



A COTSWOLD SPRING

FROM VILLAGE VIEWS TO CASTLE KEEPS
June 16 - 25, 2016

Dreamy spires and picturesque villages capture the romance and gentle beauty of the Cotswolds, a beautiful corner of England where lush, rolling hillsides meet 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.

But first, we'll start off in the vibrant capital city of London. Our hotel is ideally situated for exploring, and we'll have a guided tour of the city as well as free time for personal interests. With a wealth of history, art, theater, and restaurants at your fingertips, your time will fly by. As Dr. Samuel Johnson so famously said, "The man who is tired of London is tired of life!"

From London we'll wend our way 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 elegant grandeur of Warwick, the best-preserved medieval castle 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. The base of our explorations is the lovely Grapevine hotel in the village of Stow-on-the-Wold.

We'll explore the hills and dales, villages and towns, at a relaxed pace that allows you to appreciate the full glory of an English spring. From the byways of Castle Combe, perhaps the prettiest village in England, to medieval and Tudor style Kenilworth Castle, why not join us for A COTSWOLD SPRING?



CASTLE COMBE



HISTORIC BATH

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

LAND ONLY (NO AIRFARE INCLUDED): **\$4260**
SINGLE SUPPLEMENT: **\$ 880**

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

THE FOLLOWING SERVICES ARE INCLUDED:

- Hotels:** 8 nights accommodation in first-class hotels including taxes and service charges
- Coaching:** All ground transportation as detailed in the itinerary
- Meals:** Full breakfast daily, 4 dinners, 1 pub supper
- Guides:** Discover Europe tour director throughout
- Tickets:** Best seats for a performance at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre
- Expenses:** Portage of one large suitcase per person
- Entrances:** Entrance fees to all sites included in the itinerary

Travel insurance is not included on this trip but is available through Discover Europe. Please call for details.

DISCOVER EUROPE LTD.
95 Adams Street, Keene, NH 03431 USA
Toll Free (866) 563-7077
Tel: (603) 563-7077, Fax: (603) 563-7137



www.discovereuropeltd.com

DISCOVER EUROPE (UK)
158 Kentish Town Road
London, NW5 2AG, England
Tel: (020) 7240-3979, Fax: (020) 7379-6878



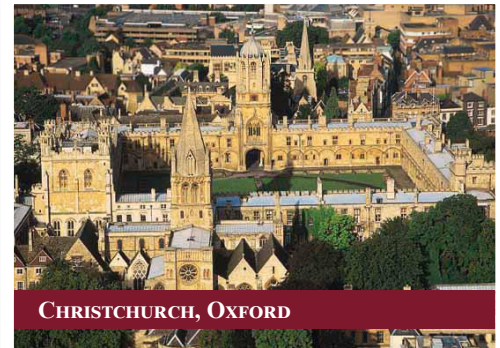
THURSDAY, JUNE 16. Evening departure from your international gateway airport to London.

FRIDAY, JUNE 17. Upon arrival at the airport, you'll be transferred to our London hotel, where there will be time to unpack and relax before we meet for dinner. **(D) OVERNIGHT: LONDON**

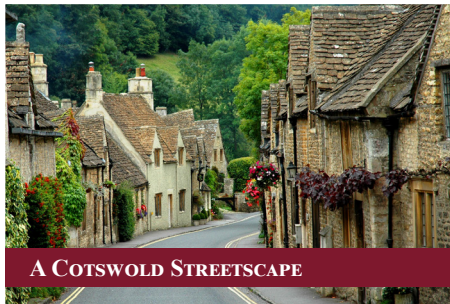
SATURDAY, JUNE 18. The day begins with a sightseeing tour of London designed to give newcomers an overview and acquaint returning travelers with the city's many charms. We'll start in Westminster where our guide introduces us to 1,000 years of English history; then continue on to view major sights from the Albert Memorial to St. Paul's Cathedral to Trafalgar

Square, touring the city from Chelsea to Bloomsbury. The rest of the afternoon is free—visit the Tower of London and see the Crown Jewels, or take a stroll through the Tate Modern. In the evening, sample one of London's superb restaurants or sip a quiet pint in a neighborhood pub. **(B) OVERNIGHT: LONDON**

SUNDAY, JUNE 19. Leaving London, 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 13th and 14th centuries. After our walking tour, you'll have free time to explore—investigate the spire at St. Mary the Virgin with its superb view; admire the circular dome of the Radcliffe Camera; check out the Ashmolean Museum; visit Carfax Tower; or stroll 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.). We'll continue on to our hotel in the Cotswolds and settle in before gathering for dinner. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: COTSWOLDS**



CHRISTCHURCH, OXFORD



A COTSWOLD STREETSCAPE

MONDAY, JUNE 20. A full day's excursion to Kenilworth Castle, Elizabethan Gardens and Stratford-upon-Avon. More than a eight hundred years old, the spectacular ruins of Kenilworth Castle and Elizabethan gardens reveal much of its medieval and Tudor past. 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**

TUESDAY, JUNE 21. 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

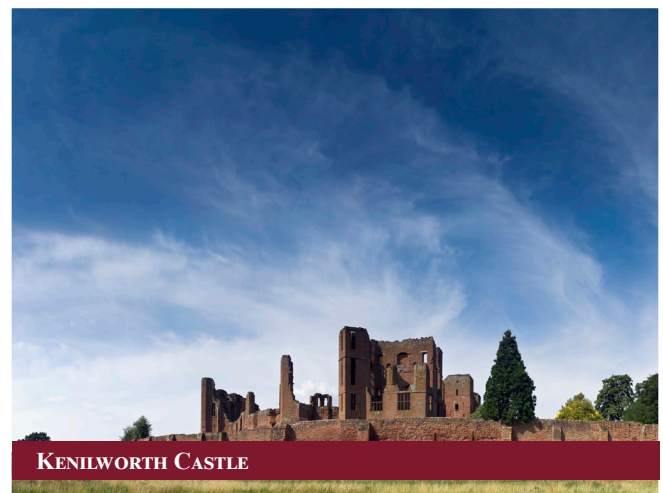
all support the idyll of a traditional Cotswold village; and quaint Broadway, with its corn-colored stone. We'll stop in Burton-on-the-Water for lunch, before continuing on to Sudeley Castle, steeped in history, and its beautiful gardens. In the evening you're free to sample a local restaurant or pub. **(B) OVERNIGHT: COTSWOLDS**

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22. Our first visit this morning is to Mill Dene, where the owner, English Garden Magazine contributor Wendy Dare, will give us a private tour of her garden. We'll stop for lunch in a country pub before continuing to Cirencester (once an important Roman city), where we'll visit the Corinium Museum and the town's marvelous "wool" church. We'll return to Stow-on-the-Wold for a free evening. **(B) OVERNIGHT: COTSWOLDS**

THURSDAY, JUNE 23. 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. The afternoon is free to explore—perhaps shop or have tea in the Pump Room, the scene of Bath society in Jane Austen's time. En route back to the hotel we'll stop at Castle Combe, often called "The Prettiest Village in England." In the evening we'll meet for dinner. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: COTSWOLDS**

FRIDAY, JUNE 24. Our return to London leaves you with a free afternoon to explore, shop, and take in a museum or two, before we gather for our farewell dinner. **(B, D) OVERNIGHT: LONDON**

SATURDAY, JUNE 25. Morning transport to the airport for return flights. **(B)**



KENILWORTH CASTLE