



For train times visit:



www.nationalrail.co.uk or call National Rail Enquiries on 08457 48 49 50 24 hours daily

For bus times visit:



www.traveline.info or call 0871 200 22 33 from 0800 – 2100 daily



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welcome to the Cotswolds & Malverns Line

Exploring quintessential England has never been easier than on the Cotswolds and Malverns Line.

This is travel and tourism at its leisurely best. The line that links gems such as Oxford, Evesham, Worcester, Malvern, Ledbury and Hereford gets right to the heart of historic towns and cities of distinction, superb countryside of outstanding natural beauty and idyllic, old-English village scenes.

For walkers, stations along the line give instant access to some stunning scenery. Paths leading from platforms and forecourts mark the start of routes that weave their way through such memorable landscapes as the gentle, golden Cotswolds, the fruitful Vale of Evesham or the dramatic ridge of the Malvern Hills.

Though travel is easy, there's every inducement to stay. Trains set down passengers just a short stroll from graceful cathedrals, medieval half-timbered buildings, elegant colleges and dreaming spires. Shops, special events, theatres and an impressive range of pubs, tea rooms, café and restaurants add extra temptation to linger.

For a long weekend or overnight stay, accommodation comes in every guise. Between them, the destinations featured here offer traditional hotels or friendly B&Bs, city centre urban chic or rural inns with home-cooked dishes of local produce, fine wines, real ales and walkers' boots lined up in the porch.

Tourist Information Centres and websites have all the details needed to plan your trip. Information provided in this guide is correct at the time of going to print in (April 2008). However, if something is of particular importance to your visit, do just check that details are still up to date before setting out.



EVESHAM

The ancient market town of Evesham, on its tranquil stretch of the River Avon, provides a wonderful welcome to the fertile, fruitful valley that bears its name. Every spring the lovely Vale of Evesham is transformed by a spectacular cloud of blossom, for this area produces some of our finest fruits and vegetables, notably plums, damsons, apples, pears and asparagus.

Evesham's green-fingered tradition dates back to the monks of its medieval abbey, once one of the wealthiest in the land. The abbey was destroyed in 1540 by order of Henry VIII but its Bell Tower survives intact, together with the 14th-century Almoner's house. The Almonry houses the Tourist Information Centre and the Heritage Centre which documents the story of the abbey and Evesham's many historic events.

The placid River Avon flows through the centre of the town. Rowing boats and day cruisers are available for hire in Abbey Park and scheduled services offer 30 - 40 minute river trips in the summer months. Abbey Park is also the starting point of a popular riverside walk to the Hampton Ferry, the old rope ferry for pedestrians which is thought to be the oldest of its kind still operating in Britain. On Sundays, from June to September, live music from the park's Victorian bandstand provides the perfect excuse just to sit and soak up the atmosphere of lazy, sunny afternoons.

Evesham also entertains its visitors with some superb events, all easy to reach without a car. From late March to early May, individuals can join coach tours of the splendid 40-mile Blossom Trail, with a shorter route signposted for cyclists. During the Asparagus Festival in May and June, a "Sparabus" visits outlying villages and their asparagus beds, calling in on the Asparagus Auction at the National Trust's Fleece Inn at Bredforton. Annual events within the town include July's River Festival with its decorated boats, fireworks and illuminated parade, the two-day Rowing Regatta in May and a Medieval Festival in June - a pageant of colourful costumes and lively re-enactments.

Further Information

Tourist Information Centre, The Almonry Museum, Vine Street, Evesham Tel: 01386 446944; Email: tic@almonry.ndo.co.uk www.evesham.uk.com



OXFORD

A magnificent mix of ancient architecture and youthful buzz, Oxford is known throughout the world as the City of Dreaming Spires.

Its city centre of mellow, golden stone is shaped largely by the graceful Oxford colleges, most of which open their shady quadrangles, chapels and halls to visitors in the afternoons. The University adds more major attractions. These include the Bodleian Library, dating from 1427, Sir Christopher Wren's Sheldonian Theatre, Britain's oldest botanic garden and five, free museums of international acclaim covering the arts, science, natural history, anthropology and music. Visitors should also allow time for The Christ Church Picture Gallery, cutting-edge installations at Modern Art Oxford, the Museum of Oxford, the 11th-century Oxford Castle and former prison site and some stunning bird's eye views from historic high-points such as St Michael at the Northgate and Carfax Tower.

Shopping is a popular Oxford pastime, centred in particular around bookshops, the 18th Century Covered Market, independent establishments in Little Clarendon Street and chic fashion outlets on The High. From Easter to October, visitors also love to while away a dreamy hour picnicking or walking in Christ Church Meadow, punting or rowing on the River Cherwell or taking a trip along the Isis - the Oxford stretch of the River Thames.

In Oxford, culture and entertainment abound. Boards propped in college doorways announce lunch-time talks, concerts and recitals while evenings offer music, theatre, comedy and cinema for the most lively or traditional tastes. For lunch or dinner, there are more than enough pubs, restaurants and bistros to please every palate, ranging in style from haute cuisine to Tolkien's favourite student pub. A choice of excellent guest houses, a youth hostel and prestigious hotels allows everyone to budget for an overnight stay.

Travellers arriving by train find Oxford compact and easy to explore. Open-top bus tours call at the station and guided walking tours from the Tourist Information Centre follow a variety of themes from The University & City Tour to Inspector Morse or set-jetting through locations made familiar in Harry Potter, The Golden Compass and other blockbusters of the big screen.

Further Information

The Oxford Tourist Information Centre, 15 - 16 Broad Street, Oxford Tel: 01865 252200; Email: tic@oxford.gov.uk www.visitoxford.org



WORCESTER

With its majestic cathedral on the banks of the River Severn, its buzzing shops and cafes, medieval buildings and prestigious reputation as the home of Royal Worcester Porcelain, Worcester mixes all the enjoyable elements of an historic yet contemporary city.

Cathedral, sightseeing, shops and river attractions all within easy strolling distance of each other, with tempting Italian-style coffee shops, wine-bars, tearooms and pavement cafes ever-beckoning for rest and refreshment.

The all-pedestrian High Street is the hub of shopping activity, with well-known retailers in Crown Gate and Cathedral Plaza and clusters of smaller and specialist shops in period nooks and passageways such as Reindeer Court and Hop Yard Market. Ancient Friars Street is said to have the edge for art galleries, fashion and distinctive gifts. Worcester's City Art Gallery & Museum in Foregate Street presents major and contemporary art exhibitions, as well as intriguing local exhibits such as The Wonderful Worcester Sauce Machine.

Royal Worcester porcelain has proved a major draw since The Porcelain Manufactory first opened its doors to the public in 1751. Today's visitors can enjoy tours of the modern factory, exquisite exhibits in the Royal Worcester Porcelain Museum and some hands-on experience of painting porcelain in the Visitor Centre. In the oldest part of the city, The Greyfriars, built in 1480, is a medieval gem with panelled interiors and a lovely walled garden owned by the National Trust.

Worcester's events and entertainment take many forms. Spectator sports that draw the crowds range from National Hunt racing to Worcester Warriors Rugby Union and cricket at the city's New Road county ground. In contrast, Worcester Cathedral is home to the long-established Three Choirs Festival, August's international festival of classical music presented in rotation in cathedrals at Worcester (in 2008) Hereford (in 2009) and Gloucester (in 2010). The statue facing the cathedral celebrates composer Sir Edward Elgar's close city links. Elgar's birthplace cottage in Lower Broadheath, reached by a short bus ride, is now a museum dedicated to the great man. Other nearby attractions, such as the Severn Valley Railway and the West Midlands Safari Park, are easily accessible by train.

Further Information

Tourist Information Centre, Guildhall, High Street, Worcester Tel: 01905 726311; Email: touristinfo@visitworcester.com www.visitworcester.com



CHARLBURY

Welcome to Charlbury and the West Oxfordshire Cotswolds. This little market town, with its award-winning pubs and inns, colourful cottage gardens and houses built of warm local stone boasts a lovely location in the Evenlode Valley, within the "Golden Triangle" of Woodstock, Burford and Chipping Norton. The remnants of the ancient royal hunting forest of Wychwood reach right to the town, providing a popular haunt for cyclists and walkers attracted to their secluded footpaths and quiet country lanes. A total of ten courses within a radius of ten miles ensures that golf enthusiasts are well-served too.

Charlbury is just the place to sample a taste of Oxfordshire community life. Shops and pubs have a warm, friendly feeling; the local museum celebrates a variety of traditional crafts and skills; even the station is picturesque. Home-grown events include a free two-day Riverside Music Festival in June and a charity Beer Festival in July and Charlbury also provides a base for visitors attending the nearby Cornbury Music Festival, hailed in the media as "Britain's coolest festival" and "the only rock festival for all ages".

Further Information

www.oxfordshirecotswolds.org and www.charlbury.info



GREAT MALVERN

A fashionable spa and resort in Georgian and Victorian times, Great Malvern owed its early popularity to the therapeutic waters of the Malvern Hills, famous for "containing nothing at all". Now Malvern provides the perfect tonic for walkers, with a choice of routes leading straight from the town centre to the towering Worcestershire Beacon giving breathtaking views of Worcestershire, Herefordshire and Gloucestershire, with the Shropshire hills and the Black Mountains of Wales beyond. Walkers setting out via the 99 steps to St Ann's Well should definitely bring a bottle, for the famous water is freely available here and at other spouts or springs around the Hills.

Great Malvern Priory, a survival from the 11th-century Benedictine Abbey, is Malvern's pride and joy. With its wonderful tiles, carved misericords and superb medieval stained glass, this is one of the finest parish churches in the country. The abbey's 15th century gateway has survived to house the Malvern Museum and much of its churchyard has been transformed into Priory Park, complete with concerts in a Victorian bandstand. The museum tells some fascinating tales, from the secrets of the Water Cure to the story of radar which was invented here. The site is still the home of Qinetiq, Europe's largest science and technology organisation.

Local success stories also include The Morgan Motor Company, whose iconic cars are hand-built at "The Works" in Pickersleigh Road, which opens to visitors. Famous faces featured in the museum include Sir Edward Elgar, who is buried in St Wulstan's church. He lived and worked for a time in Malvern and drew the inspiration for some of his most celebrated works from the typically English beauty of the Malvern Hills.

Further Information

Tourist Information Centre, 21 Church St., Malvern Tel: 01684 892289; Email: malvern.tic@malvernhills.gov.uk www.malvernhills.gov.uk/tourism



KINGHAM & CHIPPING NORTON

Brick, stone, slate, tiles and thatch have all been used to create the unspoilt village of Kingham and its 17th Century church, grouped around a large, open green. Walkers and cyclists head for Foxholes nature reserve near Bruern Abbey, famed for its bluebells, to Churchill where the church tower is a slim version of Oxford's Magdalen College Tower or to Daylesford Organic, with its farmshop and café.

The Cotswold Line Railbus will take you from Kingham station to lively Chipping Norton ("Chippy" to the locals). Formerly a major wool-trading town, its weekly market and monthly farmers' market continues its earliest tradition, for "Chipping" means market. The Guildhall, Town Hall and Almshouses are all of historic interest but the great wool church of St Mary the Virgin is the outstanding, having one of the finest interiors of all Cotswold churches. Theatre, museum and leisure centre bring attractions up to date. Chippy's most stunning landmark is 19th-century Bliss Mill, with its majestic facade and dome based chimney. Built for the production of high-quality tweed, the mill has now been converted into luxury apartments.

The Cotswold Line Railbus is a dedicated bus service for rail passengers travelling from Kingham station to Kingham village, Churchill and Chipping Norton. Through tickets covering rail and bus travel are available from all staffed stations, ask for "Chipping Norton Bus".

Further Information

www.oxfordshirecotswolds.org Chipping Norton: www.chippingnortontown.info Chipping Norton Visitor Information Point, The Guildhall, Goddards Lane, Chipping Norton. Tel: 01608 643384 Cotswold Line Railbus: www.railbus.co.uk



GREAT MALVERN

Elgar and playwright George Bernard Shaw put Malvern on the cultural map, staging music and theatre festivals in the Winter Gardens. These have since evolved into the Malvern Theatres complex, renowned for the quality and range of their programmes which include many pre-West End shows. Malvern also stages five minute puppet shows in the Theatre of Small Convenience, a converted gentleman's lavatory, which according to the Guinness Book of Records is the smallest theatre in the world. Malvern also has many outdoor events which are equally entertaining. They include traditional Well Dressing, in May, and gardening shows, antique fairs, car rallies and other top class events which take place at The Malvern Showground all the year round.

An easy walk from the town centre, Great Malvern station serves all these attractions and more. Built to impress affluent Victorian visitors, the ornate little station, with its elegant Lady Foley's Tea Room plus ornate ironwork is an attraction in its own right.

PERSHORE

Pershore is an unspoiled, picturesque market town, famed for its elegant Georgian architecture and magnificent Abbey. It is surrounded by beautiful countryside and picturesque villages and is a haven for cyclists and ramblers. Pershore town centre is a short bus ride or just over a mile walk from Pershore railway station.

Further Information

Tourist Information Centre, Town Hall, 34 High Street, Pershore, Worcestershire Tel: 01386 556591; E-mail: tourism@pershore-tc.gov.uk www.visitpershore.co.uk



MORETON-IN-MARSH

The station at Moreton-in-Marsh serves many of the best-loved highlights of the famous Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Dating back to Saxon times, this small and friendly market town has a wide and handsome high street of elegant 17th and 18th century inns and houses, built of the Cotswolds' hallmark golden limestone. An impressive street market is held here every Tuesday, boasting some 200 stalls. Antique shops and delicatessens are favourites amongst the very pleasant choice of regular shops. Moreton's visitor attractions include the award-winning Wellington Aviation Museum, near the centre of the town, and Batsford Arboretum, Bourton House Garden and the Cotswold Falconry Centre less than a mile away.

Further Information

Moreton Area Centre, High Street, Moreton-in-Marsh Tel: 01608 650881 Cotswolds Tourist Information Centre; Tel: 01451 831082 Email: tourism@cotswold.gov.uk; www.cotswolds.com

HONEYBOURNE

Honeybourne is a small village on the edge of the Vale of Evesham, close to a number of interesting local attractions to visit. The Domestic Fowl Trust and Honeybourne Rare Breeds Centre are both close to the station. The Rare Breeds Centre contains Britain's rarest species of cow along with rare breeds of sheep and goats.

Further Information

http://wychavon.whub.org.uk



LEDBURY

Picturesque, black-and-white buildings have made Ledbury a favourite and familiar setting for many popular period film and TV productions. Church Lane, a cobbled street of half-timbered houses, is the photogenic heart of the town. Its lovely houses which include The Old Grammar School Heritage Centre, frame the approach to the 11th century Church of St Michael and All Angels, with its unusual detached tower and spire. Opposite the Heritage Centre, tiny Butchers Row House serves as the local history and Folk Museum and in the High Street, Ledbury's 17th-century Old Market House, raised on oak pillars, is still put to its original use Tuesday and Saturday mornings. The town's friendly shops include delicatessens selling local produce such as cheeses by Charles Martell, creator of the Stinking Bishop popularized by the Wallace & Gromit film, Curse of the Were-Rabbit. Ledbury offers its own spooky experience on evening Ghost Tours and a guided Historic Walk is also available to individual visitors by prior arrangement.

Further Information

Tourist Information Centre, The Master's House, St Katherine's Car Park, High Street, Ledbury Tel: (01531) 636147; E-mail: ledbury@herefordshire.gov.uk www.visitherfordshire.co.uk

COLWALL

Just 4½ miles from Malvern, at the foot of the hills, this pretty Herefordshire village with its church and welcoming pub provides instant access to some splendid countryside. Footpaths lead straight from the station platform into the hills and the station also provides a starting point for two Discovery Walks which explore different aspects of the Malvern Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty: the 5.5 mile Two Churches and a Vineyard walk and the 6 mile Hill & Valley walk, which takes its title from a poem by Elizabeth Barrett Browning who lived in the village as a child. Visitors less keen on walking can combine train and bus for an "Over and Under the Hills" tour, taking the train through the tunnel from Great Malvern and returning on the No 875 bus from Colwall station. The bus route climbs to the Wyche Cutting high on the ridge before negotiating narrow, hillside roads back down to the town.



COTSWOLD VILLAGES

Buses link Moreton-in-Marsh to several of Britain's most picturesque villages, with charming, golden stone villages, charming gardens, antique shops, country pubs, tea rooms and a generous variety of dedicated visitor attractions. For details, www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/bustimetables or call 0871 200 22 33.

Bus route 801 serves Stow-on-the-Wold and Bourton-on-the-Water. Delightful Stow-on-the-Wold, built around a market square, is noted for its antique shops. The square was formerly used for huge sheep fairs. Picture-book Bourton-on-the-Water is grouped around the shallow River Windrush, which it spans with a series of little bridges. Many of its idyllic Cotswold cottages are over 400 years old. Bourton's visitor attractions include Birdland Park & Gardens, the Cotswold Pottery, the Dragonfly Maze, the Cotswold Motoring Museum and Toy Collection, the Model Railway Exhibition, the Living Green Centre, the Cotswold Perfumery and the Model Village.

Bus route 21 / 22 runs to Blockley, Broadway and Chipping Campden. If you wish you can continue your journey on this bus route to historic Stratford-upon-Avon. Blockley complements its Norman church and distinctive Cotswold architecture with several converted 18th and 19th-century silk mills.

The mill stream is now a feature of Mill Dene Garden, open to the public from Easter to October. Broadway, another jewel in the Cotswolds, is known for its broad high street whose attractive buildings span 700 years of history, and for the Broadway Tower, a distinctive building on the hill overlooking the village, which has strong associations with the Arts and Crafts Movement, and which provides fantastic views on a clear day.

Three miles away, the High Street in the old wool merchants' town of Chipping Campden is often described as the most perfect in England, comprised of beautiful buildings from the 14th to 17th centuries. Court Barn Museum celebrates and records the story of the Arts and Crafts movement and its legacy in Chipping Campden while Harts Gold and Silversmiths in Sheep Street is the last operating remnant of The Guild of Handicraft, established in the town in 1888.

The Cotswold Way is a 100 mile long-distance footpath that goes from Chipping Campden to Bath, passing through Broadway.

Further Information

Cotswolds and Forest Tourism Tel: 01242 864171 Email: tourism@gloucestershire.co.uk www.cotswolds.com



HEREFORD

Herefordshire's ancient cathedral city has plenty to show for a history that dates back over 800 years.

The 11th-century cathedral founded by the Normans looks down to the River Wye, which is spanned by a graceful arched bridge and an elegant iron suspension footbridge which affords some lovely river views. The cathedral takes it in turn with Worcester and Gloucester to host the international Three Choirs Festival, once every three years.

Adjacent to the cathedral, Hereford's Mappa Mundi Museum and Chained Library house some of the nation's greatest treasures. Drawn on a single sheet of vellum, the medieval Mappa Mundi - or map of the world - shows how 13th-century scholars interpreted the world and is unique in Britain's heritage. The Library's collection of 1,400 chained books and manuscripts, dating from the 8th to the 15th century, is unsurpassed. There are more treasures to be found in the city's Museum and Art Gallery, housed in a splendid Victorian gothic building in nearby Broad Street.

The High Town is the lively focal point of Hereford's pedestrianised shopping area, a lively setting for events and an ideal place to sit in a restaurant or pavement café and watch the world go by. The outstanding feature here is the Old House, one of the county's finest black-and-white buildings, whose three floors are furnished in contemporary 17th-century style. The Butter Market, which opens from Monday to Saturday, is also situated here and livestock and general markets take place on Wednesdays and Saturdays in different parts of the city. Capucia Lane, also called Church Street, is the place to go for shops specialising in music, maps, jewellery, pottery and needlecraft.

From May to September, guides are on hand to lead exploratory walks of these and other attractions in the city and public transports aids exploration further a-field. Linked to the station by bus routes 461 and 462, The Cider Museum is another must for fans of Herefordshire's traditional tippie.

Further Information

Tourist Information Centre, 1 King Street, Hereford Tel: 01432 268430; E-mail: tic-herford@herfordshire.gov.uk



areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs), together with National Parks, represent some of the finest countryside in England and Wales. The outstanding natural beauty of these areas includes their landscapes, wildlife, built heritage and the communities which thrive within them. Tranquillity is also a special component of AONBS and by visiting these areas by train you will be helping to reduce pollution and to conserve a sense of peace and quiet.

The Cotswolds

The Cotswolds is considered by many people to be one of the most beautiful areas of England - the quintessential English landscape.

It is a place of immense diversity: rolling landscapes with breathtaking views and open skies contrast with intimate valleys, villages and pastures; ancient beech woodlands, rare flora and limestone grasslands alternate with broad swathes of arable fields; pre-historic hill forts are found close to the fine craftsmanship of manor houses and stone cottages.

Throughout the area, Cotswold stone is a feature of buildings and walls, acting as a unifying thread blending the towns, villages and farms with their surrounding landscape.

The Malverns

The Cotswolds was designated as an AONB in 1966 and extended in area in 1990. It is the largest AONB in England and Wales covering 2,038 sq kms (790 sq miles), stretching east to west from Oxford to Gloucester and north to south from Stratford-upon-Avon to Bath. The Cotswolds AONB is a very popular tourist destination with over 20 million visitors a year.

Most of the Cotswolds & Malverns Line between Hanborough and Honeybourne lies within the Cotswolds AONB, so sit back and enjoy this fantastic landscape. Alternatively, stop off en-route and 'Explore the Cotswolds' by public transport.

For more information about the Cotswolds AONB and the work of the Cotswolds Conservation Board, which looks after the AONB, see the Conservation Board's website www.cotswoldsaoib.org.uk.

The Malverns

The Malvern Hills AONB covers 105sq kilometres and includes parts of Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Gloucestershire. It is an area of great landscape diversity where the oldest of England's hills give views across to ancient, broadleaved woodland, rolling pasture and wild open commons. Hill forts, castles, priories and churches all bear testament to man's long and fruitful association with this area.

The most distinctive landscape feature when travelling to the area is the range of the **Malvern Hills** themselves which are at the heart of the AONB. The nine mile range consists of a ridge running north to south along the border between Worcestershire and Herefordshire. The Malvern Hills and surrounding Commons are under the jurisdiction of the Malvern Hills Conservators. The Conservators have been responsible for their care and management since 1884 www.malvernhill.org.uk.

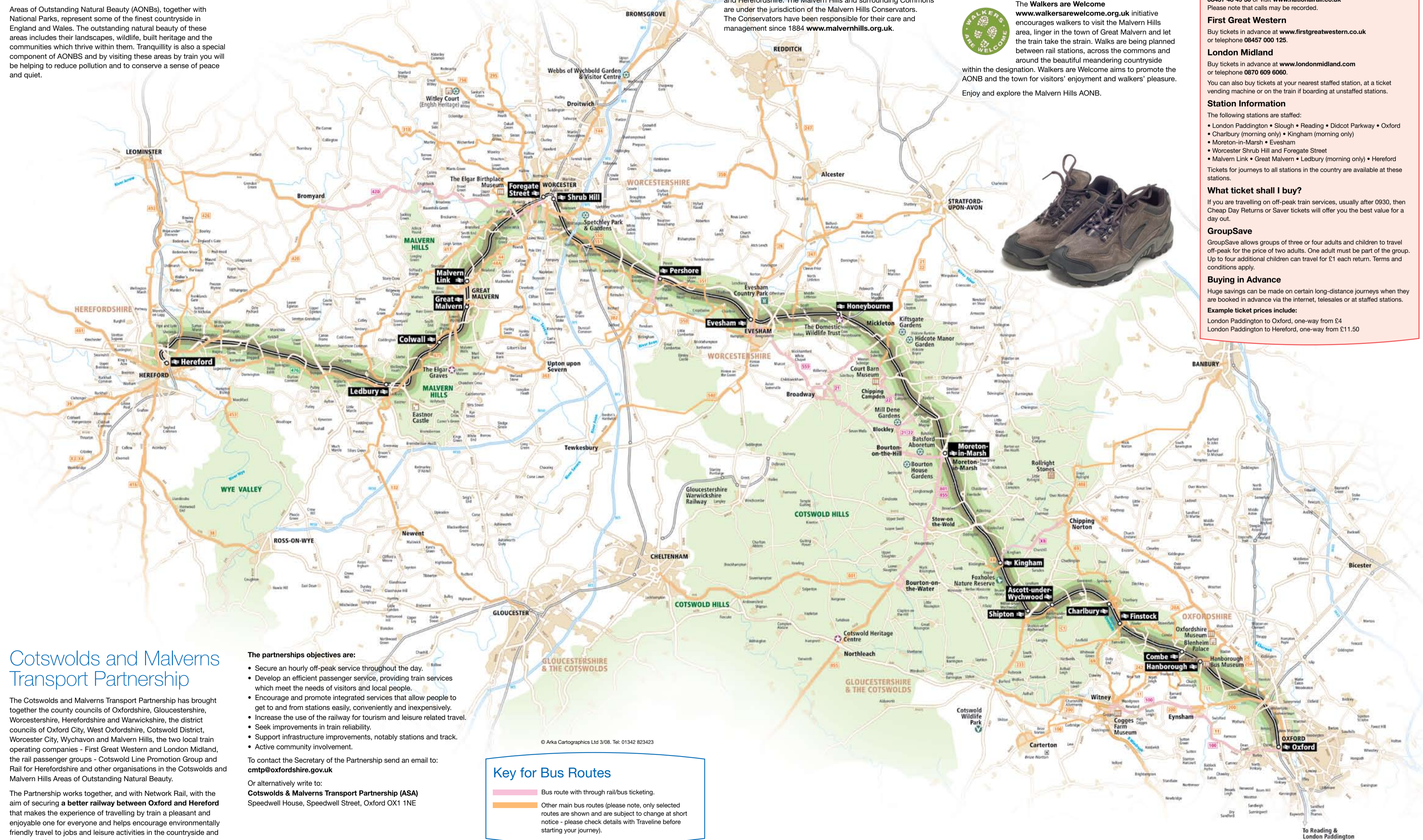
The area is of international importance for its geology and forms part of the Abberley and Malvern Hills European Geopark. Those that look can find evidence of a fascinating past of volcanic activity and the remnants of our own tropical seas.

The area is perfect for those who want to take a short break from it all and offers some wonderful quiet lanes which are popular with cyclists as well as large areas of open access land where you can wander at will. Various Discovery Walks and cycle routes can be downloaded from the Malvern Hills AONB Website www.malvernhillsoaib.org.uk where you will also find information about the AONB and its management.

Towns like **Ledbury** and **Great Malvern** are popular destinations for the day and short-break visitor and act as gateways to the area.



The **Walkers are Welcome** www.walkersarewelcome.org.uk initiative encourages walkers to visit the Malvern Hills area, linger in the town of Great Malvern and let the train take the strain. Walks are being planned between rail stations, across the commons and around the beautiful meandering countryside within the designation. Walkers are Welcome aims to promote the AONB and the town for visitors' enjoyment and walkers' pleasure. Enjoy and explore the Malvern Hills AONB.



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Key for Bus Routes

- Bus route with through rail/bus ticketing.
- Other main bus routes (please note, only selected routes are shown and are subject to change at short notice - please check details with Traveline before starting your journey).

The partnerships objectives are:

- Secure an hourly off-peak service throughout the day.
- Develop an efficient passenger service, providing train services which meet the needs of visitors and local people.
- Encourage and promote integrated services that allow people to get to and from stations easily, conveniently and inexpensively.
- Increase the use of the railway for tourism and leisure related travel.
- Seek improvements in train reliability.
- Support infrastructure improvements, notably stations and track.
- Active community involvement.

To contact the Secretary of the Partnership send an email to: cmtp@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Or alternatively write to:

Cotswolds & Malverns Transport Partnership (ASA)
Speedwell House, Speedwell Street, Oxford OX1 1NE

Cotswolds and Malverns Transport Partnership

The Cotswolds and Malverns Transport Partnership has brought together the county councils of Oxfordshire, Gloucestershire, Worcestershire, Herefordshire and Warwickshire, the district councils of Oxford City, West Oxfordshire, Cotswold District, Worcester City, Wychavon and Malvern Hills, the two local train operating companies - First Great Western and London Midland, the rail passenger groups - Cotswold Line Promotion Group and Rail for Herefordshire and other organisations in the Cotswolds and Malvern Hills Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

The Partnership works together, and with Network Rail, with the aim of securing a **better railway between Oxford and Hereford** that makes the experience of travelling by train a pleasant and enjoyable one for everyone and helps encourage environmentally friendly travel to jobs and leisure activities in the countryside and towns nearby.

TRAIN INFORMATION

Oxfordshire Day Ranger

The Oxfordshire Day Ranger gives you the freedom to make as many journeys as you like, on all train services, in the area bounded by Reading, Oxford, Bicester Town, Banbury and Moreton-in-Marsh. It costs just £15 and is valid after 0930 Mondays to Fridays, and at any time at weekends or Bank Holiday Mondays. Evening peak restrictions apply when travelling from Reading, Monday to Friday.

Oxford Evening Out ticket

If you feel like heading into the historic city of Oxford for an evening out in one of the many bars, theatres or restaurants the Oxford Evening Out ticket is the one for you, giving unlimited travel in the evening. The ticket is available from 18 May 2008 and costs £3. Terms & Conditions apply please check before you travel.

Thames Rover

Valid for three or seven consecutive days, the Thames Rover ticket gives you the freedom to go where you want by train throughout London and Thames Valley areas - perfect for short breaks or holidays.

The Thames Rover ticket allows unlimited travel on all services between London, Reading, Didcot, Oxford and Moreton-in-Marsh. You can also use it to visit other places in the region such as Windsor, Henley-on-Thames, Basingstoke and Newbury.

Prices are detailed below:

3-day Thames Rover £40.00
7-day Thames Rover £70.00

Ranger and Rover tickets can be purchased at most staffed stations anywhere in Britain. You can also buy them from teleales.

Ranger and Rover tickets are valid for unlimited travel (within the relevant validity period and area of each ticket) after 0930 Mondays to Fridays, and at any time on Saturdays, Sundays or Bank Holidays.

Children

Children (aged 5-15) are eligible for half fare on all tickets. Children under 5 travel free.

Railcards

Railcards offer value for money if you travel by train, regularly, saving you 1/3 off most standard rail tickets (time restrictions may apply). There are different types of Railcard, costing from £10 to £24 and valid for 12 months.

Cycles on trains

We welcome cycles on board all off-peak train services free of charge, many of which have dedicated cycle spaces.

Due to capacity constraints full size cycles cannot be taken on board certain peak time services, so please check before you travel. Folding cycles can be carried without charge on any service at any time.

TRAIN INFORMATION

There is so much to see and do along the Cotswolds & Malverns line and travelling by train can be both convenient and relaxing allowing you to enjoy the beautiful scenery.

There are regular direct train services from London Paddington, Reading and Oxford to Worcester, with some going on to Great Malvern, Ledbury and Hereford.

There are direct services from the South West, Birmingham / the West Midlands and the North to Worcester, linking in to the Cotswolds & Malverns Line.

Please check train times before you travel.

For information on train times telephone National Rail Enquiries on **08457 48 49 50** or visit www.nationalrail.co.uk Please note that calls may be recorded.

First Great Western

Buy tickets in advance at www.firstgreatwestern.co.uk or telephone **08457 000 125**.

London Midland

Buy tickets in advance at www.londonmidland.com or telephone **0870 609 6060**.

You can also buy tickets at your nearest staffed station, at a ticket vending machine or on the train if boarding at unstaffed stations.

Station Information

The following stations are staffed:

- London Paddington • Slough • Reading • Didcot Parkway • Oxford
- Charlbury (morning only) • Kingham (morning only)
- Moreton-in-Marsh • Evesham
- Worcester Shrub Hill and Foregate Street
- Malvern Link • Great Malvern • Ledbury (morning only) • Hereford

Tickets for journeys to all stations in the country are available at these stations.

What ticket shall I buy?

If you are travelling on off-peak train services, usually after 0930, then Cheap Day Returns or Saver tickets will offer you the best value for a day out.

GroupSave

GroupSave allows groups of three or four adults and children to travel off-peak for the price of two adults. One adult must be part of the group. Up to four additional children can travel for £1 each return. Terms and conditions apply.

Buying in Advance

Huge savings can be made on certain long-distance journeys when they are booked in advance via the internet, teleales or at staffed stations.

Example ticket prices include:

London Paddington to Oxford, one-way from £4
London Paddington to Hereford, one-way from £11.50

BUS SERVICES



There are many useful bus services linking the Cotswolds and Malverns Line to surrounding towns and villages.

For the times of all bus services in the UK, please contact traveline.

Combined Train and Bus Tickets

Through tickets covering both your train and bus journey are available to a number of destinations including Bourton-on-the-Water, Stow-on-the-Wold, Chipping Norton, Broadway and Chipping Campden.

Plusbus tickets cover rail travel and unlimited bus travel on most bus routes in your destination town. Plusbus tickets are available for Oxford, Evesham, Worcester, Great Malvern / Malvern Link and Hereford.

For further details of these tickets visit: www.plusbus.info or ask at your nearest staffed railway station.

The Cotswold Line Railbus is a dedicated network of bus services that take you to/from Kingham or Charlbury stations. The buses are timed to connect with most trains to/from London and Oxford and will also wait for some trains.

Cotswold Line Railbus routes:

X8 Kingham Station - Kingham - Churchill - Chipping Norton
C1 Charlbury Station - Charlbury - Finstock - Leafeld - Ascott-under-Wychwood - Shipton-under-Wychwood

For more information please see www.railbus.co.uk or call **01993 869100**

