A DRAGON'S ESCAPE

Beyond Bath, Bristol & the Cotswolds

Walk in the Cotswolds: From Coaley Peak to Selsley Common

The walk from Coaley Peak to Selsley Common explores a section of the Cotswold Way and offers peaceful woods, enchanting valleys and glorious views. Located south of Stroud, the Cotswold walk takes you along the edge of the escarpment and to the depths of ancient woodland.

Location: Nympsfield, Gloucestershire

Walk difficulty: Intermediate

Time: 3 to 3 ½ hours

Distance: 7 miles (11.2km)

Walk guide: Coaley Peak to Selsley Common walk by adragonsescape.com

Coaley Peak to Selsley Common walk instructions

Recommended detour to Frocester Hill: From the Coaley Peak car park, take the path on your left and walk along the edge of the escarpment. Go through the kissing gate and veer right. At the stone marker, you've reached Frocester Hill. Retrace your steps to the car park to commence the walk.

1. From the Coaley Peak car park, take the path on your right. Walk past Nympsfield Long Barrow (Neolithic burial chambers) and fork right at the Y junction, following the signpost for the Cotswold Way and aiming for the woods. You'll follow the signposts for the Cotswold Way throughout this walk.

2. Go through the kissing gate and fork left at the Y junction. After a short flight of steps, continue straight ahead at the crossroads and go through the second kissing gate. Fork left again and go through the following kissing gate.

3. At the next kissing gate, follow the path on the right, keeping the wooden fence to your right. At the crossroads, continue straight ahead along the main path, then further along fork left. At the following crossroads, continue straight ahead and go through the kissing gate.

4. As you emerge from the woods, follow the dirt path bordering the woods through the fields. Continue along the man-made path and cross over two stiles.

5. When you reach the metal gate at the end of the path, take the ascending trail on your right. Continue along the main path, which then turns into a small windy path.

6. After descending wooden steps, continue straight ahead at the crossroads, following the signpost for the Cotswold Way via Selsley Common, and go through the kissing gate. Go down further steps, cross over the stile and follow the path on your right.

7. Cross the road straight ahead to the big woodland alley and follow the path as it arcs round. Veer right onto a very steep path. At the top of the hill, go through the kissing gate and continue along the path straight ahead.

8. As you emerge from the woods onto Selsley Common, follow the signposts for the Cotswold Way dotted across the common. When you reach one, you will see the next signpost.

9. When you reach mounds on your left, go either over the top or to the right of the mounds (beware the trail is not well indicated here). Aim for the signpost to the left of the tree and follow the signposts down the hill.

10. When you reach the edge of Selsley Common, turn round and retrace your steps back the way you came to Coaley Peak, still following the signposts for the Cotswold Way.

Coaley Peak to Selsley Common walk details

Walk guide: Coaley Peak to Selsley Common walk by adragonsescape.com

Walk map and GPX file: Coaley Peak to Selsley Common walk on outdooractive.com

Location: Nympsfield, Gloucestershire

Walk difficulty: Intermediate

Time: Approximately 3 to 3 ½ hours with regular stops

Distance: 7 miles (11.2 km)

Ascent: Somewhat steep

Trail condition: Good, but muddy in the heart of the woods.

Accessibility: Not suitable for pushchairs, wheelchairs or bikes.

Parking: Coaley Peak car park (GL10 3TP)

Facilities: Toilets, shops and pubs in Nympsfield and Selsley

Notes: Please be mindful of livestock and keep your dogs on a lead.

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