sport in the Cotswolds? You need to head for Gloucester Rugby. Join the hardcore fans on the terraces and soak up the Gloucester atmosphere while enjoying an Aviva Premiership game. C'mon, you Cherry and Whites!

www.gloucesterrugby.co.uk
GL1 3AX

□ BAMPTON

Love Downton Abbey? Then you will probably recognise the Oxfordshire village of Bampton, immortalised as the fictional Downton village on the show, supposedly somewhere in Yorkshire! Close to the edge of the Cotswolds, Bampton is one of the oldest and prettiest villages in the area.

www.bamptonoxon-parishcouncil.gov.uk
OX18 2HA



□ COTSWOLD BALLOON SAFARIS

While you're visiting the Cotswolds, why not take the opportunity to view it from an entirely different angle? Soar high above the hills in a hot air balloon! Our top tip – wrap up warm and try an early dawn flight.

www.cotswoldballoonsafaris.co.uk
GL52 3NJ

□ INSPECTOR MORSE AND LEWIS TOUR

Oxford might be a famous university town to most, but for fans of *Inspector Morse*, it's the murder capital of the world. If you love Morse's Oxford, then a two-hour walking tour might well be for you, taking in locations from the *Inspector Morse* books and TV series.

www.britmovietours.com/bookings/inspector-morse-tour
OX1 3AS

□ PUNTING ON THE RIVER IN OXFORD

For visitors to Oxford, punting is a must-do, and there are numerous hire places along the River Cherwell for you to give it a go. Will you glide effortlessly or take an unexpected dip? With room for five people on a punt, it's a lovely way to see the city. If you're not brave enough to do the work yourself, some hire places also offer a chauffeur service.

www.dailymail.co.uk/guide/punting
OX2 6ST





□ BATH ESCAPE

Trapped in a locked room with family and friends, how would you escape? Work together, tackle the clues using logic and imagination, and make your escape from this exciting visitor attraction in Bath. If locked rooms aren't for you, grab your deerstalker and try a detective tour on Bath's beautiful streets.

www.bathescape.co.uk

BA1 1HL

□ SHERBORNE CINEMA

We love a good restoration story, as you may well know, and Gloucester's Sherborne Cinema was brought back to its stunning art-deco style in 2014. Forget your multiplexes and embrace the golden age of cinema while catching up on all the latest blockbusters.

www.sherbornecinema.co.uk

GL1 3BY

□ CIRENCESTER PARK POLO CLUB

For the quintessential British polo experience, it would be hard to beat Cirencester Park Polo Club – the oldest polo club in the country. With over 380 games played during the summer, you can always catch a few chukkas. A polo game is best enjoyed with a picnic, so be sure to pack your favourite treats.

www.cirencesterpolo.co.uk

GL7 6JT

□ CAFÉ RENÉ

A lively bar and restaurant in the centre of Gloucester, Café René is renowned for the eclectic mix of bands that grace its Cellar Bar. So whether you like jazz, pop, rock, dance or folk, there's always a good night to be had at René.

www.cafereene.co.uk

GL1 1TP

□ COTSWOLD DRY STONE WALLING COURSE

You're never far from a dry stone wall in the Cotswolds, but how on earth do they keep standing? Now you can have a go at building one with a course at Cotswolds Rural Skills. You're not just building a wall to take it down again, you're building a wall that will be a part of the landscape for the next 100 years or more!

www.cotswoldsruralskills.org.uk

□ HANDS ON BUSHCRAFT

If you fancy yourself as the next Bear Grylls, you'll need to know how to survive in the wild. The Cotswolds seems nice and gentle, but lurking in its forests, you'll find Hands On Bushcraft. Their range of courses teaches practical wilderness survival techniques in a fun way, right in the heart of the Cotswold countryside.

www.hands-on-bushcraft.co.uk



□ **THYME COOKERY SCHOOL**

The Cotswolds is full of fresh produce, and if you're a keen chef or a born foodie, there's nowhere better to cook up a storm than at Thyme Cookery School. There are courses for all kinds of tastes – learn how to bake the perfect cake, discover flavours from across the world and uncover the best local ingredients with a seasonal foraging class.

www.thyme.co.uk/the-cookery-school
GL7 3NX

□ **THE SEVERN BORE**

A big wave on a river might not sound like the most exciting thing ever, but believe us, the annual tidal surge on the River Severn is a sight to behold! Surfing the bore is a big competitive sport, with the record distance covered standing at 9.25 miles! Brave enough to give it a try?

www.severn-bore.co.uk
GL2 8JX

□ **GLOUCESTERSHIRE RALLY SCHOOL**

When you think of the Cotswolds, you probably think of cream teas, pretty buildings and relaxing walks. Well, believe it or not, you can get behind the wheel of a rally car here, too. The Gloucestershire Rally School's authentic gravel track offers a memorable driving experience for everyone – drive as hard as you dare!

www.glosrallyschool.co.uk
GL7 5QF



□ **SMOKEY JOE'S**

Smokey Joe's is the coolest café in town, just off the beaten track in Cheltenham town centre. Serving great waffles and American sandwiches one minute and hosting swing and jazz nights the next, family-run Smokey Joe's brings the best of 1950s Americana to the Cotswolds.

www.smokeyjoescheltenham.co.uk
GL50 4ED

□ **HIGHGROVE GARDENS**

We all know that Prince Charles loves his organic gardening, but did you know you could take a tour of his private gardens? The organic gardens at Highgrove reflect the Prince's commitment to sustainability and are a haven for a rich variety of flora and fauna.

www.highgrovegardens.com
Highgrove is too posh for postcodes, so follow directions for Doughton.

FOOD AND DRINK

SMITHS OF BOURTON

You can't go to the Cotswolds without popping into a tea room, and Smiths of Bourton is one of the very best. In the popular town of Bourton-on-the-Water, slightly set back from the river, you'll find friendly staff, quirky décor and cakes to die for. If you can't decide which cake you'd like, go for the antipasti and get three small(ish) slices of different cakes! Smiths opens seasonally from 1 February to 31 October.

www.facebook.com/Smiths-Of-Bourton
GL54 2BT

WINSTONES ICE CREAM

Is there anything better than ice cream? We think it's ice cream with a breathtaking view thrown in for good measure! On the edge of the rolling hills of Rodborough Common, you'll find Winstones Ice Cream parlour – featured in *The Daily Telegraph's* 10 best ice cream parlours. Pick up a cone and enjoy one of the most memorable vistas of the Cotswolds.

www.winstonesicecream.co.uk
GL5 5BX



FAVOURITE BEERS

Are you a beer connoisseur? So are we, and we love Favourite Beers in Cheltenham. The only specialist beer and cider shop in Gloucestershire, they stock over 400 UK bottled ales. They also put on some fantastic tasting evenings – anyone for a swift half?

www.favouritebeers.com
GL52 6BB

SANDFORD PARK ALEHOUSE

On the edge of the beautiful Sandford Park is Sandford Park Alehouse, a little slice of heaven for beer drinkers. It was CAMRA Pub of the Year 2015, and is a stylish old-meets-new pub with a large garden and comfy furniture.

www.spalehouse.co.uk
GL50 1DZ

THE TAVERN

A town centre pub offering tasty seasonal and local food, Cheltenham's Tavern is less formal than some eating places, but no less delicious. The beer is craft throughout and constantly changing, so there's always something new to try. With a Michelin Bib Gourmand award, it's worth checking out for a low-key vibe for all the family.

www.thetaverncheltenham.com
GL50 3DN



☐ **HORSE AND GROOM**

The Horse and Groom in Bourton-on-the-Hill is a cut above your usual pub. In fact, it's *The Good Pub Guide's* Pub of the Year 2016! The mouth-watering menu is constantly evolving, the pub garden offers stunning views, and the woodburner throws out welcome warmth in winter. They're big fans of local booze, too, sourcing the best drinks from Cotswold breweries and distilleries.
www.horseandgroom.info
GL56 9AQ

☐ **HOOK NORTON BREWERY**

With a fantastic range of award-winning beers, Hook Norton is the finest example of a Victorian tower brewery in the UK. The brewery runs tours, where you can see the original steam engine that was used to drive the machinery, learn about the company's history and, of course, have a taste of delicious Hook Norton beer.
www.hooky.co.uk
OX15 5NY

☐ **MADE BY BOB**

With an ever-changing menu that's like nothing else in the area, Made by Bob is like a cool slice of London in the heart of Cirencester. Open from 7.30am for breakfast and coffee, Made by Bob's best feature is the huge open kitchen, so you can watch the chefs at work.
www.foodmadebybob.com
GL7 2NY

☐ **THREE DAGGERS**

Once a humble wool barn at the foot of Salisbury Plain, the Three Daggers in Edington is now a village destination for locals and visitors alike. Its most exciting feature is the microbrewery – new beers are brewed several times a week.
www.threedaggers.co.uk
BA13 4PG



☐ THE WHITE SPOON

The White Spoon offers an alternative to traditional fine dining, with expertly cooked and exquisitely presented dishes, thanks to the vision of Chris White, who has worked with the likes of Heston Blumenthal. With a focus on local produce, the seasonal menu is sure to tantalise your taste buds.

www.thewhitespoon.co.uk

GL50 3JX

☐ CHADLINGTON BEER FESTIVAL

This annual beer festival takes place every June in Chadlington, Oxfordshire. Beer connoisseurs can look forward to smooth local ales, including Coachman's Tipple, and beers like Death or Glory, which are bound to knock your socks off. Even better, there's plenty for the kids to do too.

www.chadlingtonbeerfestival.com

OX7 3LX



☐ THE PUDDING CLUB

Praise the pud! We love puddings of all sorts, and if you do too, you need to head to The Three Ways House hotel in Mickleton on a Friday evening to savour the joys of The Pudding Club. Enjoy a light main course before getting down to the serious business of eating puddings – all seven of them!

www.threewayshousehotel.com

GL55 6SB

☐ SIMPSONS FISH AND CHIPS

Fancy restaurants are all well and good, but sometimes we all just feel like fish and chips. So why not sample the best? Simpsons in Cheltenham was awarded the UK's number one fish and chip takeaway at The National Fish & Chip Awards 2016, and with good reason. They believe fish and chips should be all about good quality fish, potatoes and batter – and nothing else!

www.simpsonsfishandchips.co.uk

GL52 5AL



TANK

On Gloucester's historic docks, you'll find TANK – a craft alchouse with a modern twist. Putting the drinking experience over margin and profit, quality over brand loyalty, and beer knowledge over fads and trends, TANK offers a range of local and craft beers on tap. With live music, quiz nights and pub grub that's a cut above the rest, TANK gives a true British pub experience – but with better beer.

www.tankgloucester.com
GL1 2EH

**THE SWAN INN**

Owned by the estate of the Dowager Duchess of Devonshire, The Swan is an idyllic Cotswold pub on the banks of the River Windrush. Sit back, relax and sample some of the best local beers and lagers from The Cotswold Brewing Company.

www.theswanswinbrook.co.uk
OX18 4DY

THREE CHOIRS VINEYARDS

Think it's not possible to grow grapes in the UK? Set in 30 hectares in the Forest of Dean, Three Choirs Vineyards' unique Cotswold microclimate is perfect for growing a range of grapes. Enjoy wine tasting and a tour to find out more about the vineyard's great English wine.

www.three-choirs-vineyards.co.uk
GL18 1LS

SOUTH COTSWOLD BEER AND MUSIC FESTIVAL

With a selection of over 100 beers, ciders, perries and wines, there really is something for drinkers of all tastes at the South Cotswold Beer and Music Festival. With great food and bands playing an array of different styles of music, a fantastic weekend is guaranteed!

www.mysodbury.co.uk/sodbury/e16721/south-cotswold-beer-and-music
BS37 6GA

THE FEATHERS

The terrace bar and romantic restaurant at The Feathers in Woodstock are pretty cool, but it's really all about the gin. The bar features over 400 gins from around the world – so many, in fact, that The Feathers made it into the *Guinness World Records* for offering the largest selection of gins on the planet!

www.feathers.co.uk
OX20 1SX



FAMILY ACTIVITY



❑ COTSWOLD WILDLIFE PARK

Set in over 160 acres of beautiful parkland, the Cotswold Wildlife Park has an amazingly diverse collection of species, many of which are endangered in the wild. Watch the rhinos grazing on the Manor House lawns, get eye-level with a giraffe on the fabulous Giraffe Walkway, and stroll among the lemurs in the brilliant Madagascan Walkthrough exhibit. www.cotswoldwildlifepark.co.uk
OX18 4JP

❑ WESTONBIRT ARBORETUM

With 15,000 tree specimens from around the world, Westonbirt Arboretum is a stunning sight all year round. What you might not know about Westonbirt is that plenty of chart-topping bands stop by there too! In recent years, the arboretum has provided a perfect stage for McBusted, Plan B, Kaiser Chiefs and Tom Jones. www.forestry.gov.uk/westonbirt
GL8 8QS



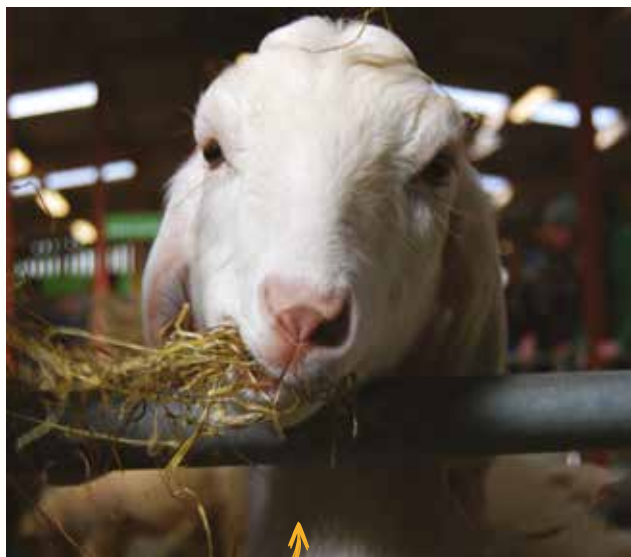
❑ THIRSTY MEEPLES BOARD GAME CAFÉ

Rainy day getting you down? If you're in Oxford, you can shelter from the showers at Thirsty Meeples Board Game Café. With over 2,000 games to choose from, you're spoilt for choice, and they've got plenty of snacks and drinks to keep you going as you play! www.thirstymeeples.co.uk
OX1 2DF

❑ CIRENCESTER OPEN AIR SWIMMING POOL

Fancy a bracing swim? Take a step back to a bygone age with a dip in Cirencester Open Air Swimming Pool. Built in 1869, this unique pool offers the chance to swim in natural spring water. Even better, there's no need to worry about the cold – it's heated to around 27C. www.cirenopenair.co.uk
GL7 2EF





□ **COTSWOLD FARM PARK**

Home to BBC *Countryfile*'s Adam Henson, the Cotswold Farm Park was opened in 1971 to protect rare native breeds of farm animals and is now a firm family favourite. There are seasonal farming demonstrations all year round and plenty of chances to get up close and personal with the animals, including rabbits and newborn chicks. Aww!

www.cotswoldfarmpark.co.uk
GL54 5UG

□ **COTSWOLD WATER PARK**

With more than 150 lakes across 40 square miles of Wiltshire, Gloucestershire and Oxfordshire countryside, the Cotswold Water Park offers a huge range of activities. The park is also home to the UK's largest inland beach – who's bringing the bucket and spade then?

www.waterpark.org
GL7 6DF

□ **JET AGE MUSEUM**

Did you know that Britain's first jet plane came from Gloucestershire? The Gloster E28/39 first left the ground on 8 April 1941 at the Gloster factory airfield between Cheltenham and Gloucester. The Jet Age Museum, located between the towns, is home to a number of Gloster-built aircraft, ongoing restoration projects and an archive of factory drawings and photographs.

www.jetagemuseum.org
GL2 9QL

□ **THE BIRD & DEER PARK PRINKNASH**

High in the Cotswold Hills, on the road to Painswick, is The Bird & Deer Park at Prinknash. Here, you can get up close and personal with deer (who will often eat from your hand!), peacocks, miniature donkeys and some seriously quirky poultry.

www.thebirdpark.com
GL4 8EX

□ **CROCODILES OF THE WORLD**

Crocodiles in the Cotswolds, who would have believed it? You'll find the UK's only crocodile zoo at Brize Norton in Oxfordshire. Opened in 2011, Crocodiles of the World is home to more than 100 individual crocodiles, alligators and caiman. Take plenty of snaps!

www.crocodilesoftheworld.co.uk
OX18 3NX



□ **THE COTSWOLD SHOW**

Two days, 100 acres, hundreds of attractions and tens of thousands of visitors – that's The Cotswold Show. Since the first event in 1989, the ethos of 'where town meets county' has stayed the same, so you can enjoy a taste of country life with falconry, a dog show, farm animals, good food, clay shooting, archery and rural skills. The Cotswold Show usually takes place on the first weekend of July.

www.cotswoldshow.co.uk
GL7 1XB



RELAX AND UNWIND

□ GLOUCESTER SERVICES

It might seem a bit weird to recommend a service station, but Gloucester Services, situated between junctions 11a and 12 of the M5, is a true delight. They've thrown away the service station rule book and offer a farm shop selling produce from more than 130 local suppliers, with meat from Gloucestershire, locally pressed juices, local cheeses and artisan bread.

www.gloucesterservices.com
GL4 0DN

□ LUCKNAM PARK AFTERNOON TEA

There are few things more British than afternoon tea, and where better to enjoy it than an 18th century Palladian mansion, surrounded by 500 acres of beautiful gardens and unspoiled parkland? Lucknam Park Hotel offers one of the best teas around, whether it's for a special occasion or an indulgent treat.

www.lucknampark.co.uk
SN14 8AZ



❑ **THE OLD STOCKS INN**

Well, we couldn't pull together a Cotswold bucket list without including ourselves, could we? The Old Stocks provides the perfect base to explore all The Bucket List has to offer. After a busy day of adventuring, we'll have a dreamy bed waiting for you in a stylish room, as well as lovingly prepared food and a great selection of drinks.

www.oldstocksinn.com

GL54 1AF

❑ **THERMAE BATH SPA**

Enjoy Britain's only natural thermal waters, in the World Heritage City of Bath, just as the Celts and Romans did over 2,000 years ago. Look out over the city as you relax in the warmth of the rooftop pool, or head indoors to breathe in the soothing vapours of the steam rooms.

www.thermaebathspa.com

BA1 1SJ



❑ **DAYLESFORD**

One of the most sustainable organic farms in the UK, Daylesford offers a treat for the taste buds. The farm produces and sells all kinds of great food, starting with healthy soil and finishing with healthy animals and people. It's popular with local celebs, too, so take a seat in The Old Spot restaurant or stop by the spa and tell us who you see.

www.daylesford.com

GL56 0YG



EVENTS

GIFFORDS CIRCUS

Like no circus you've ever seen before, Giffords is a magical village green circus that tours England throughout the summer. Acrobats, horses, jugglers and Tweedy the clown take you back to a golden age. Giffords spends much of the season in and around the Cotswolds, so catch it if you can, and don't forget to try their unique dining experience. www.giffordscircus.com



PHOTO CREDIT: ANDREW REES

LECHLADE MUSIC FESTIVAL

Lechlade Music Festival is an annual three-day family-friendly festival in the Cotswold town of Lechlade. Taking place at the end of May, the festival promises 'three days, three nights and three stages'. The line-up has something for everyone, including rock, pop, soul, folk and jazz, from up-and-coming local artists to headline acts like The Proclaimers. www.lechladefestival.co.uk
GL7 3AG



PHOTO CREDIT: REBECCA REID



PHOTO CREDIT: GEM HALL

TETBURY WOOLSACK RACES

In the 16th century, Tetbury had one of the best-known wool markets in the country. In celebration of this heritage, the town plays host to the annual Woolsack Race. Competitors carrying a 60lb sack of wool (for men) or 35lb (for women) compete over a 240-yard course up a one-in-four hill every Spring Bank Holiday Monday in May. www.tetburywoolsack.co.uk
GL8 8DD



COTSWOLD OLIMPICKS

The Cotswold Olimpicks, or Robert Dover's Games, is an annual event that has been running on and off for over 400 years. If you've ever fancied watching men stuff their socks with straw, then try to kick each other as hard as possible on the shins, this is the event for you! Taking place on the Friday after Spring Bank Holiday, events also include tug-o'-war, Champion of the Hill and a five-mile run. www.olimpickgames.com
GL55 6UW



❑ **PRESCOTT SPEED HILL CLIMB**

Prescott is home to one of the UK's most famous hill climb courses. The challenging 1,127-yard course includes steep hills and a serious hairpin to test the nerve of the most experienced driver. It's not just for motorsport fans either – if you've ever wanted to get up close to some of the world's most beautiful classic cars, Prescott's for you.

www.prescott-hillclimb.com
GL52 9RD

❑ **COOPER'S HILL CHEESE ROLLING**

The best-known of Gloucestershire's madcap sporting events, cheese rolling attracts people from all over the world, who are willing to risk life and limb in pursuit of a giant cheese rolling down a hill. Only in the Cotswolds! It takes place every Spring Bank Holiday on Cooper's Hill, near Brockworth.

www.cheese-rolling.co.uk
GL3 4SB



❑ **CHELTENHAM LITERATURE FESTIVAL**

For 10 days every autumn, Cheltenham becomes the centre of the literary world. Every year, the festival welcomes 600 writers, actors, politicians and poets for a huge range of interviews, debates and workshops, taking place within the charming Montpellier Gardens and surrounding venues.

www.cheltenhamfestivals.com/literature
GL50 1UW

❑ **FOOTBALL IN THE RIVER**

The peace of genteel Bourton-on-the-Water is well and truly shattered every August Bank Holiday Monday, when two teams from Bourton Rovers Football Club take to the River Windrush for a football match. Hundreds line the banks to watch the 100-year-old tradition. If you fancy getting close to the action, we highly recommend waterproofs!

www.bourtonroversfc.com
GL54 2AQ

❑ **THE CORNBURY MUSIC FESTIVAL**

A country fair with a rock 'n' roll twist, a farmers' market with a dance floor, The Cornbury Music Festival, held over three days in July, is a very English open-air party for the whole family. With four stages of music, a magical children's area, gourmet food and beautiful campsites, there really is something for everyone.

www.cornburyfestival.com
OX7 4AF

❑ **BAMPTON SHIRT RACE**

Nowhere does zany events quite like the Cotswolds, and the Bampton Shirt Race, held on the Saturday of the Spring Bank Holiday, is no exception. Teams of two, dressed in nightshirts, use prams, wheelbarrows or anything else with wheels. One team member pushes the other, they stop at a pub and down a beer, and then swap jobs!

www.oxfordshirecotswolds.org/whatson/bampton-shirt-race-p1172951
OX18 2JL

WILDERNESS FESTIVAL

Wilderness Festival takes place over four days at Cornbury Park in Oxfordshire every August. Wilderness combines the usual music and excitement of a festival with relaxation in a nature reserve. So wake up early for some wild swimming or learn to forage, butcher and cook wild ingredients!

www.wildernessfestival.com

OX73DG



OLD WOODSTOCK MOCK MAYOR

The Old Woodstock Mock Mayor procession dates back to the time when New Woodstock acquired a mayor and the residents of Old Woodstock thought the new place was getting a bit above itself, so they appointed a mock mayor and threw him in the river! These days, a more civilised barbecue and live music ensues.

www.oxfordshirecotswolds.org/whats-on/old-woodstock-mock-mayor-p1231171

OX20 1XJ



STROUD FRINGE

Stroud has a reputation that draws an eclectic mix of creatives, and every August Bank Holiday weekend, hundreds of musicians, comedians and artists descend upon the town for a festival on the streets. Best of all, everything is free!

www.stroudfringe.co.uk

GL5 1BL



AUNT SALLY WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

Aunt Sally is a traditional pub and fairground game, played in pubs around Gloucestershire and Oxfordshire, in which players throw sticks at a model of a woman's head. Great fun! Either find a pub to have a go at it all year round, or enter yourself in the Aunt Sally World Championship, which takes place at the Charlbury Beer Festival on the last weekend in June.

www.charlburybeerfestival.org

OX7 3DQ

CHELTENHAM CRICKET FESTIVAL

The Cheltenham Cricket Festival started in 1872 and is played in the stunning grounds of Cheltenham College. No other cricket festival has been played on the same ground for so long, and no other festival in the world lasts for 12 days or more!

www.gloscricket.co.uk

GL53 7AB



☐ **THE NAF FIVE STAR INTERNATIONAL**

World-class horse trials come to the Cotswolds for five days every August in the stunning surroundings of Hartpury College. A sort of equestrian triathlon, horses and riders compete in three phases – the elegance of dressage, the bravery of cross country and the precision of show jumping.

www.hartpuryhorsetrials.co.uk
GL19 3BE

☐ **NEWENT ONION FAYRE**

Gloucestershire's largest one-day free festival, the Newent Onion Fayre celebrates the magnificent onion! The fayre offers prizes for the best onion, an onion eating competition, live music, entertainment, food and drink, fairground rides, animal displays, and over 150 stalls.

www.newentonionfayre.org
GL18 1BZ

☐ **PIG FACE DAY**

On Pig Face Day in Avening, villagers feast in the village hall after attending evensong at the church. Legend has it that Queen Matilda, wife of William the Conqueror, commissioned the church to ease her guilt over having her unrequited love thrown into prison. When the church was finished, Queen Matilda gave a feast of a pig's head to the builders.

www.cotswolds.info/strange-things/pig-face-day-avening.shtml
GL8 8NF

☐ **WITCOMBE CIDER FESTIVAL**

Over two days and two nights of the August Bank Holiday weekend, ciders for all tastes meet live music at the Witcombe Cider Festival. Get a round of Gloucestershire's finest ciders in and enjoy some of the best chart-topping bands from now and then.

www.witcombeciderfestival.co.uk
GL3 4RP

☐ **HUNTER CHASE AT CHELTENHAM RACES**

Cheltenham is one of the UK's most famous racecourses, and home to some of the most incredible scenes in horse racing. The Hunter Chase is the only evening fixture on the calendar, so you can make a great day of exploring even better. Relax with family, friends and colleagues while enjoying seven highly competitive races against the stunning backdrop of the Cotswold Hills.

www.cheltenham.thejockeyclub.co.uk
GL50 4SH



THE COTSWOLD
BUCKET LIST
WWW.COTSWOLDBUCKETLIST.COM



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