

Ralphs Rambles

BIBURY RAMBLE

If you love long walks like me, then this one from Coln St Aldwyns to Bibury is a real treat, and is perfect for all kinds of dogs – whether you're a little terrier or a big Alsatian. You'll start off in the pretty little village of Coln St Aldwyns – your owners can drive you here by following the postcode GL7 5AN, and it's just half an hour away by car.

The walk will take you and your owners through the Cotswolds countryside to Bibury village – often considered one of the most beautiful Cotswolds villages. I would have to agree with my owners on that, but most of all, I really like being given a good fuss by the staff at The Swan Hotel when we pop in for a drink.



WALK DISTANCE
10 kilometres/6 miles



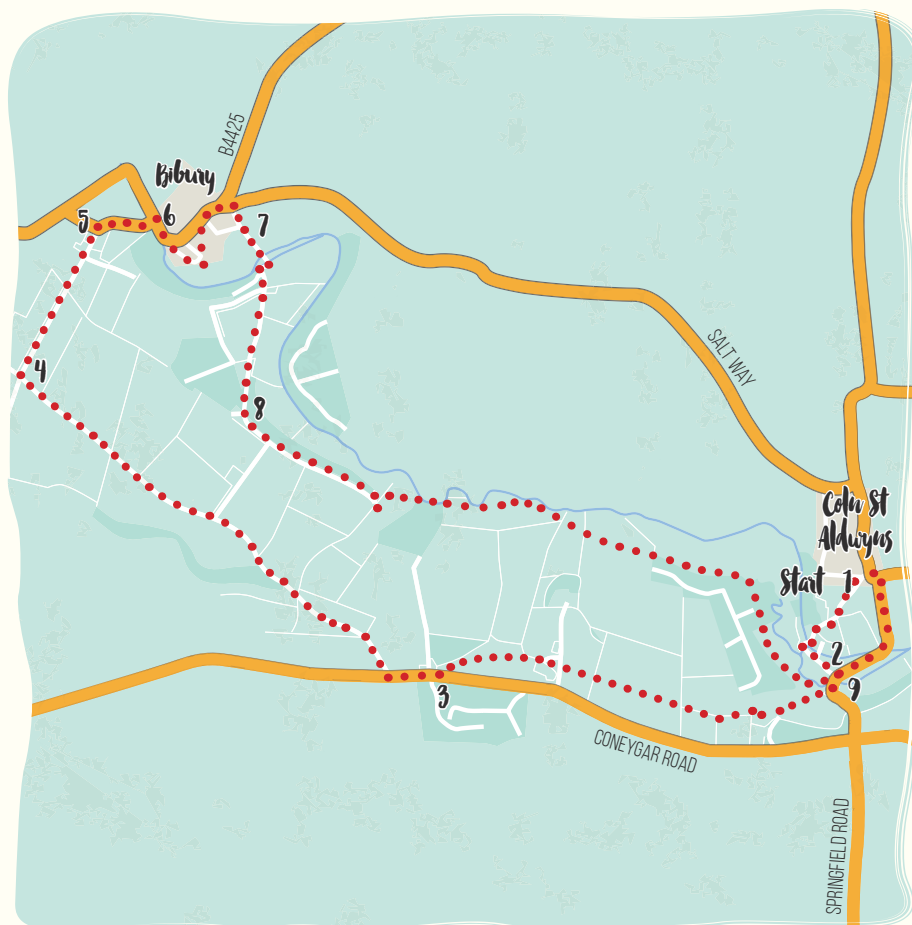
WALK TIME
3 hours

1 Start at the crossroads in Coln St Aldwyns. Take the road beside the post office and turn left to head towards the church. Keep the church on your right and walk down the walled lane. Turn left onto a road, then at the end, turn right over the bridge across the river (2).

Turn right through the gates to the Manor Gatehouse, then follow the bridleway up the hill along an old coach road. This path continues through several fields and gates across a farm track, between farm buildings and a pair of cottages.

Head towards the house at the far end of the field and then go through the gate on the left (3). After 150 yards, turn right and follow the signpost onto a wide track. You'll be skirting along the edge of the Coneygar Wood to start with, and then going past some lovely fields and woods. Follow this path for one and a quarter miles.

When you reach a crossroad (4), turn right and head towards Arlington and Bibury. Keep going, and you'll reach two gates. Go through them and you'll now have reached the edge of Bibury (5).



While you're in Bibury, your owners might want to look at Arlington Row, a collection of beautiful thatched cottages that's one of the most photographed areas of the entire Cotswolds. They could also pay a visit to the Bibury Trout Farm – in the summer, they can catch their own fish! I'm not very good at fishing but I like relaxing in the fields near the ponds. Don't forget to stop for a drink at the Swan – sit out in the courtyard if the sun is shining.

6 To get back to where you started, pass Arlington Row, cross over the river and turn right along the river. Keep right and walk towards the church, then turn left and go up the hill and through the centre of the village. Go through the gap in the wall at the top, then turn right and right again alongside the Coln St Aldwyns road.

7 In 50 yards, turn right and go downhill. Go past the front of the Tudor Bibury Court, then cross the river and go through the old mill buildings. At the top of the rise, go through a gate and into the valley. Then keep going up past the weir, go through the gate, and take the track to the left

into a copse. Ignore the path to your right and go through a gate out of the copse (8).

At the next copse, go through a gate and head downhill. The gate at the bottom will lead you out into a water meadow. Follow this path along the Coln valley back to the Manor Gatehouse. Go out to the road and turn left (9). Pass the New Inn on your right and you'll reach the start point again.

If your owners aren't as confident at following their nose home like you or me, they can put the postcode GL54 1AF into their sat-navs and you'll be back at The Old Stocks Inn in no time.

I hope that you and your owners enjoy your walk – if your owners take some photos along the way, get them to post them on Instagram with the tag #oldstocksinns so I can see how you get on!

Happy walkies,



THE OLD STOCKS
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