



## Gloucestershire - Voyages through the vale

The stout square tower of Tewkesbury Abbey, the finest Norman church in England, is still a dominant landmark in the gentle farmland of the Vale between the Cotswolds and the Malvern Hills. The town's streets of Tudor and Georgian buildings with narrow alleys make this a fascinating base for the rides. These rides explore the banks of the Rivers Severn and Avon, the picturesque villages that encircle the foot of Bredon Hill, the ancient Saxon borough of Winchcombe with the splendours of Sudeley Castle and the Cotswold escarpment.

2 days, 1 night

**Ride 1** - Today you ride a complete circuit around the foot of Bredon Hill, a magnificent 'island' of the Cotswold Hills standing in the Vale of Evesham. The route takes you through a string of beautiful villages where the stone cottages of the hills mix with the black and white thatched houses of the Vale. In these you can visit a number of traditional craftsmen, potters, silk printers and painters, and relax in the delightful village inns.

**Ride 2** - Head to the foot of the Cotswold escarpment and onto Winchcombe, an important borough in Saxon times. Two large monasteries meant it became a centre of pilgrimage until the dissolution of the monasteries and you can visit the ruins of Hailes Abbey. Sudeley Castle, the last resting place of Henry VIII's surviving wife Katherine Parr, was ruined in the Civil Wars then partially restored in the 19th century as a country house with wonderful gardens. The wide views from the top of Cleeve Hill take in the Malverns, the Forest of Dean and, on a clear day, the mountains of mid-Wales.

**B&B Price: £115.00**

**Hotel Price: £142.00**

3 days, 2 night

This tour will include the first two rides above, as well as the following ride.

**Ride 3** - Today a riverside ride follows the Severn Way across the battlefield that saw the end of the Wars of the Roses. It continues to the Saxon chapel at Deerhurst, one of the finest in the country. Cross the river at Haw Bridge and continue downstream to the remarkable collection of Manor, Court and Tithe Barn at Ashelworth then return through the villages of Chaceley, Forthampton and Bushley from where you get fine views back over Tewkesbury. This ride passes no fewer than six delightful riverside inns!

**B&B Price: £170.00**

**Hotel Price: £224.00**

(Prices are per person, based on two people sharing).

### Local Attractions:

- Ashleworth & Bredon Tithe Barns
- Bredon and Conderton Potteries
- GWR Steam Railway
- Odda's Chapel.

### Ride info:

15 – 39 miles a day, easy to moderate.

Beautiful blossom in the orchards in spring, lots of village and riverside inns for refreshments on a hot summers day.