



# London 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 50<sup>th</sup> 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.





Starting in London and finishing in Oxford, this journey begins amid the iconic sights of England's vibrant capital before leading you into the peaceful beauty of the English countryside and ending in the historic university city of Oxford. Along the way, you'll pass royal landmarks such as Windsor Castle, explore deer parks and royal gardens, and ride through picturesque villages and rolling landscapes. As you cycle from London to the edges of the Chilterns and North Wessex Downs, you'll experience two of England's Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) before reaching the Cotswolds.



# Day 1

## London to Windsor



On Day One, we leave the city of London alongside the River Thames, heading west towards Windsor. You'll pass Hampton Court Palace, before taking a short ferry across the river, towards historic Runnymede, the location for the signing of the Magna Carta and the birthplace of modern democracy. You'll pass through the Great Royal Deer parks and through the peaceful Richmond Deer Park before re-joining the Thames Path and cycling into the royal town of Windsor.

No trip to Windsor is complete without a visit to Windsor Castle, the official residences of the King and the oldest and largest occupied castle in the world. Entrance includes St George's Chapel, founded in 1475 by Edward IV. The Chapel is a masterpiece of English Perpendicular Gothic architecture, with soaring stone vaults, stained-glass windows, and one of the finest fan-vaulted ceilings in the country. The Chapel remains an active place of worship, and is the site of many royal weddings, and the final resting place of monarchs from Henry VIII to Queen Elizabeth II.



Hampton Court Palace



Richmond Deer Park



Windsor Castle



# Day 2

## Windsor to Henley-on-Thames

Leaving behind Windsor, you head through the grounds of the exclusive Eton college and ride along the river and offroad. We will pass through the vibrant town of Maidenhead, on to Cookham - a riverside village and a perfect place to stop for lunch.

After riding through the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), we cross over the picturesque lock at Hambledon to arrive in Henley-on-Thames. A pretty town, with elegant Georgian buildings and plenty of restaurants, cafes and independent shops, Henley blends countryside with culture - the perfect place for tonight's stop.



Enjoy lunch in the riverside village of Cookham



Enjoy a stop in Marlow



Cross the lock at Hambledon



# Day 3

## Henley-on-Thames to Watlington

Today you leave Henley-on-Thames and head into the Chilterns AONB. Known for its chalk hills and wide, sweeping views, the area is also famous for its beech woodland. It is home to chalk streams, wildflower meadows and some important animal species.



Visit Greys Court



Visit the Chiltern Valley Winery and Brewery,



Visit Cobstone Windmill



Stop for lunch in Turville (where the Vicar of Dibley was filmed)



Visit Stoner Deer Park Manor for an afternoon coffee and treat





# Day 4

## Watlington to Oxford



Today you will leave Watlington, climbing up Watlington Hill towards Christmas Common, with views across the Chilterns AONB. You will soon join the oldest road in Britain, the historic 5000 year Ridgeway (off-road) and cycle in the footsteps of Celtic Druids, Saxon Kings and Victorian poets.

You will approach Oxford riding through its quaint surrounding villages. Next, you can explore the city.



Watlington Hill



Ride the Phoenix Trail



Explore historic Oxford

# Route Overview

5 nights, 4 days cycling,  
self-guided

After starting your trip in London, you'll leave the city along the River Thames and through Richmond deer park. You'll experience the beautiful Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty as you cycle towards the historic city of Oxford, famed for educating and inspiring great minds across the globe.

Expect picturesque water ways, royal castles, historic palaces, beautiful riverside market towns 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.

Gravel, touring or electric bikes are available for this cycling holiday.

## Day 1

Distance: 25 miles/40 km  
Elevation: 700 ft/213 m  
Difficulty: Easy

## Day 2

Distance: 26 miles/41 km  
Elevation: 810 ft/246 m  
Difficulty: Easy

## Day 3

Distance: 33 miles/53 km  
Elevation: 2333 ft/711 m  
Difficulty: Medium

## Day 4

Distance: 36 miles/57 km  
Elevation: 1133 ft/345 m  
Difficulty: Easy/Medium



# 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](mailto: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.

