



Oxford to Cambridge

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 cycling adventure takes you between two of England's most famous university cities — from Oxford to Cambridge — traversing the scenic counties of Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Cambridgeshire.

Along the way, you'll pass through charming villages on the edge of the Cotswolds, with golden-stone cottages and countryside views. You'll also explore picturesque market towns with Georgian architecture, boutique shops, cosy inns, and traditional tea rooms lining their historic streets.

Designed to allow you time to enjoy points of interest along the way, you will have time to enjoy the English countryside at a relaxed pace. Arriving in Cambridge, you can explore its famous colleges, historic streets, and even go punting on the River Cam.

Day 1

Oxford to Steeple Aston



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 south towards Steeple Aston.



Explore the historic city of Oxford



Go punting on the river



Visit Blenheim Palace



Discover North Leigh Roman Villa



Stop off in the small town of Charlbury

Day 2

Steeple Aston to Buckingham

Today you set off from Steeple Aston before reaching Duns Tew, a picturesque village with its traditional church and village green. Continuing on, the route takes you through Deddington - a small market town with a cafe and pub.

Next, you'll cycle through Aynho, a quintessential English village, before skirting the site of Beaumont Castle near Mixbury.

You can stop at Stowe Park, a fine example of eighteenth-century English landscape gardening. Amongst lovely views, numerous temples, follies and monuments were added to reflect classical ideals, commemorate historical events and provide viewpoints throughout the estate.

Finally, your day concludes in Buckingham, a historic market town with a lively high street, independent shops and traditional inns.



Stop in Deddington for a drink



Visit the site of Beaumont Castle



Enjoy Stowe Gardens



Wander around the town of Buckingham



Day 3

Buckingham to Woburn

Today's route takes you past Bletchley Park, a historic estate known for its pivotal role during World War II as the UK's codebreaking centre. It housed the Government Code and Cypher School (GC&CS), designated as Station X, where a team of brilliant minds, including Joan Clarke and Alan Turing, deciphered the Enigma and Lorenz ciphers. Now a vibrant heritage attraction, Bletchley Park has interactive displays museum collections and recreated room setups.

Cycling towards Woburn, you'll ride through Rushmere Country Park. With its stunning woodland, heathland and meadows, it provides a peaceful escape into the countryside.

Your destination for the night is Woburn, a small, picturesque village, known for its magnificent country estate, Woburn Abbey, and the Woburn Safari Park.



Discover the history of
Bletchley Park



Stockgrove Country Park



Visit Woburn Safari Park



Day 4

Woburn to Letchworth



Before leaving Woburn, you can visit its Deer Park or Abbey, the ancestral home of the Dukes of Bedford. Originally a Cistercian monastery (founded in 1145), it was transformed into a grand stately home after the Dissolution of the Monasteries in the sixteenth century.

The Abbey houses an outstanding art collection, including works by Rembrandt, Canaletto, Gainsborough and Reynolds.

The surrounding Woburn Park is a vast deer park and landscaped estate.

Later today, you pass the De Grey Mausoleum. Among the largest sepulchral chapels attached to any English church, this cruciform mausoleum houses a remarkable sequence of 17 sculpted and effigied monuments, spanning nearly two and a half centuries (1614-1859), to the De Grey family of Wrest Park.



Explore Woburn Deer Park



Visit Woburn Abbey



Discover the De Grey
Mausoleum and Wrest Park

Day 5

Letchworth to Cambridge



You'll approach Cambridge via quiet roads and inner city cycle paths.

Cambridge began as a settlement in the Roman and Anglo-Saxon periods, though evidence suggests activity in the area since prehistoric times. In 1209, scholars fleeing Oxford settled in Cambridge, founding what became the University of Cambridge. Over the centuries, the university grew into a world-renowned institution.

Today it is known for its developments in mathematics, physics and biology. Isaac Newton, Charles Darwin and Stephen Hawking were once scholars there.



Visit Ashwell Museum



Wimpole Hall



Cambridge city centre -
Cambridge University
Botanic Garden, punting on
the River Cam.

Route Overview

6 nights, 5 days cycling,
self-guided

This route rides from one of England's most renowned cities to another, allowing plenty of time to explore both locations, famed for educating and inspiring great minds across the globe since the eleventh century.

Along the way, you will wind through beautiful English villages and countryside on relaxing country roads, cycle paths and waterways.

Expect picturesque villages, historic landmarks and unspoilt countryside. Enjoy divine 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 or touring bikes are suitable for this cycling holiday.

Day 1

Distance: 30 miles/48km
Elevation: 1344ft/409m
Difficulty: Easy

Day 2

Distance: 31 miles/49km
Elevation: 1136ft/346m
Difficulty: Easy

Day 3

Distance: 28 miles/45km
Elevation: 997ft/303m
Difficulty: Easy

Day 4

Distance: 24 miles/38km
Elevation: 611ft/186m
Difficulty: Very easy

Day 5

Distance: 31 miles/49km
Elevation: 775ft/236m
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 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.

