

# From Countryside to Capital



*Cycling from the enchanting English Countryside to the Capital City London*



**Bainton Bikes welcomes you to our eclectic cycling holiday.**

This tour starts in the beautiful peaceful area of England called the Cotswolds. Here we will explore historic landmarks, buildings and picturesque countryside, before leaving the country to visit the royal residence at Windsor Castle. Your journey follows deer parks, royal gardens and the River Thames into the hub of England, London city. Your final day is a day on foot exploring London, for which Bainton Bikes will provide a detailed travel guide.

This tour is available self-guided or guided and you will be supplied with bikes, detailed travel maps and a detailed point of interest travel guide.

Each day Bainton Bikes will collect your luggage and make sure they're waiting for you in your rooms on arrival at your new destination. Every hotel room is ensuite and includes breakfast each morning.

## **Reservations**

For reservations and more information please contact us on the details below.



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Open 7 days a week including bank holidays



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*Historic and rural countryside at its finest*



## Your Arrival

Your first nights' accommodation is in the Cotswold town of Lechlade-on-Thames, very close to the source of the River Thames and the highest town to which the river is navigable. The town dates back to 2500BC and is now a thriving market town boasting many historic monuments, great places to eat and drink and has its own award-winning micro-brewery (named after the iconic Ha'penny Bridge)! A perfect location to enjoy a drink or dinner by the waterside.



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*Cycling in the footsteps of kings, legends, myths and fables.*



## Day One

From the Cotswold market town of Lechlade-on-Thames we head through the peaceful countryside on a historic ride. Our first stop is the mediaeval barn at Great Coxwell before continuing to ride through some beautiful rural villages. We stop in the quaint village of Woolstone for a fantastic lunch with a selection of local game and produce at the aptly named White Horse pub. After a hearty lunch we climb the hill to view the Bronze Age Uffington White Horse Hill & visit the spot where legend has it, St. George slayed the Dragon. We then join the Ridgeway, which is Britain's oldest road used since prehistoric times by travellers, herdsman and soldiers alike.

We visit the Neolithic tombs of Wayland's Smithy and the legendary Blowing Stone used by King Alfred whilst traveling through the villages in the ancient kingdom of Wessex. Your accommodation is located in the historic market town of Wantage, notable for being the birthplace of King Alfred the Great in 849AD.

## Key Facts

Distance:	27 miles / 43 km
Difficulty:	Medium
Elevation:	1596 Ft / 486 m



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*Experience idyllic English village lifestyle.*



## Day Two

On day two we explore rural villages, get to know England's industrial railway, visit some haunted countryside and sample some award-winning English wine at a local vineyard.

We leave Wantage following off road countryside cycling routes before arriving into the busy industrial town of Didcot. Didcot famous for the great age of steam is packed with historic British railway memorabilia including trains and numerous items from Isambard Kingdom Brunel's illustrious career.

Leaving behind the bustle of the town we continue our journey riding past the picturesque Wittenham Clumps, once described by Artist Paul Nash as "a beautiful legendary country haunted by old Gods long forgotten". The Clumps as they are affectionally known are home to England's oldest beech trees and the site marks some of the earliest settlements in England.

For lunch we cross the river into the charming Roman village of Dorchester-on-Thames. Dorchester is famous for its grand Abbey which is built on the site of a Saxon Cathedral. The village is a typical quaint English village boasting modern and fantastic places to eat.

After lunch we continue through countryside and villages until reaching an award-winning English vineyard. The vines are grown on the chalky soil and produce wines of excellent quality well worth sampling before heading into the market town of Wallingford for an evening of relaxation.

## Key Facts

Distance:	22 miles / 36 km
Difficulty:	Very Easy
Elevation:	489 ft / 149 m



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*Stunning views and an abundance of atmospheric taverns*



## Day Three

Today we experience the Chilterns in all her natural beauty and end the day in historic Henley-on-Thames.

In the morning we venture up into the area known as the Chilterns, a historic and unspoilt landscape boasting some fantastic ancient trees and an abundance of wildlife. We will climb into the Chiltern Hills where you are rewarded with fantastic views across many counties. We will visit the Maharajah's Well, one of the Victorian's quirkier additions to our countryside.

In the Chilterns we have a fantastic selection of pubs with views and beautifully crafted food, made with locally sourced produce. We will coast through a number of

quintessentially English villages and pubs on our way down towards the 12th century town of Henley-on-Thames.

Henley is a world-renowned centre for rowing, each summer hosting the Henley Royal Regatta attracting rowers from across the globe.

Expect good food, good views and good company whilst visiting this historic river town.

## Key Facts

Distance:	22 miles / 36 km
Difficulty:	Easy / Medium
Elevation:	1211ft / 369 m



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*A fantastic mixture of landscape and metropolises*



## Day Four

Today we follow routes that have been historically used by Kings & Queens and end the day in Queen Elizabeth's 2nd home town of Windsor.

As we leave Henley we navigate the picturesque Hambleden Lock over the river Thames and head back into the Chilterns for a short time.

We stop for lunch in the lively town of Marlow and follow an off-road cycling route past the London Olympic lakes located in the grounds of the exclusive Eton College.

We will visit this world-famous academic institution and whilst in Windsor visit the famous castle which dominates this small town. Windsor castle was built in 1070 by William the Conqueror. It remains home to Britain's royal family and can be explored before we stop for the evening to sample some food and drink in establishments frequented by British royalty throughout the ages.

## Key Facts

Distance:	24 miles / 38 km
Difficulty:	Easy
Elevation:	803 ft / 245 m



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*A magnificent day discovering vivid waterways, historic landmarks and imposing buildings.*



## Day Five

Continuing on our Royal ride we pass through the Great Royal Deer parks following the historic monuments alongside the River Thames into the great capital city of London.

Today we leave Windsor and ride off road through the Royal Great Park towards historic Runnymede, location for the signing of the Magna Carta and the birthplace of modern democracy.

We join the River Thames at the large town of Staines-on-Thames and follow off road cycle paths

alongside the river. We will take a short ferry crossing with our bikes across the river before stopping at the famous Hampton Court Palace once home to Henry VIII and his six wives to explore and enjoy some lunch. In the afternoon we ride through the peaceful and famed Richmond Deer Park where we can stop to enjoy the company of the local red deer before re-joining the River Thames path and riding into the city of London.

## Key Facts

Distance:	36 miles / 58 km
Difficulty:	Easy (long but flat)
Elevation:	1739 ft / 530 m



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*A fantastic blend of historic sights and extraordinary hidden gems*



## Day Six

A day dedicated to historic London.

The sixth day is dedicated to enjoying London in all her glory. Today you will leave your bicycle and venture into the city by public transport and on foot to discover the charms of historical London. Bainton Bikes will provide a very detailed document highlighting the essential parts of the city you must explore. There will be plenty of places to enjoy your lunch, dinner and drinks and we will make many recommendations.

London was once a Roman town but is now a vast metropolis and is considered to be one of the world's most important cities. London boasts four World Heritage sites as well as numerous landmarks, it has many museums, galleries and libraries to visit and boasts the oldest underground railway network in the world.

You will not get bored in the great capital and as your journey comes to an end we hope you enjoy your final night in this great city.



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