



# Walk on the WILD SIDE

JO VAUGHAN STEPS INTO THE WONDERFUL COTSWOLDS FOR A GENTLE STROLL AROUND THE PRETTY TOWN OF BURFORD

**B**URFORD is known as the Gateway to the Cotswolds and displays much of the charm you'd expect from a town in this picturesque region. The High Street is filled with 17th- and 18th-century frontages, although even

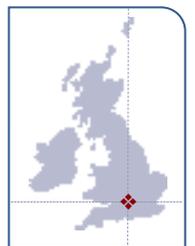
older buildings are found behind these, all paying homage to the town's once-great past as a premier wool producer between the 14th and 17th centuries.

One of Burford's most beautiful buildings is the Tolsey, where once

wealthy wool merchants held their meetings and collected tolls, although today it houses a museum. Another landmark is the three-arched bridge at the bottom of the town, which spans the river Windrush.

The Club site unfortunately isn't within walking distance of the shops, pubs and tea houses, but it is situated opposite the popular Cotswolds Wildlife Park, with its large array of fearsome, and not so fearsome, creatures – of interest to all members of the family.

Parking at the start of this walk shouldn't be a problem as the Burford car park is large, although, like all the Cotswold towns, it gets busy during the peak summer months. This walk is mostly easy going, but make sure you wear long trousers as there is one section (under heading 2) that is a little overgrown with stinging nettles.



ABOVE: Burford High Street  
LEFT: Scenic view along our walk



>>

INFORMATION | ATTRACTIONS

- **Keith Harding's World of Mechanical Music Museum**, The Oak House, High Street, Northleach, Glos GL54 3ET. Tel 01451 860181 or see [mechanicalmusic.co.uk](http://mechanicalmusic.co.uk). Open all year. Cost: adults, £7; children, £3; seniors, £6. Family tickets available. Antique musical boxes, automata and mechanical musical instruments. Full disabled access
- **The Cotswold Wildlife Park**, Burford, Oxon OX18 4JP. Tel 01993 823006 or see [cotswoldwildlifepark.co.uk](http://cotswoldwildlifepark.co.uk). Open all year. Cost: adults, £8; children (3-16), £5.50; seniors, £6. Rhinos and big cats, to penguins and creepy-crawlies. Full disabled access
- **Cotswold Motoring Museum & Toy Collection**, Bourton-on-the-Water GL54 2BY. Tel 01451 821255 or see [cotswold-motor-museum.co.uk](http://cotswold-motor-museum.co.uk). Open: early Feb to end Dec. Cost: adults, £3.60; children (4-16), £2.50. Family tickets available. An array of historical motor cars, as well as other memorabilia and ancient toys. Full disabled access

INFORMATION | GENERAL

**NEAREST CLUB SITE:** Burford, Bradwell Grove, Burford OX18 4JJ. Tel 01993 823080. Open: 23 Mar-5 Nov  
**DISTANCE:** 5.8 miles/9.3km  
**TERRAIN:** Some lane walking – mostly tracks and fields  
**NUMBER OF STILES:** 11  
**ESSENTIAL EQUIPMENT:** Ordnance Survey Explorer OL45 – The Cotswolds. Long trousers  
**LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY:** Easy  
**REFRESHMENTS:** In Burford  
**TOILETS:** In the car park  
**DIRECTIONS:** Drive from the site into Burford, and continue down the High Street. Turn right before the bridge, following the signs to the public car park found just off Guildenford and Church Lane. The access roads are quite narrow.



INFORMATION | TOURISM

Burford TIC, The Brewery, Sheep Street, Burford, Oxfordshire OX18 4LS. Tel 01993 823558



**DIRECTIONS**

- 1** Leave the car park via the access road, crossing the bridge over the river. Fork right along Church Lane, walking along the left-hand pavement. Continue past the church until you reach the High Street. Turn right here, cross the bridge, and just past the 40mph sign turn right at the roundabout (signposted 'A361 – Chipping Norton').
- 2** Continue along the right-hand pavement into Fulbrook, but immediately after Cotland House B&B (before you reach the Carpenters Arms pub) turn right following the public footpath sign. Follow this path around to the left, and go past a wooden gate following a yellow footpath arrow. Continue through a metal kissing gate (still following a second arrow) and cross a field where there may be horses, before crossing a stone stile.
- 3** Before the end of the next field, turn left over an old stone stile following a yellow arrow. When you reach the rear of some houses, turn right over another stone stile, and continue along the gravel drive which turns into a tarmac road. With Elm Farm ahead of you, turn left towards the main road.
- 4** Go to the left of the cross and then continue straight ahead across the main road, up Church Lane. Go into the churchyard, then around either side of the church. At the far side, cross the stone stile with a yellow footpath arrow, and follow the arrow veering right. Go through a metal gate and turn right following another arrow, over another stone stile, and continue along the path and driveway until the main road (Shipton Road).
- 5** Turn left along the pavement, and shortly after the turning on the left, 'Upper End', follow the footpath sign on

- the right of the road. Go down two steps and through a wooden kissing gate. Go over a boardwalk and up some steps, and follow the path around to the right. Keep to the right side of this field. Leave the field in a far corner, following a yellow faded footpath arrow. Cross another two fields following the yellow waymark arrows, and when you reach the copse at the far side, turn right, still following the yellow arrow.
- 6** Continue following this track downhill until it eventually becomes tarmac. Follow the lane past the farm and, where the lane turns 90 degrees left towards some cottages, turn right up a stony track. Go through a metal gate and continue straight ahead following the blue arrow, then through another gate, still following a blue arrow. When you reach the tarmac lane, turn right.
  - 7** Where the road goes into a dip, turn left (signposted 'Widford'). Immediately cross a stile, and later another, before heading over a cattle grid (following a yellow arrow, with a small chapel on your right). Cross another cattle grid and turn left along the lane.
  - 8** Go over the bridge. Just past Mill Race House, turn right along the more major road. After a short distance, fork right, off the road, following a footpath sign. Cross a stile, followed immediately by a tiny wooden bridge. Continue along the grassy path with the stream on your right. Cross two stiles, a small wooden bridge, then cross a stile to rejoin the road and turn to your right.
  - 9** Take care on this section of road until, when you reach the Burford sign, there is a pavement again on the right-hand side. Walk back into Burford, and turn right at the sign to the car park down Guildenford. At the bottom of this road turn right, head over the bridge, and return to the car park.