

Welcome to Burford

The wool town of Burford has always been thought of as the gateway to the Cotswolds. Mentioned in the Domesday Book, and steeped in history, there is much to interest the visitor, from fine architecture and great walks to specialist shopping and good food.

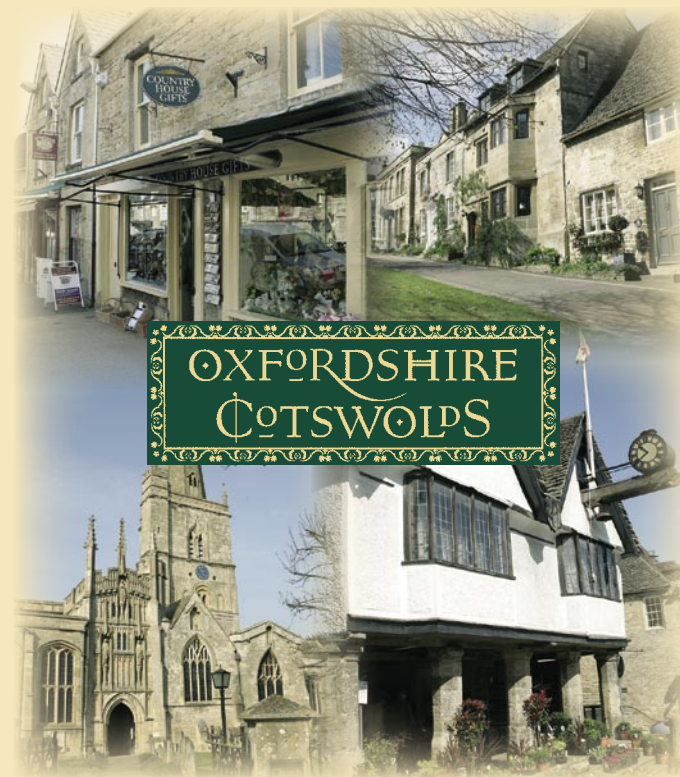
Rising up the hill from the River Windrush, Burford was the first Cotswold town to be granted a charter in 1087 thus giving it the status of a market town. Although no market is held here today some stalls still trade underneath the Tolsey where the tolls were originally paid.

Norman barons, medieval merchants and Kings and Queens have all at some time trodden its streets and the Civil War came, left its mark and went. The size and architecture of St John the Baptist Church is a testament to the wealth and importance of the town since the 1500s. The hills made good pasture for the sheep and the stone was excellent for building - some of the dome of St Paul's Cathedral in London is built from Burford stone.

The town's location made it important for travellers and during the reigns of James I and Charles II it was second only to Newmarket as a horse racing centre with many inns and alehouses providing for the visitor.

Burford has a wide variety of shops to suit a range of tastes, which allows for many a pleasant browse along the main high street and the hidden areas in-between. There are also a wide range of pubs, restaurants and cafes to enjoy. An array of local walks from the town into many of the neighbouring villages are available. Burford really is a great place for a day visit or a longer stay to explore more of the town and the local area.

This leaflet can be made available in a larger print size, electronically or in other formats. Please contact us if this is required.



Burford 'Gateway to the Cotswolds'

A Visitors Guide

For further information please visit:
Burford Visitor Information Centre

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Burford

1 The Brewery: Dating from 1798, it was built on the site of old malt-houses. It was run by Garne & Sons from 1880 to 1969 when it was Burford's oldest and largest surviving industry. The building is now home to the Burford Visitor Information Centre.

2 The Lamb Inn: Became an inn in 1720, adjoining properties were added in 1723 and 1732 and it boasts a mediaeval (Gothic) window which may have been part of Ivy House which was linked to the Priory in the Middle Ages. The Lamb used to have its own brewery which became a separate business in 1798 and from 1876 it was operated by the Garne family.

3 The Bay Tree: Owned by Lady Tanfield in 1627 the building was the birthplace of Sir Lawrence Tanfield, Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer to James I.

4 The Tolsey: Dates from around 1500 and was Burford Corporation's 'toll-house'. The Market Cross once stood in front of it. Here the 'Guild of Merchants' met and took payments for the markets and fairs. Stalls are still rented out here on various days of the week. The Burford Museum now occupies part of the building.

5 The Old Bull: Built in 1715 is the only brick-faced building in the High Street.

6 The Great House: An imposing building, built in the 1690's by Dr Castle on the site of the old Black Boy Inn. Note the castle-like outlines of the parapets and chimneys.

7 Warwick Almshouses: Dating from 1457, they were built by Henry Bishop, steward to the Earl of Warwick.

8 The Old Grammar School: Founded in 1517. The modern comprehensive school is now situated on the A40.

9 St John the Baptist Church: Built between 1160 & 1495. The lower part of the tower and west door date back to 1175. The chancel, aisles and transepts were built in the 13th Century. Between 1400-1450 the upper part of the tower, the spire and porch were added. The 14th Century font has the name of one of the Levellers engraved in 1649. Look out for the Red Indians!

10 Burford Bridge: Nobody knows when the first bridge was built, but Edward II granted special tolls to Burford to pay for its repair in 1322. In 1574 Queen Elizabeth I was greeted at the bridge by Simon Wisdom and the Burford Corporation as she came from the royal hunting lodge at Langley in Wychwood.

11 Bear Court: Formerly an inn, the building dates back to the 17th century. The archway and alleyway connect the High Street to a courtyard and there would once have been an exit onto Priory Lane.

12 Falkland Hall: Built in 1558 for Edmund Sylvester, a clothier.

13 Former George Inn: Burford's leading inn during medieval times until around 1500. The uphill bay was added in 1608. Charles II and Nell Gwynne are said to have stayed here. The inn was closed in 1800, subsequently becoming cottages and a builders' yard. A verse engraved on a window purports to have been done by Samuel Pepys, but he was not in Burford in 1666, and the hand is not that of the 17th century.



For more information on Burford, where to stay and what to do visit:
www.oxfordshirecotswolds.org