



University of Idaho  
Foundation

ALUMNI  
RELATIONS



# Village Life Cotswolds

October 11, 2026 - October 19, 2026

## Program Overview

Journey through the charming Cotswolds, the Heart of England and home to some of the country's most scenic landscapes, filled with picturesque villages, rolling green hills and winding country lanes. From your home base in the first-class Queens Hotel in Cheltenham, embark on daily excursions, exploring grand properties and lovely countryside. Tour prestigious Oxford University, stately Sudeley Castle and beautiful Hidcote Garden. At a local farm, learn about sustainability, meet the local animals and enjoy a cooking lesson and farmhouse lunch. Discover majestic Blenheim Palace and Chavenage House on private guided tours. Explore tiny villages, stroll through country gardens and tread in Shakespeare's footsteps in Stratford-upon-Avon. Meet locals who will share their culture, cuisine and love of the area. Treat yourself to this unforgettable 7-night escape to England's castles and countryside!



Oxford



Blenheim Palace



Sudeley Castle Garden

## Program Highlights

- Journey through the charming Cotswolds, home to some of England's most scenic landscapes, with picturesque villages, rolling green hills and winding country lanes.
- Small group travel, with a maximum of 36 travelers. Stay for 7 nights in the first-class Queens Hotel.
- Specially arranged private visit to Chavenage House and grounds with a member of the family. An afternoon tea hosted by the family will be included.
- Tour Unesco World Heritage-designated Blenheim Palace, including the Palace State Rooms & Churchill exhibition.
- Included meals | 1 reception, 7 breakfasts, 1 lunch and 2 dinners.



## Day-by-Day Program Itinerary

### Day 1 | Depart Home City

Depart for London, England. Please check your bags from your gateway city to your arrival city. Be sure to attach the provided Gohagan & Company luggage tags for each piece of luggage, including carry-ons.

### Day 2 | London, England/Cotswolds

Arrive at Heathrow International Airport in London. Proceed through the immigration checkpoint to the baggage claim area and retrieve your luggage. After completing a customs screening, meet a Gohagan & Company representative.

Transfer to Cheltenham, the Cotswolds and check in to the first-class Queens Hotel Cheltenham. Unpack and settle in this afternoon. Make your own plans for lunch, and start exploring the area, if you wish. The Gohagan Travel Hospitality Desk stands ready with dining and itinerary suggestions.

Join your fellow travelers for a Welcome Reception at the hotel this evening. Then make your own plans for dinner.

### Day 3 | Whittington Farm/Cotswolds Villages

Begin each day at the hotel with a scrumptious breakfast buffet.

Whittington Farm. Start your Cotswolds journey at this award-winning conservation farm, celebrated for its wildlife

and regenerative farming. Owners Stephanie and Fred will give you a warm welcome, after which you can enjoy tea and cake while chatting about sustainability and farm life. Venture into the pastures to explore the orchards and observe local wildlife, including muntjac deer, woodpeckers, red kites, and the farm's cattle herd. Return to the farmhouse for a fun canapé masterclass with a local chef, followed by a homemade farm lunch. You'll also have the chance to buy local farm products. After saying farewell to your new friends, continue your exploration with visits to charming Cotswolds villages.

Cotswold Villages. This afternoon, visit the market square of Stow-on-the-Wold, a historic wool town. At 800 feet above sea level, Stow-on-the-Wold has the highest elevation of the Cotswold villages. Don't miss St. Edwards Church and its famous North Door — flanked by two ancient yew trees, this unique portal is said to have inspired J.R.R. Tolkien's Doors of Durin in "The Lord of the Rings." Next stop: Moreton-in-Marsh, a charming market town with a beautiful High Street, lined with elegant 17th- and 18th-century buildings. You may catch the weekly open-air market, the largest in the Cotswolds.

Free Time: Tonight, make your own plans for dinner at a local restaurant.

## **Day 4 | Blenheim Palace/Oxford**

After a tasty breakfast at the hotel, depart for this morning's excursion, which begins with a private before-hours tour of historic and fascinating Blenheim Palace.

Blenheim Palace. Built between 1705 and 1724, this palace is part of a 2,100-acre estate and was a gift from the English Parliament to John Churchill, First Duke of Marlborough, to thank him for his war service. Sir Winston Churchill was born here, and the estate remains in the Churchill family. Blenheim Palace was designated a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1987. On a private guided tour, explore the Palace State Rooms and the Churchill Exhibition. Enjoy a delicious lunch in a private room in the palace, followed by a lecture by our Featured Guest Speaker.

Lecture: Enjoy a captivating talk by Mark Cummings, a multiple award-winning radio presenter, journalist and writer who has been broadcasting for over 40 years. His book "Glorious Gloucestershire" is "a love letter to the county I adore."

Oxford University. On this illustrious campus, tour Christ Church Cathedral, which reflects the university's monastic origins. Explore Christ Church College, initially founded in 1525 by Cardinal Wolsey. It is the largest of the Oxford Colleges and claims 13 prime ministers as alumni. Traverse the Tudor-era Tom Quad to arrive at Tom Tower, which was designed by Sir Christopher Wren and built in 1681 to house a bell (aptly named Great Tom). Step into the dark-paneled, portrait-lined dining hall with its vaulted ceilings, which may remind you of the Great Hall of Hogwarts. Pass by the Bodleian Library & Radcliffe Camera. The original library at Oxford, which began as the Duke Humfrey's library, dates to 1488. Generations of scholars — from Sir Walter Raleigh to Hugh Grant — have studied here. Alumni include monarchs, Nobel Prize winners, British prime ministers, an American president, and writers such as W.H. Auden, T.S. Eliot, Oscar Wilde, C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien. (Can you guess the president? It was Bill Clinton.) Finally, learn about "Christ Church time," which is five minutes later than Greenwich Mean Time.

Free Time: Tonight make your own plans for dinner. Your travel director is happy to help with dining suggestions.

## Day 5 | Chavenage House

Spend this morning at leisure, taking advantage of the hotel amenities or exploring the town.

Hear from local residents about their history and lifestyle in the Cotswolds. Feel free to ask questions during this interesting discussion!

Afterward, lunch on your own in a nearby eatery before departing for an afternoon excursion.

Chavenage House is over 400 years old and was built in an Elizabethan architectural style. It has been visited by many British notables over the years, including Oliver Cromwell, King Charles and Princes William and Harry. It has also been used as a filming location for myriad productions, including the PBS series "Poldark"; and "Wolf Hall." The Lowsley-Williams family have owned and lived at Chavenage since 1891. A family member will give you a fascinating private tour of the house and grounds, then host you for afternoon tea..

This evening, enjoy dinner on your own.

## Day 6 | Cheltenham/Hidcote Garden

Setting off from your very own Queen's Hotel (which is itself a Regency building dating from 1837) stroll along this charming town's streets and learn about its Regency history. After mineral springs were discovered here in 1716, Cheltenham became a spa town, drawing a holiday crowd. During your tour, see the Montpelier Spa, several interesting sculptures and composer Gustav Holst's birthplace.

Make your own plans for lunch today.

Hidcote is a world-famous Arts and Crafts-inspired garden covering over 10 acres near the village of Chipping Camden. The genius behind the garden was avid gardener and landscape designer Major Lawrence Johnston, who created Hidcote in phases between 1907 and 1938. The garden combines smaller, more formal rooms and larger-scale landscapes. Enjoy a guided tour through this lovely greenspace.

Tonight, enjoy dinner on your own.

## Day 7 | Stratford-upon-Avon

Explore this lovely medieval riverside market town, where William Shakespeare was born, raised, married and died. Tour Shakespeare's Birthplace, a restored 16th-century half-timbered house situated on Henley Street, where it is believed that the Bard was born in 1564 and spent his childhood years. Enjoy an exclusive private visit to an immersive exhibition called "Becoming Shakespeare." Afterward, enjoy a Shakespeare performance in the garden. Walk past Hall's Croft, home of Shakespeare's daughter, Susanna Hall, and her husband, Dr. John Hall, whom she married in 1607. Wrap up at Holy Trinity Church, the site of Shakespeare's grave.

Enjoy lunch on your own in Stratford, then spend some time this afternoon at leisure. Stroll the riverfront, discover Magic Alley, browse the shops or take a boat ride on the Avon River.

Visit the childhood home of Shakespeare's wife, Anne Hathaway. It was built in 1463 and lived in by 13 generations of her family. Anne was born in the cottage in 1556; William would have visited her there while courting her. Note the lovely, manicured gardens around the cottage.

Return to the hotel and make your own plans for dinner.

## **Day 8 | Sudeley Castle**

Over a thousand years old and regally situated on 1,200 acres, Sudeley Castle is an eye-popping estate. And it has an impressive pedigree; the castle's royal connections have played an important role in British history throughout time. Queen Catherine Parr, the last and surviving wife of King Henry VIII, lived and died in the castle, and was buried here. (Sudeley is England's only privately held castle to have a queen buried on the grounds.) Over the centuries, the castle was a place of refuge for Charles I and Richard III, and it was visited by Henry VIII, Anne Boleyn, Lady Jane Grey and Elizabeth I, among others.

During a guided tour, marvel at the rooms and their artifacts and treasures, and stroll the grounds, which hold ten separate gardens. Take in the fascinating exhibits featuring replicas of gowns worn by Henry VIII's six wives and copies of books published by Catherine Parr - the first queen to have her work published.

Make your own plans for lunch and spend the afternoon at leisure.

Tonight, travel to the Falcon Pub in the village of Painswick (known as the "Queen of the Cotswolds";) to enjoy a traditional pub dinner in a beautiful Georgian townhouse. A local folk duo will join us to talk about the history of folk music in the Cotswolds and to perform.

## **Day 9 | Cotswolds/London/Return to Home City**

Following breakfast, check out of the hotel and transfer to Heathrow International Airport for your return flight home.

## Travel Expert

Mark Cummings

Mark Cummings is a multiple award-winning radio presenter, journalist and writer and has been broadcasting for over 40 years. For nearly half of that time, he presented the BBC Radio Gloucestershire Breakfast Show. He's presented several "West Country" travel series for BBC Points West and writes a monthly column for Cotswold Life, which he first started twenty years ago. Having traveled extensively as a backpacker, and now as an empty nester, he writes travel pieces that inspire readers to follow in his footsteps. His book "Glorious Gloucestershire," which he calls "a love letter to the county I adore," was published in 2024. He looks forward to sharing his insights during this program.

### Village Life - Cotswolds

Queens Hotel | Cheltenham

From an 18th-century spa to a modern boutique hotel, the Queens Hotel Cheltenham boasts a long history, a grand exterior and a prime position on one of Cheltenham's most beautiful Regency streets. The hotel is a stunning example of neo-classical architecture, with its imposing white façade of Roman temple scale, adorned by over 50 Corinthian columns, carved cornices and Georgian windows. Throughout its illustrious history, the hotel welcomed such eminent figures as General Sir Charles Napier, Edward Elgar and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. It also served as a social refuge for women in WWI and as a military hospital. Recently, the hotel has been restored to its former neoclassical glory, and the building's original comforts have been enhanced with the latest technology.



## Dates & Rates

### Travel Dates: October 11, 2026 - October 19, 2026

All rates are in U.S. dollars per person, based on double occupancy, unless otherwise stated, and include taxes. The deposit is \$1,500 per person. The Final Payment is due at least 120 days prior to departure. Single accommodations are subject to availability.

The Optional Extension(s) is available at an additional cost. Details will be provided with your reservation confirmation.

For Terms & Conditions, visit: [idaho.gohagantravel.com/terms/](https://idaho.gohagantravel.com/terms/)

Extended Savings of \$1,000 per person are available when you book by August 10, 2026. This offer is available for new bookings only and cannot be combined with any other offer.

---

### Double Occupancy Rates

Category	Description	Standard Rate	Discount Rate
1	Standard	<b>\$5495.00</b>	<b>\$4495.00</b>

---

### Single Occupancy Rates

Category	Description	Standard Rate	Discount Rate
1	Standard	<b>\$6865.00</b>	<b>\$5865.00</b>

## Village Life - Cotswolds

All information is accurate as of June 21, 2026. For up-to-date details, please visit:

[idaho.gohagantravel.com/programs/village-life-cotswolds-2026](https://idaho.gohagantravel.com/programs/village-life-cotswolds-2026)