

# WATERWAYS

Sport – Food – Walking – Wildlife



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**STROUD  
DISTRICT  
COUNCIL**  
[www.stroud.gov.uk](http://www.stroud.gov.uk)

# “*The Beauty of the Canal*”

The Stroud district is known for its picturesque landscapes, charming villages, Cotswolds connections and the beautiful Stroudwater Navigation canal. Steeped in history and nature there is something for everyone to enjoy along our waterways. If you're looking for adventure why not get on the water by enjoying a classic canal boat tour or try your hand at paddle boarding or kayaking . If you're here for the calm and quiet, a stroll along one of our many canal trails allows you to take in the gorgeous scenery while nature spotting and of course stopping for a quick drink and bite to eat.



# SLIMBRIDGE TO PURTON

Starting off strong for the walking and nature enthusiasts, this walk can take between 2-3hrs depending on how much time you take to enjoy the sights along the way.

Following the footpath from Slimbridge to Purton you'll find lots of opportunities to spot local wildlife and are rewarded at the end with the remarkable Purton Ship Graveyard.

Looking out over the River Severn you will find a number of purposely abandoned ships dated back from the late 19th century. These creepy decaying ships were intentionally beached to reinforce the river bank and is now largest ship graveyard in mainland Britain.

The ships are surrounded by a stunning landscape and lovely walks, making it hauntingly beautiful.



**THIS ONE IS A LONG ONE, SO MAKE SURE YOU ARE WELL EQUIPPED FOR THE WALK. THERE IS ALSO PARKING AT BOTH ENDS, SO CONSIDER SPLITTING THE AREAS IF NEEDED.**



## Slimbridge

The charming village of Slimbridge has a lot in store for visitors. Enjoy delicious treats and beverages at [The Black Shed](#) café, which is also home to [Adventure Hire Slimbridge](#), where you can rent bikes, kayaks, and paddle boards to challenge your water sports skills. Or pop in/stay at The Tudor Arms pub opposite the canal. Additionally, Slimbridge boasts the renowned [WWT Slimbridge](#), offering a full day of fun for the entire family. With children's play areas, birdwatching zones, an on-site café, and various events throughout the year, it's a destination you won't want to miss.

# OCEAN TO EBLEY

Begin your adventure at Ocean Swing Bridge, which is just a 20-minute stroll from Stonehouse station. As you walk through the town, you'll pass by the Stonehouse Court Hotel, an excellent spot to relax or grab a quick drink before setting off.

The canal walk takes approximately 45 minutes one way, allowing you to soak in the serene atmosphere while appreciating the nature and history surrounding you. Your journey will conclude at Ebley Mill, where you can treat yourself at Kitsch Coffee and Wine Bar. Or get on the water by hopping on a canal boat tour hosted by the Cotswold Canals Trust.

Don't miss out on other notable sights along the way, such as the Grade II listed Gatehouse at Bond's Mill—a rare two-storey pillbox from World War II – St Cyr's Church with its 14th-century tower, and the Ryeford Double Lock.



**THIS WALK IS FEATURED ON OUR WALKING APP: DISCOVER STROUD TRAILS AND INCLUDES A SHORTER CIRCULAR VERSION.**



## Stonehouse

Stonehouse is an excellent choice for a base, conveniently located near the M5, Stonehouse train station, and bus connections, making it easy to navigate from here. As one of England's 10 designated Arboretum towns, it's just a six-minute walk to the Cotswold Way and a three-minute bike ride to Sustrans Route 45.

**Fun fact:** Edward Thache's, more widely known as the infamous pirate Blackbeard, father born in Stonehouse, and his grandfather served as the vicar at St. Cyr's Church.

# WALLBRIDGE TO BRIMSCOMBE

To begin your canal walk, simply head down from Stroud train station to Wallbridge. We highly recommend stopping by one of Stroud's many cafes for a quick bite to energize yourself for the journey ahead. Stroud is also an ideal place to stay, offering a variety of activities within the town, and with [The Stroud Hotel](#) conveniently located next to the station, you'll have plenty to keep you occupied even before you set off on your walk.

As you stroll along the canal path, you'll be treated to stunning views of a beautiful viaduct, numerous locks, and fantastic opportunities for nature watching—you might even be fortunate enough to catch a glimpse of an otter!

Your destination is Brimscombe, where you'll find plenty of options to satisfy your hunger. However, if you're up for a little more adventure, continue on to Chalford, where you can visit the [Lavender Bakehouse](#) and [R.M.C - The Cave](#), a fascinating technology museum.



**STROUD HAS SOME GREAT BUS LINKS, SO IF YOU'RE NOT FEELING THE RETURN WALK, CONSIDER CATCHING THE BUS BACK INTO TOWN.**

## Brimscombe

The perfect way to end a long walk is with some good food, fun times and a drink, lucky for you Brimscombe can offer all these things. Pop into [The Ship Inn](#) for a stunning Sunday roast, head to [The Long Table](#) for their pay as you can attitude and community events or have a longer stay at [Stroud Brewery](#) which has various family focused, music and art events throughout the year as well as their incredible food and local beers to sample.



## *Additional Tips*

It's always worth a quick google of businesses before setting off on your journey, there are numerous food and drink places listed above but check out [www.visitstroud.co.uk](http://www.visitstroud.co.uk) for more suggestions and events happening while you're here.

### Walking:

Be sure to check the weather forecast before any of your walks and dress accordingly, remember hydration is key so bring snacks and water especially on the longer walks (there are plenty of local stops along the way to help with this). Wear comfortable shoes, the paths are mostly flat but can be uneven at times. Although we recommend waking/cycling and public transport there are various car parks along the canal and in our towns if you are driving to the locations.

### Accommodation:

If you're staying in the area we have numerous great options including hotels, B&B's, camping, unique stays and caravan sites.

For hotels check out [The Stroud Hotel](#), [Burleigh Court](#), [The Bear of Rodborough](#), [Painswick Hotel](#), [Stonehouse Court Hotel](#), [Egypt Mill Hotel](#), as well as a Premier Inn and Travelodge.

For more accommodation check out: [www.visitstroud.uk/accommodation](http://www.visitstroud.uk/accommodation)

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