WALKING THE COTSWOLDS WAY
100 MILES IN ENCHANTING ENGLAND | MAY 2 – 12, 2020

The Cotswolds is one of the prettiest pockets of rural England with rolling hills, sweeping meadows, bucolic villages, and stately homes. The glorious honey-coloured towns and villages are almost unbelievably pretty. This is picture-postcard England at its most enchanting.

And what better way to experience this than on foot at a comfortable pace. This nine-day walk follows the Cotswolds Way, 100 miles of magical walking with long distance views from the Cotswold escarpment, and journeys through picturesque villages and past famous ancient sites.

The trip is escorted by Judy Rogers and our English walking guide, but you are free to walk at your own pace in your own time. You will have a pack of easy to read maps and instructions, complete with directions to guide you on the well-marked paths and tracks. And if you need picking up, then, no problem, help is at hand. A support vehicle is with you at all times. The distance of your day’s walk is up to you!

On some days we take our support vans between our hotels and beginning and end of the day’s walk. This means we can stay in each of our lovely village inns for two nights and walk the most beautiful sections of the Cotswolds Way. Evenings are an opportunity to discover delicious cuisine in village gastropubs and 17th century cider houses with plenty of local highlights (think Old Spot pork, trout, and asparagus not to mention double and single Gloucester cheese!)

Discover the joys of a country walk in one of the prettiest places in the world!
Judy Rogers is a former Chair of the UBC Alumni Association (2011 – 2014). She is a recipient of the Lieutenant Governor’s Medal for Excellence in Public Service in BC and was recently awarded the Order of Canada for her outstanding contributions to municipal government and the community. Judy is based in Vancouver and is an active lover of the outdoors. Judy is a veteran of many walks, including as host of the alumni UBC Travel Club’s “Peru’s Sacred Valley” walk in 2018. Judy will be accompanied by our UK-based walking guide.

WHY TRAVEL WITH THE ALUMNI UBC TRAVEL CLUB?

• Visit the exquisite old market town of Chipping Camden
• Enjoy the views from the Broadway Manor folly
• Walk through ancient woodlands, farmlands, and rolling hills
• Stay in pretty village inns and dine in country pubs
• Discover heritage sites and iron age forts
Saturday, May 2: Meet in Moreton in Marsh
Our tour begins in the lovely little town of Moreton in Marsh at the north gateway of the Cotswolds. Moreton in Marsh is a direct train of 90 minutes from London Paddington and our hotel is within walking distance of the train station. One of the principal market towns of the Cotswolds, Moreton has been a traveller’s town for some 1700 years. The broad high street is lined with elegant 17th and 18th century buildings made from that beautiful golden stone. Meet Judy, your walking guide, and fellow walks for a briefing and dinner this evening.

Overnight: The Redesdale, Moreton in Marsh
Meals: Dinner

Sunday, May 3: Walking
**15KM. ROLLING IN THE MORNING THEN GENERALLY FLAT**
Start the Cotswold Way at the wonderful town of Chipping Campden, one of the jewels in the Cotswolds crown and set off on our 100-mile journey. The walk starts with an uphill stroll to the wonderful Broadway Tower, a folly sitting on top of the Cotswolds escarpment with magnificent views of over 16 counties and as far as Wales. We then drop off the escarpment and into Broadway (where you may get lost in the wonderful antique shops!) The end of the day’s walk is in Stanton, one of the prettiest and idyllic unspoilt villages of the Cotswolds. We return to Moreton in Marsh for the evening.

Overnight: The Redesdale, Moreton in Marsh
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Monday, May 4: Walking
**21KM. ROLLING WITH SOME FLATTER SECTIONS**
Our walk winds its way through the majestic countryside of the Cotswolds at the bottom of the escarpment, visiting wonderful villages and places of interest including Stanway House, owned by the Earl of Wemyss, notable for its 300 foot water fountain, the highest in England, and Hailes Abbey which dates from 1246. We then stroll into Winchcombe, an archetypal Cotswold town and home to the beautiful Sudeley Castle, home to Henry VIII’s sixth wife, Catherine Parr (the only one to have survived!). The end of the day is at Cleeve Hill, via the Neolithic long barrow at Belas Knap, one of the highest points in the Cotswolds, with wonderful views over Cheltenham.

Overnight: The Rising Sun, Cleeve Hill
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Tuesday, May 5: Walking
**25KM. SOME FLATTER SECTIONS TO START WITH, THEN UP AND DOWN!**
From Cleeve Hill, we walk with the urban expanse of Cheltenham on our right along the Cotswold Way, across Cleeve Common, passing through Bill Smylie’s butterfly reserve and on to quiet lanes, to the Downdswell Reservoir then through Lineover Wood – a semi-natural broadleaved woodland, notable for its large leaved lime trees and magnificent ‘heritage’ beech. The path then climbs again onto Charlton Kings Common and follows the escarpment onto Leckhampton Hill - look out for the distinctive rock pillar known as the Devil’s Chimney. The Trail then crosses the undulating grassland of Barrow Wake before heading into woodland to emerge at Birdlip. We return to the Cleeve Hill for the evening.

Overnight: The Rising Sun, Cleeve Hill
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Wednesday, May 6: Walking
**15KM. SLIGHTLY MORE GENTLE TERRAIN, A SHORTER DAY!**
From Birdlip, the Trail passes through magnificent semi-natural beech woodlands and on to Coopers Hill, the site of the annual cheese-rolling event, where eccentric and slightly crazy English people hurl themselves down a very steep hill, chasing a large round cheese! The route then emerges onto the common land and golf course of Painswick Beacon, where the ramparts of an Iron Age hill fort can be clearly seen. The section then ends in the picturesque town of Painswick, the mid-point of the Cotswold Way, where we transfer the short distance to the Bear at Rodborough Common.

Overnight: The Bear of Rodborough, Stroud
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Thursday, May 7: Walking
**16KM. MORE UP AND DOWN, WE CALL IT “LUMPY”**
The Cotswold Way descends from Painswick to cross the Wash Brook before climbing again onto Edge Common – an open area of grassland with views back over Painswick. The Trail then plunges back into woodland emerging at Haresfield Beacon, an Iron Age hill fort with views of the escarpment and River Severn. The route then descends gently through Standish Woods, with beautiful displays of bluebell and wood anemone in the spring, to emerge into the Stroud Valleys through grass pastures to the small town of Kings Stanley. We stay again at the lovely Bear at Rodborough.

Overnight: The Bear of Rodborough, Stroud
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch
Friday, May 8: Walking
22KM. ROLLING AND A MORE STRENUEOUS DAY!
From King’s Stanley the route takes you through the woods on the edge of the escarpment to emerge at Coaley Peak – a picnic area with marvellous views. It then passes a disused quarry (the rock face clearly showing the underlying strata), before following another woodland path that eventually emerges into a valley with Cam Long Down ahead. The climb up is steep, but the reward is spectacular 360° views. From it’s up and down all the way to Wootton Under Edge where there is a curious walled enclosure surrounding trees planted in 1815 to commemorate the Battle of Waterloo.
Overnight: The Swan, Wotton Under Edge
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Saturday, May 9: Walking
22KM. MORE ROLLING HILLS, AND STILL STRENUEOUS!
The Cotswold Way follows a stream out of Wotton-Under-Edge before climbing back up onto the escarpment, passing close to the National Trust property of Newark Park and past Horton Court, probably the oldest vicarage in England. The Trail climbs up onto Horton Fort with extensive views opening out over the Severn Vale and beyond. The Trail then crosses farmland to the villages of Horton and Old Sodbury. From here the Cotswold Way passes through the wonderful Capability Brown parkland of Dodington Park before crossing the final few fields into the village of Tormarton, returning to the Swan in Wotton Under Edge for the evening.
Overnight: The Swan, Wotton Under Edge
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Sunday, May 10: Walking
15 KM. ROLLING HILLS, WITH THE FINISH NEARLY IN SIGHT!
The Trail leaves Tormarton and crosses arable land that eventually leads to a path passing round the perimeter wall of Dyrham Park - a William and Mary mansion nestling in an ancient deer park. From the village of Dyrham, the Trail climbs up through Dyrham Woods before continuing through farmland into the village of Cold Ashton. The Cotswold Way leaves Cold Ashton and descends into the beautiful secluded valley at Lower Hamswell. The next climb takes you up to the site of the bloody civil war battle of Lansdown. We stay in Bath at the lovely Francis Hotel.
Overnight: Francis Hotel, Bath
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch

Monday, May 11: Walking
15KM. MOSTLY DOWNHILL, A WONDERFUL WAY TO FINISH!
After a short hop in the support vehicle out to Lansdown, the Trail levels out across the plateau, passing the promontory hill fort at Little Down and the famous Bath Racecourse. The path then emerges at Prospect Stile (now a kissing gate), where the first views of Bath can be glimpsed in the valley below. After the Trail passes through farmland and emerges into Weston, it changes in character, becoming more urban as the walk draws to a close. The Trail continues to offer glimpses of fine parks and regency architecture on its way to Bath Abbey, where a carved stone disc set into the pavement outside the ornate west doors marks the end of the Cotswold Way. The Francis in Lansdown is the hotel for our final night celebration!
Overnight: Francis Hotel, Bath
Meals: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner

Tuesday, May 12: Depart Bath
After breakfast today, make your way to the train station (independent). There is frequent train service from Bath to London Paddington with a journey time of one-and-a-half hours.
Meals: Breakfast
TOUR DETAILS

Tour Cost (per person): C$5495  
Including taxes & gratuities, based on double occupancy

Single Supplement: C$1010  
We would be happy to match you with a suitable roommate. If we are unable to do so, the single supplement will apply.

Group Size: 14 – 16 participants

What’s Included:
• Accommodation in double occupancy, in three-star hotels and inns  
• Breakfast daily  
• Lunches daily – a mix of picnic and café lunches  
• Four dinners  
• Ground transportation in private support vehicle  
• All luggage transfers  
• All activities as indicated in the itinerary  
• Gratuities for local guides, drivers, hotel and group meals  
• Taxes  
• Fully escorted by your host and our walking guide

Not Included:
• Roundtrip airfare from your home  
• Arrival and departure transfers  
• Entrance fees  
• Items of a personal nature  
• Meals other than those mentioned above  
• Beverages with meals  
• Travel insurance  
• Any item not mentioned in “included features” above

Payment Details:
A non-refundable deposit of C$500 per person is required to reserve a place on this tour. A second non-refundable deposit of C$1000 per person is required 6 months prior to departure. Final payment is due 90 days prior to departure.

HOW TO BOOK
Please contact Worldwide Quest.  
1-800-387-1483

Updated May 2, 2019
WHAT TO EXPECT

Joining Instructions
This tour begins in Moreton in Marsh with our briefing and welcome dinner at 5PM on May 2nd. Please note that participants are to make their own arrangements for arrival at our hotel in Moreton in Marsh. Please arrive by 4PM in order to join the group. Participants are to make their own arrangements on departure from our hotel in Bath on May 12th.

Level of Activity: Moderate to Active
Although this trip is escorted, you are free to walk at your own pace in your own time. You will be provided with a pack of easy to read maps and instructions, complete with directions to guide you on the well-marked paths and tracks.

The itinerary is carefully designed for easy to manage walking days. There is a basic level of fitness required and some uphill stretches in part, however, given you only need carry a lightweight day bag and your water supply, which can be replenished in the various villages on route, and other essentials such as snacks, it makes this trip very manageable for both first time and more experienced walkers.

Accommodation & Luggage Transfer
Your stay will be in carefully selected three star hotels in villages along the Cotswold Way. All rooms have private en-suite facilities. Single supplement is on request and where possible we will offer a gender share option as requested. Your luggage is transferred daily which means you are carefree to enjoy the walking, with no need to worry about straining your body from carrying too many kilos on your back.

Francis Hotel, Bath
The Redesdale, Moreton in Marsh

Weather
We expect comfortable walking conditions with highs of about 18°C and lows of about 10°C.

Travel Documents:
You will require a passport for your trip to the United Kingdom. Please ensure it is valid for six months beyond your scheduled return date. Before booking, please refer to the Canadian government website to obtain travel advice for the destination(s) you are visiting: www.travel.gc.ca
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