

WOMEN OF THE MIDWEST
Travel Solo Together

FAIRY TALE ENGLAND

Walking the Unspoiled Cotswolds

with Women of the Midwest

June 7-16, 2025



Dear Ladies,

When I think of the English countryside, what comes to my mind is the smell of roses, a spot of tea, homemade pies, and wool! Oh, and pheasants! What a feast it will be to visit this part of the world in the most beautiful summertime with the chance to experience the local garden centers, too. If you love flowers and have the same wanderlust as me, then come along on this once-in-a-lifetime journey.

We are met by our local guide as soon as we arrive, who is knowledgeable not only in the Cotswolds' history but with significant insight into daily life in the English countryside. We begin in the golden city of Bath, a UNESCO World Heritage Site with the imposing Bath Abbey, a place of Christian worship since 757 AD. We will also visit the Roman Baths, where people didn't just eat and bathe but also got their teeth worked on. And they played. Dice and coins hint at gambling in the water. Then, a journey into the pristine, honey-colored, unspoiled, and historic limestone villages is about to begin!

The Cotswolds is a rural area of south-central England covering parts of 6 counties. Its rolling hills, thatched medieval villages, churches, and stately homes of distinctive local yellow limestone will take our breath away. The 102-mile Cotswold Way walking trail follows the Cotswold Edge escarpment from Bath in the south to Chipping Campden in the north. We will walk along parts of these trails (max. 5 miles over the course of a day ...if you wish to walk less, we have transportation in place), smell, taste, and savor the local produce such as honey, lavender, delicious dairy, and visit the woollen weavers of the area.

We will visit the Highgrove House, the family residence of King Charles III and Queen Camilla, Kelmscott Manor, the summer residence of William Morris, and Sudeley Castle with a picnic in the gardens ...and much, much more. I hope you will join me!

Warmly,
Susan Hanson, Ambassador
Women of the Midwest



Call Executive Travel's Group Department today at 402-435-8888. Space is limited.

Roman Baths



June 7, 2025 - Saturday

Traveling to London, England
Our wonderful and life-inspiring journey begins as we take an overnight flight to London, England. Enjoy in-flight entertainment and meal service as you start your dream vacation.

June 8, 2025 - Sunday

Bath
We arrive at Heathrow Airport in the morning and meet our local tour guide, who will accompany us during our journey in England. A relaxing two-hour drive will bring us to the medieval city of Bath, founded by the Romans as a thermal spa and an important center of the wool industry in the Middle Ages. Today, Bath is an elegant town with neoclassical Palladian buildings, which blend harmoniously with the Roman Baths. The entire city is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. We will enjoy a two-hour walking tour, including a visit to the famous Roman Baths before we sit down for a traditional Sunday roast at a cozy and local restaurant. Then, we are off to our hotel and retire to our rooms to relax and unwind. B (in-flight) | L

June 9, 2025 - Monday

Marshfields Walking Tour - Bath
After a hearty English breakfast, we will transfer by our private motor coach to Marshfield. Our two-and-a-half-hour easy-pace walk will take us through farmers' meadows, grazing cows, and country lanes. We will grab a bite at a local cafe before returning to Bath. The afternoon is yours to enjoy. Swing by the Guildhall Market, the oldest shopping venue in the city, with more

Cotswolds' Gateway



than twenty local stallholders selling all kinds of pretty souvenirs. Or enjoy tea by the Pulteney Bridge. Dinner at a lovely restaurant tonight. B | D - 4 mi.

June 10, 2025 - Tuesday

Cirencester
We enjoy our breakfast, and then off we are towards Cirencester. On the way, we will stop to visit Highgrove Gardens, truly a unique experience with its landscaped garden on a royal estate. King Charles spends five weeks a year here. Lunch at the beautiful cafe followed by a visit to the beautiful gift shop. Highgrove Gardens are limited to very few visitors, and our visit will be confirmed once our tour is a guaranteed departure. We continue to Cirencester, where we will settle in for the next three nights. We recommend visiting the Roman Mosaic Museum in the afternoon, strolling the local squares, and enjoying all the local quaint shops. Dinner is served at a lovely restaurant tonight. You will love Cirencester! B | L

June 11, 2025 - Wednesday

Coln St. Aldwyns - Bibury - Woollen Weavers

We enjoy breakfast at a laidback pace before we transfer to Coln St. Aldwyns to take a five-mile circular walk along the River Coln to picturesque Bibury. The trail passes from the historic church of St. Aldwyns, across fields, and along part of the Palladian Way. It's an easy walk on a mix of dirt paths and country lanes. It's a popular route for dog walkers and has several good pubs and cafes where we will stop for lunch. Bibury is a charming, typically Cotswold village. It is easy to

Tea Time, Ladies!



see why William Morris called Bibury "The most beautiful village in England," with its marvelous stone buildings strung out along the banks of the River Coln. One of the most photographed sites in England is found here. It even appears on the inside cover of UK passports. Originally built in the 14th century as a monastic wool store, it was converted in the 17th century into a row of wavers' cottages. The River Coln flows through Bibury, sandwiched between the main village street and an expanse of a boggy water meadow known as Rack Isle, so called because wool was once hung out to dry there on racks after it had been washed in Arlington Row. Other attractions include Bibury Trout Farm, the wonderful village church, St. Mary's (a Grade 1 listed building*) with a Saxon gravestone set into the exterior, a superb Norman doorway, and some fine medieval windows. Lunch is served in Bibury, and later in the day, we will visit the Woollen Weavers' Center; you will love this place! Sweaters, blankets, and scarves of the finest quality; save some pocket money for this visit! There is also an excellent tea shop and cafe with a pretty garden. We return to Cirencester for dinner and a calm evening. B | D - 5 mi.

June 12, 2025 - Thursday

River Thames - Kelmscott Manor
We enjoy our breakfast and then transfer to Fairford to walk via Lechlade. Today's walk is approximately four miles. Lunch in the gardens of Kelmscott Manor, the backdrop doesn't get much prettier. Kelmscott Manor was the summer residence of William Morris, a British textile designer, poet, artist, fantasy writer, architectural conservationist, printer, translator, and socialist activist associated with the British

William Morris - Pick your Favorite!



Arts and Crafts Movement. You will fall in love with his prints, so make sure to visit the gift shop at Kelmscott Manor. Oh, and make room for the tea room ...cream teas with fresh scones are served from 2:30 PM onwards. We return to Cirencester to enjoy the evening and the extraordinary market town atmosphere. B | L - 5 mi.

June 13, 2025 - Friday

Lower Slaughter - Bourton-on-the-Water - Stow-on-the-Wold - Broadway
We enjoy our last breakfast in Cirencester, then pack our bags, and off to Lower Slaughter we are! The slightly macabre name comes from Old English for "muddy place." The tiny River Eye, a tributary to the River Windrush, links Upper and Lower Slaughter. Our walk alongside the stream in Lower Slaughter is a privilege and gives you a great idea of how people live in villages. Upper Slaughter is one of the fourteen "doubly stated" villages in England that lost no men during World War I or II. We walk five miles today, again at a pace everyone can follow. Lunch is set on the village green. Next, we transfer to Broadway via Bourton-on-the-Water, known for its low bridges and traditional stone houses, and Stow-on-the-Wold. Broadway is our home for the last three nights and is famous for its beautiful cottages, tea rooms, and antique shops. Likewise, Cirencester, you will fall in love with Broadway! B | D - 5 mi.

June 14, 2025 - Saturday

Stanton - Winchcombe - Sudeley Castle
Breakfast is served before we transfer to Stanton. We will take a four-mile walk to Winchcombe. Winchcombe has a breath-

St. Edward's Church

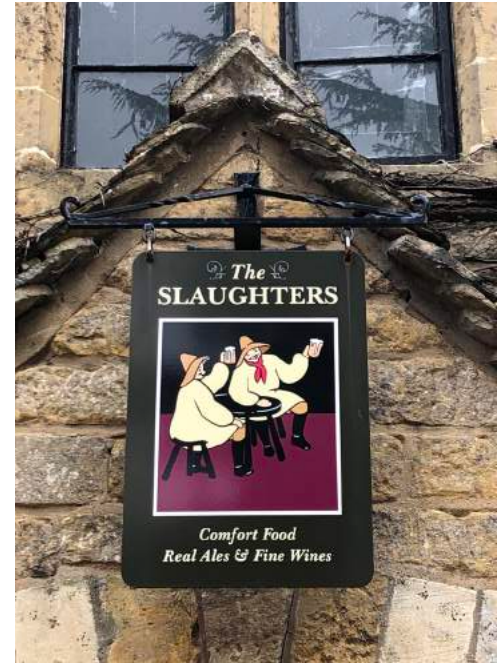


taking timeless touch, with Cotswold stone cottages standing side by side with distinctive black and white half-timbered buildings. It is an old, bustling historic market town with streets well worth a wander; you will find a wonderful local deli, boutique clothing, interiors, and antique shops. Lunch today includes a picnic on the grounds of Sudeley Castle. Like St. Mary's in Bibury, Sudeley Castle is Grade 1 listed*. It has ten notable gardens covering some fifteen acres within a 1,200-acre estate. We will walk in the footsteps of some of history's most notable characters in the beautiful gardens. Sudeley Castle is also the only private castle in England to have a queen buried within its grounds. We will visit the beautifully restored 15th-century St. Mary's Church, where Katherine Parr, the last of Henry VIII's six wives, now lies entombed. The Queens' garden is the magnificent centerpiece of Sudeley's gardens. It is named after four of England's queens: Anne Boleyn, Katherine Parr, Lady Jane Grey, and Elizabeth I. In Tudor times, it would have been planted with herbs, vegetables, and decorative flowers. Today, it boasts more than eighty varieties of roses. We will, of course, also visit and explore the castle and the remaining ruins. We will return via train. We board the historic steam train and will enjoy some of the most spectacular scenery in the Cotswolds. The evening is yours to kick back and enjoy. Is anyone up for an evening stroll? B | L - 5 mi.

June 15, 2025 - Sunday

Chipping Campden
Breakfast and then head out to enjoy our last full day in the fairy tale region of England. Today's five-mile walk will take

Lower Slaughter



us from Broadway to Chipping Campden via Broadway Tower. The Tower has been featured as a location in several movies ("Crush" with Andie MacDowell, "The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes"). The Tower is the second-highest point in the Cotswolds. Free time in Chipping Campden. Our farewell dinner tonight promises something special ... cheers to our wonderful group! B | D - 5 mi.

June 16, 2025 - Monday

Traveling Home
All too soon, your vacation has ended. After breakfast, we will transfer to Heathrow Airport in plenty of time to check in for our flight and to clear security. You may do some last-minute shopping at the duty-free stores before boarding and flying across the Atlantic Ocean back to the United States. B

The itinerary is subject to change.
B = Breakfast L = Lunch D = Dinner

*Grade 1:

Given to buildings with exceptional national, architectural, or historical importance. It is rare to find a Grade 1 listed building compared to a Grade 2 listed site, simply because of the significance placed on such sites.

About our walking program:

During a scheduled walks, we have arranged for a smaller van to help you get back to our hotels if you choose to walk less than what is included in our program. Waiting time should be expected. It is necessary to have a data plan on your mobile phone for communication with our driver.



To register contact:



1212 O Street • Lincoln, NE 68508

Phone: 888.549.1186

GroupDepartment@executivetravel.com

www.executivetravel.com

ONLINE REGISTRATION LINK:

Via www.WomenoftheMidwest.com/journeys

Package Price:

Per person in a shared double room: \$4,995
 Per person in a single room: \$6,295

Triple rooms are not available on this trip.

We offer "Pair & Share"-service. Ask us to assist in finding your roommate!

A non-refundable deposit of \$500 per person is required upon signing up. Deposit can be paid by cash, check, or credit card. The balance is due on February 7, 2025, and is non-refundable. The balance can be paid by cash or check. Credit card payment(s) (any payment applied to the tour after the deposit) will access a 3.5% fee.

EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT:
 Register at least eight (8) months prior to departure and receive a **\$200 DISCOUNT!**

This tour will be materialized with a minimum of 15 and a maximum of 18 travelers. Should the number fall below 15, all funds paid to Executive Travel will be refunded 90 days prior to departure.

Tour Activity Level: LEVEL 1 2 3 4

This tour involves walking up to 5-6 miles over the course of most of the days (add to this the walking you do outside the group activities), stairs, longer periods of standing, outdoor activities, and some steep areas within the places visited. This trip is not recommended for guests with walking difficulties. Bring comfortable, sturdy walking shoes/boots.

Travel Insurance:

We recommend travel insurance to help protect you and your trip investment against the unexpected. For your convenience, we offer a plan provided by Travel Insurance Services. For rates and plan highlights, please ask us.

Travel Insurance Services, Inc CA Agency License #0D10209. Travel Insurance is underwritten by Berkshire Hathaway Specialty Insurance Company, NAIC #22276.

Group Airfare:

Group airfare will be available by the end of July 2024. All registered travelers will be notified.

Estimate \$1,300-\$1,400 per person, economy class, including taxes and fees.

Included:

- 8 nights during the tour in England at 4-star local hotels
- 8 x breakfast
- 4 x lunch
- 4 x dinner
- All transportation as per tour program
- Admission to all sites mentioned in the tour program
- Full-time English-speaking professional tour guide from June 8-16, 2025
- Baggage handling at hotels (one piece per person)
- Women of the Midwest Ambassador, June 7-16, 2025
- All local taxes and fees as per April 23, 2024

Accommodations (final accommodations 90 days prior to dep.):

- Queensberry Hotel or similar, Bath
- Kings Head Hotel or similar, Cirencester
- Lygon Arms Hotel or similar, Broadway

NOTE:

Some hotels may offer a fan instead of airconditioning.

Not Included:

- Group airfare, estimate \$1,300-\$1,400 per person
- Additional airline baggage fees. One piece (50 lbs) is FREE
- Travel insurance
- Personal expenses
- Meals and beverages other than those mentioned in the tour program
- Entrances to monuments and/or museums other than those mentioned
- Gratuities to local guide and driver (estimate \$15 in total per day)
- Professional fee, \$75 per person, due at time of registration
- Anything not mentioned in the inclusions



WOMEN OF THE MIDWEST

Travel Solo Together

A wholly-owned division of Executive Travel Inc.

Forwarding registration and deposit signifies that you agree to the terms and conditions of this tour found at executivetravel.com/eti-home/vacation/escorted-tours

Call Executive Travel's Group Department today at 402-435-8888. Space is limited.

4/23/2024