



THE PAINSWICK

Cotswold Way, Washbrook and Highfield Farm

Back to The Romans

3.5 miles (5.6km) - About 2 hours

Moderate walk with a couple of hills to climb.

Leave the hotel via the front entrance and turn R onto **Kemps Lane**. After about 50 metres look for two cottages on your R (**Hale Bank** and **Church Cottage**). After the cottages turn R up the narrow footway, this widens into **Hales Lane**. Follow the lane up the hill. At the top where the lane turns right (look for the **stocks**) carry straight on through the entrance into the churchyard. Turn L and walk past the **church** on your R.

Pass through the **Lynch Gate** and cross over **Stroud Road** (main road, take care) to **Edge Road**. Follow Edge Road up hill, where it starts to descend turn L through the kissing gate following the **Cotswold Way**. Follow the hedge on your L and go through the kissing gate. The path runs between hedges, cross the drive and follow the path to the L.

Through the next kissing gate and out into a field. Follow the fence on the R down the hill to a kissing gate. Pass through, follow the hedge on your L and then bare R – you can spot the yellow way mark at the end of the hedge. Then follow the hedge, on your R, down the field to a kissing gate. Pass through and follow the path down past **Washbrook Farm**.

At the finger post turn R and follow the track. At the end you meet a road, turn R. Follow the lane across the stream and up the hill for about 100 metres and look for a **footpath sign and stile** on the L. Go over the stile and straight across the field and up stone steps to join a path. Turn L and follow the path between the trees. Carry straight on over the stile by the low farm buildings and follow the hedge/fence on your L.

Carry on over the next stile and then turn R up the hill (North East) heading for a **kissing gate** at the top of the field close to some barns. Through the kissing gate (**Painswick church spire** should be visible) and bear left around the buildings.



The **Cotswold Way** is a 106 mile long National Trail running between **Chipping Campden** and **Bath**. For most of the route it follows the Cotswold escarpment.

Washbrook Farm is a Grade II listed building, also a former mill. On the exterior is a blocked and half concealed door opening with C16 moulding.

Ifold Roman Villa This site was extensively excavated in the early C20 and tiles and other artefacts were recovered. This is probably the first settlement in Painswick.

Cross over the **stile** where you can find an information board about the **Ifold Roman Villa**.

Follow the fence on the L past **Highfold Farm barns**, then bear R and passing around the end of the buildings walk up the farm drive.

The drive turns left and right and here you will find a second information board about the Romans. Continue up the drive for a further 50 metres where there is a **stone stile** on the R.

Pass over the stile, and follow the fence on your L down the hill. At the bottom go through the **kissing gate** and continue in roughly the same direction (South) with the fence on your L. On the far side of the fence are the grounds of **Painswick House**.

Follow the fence on you L and go through a kissing gate. Walk straight up the hill through a metal kissing gate and follow the field edge (East) through another metal kissing gate, then follow the field edge on your L to the corner of the field.

Walk onto the drive and walk round the L side of **Park Lodge**. Beyond the buildings there is a finger post showing the footpath to the R. Follow this between a wall and fence and past the school playing fields. At the school join the road and turn R and follow the road past the houses. At the end continue in the same direction passing a high beech hedge.

At the end you are back on **Edge Lane**, turn L and follow the road down the hill. This is the route you started on. Cross the main road (take care) through **Lynch Gate Music** and retrace your steps past the church, turn R down **Hale Lane** and then L back up **Kemps Lane** to the hotel.

Highfold Farm The farm is a typical Cotswold mixed farm. The farmer breeds sheep and beef cattle, and grows barley and wheat plus hay for horses.

This typical Cotswold **stone stile** is unique as it is inscribed, possibly with the letters IK and the date 1777.

Painswick House was built in the 1730s. In the grounds are the **Rococo Gardens**, designed in the 1740s as a flamboyant pleasure garden. These are open to the public.

Lynch Gate was built in 1901 when the church belfry was overhauled and some of these timbers were used to construct the Lynch Gate. Note the song with words and music above the entrance.