COTSWOLDS

IDYLL



ATLAS SUCRÉ

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Every place in this guide is one I'd send a friend to.
Book the dinners first, then let the days unfold.

WELCOME

Muddy boots, buttery pastry and a pub fire

HOW TO USE THIS ITINERARY

- *Book the special dinners first; the days fit around them.*
- *Every place has its address and a map link: tap "Open map".*
- *Times are a gentle rhythm, not a rulebook.*
- *Keep the notes page at the back for your own finds.*



01 | CHAPTER 1 The Cotswolds, my way



I like the Cotswolds best when I stop trying to collect villages. Give me a comfortable base, a long walk and somewhere good for dinner. As a pastry chef, I always leave room for something buttery.

My longer house-based escape centres on Sandford St Martin. For two nights, I'd choose Stow-on-the-Wold and keep the days around Burford, Kingham and Charlbury. There is plenty here without spending the whole weekend in the car.

02 | CHAPTER 2 At a glance



The five tables to book

- **The Wild Rabbit.** Book four to six weeks ahead for dinner or Sunday lunch.

  Church Street, Kingham, Chipping Norton, OX7 6YA • OPEN MAP

- **Lumière.** Book four to eight weeks ahead for the tasting menu.

  Clarence Parade, Cheltenham, GL50 3PA • OPEN MAP

- **Le Champignon Sauvage.** Book two to four weeks ahead.

  24-28 Suffolk Road, Cheltenham, GL50 2AQ • OPEN MAP

- **The Dining Room at Whatley Manor.** Book a month ahead for dinner.

  Whatley Manor Hotel and Spa, Easton Grey, Malmesbury, SN16 0RB • OPEN MAP

- **The Old Butchers.** Book two to three weeks ahead for seafood.

  7 Park Street, Stow-on-the-Wold, GL54 1AQ • OPEN MAP

Best pastry

- **Davenford.** Order coffee and a pastry.

  136-142 High Street, Burford, OX18 4QU • OPEN MAP

Best bar

- **The Falkland Arms.** Order a pint of ale, then take a gentle wander around the village green.

  19-21 The Green, Great Tew, Chipping Norton, OX7 4DB • OPEN MAP

03 | CHAPTER 3 Where to stay



- **Boutique: The Old Stocks Inn, Stow-on-the-Wold.** My choice for this weekend. Contemporary rooms behind a traditional stone façade, with antique shops and the town square on your doorstep.

  The Square, Stow-on-the-Wold, GL54 1AF ◆ OPEN MAP

- **Luxury: The Lygon Arms, Broadway.** Choose this for the spa, historic rooms and comfortable corners for an afternoon drink. I'd stay here when the hotel itself is part of the treat.

  High Street, Broadway, WR12 7DU ◆ OPEN MAP

- **Value: The White Hart Royal, Moreton-in-Marsh.** A characterful coaching inn with a handy position near the railway station. My pick for keeping the room budget sensible, particularly outside peak weekends.

  High Street, Moreton-in-Marsh, GL56 0BA ◆ OPEN MAP

- **Lucknam Park, Colerne.** I'd choose this grand country-house hotel for a longer escape on the southern edge of the Cotswolds. The parkland, spa and serious cooking make staying put part of the pleasure.

  Lucknam Park, Colerne, Wiltshire, SN14 8AZ ◆ OPEN MAP

04 | CHAPTER 4 Where to eat



Country-pub lunches

- **The Kingham Plough, Kingham.** Order beer-battered fish and chips. This is a good place to settle after a walk, rather than squeezing in another village.

  The Green, Kingham, Chipping Norton, OX7 6YD ◆ OPEN MAP

- **The Swan Inn, Swinbrook.** Order fish and chips and make lunch part of your River Windrush outing. I like the combination of water meadows, a church visit and a proper sit-down meal.

  Swinbrook, Burford, OX18 4DY ◆ OPEN MAP

- **The Porch House, Stow-on-the-Wold.** Order a steak and ale pie, followed by sticky toffee pudding. Useful when you want lunch within walking distance of your room.

  Digbeth Street, Stow-on-the-Wold, GL54 1BN ◆ OPEN MAP

- **The Ebrington Arms, Ebrington.** Order the venison pie with mash and buttered greens. Keep this one for a day exploring the northern villages.

  May Lane, Ebrington, Chipping Campden, GL55 6NH ◆ OPEN MAP

Meals I build the day around

- **The Wild Rabbit, Kingham.** My Sunday order is roast beef with Yorkshire pudding. Come for a leisurely meal in a polished country setting.

  Church Street, Kingham, Chipping Norton, OX7 6YA • OPEN MAP

- **The Old Butchers, Stow-on-the-Wold.** Order oysters and lobster frites at lunch. Despite the name, seafood is the reason I would choose it.

  7 Park Street, Stow-on-the-Wold, GL54 1AQ • OPEN MAP

- **The Bell at Charlbury, Charlbury.** I'd order a seasonal main and leave room for pudding. Pair dinner with a short wander through Charlbury's streets.

  1 Church Street, Charlbury, Chipping Norton, OX7 3PP • OPEN MAP

- **The Bull, Charlbury.** I'd choose something cooked over the fire, with vegetables alongside. This is my pick after a day outdoors and a little time back at the hotel to put my feet up.

  Sheep Street, Charlbury, Chipping Norton, OX7 3RR • OPEN MAP

A snack rather than another lunch

- **The Farmer's Dog, Asthall.** Order a sausage roll and a drink. I would make this a stop in its own right, not an extra course between two full pub meals.

  Asthall Barrow Roundabout, Asthall, Burford, OX18 4HJ • OPEN MAP

05 | CHAPTER 5 Pastry and coffee



- **Davenford, Burford.** Order coffee and a pastry. This is the stop from my Burford notes, and an easy pause between the High Street and a little antique browsing.

  136-142 High Street, Burford, OX18 4QU • OPEN MAP

- **Huffkins, Burford.** Order a lardy cake and tea. A rich regional bake is far more interesting to me than another familiar coffee-shop cake.

  96-98 High Street, Burford, OX18 4QF • OPEN MAP

- **The Old Bakery Tea Room, Stow-on-the-Wold.** Order a cream tea with fruit scones, clotted cream and jam. Sit down properly for this one.

  4 Fountain Court, Digbeth Street, Stow-on-the-Wold, GL54 1BN • OPEN MAP

- **Bakery on the Water, Bourton-on-the-Water.** Order a croissant and a flat white. I prefer an early visit, while the village is still quiet.

  1 Sherborne Street, Bourton-on-the-Water, GL54 2BY • OPEN MAP

- **Daylesford Organic, near Kingham.** Pick up pastries and bread from the farm shop. For a house stay, I add eggs, bacon and juice for a slow breakfast the next morning.

  Daylesford near Kingham, GL56 0YG • OPEN MAP

06 | CHAPTER 6 Where to drink



- **The Falkland Arms, Great Tew.** Order a pint of ale, then take a gentle wander around the village green. A good pairing with a Charlbury day.

  19-21 The Green, Great Tew, Chipping Norton, OX7 4DB • OPEN MAP

- **The Kingham Plough, Kingham.** A pint and a small snack work well here if your main meal is elsewhere.

  The Green, Kingham, Chipping Norton, OX7 6YD • OPEN MAP

- **The Feathers, Woodstock.** I'd stop for a gin and tonic after a morning exploring Woodstock and Blenheim Park.

  16-20 Market Street, Woodstock, OX20 1SX • OPEN MAP

- **The Bell at Stow, Stow-on-the-Wold.** Order a cask ale. A convenient evening drink when you are staying in town and leaving the car parked.

  Park Street, Stow-on-the-Wold, GL54 1AJ • OPEN MAP

07 | CHAPTER 7 What to do



- **My signature walk: Burford to Swinbrook.** Follow the River Windrush countryside on an approximately 8km return walk. Allow around 2¼ hours, plus time for Swinbrook church and a pause beside the water meadows. This is the walk I would build a whole morning around.

  Church Lane, Burford to Swinbrook • OPEN MAP

- **Burford High Street and the river.** For something shorter, allow about 45 minutes to wander down towards the River Windrush and St John the Baptist Church. Browse the antique shops on the way back.

  High Street, Burford, OX18 4QA • OPEN MAP

- **Daylesford, Kingham and Cornwell.** Make a countryside loop of roughly 9km, allowing about 2¼ hours. I would pair it with one Kingham pub meal and a farm-shop stop.

  OPEN MAP

- **Stow-on-the-Wold.** Visit St Edward's Church and its yew-framed north doorway, then explore the streets around Market Square.

  Stow-on-the-Wold, Gloucestershire • OPEN MAP

- **Station Mill Antiques, Chipping Norton.** Give yourself time to browse. I find this more satisfying than rushing through another village just for a photograph.

  Station Road, Chipping Norton, OX7 5HX • OPEN MAP

- **Blenheim Park, Woodstock.** A walk towards the lake and Column of Victory makes a good final-morning outing. Allow around 1¼ hours for a roughly 5km route.

  Blenheim Palace, Woodstock, OX20 1UL • OPEN MAP

> *Tip: For a festive stay, Christmas at Blenheim's illuminated trail makes a fine evening outing. Allow about 90 minutes and keep dinner simple afterwards.*

08 | CHAPTER 8 What to bring home



- **Roly's Fudge Pantry, Stow-on-the-Wold.** A box of fudge is an easy gift from Market Square.

  Manson House, The Square, Stow-on-the-Wold, GL54 1AB • OPEN MAP

- **Daylesford Organic, near Kingham.** Choose pantry treats, preserves and something good for breakfast at home.

  Daylesford near Kingham, GL56 0YG • OPEN MAP

- **Wyatts Farm Shop, Great Rollright.** Pick up bakery, deli and butchery supplies. Particularly useful for a self-catering stay.

  Hill Barn Farm, Great Rollright, Chipping Norton, OX7 5SH • OPEN MAP

- **Burford, Stow and Woodstock shops.** Look for handmade pottery, local honey and Cotswold cheese. I would rather bring home one useful bowl and something edible than a bag of souvenirs.

  OPEN MAP

09 | CHAPTER 9 Special-occasion dinners



- **The Wild Rabbit, Kingham.** Choose the tasting menu for a dinner that becomes the evening's main event. This is where I would put the larger dining budget.

  Church Street, Kingham, Chipping Norton, OX7 6YA • OPEN MAP

- **Grill by James Martin at The Lygon Arms, Broadway.** Order a steak from the grill with chips. Add a drink in the bar and make a proper evening of it.

  High Street, Broadway, WR12 7DU • OPEN MAP

- **The Old Stocks Inn, Stow-on-the-Wold.** I'd choose a seasonal main followed by dessert. A comfortable option when you want dinner to feel considered without arranging another journey.

  The Square, Stow-on-the-Wold, GL54 1AF • OPEN MAP

- **Le Champignon Sauvage, Cheltenham.** I'd make a separate outing for David Everitt-Matthias's thoughtful French cooking. As a pastry chef, I would certainly leave room for dessert.

  24-28 Suffolk Road, Cheltenham, GL50 2AQ • OPEN MAP

- **Lumière, Cheltenham.** I'd book the tasting menu and give the evening over to Jon and Helen Howe's intimate restaurant. This is somewhere to come hungry and without another appointment afterwards.

  Clarence Parade, Cheltenham, GL50 3PA • OPEN MAP

- **The Dining Room at Whatley Manor, Easton Grey.** I'd save this tasting-menu dinner for a southern Cotswolds stay, rather than squeeze it into the Stow weekend. Staying overnight would make the evening feel properly unhurried.

  Whatley Manor Hotel and Spa, Easton Grey, Malmesbury, SN16 0RB • OPEN MAP

10 | CHAPTER 10 My 3-day plan (2 nights)



I'd stay at The Old Stocks Inn for both nights. This route borrows my favourite parts of the longer house-based trip, with fewer stops and more breathing room.

DAY 1 *Arrive*

Lunch Start at The Kingham Plough with beer-battered fish and chips. Let lunch mark the beginning of the weekend.

Afternoon Browse Daylesford's farm and home shops, then head to Stow and check in. Wander around Market Square and visit St Edward's Church.

Dinner Stay close to home at The Old Stocks Inn. I'd order a seasonal main and pudding, then have an early night.

Today's route on the map (3 stops) • OPEN MAP

DAY 2

Morning Head to Burford for coffee and a pastry at Davenford. Walk out towards Swinbrook through the River Windrush countryside.

Lunch Stop at The Swan Inn in Swinbrook for fish and chips before completing the return walk.

Afternoon Browse Burford's antique shops, then return to Stow for a rest. I would resist adding another village.

Dinner Take a taxi to The Bell at Charlbury. Arrive with time for a short stroll, then settle in for a seasonal main and pudding.

Today's route on the map (4 stops) ◆ OPEN MAP

DAY 3 *Head home*

Morning Check out and drive to Woodstock. Walk in Blenheim Park towards the lake, then spend a little time browsing the town's independent shops.

Lunch Finish at The Killingworth Castle in nearby Wootton. I'd choose a seasonal main and take my time. Head home after lunch.

11 | CHAPTER 11 Book ahead



- **The Wild Rabbit, Kingham.** Book four to six weeks ahead for dinner or Sunday lunch. Weekend tables fill fast.

  Church Street, Kingham, Chipping Norton, OX7 6YA ◆ OPEN MAP

- **Lumière, Cheltenham.** Book four to eight weeks ahead for the tasting menu. The dining room has only a handful of tables.

  Clarence Parade, Cheltenham, GL50 3PA ◆ OPEN MAP

- **Le Champignon Sauvage, Cheltenham.** Book two to four weeks ahead. David Everitt-Matthias runs a tight service and weekend evenings fill early.

  24-28 Suffolk Road, Cheltenham, GL50 2AQ ◆ OPEN MAP

- **The Dining Room at Whatley Manor, Easton Grey.** Book a month ahead for dinner. Staying overnight makes the tasting menu unhurried.

  Whatley Manor Hotel and Spa, Easton Grey, Malmesbury, SN16 0RB ◆ OPEN MAP

- **The Old Butchers, Stow-on-the-Wold.** Book two to three weeks ahead for seafood. It is one of the busiest rooms in town.

  7 Park Street, Stow-on-the-Wold, GL54 1AQ ◆ OPEN MAP

- **The Bull, Charlbury.** Book two to three weeks ahead for the fire-cooked menu. Bar tables take walk-ins, but the dining room needs a reservation.

  Sheep Street, Charlbury, Chipping Norton, OX7 3RR ◆ OPEN MAP

- **The Swan Inn, Swinbrook.** Book a week or two ahead for weekend lunch. Walkers fill the riverside tables by midday.

  Swinbrook, Burford, OX18 4DY ◆ OPEN MAP

12 | Getting around



- **Arriving by train.** Take Great Western Railway direct from London Paddington to Kingham or Moreton-in-Marsh in roughly 90 minutes. Kingham station sits outside the village, so arrange a taxi ahead of arrival.

  OPEN MAP

- **Driving.** A car remains the best way to link walks, farm shops and pubs without wasted time. Expect narrow stone lanes between villages and slow down on blind bends.

  OPEN MAP

- **Taxis and apps.** App-based rides do not operate reliably here. Book local minicabs days in advance for evening dinners, or nominate a driver before heading out.

  OPEN MAP

- **Walking.** Public footpaths are well signposted, but winter rain turns valley meadows into heavy clay mud. Bring sturdy waterproof boots and cache your map route offline before setting off.

  OPEN MAP

13 | Good to know



- **Reservations.** Book ahead and check opening days.
- **Getting around.** A car makes this route easier. Moreton-in-Marsh and Kingham have direct trains from London Paddington; Kingham station is outside the village.

Evening drinks — Arrange a taxi or nominate a non-drinking driver before setting out.

- **Winter daylight.** Aim to finish countryside walks before dusk, around 16:00 in late December.
- **Walking kit.** Bring waterproof boots, a raincoat and an extra layer. Download your route on OS Maps or AllTrails before leaving.
- **Country paths.** Follow public rights of way, close gates and keep dogs under control around livestock.
- **House stays.** Shop for breakfast and dinner supplies early in the trip. Daylesford is my main stop; Stow and Wyatts are extras, not a shopping race.

MY NOTES



BON VOYAGE

COTSWOLDS

Itineraries for people who plan around dinner.

Discover the whole library of cities, coasts and seven-day journeys.

ATLAS SUCRÉ