

Walk in the Cotswolds: Malmesbury & River Avon walk

This river walk explores the charming town of Malmesbury, the meandering River Avon and the gorgeous Cotswold countryside. The Malmesbury and River Avon walk enjoys breathtaking views of the medieval market town and the serene river.

Location: Malmesbury, Wiltshire

Walk difficulty: Easy

Time: 2 ½ to 3 hours

Distance: 5.4 miles (8.7 km)

Walk guide: [Malmesbury & River Avon walk by adragonsescape.com](https://www.adragonsescape.com)



Malmesbury & River Avon walk instructions

1. At the top of High Street, turn left onto Gloucester Road. At the street corner, take the pedestrian lane and veer right down steps. Turn right onto Burnivale Lane, cross the road and continue down an alley, following the footpath sign.
2. Cross the bridge and then over the stile, and continue along the footpath. Turn left, keeping the river to your left, and continue along the grassy bank. At the bend in the river, turn right and go into the next field. Turn immediately left, go through the gate and follow the man-made path, keeping the hedge to your left.
3. Cross the bridge and go through the kissing gate onto a lane. Cross the following two bridges and follow the woodland path. Go through the next kissing gate and keep the river to your left. Go through the following kissing gate and then the gate onto the road.
4. Turn right onto the road and continue straight ahead, walking first along High Street, then Burton Hill, Barley Close and Parliament Row. At the pedestrian crossing, cross the main road and turn right. Turn left down the second lane, following the footpath sign and keeping the fence to your right.

5. At the end of the lane, go through the gate and cross two fields, keeping the hedge to your left. Cross over the stile and continue straight ahead, aiming for the gap between the line of trees. Then cross over the next stile, continue straight ahead and once you've past the tree, veer right.
6. Cross over the following stile and continue straight ahead, keeping the hedge to your right. When you reach the end of the field, turn sharply left, staying in the same field and walking along the left bank of the river. Cross over the stile on the right-hand side of the gate onto the road.
7. Cross the road and continue straight ahead through a housing estate. Cross the bridge and continue straight ahead, keeping the river to your left. At the bend in the road, go through the gate straight ahead and cross the wooden bridge over Cowbridge Weir.
8. Continue straight ahead through two fields, keeping the fence to your left and following the signpost for Lea. Cross over the stile and continue straight ahead, keeping the river to your right and aiming for the cluster of houses.
9. Go through the gate, cross the road and go through the next gate. Continue straight ahead, go over the bridge and aim to the right of the farm building. Go through the gate and follow the road through Crab Mill Farm.
10. After the road bends, cross over the stile on your left and go across the meadows, keeping the river to your left. Cross over the next stile and go across the next meadow. Veer left twice, keeping the river to your left, and follow the man-made path across a large meadow.
11. Cross over the stile onto the country lane, and at the field corner, turn left, continuing round the field. Continue straight ahead back across the two meadows you crossed earlier to the road. Follow the road back through Crab Mill Farm and at the last farm building, go through the gate on your right.
12. Veer right, go over the bridge and go through the two gates, crossing the road. Veer right uphill and aim to the right of the tree. Go through the kissing gate under the tree and continue along the field border, keeping the hedge to your left.
13. At the corner of the field, go through the kissing gate and continue along the woodland path. Cross over the stile and continue straight ahead along the tarmac path. Veer left towards the river and walk along the river bank, keeping the river to your left. Before the bridge, go back along the tarmac path.
14. Go through the kissing gate under the bridge and veer left down Baskerville Hill, following the signpost. Continue along St John's Street and turn right before the Bowling Green, once again following the footpath sign. Then continue along the woodland path, cross the bridge and over the stile into the meadow..

15. Continue straight ahead across the meadow, cross over the next stile and follow the riverside path. Cross over the following stile, turn right onto the road, cross the bridge and the road and take the path to the right of the river.
16. Go through the kissing gate and follow the woodland path along the river. Go through the following kissing gate and turn left onto Mill Lane. Follow the tarmac lane over the bridge and up the hill. Veer left up the steps, go past the back of Malmesbury Abbey and follow the lane, then the road back to Market Cross and the top of High Street.

Malmesbury & River Avon walk details

Walk guide: [Malmesbury & River Avon walk by adragonsescape.com](https://www.adragonsescape.com/malmesbury-river-avon-walk)

Walk GPX file: [Malmesbury & River Avon walk on my.viewranger.com](https://www.viewranger.com/malmesbury-river-avon-walk)

Location: Malmesbury, Wiltshire

Walk difficulty: Easy

Time: Approximately 2 ½ to 3 hours with regular stops

Distance: 5.4 miles (8.7 km)

Ascent: Gentle

Trail condition: Muddy in some areas, especially the fields

Accessibility: Not suitable for pushchairs, wheelchairs or bikes

Parking: Cross Hayes car park (pay and display) or streets in Malmesbury (limited parking spaces available)

Facilities: Toilets, shops and pubs in Malmesbury

For more inspiration to explore Bath, Bristol, the Cotswolds and beyond, visit [adragonsescape.com](https://www.adragonsescape.com) and plan your escape