



Bike & Boot

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 three day trip combines walking and cycling, starting in Oxford and travelling through the Cotswolds.

Beginning in the historic city of Oxford, you'll wander among ancient college quadrangles and along the River Thames before setting off on two wheels toward the rolling hills of the Cotswolds. You'll cycle along quiet country lanes lined with dry-stone walls and golden cottages as you make your way to Burford. Here, centuries of history unfold along its steep High Street, filled with traditional inns, antique shops and cosy tearooms. From Burford, follow tranquil footpaths along the River Windrush to the village of Minster Lovell, famous for its romantic medieval manor ruins and riverside meadows.

Your route continues through idyllic countryside towards Blenheim Palace, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of England's most magnificent stately homes.

Day 1

Oxford to Burford - cycle



Today starts in the historic city of Oxford. Its skyline of spires, towers and domes, often called the ‘city of dreaming spires’ 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.

You’ll have chance to explore some of Oxford’s highlights, before leaving the hustle and bustle of the city to cycle along canal paths as you head northwest towards Burford. This picturesque market town, situated on the River Windrush dates back to the Saxon period, growing as a vital crossroads and trading centre long before medieval times. During the Middle Ages, Burford flourished through the wool trade, which brought wealth and fine stone buildings that still line its steep High Street today.



Bodleian Library



Oxford’s colleges



Riverside lunch

Day 2

Burford to Minster Lovell - walk

Today, you leave Burford on foot. Enjoy a walk through Burford before you go - there are many lovely cafes that do takeaways that are a perfect pick-me-up for the walk.

You'll head towards Swinbrook, and then on to Asthall, a small village with a rich history. A former Roman settlement, the village church, dates back to the 12th century, possibly earlier; and the Elizabethan manor house, Asthall Manor, was home to the Mitford sisters - it was here that Nancy Mitford penned much of 'Love in a Cold Climate'. The Mitford sisters are buried in the churchyard in Swinbrook.

Later, you reach Minster Lovell - tucked away in the Windrush Valley in Oxfordshire, on the eastern edge of the Cotswolds, this pretty village is the perfect place for tonight's stop. The hotel has its own spa - we recommend booking in advance.



Enjoy a drink in the garden at The Swan Inn, Swinbrook



Visit the Farmer's Dog, Jeremy Clarkson's Cotswolds pub



Discover Asthall Manor - check opening times



Stop at The Three Horseshoes in Asthall



Day 3

Minster Lovell to Woodstock - walk

Before leaving Minster Lovell, you will pass the ruins of a fifteenth century manor house as you leave St Kenelm's churchyard.

After leaving the ruins, you'll walk alongside the River Windrush, towards Crawley, on to Hailey, Combe, Long Hanborough and finally, Blenheim Palace. For another instalment of local history, you can stop at East End Roman Villa to wander its ruins and take a look at a large mosaic.

You'll approach Blenheim Palace via a pretty, riverside path, lined with large trees. Once in the park, you can head to the palace and gardens to look around, or enjoy the parkland. There's a cafe with drinks and light refreshments, and a shop with lots of lovely, local gifts.



Minster Lovell Hall ruins



East End Roman villa



Stop for lunch in Long Hanborough



Blenheim Palace

Route Overview

3 nights, 2 days walking,
1 day cycling, self-guided

On this trip, you will see some of the very best of the Cotswolds countryside, cycling and walking amongst the landscape of rolling hills, honey-coloured stone villages and quiet country lanes.

Along the way, you'll have time to enjoy traditional tearooms for a slice of cake or a pot of tea, or one of the marvellous historic inns for a refreshing drink (or two!)

Expect to be immersed within the undulating hills and stunning views, with plenty of opportunities to pause, explore and enjoy.

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

Day 1

Distance: 28 miles/42 km
Elevation: 1068 ft/325 m
Difficulty: Easy

Day 2

Distance: 8 miles/12 km
Elevation: 307 ft/93 m
Difficulty: Easy

Day 3

Distance: 12 miles/19 km
Elevation: 593 ft/18 km
Difficulty: Very 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 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 a small, 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.

