



Bath to Oxford

with

Bainton Bikes



About Us

Bainton Bikes & Walton Street Cycles

Kevin set up Bainton Bikes back in 2009. Starting out in a garage (on Bainton Road), he started stripping bikes, getting them powder coated and rebuilding them, before turning them into a 'Bainton Bike', made available for hire.

Starting out with 1 bike, then 2, there is now a fleet of over 1,000 hire bikes across Southern England, all of which Kevin has at one point built, or repaired.

A cyclist himself, Kevin has cycled across much of the UK, and has spent many hours poring over a map to work out the best way to connect some of the beautiful sights across the UK.

Alongside Kevin, there is now a small, specialist team, providing cycle holidays across the Cotswolds, southern England and Wales. We have been welcoming guests from around the globe for over ten years, and it is our pleasure to show our visitors the very best of the UK, in the very best way – by bike!

Based in the heart of Oxford, Walton Street Cycles celebrated its 50th year in 2025. From humble beginnings, Walton Street Cycles was born from a love of cycling and a vision to bring quality bikes and expert repairs to a city where two wheels are more than just transport, they're a way of life. As the years rolled by, Walton Street Cycles became more than just a bike shop - it became part of the fabric of Oxford, a trusted partner for riders of all ages and abilities. Now, its workshop of 15 mechanics not only supports local cyclists, but also services and maintains bikes for our holiday guests.





This five-day trip takes you through the southern side of the Cotswolds - from Bath to historic Oxford.

The Cotswolds is one of England's most iconic and picturesque regions, famed for its rolling hills, charming villages and quintessentially English countryside. It stretches across six counties in south-central England - mainly Gloucestershire, Oxfordshire, Warwickshire, Wiltshire, Worcestershire, and Somerset — covering an area of approximately 787 square miles (2,038 square km).

Designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), the Cotswolds preserves a landscape that feels both historic and unspoiled, reflecting centuries of rural English life.

Day 1

Bath to Corsham



Today you head towards Corsham. The route goes through the village of Lacock, renowned for its well-preserved historic charm and its association with early photography. In the nineteenth century, William Henry Fox Talbot carried out experiments at Lacock which led to the creation of the first photographic negative.



Explore Lacock Abbey

Housed within Lacock Abbey, the Fox Talbot Museum celebrates the history of photography, displaying early photographic equipment and works by pioneers like Fox Talbot.



Have a picnic on Broughton Common



Stop off at Bradford-upon-Avon

Corsham has a peaceful, rural feel. Peacocks roam freely — especially around Corsham Court, a stately home with origins going back to at least the tenth century. The present building has features from the Elizabethan era and later additions. It's Grade I listed, houses a notable art collection, and is set in landscaped grounds - well worth a visit.



Enjoy a wander around Corsham - its high street and almshouses are worth seeing



Visit Corsham Court

Day 2

Corsham to Tetbury



Today follows in the footsteps of the ancient Romans, as you cycle along the lower south side of the Cotswolds within the counties of Gloucestershire and Wiltshire. The Fosse Way, one of England's most famous Roman roads forms a boundary between these counties.

Later, you reach Tetbury. This pretty town has beautifully preserved Georgian townhouses, narrow lanes, and a striking Market House. It is renowned for its independent shops, antique shops and cafes. Highgrove House, the private residence of King Charles III, lies just outside the town.



Stop in Castle Combe, have a walk and enjoy refreshments in one of the pubs



Enjoy a wander around Tetbury



Visit the Chipping Steps (Tetbury) - a medieval set of cobbled steps that used to be an old entrance to the town, joined by a row of old weavers cottages

Day 3

Tetbury to Bibury



Visit Thames Head, the source of the River Thames



Stop in Cirencester, a Roman town formed in AD 75, and now the largest town in the Cotswolds



Visit the Corinium Museum



Walk along Arlington Row

Leaving behind Tetbury you will ride through the Cotswold countryside and along some off-road bridleways, offering a peaceful and scenic view across the Wolds. With only the interruptions of the local wildlife, you will be immersed in the sights and sounds of the rural Cotswolds.

At lunch time, you'll enter the historic Roman town of Cirencester, now the largest town in the Cotswolds. You will discover why the town was so important to the Romans as you have the chance to visit remaining Roman sites in the town, including the Amphitheatre.

Later, you head for Bibury. Often described as England's prettiest village, it is renowned for its honey-toned cottages and tranquil river setting.

The village's most iconic feature is Arlington Row, a row of seventeenth-century weavers' cottages built around 1380 as a monastic wool store. These cottages are among the most photographed in the UK and have even featured on the inside cover of British passports.



Day 4

Bibury to Burford



Visit Chedworth Roman Villa



Enjoy a wander around
Northleach



Ride along the picturesque
River Windrush



Enjoy an evening in Burford

Leaving Bibury behind, you will ride out along calm country roads and follow the river towards Chedworth fourth century Roman Villa. With its fine mosaics, bathing pools and temples it is one of the largest Roman remains in Britain.

After exploring the villa, and of course enjoying a treat from the cafe, you can again mount your steeds and ride deeper through this Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, passing well-preserved Cotswold villages with their famous stone-walled architecture, taking you back in time.

For lunch, you will arrive in the first century market town of Northleach. Established as early as the first century, this historic town was a thriving centre of the wool trade during medieval times. Today, Northleach's town centre features half-timbered buildings, traditional shops, and pubs and cafes.

After a delightful lunch, you will meander along the countryside roads to the 'Gateway of the Cotswolds', Burford, known as one of England's prettiest medieval towns.



Day 5

Burford to Oxford



Today you ride away from the Cotswolds towards the historic city of Oxford. In the morning, you will pass through pretty villages and thatch-lined roofs, stopping in Minster Lovell to walk amongst the ruins of the fifteenth century Minster Lovell Hall.

You will arrive into Oxford off-road, riding alongside the River Thames. Here there are a good selection of riverside pubs offering delicious lunch options.

Continuing along the river, you will be riding alongside the stretch of river that Charles Dodgson used to take Alice Liddell on river trips - it was he that he first started to spin the tale of *Alice in Wonderland*.

You will reach the city centre with plenty of time to explore. With its skyline of spires, towers and domes, Oxford is known as the 'city of dreaming spires' - which captures the city's enduring blend of medieval heritage and intellectual vitality. Today, Oxford stands as a living museum of English history, its colleges, cobbled lanes and libraries still alive with the same purpose and spirit they have held for generations.



Explore the historic city of Oxford



Go punting on the river



Visit the Bodleian Library



Discover Oxford's colleges

Route Overview

6 nights, 5 days cycling,
self-guided

Starting in the beautiful city of Bath, this holiday journeys through the charming southern Cotswolds, taking in the iconic sights loved by visitors and locals alike.

Your adventure concludes in historic Oxford, a city renowned for inspiring great minds since the eleventh century and shaping the world as we know it.

Along the way, trace the footsteps of the Romans, explore magnificent architecture and rolling countryside, and indulge in exquisite cuisine and hand-picked accommodation.

The route is designed to allow you time to stop and enjoy the points of interest along the way.

Touring, gravel or electric bikes are suitable for this cycling holiday.

Day 1

Distance: 24 miles/38 km
Elevation: 933 ft/284 m
Difficulty: Easy

Day 2

Distance: 22 miles/36 km
Elevation: 1012 ft/308 m
Difficulty: Easy

Day 3

Distance: 26 miles/42 km
Elevation: 1169 ft/356 m
Difficulty: Easy

Day 4

Distance: 22 miles/36 km
Elevation: 1288 ft/392 m
Difficulty: Easy

Day 5

Distance: 28 miles/45 km
Elevation: 857 ft/261 m
Difficulty: Easy

Key Information

Your safety and comfort is our priority. Our fleet of high quality bikes, and our dedicated workshop ensure all bikes are fully serviced.

We take time and care to fit your bikes to you personally, and are always on-hand to help with any queries or adjustments.

Touring or gravel bikes are available as standard for this trip. Electric bikes are also available*.

*supplement price for electric bike.

BIKES & EQUIPMENT:

Our standard bikes are lightweight aluminium touring bikes fitted with hydraulic disc brakes, short travel suspension, phone holders, water bottle cages, mudguards, rear rack and lights.

We also provide the following equipment as standard: Ortlieb pannier bags, Altura rack pack (containing basic tool kit with pump, inner tubes etc), and power banks.

ROUTE, ACCOMMODATION & PLANNING:

- Fully serviced bikes
- High standard hotel accommodation - always ensuite and including breakfast
- Safe, secure luggage transfers
- Route and travel guide within dedicated GPS App
- Welcome pack delivered to your hotel with detailed travel information for your route including points of interest, restaurants, cafes etc
- Meet & greet - in-person welcome meeting to fit you to your bikes and ensure you are all set to start your holiday



Booking Information

We would be delighted to welcome you on this cycling trip.

For further information or to book your trip, please email us at holidays@baintonbikes.com. Please include the following information:

- Preferred dates for your trip
- The number of guests, and how you will be allocated across rooms (single, double, twin)
- Your heights - so we can reserve the best bike for you
- Your choice of touring or electric bike

As an independent company, we provide a bespoke service and do our very best to accommodate any preferences our guests have - so please don't hesitate to let us know of any requirements before you book.

BEST TIMES TO VISIT:

All of our holiday routes and self-guided tours have built, tried and tested by our team. While the area is beautiful all year round, the following information might help you decide when is best for your trip:

MARCH - MAY

During spring, the days are getting longer (it is light until around 8pm when British Summer Time begins at the end of March). Spring flowers will be in bloom and temperatures range from an average high of around 12°C (March and April) to around 20°C in May. Weather can be changeable - bring layers and waterproofs.

JUNE - AUGUST

British summer time brings long, warm days (average highs around mid-20s°C). The countryside will be green and summer flowers will be in bloom. Expect blue skies and sunshine - but also be prepared for showers and cooler spells or cooler mornings/evenings.

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER

While September can still be summery, mornings and evenings are cooler and the light fades sooner (7pm by the end of the month). Autumn in the Cotswolds is beautiful with leaves changing from green to golden shades of yellows and reds. Bring waterproofs and layers.

