

WELCOME TO OUR 12th WALKING FESTIVAL "People & Places"

Set in the beautiful Bristol Avon Valley, in the SE corner of the Cotswolds Area Of Outstanding Natural Beauty, our wonderfully varied countryside offers countless opportunities for walking, with super views, great scenery, loads of history and many refreshment stops.

We are easily accessible with good rail and bus connections from Bath, Bristol, Salisbury, South Wales & London.

Two long distance footpaths pass right through the town - The Macmillan Way and the Kennet & Avon Canal Towpath.

You can explore the whole area using the ever popular Bradford on Avon Walking Wheel. Maps of The Wheel are available in town - at Explore BoA Tourist Information, Ex Libris bookshop in The Shambles & at the Town Library. They will also be on sale from the registration tent during the Festival weekend.



BOOK WALK TICKETS IN ADVANCE

Online from 8 a.m. Thursday 1st August:

www.walkbradfordonavon.org

Sorry, no refunds

Before booking please refer to the website for definitive walk information.



BoA Hub
our main charity this year



Generously supported by BoA
Town Council & BCH Camping

2025 Walking Festival
5th, 6th & 7th September - save the date!!

HELPING YOU TO GET THE BEST FROM THE FESTIVAL

We aim to start all walks on time, so please arrive at least 10 minutes before the stated start time to allow time for parking, registration & briefing.

Except for SA2 & SU2 all the walks start from outside the Explore BoA Tourist Information Centre in Westbury House Gardens, next to the Town Bridge - BA15 1DE.

The D1 and D1X buses stop alongside and the train station is just a few minutes' walk away.

Please wear suitable clothing and footwear and bring sufficient drinks & snacks appropriate for the length of the walk. Always have plenty of water with you.

As BoA is working towards being a plastic free community, please support us by using a refillable water bottle. There is a refill station in St Margaret's car park, close to the registration tent.

Walks are led by experienced walkers who will set the pace & make decisions about participation.

U16s & vulnerable adults must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

Assistance dogs are welcome.
otherwise we have a 'no dogs' policy.

WALK GRADING

Please only undertake a walk if you are sufficiently fit & able to walk at the pace and for the distance as indicated:

EASY (E): mainly level, comfortable (but not slow) pace, no stiles, up to about 3 miles. Stopping regularly if guided tour.

MODERATE (M): half day walk, up to about 7 miles, stiles & steps, steeper gradients, faster pace.

DEMANDING (D): all day walk, longer still, slightly faster pace, greater stamina required.

Every effort has been made to ensure the information in this leaflet is correct. We reserve the right to make changes to or cancel walks should unforeseen circumstances arise.



Bradford on Avon
WALKERS ARE WELCOME

Bradford on Avon WALKING FESTIVAL 2024 6th, 7th & 8th September

"People and Places"
16 walks to suit all
abilities and interests



Online booking from 8 a.m. Thursday 1st August:
www.walkbradfordonavon.org



FRIDAY 6th SEPTEMBER

08.50 FESTIVAL OPENING

KEY:

start time / length / duration / grading / max no. / £adult/£U16

(if no U16 cost shown then not suitable for U16s)

Before booking please see the website for definitive walk details.

The times stated are when the walks leave.

Please arrive at least 10 minutes beforehand for registration & briefing.

The duration shown is the total time we'll be out, including stops.

FR1: THE SOUTHERN COTSWOLDS FROM WELLOW TO BoA

09.00 / 10m / 7h / D / 14 / £5 inc. transport. Bring picnic lunch.

The minibus will take us to the start of this linear walk from the village of Wellow back to Bradford on Avon. It's a lovely route along lanes, an old railway path and canal towpath and follows a beautiful hidden rural landscape with a rich history and many points of interest. **Leader:** Nigel Gerdes

FR2: GEOLOGICAL REVELATIONS FROM THE SOMERSET COAL CANAL

10.00 / 4.5m / 4h / M / 14 / £4/£2 inc. transport. Bring picnic lunch.

The minibus will take us to the start and take us back to BoA. This is a linear walk starting at Dundas Aqueduct and following the coal canal to Combe Hay. It's a fascinating exploration of the remains of Somerset Coal Canal, where William Smith made the original insights into British geological strata in 1790. **Leader:** Glyn Williams

FR3: VISIT TO ANTHONY BEST DYNAMICS FACTORY

13.30 / 4m / 3.5h / M / 20 / £3

An opportunity to find out about the work of this leading, global, engineering factory right here in BoA. The visit will be at the end of a 3 mile walk that will take us around BoA with superb views of the town and over to Salisbury Plain. The route home afterwards will pass through the grounds of The Hall. **Leader:** Jonathan Brown

FR4: THE RISE & FALL OF SHRAPNEL

14.00 / 6m / 3h / M / 15 / £3

With an explosive ending this walk will explore the legacy of the Shrapnel family. We'll see various properties in the town as well as Trinity church, before heading out to the Shrapnel's former country estate, Midway Manor, situated between Westwood and Wingfield. **Leader:** Helen Powell

FR5: DISCOVER BATS

19.30 / 1.5m / 1.5 h / E / 20 / £4/£2 inc. donation to Bat Conservation

This ever popular walk alongside the River Avon & Kennet & Avon Canal will be led by a local bat expert. It's a leisurely evening amble and we'll hopefully encounter several species of bat. Bat detectors will be provided and it would be helpful to bring a torch. Warm clothing is advised. U16s must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

Leader: Alison Raisey, Wiltshire Council Ecology Officer.

SATURDAY 7th SEPTEMBER

SA1: FRESHFORD FORAY

09.30 / 7.5m / 5.5h / M / 15 / £3/£2. Bring picnic lunch

A circular walk with spectacular views of the valleys of the Rivers Avon and Frome as we walk out to Freshford. After our lunch we'll be given a guided tour of this fascinating limestone village by a local, well respected historian. The return will be mainly alongside the River Avon. **Leader:** Jonathan Brown

SA2: EAST and WEST OF CORSHAM

10.00 / 10m / 5h / D / 20 / £5 Bring picnic lunch

Meet in Corsham at Springfield Campus SN13 9DN

A circular walk, mixing countryside and town, passing well known landmarks such as Middlewick House, the Almshouses and Corsham Court. We'll see one end of the famous Box Railway Tunnel and walk through Corsham Park. Make your own way to Corsham. **Leader:** Barry Cox, Corsham WAW



SA3: SPEAKING OF AFRICA.....!

12.00 / 6m / 3.5h / M / 14 / £4 inc. transport. Bring picnic lunch

The minibus will drop us off at Chapel Plaister, north of BoA and take us back at the end. As part of this circular walk, we'll first visit a 'secret' gravestone commemorating John Hanning Speke – the first European to reach Lake Victoria. This will then be followed by a visit to some Bathstone mines, the By Brook Valley and Box, returning via Hazelbury Manor. **Leader:** Tony Giles

SA4: THE MOULTON LEGACY

13.30 / 3m / 3h / M / 15 / £4/£2

This 3 mile walk around the town will visit points of interest connected to the Moulton family and will finish in the grounds of The Hall, the Moulton family home. Here a local Moulton enthusiast will give a potted history of The Hall, the heart of rubber manufacture in the UK and home of the small wheeled Moulton bicycle. **Leader:** Alison Reynolds



SA5: THE MOST BEAUTIFUL SUNSET IN WILTSHIRE

17.30 / 4m / 3.5h / M / 15 / £6 incl. transport & Prosecco

The minibus will take us the 10 miles to the start at Edington for a circular, undulating walk with some stunning views in the evening light. There'll be a stop on Picquet Hill to watch the sunset & enjoy a glass of Prosecco before the downhill walk back to the minibus. **Leader:** Danny O'Callaghan

SUNDAY 8th SEPTEMBER

SU1: LIMESTONE LINK FROM MARSHFIELD TO DUNDAS

09.00 / 11m / 7h / D / 14 / £5 inc. transport. Bring picnic lunch.

The minibus will take us to the start in Marshfield for this linear, undulating walk in the Southern Cotswolds. It follows varied terrain following the Limestone Link for some of the way then joining the delightful Bath Skyline Walk. Finally it drops into the Avon Valley at Dundas Aqueduct from where the minibus will take us back to BoA. **Leader:** Peter Bird

SU2: CANAL CRUISE & WALK 2.5 hr canal cruise + 2 hr walk

10.00 / 5m / 5h / M / 20 / £12/£8 Meet BoA Lock. Bring picnic lunch.

Enjoy a relaxing, leisurely cruise along the Kennet & Avon Canal to the historic Dundas Aqueduct; there'll be plenty to see on the way - wildlife, beautiful scenery and historic bridges. Refreshments will be on sale on the boat and we'll eat our picnic lunch at Dundas. The return walk will be via Freshford, along lanes and through fields with one gentle climb, good views and attractive woodland. **Leaders:** Val Smith and Felicity Gilmour

SU3: WALK & CANAL CRUISE 2 hr walk + 2.5 hr canal cruise

10.00 / 5m / 5h / M / 20 / £12/£8. Meet Westbury Gdns. Bring picnic lunch.

We'll climb out of the town to the North West, along lanes, across fields & through woods to Conkwell, with great views as we emerge from the woods. A drop down into the Avon Valley takes us to Dundas Aqueduct where we'll eat our picnic lunch. We can then relax on a leisurely canal cruise back to BoA; there'll be plenty to see on the way - wildlife, beautiful scenery and historic bridges. Refreshments will be on sale on the boat.

Leader: Helen Powell

SU4: LANES, FIELDS & WOODLANDS

13.30 / 6m / 3h / M / 20 / £3/£2

A varied, circular walk along lanes & across fields with some super views. We'll pass through some of musician and environmental activist Brian May's new tree planting at Inwood as well as alongside the existing, ancient woodlands. **Leader:** Richard Craft



SU5: A WALK THROUGH TIME

14.00 / 2m / 2h / E / 15 / £4/£2

From St Aldhelm to the present day this guided stroll around the town brings alive BoA's fascinating history through stories of some of the people who have influenced the town. An ideal walk for newcomers and visitors to BoA, as well as residents wanting to expand their knowledge of our lovely town. **Leader:** Andrew Butterworth, Blue Badge Guide.

SU6: TONGUE IN CHEEK 'TREK' AROUND BoA

14.30 / 1.5m / 1 hr / E / 10 / £3

Back for a 4th year, Merv's madcap meander is an alternative history full of surprises and downright lies. Find out about some interesting characters who may, or may not, have connections with the town!

Leader: Merv Grist, local storyteller & performer.