

Explore the Cotswolds

by public transport

- Places to see, things to do
- Bus and train route maps
- Great taster days out
- Cotswold Way National Trail access points and route plan



Cotswolds

Area of Outstanding
Natural Beauty

2011 **CELEBRATING** 1966
45 YEARS

Don't forget
your timetable
booklets



2011-12

www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk

Enjoy the Cotswolds

This is the twelfth issue of this popular and widely acclaimed series of 'Explore the Cotswolds' guides. Published by the Cotswolds Conservation Board, they are designed to promote sustainable transport for visitors and the local community, using the network of trains and rural buses that serves most of the Cotswolds throughout the year.

Three timetable booklets accompany this guide covering the northern, central and southern parts of the Cotswolds. They are published twice a year.

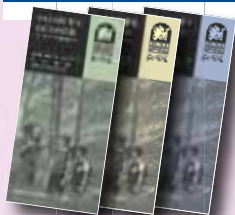
Most of the Cotswolds can be reached using public transport, and travelling by bus and train is a great way to see more of the beautiful countryside and fascinating towns and villages of this area.

The Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) is the largest of 46 AONBs in England, Wales and Northern Ireland covering 2,038 sq km/787 sq miles and is the second largest protected landscape in England after the Lake District National Park.

The Cotswolds Conservation Board works to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the Cotswolds as well as to increase understanding and enjoyment of the area. The Board's Voluntary Wardens organise a programme of free guided walks throughout the area - look out for details in the Cotswold Lion newspaper or visit: www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk.

The area attracts visitors all year round and is a fascinating place to explore, with something for everyone to enjoy. Charming villages, historic towns, impressive churches and rolling countryside. It is ideal for walking, cycling and riding with a mixture of short, circular and long distance paths, country roads and bridleways.

Don't forget your timetable booklets



Look out for locally produced goods including a wide range of food which you can buy from farmers' markets and farm shops. You can choose from many local arts and crafts, and visit historic churches, country houses and glorious gardens.

Further information: visit www.escapetothecotswolds.org.uk for full details of walking, cycling and visiting the Cotswolds including downloadable routes, guided walks and events listing.



Cotswolds Conservation Board
Fosse Way, Northleach
Gloucestershire GL54 3JH













Tel: 01451 862000 Fax: 01451 862001
Email: info@cotswoldsaonb.org.uk
Website: www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk

Places to see, things to do




This is a list of just some of the places to see and things to do in and around the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), when travelling by public transport. Contact Visitor Information Centres (listed in this guide), or the place you want to visit, for more details including opening times.

Find out more about attractions in the Cotswolds AONB online by using an interactive map at www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk

These symbols are used on the following pages -

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
|  Parks/gardens |  Special interest |  Historic house/building | |
|  Museum |  Ancient site | | |
|  Refreshments |  Toilets |  Restaurant |  Gift/plant shop |
|  National Trust |  Wheelchair access |  Limited wheelchair access | |

Colours of number circles relate to the three timetable booklets -

-  North timetable  Central timetable  South timetable

Numbers within circles refer to locations shown on maps.

- 1 Kiftsgate Court Garden** – The gardens at Kiftsgate Court offer a wonderful combination of vivid colour and heady scent in the summer borders, gentle white blooms in the tranquil sunken garden, and a pretty four-square garden edged with box. The gardens were planted in the late 19th and early 20th Centuries and continue to evolve.

The bluebell wood is a breathtaking sight in early May. *Getting there:* nearest train station – Moreton-in-Marsh. Take the 21/22 bus, alight at Mickleton. 4.8km/3 mile return walk to the gardens.

www.kiftsgate.co.uk

Chipping Campden,
Gloucestershire.

Tel: 01386 438777.



- 2 Wellington Aviation** – This small museum is dedicated to those who served or passed through RAF Moreton-in-Marsh, on the RAF bomber command courses. Memories are kept alive with the vast range of artefacts from the war years and beyond. Propellers and wheels are lined up outside the building, along with a casing tail section showing the Barnes Wallis designed geodetic structure responsible for the aircraft's strength and ease of repair.

Many ex-personnel call today for information on those who served there over sixty years ago. The museum has numerous prints for sale including a view of the market square on Normandy Embarkation day 1944. *Getting there:* 21/22, 801 or 855 bus, alight at Moreton-in-Marsh.

www.wellingtonaviation.org Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire.

     Tel: 01608 650323.

3 Hidcote Manor Garden – Hidcote Manor Garden has its origins in the Arts and Crafts movement and is regarded as one of the most influential gardens of the 20th Century. It is designed as a series of outdoor rooms divided by clipped hedges and walls. Each area has its own character, whether devoted to a particular species, colour or mood, or as a profusion of cottage-style planting. *Getting there: 21/22 bus, alight at Mickleton. 4.8km/3 mile return walk to the gardens (route is uphill and steep).* www.nationaltrust.org.uk/hidcote Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire. Tel: 01386 438333.



4 Sezincote House and Gardens – www.sezincote.co.uk Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire. Tel: 01386 700444.



5 Broadway Tower – www.broadwaytower.co.uk Broadway, Worcestershire. Tel: 01386 852390.




6 Gloucestershire-Warwickshire Railway – www.gwsr.com Toddington, Gloucestershire. Tel: 01242 621405.



7 Hailes Abbey – www.english-heritage.org.uk Winchcombe, Gloucestershire. Tel: 01242 602398.







8 Winchcombe Folk and Police Museum – Based in the Victorian town hall, the museum houses a folk and local history collection revealing the fascinating history of Winchcombe and its people. A police collection includes British and International uniforms and equipment both historic and modern, and the folk collection traces the changing lives of the ordinary people of the area. Free activity sheets are available for accompanied children. *Getting there: Take the 606 bus, alighting at Winchcombe. The museum is in the town centre.*

 www.winchcombemuseum.org.uk Winchcombe, Gloucestershire. Tel: 01242 609151.

9 Winchcombe Railway Museum and Garden – A Cotswold garden filled with rare plants and with an intriguing collection of railway equipment that will delight the steam train enthusiast. *Getting there: Take the 606 bus to Winchcombe and head for 23 Gloucester Street.* Winchcombe, Gloucestershire. Tel: 01242 609305.



10 Sudeley Castle – Royalty were frequent visitors to Sudeley Castle, the one-time home of Henry VIII's last wife, Katherine Parr, and of Lady Jane Grey. The building was reconstructed in the 1850s, but parts of the 15th Century Castle still remain. The Castle is surrounded by glorious gardens. *Getting there: Take the 606 bus to Winchcombe. Sudeley Castle is 0.8km/0.5 miles to south east of Winchcombe.*

      www.sudeleycastle.co.uk Winchcombe, Gloucestershire. Tel: 01242 602308.

11 Cotswold Motoring Museum and Toy Collection – www.cotswold-motor-museum.co.uk Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire. Tel: 01451 821255.



12 Model Village – www.theoldnewinn.co.uk Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire. Tel: 01451 820467.



13 Birdland Park and Gardens – A natural setting on the River Windrush with over 500 birds from around the world and the only group of King Penguins in England. Flamingos, cranes, pelicans and storks can be seen in this natural water habitat, with over 50 aviaries of parrots, hornbills, kookaburras, ibis and many more. Many form part of European breeding programmes. Visit the Desert House, Discovery Zone, Encounter Zone, Penguin Café, picnic areas, play areas and gift shop.

The 2.5 acre Marshmouth Nature Reserve, supported by Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust, was opened this year. Otters and water voles inhabit the site and over 60 species of bird have been recorded.



Get involved with special event days such as: Feed a Penguin/Keeper for the Day/Bird of Prey Days/Reptile Awareness Days/Meet a Keeper.

Getting there: Alight at Bourton-on-the-Water via the 801 or 855 bus. A five minute walk. www.birdland.co.uk Bourton-on-the-Water,

Gloucestershire. Tel: 01451 820480.



14 Bourton Model Railway – Enter the world of your childhood dreams with some of the finest operating indoor model railway layouts in the country, covering over 500 square feet.

Over 40 British and continental trains run automatically on three main displays of OO/HO and N gauge, with the unique attraction of visitor control. Follow the trains' journey through the imaginatively designed scenery of open countryside, mountains, steams, industrial sites and suburbia. Watch day change to night, experience the fun of the fair and generally enjoy the attractive illusion of colour and movement enhanced by many working model accessories. *Getting there:* Take the 801 or 855 bus. Alight at Bourton-on-the-Water. www.bourtonmodelrailway.co.uk

High Street, Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire. Tel: 01451 820686.



15 Blenheim Palace – The birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill – a masterpiece of English Baroque architecture, designed by Sir John Vanbrugh. See gilded state rooms and the elegant Long Library. The Palace is set in 2,100 acres of spectacular parkland landscaped by 'Capability' Brown and surrounded by sweeping lawns and formal gardens.




Getting there: Take the 53 bus to the gates of Blenheim Palace on Hensington Road in Woodstock. Please ask the driver to identify the appropriate stop. The bus runs every 30 minutes.

www.blenheimpalace.com Woodstock, Oxfordshire. Tel: 0800 849 6500.



16 Dragonfly Maze – Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire.

  Tel: 01451 822251.

17 Keith Harding's World of Mechanical Music –

www.mechanicalmusic.co.uk High Street, Northleach, Gloucestershire.

   Tel: 01451 860181.

18 Chedworth Roman Villa – The remains of one of the largest Romano-British villas in the UK. Built in AD 120, the house was extended over the next three Centuries to create a grand mansion with two bath-houses. Intricate mosaic floors, a latrine and the bath-houses can be seen among the ruins.

Getting there: Take the 864/865 bus, and alight at the Villa.

www.nationaltrust.org.uk
Yanworth, nr Northleach,
Gloucestershire.

Tel: 01242 890256.



19 The Bird and Deer Park, Prinknash – The vision for the park was to give a superb backdrop to beautiful birds, by incorporating delightful follies, landscaped parkland and a dash of charm supplied by the carefully chosen deer and pygmy goats.

A new conservation area attracts wild birds and insects, with various interactive study centres for children to learn and enjoy.

The park offers a unique learning experience. The birds are free and along with fallow deer and pygmy goats, can be touched and fed. There are no fences to inhibit the animal or the child.

For handicapped adults and children alike the chance to be around birds and animals at close quarters has proven to be highly beneficial. *Getting there: Take the 46 or 93 bus, alight at bus stop at top of driveway to the Abbey/Park, then 10 mins walk to entrance.*

www.thebirdpark.co.uk Cranham, Gloucestershire. Tel: 01452 812727.







     



20 Bibury Trout Farm – One of Britain's oldest, and certainly most attractive, trout farms, spanning 15 acres in one of the most beautiful valleys in the Cotswolds, the Coln Valley.

Children will delight in seeing the trout leap out of the water in their quest for food thrown by visitors – be careful not to get splashed! In the summer, our 'Catch Your Own' fishery is an ideal opportunity for the more adventurous of all ages to catch some supper or try a new hobby.

A large variety of other wildlife can be seen – cygnets and ducklings are a very popular sight. *Getting there: Take the 860, 861, 865 or 866 bus to Bibury, stops right outside.* www.biburytroutfarm.co.uk

      Bibury, Gloucestershire. Tel: 01285 740215.

- 21 Painswick Rococo Garden** – The sole surviving garden in the English Rococo style. Planted as a flamboyant pleasure garden in the 1740s the garden has been the subject of a remarkable restoration project. It features long vistas, geometric patterns and intriguing architectural garden structures. The woodland



is carpeted with a spectacular display of snowdrops early in the year. *Getting there: Take the 46 bus, alight at Painswick. Just north of Painswick opposite Golf Course Lane, just off the Cotswold Way* www.rococogarden.org.uk Painswick,

Gloucestershire. Tel: 01452 813204.



- 22 Cotswold Woollen Weavers** – www.naturalbest.co.uk Filkins, Gloucestershire. Tel: 01367 860491.



- 23 Corinium Museum** – www.cotswold.gov.uk/go/museum Cirencester, Gloucestershire. Tel: 01285 655611.



- 24 Chavenage House** – www.chavenage.com Tetbury, Gloucestershire. Tel: 01666 502329.



- 25 Cirencester Park** – www.cirencesterpark.co.uk Cirencester, Gloucestershire. Tel: 01285 640410.



- 26 Abbey House Gardens** – www.abbeyhousegardens.co.uk Malmesbury, Wiltshire. Tel: 01666 822212.



- 27 Athelstan Museum** – www.athelstanmuseum.org.uk Malmesbury, Wiltshire. Tel: 01666 829258.



- 28 Chippenham Museum** – www.chippenham.gov.uk Chippenham, Wiltshire. Tel: 01249 705020.



- 29 Westonbirt Arboretum** – The National Arboretum is a treasure trove of trees and shrubs from around the world with 16,000 identified specimens. Whatever the season, there is always something to see. *Getting there: Take the 620/29 bus and alight at Westonbirt.* www.forestry.gov.uk/westonbirt Tetbury, Gloucestershire. Tel: 01666 880220.



- 30 Malmesbury Abbey – www.malmesburyabbey.com**
Malmesbury, Wiltshire. Tel: 01666 826666.



- 31 Tetbury Police Museum – www.visittetbury.co.uk/police-museum**
Tetbury, Gloucestershire. Tel: 01666 504670.



- 32 Wotton-under-Edge Heritage Centre –**

Located in a converted fire station, the museum provides visitors with an excellent introduction to this historic wool town and its surrounding area.

The Heritage Centre hosts the collection of the Wotton-under-Edge Historical Society as well as a wide range of resources for family and local history research. It also displays various artefacts from local crafts and industries, covering most of the key periods of the town's history, from Roman pottery to post-war rationing cards.

The centre has a well-resourced research room in which records can be examined and there are microfiche and computer facilities to assist in searches for particular information. *Getting there: 627/86 or 224/310/626 bus. Alight at War Memorial, then short walk to Heritage Centre.*

www.wottonheritage.com Wotton-under-Edge, Gloucestershire. Tel: 01453 521541.



- 33 Dyrham Park – www.nationaltrust.org.uk** Dyrham, nr Chippenham, Wiltshire. Tel: 0117 9372501.



- 34 Barton Farm Country Park – www.wiltshire.gov.uk** Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire. Tel: 01225 713425.



- 35 Prior Park Landscape Garden – www.nationaltrust.org.uk** Bath. Tel: 01225 833422.



- 36 Cotswold Water Park –** Britain's largest water park with 140 lakes – lakeside nature walks, trails, bird watching, cycling, angling, sailing and swimming. Call into the Gateway Centre for local information and maps. Open 7 days a week. *Getting there: 51/151 bus. Alight at South Cerney.*

www.waterpark.org

Tel: 01793 752413.



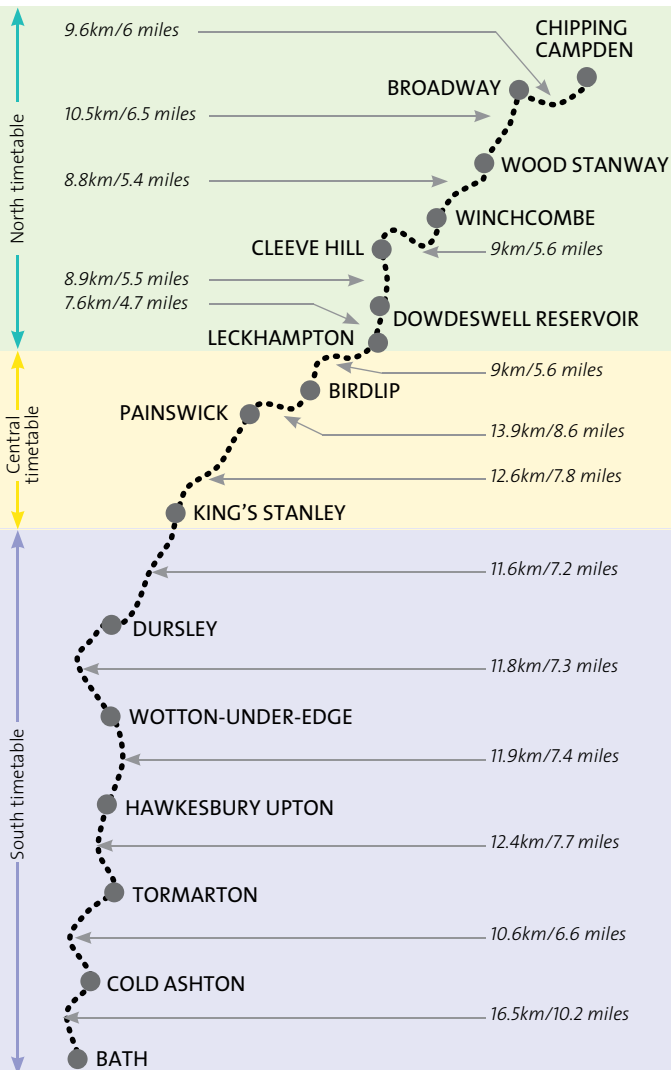
- 37 Bath - Roman Baths – www.romanbaths.co.uk** Tel: 01225 477785.



The Cotswolds Way National Trail

The Cotswold Way National Trail has 16 places where it is practical to start and finish your walk using public transport from nearby towns. Below, we explain which of the 'Explore' public transport timetable guides covers those places.

In the North, Central and South timetable guides accompanying this booklet, we tell you which bus or train to take to reach your start point. Make sure you collect your free copy. Days out and short breaks information sheets for the trail are downloadable at www.nationaltrail.co.uk, basing yourself in Bath, Stroud or Cheltenham, starting from and returning to these places.



TASTER DAY OUT – on foot

Villages of the Windrush Valley

A Cotswold classic! A fascinating walk in the Windrush Valley past ancient burial mounds, Norman churches and manors.

6.5km/4 miles. Allow 2 hours. Grade: easy with a few short climbs and some stiles.

Getting there: bus no. 853 (Swanbrook), ask to alight at the Asthall turn – see the Central timetable booklet or visit www.traveline.org.uk or call 0871 200 2233.

Attractions: beautiful villages of Asthall and Swinbrook, the River Windrush, the deserted medieval village of Widford and the pretty town of Burford.

Refreshments: many places to eat and drink in Burford.

WHAT YOU'LL SEE ON YOUR JOURNEY:

Begin your walk heading for the village of Asthall with its Elizabethan manor house, once the home of the Mitford sisters, and close to the course of Roman Akerman Street.

Follow pretty lanes past traditional cottages over the River Windrush.

Visit Swinbrook village - pay special attention to the bubbling brook as it glides along, in some places appearing to run up-hill. Swinbrook is also known for the striking 17th Century Fettilplace Monuments in the small parish church of St Mary the Virgin.



Beyond the church is the grave of novelist Nancy Mitford.

Stroll past the deserted medieval village of Widford, reduced now to humps in the ground around the tiny tranquil church of St Oswalds, built over a Roman villa.

Complete your walk at Burford, traditionally known as the 'Gateway to the Cotswolds'. Burford, one of England's prettiest small medieval towns, is steeped in history and

rich in architectural heritage. It houses exclusive shops and galleries and one of the top twenty churches in the country.

For further details and a map of this walk and other walks in the Cotswolds, visit: www.escapetothecotswolds.org.uk and click on 'walking'.

TASTER DAY OUT – 'walk on wheels'

Rollright Stones

An ideal venue for a 'walk on wheels' – great for buggies and wheelchairs. Two very short walks on grass around a prehistoric site with wide views.

Two easy routes for all, mostly on grass with one very gentle slope, suitable for all wheels. Short route: 180 metres there and back. Long route: total 860 metres.

Getting there: bus no.50 (Stagecoach) passes within 0.5 miles - you'll need to ask the driver to stop for the Stones. See the Northern timetable booklet or visit www.traveline.org.uk or call 0871 200 2233.

Attractions: The Rollright Stones comprise The King's Men stone circle, the King's Stone and the Whispering Knights. Magnificent views to the north and south.

Refreshments: Tearoom and disabled toilets at Wyatt's Farm Shop and Nursery, 1 mile across the A3400. For opening times Tel: 01608 684835. Disabled public toilets in Chipping Norton, at the Worcester Road car park.

WHAT YOU'LL SEE ON YOUR JOURNEY:

The Rollright Stones are among England's finest ancient monuments. The King's Stone and the Whispering Knights date from Neolithic times and the stone circle known as the King's Men is thought to be Bronze Age.

The site is open from dawn until dusk and there is a small admission charge. For information see www.rollrightstones.co.uk.

DIRECTIONS:

The short route to the King's Stone starts across the road from the main gate. The grass and plastic mesh path skirts the fence on the left to a viewpoint near the King's Stone.

The long route (total 860 metres) leads to the Whispering Knights and the stone circle. Enter the site through a medium mobility gate or a larger gate opened by a radar key. The short first section is on smooth rolled limestone. At the end turn either left for the Whispering Knights or right if you wish only to see the King's Men circle. The path to the Whispering Knights leads between the hedge and the fence, turning right after 290 metres to descend very gently to an information board. The final approach to the monument is across 30 metres of uneven grass. Return the same way that you came.

For further details and a map of this walk and other walks on wheels in the Cotswolds, visit: www.escapetothecotswolds.org.uk and click on 'walking'.



TASTER DAY OUT – on foot

Journey's end – the walk into Bath

Discover a true sense of pilgrimage with this wonderful walk into the heart of Bath and the southern end of the Cotswold Way. Follow the trail as it slides from open hill top into historic city, winding its way around open farmland and down bustling alleyways to its crescendo at the majestic splendour of Bath Abbey.

9.7km/6 miles (linear walk – use public transport to return). Allow 3.5-4 hours (plus maximum 30 min return) Grade: moderate – one stile, some steep sections.

Getting there: Bath Park and Ride No. 31 (Lansdown). Mon-Sat only, with seasonal Sundays. Visit: www.bathnes.gov.uk/parkandride for details.

Attractions: Bath racecourse, Roman Baths (pictured), Bath Abbey and wonderful views over Bath.

Refreshments: hundreds of wonderful places to eat, drink and rest in Bath city centre.

WHAT YOU'LL SEE ON YOUR JOURNEY:

A section of the picturesque Cotswold Way National Trail (for more information see page 7). Visit the tree-topped dome of Kelston Round Hill where wonderful views over Bath can be appreciated – a sight that has given comfort to the road weary for thousands of years.

Stroll past the Roman Baths and the Abbey; the official finish (or start!) point of the Cotswold Way is just round the corner across the square from the tourist information centre. At the journey's end, rest awhile and feel affinity with those who have walked before you; with over a hundred miles lying behind, this is your chance to join the last few footsteps of pilgrims ancient and modern as one of the nation's finest walks comes to a close.

For further details and a map of this walk and other circular walks on the Cotswolds Way, visit: www.escapetothecotswolds.org.uk and click on 'walking'.

TASTER DAY OUT – serious cycling!

Brailes Hill and Ascott on and off-road cycle ride

This is a ride of tracks and vistas in South Warwickshire. It takes you around the Vale of Feldon, riding over the Ironstone Hill and around Brailes Hill.

24.15km/15 miles. Grade: mostly along tracks, largely soft and un-surfaced, can be muddy when wet.

Attractions: great views along country lanes, bridleways and field edges, wooded tracks and some steep descents.

Refreshments: we recommend you take refreshments with you.

You can cover a fair bit of ground in a ride and still find the secret places inaccessible to cars and public transport. It's also great fun! You may find you have to get off for short stretches.

Please wear a helmet and be aware of changing conditions. Off-road riding is much easier in frozen or dry conditions than when the mud is wet, but not necessarily more fun! Riding a bicycle is permitted on public roads, byways, restricted byways and bridleways but not footpaths, please be considerate of other users.



See Northern Rail and bus timetable booklet



Robert Ashby/Sustrans

WHAT YOU'LL SEE ON YOUR JOURNEY:

This circular route takes you from Ascott, down through a ford and off onto bridleways. You'll pick up minor roads and tracks and the route map and description gives choices for some more serious off-road cycling as well as short cuts.

You'll need to be eagle eyed when following the route, with important turning points such as letter boxes and hedges, and some features may not be immediately visible when the trees are in leaf!

For a detailed route map and directions, visit: www.escapetothecotswolds.org.uk and click on 'cycling'.

North bus & train routes



BUSES	←	Route	→	Operator	Frequency
C1/X8	Charlbury	Ascott-under-Wychwood/Leafield	RH Transport	RH Transport	*
X8	Cotswolds Line Railbus	Chipping Norton	Kingham	RH Transport	*D
S3	Oxford	Chipping Norton	Stagecoach in Oxfordshire	Stagecoach in Oxfordshire	***
21/22	Stratford-upon-Avon	Moreton-in-Marsh	Johnsons Coach and Bus Travel	Johnsons Coach and Bus Travel	**
23/23A	Stratford-upon-Avon	Whichford	Johnsons Coach and Bus Travel	Johnsons Coach and Bus Travel	**
50/50A/53	Stratford-upon-Avon	Oxford	Stagecoach in Warwickshire/Stratford Blue	Stagecoach in Warwickshire/Stratford Blue	**
69/X9	Witney	Chipping Norton	Worth's Motor Services	Worth's Motor Services	***
233	Witney	Milton-under-Wychwood	Stagecoach in Oxfordshire	Stagecoach in Oxfordshire	***
488/489	Banbury	Chipping Norton	Stagecoach in Oxfordshire	Stagecoach in Oxfordshire	***
527	Cheltenham	Bishop's Cleeve/Gotherington	Swanbrook	Swanbrook	***
540/545	Cheltenham	Evesham	Veolia Transport	Veolia Transport	***
550/551/557	Worcester	Evesham	First Wyvern	First Wyvern	***
559	Evesham	Willesley	Castleways	Castleways	**
606	Cheltenham	Willesley	Castleways	Castleways	**
801	Cheltenham	Moreton-in-Marsh	Pulham's Coaches	Pulham's Coaches	**
853	Oxford	Cheltenham/Gloucester	Swanbrook	Swanbrook	*
855: Fosse Link	Moreton-in-Marsh	Cirencester/Kemble	Pulham's Coaches	Pulham's Coaches	**

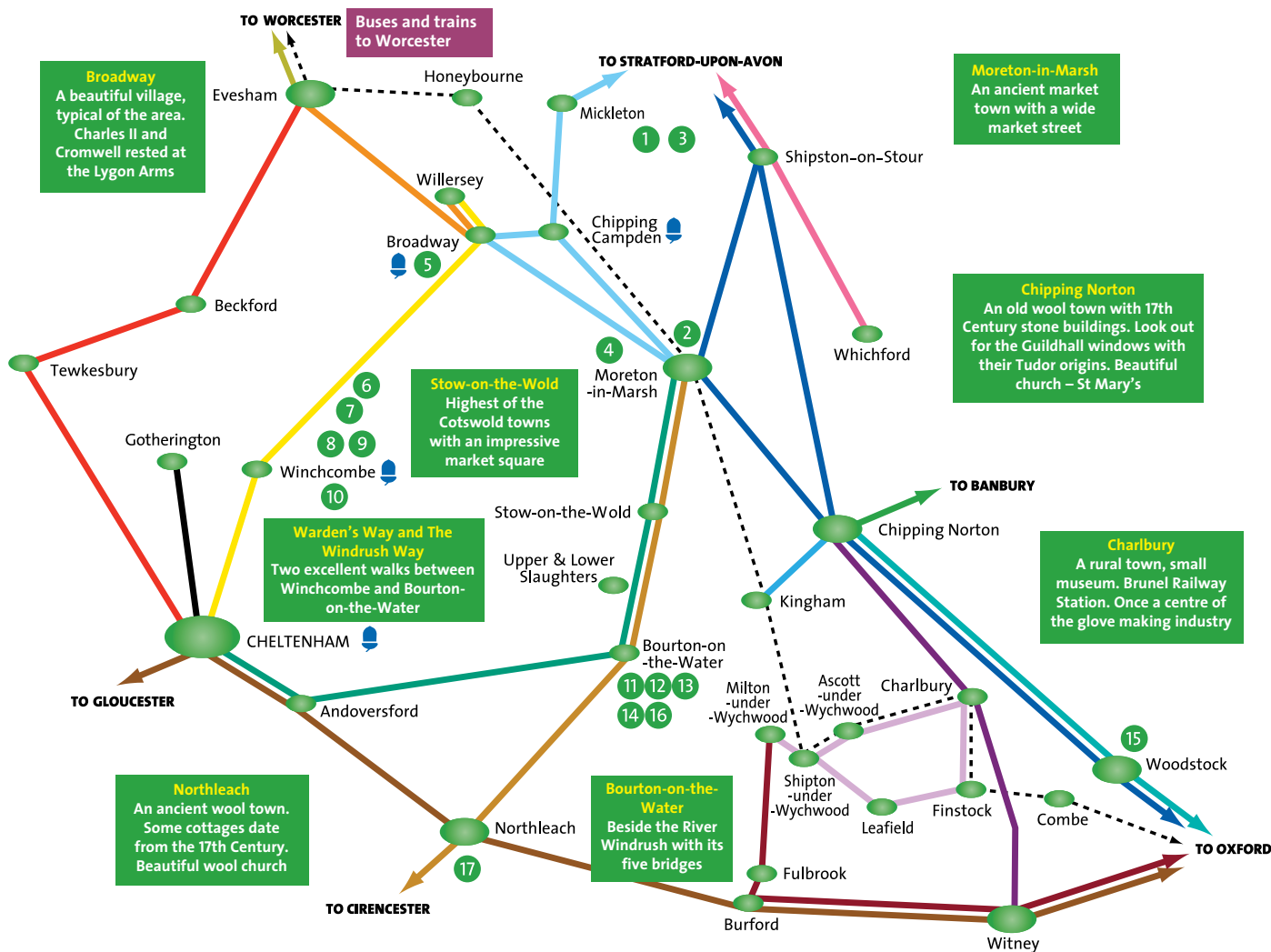
Frequency – Monday to Saturday daytime: *** FREQUENT (one or more buses per hour per day) ****** REGULAR (buses every one to three hours per day)

* INFREQUENT (three or less buses per day) D = Also operates as a demand responsive service at times



TRAINS - - - - -

North bus & train route map



TASTER DAY OUT – on foot



Cranham, Cooper's and the Beechwoods

This beautiful little walk shows you around one of England's most treasured habitats – beech woodlands, and leads you to the site of perhaps the Cotswolds' most iconic and intriguing tradition, cheese-rolling.



See Central Rail and bus timetable booklet

6.5km/4 miles. Allow 2-3 hours. Grade: Easy. No stiles, but some moderately steep sections.

Getting there: bus no. 46 (Stagecoach), frequent daily service between Cheltenham and Stroud – 1/2 mile walk to start. See the Central timetable booklet or visit www.traveline.org.uk or call 0871 200 2233.

Attractions: See the cathedral-like calm of Buckholt Wood, richly carpeted by bluebells in May, and wonder at the dizzy heights of Cooper's Hill where for hundreds of years the foolhardy have risked their necks for cheese and glory!

Refreshments: excellent pub in Cranham village centre.

WHAT YOU'LL SEE ON YOUR JOURNEY:

Start out under the ancient beech tree in the little car park on the outskirts of the village. Enter the majestic woodlands, part of the national nature reserve expertly managed by Natural England. Follow the woodland path up a hill and onto the Cotswold Way.

Continue along the Cotswold Way, snaking up through the woods until emerging into the open and take in the breathtaking vista from Cooper's Hill - which for generations has been home to the annual cheese-rolling festival.




The second half of the walk is a steep descent back into the woods. Stroll through fields and along a quiet country road and down an un-made track to find a stunning view down to the lakes in the distance.

Leaving the Cotswold Way via Buckholt Wood leads to roads which in turn lead to tracks that pass a large house, crumbling old stone walls and a trickling stream before arriving at another ancient beech tree.

A short walk through further woods opens up onto common land, and a road leads down to Cranham and returns to the start of the walk. Having completed and discovered part of the Cotswold Way, rest assured that there is so much more to entice you back!

For further details and a map of this walk and other circular walks along the Cotswold Way, visit: www.escapetothecotswolds.org.uk and click on 'walking'

Central bus & train routes

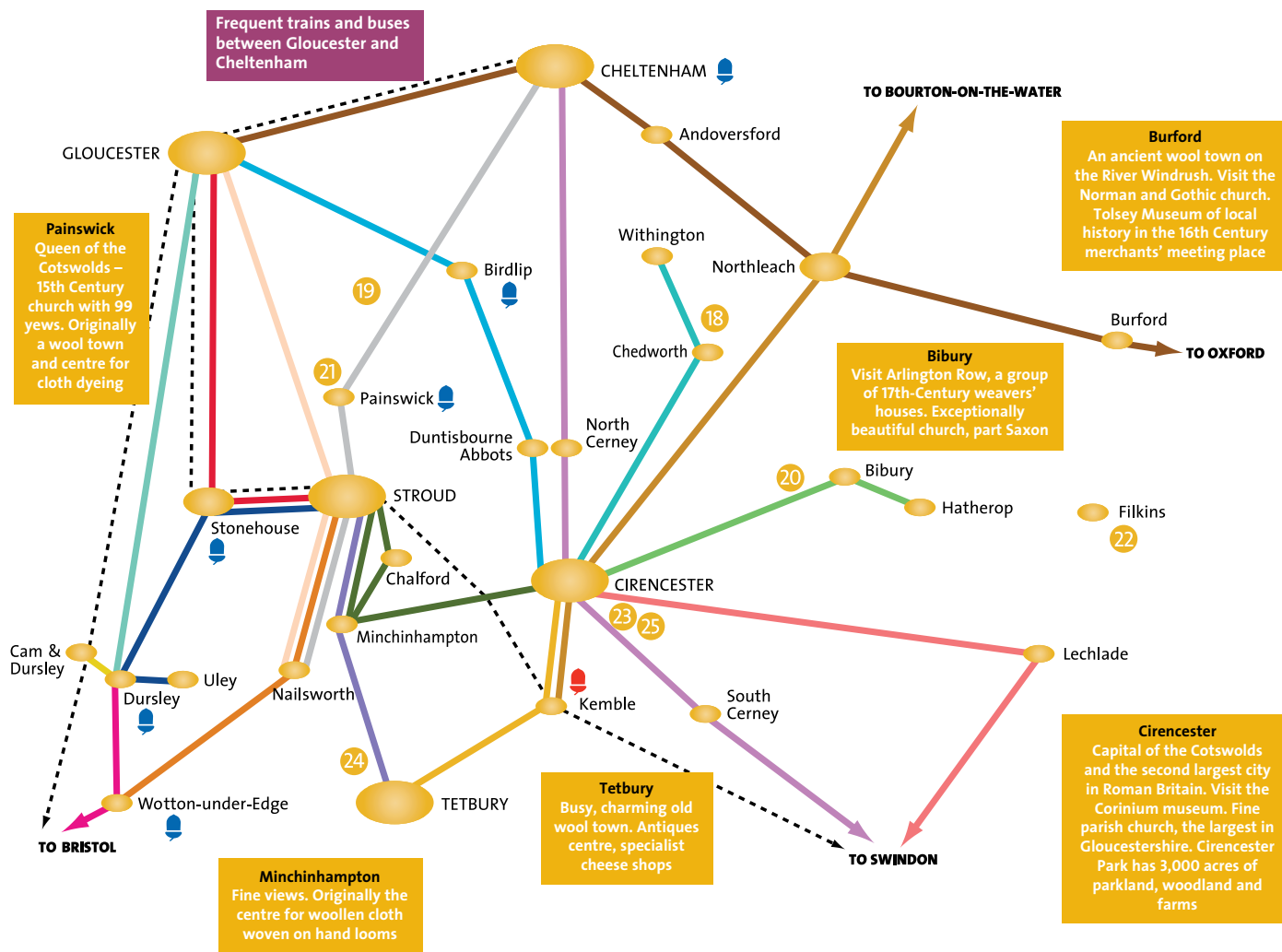
 BUSES		← Route →	Operator	Frequency
12/91/91A	Gloucester	Dursley	Stagecoach in Gloucester	***
14/14B	Gloucester	Stroud	Stagecoach in the Cotswolds	***
20	Stroud	Uley	Stagecoach in the Cotswolds	***
28/28A/29/X29	Stroud	Tetbury	Cotswold Green	**
40	Stroud	Wotton-under-Edge	Stagecoach in the Cotswolds	**
46	Cheltenham	Nailsworth	Stagecoach in the Cotswolds	***
51/151	Cheltenham	Cirencester/Swindon	Stagecoach in Swindon	***
54/54A	Stroud	Cirencester	Cotswold Green	**
74/75/877	Swindon	Lechlade/Cirencester	Stagecoach in Swindon/APL Travel	**
93	Gloucester	Stroud/Nailsworth	Stagecoach in the Cotswolds	***
93/855/881	Cirencester	Tetbury	Andybus/Pulhams Coaches/Stagecoach in the Cotswolds	**
210/310/311	Dursley	Cam & Dursley Station	Swanbrook/First in Somerset and Avon	**
224/310/626	Bristol	Dursley	Eurotaxis/Wessex Connect/First in Somerset and Avon	**
852	Gloucester	Cirencester	Swanbrook	**
853	Oxford	Gloucester	Swanbrook	*
855	Moreton-in-Marsh	Kemble	Pulham's Coaches	**
860/861/865/866	Cirencester	Bibury/Hatherop	Cotswold Green/Pulham's Coaches	*
864/865	Cirencester	Withington/Yanworth	Cotswold Green/Pulham's Coaches	*

Frequency – Monday to Saturday daytime: *** FREQUENT (one or more buses per hour per day) ** REGULAR (buses every one to three hours per day)
* INFREQUENT (three or less buses per day)

TRAINS



Central bus & train route map



TASTER DAY OUT – on foot

Cotswolds-Korea Friendship Trail: Stinchcombe Hill



Experience one of the most beautiful meanderings of the Cotswold Way, and discover a new world of walking on an island five thousand miles away. . .

5.63km/3.5 miles. Allow 2-2.5 hours. Grade: Moderate - firm surface, no stiles, one long steep ascent/descent.

Getting there: easily accessible by bus no. 210/310 (Swanbrook) or train, alight at Cam & Dursley Station – see the Central timetable booklet or visit www.traveline.org.uk or call 0871 200 2233.

Attractions: this Cotswold Way circular walk is twinned with Route Three of the Jeju Olle Trail – a series of walking routes on Jeju Island, 130km off the southwest coast of Korea. This walk is a mark of friendship and international cooperation between our two countries – there are many similarities between the two routes. It is one of the world’s first ‘friendship trails’.

Refreshments: many excellent places to eat, drink and rest in Dursley.

Following the Friendship Trail could not be simpler as it keeps to the Cotswold Way for its entire length. To make it even easier, a special marker disc has been added to selected Cotswold Way posts to mark the Friendship Trail and guide you round the route.

WHAT YOU’LL SEE ON YOUR JOURNEY:

Starting from Dursley, pick up the signs for the Cotswold Way on the corner of May Lane. Head steeply up Hill Road into woods and onto a track until emerging out onto Stinchcombe Hill.

Breathtaking views open up on the left. Within the car park, a small blue sign can be found next to a Cotswold Way marker. The figure on this sign, known as ‘Ganse’ - is shaped like a Jeju pony. This is a symbol of Jeju Olle and appears on a sign for the trail in Korea. It is central to the Friendship Trail that a part of the Cotswold Way is signed with Jeju Olle markers, and in turn, a section of route three of Jeju Olle will be marked with Cotswold Way signs. In the Jeju dialect, ‘Ganse’ also translates as ‘lazy-bones’ - no coincidence, as one of the main aims of Jeju Olle is to encourage people to slow down and appreciate the wonderful surroundings at a slower pace.

After a short while following the signs, one of the most spectacular sights of the whole walk can be found. We strongly recommend making use of the bench and soaking up the views!

A little further on is a little stone cabin erected and maintained by the Stinchcombe Hill Trust. Stinchcombe Hill House can be found half a mile along the same path. Continuing to follow the Cotswold Way will allow you to retrace your steps back to Dursley to finish the walk.


















See Central Rail and bus timetable booklet



For further details and a map of this walk, visit: www.nationaltrail.co.uk/ **Cotswold** and click on ‘Planning a trip’ and then ‘Friendship Trail’.

South bus & train routes

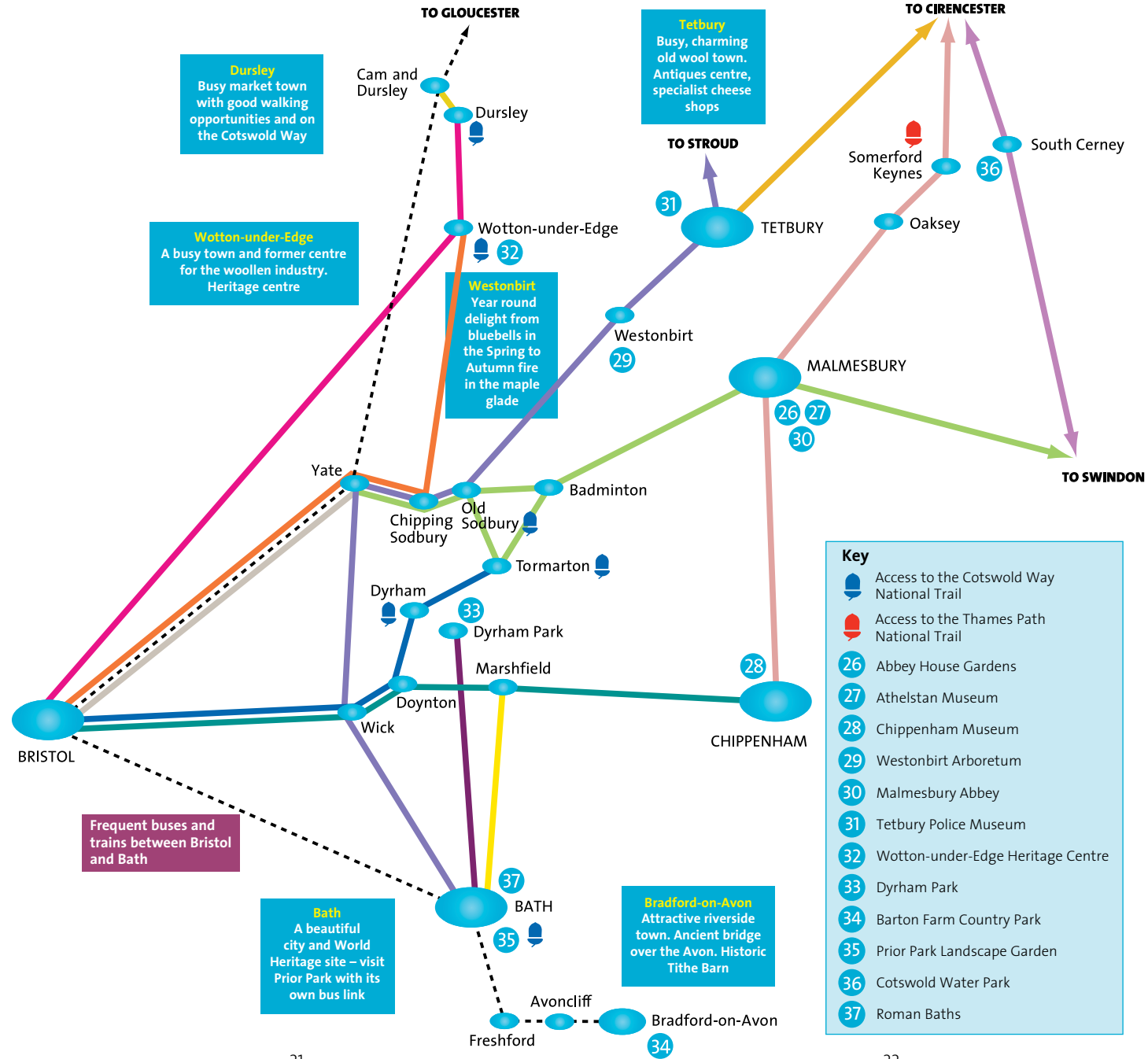
		Route 		
	Dyrham Park	Bath	Dyrham Park	Hatts Coaches *
	41	Swindon	Malmesbury/Yate	Andybus **
	51/151	Cheltenham	Swindon/Cirencester	Stagecoach in Swindon/Hatts Coaches ***
	79	Bath	Marshfield	Faresaver *
	92/93	Chippenham	Cirencester	Andybus ***
	210/310/311	Dursley	Cam & Dursley Station	Swanbrook/First in Somerset and Avon **
	224/310/626	Bristol	Dursley	Eurotaxi/Wessex Connect/First in Somerset and Avon **
	The Bristol Link	Bristol	Yate	First in Somerset and Avon ***
	627/86	Bristol/Yate	Wotton-under-Edge	Wessex Connect ***
	620/29	Bath	Yate/Tetbury/Stroud	Cotswold Green **
	634	Bristol	Tormarton	Faresaver *
	635	Bristol	Chippenham	Faresaver (Fosseway) **
	93/855/881	Cirencester	Tetbury	Andybus/Pulhams/Stagecoach in the Cotswolds **

Frequency – Monday to Saturday daytime: *** FREQUENT (one or more buses per hour per day) ****** REGULAR (buses every one to three hours per day)
***** INFREQUENT (three or less buses per day)


TRAINS - - - - -



South bus & train route map



Gateways to the Cotswolds by bus, train & coach

 BUSES		← Route →	Operator	Frequency
FROM WORCESTERSHIRE				
540/545	Evesham	Cheltenham	Veolia Transport	***
550/551/557	Worcester	Evesham	First Wyvern	***
FROM WARWICKSHIRE				
21/22	Stratford-upon-Avon	Moreton-in-Marsh	Johnsons Coach & Bus Travel/Hedgehog	**
855	Moreton-in-Marsh	Kemble	Pulham's Coaches	**
16/16A/X17/18/18A	Coventry	Stratford-upon-Avon	Stagecoach in Warwickshire	***
FROM OXFORDSHIRE				
51/52	Oxford	Carterton	Stagecoach in Oxfordshire	***
X8 Railbus	Chipping Norton	Kingham	RH Transport	*
50/50A/53	Oxford	Stratford-upon-Avon	Stagecoach in Oxfordshire and Swanbrook	**
53/833/853	Oxford	Cheltenham/Gloucester	Swanbrook	*
69/X9	Witney	Chipping Norton	Worth's Motor Services	**
233	Oxford	Milton-under-Wychwood	Stagecoach in Oxfordshire	***
488/489	Banbury	Chipping Norton	Stagecoach in Oxfordshire	***
FROM WILTSHIRE				
31	Swindon	Malmesbury	Andybus	***
51/151	Swindon	Cirencester/Cheltenham	Stagecoach in Swindon	***
74/75/77	Swindon	Lechlade/Cirencester	Stagecoach in Swindon/APL Travel	**
FROM BRISTOL, BATH AND SURROUNDING AREAS				
310/210/311	Bristol	Dursley	First in Somerset and Avon/Swanbrook	**
327/329	Bristol	Yate	First in Somerset and Avon	***
620/29	Bath	Tetbury/Stroud	Wessex Connect/Cotswold Green	**
FROM GLOUCESTERSHIRE				
54/54A	Stroud	Cirencester	Cotswold Green	**
210	Cam & Dursley Stn	Dursley	Swanbrook	**
606	Cheltenham	Broadway/Willersey	Castleways	**
852	Gloucester	Cirencester	Swanbrook	**
Trains - - - - -				
LONG DISTANCE COACHES – NATIONAL EXPRESS				
NX403	London Victoria Coach Station/Heathrow to Bath via Chippenham			
NX412/NX413	London Victoria Coach Station/Heathrow to Cheltenham, Gloucester and Hereford via Cirencester			

Frequency – Monday to Saturday daytime: *:*** FREQUENT (one or more buses per hour per day) ****** REGULAR (buses every one to three hours per day)
***** INFREQUENT (three or less buses per day)



Enjoy the Cotswolds

Visitor Information Centres

Information centres in and around the Cotswolds can provide details about cycle hire, horse riding, guided coach and walking tours, caravan and campsites and other accommodation. Note: some smaller centres may close during the winter months and in some instances queries are handled by the local authority.

Banbury Tel: 01295 753752

Bath Tel: 0906 711 2000
(calls charged at 60p per minute)

Bourton-on-the-Water
Tel: 01451 820211

Bradford-on-Avon Tel: 01225 865797

Bristol Tel: 0906 7112191
(calls charged at 50p per minute)

Broadway Tel: 01386 852937

Burford Tel: 01993 823558

Cheltenham Tel: 01242 522878

Chippenham Tel: 01249 665970

Chipping Campden
Tel: 01386 841206

Chipping Norton Tel: 01993 813276

Chipping Sodbury Tel: 01454 888686

Cirencester Tel: 01285 654180

Evesham Tel: 01386 446944

Gloucester Tel: 01452 396572

Malmesbury Tel: 01666 823748

Moreton-in-Marsh
Tel: 01608 650881

Nailsworth Tel: 01453 839222

Oxford Tel: 01865 252200

Painswick Tel: 01453 760960
or 01453 760900

Stratford-upon-Avon
Tel: 01789 268826

Stroud Tel: 01453 760960
or 01453 760900

Stow-on-the-Wold
Tel: 01451 870150

Swindon Tel: 01793 530328
or 01793 466454

Tetbury Tel: 01666 503552

Tewkesbury Tel: 01684 855040

Trowbridge Tel: 01225 710535

Warwick Tel: 01926 492212

Winchcombe Tel: 01242 602925

Witney Tel: 01993 775802

Woodstock Tel: 01993 813276

Wotton-under-Edge
Tel: 01453 521541

Youth Hostels

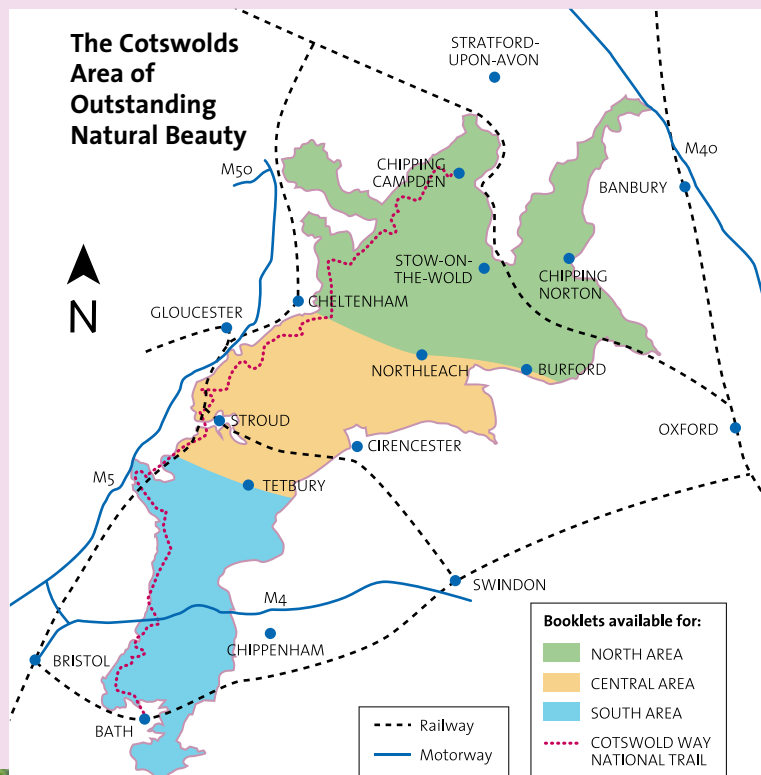
Hostels are located in Bath, Oxford, Stow-on-the-Wold and Stratford-upon-Avon. For full details contact the Youth Hostel Association, tel: 0870 870 8808, website: www.yha.org.uk



An Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

The Cotswolds is one of the most beautiful areas of England, known and loved by people across the world. Its distinctive golden buildings and stone walls, rolling grasslands, beech woods and captivating villages make it an outstanding landscape.

Visit 'Escape to the Cotswolds', the discovery centre for the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Located in The Old Prison on the A429 at Northleach. Open April to October, Wednesdays to Sundays, 10am to 4pm. FREE admission.



Youth Hostels

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