

beCuriou presents:

Cotswolds and Chiltern Hills

Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

LET YOUR IMAGINATION SOAR

Cotswolds: The Cotswolds are a very special, very wonderful place, covering a huge area – almost 800 square miles – and running through five counties (Gloucestershire, Oxfordshire, Warwickshire, Wiltshire and Worcestershire). One of the delights of visiting the Cotswolds is exploring the different areas, each with its own identity, yet all with those defining Cotswold features: golden stone and rolling hills, the ‘wolds’. Explore quintessentially English villages of honey-coloured stone; take in splendid, lively market towns; visit some of the country’s greatest palaces, castles and country houses; marvel at the natural world in acclaimed reserves and at some of the most famous arboretas in Britain; walk through breath-taking landscapes along historic trails; or make a splash in the lake-land area with its own inland beach.

Chiltern Hills: The Chilterns Hills are an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) covering 324 square miles of countryside, stretching from the River Thames in southern Oxfordshire up through Buckinghamshire and Bedfordshire to Hitchin in Hertfordshire. This is a living, working area of countryside whose character has been shaped by people for centuries. Farmland covers nearly two-thirds of the AONB and over one-fifth of the area is wooded. Attractive villages with brick and flint cottages nestle in quiet valleys. The chalk rock underlying the Chilterns gives rise to hillsides of velvety chalk downland. Water stored in the rock emerges from springs to feed clear, sparkling chalk streams like the Chess and Misbourne.

Travel from London: Located just less than a couple of hours from London, the Cotswolds and Chiltern Hills make for an excellent stay-cation over a long weekend.





3 nights / 4 days

Long weekend
Gastronomy / Leisure

DAY	PROGRAMME
Day 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drive to Cotswolds • Lucknam Park Cookery School and lunch • Afternoon at leisure in the grounds (activities to choose from) • Dinner at Restaurant Hewel Jones • Overnight in Cotswolds
Day 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full day activities in the Cotswolds • Dinner at local gastropub • Overnight in Cotswolds
Day 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travel to Chiltern Hills • Full-day at Raymond Blanc Cookery School • Dinner at Restaurant Le Manoir • Overnight in Chiltern Hills
Day 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Half-day hike: Wendover Loop • Drive to London

DAY BY DAY

Day 1

Cotswolds – Cookery Class:

0800hrs, self-drive to the Cotswolds (approx. 1 hour 40 minutes from London).

Start your Cotswolds adventure with a culinary discovery as soon as you arrive: commence with a cookery class at 1000hrs. A stay at Lucknam Park wouldn't be complete without honing your cookery skills in their on-site cookery school. This is a unique opportunity for anyone who enjoys cooking to perfect their skills and master new techniques led by Cookery School Head Chef, Ben Taylor.

After your cooking class, you will have the opportunity to enjoy lunch with your newly created dishes!

Afternoon exploring the surrounds:

Revel in the beauty of the best country-house hotel in England. Explore the grounds and surrounding Cotswolds countryside with numerous walking trails to embark on, or you can visit Lucknam's Equine centre and ride through the parks 500 acres. This is a great area for wildlife spotting, falconry, cycling, and clay-pigeon shooting. You can even try your hand at duck-herding if you so wish!

This evening, continue your culinary journey at Restaurant Hywel Jones, Lucknam Park's Michelin starred offering where the seasonal tasting menu will showcase the best of British produce.



Day 2

Quintessentially British:

There is simply endless areas to explore in the Cotswold's, so choose your desired activity level and embark on today's adventure. It is recommended to visit one of the following areas, however the first two could be combined for those happy with a more packed schedule.

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Blenheim Palace (approx. 1 hour 15 minutes' drive)

Discover 300 years of history at Britain's greatest palace. Explore the contrasting tours of 'Upstairs' and 'Downstairs' life, take in the stunning gardens, see the Churchill exhibition, take in a buggy tour around the lake or get lost in the 2 miles of maze!

Bourton-on-the-Water (approx. 1 hour)

This place will not fail to impress you, often known as the Venice of the Cotswold's, with its striking bridges, this quaint town offers the best of English charm. There is much to do here too, from the famous Model Village to the wonders of the rare breeds at Birdland, to sampling the local beer or taking a trip through time at the Motoring Museum. You will find ample tea rooms and pubs to choose from.

Bath (approx. 20 minutes drive)

One of our favorite places to visit in the Cotswold's. This historic spa town is well worth spending a full day enjoying the sights, museums and restaurants. And don't pass up an opportunity to spend a few hours in the Thermal Baths.

Duration: Full-day

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Drive back to your country home-from-home for an early evening rejuvenating session at ESPA, Lucknam Parks award-winning wellness facility which includes 5 thermal cabins, a salt water plunge pool, experience showers, ice bar, post-treatment relaxation room and a social lounge with a skincare mixology bar.

Dinner at The Castle Inn (Approx. 10 minute drive), a local gastro-pub serving excellent food in a great atmosphere.



Day 3

Cotswolds – Chiltern Hills:

Check-out and leave your country estate for another, exploring the best of the English countryside in the most charming of surroundings.

Drive from Lucknam Park to Belmond Le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons (approx. 1 hour 30 minutes)

On arrival, unload your bags and leave with reception as you will be continuing your culinary education.

Raymond Blanc Cookery Class:

The renowned Raymond Blanc Cookery School run full-day seasonal cooking courses every Saturday, and half-day sessions on Sundays. We recommend joining a full-day course which can range from mastering the seasonal dinner party, Garden to Plate, or Maman Blanc's own collection. Food and drinks will be provided throughout the day.

Duration: Full-day

Before light falls, take in a walk through the majestic gardens at Le Manoir. As well as being home to a Gardening School, the grounds are beautifully laid out, look out for the mushroom valley and orchards to the serene English water garden, a stroll through our verdant grounds is sure to be one of many highlights to your stay.

Take in a private tour of the wine cellars before dinner, and talk with the inhouse sommelier before dinner at the 2 Michelin Star Restaurant at Belmond Le Manoir.



Day 4

Chiltern Hills – London:

Although its' departure day, there is still much to see and explore in the Chiltern Hills.

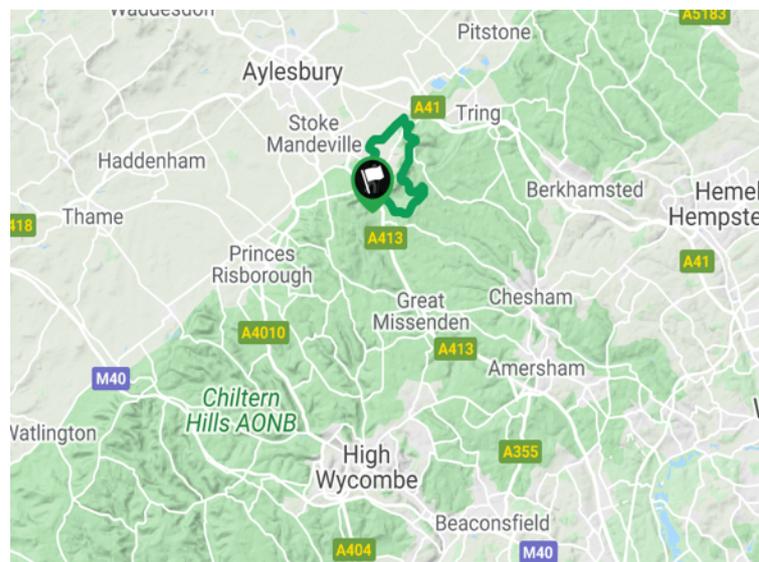
Head-out after breakfast for a half-day hike in the Chiltern Hills. Belmond Le Manoir can provide a picnic for the day if required.

Wendover Loop Hike: (intermediate, 16km: approx. 4.5 hours)

This interesting Chiltern walk enjoys ever changing scenery, from the initial ascent along the Ridgeway to ancient woodland, farmers' fields and a 4.8km stretch along the lazy river like canal to finish.

With so much to see, this really makes for a great and varied walk. Explore Wendover Woods, meander through Boddington Hill Fort, and wind your way back through the woods back to Wendover High Street, where there will be ample parking for you to leave the car.

The drive back to London will take approx. 1 hour 10 minutes.



HOTELS

Lucknam Park

Cotswolds, Wiltshire

Lucknam Park is the hotel that has it all: award-winning spa and wellness centre, Michelin-starred restaurant, 500-acre estate and even stables home to 35 horses whose Chippenham stumping ground is peaceful and private. There is an abundance of activities available throughout the grounds, from Tennis courts, croquet lawn, football pitch and a world-class cookery school are just some of the choices to choose from.

Belmond Le Manoir aux Quat Saisons

Chiltern Hills

In the heart of the Oxfordshire countryside, chef Raymond Blanc OBE presides over the country's most cherished manor house, renowned for its cuisine and stunning gardens. Surrounded by lawns, flower borders and orchards, the house is nestled in a typically English setting. But beyond the eye-catching flora are organic vegetable and herb gardens that supply the kitchen and the Raymond Blanc cookery and gardening schools with fresh produce. The suites have a distinct feel, many inspired by Raymond's travels: the exoticism of Opium and Lemongrass; the haven of tranquillity of Blanc de Blanc; and L'Orangerie, which exudes the Provençal charm of his French heritage.

