

THE
LAKES

LOCAL
GUIDE

The Lakes is situated close to Lechlade, a small market town where the rivers Coln and Leach join the Thames. For centuries the town was one of the main trading arteries west of London, by both road and river. Leisure boats have now replaced the trading vessels and the town is a popular mooring destination. Closeby you will find Burford (the gateway to the Cotswolds) and Cirencester, often referred to as the capital of the Cotswolds.

There's so much to do on the estate but when in the Cotswolds, you can't miss out on the butterscotch-stoned villages, grand manor houses, rolling countryside and buzzing market towns.

If you need help with any of your bookings or if you have any questions during your stay, please contact our Guest Services team:

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UNMISSABLES

HERE IS OUR CHERRY-PICKED LIST OF THE BEST LOCAL HISTORICAL SPOTS, SPECIAL VIEWPOINTS AND VILLAGES:

SUDELY CASTLE

Near the pretty town of Winchcombe, is a gorgeous day out and one of the most romantic castles in the Cotswolds. Explore the 11 gardens and soak up some history. Don't forget to visit the tomb of Katherine Parr, the only English Queen to be buried on private land. Afterwards, take a tour around the lovely gardens of the National Trust's Showshill Manor – a Cotswold manor house that is home to the many treasures collected by Charles Wade.



51 MINS



WINCHCOMBE

CHEDWORTH ROMAN VILLA

Famous for its mosaic floor and museum containing historical artefacts that date back to Roman occupation, Chedworth Roman Villa is one of the largest Roman villas in the UK to visit. Once inside, you'll be able to explore how the Romans lived in this area of England and you can easily whisk away a few hours. On your way back, visit Cirencester, a gorgeous market town that's steeped in history.



38 MINS



CHEDWORTH, CIRENCESTER

BLenheim PALACE

If you're heading Oxford way, the monumental Blenheim Palace is a must-see. Here you can explore 300 years of history, 2,000 acres of landscaped parkland and gardens designed by the famous 'Capability Brown'. Have a look at their year-round calendar to see what's on.



40 MINS



WOODSTOCK, OXFORD



BROADWAY TOWER

Standing 1,024 feet above sea level, Broadway Tower is a family-owned Cotswold destination set within a 200-acre estate of parkland and sits on the second-highest point of The Cotswolds Ridge. A great English heritage experience with views of 16 counties. Enjoy an ice cream or afternoon tea from the Shepherd's Hut or Morris & Brown tearoom.



48 MINS



BROADWAY

LASSCO THREE PIGEONS

For everyone who knows Brunswick House, eat your heart out at the LASSCO Three Pigeons in Oxfordshire. Known as England's prime resource for architectural antiques, salvage & curiosities, this large shop buys and sells all manner of architectural salvage. Including entire panelled rooms, marble fireplaces, garden ornament, doors, lighting, ironwork, museum cabinets, doorknobs and much more.



56 MINS



MILTON COMMON

BURFORD

Burford is 20 miles west of Oxford and its vibrant high street has its very own character with a wide variety of independent shops, many of which are family-run businesses. You can find excellent galleries, specialist craft and antique shops. As you would expect from a town with such an abundance of farming on its doorstep, delicious Cotswolds produce is for sale in the local deli, butcher and cheese shop.



17 MINS



BURFORD

BARN THEATRE

Barn Theatre is a former 1940s Nissen hut that has been transformed into a beautiful, state-of-the-art, air-conditioned auditorium for 200 theatre lovers. With a fusion of high-profile and new talent, audiences will experience entertainment that competes with the West End. Including award-winning restaurant and bar Téatro, it's the perfect setting for a night out.



18 MINS



CIRENCESTER

LITTLE OAK VINEYARD

For the wine-lovers amongst us, you no longer need to head to Tuscany or Bordeaux. You'll find brilliant micro-breweries, distilleries and vineyards dotted around The Lakes. One of them is the Little Oak Vineyard in Chipping Campden - they do private tastings and tours followed by an al-fresco lunch, and you can order a crate of wine for next day delivery to your lakeside door. For an extra-special gift (or as a treat to yourself), you can even lease a row of vines for a year, meaning you'll receive several bottles of your own-label wine throughout the year to savour back at home.



50 MINS



CHIPPING CAMDEN

THE COTSWOLDS DISTILLERY

Fancy something a bit stronger? The Cotswolds Distillery is your place to go. Take a tour of the stills and gem up on botanicals which make the craft gin. Plus, the obligatory tastings too, of course. Make sure you book in advance as it can get busy, and don't forget to bring home a bottle or two.



56 MINS



MILTON COMMON

BICESTER VILLAGE

Located in the heart of the Oxfordshire countryside, Bicester Village is an open-air shopping experience home to more than 160 boutiques of world-leading brands offering their collections on sale all year round. There are plenty of options for the hungry shopper, savour the splendour of Café Wolseley or grab a bite at Soho House & Co's farmshop. Open seven days a week, Bicester Village offers an array of personalised services including a multilingual concierge, personal shopping, hands-free shopping and virtual shopping.



47 MINS



BICESTER

CHELTENHAM RACECOURSE

Cheltenham, the jewel in Jump racing's crown, plays host to the best jumping action in the world from 350 spectacular acres in the lee of the beautiful Cotswolds hills. Whether you're here on a crisp bright October day or a balmy evening in May, you'll feel that unmistakable Cheltenham magic. Don't forget to check the year-round calendar to see what's on.



44 MINS



CHELTENHAM

LACOCK ABBEY

Lacock Abbey is a quirky country house developed over the centuries around a former 13th century nunnery, and the birthplace of modern photography. It's set in spacious wooded grounds with plenty of space to picnic and there's a regular programme for families with seasonal activities and trails around the grounds. With level access and winding paths, it's suitable for everyone – and beyond the Abbey grounds is a quintessential English village with independent shops to discover along its medieval streets. Pop into The Stables Café for a meal or a snack before heading out on one of the walks in the surrounding countryside.



50 MINS



LACOCK



NOTABLE VILLAGES

Step into the Cotswold countryside in and around Bourton-on-the-Water, known as one of the prettiest villages in the Cotswolds and often referred to as 'The Venice of the Cotswolds'. Another must-visit village is Stow-on-the-Wold, which is Cotswold's highest town. Right next to this village, you'll find the charming villages of Upper and Lower Slaughter, both unbelievably pretty and everywhere you look is a snapshot of the perfect Cotswold postcard.



30 MINS



BOURTON-ON-THE-WATER
CIRENCESTER TOWN
STOW-ON-THE-WOLD
UPPER & LOWER SLAUGHTER

ADVENTURE

THE LAKES AND ITS SURROUNDINGS IS YOUR ONE STOP DESTINATION
TO REDISCOVER YOURSELF IN THE GREAT OUTDOORS.

WILDLIFE PARK & GARDENS

Explore the Cotswolds Wildlife Park & Gardens and be eye-to-eye with a giraffe, witness rhinos grazing on the front lawn and experience other amazing animal encounters. Make sure you book tickets online in advance.



14 MINS



BRADWELL GROVE, BURFORD

COUNTRY PARK & BEACH

Great for a family day out, Cotswolds Country Park & Beach is the largest inflatable waterpark in the area. With over 40 pieces to challenge yourself, The AquaVenture is the ultimate total wipe-out style experience.



20 MINS



SHORNCOTE, CIRENCESTER

LONGLEAT SAFARI PARK

Discover various species of animals from around the world including lions, tigers, wolves, koalas, porcupines and sea lions as you travel by road, rail, waterway and foot in the UK's number 1 Safari Park. Wind up your windows, hide all the sandwiches and enjoy a safari tour that's wilder, funnier and growlier than you ever dared imagine.



75 MINS



LONGLEAT



BALLOON SAFARIS

Looking for something more unique? Take a trip to the clouds with Cotswold Balloon Safaris. They'll take you up in a hot air balloon and tour the below towns and villages of the Cotswolds.



20 MINS



CIRENCESTER

COTSWOLDS WATERPARK

The Cotswold Water Park is an area of over 40 square miles and 180 lakes. Its stunning wetlands landscape hosts tens of thousands of breeding and watering birds and is an ideal destination for watching wildlife all year round. Next to this, there's a whole range of activities on offer with something for everyone – the young, the not so young, and everyone in between.



24 MINS



CIRENCESTER

RESTAURANTS

THE COTSWOLDS ARE A FOODIE'S PARADISE WITH MANY RESTAURANTS AND SPOTS USING FRESH LOCALLY SOURCED INGREDIENTS WITH THE EMPHASIS ON ARTISAN AND ORGANIC. HERE'S A LIST OF OUR FAVOURITES.

THE MALT & ANCHOR

For the best fish and chippy, take a 20-minute drive to Cirencester with its dreamy, cream-coloured marketplace where you'll find The Malt & Anchor. It's won the Best Fish & Chip Shop in the ITV Food Awards 2020 so head over and decide for yourself.



24 MINS



CIRENCESTER

THE DOUBLE RED DUKE

The Double Red Duke is the epitome of a successful venture born out of lockdown madness and the newest addition to the Country Creatures Group – a growing collection of country pubs across the Cotswolds. In classic Cotswold style, this honey-hued 16th century building is in the pretty village of Clanfield and showcases a strong menu that focuses around an open fire, with seriously good looking interiors to boot.

Red leather bar stools, velvet fern-green banquettes, a plant-filled conservatory and fun red-and-white parasols on the terrace that are picture-worthy. With Richard Turner and Richard Sandiford from Hawksmoor and Pitt and Cue behind the open flame, steak is a speciality here and something not to be missed.



13 MINS



CLANFIELD



OX BARN AT THYME

Chef Charlie Hibbert, formerly Ballymaloe in Ireland, is heading up the kitchen in this beautiful reinvention of a Cotswolds stone barn that once housed oxen. The wooden beams remain, but there's a poured-concrete floor and an ultra-modern kitchen overlooked by a sharing table, comfortable leather chairs and an open fire. The Ox Barn is sustainability on a plate - the tomatoes, wild garlic for the chicken terrine and the radicchios are all freshly picked from the Hibberts' kitchen garden and farmland. It's the latest addition to the bedrooms, spa, cookery school and farm complex that is Thyme.



7 MINS



LECHLADE

THE POTTING SHED

The Potting Shed lies in a north Wiltshire village rather than the Oxfordshire and Gloucestershire territories of the Cotswolds, but it's most definitely worth driving south for. They focus on all things seasonal and local and the menu changes monthly to reflect this, as well as the produce from the two-acre garden. The Sunday roasts are some of the best in the area but also keep an eye on the specials board for the fish of the day. The charming Rectory Hotel is just down the road and is worth spending a night or two, so you might as well make a long weekend out of it.



30 MINS



CRUDWELL

THE WILD RABBIT

If you fancy a night of fine dining, head to The Wild Rabbit in Kingham. Their award-winning kitchen uses the finest seasonal ingredients from their market garden to create dishes that celebrate traditional British cooking, bringing a contemporary twist to Cotswolds' fine dining. Working in tandem with the seasons, the chefs create a constantly changing menu that uses natural produce picked fresh each morning and delivered straight to the kitchen. An insider tip: try out their tasting menu which is available from Wednesday to Sunday.



31 MINS



KINGHAM

KOJ

Seekers of raw fish, take note. Headed up by British-Japanese chef Andrew Kojima – former MasterChef finalist – the hashtag in this little city-centre restaurant is #NOsushi. On the menu, you'll find an ox-heart burger bun and grazing dishes including miso roast cod, donburi, spicy pork mince and KFC – Koj fried chicken. The decor is simple with wooden chairs and tables, and Japanese logos and comic-book figures on the walls – and, delightfully, so are the prices.



40 MINS



CHELTENHAM

PUBS

THE COTSWOLDS IS THE LAND OF THE GASTROPUB,
AND YOU CANNOT MISS THE ONES LISTED BELOW.

THE PLOUGH INN

A hidden Cotswolds gem, The Plough Inn in Kelmscott is a stunning village pub full of character. Enjoy a drink in their cosy bar with pommel horse seating and log burning stove. Their dining area is intimate and inviting and the perfect setting for a romantic dinner for two, an evening with friends, a family gathering or a Sunday lunch.



11 MINS



KELMSCOTT

THE PORCH HOUSE

Steeped in history, The Porch House in Stow-on-the-Wold is thought to be the oldest inn in England, with parts of the building dating back to 947. Inside, it's a retro-stylish setting, offering traditional British pub cuisine with sophisticated twists. Tip: order the Baked Camembert.



32 MINS



STOW-ON-THE-WOLD

THE FIVE ALLS

A traditional 18th century Cotswolds Village inn, The Five Alls in Filkins is only a 10-minute drive from The Lakes. Their dining area is warm and inviting, full of bright textiles, vintage style wallpaper and quirky antiques. Next to a stock of local ales they serve a very decent Martini.



9 MINS



FILKINS, LECHLADE

THE CHEQUERS

Located in the heart of Churchill, The Chequers is a grown-up gastropub with flagstone floors, scrubbed wooden beams, candle-lit antique tables and a well-used dartboard. A blackboard over the bar lists specials such as the signature Twice Baked Cheddar Soufflé, Bobby Battered Market Fish and steaks cooked to perfection in Josper ovens. But it's the impressive list of locally brewed beers and ales that the team are especially proud of. Bag a table by the inglenook fire and make sure you order from the Josper grill.



30 MINS



CHURCHILL

THE BELL INN

Quietly one of the best pubs in the area, The Bell Inn offers a modern country pub feel, showcasing Peter Creed and Tom Noest's love for a hearty, classic, British menu with the addition of wood-fired dishes and an extensive wine and beer list. There's a cosy bar area with lots of seating to have a quiet drink, a separate restaurant with open fire and view of the pizza oven, and a large beer garden overlooking the open countryside.



12 MINS



LANGFORD

THE LAMB INN

From the same masterminds behind The Bell In, The Lamb Inn is a historic Cotswolds pub situated in the beautiful village of Shipton Under Wychwood. The menu is similar to its big sister, but this time with a French twist—think escargots and crispy frogs' legs, bavette steak tartare with game chips and confit duck frites with zingy aioli. A must-order is tarte tatin for pudding.



22 MINS



SHIPTON-UNDER-WYCHWOOD

FARM SHOPS

BUYING AND EATING LOCAL PRODUCE IS BETTER FOR BOTH THE ENVIRONMENT AND OUR TASTEBUDS – AND IT HELPS SUPPORT SMALL BUSINESSES. WITH THAT IN MIND, WE’VE COLLATED A FEW OF THE BEST LOCAL FARM SHOPS WHERE YOU CAN FIND THE BEST CHEESE, CHUTNEYS AND PLENTY OTHER FRESH GOODS. IDEAL FOR PICKING UP SOME PRODUCE FOR A PICNIC OR A FAMILY DAY OUT.

CUTLER & BAYLISS

For those that love a good BBQ, Lechlade’s local butcher, Cutler & Bayliss is the place to get your meat and other delicious deli staples. Their speciality pork pies are made to their traditional recipe and is worth a try. Or if you’re hosting a party, make sure you enquire about their famous hog roast - they use a hog roast oven to slow cook their pork for a minimum of 8 hours.



4 MINS



LECHLADE

JOLLY NICE

A little further down in Stroud, a 30-minute drive from The Lakes, you’ll find one of the best farm shop cafés in the area – Jolly Nice. Always brimming with fresh, local, organic produce, and with a Jolly Drive-Thru Shack, for coffee, smoothies and light lunch platters. Don’t forget to get their organic strawberry ice-cream – it’s out of this world.



30 MINS



FRAMPTON MANSELL, STROUD

UPTON SMOKERY

Located just outside Burford, Upton Smokery is a family business run by Chris and Vix Mills specialising in smoked meats, game, fish and seasonings of the highest quality – located in the heart of the Cotswolds. The Upton Smokery farm shop is also home to other delicious and fresh products to accompany their smoked products.



18 MINS



BURFORD

DAYLESFORD FARM

Daylesford Organic Farm is a must when you visit Lechlade – its flagship location includes several options for dining and drinking and a lovely farm shop. But it doesn't stop at browsing the deli delights and stylish homeware, there are floristry and craft workshops and cookery classes too for some fun daytime activities. It's very close to the charming villages of Upper and Lower Slaughter so make a stop here on your way.



38 MINS



MORETON-IN-MARSH

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