



HOOK NORTON AT DAWN, THE CHURCH TOWER RISING THROUGH THE MIST

Hook Norton & the Cotswolds

Our guide to the village and the world beyond it.

COMPILED BY ALI & AMANDA

Hook Norton is a proper Cotswold village in the rolling hills of north Oxfordshire: quiet, friendly and a good base for getting out and about. We've spent years in this part of the country, and this is the guide we hand to our friends. It covers everything from the shop at the end of the lane to the wider Cotswolds beyond.

This is the printed copy of the guide on our website. Every place in it is shown on one map at bridgehillcottage.co.uk/the-area, and each entry below carries a QR code that goes straight to the relevant website for opening times, menus and routes.

Two tips worth knowing early. Tours at Hook Norton Brewery fill up, so book ahead if you want one. And if you only manage one walk, make it the Golden Valley circular at Great Tew, which finishes at the Falkland Arms.

If you find somewhere good that we have missed, leave a note in the visitors' book and we will add it.

Ali & Amanda



SCOTLAND END, HOOK NORTON · A MID-CENTURY PEN-AND-INK DRAWING

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Distances are from the cottage. Entries marked "Cotswolds" are best folded into a wider day out.



Every place in this guide, on one map

The online version plots each entry around the cottage, with directions and links. It is kept up to date between editions of this booklet.

bridgehillcottage.co.uk/the-area



01 • HOOK NORTON BREWERY SHIRE HORSES

On your doorstep

Everything within an easy stroll of the front door.



Hook Norton Butchers

A FEW MINUTES' WALK

A friendly team of proper butchers with very good meat, and the place to stock up for the BBQ. Try the Carolina Reaper scotch eggs if you fancy the second-hottest chilli in the world.



hooknortonbutchers.co.uk



The Sun Inn

BEHIND THE COTTAGE

Right behind the cottage, pouring the full range of Hook Norton beers from the village brewery alongside some good food. An easy first night without getting back in the car.



thesuninn-hooknorton.co.uk



The Village Shop & Post Office

1 MIN WALK

Now a Budgens and recently expanded, so well stocked: all the essentials plus frozen meals, decent fresh food and a good range of drinks.



Hook Norton Brewery

10 MIN WALK

One of the few working Victorian breweries left in the country. Book ahead to see the old steam engine, learn how the beer is made and maybe meet the shire horses, or just have a drink and a bite at the Malthouse Kitchen.



hooky.co.uk



The Pear Tree Inn

SHORT WALK

A traditional pub in front of the brewery, with beams, open fires and Hook Norton Bitter. Have a go at Aunt Sally in the garden.



peartreehooknorton.com



St Peter's Church

1 MIN WALK

Opposite the Sun Inn, with a 12th-century Norman core, a tall Perpendicular Gothic tower, medieval grave slabs and a 15th-century font.



achurchnearyou.com



Hook Norton Children's Park

5 MIN WALK

A big, well-equipped playground for most ages. Walk there through the lanes behind the church for a bit of an adventure.



02 • LONG LUNCHES IN THE COTTAGE GARDEN

Food & drink

Country pubs, farm shops and good dining across the Cotswolds.



Daylesford Organic

APPROX. 15 MIN DRIVE

A well-known organic farm with a farm shop, café and farm-to-table dining. A lovely spot for lunch or a treat of a food shop.



daylesford.com



Soho Farmhouse

APPROX. 10 MIN DRIVE

The members' club set in 100 acres near Great Tew, with a spa, restaurants and country pursuits if you're a member.



sohohouse.com



Diddly Squat Farm Shop

UNDER 15 MIN DRIVE

Jeremy Clarkson's farm shop from Clarkson's Farm, with fresh produce, meats and local goods. Go early, as it gets busy.



diddlysquatfarmshop.com



The Falkland Arms, Great Tew

APPROX. 10 MIN DRIVE

A very pretty pub where you can hang your tankard from the ceiling. A 30-minute circular walk starts and finishes at the door, so you can begin and end with a pint.



falklandarms.co.uk



The Wild Rabbit, Kingham

APPROX. 25 MIN DRIVE

A smart spot for a full dinner, or just a drink and a snack if you want something more relaxed.



thewildrabbit.co.uk



Restaurant Henne, Moreton-in-Marsh

APPROX. 25 MIN DRIVE

Heavily recommended, built around local, sustainable food. One for a special night out.



restauranthenne.com



Cotswolds Distillery, Stourton

APPROX. 20 MIN DRIVE

Single malt whisky, gin and liqueurs, with tours and tastings if you book ahead.



cotswoldsdistillery.com



The Back Lane Tavern, Woodstock

APPROX. 25 MIN DRIVE

A small-plates pub, and a good choice if you're visiting pretty Woodstock and fancy something a bit special.



backlanetavern.co.uk



The Cotswold Cheese Company

COTSWOLDS

Everything from traditional cheddars to rarer finds, with helpful staff and tastings.



cotswoldcheese.com



The New Inn, Coln St Aldwyns

COTSWOLDS

A 16th-century coaching inn in a quiet corner of the Cotswolds, reopened by the local food duo Baz & Fred.



thenewinncoln.co.uk



The Catherine Wheel, Bibury

COTSWOLDS

A village pub with stone walls and open fires in one of England's prettiest villages, near Arlington Row.



catherinewheel-bibury.co.uk



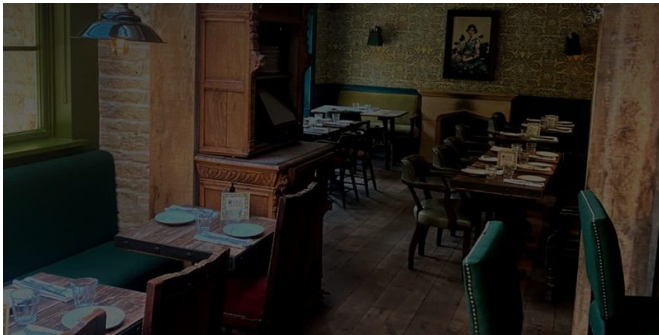
The Gate Hangs High

JUST OUTSIDE THE VILLAGE

An old, rustic pub serving Hook Norton Bitter and more.



thegatehangshigh.co.uk



The Swan, Ascott-under-Wychwood

COTSWOLDS

Fireside seating, a nice beer garden and a menu of traditional and modern British cooking.



countrycreatures.com



The Chandlers Arms, Epwell

COTSWOLDS

A zero-waste gastropub in a lovely 17th-century building.



thechandlersarms.co.uk



The Fox Inn

COTSWOLDS

A very old pub serving simple, good food and well-kept real ale.



thefoxatoddington.com



The Bull, Charlbury

APPROX. 20 MIN DRIVE

Sally Abé's much-garlanded pub, named the country's best pub for food in 2025 and every bit as good as they say. Book well ahead for dinner; the courtyard is lovely on a summer evening.



thebullcharlbury.com



The King's Head Inn, Bledington

APPROX. 20 MIN DRIVE

A 16th-century inn on a picture-book village green, complete with brook and ducks. Good cooking without any fuss, and a very nice pint.



thekingsheadinn.net



The Feathered Nest, Nether Westcote

APPROX. 25 MIN DRIVE

Come for the view: the terrace looks clear across the Evenlode Valley, and the cooking lives up to it. One for a long lunch on a fine day.



thefeatherednestinn.co.uk



The Kingham Plough

APPROX. 20 MIN DRIVE

The village pub of one of the Cotswolds' best-looking villages, doing good seasonal cooking. Makes a good double with the Wild Rabbit across the way.



thekinghamplough.co.uk



The Swan Inn, Swinbrook

APPROX. 30 MIN DRIVE

A wisteria-clad pub on the River Windrush that belonged to the Mitford sisters' family, and a Downton Abbey filming spot. Lovely after a riverside walk from Burford.



theswanswinbrook.co.uk



The Castle at Edgehill

APPROX. 15 MIN DRIVE

A pub inside an 18th-century folly tower, built where the King raised his standard before the Battle of Edgehill, with views over the battlefield below. It pours Hook Norton beer, naturally.



castleatedgehill.co.uk



The Stag's Head, Swalcliffe

APPROX. 10 MIN DRIVE

A thatched village pub with an inglenook, a big lawned garden and a Greek night once a month (really). Friendly, independent and close by.



whatpub.com



The Wykham Arms, Sibford Gower

APPROX. 10 MIN DRIVE

A thatched 17th-century inn down the lanes in Sibford Gower, doing generous, well-presented country cooking. One of the best dinners within ten minutes of the cottage.



wykhamarms.co.uk



Le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons, Great Milton

APPROX. 50 MIN DRIVE

Raymond Blanc's two-Michelin-star manor with its famous kitchen gardens. The full once-in-a-blue-moon blow-out, and it earns every penny.



belmond.com



03 • GRAND HOUSES AND GARDENS NEARBY

Sights & days out

Ancient stones, grand houses and the prettiest Cotswold towns.



The Rollright Stones

APPROX. 10 MIN DRIVE

An atmospheric Neolithic and Bronze Age site sometimes called 'Baby Stonehenge': a stone circle, a burial chamber and standing stones with plenty of folklore attached. It even turned up in a Tom Baker episode of Doctor Who.



rollrightstones.co.uk



Broughton Castle

NEAR BLOXHAM

A moated medieval manor house with Elizabethan gardens, and one of the most picturesque castles in the country.



broughtoncastle.com



Blenheim Palace

APPROX. 30 MIN DRIVE

A UNESCO World Heritage palace near Woodstock and the birthplace of Winston Churchill, with baroque architecture, formal gardens and acres of parkland.



blenheimpalace.com



Sudeley Castle

COTSWOLDS

A castle with plenty of royal history and lovely gardens, and the resting place of Queen Katherine Parr. A good stop on the Cotswold Way.



sudeleycastle.co.uk



Broadway Tower

COTSWOLDS

A hilltop folly with views across many counties on a clear day, surrounded by walking trails and tied to the Arts and Crafts movement.



broadwaytower.co.uk



Chedworth Roman Villa

COTSWOLDS

One of the largest Roman villas in the country (National Trust), with well-preserved mosaics and bathhouses.



nationaltrust.org.uk



Chastleton House

NEAR MORETON-IN-MARSH

A well-preserved Jacobean house (National Trust), with a rare sense of 400 years of largely unchanged family life.



nationaltrust.org.uk



Upton House & Gardens

COTSWOLDS

A National Trust estate known for its art collection and terraced 1930s gardens.



nationaltrust.org.uk



Snowhill Manor & Garden

COTSWOLDS

A National Trust manor known for Charles Wade's huge and eclectic collection, set among quiet gardens.



nationaltrust.org.uk



Hidcote

COTSWOLDS

One of the country's finest Arts and Crafts gardens, made up of outdoor 'rooms' with bold planting. Kiftsgate Court, a wilder, more romantic garden made by three generations of women, is directly opposite the gates, so do both.



nationaltrust.org.uk



The Slaughters

COTSWOLDS

Upper and Lower Slaughter, two classic stone villages linked by a gentle riverside walk.



cotswolds.com



Moreton-in-Marsh

COTSWOLDS

A handsome market town with a broad High Street and a Tuesday market that has run for over 800 years.



cotswolds.com



Bourton-on-the-Water

COTSWOLDS

The 'Venice of the Cotswolds', with low stone bridges over the River Windrush, tea rooms and a few small museums.



cotswolds.com

Chipping Norton

APPROX. 12 MIN DRIVE

Our nearest town, 'Chippy' to locals. A proper working market town rather than a picture-postcard one: a Wednesday market, good independent shops and cafés, the tiny and much-loved Victorian theatre, and the extraordinary domed Bliss Mill on its western edge. The heated lido is a summer institution.



chippingnorton-tc.gov.uk

Chipping Campden

APPROX. 35 MIN DRIVE

The most beautifully preserved of the old wool towns: a long curving High Street of golden stone, the 17th-century Market Hall, and St James', one of the great 'wool churches'. The Cotswold Way starts (or ends) here.



cotswolds.com



Stow-on-the-Wold

APPROX. 25 MIN DRIVE

A hilltop market town known for antique shops, galleries and tea rooms around its old market square. Don't miss the ancient yew trees framing the north door of St Edward's Church, said to have inspired Tolkien.



cotswolds.com

Stanton & Stanway

APPROX. 45 MIN DRIVE

Two tiny, near-perfect villages tucked under the escarpment on the Cotswold Way: Stanton all golden gables with barely a wire in sight, Stanway with its Jacobean manor house and the tallest gravity fountain in the world. Hardly a shop between them, which is rather the point.



cotswolds.com

Winchcombe

APPROX. 50 MIN DRIVE

An unspoilt Saxon town on the Cotswold edge and a walkers' hub: Sudeley Castle is on its doorstep, the evocative ruins of Hailes Abbey, once one of England's great pilgrimage shrines, are two miles up the Cotswold Way, and the steam railway stops here.



cotswolds.com

Burford

APPROX. 30 MIN DRIVE

The gateway to the south Cotswolds: a broad High Street sweeping downhill to the River Windrush, lined with antique shops, delis and old inns, with the grand wool church of St John the Baptist tucked behind.



cotswolds.com

Cirencester

APPROX. 50 MIN DRIVE

The 'Capital of the Cotswolds', Roman Corinium, with one of the finest parish churches in England on its market place, the excellent Corinium Museum and real shopping. Pair it with Fairford's medieval stained glass on the way home.



cotswolds.com

The great wool churches

ACROSS THE COTSWOLDS

Medieval wool money built the Cotswolds a set of astonishing 'wool churches'. Northleach, Fairford (England's most complete medieval stained glass), Burford, Cirencester and Chipping Campden are the famous five, and Winchcombe's is another beauty. Start with Northleach, the 'Cathedral of the Cotswolds'.



britainexpress.com

Bath

APPROX. 1½ HR DRIVE

The Georgian city at the southern end of the Cotswolds: the Roman Baths, the Abbey, the Royal Crescent and serious shopping. A grand day out, and international guests often pair a Cotswold stay with a night or two here. The Cotswold Way finishes at the Abbey door.



visitbath.co.uk



Shakespeare's Birthplace, Stratford-upon-Avon

COTSWOLDS

The playwright's birthplace, in a historic market town that's an easy day out. Try to catch a play at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre while you're there; the rooftop restaurant looks over the Avon.



shakespeare.org.uk



Cheltenham Racecourse

COTSWOLDS

Home of the Gold Cup, with a real buzz on a National Hunt race day.



thejockeyclub.co.uk



Oxford

APPROX. 50 MIN DRIVE

The dreaming spires are closer than you'd think: colleges, the Bodleian, punting from Magdalen Bridge and the best museums for miles. The Ashmolean, and the Natural History Museum's dinosaurs with the wonderfully odd Pitt Rivers behind it. The Park & Ride is the sane way in.



experienceoxfordshire.org



Compton Verney

APPROX. 25 MIN DRIVE

An art gallery in a Robert Adam mansion set in Capability Brown parkland, with exhibitions that wouldn't be out of place in London and plenty of space for children to run. Quietly one of the best days out in the area.



comptonverney.org.uk



Sezincote

APPROX. 25 MIN DRIVE

A country house like no other: a Mogul Indian palace in the Cotswolds, complete with onion dome and water gardens, that inspired the Brighton Pavilion. Check opening days before you set out.



sezincote.co.uk



Rousham

APPROX. 20 MIN DRIVE

William Kent's 18th-century landscape garden, almost unchanged and gloriously uncommercialised: no café, no shop, no crowds. No children under 15, so one for the grown-ups.



rousham.org



Bicester Village

APPROX. 35 MIN DRIVE

The famous designer outlet: 150-odd boutiques from Gucci to Le Creuset at outlet prices. Go on a weekday morning if you can.



thebicestercollection.com



Charlecote Park

APPROX. 30 MIN DRIVE

A Tudor house on the Avon with a deer park where a young Shakespeare was supposedly caught poaching (National Trust). The fallow deer still graze right up to the house.



nationaltrust.org.uk



Stowe Gardens

APPROX. 45 MIN DRIVE

Britain's grandest landscape garden (National Trust): temples, lakes and monuments across 250 acres, designed to astonish. Pairs perfectly with Silverstone next door; the circuit's Stowe Corner is named after it.



nationaltrust.org.uk



Waddesdon Manor

APPROX. 45 MIN DRIVE

A French Renaissance-style chateau built for the Rothschilds (National Trust), with one of the finest collections in the country and spectacular Christmas illuminations.



waddesdon.org.uk



Canons Ashby

APPROX. 30 MIN DRIVE

A quiet Elizabethan manor that time forgot (National Trust), with Tudor wall paintings and a gentle formal garden. Rarely busy, and lovelier for it.



nationaltrust.org.uk



Sulgrave Manor

APPROX. 25 MIN DRIVE

The Tudor manor built by George Washington's ancestors, open Sundays to Tuesdays. A small gem. American guests get a kick out of the family coat of arms, said to have inspired the Stars and Stripes.



sulgravemanor.org.uk



Farnborough Hall

APPROX. 20 MIN DRIVE

The closest National Trust house to the village: a honey-stone hall with a famous terrace walk and obelisk views towards Edgehill. Opening days are limited, so check before you go.



nationaltrust.org.uk



04 • LAMBS IN THE FIELDS EACH SPRING

With the children

Animals, adventure and imaginative days out.



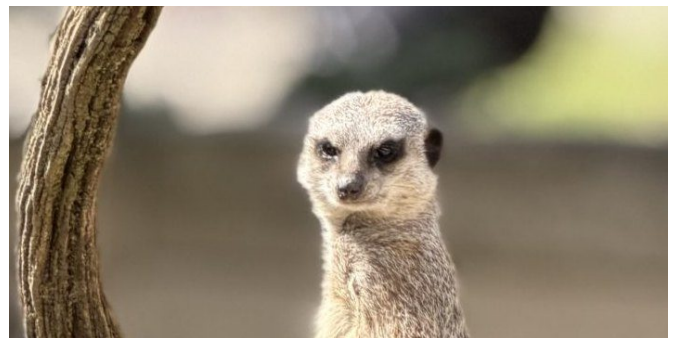
Waterfowl Sanctuary & Children's Farm

APPROX. 5 MIN DRIVE

A small, family-run animal sanctuary and farm where children can get close to lots of animals.



waterfowlsanctuary.co.uk



Cotswold Wildlife Park

APPROX. 30 MIN DRIVE

Lions, giraffes and penguins, plus a playground and a little train ride.



cotswoldwildlifepark.co.uk



Fairytale Farm

APPROX. 10 MIN DRIVE

Animals, fairy-tale themes and interactive play, with gardens designed to be accessible to everyone.



fairytalefarm.co.uk



Batsford Arboretum

APPROX. 25 MIN DRIVE

One of the largest private tree collections in the UK, good year-round and with plenty of space for little ones to run about.



batsarb.co.uk



The Model Village, Bourton-on-the-Water

COTSWOLDS

A one-ninth-scale replica of the village. See if you can spot the model village within the model village.



theoldnewinn.co.uk



Turpins Lodge Riding School

COTSWOLDS

Lessons, hacks and pony days for all levels. This is where we learnt to ride as children, and it's still going strong.



turpinslodge.co.uk



The Cotswold Range

COTSWOLDS

Learn archery or try air-rifle shooting, with beginners very welcome.



thecotswoldrange.co.uk



Cotswold Farm Park

APPROX. 35 MIN DRIVE

Adam Henson's famous rare-breeds farm: lambing in spring, tractor rides, animal handling and a good adventure playground. The one the children will ask to go back to.



cotswoldfarmpark.co.uk



Crocodiles of the World

APPROX. 35 MIN DRIVE

The UK's only crocodile zoo, with over 100 crocs, alligators and caimans, plus meerkats and monkeys. Time your visit for the feeding talks, and it's a brilliant wet-weather option.



crocodilesoftheworld.co.uk



Chipping Norton Lido

APPROX. 12 MIN DRIVE

A proper heated open-air pool (April to September) with a toddler pool, sauna and poolside café. A summer-morning institution.



chippylido.co.uk



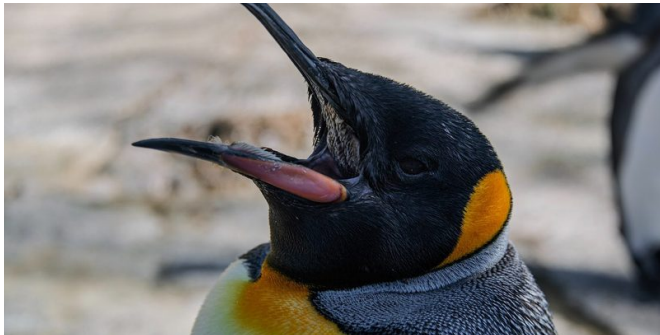
Warwick Castle

APPROX. 40 MIN DRIVE

The full medieval set-piece: towers, trebuchet, birds of prey and dungeons. Much cheaper online than on the door, so book before you go.



warwick-castle.com



Birdland & the Dragonfly Maze, Bourton-on-the-Water

COTSWOLDS

King penguins with daily feeding talks, a dinosaur trail, and around the corner the Dragonfly Maze, with a puzzle to solve at its heart. Add the Cotswold Motoring Museum (home of Brum) and Bourton is a full day with children.



birdland.co.uk



Gloucestershire Warwickshire Steam Railway

APPROX. 40 MIN DRIVE

Full-size steam trains between Cheltenham Racecourse and Broadway, through lovely Cotswold-edge country. Ride from Broadway's rebuilt 1900s station and pair it with the walk up to the Tower.



gwsr.com



05 • SILVERSTONE, THE HOME OF THE BRITISH GRAND PRIX

Motorsport & adventure

Fast cars, old aeroplanes and open cockpits: days out for the petrolheads and thrill-seekers.



Silverstone

APPROX. 40 MIN DRIVE

The home of the British Grand Prix is an easy drive from the cottage. The Silverstone Museum is superb (sixty-odd interactive exhibits and a 360° 'ultimate lap'), there's outdoor karting, and on the right day you can watch racing or drive the circuit yourself. Stowe Corner is named after Stowe, just up the road.



silverstone.co.uk



The Classic Motor Hub, Bibury

COTSWOLDS

Hangars full of vintage and classic cars on a former WW2 airfield, with a café and regular 'Coffee & Classics' mornings. Combine it with Bibury and Arlington Row.



classicmotorhub.com



Bicester Heritage & the Sunday Scramble

APPROX. 35 MIN DRIVE

A beautifully preserved 1920s RAF station, now home to dozens of classic-car specialists. On the quarterly 'Sunday Scramble' open days the whole site comes alive with hundreds of remarkable cars.



bicesteremotion.com



Edgehill Gliding Centre

APPROX. 15 MIN DRIVE

Trial gliding lessons from a wartime RAF airfield on the Edgehill escarpment, March to October: half an hour soaring silently over the same countryside you've been walking through. An unforgettable present for someone.



edgehillgliding.com



06 • FIELD PATHS STRAIGHT FROM THE VILLAGE

Walks from the door

Footpaths, old railway lines and bluebell woods, straight from the village door and further afield across the Cotswolds. Each one links to a full route and directions.



Swerford & back

FROM THE DOOR • 5 MILES

One of the village history society's rambles: from St Peter's down Middle Hill and through the Park past the viaduct piers, out across the fields to Swerford church and back by Cradle Farm. Easy to moderate, about two and a half hours.



hook-norton.org.uk



South Hill & the Heath

FROM THE DOOR • 4 MILES

A village ramble down Burycroft Lane and up onto Little and Big Heath past Court Farm, with long views back over the brewery. Moderate, around two hours.



hook-norton.org.uk



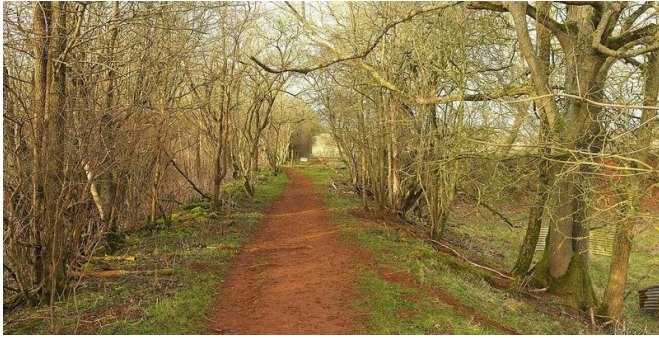
Lodge Farm & the Stour valley

FROM THE DOOR • 6 MILES (OR 4)

The longest of the door-step rambles: out along Hollybush Road and Ironstone Hollow to Lodge Farm and the head of the Stour valley, past Nill Farm. Six miles, or a four-mile short cut. Moderate.



hook-norton.org.uk



The Park

FROM THE DOOR • 3 MILES

The gentlest walk from the village and a good one with children: past Park Farm House and through the Park, over a ford and back beneath the old viaduct piers. Easy, about an hour and a half.



hook-norton.org.uk



Brewery, viaduct & pubs loop

FROM THE DOOR • 5.8 MILES

A moderate loop that starts and ends at the Victorian brewery, taking in the viaduct piers and passing three Hooky pubs on the way round, so pace yourself. About two and a half hours.



komoot.com



The viaduct piers loop

FROM THE DOOR • 4.5 MILES

A flat, easy circular out to the great ruined piers of the old railway viaduct: the village's most striking walk, and lovely at golden hour. About two hours.



komoot.com



Hook Norton to Great Rollright

FROM THE DOOR • 5 MILES

Up Burycroft Road onto the D'Arcy Dalton Way and over the hill to St Andrew's church at Great Rollright, returning the same green way. It drops you back down Bridge Hill past the door. Moderate.



christian-pilgrimage.org.uk



Great Tew, Golden Valley

APPROX. 12 MIN DRIVE • WAYMARKED

A waymarked walk through the Great Tew estate's Golden Valley, and one of our favourite half-days, ending with a pint at the Falkland Arms.



greattewestate.com



Long Compton to the Rollright Stones

APPROX. 15 MIN DRIVE • 4.7 MILES

Another way to the stones, climbing from Long Compton to take in all three Rollright sites and a stretch of the D'Arcy Dalton Way. Moderate.



komoot.com



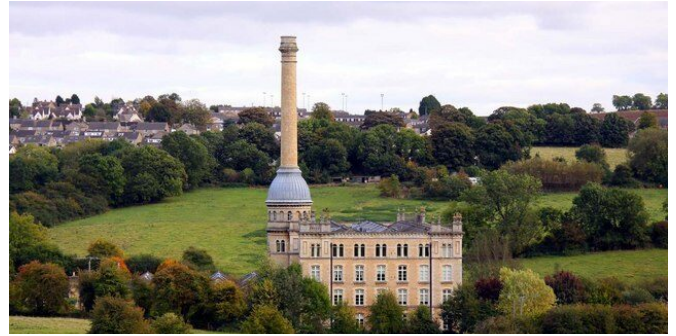
Salford to the Rollright Stones

APPROX. 12 MIN DRIVE • 5 MILES

A field-and-farmland circular from the little village of Salford up to the Rollright Stones (the stone circle, the King Stone and the Whispering Knights) and back. Moderate, a couple of hours.



alltrails.com



Chipping Norton: Common & Bliss Mill

APPROX. 12 MIN DRIVE • 2 MILES

A short, easy loop from Chipping Norton over the Common and round past the extraordinary domed Bliss Mill. Good for little legs and under an hour.



alltrails.com



The Sibfords village trail

APPROX. 10 MIN DRIVE • 2 MILES

A waymarked historic trail from the Wykham Arms through the honey-stone lanes of Sibford Gower, Sibford Ferris and Burdrop. Two miles with a couple of short climbs.



thesibfords.uk

Swalcliffe & the Iron Age hillforts

APPROX. 10 MIN DRIVE • 5.5 MILES

Field paths over to Tadmarton and back through Swalcliffe, passing the earthworks of Tadmarton Camp and Madmarston hillfort: a quiet walk with a lot of history under your feet. Moderate.



outdooractive.com



Bourton-on-the-Water & the Slaughters

APPROX. 35 MIN DRIVE • 5.5 MILES

A classic Cotswold circular from Bourton along the River Windrush to Upper and Lower Slaughter, two of the prettiest villages in England, and back. Moderate.



alltrails.com



Broadway & the Tower

APPROX. 40 MIN DRIVE • 4-9 MILES

A classic ridge walk up to Broadway Tower, with views across many counties on a clear day. Do the short four-mile circular, or push on to Snowhill and Stanton for a full day out.



nationaltrail.co.uk

The Cotswold Way

CHIPPING CAMPDEN TO BATH • 102 MILES

The National Trail along the ridges and valleys of the escarpment, from Chipping Campden's market hall all the way to Bath Abbey. Day-walk the first stretch for the prettiest villages (Broadway, Snowhill, Stanton, Stanway, the abbey ruins at Hailes and Winchcombe) or just borrow a golden mile or two of it.



nationaltrail.co.uk



Charlbury & Wychwood Forest

APPROX. 25 MIN DRIVE • 7.4 MILES

From the pretty town of Charlbury through the ancient royal forest of Wychwood and the edge of Cornbury Park, with views over the Evenlode. Moderate, and a good half-day.



komoot.com

More walks: the route library

THE WHOLE COTSWOLDS

When you've walked ours: the Cotswolds National Landscape charity publishes a large free library of self-guided routes, from very easy strolls to full-day hikes, plus the long-distance paths.



cotswolds-nl.org.uk

07

Shopping & craft

Potteries, weavers, markets and garden shops.



Whichford Pottery

UNDER 10 MIN DRIVE

Handmade English terracotta from a family business of more than 40 years, with workshops, demonstrations and a garden café.



whichfordpottery.com



Chipping Norton Market

APPROX. 12 MIN DRIVE

A market town with a Wednesday market and a farmers' market on the third Saturday of each month (8.30am to 1.30pm).



chippingnorton-tc.gov.uk



Burford Garden Company

COTSWOLDS

One of the area's biggest garden and home shops, with plants, homeware and crafts.



burford.co.uk

Golf

Welcoming courses across the north Cotswolds and Oxfordshire, all open to visitors. The closest is barely ten minutes away.



Tadmarton Heath Golf Club

APPROX. 8 MIN DRIVE

The nearest course to the cottage, and a classic: a 1915 heathland course above the Cherwell valley, tight and springy underfoot, consistently rated one of the best-value courses in the country. Visitors are welcome; book ahead. Maximum handicap 36 and a dress code apply.



tadmartongolf.com



Rye Hill Golf Club

APPROX. 15 MIN DRIVE

A challenging par-72 set in 200 acres near Milcombe, with lakes, big undulating greens and wide countryside views. Visitors and societies are welcome seven days a week, and it's cracking value; book online.



ryehill.co.uk



Feldon Valley

APPROX. 10 MIN DRIVE

A friendly, family-run par-71 of 6,230 yards up in the Brailes hills: Brailes Golf Club as was, reborn as Feldon Valley. Visitors and societies are made very welcome; book a tee time online. A handicap of 54 or better and the usual dress code apply.



feldonvalley.co.uk



The Cotswolds Club

APPROX. 20 MIN DRIVE

The old Chipping Norton course, on some of the highest ground in the county: an undulating par-72 of mature, tree-lined fairways that drain well and play all year. Visitors are welcome throughout the year; book online or call ahead.



cotswoldsclub.co.uk



The Wychwood Golf Club

APPROX. 20 MIN DRIVE

A long, scenic parkland par-72 in the Wychwood country near Milton-under-Wychwood (formerly Lyneham Golf Club), with water in play and a Trackman range. Visitors are welcome any day; book online or call.



thewychwood.com

Cherwell Edge Golf Club

APPROX. 20 MIN DRIVE

An easygoing, good-value parkland course at Chacombe with a floodlit driving range. Visitors are welcome every day and you don't need to be a member; just book ahead.



cherwelledgegolfclub.co.uk



Bicester Hotel, Golf & Spa

APPROX. 30 MIN DRIVE

A well-kept parkland course threaded with eleven lakes, plus a Toptracer range, all part of a hotel and spa. Pure pay-and-play: no membership needed, just book ahead.



bicesterhotelgolfandspa.com

Burford Golf Club

APPROX. 30 MIN DRIVE

A handsome, mature parkland course on the southern edge of the Cotswolds. Visitors are welcome on weekdays, and on weekend afternoons subject to space; call the pro shop to book.



burfordgolfclub.co.uk



09 • LAVENDER IN BLOOM AT SNOWSHILL EACH JULY

Seasonal & events

The circus, the festivals and the lavender, all worth planning a stay around.



Giffords Circus

TOURING, SPRING TO AUTUMN

A magical vintage circus that pitches its big top on village greens and estates across the Cotswolds every summer; the 2026 show, Waterfield, calls at Blenheim Palace in May. Book the Circus Sauce supper afterwards if you can.



giffordscircus.com



The Big Festival, Kingham

APPROX. 20 MIN DRIVE

Alex James's food-and-music festival on his farm at Kingham over the August bank holiday weekend. Very family-friendly, with day tickets available.



bigfestival.com



Wilderness Festival, Cornbury Park

APPROX. 20 MIN DRIVE

Four days of music, food, talks and lake swimming in the parkland of Cornbury Park each summer (30 July to 2 August in 2026). The gentlest festival there is.



wildernessfestival.com



Cotswold Lavender, Snowhill

APPROX. 30 MIN DRIVE

Acres of lavender in bloom from mid-June to early August, with a distillery shop and café. Come in late June or July for the photograph everyone wants.



cotswoldlavender.co.uk



The Theatre, Chipping Norton

APPROX. 12 MIN DRIVE

A tiny, much-loved Victorian theatre with a year-round programme of plays, music, comedy and film, and a famous Christmas panto that sells out months ahead.



chippingnortontheatre.com

Getting here

Easy to reach by car or train.



By car

FREE ON-STREET PARKING

Free, unrestricted parking on the road directly outside the cottage. Hook Norton is within easy reach of the M40 and about 25 minutes from Banbury.



By train, Banbury

CHILTERN MAINLINE

On the Chiltern Mainline, roughly halfway between London and Birmingham. Take a taxi from the station.



chilternrailways.co.uk



By train, Charlbury

COTSWOLD LINE

On the Cotswold Line, with trains from London Paddington. Take a taxi from the station to the cottage.



gwi.com

STAY A WHILE

We hope you enjoy your stay.

If anything needs attention while you are here, message us and we will sort it. If you find somewhere that deserves a place in this guide, tell us or leave a note in the visitors' book.

Ali & Amanda



BRIDGEHILLCOTTAGE.CO.UK/THE-AREA