

South Cotswolds & Vale of Severn



Official Visitors Guide 2008

WOTTON'S DIGITAL CINEMA

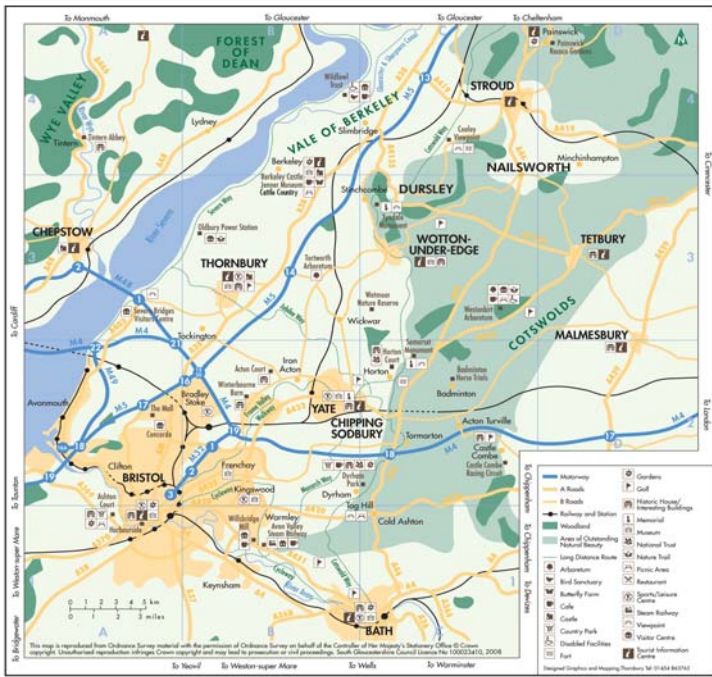
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 CHIPPING SODBURY TIC, The Clock Tower, High Street, Chipping Sodbury (01454) 888686
 WOTTON-UNDER-EDGE Information Point Heritage Centre, The Chipping, Wotton-under-Edge (01454) 521541
 TETBURY Tourist Information 33 Church Street, Tetbury GL8 8JG (01666) 503552
 BRISTOL TIC Explore at Bristol, Anchor Road, Harbourside, Bristol BS1 5DB (0845) 408 0474 www.visitbristol.co.uk



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Your guide to the South Cotswolds & Vale of Severn

As a base for a weekend break or a longer holiday, the Severn Vale and South Cotswolds could hardly be in a better spot. Easily accessible from both the M4 and M5, with good rail links from Bristol, the area offers an ideal jumping off point for an enormous variety of day trips. The internationally renowned city of Bristol with its exciting new Harbourside development, and the graceful curves of Bath's regency crescents both offer chic shopping, theatres and bars. Plus, at Cribbs Causeway, an award-winning shopping Mall. The Wye Valley and Forest of Dean provide ideal territory for quiet rambles and picnics, as do the Severn Way and the Cotswold Way which mark the west and east boundaries of this area. Best of all, the area offers unsung treats right on the doorstep, such as unspoiled market towns, secretive Cotswold stone villages and delectable cream teas.

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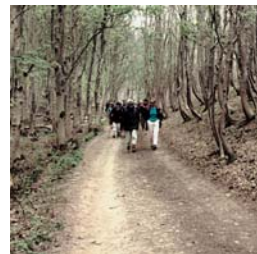
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 Front Cover: Views of Chipping Sodbury, Dyrham Park and the Second Severn Bridge.



Vibrant communities with country charm and character

The Severn Vale has thriving towns, rural charm and centuries of character-filled history – little wonder it is loved by residents and visitors alike.

Follow the River Severn north of Bristol and the town of Thornbury reveals many of the reasons for this timeless appeal.

Thornbury is a typical English market town with historic buildings dating from the 15th century, and the only Tudor castle in England that is a hotel.

Every month, on the first and third Thursday, its town centre still holds a morning Farmers' Market of local produce.

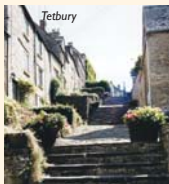
Thornbury held a key position for Neolithic, Bronze-Age, Roman and Norman cultures. By the 13th century it became a Borough in its own right, a status it retained until 1883.

The 130ft medieval parish church tower is a prominent landmark and fine architectural example. When its bells ring the tower is said to sway six inches. Inside is one of the few medieval stone pulpits surviving in England. Nearby Thornbury Castle links with the church via a timber gallery, reputedly used by Henry VIII, Anne Boleyn and Mary Tudor.

As a former Britain-in-Bloom winner, Thornbury delights summer visitors with its floral displays, while the conservation award-winning St. Mary's Centre offers peaceful pedestrianised shopping amongst attractive modern stores and cottage shops.

South-east of Thornbury the neighbouring communities of Chipping Sodbury and Yate complement each other's shopping facilities.

Chipping Sodbury with its ancient High Street and



Tetbury



Thornbury Pump



Wotton-under-Edge



Chipping Sodbury



Nailsworth



Acton Turville



Wotton-under-Edge Almshouses



Badminton



Yate

market has traditional trading appeal while Yate offers modern convenience and extensive choice with more than 100 shops at Yate Shopping Centre.

Chipping Sodbury's monthly Thursday morning market can trace its origins to 1227, and its vibrant scene of local produce and crafts being vocally sold from colourful trestle-laden stalls has arguably changed little. Home-made and hand-crafted goods are a speciality, while the town's award-winning bakery always tempts tastebuds.

The town retains much of its medieval charm, not least in the siting of St. John's Church, built in 1284 down a side alley, slotted between two allotments. Space for market trading rather than religious observance appears to have been the medieval priority!

Away from the bustling market, St. John's provides a cool, quiet haven and the surprise of a pulpit built into a pillar.

Yate has more recent pillars within its buildings and most

support rooflines and covered walkways that counteract the threat of changeable British weather. Yate Shopping Centre puts the customer first.

Traffic free areas and one-level shopping make Yate safe for families, the elderly and disabled; 1,400 free car spaces prevent parking hassle; the wide range of shops provide ample choice. When shopping palls, the indoor swimming pool, leisure centre, library and the very interesting Yate Heritage Centre are nearby.

Free 'street entertainment' is also a feature of Yate Shopping Centre – always seasonally decked with flowers or festive decor – with fun days, themed occasions, and competitions adding visitor appeal.

Weaving one's way northwards from Yate and Chipping Sodbury the one-time cloth-making centre of the area, Wotton-under-Edge, is discovered. Until 1830 Wotton was a weaving town in which over half the residents, including children, were involved in making cloth.

Wotton-under-Edge lies on the doorstep of the Cotswolds whose sheep provided the wool, local plants the dyes, plentiful streams the water, and fuller's earth the finishing agent for woven fabrics.

In the Parish Church, St. Katherine, the patron saint of weavers – who was cruelly martyred on the infamous Catherine Wheel – looks down from a stained glass window.

Finely embroidered kneelers in the church depict facets of the ancient community of Wotton, which dates back to 940AD. Local wildlife too is highlighted – Gloucestershire's moths, butterflies, reptiles, and Wildfowl Trust birds at nearby Slimbridge.

Like the towns around it, Wotton-under-Edge today has a thriving centre

where a variety of small, family stores offer personal service, browsing is a pleasure, and a leisurely cream tea can be enjoyed before tea in Wotton's own independent

cinema.

North-east out of Wotton lies the road to Nailsworth, which nestles in a wooded Cotswold valley. It's a pleasant place to visit for a meal at its award-winning restaurants, pubs and cafes, or a trundle around its interesting array of individual shops selling goods ranging from fresh local vegetables to antiques and collectables.

Nailsworth is also an excellent place to use as a base. Whether it's a hotel in a converted mill – the town claims the largest number of working water-wheels per square mile in the country – or a bed-and-breakfast cottage, Nailsworth supplies ample accommodation choice. Then it's off to explore, using the rural footpaths and 8-mile cycleway converted from a former railway.

South-east from Nailsworth across the Cotswolds lies Tetbury which many view as a jewel of the Cotswolds. Its elegant architecture is epitomised by its 16th century Market House and the

Georgian Gothic parish church of St. Mary the Virgin, with one of the tallest spires in England.

In early October, the town springs alive with the sound of concerts performed by international musicians at Tetbury Music Festival. The town is also renowned for its antique shops, and no visitor should leave without 'taking down the particulars' of the Tetbury Police Museum.

Head west on the A4135 towards the Severn estuary and Dursley hoves into view. Although Dursley is world-famous for its Lister-Petter engines, leave the car in a free car park and enjoy Dursley as a base for walking – either circular walks through the surrounding woods and fields, or the town trail, or head off further afield using the Cotswold Way.

Dursley was another Severn Vale centre for the woollen cloth trade, and its mediaeval market charter is upheld today with a weekly market and Farmers' Market on every fourth Saturday.

THORNBURY Jewel of the Severn Vale

Thornbury, a frequent Britain in Bloom trophy winner, is a blaze of colour from spring until autumn. In winter it is brightened by its renowned Christmas lights displays.

This ancient market town with its picturesque conservation areas gives an ideal base for a touring holiday of the Cotswolds and Severn Vale. It is nestled near the banks of the River Severn and within easy reach of the M4 and M5 motorways leading to such towns as Bristol, Bath and Cheltenham.

The town itself is steeped in history boasting the only Tudor Castle in the country that is an hotel. Adjacent to the Castle is the Parish church with its magnificent illuminated tower.

There are a variety of shops and a thriving farmers market on the first and third Thursday of the month. Sport and leisure activities are also well catered for with fishing, swimming, windsurfing and golf to name a few. Within easy reach there is county cricket, first class rugby at Gloucester, Bristol and Bath, world class equestrian events at Badminton and Gatcombe Park, horse racing at Cheltenham, Bath and Chepstow and motor sport at Castle Combe.



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Tel./Fax 01454 281638
www.thornburytowncouncil.gov.uk
tourism@thornburytowncouncil.gov.uk



Proud heritage within the heart of rural beauty

Ask people to define 'heritage' and most will mention impressive buildings, wealth and power, royalty and historical figures, landscaped country estates, and past events, discoveries or inventions that changed the world in their time.

On that criteria the South Cotswolds and Vale of Severn is a stronghold of the nation's heritage.

Arguably, Berkeley Castle epitomises 'heritage'. From its sumptuous upper floors to its spooky dungeons, Berkeley Castle close to the banks of the Severn is permeated by 'heritage'.

Since the 12th century, the castle has seen battles, royal visits, political intrigue and death within its walls – not least the murder of Edward II in 1327.

The castle's public rooms, full of rare and opulent furnishings from bygone eras, reflect the wealth of the Berkeley family who managed the estate over the centuries. Local craftsmen built a saddleback ceiling in the Great Hall in the 14th century.

The Berkeleys also had far-reaching power and influence. The castle bears their name but so does Katherine Lady Berkeley School in Wotton-under-Edge, Berkeley Square in London, and Berkeley University in America.

No visit to Berkeley Castle would be complete without a stroll through its terraced Elizabethan gardens and a trip to its butterfly farm.

While there, pop into the Jenner Museum, set in the 18th century home of medical researcher Dr Edward Jenner, who

discovered the smallpox vaccine. Jenner's Queen Anne-style home and garden contains many original artefacts of this pioneer doctor-surgeon and lies close to Berkeley Castle.

Jenner made his name in the medical world but other Severn Vale residents became rich and famous through industrial acumen. Glass, brass, pottery, sugar-refining, chocolate and soap all had manufacturing roots in this productive area.

And with their industry came wealth. In the 18th century, William Champion's Brass Works at Warmley brought local prosperity by

making, among other things, brass pins.

Coal-mining was a major employer and the area is scarred with reminders, for example Coalpit Heath near Yate and The Dramway coal-hauling route to the Avon.

Local coal fired the furnaces of the period but religious zeal also fired many workers' hearts. The abundance of chapels in the area evidence the conversion work of Methodist preachers George Whitfield and John Wesley.

John Wesley preached in the Kingswood area in the 1730s and particularly at Hanham Mount which is now

a Methodist Heritage site.

During the 19th century, Brunel's innovations – not least the Great Western Railway – helped transportation and brought more industrial rewards.

The 'industry' of William Blathwayt during the late 17th century resulted in the building of his magnificent Baroque home at Dyham Park, south of Chipping Sodbury. Blathwayt was a civil servant and politician who administered colonies in North America and established the government's War Office. Fittingly, Dyham Park was used during World War II to house evacuees and

orphans.

Now owned by The National Trust, Dyham Park 'starred' as a setting for the 1993 Merchant Ivory film *The Remains of the Day*. For some, Dyham's backdrop of Dutch Masters, sumptuous rooms and furnishings, formal garden and deer roaming its 263 parkland acres, quietly 'stole the show'.

Like Dyham, the beautifully conserved Tudor building that is Acton Court, the beautifully conserved Tudor House at Iron Acton,

offer a rare example of 16th century royal state apartments – a wing of the house was built for Henry VIII who stayed there with Anne Boleyn in 1535. By virtue of age, Acton Court, and Horton Court north of Chipping Sodbury, or Owlpen Manor near Dursley can claim greater 'heritage' than Dyham Park. Horton Court may be the oldest rectory in England. It has a fine Norman hall, 12th century ambulatory and early Renaissance features.

Owlpen estate is steeped in 900 years of history, but also has an industrial heritage. It is owned by Sir Nicholas and Lady Mander whose ancestors produced world-famous paints, varnishes and inks.

Nestling in a picturesque wooded valley this Tudor manor was last year one of six finalists in *Country Life* and Savills' search for "England's Favourite Manor House". Owlpen hamlet also boasts a medieval restaurant using fresh produce from its

working farm, and holiday accommodation in historic estate cottages.

Many people would argue the horticultural merits of the flower-filled gardens of ancient Horton Court, or the topiary precision of the 16th century Owlpen Manor garden, or the 600 Cotswold acres of shrubs and trees at Westonbirt Arboretum on the A433 towards Tetbury. Which is best? Heritage, like beauty, is in the eye of the beholder. Find out by going to see for yourself!



Dyham Park



Owlpen Manor



Berkeley Castle



Jenner Museum



Horton Court



Westonbirt Arboretum

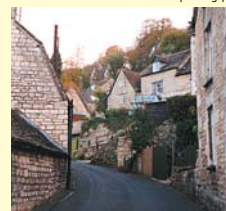


Acton Court

Nailsworth A Cotswold town full of surprises, nestling in a wooded valley



- Renowned for its award-winning restaurants, pubs, cafes and other food outlets, the town remains lively throughout the day and evening
- Small individual shops offer an amazing variety of goods - organic locally grown produce, first-class delicatessen products, fair-traded items from across the globe, fascinating antiques and collectables
- Accommodation ranges from a hotel in a converted mill to a guesthouse or bed and breakfast tucked into a corner of the town or neighbouring hamlet
- Criss-crossed by more than a hundred footpaths, passing picturesque cottages and handsome houses
- The largest number of working water wheels per square mile in the country
- An eight-mile Cycleway follows the old railway line from Nailsworth to Stonehouse



To the North the mysterious Woodchester Park, with its lakes and unfinished Gothic Mansion. In the East the Nailsworth Ladder leading to National Trust Common Land. Due South is the scenic route to Westonbirt, Badminton and Bath and there are breathtaking views of the Severn Valley and Welsh Hills to the West.



Make NAILSWORTH your base from which to explore the Cotswolds and the West Country.

Contact NAILSWORTH INFORMATION CENTRE, 4 The Old George, Fountain Street, Nailsworth GL8 0LB. Tel: 01453 839222 E: nailsworthinfo@btconnect.com www.nailsworthtown.co.uk



Walking and cycling in South Gloucestershire

Walks

Feel the benefits of being active and explore the delightful countryside and features of the South Cotswolds, the Vale of Severn and the Avon Valley.

South Gloucestershire Council publish a number of high quality, full colour walks booklets containing easy to follow maps, photographs and lively and interesting information about the heritage and interest of the area.

The following booklets are available:

Exploring the Cotswold Way National Trail - Six Walks in South Gloucestershire. The Cotswold Way National Trail is one of the 15 National Trails of England and Wales. The South Gloucestershire Guide offers six circular walks that follow sections of the National Trail. Each route takes about half a day to complete and takes the walker through an ancient countryside of villages, farms, hedges, dry stone walls, copses, bridging points, lanes and paths. **Easy Access Trails:** twenty circular trails designed for easy walking within twenty parishes of South Gloucestershire. Barriers such as stiles have been replaced with kissing gates and hand gates to allow more people to enjoy the countryside.

The Severn Way: an atmospheric 12 mile walk with vast, open skies and the smell of the sea, exploring the estuary and lower reaches of the Severn. Much of the route is on top of the river bank with wonderful wide open views over the river to the Welsh hills and the Forest of Dean.

The Dramway: a 9 mile linear walk that follows sections of the route of a nineteenth century tramway which carried coal from Coalpit Heath in the Bristol Coalfield to the River Avon.

The Jubilee Way: a long distance (16 miles) route over the banks of the Severn, over the fertile pastures and fields of the Severn Vale to the limestone escarpment of the Cotswolds. The Jubilee Way links two major long distance footpaths, the Cotswolds Way and Offa's Dyke Path.

The Frome Valley Walkway: a 19 mile river valley walk that follows the River Frome from the centre of Bristol to the Cotswold Hills. The route passes through a variety of attractive landscapes including historic city parks, a secluded romantic gorge and open countryside with riverside meadows. Five short loop walks offer the opportunity to explore areas of interest around the Frome Walkway. **River Avon Trail:** a 23 mile



River Avon Trail between Pill and Bath that also offers five circular walks.

To obtain a free copy of any of the above guides please contact South Gloucestershire Council on 01454 863592.

Cycle Routes

South Gloucestershire has an extensive network of cycle paths, some of which link to routes in the wider Bristol and Bath area. Cycle routes include:

The Avon Cycleway: a circular 85 mile route that takes in many picturesque villages, historic landmarks and a variety of splendid landscapes

including Avon Gorge, the Chew Valley and the Severn Estuary. It largely follows narrow and lightly trafficked country lanes and links with a number of loop routes.

The Bristol and Bath Railway Path is a 13 mile off road route between Bristol and Bath. The path is open to walkers and cyclists and provides access for disabled users. From central Bristol the Railway Path loops north towards Fishponds, passes through Staple Hill Tunnel to Mangotsfield, Warmley and Bitton and traverses the open countryside along the Avon Valley before reaching Newbridge in Bath. The route is ideal for families or for



those new to cycling. **The Transport Trail** is a circular ride of about 20 miles between Chipping Sodbury and Pucklechurch with a theme of transport past and present. The route takes in ancient roads, old railway lines and industrial tramways. **The Time Trail** explores the edge of the Cotswold Hills. Starting at Chipping Sodbury the 20 mile route meanders through Old Sodbury, Horton, Hawkesbury, Horton and Wickwar. **Pilning and Severn Beach:**

a leisurely 12 mile route along the River Severn plain with views of both Severn bridges. A few short sections are on main roads but the majority of the ride is on quiet country lanes.

Severnale: a 27 mile route on quiet country lanes around Thornbury.

To obtain a free copy of these cycle route maps please contact:

Life Cycle UK
www.lifecycleuk.org.uk
0117 929 0440 or email
post@lifecycleuk.org.uk



Wotton-under-Edge

Wotton-under-Edge nestles below the edge of the Cotswolds overlooking the Severn Valley and the distant hills of Wales - situated only a few miles from junction 14 on the M5.



Shopping

The Cotswold Way takes you through Wotton's main streets which are packed with a pleasing variety of family run businesses, a veritable 'department store in the Street'. Many are specialist shops, including local crafts, art galleries, cafes, quality food shopping, jewellers, children's clothing, books - old and new, health foods, DIY and kitchenware, plus

fashion clothes and traditional menswear. There is a highly respected Auction Room which has an antique sale at the end of every month including ceramics, paintings, jewellery and furniture.

Sport

For the sportsman or woman, there is a sports centre, with tennis courts and fitness centres, three golf courses local to the town, an outdoor swimming pool with retractable cover (Summer only) plus various horse riding centres.

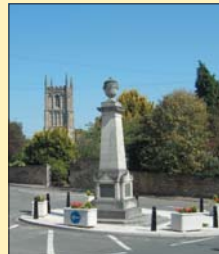
Information

When arriving in Wotton-under-Edge, park in one of our free car parking areas and visit the 'Heritage Centre'. This is run by the town's Historical Society and is open Tuesday - Friday 10 - 1 and 2 - 4, Saturday 10 - 4 and some Sunday afternoons. Here you will find a Tourist Information Point, a Research Room and a Museum. For more information on opening times please ring 01453 521541. For further information about the town see our web site <http://wotton-under-edge.com>

So let yourself in on our secret - Discover Wotton-under-Edge

History

This charming ancient market town offers picturesque historical buildings, including 'The Rans Inn', 'Sir Isaac Pitman's House', 'The Tockey Clock' and a selection of almshouses. A little way along the Cotswold Edge is the Tyndale Monument which sits on the hill above North Nibley and can actually be seen from the M5 motorway.



Activities & Attractions

Acton Court

www.actoncourt.com
Opening hours are restrictive

Avon Valley Railway

Bitton Station, Willsbridge, Bristol 24hr Talking Timetable - (0117) 932 7296. General Enquiries (0117) 932 5538 (weekends). Conveniently located midway between Bristol and Bath, the Avon Valley Railway offers a nostalgic steam train journey into the scenic Avon Valley. Leave the train at the railway's new 'Avon Riverside, platform and enjoy the river-side walks, picnic areas and local public houses.

Alternatively, combine your train journey with a 40 minute river cruise along part of the unspoilt Avon valley from the adjacent landing stage.

Berkeley Castle

Berkeley (01453) 810332. Historic castle begun in 1117 and still home to the same family who gave their name to Berkeley Square in London, Berkeley Hundred in Virginia and Berkeley University in California. State Apartments contain many rare paintings, magnificent furniture and tapestries and the famous family silver on view in the Dining Room. Terraced Elizabethan gardens, bowling green and sweeping lawns. Butterfly farm in walled garden. Gift Shop. Tea Rooms.

Boat Trips

Gleam Boat Hire at Slimbridge Boat Station. Self hire on Gloucester & Sharpness Canal. Phone to book. 01453 899190

Bristol Blue Glass

The Bristol Blue Glass name is over 350 years old and it is one that the company are very privileged to carry forward into the 21st Century, combining the best of the tools, techniques and traditions from the past with the quality, style, and professionalism which is synonymous with Bristol Blue Glass today. Every piece of

glass made is entirely free-blown and handmade, without the use of moulds and machinery, making each one unique and collectible.

Cattle Country

Berkeley www.cattlecountry.co.uk or 01453 810510.

Have a fantastic fun-filled day out at Cattle Country. There is plenty to do both inside and out with large adventure play areas where adults are encouraged to join in with their children.

A miniature train takes you to Oakhill station where you can get off to visit various small animals in the Animal Encounters area. A nature trail takes you to a willow maze and passes a herd of American bison, other cattle and red deer. During the summer a special tractor and trailer ride will transport you in amongst the bison themselves.

The park is open at various times from February half term until autumn half term. Private Parties can be booked.

Concorde at Filton

The West's world famous visitor attraction-famous for Concorde 216, which made her spectacular final flight home into Filton on 26 November 2003. British Airways has loaned Concorde 216 to Airbus UK, who invited the Bristol Aero Collection to manage Concorde at Filton through its team of enthusiastic and hard working volunteers. Concorde at Filton is open for public visits on Wednesdays to Sundays inclusive with four ninety-minute tours departing daily at 9.45am, 11.30am, 1.15pm and 3pm in summer and three ninety-minute tours departing daily at 10.15am, 12

noon and 1.45pm in winter. All visits are pre-booked - visit the website at www.concordefilton.org.uk or for short-notice bookings and possible same-day availability, telephone Concorde at Filton directly on 0117 936 5485.



Cattle Country

Cycle Hire

Slimbridge Boat Station, Slimbridge. Mountain bikes, trailer bikes, baby & children seats. Full day £14, half day £10, up to 2 hours £5. (Group discounts). Hot & cold refreshments available. 01453 899190

Dean Forest Railway

Have a nostalgic day out in the beautiful and historic Forest of Dean with other attractions nearby. A magical 8 mile round trip tot the village of Parkend with steam and occasional heritage diesel trains. Free car park at Northcord Station on B4234 (near Lydney) plus a gift shop, museum and cafe. Phone 01594 845840 or visit www.deanforest railway.co.uk for opening days and train times.

Creating a quality environment for a million people in the West of England (formerly Avon).

Dyrham Park

Dyrham, nr Chippenham, (01179) 372501. National Trust property. 17th century house with much of the original furnishings. Café and shop. 263 acres of parkland and a formal garden surrounding the house. Park open daily all year (except Christmas Day) 12-5.30 or dusk if earlier. House and garden open and Mar-end Oct daily (except Thur-Fri) 12-5.30 or dusk if earlier. Admission charge, free to NT members. Coaches by appointment only.



Concorde at Filton

Forest of Avon Partnership

Near Chipping Sodbury. The Forest of Avon is not just about trees. It is about providing a positive local response to climate change and helping to ensure that new growth is well planned and sustainable. It is about working with people where they live and helping them to keep active, develop skills, gain understanding, and most of all - enjoy making a difference.

To find out more about what we do and how you can contribute, visit www.forestofavon.org.uk or call 0117 953 2141

Horton Court

South Gloucestershire. Contact (01249) 730141. Lacock Estate Office. A Cotswold manor house with 12th century Norman hall and early Renaissance features. Of particular interest is the late perpendicular ambulatory, detached from the house. Opening times April to October Wednesdays and Saturdays 2.00pm-6.00pm or dusk.

Jenner Museum

High Street, Berkeley, Gloucester. (01453) 810631. Housed in Edward Jenner's old home and tells the story of this 18th-century doctor and scientist including his most significant work, the discovery of a vaccination against smallpox. Both Thornbury and Wotton-under-Edge have small museums hosting a variety of exhibitions including much local history.

Little Sodbury Manor

Chipping Sodbury, South Gloucestershire. (01454) 312232. Medieval house with fine great hall and Elizabethan, Jacobean and Queen Anne

additions. Guided tours and refreshments on request. Open Apr-Sept 10-6. By appointment only.

Owlpen Manor

Owlpen, nr Dursley, Tel: 01453 860261
Owlpen - an impressive historic manor house (1450-1616) in a wooded valley, has a magnificent Tudor Great Hall, a Jacobean solar wing, a fine Cotswold Arts and Crafts collection, and unique painted cloth wall-hangings in a room haunted by Queen Margaret of Anjou (who visited in 1471). The 16th Century formal terraced garden has fine yew topiary and box parterres. The estate is set in its own remote and picturesque wooded valley.

Mail Galleries

The Mail Galleries, located in the heart of Bristol city centre, is a prime destination which will satisfy all your shopping needs. Understanding that for shoppers it is the little things that mean a lot...

The Mail Galleries has recently begun a substantial investment programme to update its facilities; this includes the complete refurbishment of its customer toilets and the installation of a state of the art parent and baby room.

Visitors will find a fantastic variety of both independent and high street stores including Virgin Megastore, Argos, WH Smith, Waterstones and Woolworths, all under one roof. With a dedicated shop-

per's car park, The Mail Galleries is the place to start your shopping trip to Bristol.

Severn Bridges Visitor Centre

www.onbridges.com
Open Weekends & Bank Holidays

The Mall

The Mall at Cribbs Causeway has acres of department stores, boutiques, restaurants and an 18-screen cinema.

Westonbirt Arboretum

Tetbury, Gloucester (01666) 880220.
Six hundred acres of trees and shrubs, planted from 1829 to the present day. Visitors can wander along 17 miles of waymarked tracks. Displays of rhododendrons, azaleas, magnolias and wild flowers, from Mar-Jun. Autumn colour from mid-Sept to early Nov. Visitor centre and shop. Plant centre, courtyard cafe, picnic areas, toilets, disabled facilities. Limited supply of wheelchairs available from visitor centre.

Wetmore Nature Reserve

(The Wildlife Trust) - Lower Woods covers approx. 750 acres, lies 10 miles north-west of Bristol and was designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest in 1966. It is one of the most extensive areas of ancient woodland in south west England. Much of the woodland is of considerable age preceding the Norman conquest. There is a wide range of habitat types and the



woodlands are rich in plant life, invertebrates, birds and mammals.

Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust

Slimbridge (01453) 890065/890333. Tame birds that can be hand fed, while there are 14 hides for bird watching (binoculars to hire). Tropical House with hummingbirds. 'Wonder of wetlands' exhibition. Wheelchair access throughout, including hides, also toilets, free wheelchair loan, loan of audio cassettes and players. Restaurant and gift shop. Free parking. Open daily summer 9.30-5, winter 9.30-4, closed 24, 25 Dec. Charge, but free to children under 4 and WWT

members. Concessionary rates available.

Willsbridge Mill

Willsbridge Hill, South Gloucestershire (The Wildlife Trust) (0117) 932 6885.
19th Century corn mill housing 'hands on' wildlife and historical exhibition. Willsbridge Valley Nature Reserve - wildlife thriving on the edge of the city. Demonstration wildlife garden with imaginative community sculpture. Open Apr-Sep, Weekdays during school term 10-3, weekly during school holidays 10-late afternoon, Sun BH 2-5.

The Cattle Country Adventure Park Berkeley, Gloucestershire

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Website: www.slimbridgeboatstation.com

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The Castle was once owned by Henry VIII, who stayed here in 1535 with Anne Boleyn. Mary Tudor also lived here for some years as a princess.

The recipient of many prestigious awards for its fine cuisine, Thornbury Castle has three dining rooms, each baronial in style with panelled walls, heraldic shields and open fires. The Castle is open daily to non-residents for lunch or dinner – please telephone in advance to make a reservation.

Thornbury Castle Hotel Ltd
Castle Street, Thornbury
South Gloucestershire BS35 1HH



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- Next to Severn Wildlife & Wetland Trust.

Shepherds Patch, Slimbridge, Glos. GL2 7BP
Tel: 01453 890483
www.tudorcaravanpark.com

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E: mail@thegableshotel.co.uk • W: www.thegableshotel.co.uk

Tortworth Court Four Pillars Hotel

Once in a while a luxury hotel comes along which truly deserves to be called unique, and Tortworth Court Four Pillars Hotel is such a property. This magnificent hotel, set in 30 acres of glorious parkland, has been created from a splendid Grade II* Victorian mansion. Its palatial public rooms have been painstakingly and sympathetically restored, and complemented by the comforts and facilities expected by the 21st century traveller.

One of England's most important Gothic mansions, Tortworth Court stands on the Cotswold Edge. The maritime city of Bristol is within easy reach, as are the charming villages of the Cotswolds and the towns of Bath, Gloucester, Cheltenham and the 'Gateway to the Cotswolds', Tetbury.

With its fascinating history Tortworth Court offers a tranquil and relaxing setting, making it the perfect location.

Tortworth Court Four Pillars Hotel, Tortworth, Wotton-under-Edge, South Glos, GL12 8HH
T: 01454 263000
E: tortworth@four-pillars.co.uk
W: www.four-pillars.co.uk

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Email: thundaj32g@surefish.co.uk

The Black Horse

Step through the fine portals of The Black Horse Inn at North Nibley and find a haven from a busy world. Under the exposed beams of the 16th century pub show up a chair and sip a relaxing pint or one of our fine wines. At the popular bar for lovers of the country mix, you can choose from a selection of guest beers such as BOB and COOPERS that are brewed locally from Wollaton or sap from our selection of extra old gingers on a barley summer evening.

- 5 bed and breakfast rooms available, all en-suite with double beds.
- Excellent cuisine with a la carte menu and a selection of lighter pub meals all locally sourced.
- Starter from £4.95 and main courses are in the region of £9.95 - £14.50

Pop along to The Black Horse and meet Gordon and Jean Nibley the landlady and landlord, so welcome families, and dogs.

Barr's Lane North Nibley, Dursley Glos GL11 6DT
Tel: 01453 543777
www.blackhorsenorthernibley.co.uk

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16 Church Road, Lower Almondsbury, Bristol BS32 4DT
Tel: 01454 612757 Fax: 01454 619910
Email: reception@thebowlinn.co.uk Web: www.thebowlinn.co.uk

The Tunnel House Inn

Set in a idyllic location just outside the historic town of Cirencester the Tunnel House Inn is located between the villages of Coates and Tetton. This traditional country pub with local real ales and traditional pub food is full of character. Not only is it full of wonderful memorabilia gathered over the years, it is also positioned at the head of the tunnel that links the Thames and Severn Canal. Just a couple of fields away from the source of the river Thames the pub has much to offer for a full day out. Children and dogs are welcome with plenty of space for both!

The Tunnel House Inn, Coates, Cirencester, Glos, GL7 6PW
01285 770 280. Email: bookings@tunnelhouse.com www.tunnel-house.com

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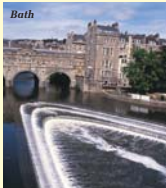
The cities of Bath, Bristol & Cheltenham and the historic town of Cirencester are all just a short drive away, as are Badminton, the Cotswolds, the Severn Valley and South Wales. Perfect for sightseeing and local attractions e.g. Westonbirt Arboretum and Dyrham Park.

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Tel: +44 (0) 1454 853532
www.therailwayhotel.co.uk

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Bath

The Badminton Horse Trials, held every May on the Badminton Estate, offer the chance to watch other people (and horses) burn up their energies as they compete in one of the world's toughest cross-country events.

Bath

Magnificent city with Georgian skylines, made famous by the Romans who developed a number of bath houses over Britain's only hot springs - visit the Royal Crescent, and taste the Sally Lunn Bun.

Badminton Horse Trials



Days Out

Bristol

Brunel's Suspension Bridge spanning Clifton Gorge, Zoological Gardens - city of great cultural and economic importance with art galleries, theatres, restaurants and live music venues.

Cirencester

Market town, Roman

antiquities, Corinium museum, Craftsman's markets, Abbey grounds, Saint John's - one of England's largest parish churches.

Forest of Dean

Vast area of woodlands, Royal Forest, favourite hunting ground of early English monarchs, later famous for its coal.



Tetbury

17th Century Market House used for wool trade, 18th century church, antiques.

The Wye Valley

Stunning scenery between Ross-on-Wye and Chepstow adjoining the River Severn. At Monmouth find the haunting ruins of Tintern Abbey.

Westonbirt Arboretum

World-famous for fine collection of trees and shrubs, popular all year round, particularly Spring and Autumn.

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Time to discover...

www.visittetbury.co.uk



Visit Tetbury one of the most beautiful Cotswold towns with its elegant buildings and a very special shopping experience combining to create a relaxing day out - a delight for those who stumble upon this jewel of the Cotswolds. Tetbury is also world-renowned for its unique Royal association with the gowns of HRH The Prince of Wales. **Clipping Steps**, a picturesque pathway alongside a terrace of 17-18th century cottages. **The Market House** a wonderful centrepiece to a relaxing day out in the Cotswolds. **The Parish Church of St Mary's** with one of the tallest spires in England and the venue for the Tetbury Music Festival in October.

Tetbury Police Museum has recently been extended and includes a unique collection of Police memorabilia relating to policing in Tetbury and the surrounding area. Events The Badminton Horse Trials take place in the spring followed by the famous Woolpack Races at the end of May. Summer concerts and shows plus many more exciting events creating a full programme throughout the year.

Attractions Close by are Chavenage House, a wonderful example of an Elizabethan Manor and the National Arboretum at Westonbirt, set in 600 acres of rolling Cotswold countryside. The Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust at Slimbridge is within easy reach and throughout the summer you can watch a game of Polo at the Bradford Polo Club near Westonbirt. Relaxing walks and cycle routes are popular plus many more exciting and unusual things to see and experience.



Tetbury Tourist Information Centre
33 Church Street, Tetbury, GL8 8JG Tel: 01666 503552
E-mail: tourinfo@tetbury.org

For places to stay and local events please visit our website or contact us for the 2008 Stay Tetbury guide.
Funded by Tetbury Town Council with support from Cotswold District Council

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