

Visit Burford



www.burfordcotswolds.co.uk



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wool heritage and historic connections

Burford's wealth was based on sheep, the famed Cotswold 'Lions' with their long heavy fleece which gave some of the best wool in Europe. Look out for the 'bale tombs' in the churchyard, with raised rounded tops - a unique feature of the 'wool churches' of the Cotswolds.

The town was also an important staging post on the main Oxford to Gloucester route, with over 40 coaches a day passing through; hence the numerous inns and alehouses peppering the town. It is not surprising that brewing also became an important local industry!

On 17 May 1649, three soldiers were executed on Oliver Cromwell's orders in Burford churchyard, whilst the other 330+ were led onto the roof to watch. The three soldiers belonged to a movement popularly known as the Levellers, who believed in civil rights and religious tolerance. There is a plaque commemorating them on the wall of the church, and inside you'll find an inscription on the font carved by Anthony Sedley, one of the captured soldiers.

green spaces

You'll find the Recreation Ground, off Sheep Street, has plenty of space for the kids to run around and have a picnic; there's also a bowling green.

Meander along the banks of the River Windrush, passing the tiny church of St Oswald's, which stands on its own in the deserted medieval village of Widford. Continue on to the village of Swinbrook where the Mitford family are buried, and where you'll find the amazing Fettiplace monument in St Mary's Church.



about Burford

Burford is one of the most picturesque towns in England, with the main street lined by ancient half-timbered and stone-built houses of different periods. There is a spectacular view of the Windrush valley from the top of the hill, down the High Street, toward the medieval bridge that spans the River Windrush at the bottom of the hill. Burford was the first Cotswold town to be granted a market charter, in 1088.



walks around the town

Guided walks around the town, and garden tours are available by appointment - please contact the Visitor Information Centre for details. Alternatively, you could do a self-guided walk with the help of the Burford Trail leaflet, in which you will find information about famous people associated with the town, such as the artist William Morris, and King Charles II's mistress, Nell Gwyn.

shopping and eating



Burford is renowned for its antique shops and independent businesses, where you can purchase something truly unique. Nestling amongst these shops are wonderful places to eat, from traditional Cotswold tea rooms to hotels, restaurants and pubs. Make sure you explore the side alleyways like Christmas Court to discover more shopping delights. Just out of the town, you'll find the Cotswold Garden Company with its award winning café and Upton Smokery & Firehouse.

attractions

Take time to stroll around the stunning Cotswold Wildlife Park and Gardens where you can get up close to 260 different animal species, or relax in beautiful gardens with a Victorian Manor House.

Also, nearby, is Crocodiles of the World, boasting one of the widest collections in the world. Slightly further afield, you will discover a music museum & old prison in Northleach, Kelmescott Manor near Lechlade and Cotswold Woollen Weavers located in the pretty village of Filkins.

5 things to see & do

- 1 Visit the Tolsley Museum, located in the medieval market building, for a flavour of Burford's social, cultural and industrial past.
- 2 Admire the Church of St John the Baptist, a Grade 1 listed building, & the Warwick almshouses next door.
- 3 Walk down picturesque Sheep Street, past The Bay Tree Hotel, and onto Priory Lane.
- 4 Spot the crenelated chimneys on the palladian Great House in Witney Street, & continue your walk to Widford Church along the picturesque banks of the river.
- 5 How many former coaching yards can you spot? - Look for the give-away archways.

events & festivals

Experience the 10 day biennial Burford Festival, which is held in June, with music, talks and festivities, including the ever-popular Open Gardens. Every year in May the annual Levellers Day is held, which is a day of celebration, and commemorates the legacy of the Levellers. New Warwick Hall in the town hosts regular concerts and events.



other areas to explore



Burford makes an excellent base to stay for exploring the Cotswold area. The famous Cotswold village, Bourton on the Water, is within easy reach, as is Bibury, described by William Morris as 'the most beautiful village in England'. To the South, you will find the Cotswold Water Park and the towns of Fairford and Lechlade. Don't forget the lovely villages of Filkins, with the Cotswold Woollen Weavers, and Kelmescott with William Morris' Manor House.

To the West, is Northleach, a hidden gem tucked into a valley with an ancient market place, Discovery Centre, museum and a magnificent wool church.

The Market towns of Witney, with Cogges Farm and Woodstock, home to the magnificent Blenheim Palace, are just a few miles away to the East.

To the North, Chipping Norton is a lively town great for antique shopping, and it even has its own fantastic theatre.

Visitor map of Burford



make sure you visit

The Tolsey Museum, built in the early 1500s, was where traders came to pay tolls, and also where the Borough Court met. At the back was a lock-up, used as temporary detention for the drunkards and rogues of the town, the door of which is now in the Museum.

On the north aisle of St John the Baptist Church, look for the memorial of Edmund Harman (1569), where you'll find a carving of South American Indians - thought to be the earliest example in the UK.

visitor information centre

The Visitor Information Centre, found in the High Street opposite Priory Lane, has local maps, guide books, souvenirs and local information to help with your visit. The friendly and knowledgeable staff also operate an accommodation booking service.

Tel: 01993 823558
E: burford.vic@westoxon.gov.uk

did you know

Reavleys chemist is England's oldest pharmacy dating back to 1734; inside you'll find wonderful Victorian apothecary cabinets along the walls.

There are records in the Tolsey Museum of Burford Bridge needing repairs in 1322.

Burford had its own racecourse, hosting many competitions during the mid-18th century, with the final meeting taking place in October 1802.

Tom, Dick and Harry - yes, they really existed! They were three brothers who lived in the village of Fullbrook, a short walk from Burford, who turned to a life of crime, including highway robbery, in the mid-18th century.

points of interest

- 1 The Medieval Bridge
- 2 St John the Baptist Church
- 3 Almshouses
- 4 Picturesque Sheep Street
- 5 The Great House
- 6 The Tolsey and Tolsey Museum
- 7 Widford Church

For full information please visit:
www.cotswolds.com

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