



Oxford, the Cotswolds & Stratford-upon-Avon

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 trip can be taken as a three, four, five, six or seven day route. For the full seven day trip, the tour starts and ends in the city of Oxford. After exploring the historic ‘city of dreaming spires’, you will work your way through the counties of Oxfordshire, Gloucestershire and Warwickshire, enjoying beautiful countryside and quintessential Cotswold towns and villages.

Riding through the north Cotswolds, you head towards the birthplace of William Shakespeare: Stratford-upon-Avon. This journey beautifully weaves together the charm of the English countryside with the rich history and cultural legacy of its most celebrated playwright. From golden-stone villages to Tudor streets, this route showcases some of the very best of southern England.

Day 1

Oxford to Minster Lovell



On your first day, there is time to explore the city of Oxford. Famous for its university which dates back to the twelfth century, it consists of 39 colleges, each with their own traditions and character.

The city is brimming with history and places to visit - we recommend the Bodleian Library, the Radcliffe Camera and Christ Church College, as well as a wander around the covered market and punting on the river.

Leaving Oxford, you travel northwest towards your destination for the night: Minster Lovell. This pretty village, full of traditional stone cottages with thatched roofs is on the River Windrush, just on the edge of the Cotswolds.



Explore the historic city of Oxford



Go punting on the river



Enjoy lunch in a riverside pub



Arrive in Minster Lovell and enjoy a drink in the garden

Day 2

Minster Lovell to Bourton-on-the-Water

On your second day, you'll cycle through the picturesque villages of the Cotswolds. With architecture dating as far back as the eleventh century, you will transverse the ancient trade routes towards Bourton-on-the-Water also known as 'Venice of the Cotswolds', stopping for a relaxed riverside lunch along the way.

Bourton-on-the Water sits on the River Windrush, which runs through the village, crossed by a series of low stone bridges, lined with traditional honey-coloured cottages.



Explore the ruins at Minster Lovell



Explore Burford, the 'gateway to the Cotswolds'



Enjoy a traditional ice cream in Bourton-on-the-Water



Visit the Model Village, Birdland Park & Gardens or the Cotswold Motoring Museum



Day 3

Bourton-on-the Water to Moreton-in-Marsh

Today you will ride deeper into the heart of the Cotswolds, experiencing outstanding natural beauty and historical sites dating back to Saxon times.

After lunch at the revered Hollow Bottom Inn, you will make your way through Chipping Campden. One of the most beautiful historic towns in the Cotswolds, it is renowned for its pretty high street lined with honey-coloured stone buildings.

Chipping Campden flourished in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries from its wool trade - the merchants' houses still stand today. As does the Market Hall, which was built in the early 1600s. Some five hundred years later, the building is still used to shelter traders selling goods.



Explore Snowhill Manor and Cotswold Lavender



Climb Brodway Tower



Enjoy a traditional tearoom in Chipping Campden



Take in the views in the Slaughters and Guiting Power

Day 4

Moreton-in-Marsh to Stratford-upon-Avon



Today you leave behind the rolling hills of the Cotswolds as you venture towards Shakespeare's Country. After passing through some quaint and traditional farming villages, you will reach Stratford-upon-Avon. The route allows time for you to explore the town, famous as the birthplace of William Shakespeare.

Once an Anglo-Saxon river crossing, Stratford grew into a prosperous medieval market town. After Shakespeare's death in 1616, Stratford became a pilgrimage site for literary admirers. It remains a popular destination for tourists today.



Enjoy a stop in Shipston-on-Stour - there are cafes, shops and pubs



Visit Shakespeare's Birthplace, Anne Hathaway's Cottage, The Royal Shakespeare Theatre and/or Holy Trinity Church



Discover the Tudor architecture - many of the tea rooms, bookshops and boutiques are behind centuries-old façades

Day 5

Stratford-upon-Avon to Kingham



Today you leave behind Stratford-upon-Avon and venture back into the Cotswolds, enjoying traffic-free routes, both traditional Cotswold and Tudor villages and buildings left by the Normans . Your final destination for the day is the unspoilt village of Kingham. Quiet and peaceful, this pretty village has two restaurants, both serving award-winning cuisine. Relax and enjoy!



Enjoy Preston-on-Stour - look out for its maypole



Stop at Whichford Pottery - it has a shop and cafe



Visit the Cotswold Distillery



Discover the neolithic Rollright Stones

Day 6

Kingham to Woodstock

Today you ride through the county of Oxfordshire. Along the way, you can stop in a Great Tew, a very small village with a fabulous sixteenth century pub offering freshly prepared meals.

After lunch, an off-road track will take you directly into your destination for the evening: Woodstock.

The town is home to Blenheim Palace, built in the early eighteenth century as a gift to John Churchill, 1st Duke of Marlborough. Set in 2,000 acres of gardens and parkland, redesigned by Capability Brown in the 1700s, the sweeping lawns, naturalistic lakes and tree plantings remain today.



Stop in Great Tew - it has a cafe and pub



Discover Blenheim Palace - visit the grounds and gardens or explore the palace

Day 7

Woodstock to Oxford

Arriving back in to Oxford, you have the chance to explore a different side of Oxford city. Leaving Woodstock, you make your way back to Oxford totally off-road along the canal path. You'll pass numerous locks, long boats on pleasure trips and some fantastic pubs. As you arrive back in Oxford, there will be time to stop at a waterside pub for a spot of lunch before heading into the city to explore.

Enjoy a tour of the castle, visit the thirteenth century Carfax Tower, discover Oxford's largest college and only cathedral before heading to the city's oldest pub. The route finishes riding through some of the buildings of Oxford University.



Visit Oxford's prison and castle



Discover Christ Church



Enjoy a drink in Oxford's oldest pub (built in 1242)

Route Overview

Starting in the historic city of Oxford, this holiday allows time to absorb the city that has inspired minds from across the world before delving deep into the Northern side of the Cotswolds venturing into some of the most iconic areas this world heritage site is known and loved for. As locals we are proud and privileged to share the areas and sights that attract both global visitors and locals to enjoy. You cycle through the top of the Cotswolds, briefly leaving behind the iconic sandstone buildings to ride through the historic timber-framed Tudor buildings in Shakespeare country: Stratford-upon-Avon.

Leaving behind the county that helped create the modern English language, you dive back into the historic Cotswolds to enjoy luxurious culinary delights, served within buildings dating back to generations long gone. Expect history, architecture, culture, divine cuisine and accommodation created with passion and pride.

The route is designed to be enjoyed at a relaxed pace, with time to stop and enjoy points of interest along the way.

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

Day 1

Distance: 24 miles/38km
Elevation: 819ft/249m
Difficulty: Easy

Day 2

Distance: 18 miles/29km
Elevation: 1093ft/333m
Difficulty: Easy

Day 3

Distance: 27 miles/43km
Elevation: 1887ft/575m
Difficulty: Medium

Day 4

Distance: 24 miles/38km
Elevation: 633ft/192m
Difficulty: Easy

Day 5

Distance: 33 miles/53km
Elevation: 1959ft/597m
Difficulty: Medium

Day 6

Distance: 27 miles/44km
Elevation: 1669ft / 508m
Difficulty: Easy

Day 7

Distance: 18 miles/29km
Elevation: 196 ft/59m
Difficulty: Easy

Route Overview

This holiday can be taken as a 3, 4, 5, 6 or 7-night trip. The locations for each duration are below:

3 days/4 nights

Oxford > Minster Lovell > Bourton-on-the Water > Moreton-in-Marsh

4 days/5 nights

Oxford > Minster Lovell > Bourton-on-the Water > Moreton-in-Marsh > Stratford-upon-Avon

5 days/6 nights

Oxford > Minster Lovell > Bourton-on-the Water > Moreton-in-Marsh > Stratford-upon-Avon – Kingham

6 days/7 nights

Oxford > Minster Lovell > Bourton-on-the Water > Moreton-in-Marsh > Stratford-upon-Avon > Kingham > Woodstock

7 days/8 nights

Oxford > Minster Lovell > Bourton-on-the Water > Moreton-in-Marsh > Stratford-upon-Avon > Kingham > Woodstock > Oxford

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.

