

Near Bath: St Catherine's Valley walk in the Cotswolds

Located near Bath, the St Catherine's Valley walk offers a peaceful escape to a hidden valley and the charming hills of the Cotswolds. This circular walk features country paths, rolling fields and quaint villages, and boasts fantastic scenery of the Cotswold.

Location: Cold Ashton, South Gloucestershire

Walk difficulty: Intermediate

Time: 4 to 4 ½ hours

Distance: 8 miles (13 km)

Walk guide: [St Catherine's Valley walk by adragonsescape.com](https://adragonsescape.com)



St Catherine's Valley walk instructions

1. From Cold Ashton's Parish Hall car park, turn left onto the road. Walk past Cold Ashton manor and at the Old Rectory, turn right and go through the gate into the field, following the footpath sign and the Limestone Link sticker.
2. Continue straight down the field to the kissing gate under the tall tree. Go through the gate and continue straight down. Turn left onto the dirt track and follow the track to the end of the field. Go through the kissing gate, turn right and follow the uphill path.
3. At the yellow signpost, turn sharply left onto the man-made path. Go through the kissing gate and continue straight ahead. Go through the next kissing gate under the trees and continue straight ahead, following the man-made path.
4. Veer right along the hillside, aiming for the left of the tall tree and go through the kissing gate. Follow the path, go through the following gate and continue up the uphill path. Turn left onto the road and then immediately left again, following the footpath sign. Cross over the stile and continue straight ahead, following the downhill path.
5. Go through the gate and cross over the dirt track. Following the signs for the Limestone Link, go through the kissing gate and continue straight ahead. Go through a series of gates and cross a series of fields, following the man-made paths and keeping the field boundaries and the brook to your right.

6. Go through the gate and turn left onto the uphill country road. Turn right at the footpath sign and follow the path. Cross over the stile, the brook and the second stile, and continue straight ahead. At the yellow signpost, veer right towards the bottom of the valley and then keep the fence and the brook to your right.
7. Cross over the stile and continue straight ahead, walking under the pylons. Go through the gate and continue straight ahead. Here, you can spot the hamlet of St Catherine to your right. Cross over the bridge and the stile, and turn right onto the path and into the field, keeping the brook to your right. Go through the kissing gate and continue straight ahead onto the country road.
8. Cross over the bridge and into the courtyard and follow the uphill path between the houses. Go through the gate and turn left onto the road. At the footpath sign level with Hill Barn, turn right onto the uphill track.

Alternate route if the uphill path between the houses is a bog: At the bridge, veer left and continue along the Limestone Link trail. Cross the track, go through a series of gates and cross a series of fields, keeping the fence and the brook to your right. Go through the gate onto the road and turn right. At the junction, turn right and at the footpath sign level with Hill Barn, turn left onto the uphill track.

9. At the top of the steep path, turn left onto the dirt track, then sharp right onto another track. Go through the gate and follow the path. At the junction, turn left and continue along the path. Cross over two stiles and at the second stile, turn left and keep the airfield boundary to your left.
10. At the second junction level with the commemorative stone, turn right onto the track and cut across the airfield. At the crossroads, continue straight ahead and go through the gate. When the track veers left, continue straight ahead to the kissing gate (Beware of the electric wire fence).
11. Go through the kissing gate and cross the field diagonally to the left. At the footpath sign, go through the gate and continue downhill to the bottom of the field, keeping the fence to your left (Do not follow the track). Go through two kissing gates and into the field and veer right downhill, keeping the field boundary to your right.
12. Go through the kissing gate and follow the path to the stile. Cross over the stile and turn left onto the road. After the stone wall, turn right, go through the kissing gate and cross the field diagonally to the left, aiming for the middle of the bottom fence. Cross over two stiles and a bridge and turn left back onto the Limestone Link trail.
13. Go through the kissing gate, cross the road and go through the gate, following the signs for the Limestone Link. Continue straight ahead to the crest of the field, cross over the stile and turn right onto the road. Turn immediately right onto the downhill path, cross over the stile and continue straight ahead, following the path.

14. Go through the kissing gate and veer right following the man-made path. At the tall tree, veer left and continue along the hillside. Continue uphill, keeping the trees and the field boundary to your right. At the end of the field, go through the kissing gate and continue straight ahead.
15. Go through the next kissing gate, continue straight ahead then turn sharply right onto the path. Go through the following kissing gate and continue straight ahead. At the yellow signpost, veer right up the hill. Go through the kissing gate and continue straight ahead up the hill. Go through the gate, turn left onto the road and follow the road back to the car park.

St Catherine's Valley walk details

Walk guide: [St Catherine's Valley walk by adragonsescape.com](https://www.adragonsescape.com/st-catherine-valley-walk)

Walk GPX file: [St Catherine's Valley walk on my.viewranger.com](https://www.viewranger.com/st-catherine-valley-walk)

Location: Cold Ashton, South Gloucestershire

Walk difficulty: Intermediate

Time: 4 to 4 ½ hours

Distance: 8 miles (13 km)

Ascent: Very steep

Trail condition: Good, but the trail can get muddy in wet weather

Accessibility: Not suitable for pushchairs, wheelchairs or bikes

Parking: Cold Ashton Parish Hall car park (SN14 8JT)

Facilities: Toilets, shops and pubs along the Bath Road (A46)

Notes: Please be mindful of livestock and keep your dogs on a lead. Please beware of oncoming vehicles when walking on roads.

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