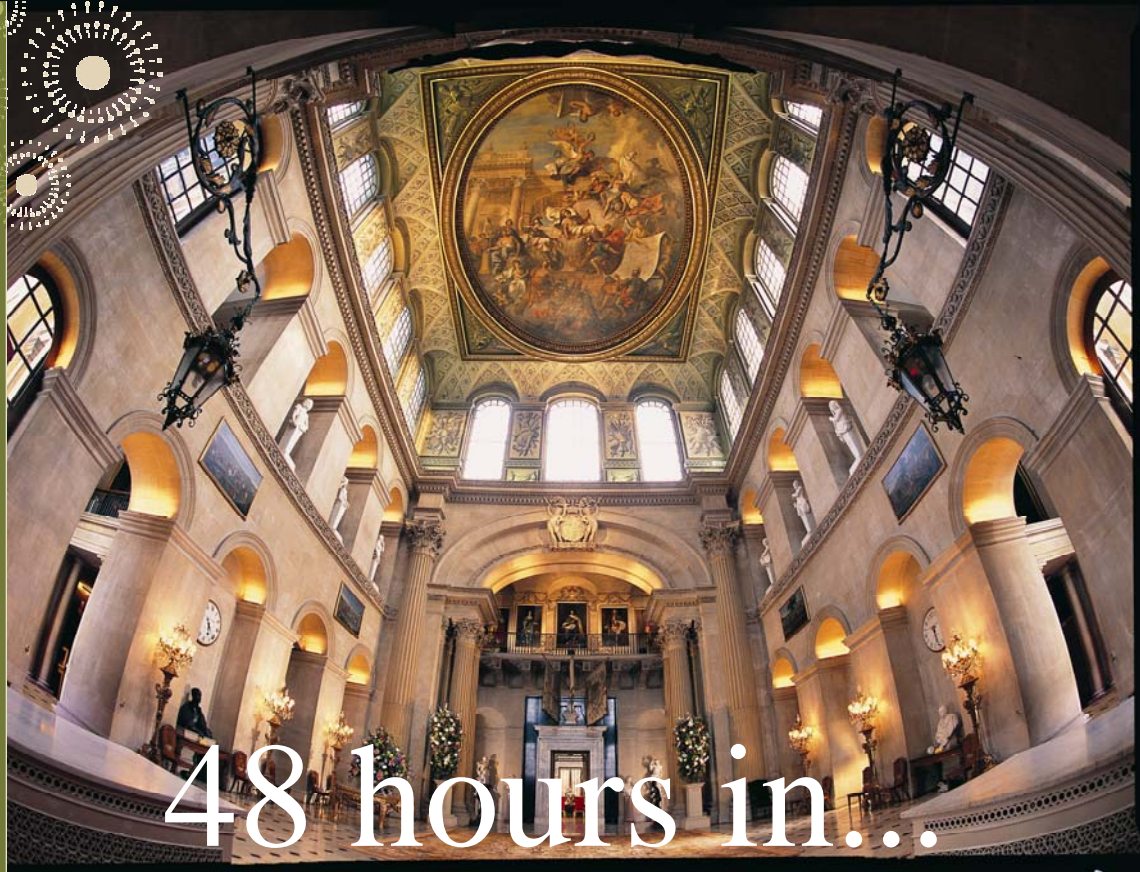


time
for us



48 hours in...

The Oxfordshire Cotswolds

Rural England at its finest

The Oxfordshire Cotswolds is the ideal place for a short break: a beautifully unspoilt corner of England, rich in history and tradition. Thriving market towns and quaint villages of honey coloured stone are set against a backdrop of outstanding natural beauty.

There is a wonderful mix of attractions - household names like Blenheim Palace and Cotswold Wildlife Park and less familiar, more intimate places like Kelmscott Manor, Rousham and Chastleton House - and all nestling in the rolling hills and secluded wooded valleys of the Cotswolds and the upper reaches of the Thames.

Getting here

By Car

Served by excellent links to the A34 and M40, the Oxfordshire Cotswolds has easy access to London, Birmingham and the rest of the national motorway network. There is **free** car parking throughout the Oxfordshire Cotswolds.

By Rail

Charlbury, right in the heart of the Oxfordshire Cotswolds, is only an hour and a half from London Paddington on the scenic Cotswolds railway line that runs via Oxford to Worcester.

Top 5 must see places

Woodstock & Blenheim Palace

Blenheim Palace, birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill, is a World Heritage site. Neighbouring it is the charming and historic town of Woodstock.

Burford

One of the most picturesque towns in England with its famous High Street and impressive medieval wool church. Just outside Burford is one of England's finest wildlife attractions, Cotswold Wildlife Park.

Witney

A vibrant market town, the largest in the Oxfordshire Cotswolds, much of Witney's architecture reflects the past prosperity of its famous wool trade.

The Theatre Chipping Norton

Housed in an historic and atmospheric building, the theatre offers a varied programme of live theatre, music, dance & comedy, culminating in its famous annual pantomime.

The Gardens of Rousham House

One of the few early 18th century gardens that remains almost unaltered, Rousham is totally unspoilt: there is no shop and no tearoom, just wonderful gardens to enjoy.

the Beautiful South

48 hours in the Oxfordshire Cotswolds

Day one

There can be no better place to start your visit to the Oxfordshire Cotswolds than Burford, 'Gateway to the Cotswolds'. From the River Windrush the High Street rises slowly uphill flanked on either side by fine medieval buildings of unforgettable charm housing a selection of wonderful independent shops and a superb variety of places to eat and drink.

Spend the afternoon exploring some of the nearby villages: the enchanting village of Filkins, home to Cotswold Woollen Weavers with traditionally woven cloth inspired by the landscape; Bampton, familiar as 'Downton Village' to fans of Downton Abbey; at nearby Aston Pottery all the ceramics are made and painted on site using traditional methods; and Kelmscott Manor was the country home of William Morris, founder of the Arts & Crafts movement.

In the evening, why not visit Chipping Norton, home to The Theatre Chipping Norton and to some excellent places to eat including Wild Thyme. Not only do they serve mouth watering dishes that use the finest locally sourced ingredients, but there's no need to travel afterwards as they have three stylish bedrooms upstairs!

Day two

No visit to the Oxfordshire Cotswolds would be complete without seeing the splendours of Blenheim Palace, one of Britain's grandest houses.

Blenheim Palace, birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill, is really a day's visit in its own right: the Palace itself, 2,000 acres of landscaped parkland, ornamental lakes, 100 acres of formal gardens, as well as a maze and Butterfly House.

Next door to Blenheim Palace is the picturesque Georgian town of Woodstock. This compact and delightful old town has some wonderfully individual and unusual shops, as well as excellent tearooms and restaurants.

Just a few miles from Woodstock are the gardens of Rousham House. Many of the features that delighted 18th century visitors can still be seen, as the landscaped gardens are virtually unchanged since their design by William Kent - don't miss the walled garden and its splendid herbaceous borders.



Where to eat & stay

Wild Thyme

Restaurant with rooms serving excellent modern British food
www.wildthymereastaurant.co.uk
01608 645060

Crowne Plaza Heythrop

Modern 200 room hotel and spa set in 440 acres of countryside
www.cpheythroppark.co.uk
01608 673333

The Feathered Nest Inn

A country pub, restaurant and inn with marvellous views over the Evenlode Valley
www.thefeatherednestinn.co.uk
01993 833030

The Blenheim Buttery

17th century building housing a restaurant and six ensuite rooms
www.theblenheimbuttery.co.uk
01865 811950

Macdonald Bear Hotel

One of England's oldest hotels: open fireplaces, oak beams and stone walls
www.macdonald-hotels.co.uk/bear
01993 811124

Oxford Witney Four Pillars

Modern hotel built in traditional style with restaurant, bar, lounge and leisure club
www.four-pillars.co.uk/witney
01993 779777

The Bay Tree Hotel

Award winning 16th century wisteria-clad hotel with exposed beams and candlelit restaurant
www.cotswold-inns-hotels.co.uk/baytree
01993 822791

The Bull at Burford

Historic coaching inn serving excellent locally sourced dishes
www.bullatburford.co.uk
01993 822220

Wheelgate House/Biztro

Delightful 18th century B&B with informal bistro
www.wheelgatehouse.co.uk
01993 851151

Old Swan & Minster Mill

The Old Swan captures the charm of bygone years - heavily beamed, log fires and flagstone floors with creative cooking using fresh local ingredients
www.oldswanandminstermill.com
01993 774441

The Swan Inn

Classic Cotswold riverside pub with six individually designed bedrooms housed in a stone barn. The menu features seasonal dishes using local produce
www.theswanwinbrook.co.uk
01993 823339