

News Release

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Big Wheels Keep on Turning

-The best of cycling trails and cycling holidays from VisitWiltshire-



With National Cycling Week (14-22 June) upon us, the Grand Depart of the Tour de France in the UK (5-7 July) and the Tour of Britain (7-14 September) going from strength to strength, it is unsurprising that cycling is booming across the UK.

Wiltshire, with its famous plain, Neolithic monuments, hidden valleys, market towns and golden stone villages, is the perfect backdrop for cyclists looking to celebrate their sport over this summer.

[VisitWiltshire](#) has pulled together some of the county's bicycling highlights for summer 2014.

Cycling Events and Challenges

[*Warminster Wobble*](#) – 21-22nd June

The Warminster Wobble is Wiltshire's premier cycling festival, with spectator events and races to participate in across the two days. It is free to attend and suitable for all the family.

Warminster is in Wiltshire's relatively undiscovered Wylde Valley and the aptly named [The Resting Post](#) in Heytesbury (just outside Warminster) is a pretty 3 bedroom, four star, family friendly B&B with prices starting at £70 for two people per night.

[Wiltshire Big Wheel](#) – Devizes, 7th September

The Wiltshire Big Wheel is an open event for all the family and has two main rides, starting and ending in Devizes. The first is a 45 mile circular route taking in the North East of the County including Marlborough, Burbage and Pewsey. The second is a family-friendly 12 mile circular route.

The 45 mile ride costs £17.50 (children over 14 only and under 16s must be accompanied by an adult). The 12 mile ride costs £5 per child and £10 per adult (children must be over 8).

[Tour of Britain](#)- Bath to Devizes, 12th September

A stage of the Tour of Britain will take place between Bath and Devizes, via Bradford on Avon and Trowbridge, on 12th September, taking in some of Wiltshire's prettiest roads and towns. Spectators will be lining the streets to welcome stars of the sport from Britain and beyond.

Devizes itself lies at the heart of the county and is a great place for fans to base themselves if watching this stage. The [Southdown B&B in Devizes](#), from £80 for two people per night, is bike and walker friendly, so perfect for fans and enthusiasts.

Taking Part – Escorted and Unescorted Rides

Detailed Maps

[Connecting Wiltshire](#) is a fantastic resource which makes it easy to get in around Wiltshire using public or eco-friendly transport. There is a specific section devoted to two-wheeled pursuits and a "plan a journey" function, which can be filtered for bikes only. Once a route is selected, the site also shares information on average route times, distances, elevations, calorie burn and more. It is an essential tool for anybody planning a cycling break in Wiltshire.

Route Inspiration

For those seeking route inspiration and cycle maps, the Visit Wiltshire site has a plethora of [downloadable options](#); from easy to challenging courses. New maps are being added all the time

with the new [Salisbury-Stonehenge route](#) being the most recent. Alongside this it has a list of cycle friendly accommodation offers, again making cycling break planning simple.

Two of the best known routes this summer include [The Wiltshire Way and the Wiltshire Cycleway](#). The Wiltshire Way is a 17 or 27 mile ride for moderate riders, taking three or five hours. It is ideal for families with older children and costs £45 per person including guides and cycle hire. The Wiltshire Cycleway is a 160 mile circular route, which is split into smaller sections between 4.5 and 12.7 miles, making it ideal for a multi-day cycle. Plan for four to five days in order to complete the whole circuit, whilst taking in the wonderful surroundings.

Guided Rides

Those who love the idea of a two-wheeled adventure, but are less enthusiastic about the planning and navigation will find the perfect answer in Wiltshire. [Heritage Cycle Tours](#) provides bikes, helmets, routes and guides. It runs a series of one day tours departing from Salisbury and Marlborough. Routes take in Stonehenge and Avebury Ring ensuring riders see some of the county's most iconic attractions. Tours cost £45 per person, per day (discounts are available for group bookings).

After the ride is done – accommodation and food

Wiltshire is definitely a county for cycling enthusiasts, as witnessed by the amount of bike friendly accommodation and food options on offer.

The Best Part- Let Them Eat Cake!

Ask any rider the best part of cycling, and there's likely to be one clear answer: the cake stop! Cyclists famously love chance to refuel and re-calorie during a ride. Wiltshire has some superb cake-stops including some well-loved favourites.

[Rowdey Cow Farm Café & Ice Cream Parlour](#) has everything a hungry cyclist could need half way through a long ride. Set in the grounds of a Wiltshire dairy farm, there is a full menu as well as a selection of cakes and the real specialty: homemade ice cream made with milk from the farm itself.

The [Fisherton Mill](#) in Salisbury (near the station, ideal for beginning or ending a ride) is a contemporary arts venue and fantastic café. The café offers breakfast, brunch, lunch, high-tea and of course freshly baked cakes made on the premises.

[Beatons Tearoom and Bookshop](#) in Tisbury offers a range of home-made cakes designed to match the huge range of teas available. Lunches and high-teas are also available.

[The Bridge Tea Rooms](#) are award winning tea rooms in Bradford on Avon, offering fantastic tea, cakes and more in an historic building built around 1675. There is also a bakery for take-aways.

Rest Those Weary Limbs: Overnight comfort for people and bikes

[Fosse Farm House Cottages](#) offers fantastic four-star self-catering units near the picturesque Castle Combe. There are three options: the Stables, Dovecot or Garden House sleeping four or six guests. Prices start at £80 per night, with a three night minimum stay.

[Harepath House](#) is a prettily decorated self-catering studio apartment suitable for two people. It is near the Kennet and Avon Canal in Devizes, welcomes cyclists and offers safe storage for bicycles. Rates start at £70 per night in low season.

[Cornerways Cottage](#) is a well-appointed B&B outside Warminster, with special provisions for cyclists (including secure bike storage). It is well known for its full English Breakfast; the perfect fuel for a long day in the saddle; and double rooms start at £60 per night, including breakfast.

For those seeking a hotel the [Chiseldon House Hotel](#) between Swindon and Marlborough is a lovely Georgian Country House Hotel with an AA rosette quality restaurant. Rooms start at £65 per night.

For cycling clubs or friends getting together, the [Bridge Farmhouse](#) near Salisbury sleeps 21, can seat 20 round its enormous dining table (and can arrange a chef). It is a sprawling farm house, perfect for cyclists looking to relax after a day's ride. Prices start at £3250 per week.

ENDS

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Note to editors

Further information and images of the above attractions available upon request.

VisitWiltshire

VisitWiltshire was established in August 2011 and is the official Tourist Board for Wiltshire. It is a private sector membership organisation representing over 550 members. VisitWiltshire's priority is to grow the county's Visitor Economy by raising awareness of the destination and generating additional tourism visits and spend. Wiltshire's Visitor Economy currently generates an estimated £1.4billion and supports over 27,000 jobs.