



UNCOVER CIRENCESTER

Classy and chic, Cirencester is considered to be the capital of the Cotswolds. In Roman times it was known as Corinium and was the second largest town in England. Today it is a thriving, vibrant community.

DAY 1

Cirencester is one of those towns that are ideal for pottering and exploring, full of intriguing little alleyways and winding streets. The centrepiece is the striking parish church of **St John Baptist** with its impressive south porch. It stands on one side of the Market Place and on the opposite side is the alleyway leading to the **Corn Hall** where antique and crafts markets are held. **Shopping** and **eating** in Cirencester are delights – there are so many individual shops, cafés and restaurants to choose from. Whichever street you choose, you're in for a treat!



WHERE TO STAY

Stay in the heart of Cirencester at **The King's Head** overlooking the iconic market square – an elegant boutique hotel in a historic setting. Or choose **The Fleece**, a charming, traditional coaching inn where reputedly King Charles II hid from Cromwell's troops.

HIDDEN GEMS

New Brewery Arts is an arts and crafts centre, unique in the Cotswolds. Watch craftspeople and artists at work and buy a lovingly crafted souvenir in the gift shop. Coxwell Street, Gloucester Street and Dollar Street are the most historical parts of Cirencester.



TOP TIP

To get to know the town properly join a **walking tour** led by a local guide. Or follow one of the **themed trails** – choose from Roman or Medieval or the more rural Hare Festival Way. The **Abbey Grounds** are a peaceful alternative, as is the leafy **Cirencester Park**.



Cirencester is a historian's delight – from Roman ruins to elegant Georgian and Victorian buildings, its rich past is there to see – if you know where to look! Discover more at the award-winning **Corinium Museum** which, as well as having an amazing collection of Roman artefacts, traces the story of the town from prehistoric times to the modern day.



HIDDEN GEMS

On the edge of Cirencester is **The Organic Farm Shop** at Abbey Home Farm. Why not stay here in a yurt or a cottage and take one of their cookery or craft courses? **Cerney House Gardens** is one of the 'secret' Cotswold gardens just to the north of Cirencester. Enjoy a pre-theatre meal at **Téatro** before taking in an evening performance at the adjacent **Barn Theatre**.

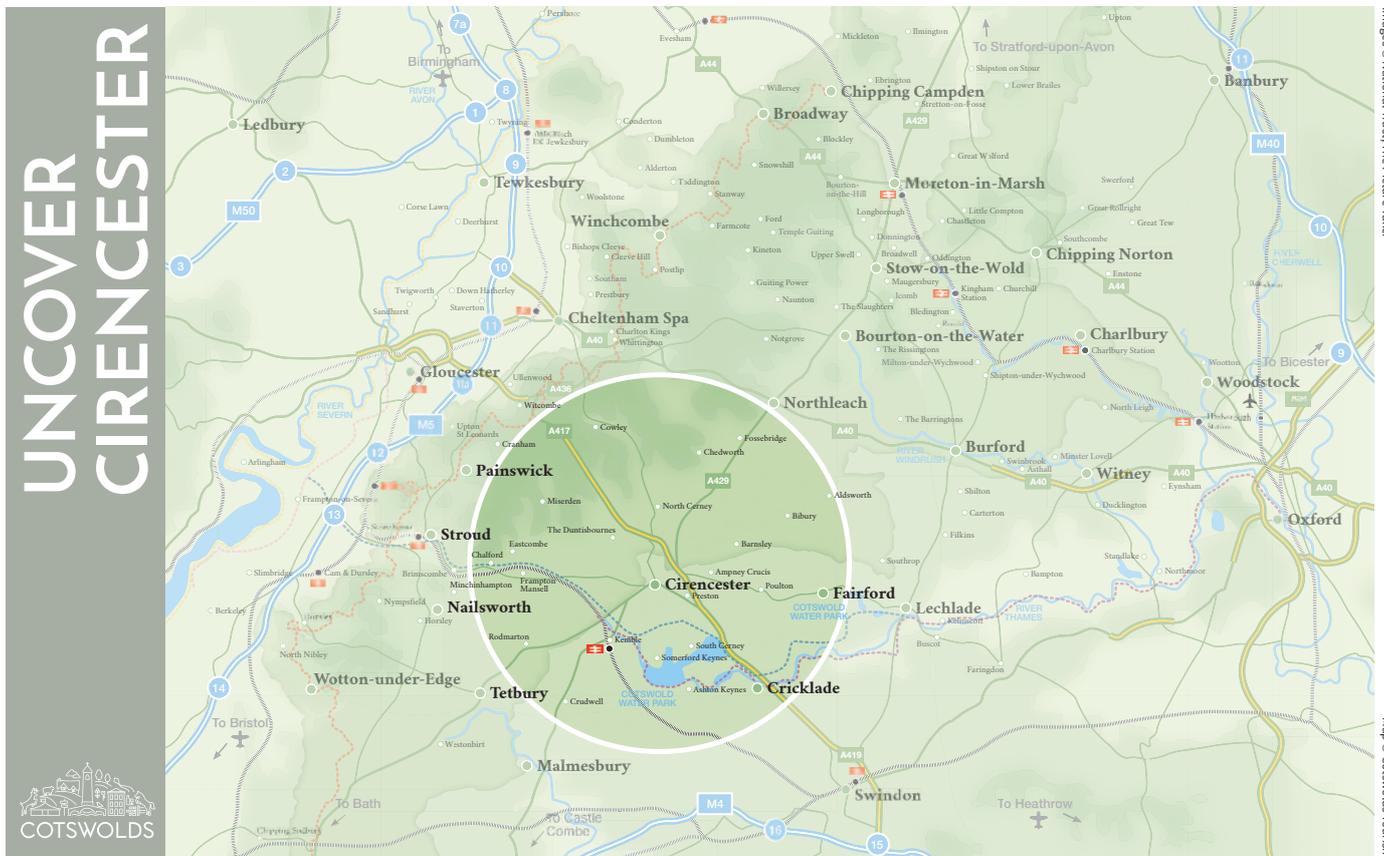


TOP TIP

Rodmarton Manor is a perfect introduction to the Arts and Crafts movement – an exquisite example of true craftsmanship. **The Gardens** are also a work of art.

DAY 2

Discover more Roman history at **Chedworth Roman Villa**. Many of the artefacts in the **Corinium Museum** came from this National Trust site. Hidden away in the Coln Valley and surrounded by woods, it is an idyllic spot. After a picnic lunch or snack in the café, head south to the **Cotswold Water Park**. If you are feeling energetic have a go at water skiing or wild swimming, or simply take a gentle stroll around the lake.



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