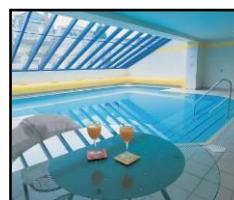




Walking Weekend Chippenham, Avebury and the Ridgeway



Date: Friday 17th – Sunday 19th Mar 2017 (2 nights)
Place: Angel Hotel Chippenham, Wiltshire, use SN15 3BW to find the hotel car park
Cost: £179.00 per person in a shared room
 £219.00 for a single room
 £229.00 for a sole occupancy of a double room

Included: 2 nights accommodation, 2 breakfasts, 2 picnic lunches, 2 evening meals & 2 guided walks with a choice of two guided walks each day, use of the hotels pool and gym

Extras: local transport (if used)

Slots: 43 to be accommodated in 5 Single, 10 sole occupancy, 12Twin and 2 Double en suite rooms

WalkWise Overview: We last visited Chippenham way back in 2014 and we were all very much impressed by both the hotel and the area alike. We are delighted to be returning to the Angel Hotel, whose hospitality, comfort and facilities we enjoyed so much last year. The hotel is one of our favourites with its own pool and gym, well appointed bedrooms, relaxing lounges bar areas and very friendly staff. Add to this the amazing Wiltshire countryside and we are in for another great weekend away. On Saturday we will walk the White Horse Way and the Wessex Ridgeway to conclude in the famous village of Avebury, famed as the second largest prehistoric site in Britain, (but possibly the most interesting!!) On Sunday we may choose to reacquaint ourselves with Harry Potter's pretty village of Lacock Abbey which has lovely walks and some cracking afternoon teas. However there is also some beautiful countryside walks around Slaughterford, Castle Combe and the Macmillan Way, which may yet tempt us!

The WalkWise Walking Programme: On Saturday we will head out onto the Marlborough Downs where we will explore a section of the Wessex Ridgeway between Devizes and Avebury. Our routes will follow two fantastic long distance trails, the Wessex Ridgeway and the White Horse Trail. These trails incorporate some of the most interesting countryside in the area, lovely villages, stunning manor houses, the occasional White Horses, lots of earth works and tumuli, well preserved long barrows some of which you can walk into, the fantastic Sidbury Hill and the perplexing Sanctuary. Then we will conclude the day by wandering along the prehistoric Stone Lined Avenue before exploring amazing Avebury Ring which almost surrounds the village. No doubt you'd want to explore some of this for yourself so we'll ensure there is a time at the end of the day for you to further explore for yourself, or get an afternoon tea or even a pint in cracking country inn.

By Contrast on Sunday we may elect to return to the harmonious village of Lacock Abbey with its mixture of stone and half-timbered buildings spanning the centuries. Here is a village steeped in history famed for its beauty, and set in history by photography, film and legend. It has exquisite country tea shops, inviting inns and it is renowned as one of England's most beautiful villages. Needless to say it is also surrounded by some stunning countryside, with ancient woodlands, regal country estates, treasure houses, ornamental lakes, peaceful canals and rivers; all of which when combined make for some beautiful varied and interesting walking. With so much to be said for this area, why would we think of going anywhere else? Well just to the north is another wonderful valley; a delightfully quiet vale with tranquil countryside walks and the lovely villages of Slaughterford and Castle Combe. So once again we find ourselves spoilt for choice... Whichever walks we choose though you will be assured of a wonderful weekend of walking around this very special and interesting area.

Actual routes will be finalised closer to the time but to allow you to choose a walk that suits you best, WalkWise UK will provide a minimum of two walks on each day, led by professional and knowledgeable walking guides. On both days there will be a harder walk of 10-12 miles with up to 1,500ft of ascent, and a gentler walk of 7-9 miles with less ascent. However, the programme is flexible and can be altered to suit your needs. All walks are weather dependent and own transport or coaches may be taken to the walk starts.

Accommodation: Set right in the centre of the dynamic market town of Chippenham the BEST WESTERN PLUS Angel hotel was originally a seventeenth-century coaching inn. It was extensively refurbished in late 2007 to offer the best in surroundings and comfort with a unique blend of traditional and contemporary style. The perfect base for our walking break it has 50 en-suite bedrooms, each containing a 32" LCD TV with Freeview and Sky Sports 1, direct dial telephone, hairdryer, iron and ironing board, complimentary WiFi and complimentary tea and coffee making facilities. There is also complimentary WiFi in all public areas, a contemporary Brasserie, 2 Bars and for a spot of luxury a heated indoor swimming pool and gymnasium. There is also free and ample car parking which can never be underestimated.

The maps for this event are:

- 1:25 000: EX157 Ordnance Survey Explorer Map - Marlborough and Avebury
- 1:25 000: EX156 Ordnance Survey Explorer Map - Chippenham

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