

Cotswold & Cornwall 10 Day Tour

Welcome!! Slow, relaxed touring is our goal, so please don't hesitate to speak up if you want to stop for photos, a restroom, tea or coffee. During the tour, if you decide that you want to take a day off to just sit around, all we ask is that you let us know so we aren't waiting for you. We want you to return home feeling like you've "really" discovered and explored the places we've taken you.

The Minack theatre was hewn out of the cliff in the 1930's to a basic Greek-inspired design. It has as its backdrop the spectacular *Porthcurno Bay*. Nothing will prepare you for the spectacular views and its unique amphitheatre like design

Geevor Tin Mine, dramatically situated on Cornwall's Atlantic coast is the largest preserved mine site in the country! The mine has been used as a back-drop for the popular television series *Poldark*. Here you get the chance to go underground into an 18th century Tin mine. The Hard Rock Museum tells the fascinating story of Tin and Copper mining in Cornwall.

Port Isaac has been an attractive fishing village since the early fourteenth century. Its narrow, winding streets are lined with old white-washed cottages and traditional granite, slate-fronted Cornish houses. The name Port Isaac is derived from the Cornish *Porth Izzick* meaning the 'corn port'

The legendary *Jamaica Inn* on *Bodmin Moor* is the Cornish smugglers inn made famous by *Daphne du Maurier* in her well known novel of the same name. *Bodmin Moor* remains one of the last great unspoilt areas in the South West and much of its prehistoric and medieval past remains untouched by the passing of the centuries. Historically, Bodmin Moor was a landscape which engendered fear and awe, but which has also provided inspiration for writers, poets and sculptors. It has generated folklore and legend, with fact and fiction merging, as tales were passed down through generations

The Eden Project turned a disused clay pit into a rich global garden. The whole site is stunningly landscaped with an array of crops and flowerbeds, but the "Biomes" take centre stage. One contains groves of olive and citrus trees while the larger group contain plants from the tropics with a waterfall and river running through. Just as impressive are the external grounds where plantations of bamboo, tea, hops, hemp and tobacco share the ground with colourful swathes of flowers

Tintagel lays claim to being the birthplace of *King Arthur* and that the town itself is *Camelot*. While you are in the town you might like to visit the *Old Post Office* which is a fascinating 14th century building before buying one of the famous *Cornish Pasties* and setting off for *Tintagel Castle* which is set in a fabulous position overlooking the sea.

The old port of *Boscastle* sits in a narrow ravine into which two rivers flow. The riverfront is bordered by thatched and lime-washed houses. The riverfront is bordered by thatched and lime-washed houses and if you take the circular walk along the banks of the *Valency* you will see a collection of 17th and 18th century cottages before you reach the parish church. If you are brave enough you might like to pay a visit to the *Witchcraft Museum*.

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The Cotswolds provide some totally different delights for you to enjoy.

The village of *Avebury* stands in the midst of a large stone circle that rivals *Stonehenge*. A massive earthwork 20 feet high encloses the main circle and it is thought that it was constructed around 2500 BC. A wide avenue runs between Avebury and Stonehenge and, unlike Stonehenge, you are free to wander amongst the standing stones. Keep a look-out as we approach the village for *Silbury Hill* which is the largest prehistoric artificial mound in Europe and was constructed using nothing more than primitive spades.

Lacock is a perfect example of an English feudal village. Dating back to the 13th-century, it remained largely unchanged over the centuries and has many lime washed, half-timbered and stone houses. During the Middle Ages Lacock became a prosperous and thriving town through its wool industry. The village was well placed for communications, sited as it was on the 'cloth road' from London and the River Avon, which gave access to the sea at Avonmouth near Bristol. *Lacock Abbey* has unique architectural styles encompassing over 750 years of history. The Grounds and Gardens provide the perfect foil to the house and are managed in the style of a Wiltshire squire who governs his surroundings in partnership with nature. The woodland garden is of the 19th-century style and contains an historic collection of formal and native trees.

Bourton-on-the-Water straddles the river Windrush and with its series of elegant low bridges has been called the 'Little Venice' of the Cotswolds. Standing back from the neat tree-shaded greens and tidy stone banks are traditional Cotswolds buildings, Try not to miss the *Model Village which* is an excellent miniature of Bourton using authentic building materials depicting the town as it was in 1937.

The name of the village of *Lower Slaughter* stems from the Old English name for a muddy place. Don't be put however as this quaint village sits beside the little Eye stream and is known for its unspoilt limestone cottages in the traditional Cotswold style.

The stream running through the village is crossed by two small bridges and there is a converted mill with original water wheel that includes a cafe. Those of you who are feeling intrepid can take the walk across the fields to *Upper Slaughter*. The building that dominates Upper Slaughter is the beautiful gabled Manor House which is one of the finest buildings in the area. The oldest part of the house dates from the 15th century but the front is Elizabethan.

Blenheim Palace, birthplace of *Sir Winston Churchill* is set in 2100 acres of beautiful parkland landscaped by 'Capability' Brown, the magnificent Palace is surrounded by sweeping lawns, award-winning formal garden and the great Lake, offering an unforgettable day out for all.

The Palace itself is a unique example of English Baroque architecture. Inside, the scale of the Palace is beautifully balanced by the intricate detail and delicacy of the carvings, the hand painted ceilings and the amazing porcelain collections, tapestries and paintings displayed in each room. On the first floor "Blenheim Palace The untold story" brings to life enticing tales from the last 300 years.

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Prices start at just £1,695 per person based on 2 people sharing double/twin rooms on a bed and breakfast basis. Transport to and from Heathrow is included in the price as is entrance to the following attractions:-

Tintagel Castle
Jamaica Inn Museum
Eden Project
Michaels Mount
Falmouth Maritime Museum
Minack Theatre
Geevor Tin Mine
Blenheim Palace

Also you will have a farewell dinner on your last night courtesy of Cambrian Routes Limited as a thank you for your company.