



UNCOVER NORTHLEACH

Standing to the north of the River Leach, this historic town is full of surprises - an impressive church dubbed 'the Cathedral of the Cotswolds', burgage plots and a view captured by the artist Lowry. Stay a couple of nights and explore its treasures.



DAY 1

Start your walk around Northleach in the triangular **Market Place**, the medieval and present-day hub of the town. It is a short stroll to the magnificent **church of St Peter and St Paul**, whose lofty dimensions earned it the nickname of the Cathedral of the Cotswolds. From here you can take Antelope Lane which leads you to West End where you will see the half-timbered **King's Head House**, a former coaching inn. Behind many of the houses are long strips of garden known as **burgage plots**, traditionally used for growing vegetables and keeping chickens.



HIDDEN GEMS

Built in the 1790s **The Old Prison** is a local treasure to seek out, housing a wonderful café and radio station, whilst the building offers a glimpse into a fascinating past, with the old cells, courtroom and display of historic agricultural and farming machinery from the era of 'horse power'. Relish run the café, which is renowned for its delicious brunch, lunch and seasonal dinners. If you fancy yourself as a DJ, why not book a slot to star on Cotswolds local radio too.



TOP TIP

Pause a while in The Green (just off the main square), look back at the church and you will see the view that **L.S. Lowry** painted in 1947. Don't leave the square before sampling something in either **The Curious Wine Cellar** or the community-run **Black Cat Café**.



Northleach is one of the best examples of a medieval 'New Town', established after the Norman Conquest. Its location midway between London and Wales, and Oxford and Cheltenham, soon saw it become a major staging post. At one time there were 20 coaching inns here. The centre has hardly changed since the 1500s. Take time to explore on foot and soak up the atmosphere.



WHERE TO STAY

With its flagstoned floor and local game on the menu, **The Wheatsheaf Inn** has a traditional rural atmosphere. A patio bar adds another dimension. Or you might prefer to stay in a typical Cotswold home courtesy of **staycotswolds.com**. Take your pick from a selection of properties – a converted barn or a cosy cottage.

HIDDEN GEMS

The Cotswolds is full of well-known destinations, but get off the beaten track and you will discover other delightful villages like **Compton Abdale**. The village focal point is a spring-fed brook which flows through the village to join the River Coln.

TOP TIP

This is great walking country. Choose from a linear walk along the **Diamond Way** or a circular one around **Farmington** or **Hampnett**. If you are feeling more energetic, have a go at climbing or another outdoor activity at the nearby **Far Peak Climbing Centre**.

DAY 2

Northleach's strategic position makes it ideal for exploring along the old Roman road, the **Fosse Way**, which runs north-south on the west side of the town. Head north and you can visit **Greystones Nature Reserve**, a haven for wildlife and visitors alike. For family fun visit **Adam Henson's Cotswold Farm Park**, the home of rare breed conservation. If you head south you will come to **Cirencester**, the second-largest town in Roman Britain, and **Chedworth Roman Villa** lies just to the west. Head east towards Burford to discover the **Sherborne Park** with three main walking routes and the **Lodge Park**, hunting grandstand in this tranquil, rural estate.



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