

Spend a weekend in.....

Spend a weekend in Dursley

Fancy a mostly car free mini-break with plenty of options for leisure walking and relaxing among a bohemian community? Then 'come away without delay' for this market town in The Cotswold's south-western edge offers delightful surprises.

It's all about woodland walks, open hilltops, a strong arty streak, and real ale pubs in this picturesque part of the Vale of Berkeley. Surrounded by one of England's finest beech woods, Dursley holds 'Walkers are Welcome' status, a national accreditation awarded where there is something special for walkers to enjoy. Unsurprisingly, there are multiple walking options and a huge number of published walking routes available to suit all abilities.

Day 1

Follow the heritage trail discovering hidden places like the Broadwell, and significant buildings such as the pretty 18th Century Market House, the parish church of St James the Great, and Jacob's House to discover their stories. Pop into [Dursley Heritage Centre](#) and uncover the most extraordinary people and items connected with this lovely market town. Like a revolutionary bicycle design, ingenious engineering, and the saviour of the Irish Wolfhound breed of dog.

Spend the afternoon with some easy walking exploring the surrounding countryside. Cam Peak and Cam Long Down are two wildflower rich hills which stand apart from the main Cotswold escarpment and provide a circular walk of about 4 miles, including a section of The Cotswold Way. On a clear day there are amazing views from the top. [Dursley Welcomes Walkers](#) is a useful mine of information about the many local walks to explore.

Back in town, indulge in a little retail therapy at [Wyke House](#), picture gallery, antiques and collectables, seek out the fun of a live puzzle at [The Escape Room](#), where the goal is to complete tasks and solve clues to escape within 60 minutes. Ideal for beginners and suitable for up to six people there are two game rooms to choose from – The Pharaohs Curse and The Conspiracy. Finish up with a live music performance at [Kingshill House](#), the Georgian Mansion saved from ruin in 1990 which is now a community-based arts charity.

Day 2

Fuel up with a leisurely breakfast because the challenge of Stinchcombe Hill is waiting. Choose one of multiple paths to walk up the steep slope from Dursley and follow The Cotswold Way circular 3½ mile loop around the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Slow down and appreciate superb views of the Cotswold escarpment, Tyndale Monument, and the Severn bridges from Drakestone Point. The view towards [Berkeley Castle](#) is basically unchanged since Shakespeare wrote of these 'high wild hills' in Richard II "How far is it to Berkeley", and Percey replies "there stands the castle by yon tuft of trees". [The Tyndale Monument](#) at North Nibley is an alternate splendid walk, where the number of steep ascents and descents make the 7 mile route one of the more strenuous in the Cotswolds. The destination tower commemorates William Tyndale, the local man martyred for translating the Bible into English so that his fellow citizens could read it.

Back in Dursley, there is always room for an afternoon tea treat or a selection of thirst-quenching local real ales as a celebratory reward.

Travel

Great Western Railway (GWR) has regular train services from London reaching Cam & Dursley in around 2-2½ hours, or 90 minutes from Birmingham New Street via Gloucester on CrossCountry and GWR services. By car, Dursley is easily accessible from the M5 motorway.

Stay

[Treehouse Holiday Cabin](#) – located in the centre of town and in the grounds of the Treehouse featured on Grand Designs.

[Woodland House B&B](#) – located a five minute walk from the town centre has 6 bedrooms.

[The Old Crown Inn](#) – traditional 17th century freehouse in Uley village with 3 bedrooms.

[Ashen Plains](#) – 50 acre camping and caravan site suitable for caravans, motorhomes, trailer tents and tents, surrounded by woodland.

[Ye Olde Dursley Hotel](#) - 15th century former coaching inn once used as a local assize court.

Eat

[Belle's Kitchen](#) – café with vintage, hand-restored up-cycled furniture.

[Bank Café](#) – barista coffee and food made on the premises.

[Leaf & Ground](#) – a lovely deli and locally sourced menu located overlooking the town at Cam.

[Bengal Lounge](#) – two-time winner of the UK Bangladeshi Chef of the year.

[Della Casa](#) – family-run authentic Italian restaurant.

[Old Spot Inn](#) – traditional, family-owned, local which features in the Good Pub Guide.

[Parsonage 53](#) – restaurant with exciting lunch and dinner menu using seasonal and local ingredients.

Further information

[Dursley Town Council](#)

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