

5 reasons to ride in **THE COTSWOLDS**

Horse finds out why riding in the Cotswolds with Stately Rides is the perfect antidote to the hustle and bustle of modern life.

1 The landscape

The Cotswolds offers a real mixture of scenery with rolling hillsides, conservation woodland and meandering rivers. As Stately Rides has permission to ride over private land there is almost no road work.

2 The riding

Parties of up to six are escorted by two guides that have a great knowledge of the local area. Rides are generally over two days, and while you'll spend up to six hours in the saddle per day, the pace is fairly leisurely.

3 The heritage

Riding in the Cotswolds is a step back in time. From the beautiful stately homes steeped in history, to the unspoilt landscape, the England you will see on horseback has changed little in 200 years.

4 The horses

You can expect to ride Irish hunters, ranging in height from 14.2hh to 16.3hh. All have competed in various disciplines so are forward-going but very well-behaved.

5 The hospitality

Accommodation is in private country houses, but these are no ordinary homes and on the second night you will stay in what was Dick Whittington's family estate.

The food is also a real highlight and your hosts provide delicious candlelit dinners complete with champagne. Lunch ranges from luxury picnics to sophisticated riverside dining.

Stately Rides start at £680 per person for two days, including all food and wine. Rides can be extended to four days and run from May until September. For more information, tel: (07590) 456 714; visit: www.statelyrides.co.uk.

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England while enjoying the
finer things in life

