



## THE COTSWOLD HILLS

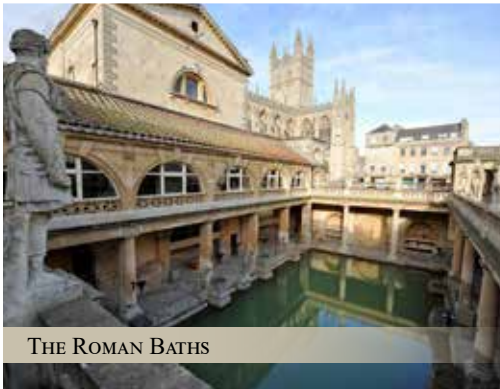
### EXPLORING THE BY-WAYS & HIDDEN CORNERS OF THE COTSWOLDS

JUNE 10<sup>TH</sup> - 19<sup>TH</sup> 2021

Dreamy spires and picturesque villages capture the romance and gentle beauty of the Cotswolds, a beautiful corner of England where the lush countryside meets the horizon and life seems lifted from the pages of a storybook. From the soaring towers of Oxford University, to the quaint, tumbling cottages that sleep by the riverside to the gorgeous Georgian architecture of ancient Bath, the Cotswolds seem to extend an invitation to slow down, stay a while, and dream.

We begin and end our tour in the ancient town of Royal Windsor - convenient for meeting the various arriving flights and a wonderful place to shake the jet-lag and get your feet firmly planted on English soil after your flight. From here, we'll take a scenic drive to the Cotswolds, which stretch from Stratford-upon-Avon in the north to Bath in the south, and Gloucester in the west to Oxford in the east. The Cotswold Hills hide a multitude of treasures: the beautiful gardens of Sudeley Castle and the romantic ruins of Kenilworth, one of the most fascinating medieval castles in the country, the magnificence of Oxford University's more than 30 individual colleges, Stratford-upon-Avon, the Bard's birthplace, Bath, with its mix of ancient Roman remnants and graceful Georgian buildings and terraces, and an assortment of some of the prettiest villages imaginable.

Explore the hills and dales, villages and towns, at a relaxed pace that allows time to appreciate the full glory of THE COTSWOLD HILLS.



THE ROMAN BATHS



COTSWOLD STREETSCAPE

THE COST OF THIS ITINERARY, PER PERSON, DOUBLE OCCUPANCY IS:

LAND ONLY (NO AIRFARE INCLUDED): **\$3990**  
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: **\$ 960**

*Airfares are available from many U.S. cities. Please call for details.*

THE FOLLOWING SERVICES ARE INCLUDED:

- HOTELS:** 8 nights' accommodation in first-class hotels, including all hotel taxes and service charges
- COACHING:** All ground transportation as detailed in the itinerary
- MEALS:** Full breakfast daily, 2 lunches, 5 dinners
- GUIDES:** DISCOVER EUROPE tour director throughout
- BAGGAGE:** Porterage of one large suitcase per person
- ENTRANCES:** Entrance fees to all sites included in the itinerary
- TICKETS:** Performance at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre

*Please note that travel insurance is not included on this tour.  
Insurance information will be mailed to each registration on receipt of deposit.*

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**THURSDAY, JUNE 10<sup>th</sup>** - Departure from your chosen gateway city. **OVERNIGHT: PLANE**

**FRIDAY, JUNE 11<sup>th</sup>** - Upon arrival at London's Heathrow airport, you will be met and transported to our hotel in Windsor. After time to unpack and relax, the rest of the day is free to unwind and explore your surroundings. This evening we gather for a welcome dinner at our hotel. **(D) OVERNIGHT: WINDSOR**

**SATURDAY, JUNE 12<sup>th</sup>** - Leaving Windsor, we head for the beautiful city of Oxford, astride the River Thames, its historic buildings clustered within easy walking distance around the medieval core. The real treasure is the architectural beauty of Oxford University

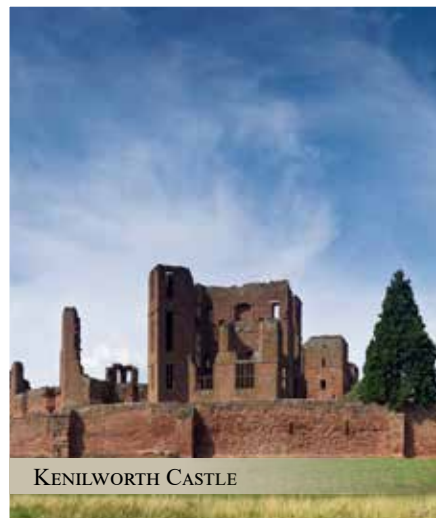
and its diverse buildings, many of which date back to the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries. After our walking tour, enjoy free time to explore. Perhaps investigate the spire at St. Mary the Virgin with its superb view, or admire the circular dome of the Radcliffe Camera. Visit the Ashmolean Museum or Carfax Tower or simply stroll through the Oxford Botanic Gardens, the oldest botanic garden in Britain. And don't miss Blackwell's, with the largest single room devoted to book sales in Europe—the cavernous Norrington Room (10,000 sq. ft.). After time to explore, we'll continue on to our hotel in the Cotswolds and settle in before gathering for dinner. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: COTSWOLDS**

**SUNDAY, JUNE 13<sup>th</sup>** - Enjoy a leisurely start to the day with a beautiful drive through the Cotswolds quintessentially English landscape. After lunch in a nearby country pub, we'll visit the Hidcote Manor garden, England's foremost 20<sup>th</sup>-century garden, where a series of horticultural "rooms" have been created, each different in color, character and intention. Next, we'll visit the beautiful Kiftsgate Court gardens, home of Heather Muir, a pioneer in the rediscovery of shrub roses (including the celebrated rambling *Rosa filipes* "Kiftsgate"). The evening is free to dine at a local pub. **(B, L) OVERNIGHT: COTSWOLDS**

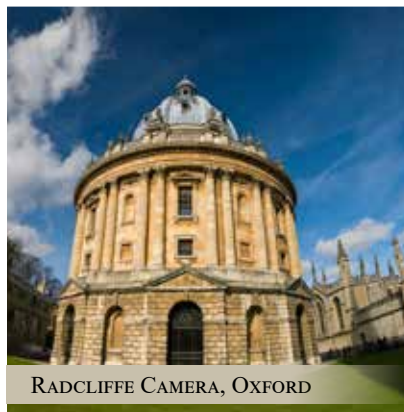
**MONDAY, JUNE 14<sup>th</sup>** - A panoramic drive takes us through the Cotswold Hills, where villages of thatched-roof cottages nestle in valleys of rolling green. We'll wander through several of the prettiest villages, Upper and Lower Slaughter (the name refers to a stream or "Slough"), whose cottages, little bridges, and peacefully flowing water all support the idyll of a traditional Cotswold village; and quaint Broadway, with its corn-colored stone. We'll stop in Burton-on-the-Water for lunch, before continuing on to Sudeley Castle, steeped in history, and its beautiful gardens. In the evening, you're free to dine at a local restaurant or pub. **(B) OVERNIGHT: COTSWOLDS**

**TUESDAY, JUNE 15<sup>th</sup>** - A full day's excursion to Kenilworth Castle and Stratford-upon-Avon. More than 900 years old, Kenilworth is perhaps one of England's most magnificent castles, with elements of medieval and Renaissance architecture found in the remnants of its royal and colorful history. Then it's on to Stratford, where we'll visit Shakespeare's birthplace, dine at a local pub, and take in an evening performance at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: COTSWOLDS**

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16<sup>th</sup>** - Our first visit this morning is to Barnsley House and the masterpiece garden created by Rosemary Verey, one of the most influential gardeners of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, where we'll have a tour with one of the head gardeners. You'll have an opportunity to see how the ideas and designs from her many books and articles are reflected everywhere in this glorious space before we gather for lunch at the village pub. After lunch, the afternoon will be free to explore Cirencester (once an important Roman city) where you can browse the local shops. We will visit the Corinium Museum and the town's marvelous "wool" church. The evening is also free. **(B, L) OVERNIGHT: COTSWOLDS**



KENILWORTH CASTLE



RADCLIFFE CAMERA, OXFORD

**THURSDAY, JUNE 17<sup>th</sup>** - A full day's excursion, where our first stop is a walking tour of Bath, beginning at Bath Abbey, the last of the great pre-Reformation churches, and then moving on to some of the most extensive and best-preserved Roman remains in the country. After free time for lunch - perhaps in the Pump Room, the scene of Bath society in Jane Austen's time - we'll leave the city and head for the town of Tetbury. Here we'll visit Highgrove, HRH Prince Charles' private estate, where we'll enjoy a tour of the gardens. In the evening we'll gather for dinner at our hotel. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: COTSWOLDS**

**FRIDAY, JUNE 18<sup>th</sup>** - Our return to Windsor leaves you with a free afternoon to explore the town, shop, or pay a visit to the Castle before we gather for our farewell dinner. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: WINDSOR**

**SATURDAY, JUNE 19<sup>th</sup>** - Morning transfers to the airport for return flights to the U.S. **(B)**

*Key to included meals: B - breakfast, L - lunch, D - dinner*