

48 hours in the Cotswolds

Outdoor activities and fantastic food make this lush part of England ideal for a family weekend away. **Words: Anna Evdokimou**

DAY ONE

Morning

Check-in to the charming Ingleside House, which dates back to the late 18th century. The hotel is just a short walk from the centre of Cirencester, the Cotswolds' largest market town, and serves as the perfect base for a weekend of exploration. The town centre brims with quaint shops and cafés. Step into Pick a Pot and Paint to create your own work of art, or stroll through the craft market for jewellery, art and soap stands.

Afternoon

Explore Cirencester Park's 3,000 acres of pasture and woodland. Enjoy a picnic among the meadows where you may even spot a grazing deer or two. While the kids try their hand at horse riding (daily passes available for £12), stop for a coffee at Beano, a quirky cafe housed in a converted horse trailer.

Evening

Tummies starting to rumble? Worry not. Within Cirencester Park lies

The Old Kennels, where you'll find Roots + Seeds Kitchen Garden. Championing sustainability, this dining hub's menu showcases seasonal fruit and vegetables that are grown in the on-site garden, guaranteeing a true field-to-fork experience. A selection of espresso martinis is also on offer, each with its own unique twist (the salted caramel is an absolute must). The outdoor play area and flower-filled raised beds provide ample entertainment for little ones, too. On your way back into the hotel, pop by Teatro Bar and treat the family to some live piano music.

DAY TWO

Morning

If you're a history enthusiast, don't miss the Corinium Museum, just a 10-minute walk from the hotel. Its displays of Roman tools and artefacts document the development of the Cotswolds, from its rural beginnings to modern day. Keep an eye out for the mosaics (some dating to the third century),



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which paint a picture of Roman day-to-day life and ideologies — see if you can spot Orpheus and Venus in the intricate designs. There's also plenty of 3D objects and immersive learning experiences to keep the kids engaged. On your way out, stop by Jacks Tea Room and Kitchen for a quick caffeine boost.

Afternoon

With curious minds sated, it's time for some pulse-raising action. Cotswold Water Park is only a 15-minute drive from Cirencester, and has some 180 lakes to explore. Have a go at water-skiing or try a

less exerting activity like sailing or kayaking. There's also archery for those that would prefer to stay dry, or go on a stroll and look out for wildlife including otters, fallow deer and watering birds.

Evening

Kick back at The Bear Inn as you sip on its award-winning Butcombe beer. You're likely to find yourself listening to live musicians as you bite into your Sunday lunch, which comes with maple-roasted parsnips and a big Yorkshire pudding. The heated outdoor area is the perfect place for al fresco dining and for

the little ones to tuck into warm doughnuts or a chocolate sundae.

TIME TO SPARE?

Drive to The Model Village in Bourton-on-the-Water, the only Grade II-listed model village in the country. An exact one-ninth scale replica of the actual village, it depicts Bourton's streets, bridges and even the chestnut trees, all in miniature size. Listen carefully and you can hear music emanating from the tiny model church. While in Bourton, visit Cotswold China and Cookware for sweet treats, pottery and Cotswold candles, too.

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