

## Itinerary – Guided 8-Day Tour

The itinerary will remain flexible and we will assess after the first couple of days if we need to increase or decrease the daily mileage. There is always the opportunity to spend more time at one of the many points of interest or jump in the support vehicle should you simply want a rest or indeed add an extra 20 miles at the beginning or end of the day!

### Pedal Classic Itinerary

**Day 1.** We collect you from the area near Paddington Station in London and take you in the Pedal England tour bus to Windsor, which is about 1 hours' drive outside of London. We visit Windsor Castle, home to the Queen, and Windsor Great Park, where we will fit you with your bikes and ensure you are ready to cycle on the “wrong side” of the road! Taking the bus to your hotel in Moreton-in-Marsh in the Cotswolds means a nice, gentle start to your holiday.

**Day 2.** We cycle from Moreton-in-Marsh through the beautiful Cotswolds to the country home of Winston Churchill, Blenheim Palace, World Heritage Site. The morning is a downhill ride of approx. 20 miles, through gently rolling countryside. On arrival at Blenheim guests will have ample time to explore the historical house, beautiful gardens and have lunch. The afternoon ride is back to Moreton-in-Marsh and there is the option to only cycle half the way back should you want to. Total mileage: 42.

**Day 3.** We visit Stratford-upon-Avon, the birthplace of Shakespeare, and home to the Royal Shakespeare Company and its theatre. If you would like to see a production at the RSC we can organise this for you (bookings need to be made in advance however). On the way to Stratford we visit the quaint village of Chipping Campden, the beautiful American inspired gardens at Hidcote, and ride down a disused railway line right into the heart of Stratford itself. The tour then returns to the market town of Moreton-in-Marsh for the evening after a slightly longer ride of 40 miles.

**Day 4.** The tour then winds its way through the majestic countryside of the Cotswolds, taking in some of the most well known towns and villages including Bourton-on-the-Water and The Slaughters. For lunch we stop at the trout farm in Bibury and then on to Burford, and the beautiful Lamb Hotel. A slightly slower day with only 30 miles.

**Day 5.** We head through the Cotswolds to the beautiful Cotswold town of Bampton, home to the hit show Downton Abbey (it is the village where all the outside filming is completed) then on to the home of William Morris, founder of the Arts and Crafts movement. The days cycling is flatter with less than 30 miles. We take all guests to Oxford by bus in the afternoon for a good look round the historical university town, returning to Burford in the evening.

**Day 6.** We travel from Burford towards the beautiful town of Tetbury, home to Prince Charles. The morning cycle is relatively flat through pretty Cotswold, ending at the Cotswold Water Park where we have lunch. From the Water Park we offer a choice, either an afternoon off with a relaxing afternoon at the beautiful Hare and Hounds Hotel, or a visit to

Highclere Castle (by bus), the famous backdrop to the hit show Downton Abbey. Tickets to Highclere sell like hot cakes and are only available from July – early September. Please let us know early if you would like to visit the house! Once the tickets have gone we are able to gain entry into the gardens (however there are only a limited amount of tickets available on a daily basis so entry is not guaranteed).

**Day 7.** We will take you to the Roman city of Bath. In the morning we will ride into Bath, mainly downhill, via a 2000 year old Roman road!, and take a full tour of the Roman Baths, the historic pump rooms, Jane Austen's house and the majestic Royal Crescent. Bath also has great shopping! Afterwards we'll take the uphill journey to the sixth night's accommodation in Tetbury. The total mileage is 42, however many decide to stay in Bath longer and ride back in the support vehicle.

**Day 8.** We will cycle to the picturesque town of Lacock (20 miles) and then towards the iconic Stonehenge. (We do not ride all the way to Stonehenge as the roads are fast and dangerous). Following the visit to Stonehenge we will drive you back to Oxford, or other mainline railway stations. We aim to return to Oxford by 5.30pm.

### **See More Cycle Less tours**

If you've chosen a See More Cycle Less tour, the route is the same as for Pedal Classic. However, we spend more time in the bus and less time on the bikes! The maximum distance spent cycling is about 15 miles/day.

### **Family tours**

If you've selected one of our family tours, the itinerary is very much the same as for Pedal Classic, but we do our very best to keep the family happy and entertained with age-appropriate activities; less time cycling and more time in the bus; and quieter routes. Family-friendly activities include a Harry Potter walking tour in Oxford, The Windrush Valley and river activities, The Cotswold Water Park, and the Jane Austen museum in Bath.

### **Over 50s Tours**

The itinerary for this tour is much like the Classic tour but with an emphasis on cycling at your own pace. You'll be touring in a group that want the same as yourself, meaning you can relax and soak up the tranquil beauty of the region. Electric bikes are also available, for a small additional charge, if you'd rather pedal less. And don't forget our support vehicle is always available if you need to take a break.

### **Bespoke Private Tours**

Anything is possible - if none of our options are what you had in mind, we can help. Work with us to design a tour based on your specific requirements. You decide how far and how much cycling you want and if you'd like to add in any extras - golfing, horse riding, more culture, water sports. Let us know and we'll do our best to make it happen, we are happy to help you achieve your goals.

## Accommodation

**The Prestige hotels** are the best country hotels in the Cotswolds and are all from the same group (with the exception of the 4 Pillars in Oxford) which helps guarantee the highest quality of both accommodation and cuisine. The hotels won awards at the Condé Nast Johansens Annual Awards for Excellence in 2009, 2010 and 2011 and the AA small hotel group of the year in 2012, 2013. Should you need further information please check out their website at <http://www.cotswold-hotels-inns.co.uk>



**The Country inns** are upmarket Bed & Breakfasts, which provide slightly more intimacy and flexibility than the large hotels. All the B&B's provide outstanding quality and are thoroughly recommended by our guests.

