



GRAND TOUR OF THE COTSWOLDS

TOUR ITINERARY

 **CYCLING**
for **SOFTIES**



GRAND TOUR OF THE COTSWOLDS OVERVIEW

This charming region is quintessential English countryside. Cycle through hidden villages and quiet lanes, soaking up the unbeatable rural atmosphere. This is one of the most stunning parts of the country, where wide open fields meet forest glades and historic towns. Farmer's markets offer the freshest produce, straight from the local fields and farms. Whilst in the Cotswolds, you'll get the chance to visit beautiful towns and villages, including Bourton-on-the-Water, Upper & Lower Slaughter, Tetbury, Cirencester and Bibury. The jewel of the region, however, is the Roman spa town of Bath, with its Georgian architecture and fascinating history.

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"The Cotswolds is listed as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty,

and you only need to visit to find out why. The rolling hills and ancient towns create a landscape of timeless wonder. Cycling here is a dream."

GEORGE, CYCLE EXPERT



ENGLAND

ITINERARY

DURATION: 8 DAYS

EASE: 

A predominantly flat route with a few small ascents each day, using cycle paths and low-traffic roads where possible



DAY 1

Arrive in Moreton-in-Marsh

Check into your hotel and begin exploring this gorgeous town on foot. Take a visit to the Bell Inn, a favourite of J.R.R. Tolkien. Get a good night's sleep, ready to get in the saddle on day 2.

We love

Walking amongst the 'Old Town' with its market stalls selling delicious Cotswolds goods



Manor House Hotel in Painswick

DAY 2

Optional Round Trip: Stratford-upon-Avon

Distance 43 miles (70km)

After breakfast, we'll set you up with your top-range e-bikes and give you a run-through. This first ride takes you north to William Shakespeare's birthplace, Stratford-upon-Avon. On the way, experience stunning green countryside, and the charm of Chipping Campden, one of our favourite villages. Head back to your hotel in the afternoon after you've finished exploring.

We love

The Shakespeare museum in Stratford-upon-Avon, home of the Shakespeare Company



Stratford-upon-Avon

DAY 3

Moreton-in-Marsh to Painswick

Distance 38 miles (62km)

Your next destination is the village of Painswick, travelling past sleepy farms and some of the most famous villages in the region. These include Stow-on-the-Wold, Upper and Lower Slaughter, and Bourton-on-the-Water. The charm of these places can even be seen in their names. Sitting on gentle streams, they are all enchanting.

We love

Taking a stroll along the gentle riverside in Bourton-on-the-Water



Bourton-on-the-Water

DAY 4

Optional Round Trip: Stroud

Distance 22 miles (36km)

If you fancy taking the day off, then we recommend exploring the charming Painswick. However, if you're in the mood for more cycling then today we head for Stroud. Riding down the banks of the River Severn, you'll arrive in the town with plenty of time to explore its trendy streets and independent coffee shops. Remember to save some battery on your e-bikes for the end of the day; there's one final hill on the return.

We love

Visiting Britain's first fully organic cafe, Woodruff's, which first opened in 1998



Cotswolds Cycling

DAY 5

Painswick to Tetbury

Distance 30 miles (53km)

Heading towards the market town of Tetbury, your ride takes you through the Roman town of Cirencester. Explore the rich history here before heading onwards to Tetbury where a wealth of sights are waiting for you.

We love

Visiting the Corinium Museum in Cirencester and learning all about the Roman history here



Tetbury



Cotswolds Views

DAY 6

Optional Round Trip: National Arboretum

Distance 22 miles (35km)

Either relax in the spa today or head out to the National Arboretum. Follow peaceful lanes as you explore this botanist's dream. Wotton-Under-Edge and its pretty high street is also only a short ride away.

We love

Getting lost amongst the exotic Arboretum trees

DAY 7

Tetbury to Bath

Distance 38 miles (61km)

Your last day of cycling is wonderfully downhill as you make your way to bustling Bath. Full of beautiful Georgian architecture, the city is named after the ancient Roman baths you can still visit. You'll pass by wonderfully named villages, such as Tiddleywink, but the true gem here is the city. We suggest setting off a little earlier just to give you even more time to enjoy England's most beautiful architecture.

We love

Visiting the well-preserved and iconic Roman baths



Bath



Cotswolds Sunset

DAY 8

Today we say goodbye. Trip extensions are available on request, with many opting for an extra night in Bath.



Manor House

OUR FAVOURITE HOTELS ON THE ROUTE

MANOR HOUSE

In Moreton-in-Marsh, you'll find this beautiful 4-star hotel in the centre of the town. The rooms are very stylishly presented and the hotel has a fine restaurant on site to help you keep well-fuelled for your cycling days.



The Painswick

THE PAINSWICK

Nestled in the village is this magnificent 5-star hotel. Expect roaring fires, welcoming decor and incredible hospitality. One of our favourite places to stay, you'll wake up feeling completely refreshed here.



Calcot & Spa

CALCOT & SPA

This gorgeous hotel is built around an excellent spa, with beautiful rooms and a great choice of dining locations. With gastropubs and restaurants, this hotel has everything you need.



Indigo Hotel

INDIGO HOTEL

This trendy, stylish boutique hotel in the heart of Bath city centre, a stone's throw from the Roman baths, is not only a welcome sight at the end of your ride but the perfect base for exploring this wonderful city.

OUR CLIENTS ONTOUR

Here's what some of our Softies clients had to say about their cycling holidays with us - as well as a few happy memories captured on camera...

"Perfect cycling holiday for those who are not "head down and cycle fast" cyclists. A beautiful way to enjoy such stunning scenery."

KELVIN, JULY 2022

"A blend of cycling and culture. We loved the variety making each day different."

HEATHER, JULY 2022

"Everything about the experience from the booking experience, the accommodations and the touring was outstanding."

GEORGE, JUNE 2022

"A great fun holiday with a group of friends, great cycling, food, accommodation and a lot of laughter."

ADRIAN, MAY 2022

"Excellent customer service and organisation of bikes and movement of luggage. Thank you."

KATHRYN, JUNE 2022

"The rejuvenating feeling of freedom that cycling through the countryside brings, we loved the continually changing scenery and the confidence that wherever we cycled, stayed or ate, it was all thoughtfully chosen and of a high standard"

JACKIE, AUGUST 2022

Michael



Ruth



Tim



WHY SOFTIES?

Our luxurious cycling holidays aren't about clocking up the miles, they're about the time in between. Welcome to life in the easy lane...

With a warm summer breeze on your skin and beautiful views in every direction, is there any better way to explore some of Europe's most beautiful countryside than by bicycle? We don't think so. Because there is so much to see and do along the way, our luxury cycling holidays are all about taking it nice and slow. Stop and explore, eat glorious meals, stay in delightful hotels, and relax knowing everything else has been taken care of.

CYCLE LIKE A SOFTIE, SLEEP LIKE A KING

Whether you take it exceptionally easy in the saddle every day or decide to push yourself a bit, everyone deserves a little luxury in the evening, including fabulous cuisine and wonderful wines. We've hand-picked only the loveliest places to stay across some of the most beautiful regions in France, Italy and the UK. From rustic country inns full of charm to elegant townhouses and deluxe château hotels, you'll enjoy a warm welcome and indulgent food and drink wherever you go.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Tailor-made as standard
- Freedom to cycle at your own pace
- Delicious evening meals (as per quote)
- Bed & breakfast in almost exclusively three, four and five star hotels
- Expert on-the-spot support
- Your luggage carried to the next hotel
- Itinerary with maps and notes (including GPS navigation on selected tours), suggested routes and places to see
- Fully serviced touring bikes with water bottles, panniers and puncture repair kits
- E-bikes also available for booking, as well as children's tag-alongs
- Flights, trains and transfers on request



WE'RE KEEPING IT GREEN

SUSTAINABILITY

Cycling for Softies has been committed to providing eco-friendly and sustainable cycling holidays for over 35 years. We keep this environmentally friendly activity at the heart of what we do, offering advice and resources for our clients to ensure a sustainable future for travel.

Where possible, we encourage our guests to travel via train instead of flying, with over 30% choosing to do so. Many tours are easily accessed via rail or even car.



Working with Mossy Earth, we are committed to offsetting all staff travel through planting trees. Every little helps and you can do your bit by planting a tree at one of Mossy Earth's current projects in either Ireland or Romania. They only plant native trees and always in a rewilding or conservation project.



We have partnered with World Bicycle Relief to help provide bikes to farmers, entrepreneurs, healthcare workers and children in developing countries. More than 400,000 specially designed and durable Buffalo bikes have already been delivered, which creates an efficient mode of transport in rural areas. With every Cycling for Softies holiday booking, we donate £5 on your behalf.



**READY
TO MAKE
IT HAPPEN?
GET IN
TOUCH
TODAY TO
SPEAK TO
A CYCLING
EXPERT...**



CALL US ON
020 7471 7760

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for SOFTIES**