



THE PAINSWICK

Pretty Painswick a gentle stroll in the village

Gentle **dog friendly** stroll to **explore the local history** perfect for getting your bearings when you arrive. Rating is **gentle undulating terrain**.
On **pavements and road** only, so no muddy boots needed for this one.
Less than a mile long, take it at your pace and you can stop for a coffee or something stronger on your way round.

Painswick itself first appears in the Domesday Book of 1086 as Wiche, a 'dairy-farm'. The form Painswick is found in 1237, but must originate in the name of an earlier lord of the manor Pain Fitzjohn. In medieval England, wool became big business and Painswick was built on the wealth of the wool trade.

There's plenty of clues to look out for on your walk, written by our local walking guide lone - we hope you enjoy exploring!



From the hotel front door head through the left hand top car park entrance, after a few meters you will meet Tibbiwell Lane.
It's worth a little detour to the right as a few metres downhill and on your left is a beautiful little Tabitha's well with crystal clear waters, you'll probably hear it before you see it.

Turn back up the hill in the direction you came from, past Kemps Lane and you will see in front of you on the left an impressive cast iron hanging Golden Heart, now a listed sign.

Originally Painswick had around 17 Inns or public houses.
Ahead of you, you will see a T junction, take a right and immediately in front of you there's a modern house called 'Nurses house'.

It was built on 15th June 1941 after eight HE bombs were dropped in and around Painswick. One hit the middle of Painswick killing 2 evacuees from Birmingham.
Take the road on the left, Friday Street, by passing Nurses house on your right. In the corner and tucked away are two of the oldest houses in Painswick dating back to around 1550.

Thorne on the left hand side even has a Roman column in it, probably repurposed from Cirencester which was the largest town in Roman Britain.
You will also notice to the left of the house an impressive looking building which is now the Roman Catholic Church. It was previously four cottages in the 16th century and later a slaughterhouse.

Carry on walking another minute or two until you reach the T junction of Bisley Street.
Look across the street and to the left and you will see an ancient door. One of many Donkey doors that goes between two houses, the Donkeys had their own Donkey barns. They carried the wool in panniers around the town.

From the middle of 15th century to the 19th century the prosperity of Painswick was due to the production of super-fine broadcloth.

By the beginning of the 19th century there were nearly 30 cloth mills in the Painswick parish. The last mill closed in 1982.

Carry on down hill on Bisley street towards....





....The Painswick Centre which can be found to your left.

The building was donated to the town by Frances Sarah Williams who bought a plot of land and then paid for the centre to be built for the town.

Now has an Arts cafe with cakes, coffee, lunch etc as well as stocking locally made items.

Turn right at this junction walking past the Oak pub on your left.

Keep walking past where you've already been and go straight until you reach a tight bend to the right, opposite Meadows coffee shop.

This is Victoria Street, as you walk up you will see a hedge on your right and the side wall of Russell House which is made mostly of bricks instead of the local Cotswold Stone.

This was after the glory days of the wool trade when Painswick fell on hard times and many houses were crumbling.

People couldn't afford Stone and used the new cheaper bricks.
You'll walk past St Michaels restaurant, beside this is the Town Hall.
Read the inscription to see what the building was previously used for.
Here turn into St Mary's Churchyard taking the path to the right.
You will be walking between the world famous 99 Yew trees.

This churchyard is reported to be the poshest in England. This is because of the sheer number of table top tombs, of which there are many.

As you walk along look up at the church tower, which has pot marks from cannon fire.

It became the target during the civil war by Royalist troops.

The parliamentarians were inside and used it as a defense hold.

Once you get to the end of the path, you will find one of the prettiest of gates.

Take the path that leads to it and you'll walk past a pyramid gravestone.

The local stonemason wanted to stand out from the crowd for his own tomb!

Continue walking past the church on your left, pop in if you have time. It's a beautiful church with some impressive details.

At the far end of the churchyard, when the path splits you will find a little gap to your right. Walk though this and you will be in an area called ' the Stocks'.

This was where if there was local bad behaviour, people could be held by the legs. These ones are rare and only two exist. They were made of iron as previously they were made of wood.

Take Hale Lane directly down the hill, a view often seen on Instagram.

At the bottom there's a path and you will then turn left on the lane, that's Kemps.

The hotel is now approaching on your left.

Time to enjoy an amazing traditional afternoon tea or a cheeky cocktail.

