

If you enjoyed this walk and would like to make a contribution to the charity that supports the Cotswold Way then please go to cotswoldwayassociation.org.uk/fundraising/

12. Journey's end - The walk into Bath

Discover a true sense of pilgrimage with this wonderful walk into the heart of Bath and the southern end of the Cotswold Way. Follow the trail as it slides from open hill top into historic city, winding its way around open farmland and down bustling alleyways to its crescendo at the majestic splendour of Bath Abbey.

Distance:
6 miles or 9.7 km

Duration:
3½ - 4 hrs

Difficulty:
Moderate, - one stile and some steep sections.

Public transport:
Bath Park and Ride No. 31 (Lansdown). Return bus stop Milsom Street, Bath. Mon-Sat only, with seasonal Sundays. Visit: www.bathnes.gov.uk/parkandride for details. Car park charges apply. (Visit www.traveline.sw.com).

Start/Finish:
Grid reference ST 732/682 (OS Explorer sheet 155)
Postcode BA1 9BJ

Refreshments:
Plenty of wonderful places to eat, drink and rest in Bath city centre.

Parking
Park and Ride in Lansdown Road. Parking is not available at the racecourse.

1 Walk to the end of the Park & Ride (away from Bath) to gates into football fields. Cross the playing field heading diagonally left to a kissing gate. Go through the gate and take great care crossing the road to another kissing gate.

Go through this gate and proceed straight ahead for approx 100 metres where a slope takes you up to the white safety rails of the race course. Turn left and follow the rails northwards until the wall/hedge on your left leaves the safety rail. Head diagonally across the field until you see a small section

of the white rails in the corner of the field. Situated in the corner is a topograph adjacent to Prospect stile.

2 Turn left and follow the trail until you reach the viewpoint. Pass through the kissing gate and turn left to follow the track downhill.

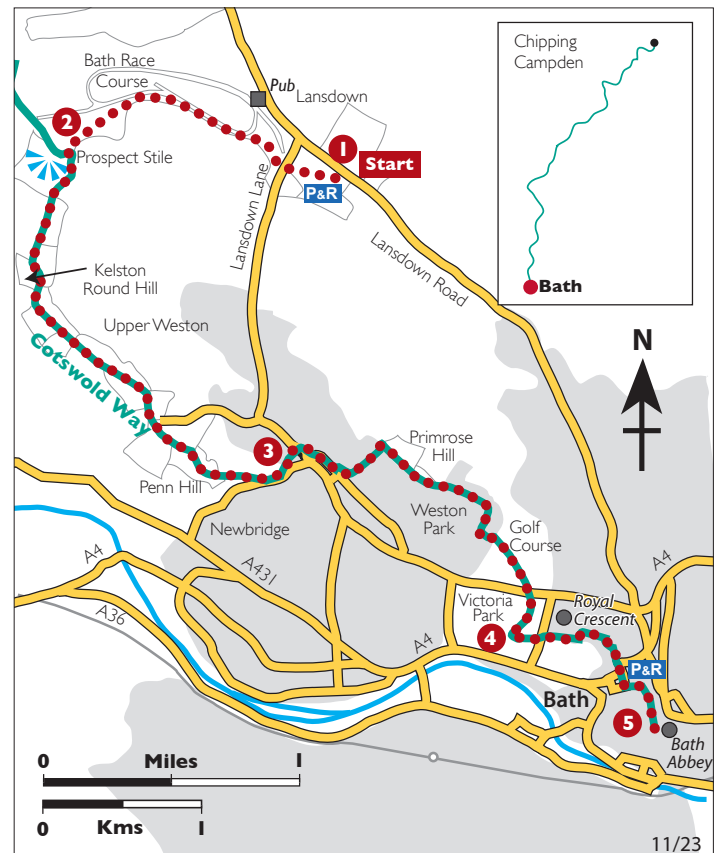
Continue on towards the tree-topped dome of Kelston Round Hill as wonderful views over Bath begin to open up to your left – a sight that has given comfort to the road weary for thousands of years.

Stay on the Cotswold Way through three kissing gates as it heads around Shiner's Wood and onto the track passing the hill up on the right. When you meet the farm road, head straight on over the stile and around the top edge of the field, passing through the metal gate at the far side. Follow the path round past a view point on your right and through another metal gate to head down towards the recreation ground.

3 Head straight across the playing fields as the Cotswold Way crosses the boundary between countryside and city. At the far corner, pass through a gate and head left to pick up the Cotswold Way signs as they change from weathered oak to green and white metal fingers. Continue to follow the signs over a zebra crossing, past a church and up some steep sections of path between houses.

Pass through a kissing gate and turn right to follow the path along the bottom of a field, known as Primrose Hill, pausing at the end to glance all the way back up to where the walk began. Keep following the Trail down a shaded path, across the last of the rough grassland and up another steep section. Stick with the signs as they guide you right towards Sion Hill, and then down a path through the middle of the golf course. Cross the road at the bottom, past the last of the green and white signs, and follow the path around the edge of Victoria Park.

4 At the bottom of the park, turn



left and pick up another stile of Cotswold Way signing; from now until the end you will be looking out for black stickers with gold arrows attached to lampposts and bollards etc. Head past the war memorial and through the ornate park gates, then instead of making for the second set of gates, turn left and cross the road to follow the path below the Royal Crescent.

Turn left at the end, then right down Brock Street towards the picturesque tree-filled Circus. Turn right and head down Gay Street, crossing over at the lights to carry on down the other side. At the bottom, turn left onto Wood Street and carry straight on until you meet the junction with Milsom Street.

(For the return journey, turn left up Milsom St; the Park and Ride bus stop is halfway up on the right). Turn right and head down Old Bond Street to the right of the central line of shops, then left at the bottom and immediately right onto Union Street. Keep straight on across the next road, then left into

the Colonnade as the wonderfully welcoming sight of Bath Abbey is revealed.

5 Walk towards the Abbey main door, passing the Pump Room and Roman Baths entrances which are on your right. The large circular Cotswold Way plaque is set in the ground just before you reach the Abbey main door. This is the start/finish of the Cotswold Way.

Points of Interest



Prospect Stile

Offers stunning views over the surrounding countryside, from here you get a close up view of Kelston Roundhill, look down over Bath, and on a clear day you can see as far as the Black Mountains in Wales.



The Royal Crescent

Consists of 30 terraced houses laid out in a 150 metre crescent, close to the centre of Bath. Designed by John Wood the Younger, and built between 1767 and 1774, it is among the finest examples of Georgian architecture in the United Kingdom, and listed Grade I. No. 1 Royal Crescent is a museum which has been decorated and furnished just as it might have been during the period 1776-1796. The rooms feature historic furniture, pictures and objects that reveal what life was like for Bath's fashionable residents – both upstairs and downstairs.

For more information visit: no1royalcrescent.org.uk (opens in new window)



Bath Abbey

The end and start of the Cotswold Way - look out for the Cotswold Way marker stone at the west door of the Abbey. The Abbey Church of Saint Peter and Saint Paul, commonly known as Bath Abbey, is a parish church of the Church of England and former Benedictine monastery. The history of this sacred place stretches as far back as Anglo-Saxon times there is a great deal to discover: tales of Kings and Queens, saints and sinners, as well as stories of ordinary people.

For more information visit: bathabbey.org/visiting/history/ (opens in new window)



The Roman Baths

Once the site of one of the great religious spas of the ancient world; the people of Roman Britain came to the site to worship the goddess Sulis Minerva and bathe in the waters of the natural thermal springs, which still flow with hot water today. Today visitors can explore the Roman Baths complex, walk on the original Roman pavements and see the ruins of the Temple of Sulis Minerva. The museum collection, located next to the bathing complex, includes a gilt bronze head of the Goddess Sulis Minerva, and other Roman artifacts.

For more information visit: romanbaths.co.uk (opens in new window)

The Cotswold Way National Trail is managed and maintained by Cotswolds National Landscape and the Cotswold Voluntary Wardens
www.cotswolds-nl.org.uk

