



London to the Cotswolds

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.





Starting in London and finishing in Lechlade-on-Thames, this journey begins amid the iconic sights of England's vibrant capital before leading you into the tranquil Cotswold countryside. 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).

Day 1

London to Windsor



Today, you 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 Cookham



Stop at Hambledon Lock



Have a riverside drink in
Henley-on-Thames



Day 3

Henley-on-Thames to Wallingford

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.

You will pass the Maharajah's Well, one of the Victorian's quirkier additions to our countryside. Later, you arrive in Wallingford, an historic Thames-side market town with Saxon roots. The town's medieval street plan remains largely intact, with a traditional market square, independent shop and Georgian and Victorian buildings. Wander its cobbled streets, stop and riverside pubs, and even discover its links to Agatha Christie, the world's best selling novelist.



Visit the Victorian Maharajah's Well



Enjoy the fantastic selection of countryside pubs and cafes on the way



Have a wander around Wallingford



Day 4

Wallingford to Wantage



You leave Wallingford following off-road countryside cycling routes, riding past the picturesque Wittenham Clumps, once described as a *beautiful legendary country haunted by old Gods long forgotten*. The 'Clumps', as they are affectionately known, are home to England's oldest beech trees and the site marks some of the earliest settlements in England.



The grand Abbey in
Dorchester-on-Thames



Ride alongside Wittenham
Clumps



Visit an award-winning
English Vineyard

For lunch, you 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, with great eateries.

After lunch, you continue through countryside and villages until reaching Didcot, famous for the great age of steam, it's packed with historic British railway memorabilia. Leaving behind the bustle of the town, you continue until you reach the market town of Wantage, the birthplace of King Alfred the Great in 849AD.

Day 5

Wantage to Lechlade



From Wantage, you head through peaceful countryside on a historic ride. Your first stop will be at the legendary Blowing Stone used by King Alfred to summon his men, then you climb the hill to view the Bronze Age Uffington White Horse Hill. You can visit the spot where, legend has it, St. George slayed the Dragon.

Next, you join the Ridgeway, Britain's oldest road, used since prehistoric times by travellers, herdsman and soldiers alike. Here, you can visit the Neolithic tombs of Wayland's Smithy. Leaving the area, you will traverse through villages in the ancient kingdom of Wessex. In the afternoon, you can visit the medieval barn at Great Coxwell before continuing to ride through some beautiful rural villages, entering into the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). Later, you reach the riverside market town of Lechlade-on-Thames, for a well earned drink and delicious dinner.



White Horse Hill



Wayland Smithy



The Ridgeway



Great Coxwell Tithe barn

Route Overview

6 nights, 5 days cycling,
self-guided

From England's capital city to the Cotswolds, this cycling trip allows you to see both urban and rural England.

Riding from London along the River Thames, and finally reaching the Cotswolds, you will experience both the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

A trip to reset and restore, this route is designed to allow you time to stop and enjoy the points of interest along the way.

Expect picturesque water ways, royal castles, beautiful riverside market towns, neolithic sights and wonders and unspoilt countryside. Enjoy divine cuisine and hand-picked accommodation. .

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

Day 1

Distance: 36 miles/57 km
Elevation: 917 ft/279 m
Difficulty: Easy

Day 2

Distance: 25 miles/40 km
Elevation: 911 ft/217 m
Difficulty: Easy

Day 3

Distance: 22 miles/36 km
Elevation: 1285 ft/391 m
Difficulty: Easy

Day 4

Distance: 22 miles/36 km
Elevation: 715 ft/217 m
Difficulty: Easy

Day 5

Distance: 27 miles/43 km
Elevation: 1388 ft/407 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. 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.

