

[00:00:35.680] - Intro  
Intro

[00:00:37.690] - Tracy  
Hi and welcome to the UK Travel Planner Podcast and to 2023.

[00:00:43.630] - Tracy  
In this episode, we've got a recording taken from a live Facebook that I did with Victoria of Cotswold Tea Cup Tours just before Christmas. It went really, really well. We had a good chat, she shared some fantastic snippets about the Cotswolds and answered some questions that were given from members of our UK and London Travel Planning Facebook group.

[00:01:06.680] - Tracy  
So I decided to use this because it was really good, it was really interesting. Now, there was a few moments when we're talking about photographs that Victoria had taken of the beautiful snow that had fallen in the Cotswold. And those photographs are available to look at on the website, [UKtravelling.com/episode 27](http://UKtravelling.com/episode%2027).

[00:01:27.450] - Tracy  
So you might want to have a look at those while you're listening to the episode as well, so you can kind of don't have to imagine what they look like. You can actually see them. Anyway, without further ado, this is the live Facebook recording that myself and Victoria from Cotswold Teacup Tours did just before Christmas. So enjoy. I'll just introduce you to Victoria.

[00:01:48.150] - Tracy  
Victoria is here from Cotswold Teacup Tours. She's our preferred tour partner in the Cotswolds and she's come here tonight onto this live and to talk all about the Cotswolds, places to go, where to visit. And we're going to look at some photos that Victoria has taken in the last week, because I don't know if people have seen, but there's been a lot, quite a lot of snow in the UK recently. Unfortunately, it seems to have gone now we're just talking about that before I realised we hadn't gone live. So I think, Victoria, if you want to introduce yourself again and talk about your company, and then we'll maybe look through the photos again before we go through people's questions. But if anybody's watching live and I can see we have got a few people, feel free to ask questions as well as we go and we can answer those too.

[00:02:35.970] - Victoria  
Great, thank you. Hello, everybody. Yeah, so I have a little business which has been running for about a year now. I've been established for over a year now and I take tours, small groups on private tours of the Cotswolds, and I'm in job heaven. This is exactly the job I should have always done in my life and.

[00:03:09.280] - Tracy  
What a place to take people to. Honestly, I would say yeah. I would just say the Cotswolds probably Bath, York, Edinburgh and the Cotswolds are the four places that people always want to go to, we always get asked about. And the Cotswold is such a beautiful and quintessential English part of the country, and to live in it and to be able to take tours around there, I mean Victoria I'm not surprised. You absolutely love it. I know. It's an area of the country that Doug and I love to look around and visit, and it doesn't matter how long we stay there, we always want to go for longer. And obviously, you know, all the best tea rooms and pubs and villages and everything else, you live there. So it's brilliant that you're able to kind of share that, your local knowledge, and take people around an area of the country that you love.

[00:03:54.170] - Victoria  
I know. And there's so much here. Tracy so every time you come, you can find something new. Yesterday, we went over to me and my partner went over to Morton in Marsh. You can get there from London, Paddington Direct, if you want to, and tried out a new restaurant and had a lovely meal. Yeah. I said to them, I'm going to bring my guest here because it's so good. Had a great steak pie and a

glass of cider. I wasn't driving. Will was driving. It was fantastic.

[00:04:31.250] - Tracy

You get to try all these places out for us. Yeah, it's brilliant. So we've got some questions, but I thought, I'll just going to show if I can get this to work again. I've managed it before to show everybody some of the pictures. We'll start from the last picture this time, actually. Victoria so these were taken in about the last week or so, when there's been quite a lot of snow in the UK.

[00:04:56.910] - Victoria

Yeah, these were on Thursday these days. The little church. I was taking a tour out into the kind of the north central area of the Cotswolds. This is a little village called Ebrington. Ebrington Church. And as you can see, it was really snowy that day. And it's such a blue, blue sky. It's gorgeous. 900 year old church. And then there's the pub on the left. That's in Burford. That's the Highway Inn pub. And it's just an example of a typical English pub, cosy nooks and big bay windows to go and sit inside and snuggle up with a pint of beer.

[00:05:34.030] - Tracy

Oh, yes. And I think it's quite optimistic because they've got their tables and chairs outside.

[00:05:38.970] - Victoria

Well, the smokers probably have to go.

[00:05:43.130] - Tracy

I think it might be a bit chilly to be sitting there out. And then you were in Oxford, so we were talking about previously talked about Christmas markets, because Europe Christmas markets are phenomenal. So this is in Oxford. You were there the other day for the Christmas market.

[00:06:00.260] - Victoria

Yeah, that's right. I did a tour on Tuesday just around Oxford and just a couple of hours long tour. And yes, we walk through the Christmas market. It's only a small market, but it's really fun. And it's on Broad Street, pedestrianised area, and they sell locally made products. It's really nice. Just go walk through and have a quick look. Grab a hot chocolate en route.

[00:06:25.940] - Tracy

Yeah. Warm yourselves up a bit.

[00:06:28.100] - Victoria

Yeah.

[00:06:30.030] - Tracy

I think the picture on the left is probably my favourite one that you took, actually, that you sent me. It's just gorgeous.

[00:06:35.830] - Victoria

Those pink rose winter rose on the high street. I say. Tracy I risked my life for that photo. It was very icy, but

[00:06:49.730] - Tracy

I was looking at that pavement thinking, I don't think I'd want to be walking down. That looks a bit slippery.

[00:06:56.230] - Victoria

No, I wouldn't want to take a tour group down there. We would say, Isn't this pretty? Let's drive slowly through.

[00:07:04.950] - Tracy

Yes. Not walk down the hill. And then the Christmas tree with the teddy on the top, which is really

nice. Is that a Paddington bear on top?

[00:07:14.410] - Victoria

It does look like it's a Paddington Bear. We get snow here in the Cotswolds, but only probably once a year, a couple of days, so not all that often. So it's kind of a rare thing to get snow on a Christmas tree, which is why I had to capture that picture really alone. It looks more building behind.

[00:07:34.450] - Tracy

It looks lovely. I have to say it's because I'm living in Australia and it's beautiful here. It's lovely and warm and in Queensland. But I do miss that, the cold Christmas with the snow. And it just looks magical. Not that we have snow that often. I have to say, it is pretty rare, but when you do have it, it just looks lovely. And the photos from London early on the week in videos from London were phenomenal as well. I just was enjoying looking at all of those. And then we've got Broadway Tower, which looks fantastic, with the beautiful blue sky as well, behind it.

[00:08:07.080] - Victoria

That's right. High up on the hill. We had amazing views from Broadway Tower. And I took my binoculars with me so my guest could have a look through and we could see all the way to the borders of Wales wow. Which is a couple of hours away in the car.

[00:08:24.960] - Tracy

Not a cloud in the sky. There is a cloud. It looks funny.

[00:08:28.750] - Victoria

Yeah.

[00:08:29.160] - Tracy

And we're talking about this, a nice little cafe behind where you're standing to take the photos. There's a nice cafe that you go into.

[00:08:36.850] - Victoria

It's generally a theme with my tours, Tracy usually toilets and cafes quite nearby.

[00:08:43.820] - Tracy

Yes, I'm a complete tealover and I've got my cup of tea and cake afternoon. Who can avoid that? You can't avoid that when you're in the Crosswords, can you, really? And then another beautiful picture over Oxford. That's a gorgeous winter shot. The one on the right.

[00:09:05.100] - Victoria

Yeah. I was really lucky with my group. We went up into the rooftop of the Sheldonian Theatre, which is the only indoor rooftop viewing point in Oxford.

[00:09:15.820] - Tracy

Right.

[00:09:16.130] - Victoria

So it's warm as well.

[00:09:17.640] - Tracy

Is that free to go into?

[00:09:20.290] - Victoria

No, but it's £4 a person.

[00:09:25.090] - Tracy

And look at the view that you get. Fantastic. Absolutely beautiful. And then I've decided the house on the left, I'm going to buy at some point, because in my head, I'm going to live in that house. Because

isn't it just beautiful?

[00:09:38.330] - Victoria

It's funny, isn't it? I love that house. I think that is an old wool traders house that's in Chipping Camden, and it's a real standalone house. It's amazing. It's beautiful.

[00:09:50.140] - Tracy

You don't happen to know who lives there, then.

[00:09:52.190] - Victoria

No, I don't. I'd like to befriend them, though.

[00:09:57.230] - Tracy

I just imagine when you open the front, it's going to be like a Bridgerton, isn't it? It's just going to be a huge hall, massive Christmas tree, fires going, somebody's serving mulled wine. Oh, yes. I'm going into the house on my imagination because it's just absolutely beautiful. And then I've got, actually, some pictures. I'll go back to the beginning of these ones, because this was actually so we've got that sort of December in the Cotswold, and this was myself and Doug in the Cotswolds in 2020, so obviously it was still cold. This is Arlington Row in Bibury, which I'm guessing is a very popular destination for your guests, Victoria.

[00:10:33.930] - Victoria

Yes, it is. We timed it right. You've got a good timing there. It looks like there's nobody else there that day.

[00:10:42.110] - Tracy

It was pretty busy, actually. I think we just timed that photo right. Actually, I've got another photo and it actually doesn't look too bad. But we went we went this summer because Bibury is so, so popular. We actually went this summer. And what we did is we went later on in the day, we went for about 730, because obviously it's light and sunny and there wasn't very many people there either. So we managed to get some lovely shots in the summer. But again, this was January, so no snow, but it was chilly. But again, beautiful weather, really. Just had to be wrapped up. Again, this is in vibrant, so you can see beautiful blue sky. Yeah, I was going to say. And then we've got lower slaughter. Go through these and then again, Lower Slaughter. And the beautiful Cotswold stone cottages. It's lovely, isn't it? I just love this. It's another one I'm going to live in.

[00:11:40.270] - Victoria

Yeah. Very pretty. They are lovely.

[00:11:42.580] - Tracy

So lovely cottages. And then Bourton on the Water again. And then again, because it was winter. So what you do at the end of the day, you need to go into a nice cottage pub. So this is some of the local beer on tap. And a lovely fire. So that was a really lovely that's at the Mousetrap Inn at Bourton on the Water, which is one of our favourites, to head into good food. And lovely. Just, again, that lovely. Kind of quintessential pub with a roaring fire, which is what you want when it's really cold outside and that's still in the world, that is.

[00:12:18.090] - Victoria

You've got the old stocks there. They often point those out on a tour and tell people that they'd have to stick their head through the rotten bits of wood there and they'd have to sit down and put their head and their wrists and their ankles through those and prepare rotten eggs and tomatoes thrown at the faces.

[00:12:38.030] - Tracy

Lovely. Hasn't been used recently, though, has it?

[00:12:41.350] - Victoria

If they misbehave on a tour, Tracy, I think it's fair game.

[00:12:46.150] - Tracy

That's it. And then we're back to back to the beginning again. So let's go back to us. We've got some questions, including from Robbie, who's here. So, hi, Robbie, it's lovely that you joined us. And I know Robbie is going on a tour with you next year as well, Victoria, so it'll be lovely. So, Robbie has said that they're looking forward to lots of cream tea and what are some places they would want to go to for some nice cream tea?

[00:13:15.870] - Victoria

There's lots of choices we have to decide. But one of my favourites is Lucy's Tea Room in Stow in the Wold. She does a good green tea and she does tea and I love it when they have the tiers. You get like the bottom layer is all little sandwiches, and then the middle layer is cakes, and then the top layer, the top tier are the scones.

[00:13:43.270] - Tracy

And you'll keep bringing the tea as well as you can sit in there, relax and enjoy. I've actually got some pictures of Lucy's Tea Room from this summer.

[00:13:51.350] - Victoria

Awesome.

[00:13:51.820] - Tracy

I'll share some of those in the group afterwards, actually, some of the pictures of the places that we talk about. And I know that Robbie is also interested in walks. And I know we haven't done it yet because I'm not a big walker or hiker, I have to say. But I think next summer we want to do the walk from Lower Slaughter to Bourton on the Water. I don't think it's very long. Yeah. So I guess that's a nice walk to do.

[00:14:18.370] - Victoria

That's a lovely walk. You could actually stretch it a bit and go from Upper Slaughter all the way to Bourton on the Water. And that Upper Slaughter kind of takes you through to Lower Slaughter, through the fields, quite pretty. And then you walk alongside the river and then you go through to Born the Water. That's a good walk.

[00:14:39.530] - Tracy

I think somehow I'll have to do that and video that as we do it on YouTube. That'd be good.

[00:14:46.250] - Victoria

There are some great there are some great walks around here because you've actually got the Cotswold Way, which is I mean, that's a massive walk. That's a four or five day walk, 100 miles, and it cuts all the way across the Cotswolds, starting or ending in Chipping Camden. You can take a little section of that and you're going through, following the footpath signs.

[00:15:20.550] - Tracy

There were people when we were staying in Bourton on the Water this summer, who with a company, that they walk a bit and they move the luggage for you from hotel to hotel so you can do the walk, which is if you enjoy walking, that's a fantastic way to do it. So you don't have to carry everything.

[00:15:34.000] - Victoria

Yeah, that would be great. And then there's another one that's quite interesting. And this is, I believe it's 600 miles long.

[00:15:46.430] - Victoria

It is called Monarch's Way, and it's the escape route that King Charles second had when he was trying to escape from Cromwell. And he when he went all around the country, like the whole of the UK. So there's a little area of the Cotswolds where he went through and see do. And that's quite fun as well.

Sign posted. Just a little bit of it to.

[00:16:23.320] - Tracy  
Do a little bit of it rather.

[00:16:24.270] - Victoria  
Than the whole yeah, they have to do the whole thing.

[00:16:27.530] - Tracy  
No, not for me. Hope that answers questions, Robbie. But ask away, because your questions are coming up. So that's great that we can see those. And then we've got some questions from Kathryn, who I know is also taking tour with you next year. And hi, Kathryn, if you're here. So Doug and I have done an itinerary consult with Kathryn, so it's been lovely. So we've met her. So I'm really excited to see, as well how her trip goes next year. So Catherine's first question was, other than the Cotswold lavender, what else is in Cotswold speciality? What they're known for.

[00:17:02.730] - Victoria  
A cotswold cold Christmas. That's what we want.

[00:17:12.650] - Tracy  
Hopefully you'll get rid of it by next week.

[00:17:15.370] - Victoria  
Well, I think well, one of the Cotswold specialities is actually anything if you can get something that's wool, a Cotswold woollen product, say, this beautiful blankets and throws and made from the Cotswolds. And there's some really nice things like that. And if you're a knitter, I've discovered a beautiful shop in a little town called Chipping Norton, and they sell Cotswold wool from the actual Cotswold line, sheep undone and natural. And so ah, fabulous. I took some people there last week. Great.

[00:17:50.730] - Tracy  
Yeah. Wow.

[00:17:53.030] - Victoria  
That's a proper cotswold speciality.

[00:17:56.250] - Tracy  
Yes, absolutely. And then, obviously, the lavender we went to the lavender farm this year, the lavender fields, which were just gorgeous. And I don't know, I think we took about 25 million photos. It was so lovely. And they can get lavender ice cream there.

[00:18:13.950] - Victoria  
I bought lavender honey.

[00:18:15.610] - Tracy  
Yeah. I got some lavender cream I can't remember. I think hand cream. You can just get everything lavender from there, so that's lovely. And then another question from Kathryn. What is a great souvenir to take home from the area or made there, or greatly represents area, which I guess is going to be the wool or the lavender products?

[00:18:51.130] - Victoria  
Brilliant. There's one particular shop for the blankets and the throws, and they do clothing as well, and so they make the fabrics in the Cotswolds, and it's the only shop of its kind in the Cotswolds called Cotswold Woollen Weavers. Amazing.

[00:19:11.360] - Tracy  
Yeah. You mentioned that in the podcast as well. So I guess I'll be visiting that with you as well next

year. So I'm going to leave my credit card at home. And then another question. So Kathryn left us a few, which is great. What is something people may not realise about the area? I know what I kind of want to say about this, so I'll be interested to see what you think.

[00:19:32.550] - Victoria

Well, I may have touched on this in the podcast, but I think the Cotswolds is 800 sq mi. It's much bigger than people realise, so they expect to do so much in a day and then you just have to live with that a bit.

[00:19:51.740] - Tracy

Yeah, I think that's the thing, I think quite often yeah, that is kind of thought that the Cotswolds is a very small area, just one village or a couple of villages, but it's actually spread over a huge area, so you're better off, really, rather than spending the whole time kind of driving from A to B across. The Cotswolds is actually choosing an area of the Cotswolds to visit. I mean, for us, our favourite is absolutely we love Bourton Stow, Bibury, Broadway around that kind of the Northern Cotswolds is our favourite bit the Slaughters. But this year we actually did go down to Lacock and I always forget that it was Castle Combe, which is Cotswolds. It was Castle Combe, isn't it? But it was crazy busy, you couldn't get parked. We ended up just kind of driving through, but if you're going to go out, it's just too far. You just spend the whole day driving between the two, really, whereas you're better off kind of spending time in one area, I would say. Do you agree with that?

[00:20:47.580] - Victoria

I would do. I've now sort of developed different tours of those different areas. If you do Lacock and Castle Combe there's a few little villages in that area that are off the tourist trail and are amazing. I drove down and there were these geese in the road, and a pig and then a horse, and it was driven down this road all day because there are all these wild animals, farm animals are just freely wandering around, wandering around the road. That's great. That's exactly what I wanted to find. That's brilliant.

[00:21:25.390] - Tracy

Another question from Kathryn. So is there a food item that the Cotswolds is known for?

[00:21:30.990] - Victoria

Well, so, interestingly, there are some cheeses that are quite famous on the Cotswolds. The most famous one is called Stinking Bishop. So if you buy that and put it in my van, we'll have to put it in a big storage box. There's some great Cotswold cheese shops, actually, and they'll sell things that you can still take home, like Cotswold honey as well. The local honey is fantastic. And the lavender honey is really nice.

[00:22:04.310] - Tracy

That'd be very different. And also, I know there's a chocolate shop in Stow.

[00:22:09.670] - Victoria

I like going there. Yeah, it's great because they make it all in there in the shop.

[00:22:13.290] - Tracy

And that's what we want. We want stuff that is locally produced, so supporting local businesses. Yeah.

[00:22:19.390] - Victoria

And then there's the gin distillery, of course.

[00:22:22.500] - Tracy

Gins everywhere. Everybody's making gin these days. Okay.

[00:22:28.350] - Victoria

And you can often pop in to their little shop and they'll just give you a free sample, about 10:00 in the

morning.

[00:22:36.370] - Tracy

That's the way to start the day.

[00:22:38.770] - Victoria

Some people love that. Tracy.

[00:22:45.910] - Tracy

And then last question from Kathryn is, what are you most excited to show first time visitors when they come to Cotton?

[00:22:54.870] - Victoria

So when I pick up visitors, if I pick them up from outside the Cotswolds so if I pick them up from Oxford and we drive through, we drive along the road and it's all quite sort of boring. There's no views. It's quite flat. They drive through and then suddenly, just as you're approaching Burford, the trees all open up and you're on the ridge of this hill and the views down in the Cotswolds, and you can see all the little stone walls and the views down to the river and the valley. It's stunning. And everybody goes, wow.

[00:23:30.290] - Tracy

Take photos.

[00:23:33.830] - Victoria

I love people being excited about the area. I just think, happy.

[00:23:39.750] - Tracy

If they're happy, that's good. And I'm sure everybody is. Well, no, I think they're really lucky that we've got you. Who lives in the Cotswolds, who knows the Cotswolds, who knows all the villages, all the best places to go, the people in the shops that own the shop that you have all that local knowledge and connections which you're not going to get if you go on it's. Courses for courses. Because obviously some people prefer to go on a group tour. Whatever. But if they can go on a private tour with you, what an experience. And to be able to say you can share your love for the Cotswolds.

[00:24:18.530] - Victoria

Thank you. Well, yeah, that's right. I mean, for me, I love going to love going into a little shop when I know the owner and it's their shop and it's not a big chain or anything. It's their little business. And we've developed friendships and they know what I'm about and they're so welcoming to my guests, they look after them and I want people to still look after as well.

[00:24:42.490] - Tracy

That's lovely. And I will put because I know we've got quite a few people in the group who have booked tours with you next summer, but I'll put links in the Facebook group again, just to your website so they can find you and book your tour with you for next year or anytime. Because I guess after from January onwards, are you taking any time off or what's your schedule like in terms of bookings?

[00:25:09.000] - Victoria

No, I'm really flexible and I'm available most of the time. Tracy brilliant. I mean, if I'm not booked up, I don't really close it.

[00:25:23.090] - Tracy

There is only you. So that's the thing am saying to people is like, they're very keen and a lot of people contact me after the podcast going, oh, my goodness, it's amazing. We love Victoria, we want to book a tour. I'm like, well, there is only Victoria. So if you want to do a tour, you need to get booked in and have that day locked in a day or two, because you can do a couple of days so that you don't miss the opportunity to have that time with you as well. And I'm going to be over in the Cotswolds next year as well, so I might pop along.

[00:25:49.630] - Victoria  
That'll be great.

[00:25:51.070] - Tracy  
Say hello. You can walk into a cafe and I'll be there with a cup of tea, you go and hello. That would be really cool. Yeah, I can't wait. I absolutely love the Cotswolds at any time of the year. It's just stunning. As I say, I'm already going to buy those, the big house and the cottage that I've already earmarked. But my favourite is I absolutely love the gardens that Hidcote and Kiftsgate for me are just absolute heaven. I could spend all day wandering around those gardens because they're just so magical. So that experience, that's kind of really in my head, just thinking, I just want to go and spend hours at Kievsky, actually. Just the roses. I would say to anybody, if you love gardens, love hours, just really beautiful, beautiful places, they're amazing.

[00:26:41.500] - Victoria  
And actually, when you come over, Tracy, I want to give you a tour of the gardens because there's lots of different kinds of gardens and formal ones and then just beautiful English natural gardens with your classic rose garden and then herbs, and then they've all got different themes. And absolutely another place that I love.

[00:27:06.030] - Tracy  
To visit as well, especially cold. Sudeley Castle because I just love the history of that and the fact that Catherine Par is buried there, which is just the only she was the surviving wife of Henry VIII and it's really I found that you should go into that chapel there when her first seemed to go in. There's always light that shines through from the stained glass and her tomb is kind of illuminated by all the light. It's quite amazing. So suddenly somewhere I absolutely love to go to again we'll be forget the winter, April, I think yeah, I guess it's trying to think I think we visited maybe in October town one time and then this year we were there in August. Yeah. Unfortunately not everywhere is going to be open over the winter season, I guess and it is a privately owned home, isn't it?

[00:28:14.750] - Victoria  
But there's still plenty to go and see and do in the wintertime.

[00:28:19.090] - Tracy  
It's open to talk about what you do in the winter because I think that's what people sometimes think I can only go to the Cotswolds in spring, summer, maybe autumn, but what is that over the winter months? Because you've taken some tours over the last few weeks what sort of things to do? Obviously being outside when it's beautiful, cold, crisp is lovely and then going into a poor afternoon tea or something like that but if the weather is not so good, what do you do?

[00:28:46.070] - Victoria  
Well, then we sort of theme it around. I think if the weather is not good, so long as we've got lots of bolt hole choices, we would start off and we do sort of drive through some places. If it's pouring with rain, people don't want to get through and then we can sort of drive slowly through some little villages. But then I'd like to stop and take people to it might be shops, but they'll be in a really old building, kind of discovering inside a building and you might see that a bit of the shop as well. You might not be interested in the shopping where you might go well, I love it here too and then you kind of getting a sense of the place and people don't mind you going in and have a look in the shop with him right. Or there's some historic houses that do stay open throughout the year and you can pop in and have a look around those too for history and museums as well a little don't take a lot of time but give you an idea of the area in the history. Yeah. And so then we kind of mix it up and then with a lunch as well and cosy pub and then trying to see do bit more driving in or you just have to get out, get your boots and your coat on and do a bit of walking.

[00:30:05.990] - Tracy  
Yeah, well it's like we were back in the UK for three months and we had a few days where actually there wasn't a huge amount of rain and were a few days you just have to kind of adapt to that, don't

you? But I think there's lots of options and there's lots of things that you can do so yeah, that's great that there. Are lots of things that you can still take your guests to see and enjoy in the Cotswolds. And obviously last week, honestly, those pictures of the snow, beautiful photos, but everybody enjoyed that. So we've got another question from Tanya. So. Hi, Tanya. So she's got a question in case she misses the live chat. So she's asking, is it worthwhile to stay in one of the busier villages such as Bourton on the Water, so that you're there in the evening when the crowds and the tour buses subside. So she's saying you could leave during the day and explore maybe the smaller, less populated villages. And actually I'm going to count it, because we stay in Bourton on the Water quite a lot and then we get a lot of people going, oh, no, don't stay there, because it's quite touristy.

[00:31:05.260] - Tracy

But we did exactly that. We were out during the day touring and then all over, drive in here and then we'd go back later in the day and then bought was lovely in the evening. In the summer, everybody just sits down by the river, get some fish and.

[00:31:20.830] - Victoria

Chips, sit by the river.

[00:31:22.080] - Tracy

So from my experience, yes, that if you want to stay someone like Bourton on the Water, that's a good idea.

[00:31:29.870] - Victoria

I think that's a great idea. I think definitely for those kind of places, because then you've got a sense of the place when it goes all quiet too, it completely transforms in the evening and you've got the locals there and a few other holiday makers. I think it's a really nice way to see busier places like Bourton on the Water, maybe by because if you first thing in the morning or the end of the day for that walk, anyone else gets there, it's gorgeous. Magic.

[00:31:59.260] - Tracy

It's lovely. And some of the places actually getting parking, you really need to kind of plant and get theirs earlier or later on the day. We had no problem in Vibrant this summer at all and I was a bit up and think, so we went at seven. Not literally, I think those two cars pin off, there was nobody there and that was June, end of June, so that's pretty busy time, or should have been, and it wasn't particularly busy. So that's a really good tip, really, if you want to stay somewhere like Born on the Water, which we enjoy staying in, go out during the day and then go back later on and then enjoy the walks by the river in the evening. We used to go and get a sandwich or have a meal at one of the pubs, or get fish and chips and sit by the river. It's a really popular thing to do, especially when it's light until 10:00 at night. Yes, it was lovely. It was absolutely lovely. And then Tanya is also asking what are good villages to stay in with a water outlook?

[00:32:56.080] - Victoria

Well, actually, Bibury is lovely because it has the river running through it. Places like near to Bibury. It's a very pretty village called Coln St Aldwyns, right? And there's lots of little cottages there and a couple of nice pubs and a shop and fantastic walks. There's a beautiful big river that runs through the bottom of the valley. And I love that village so much. I love walking over there.

[00:33:40.310] - Tracy

Is there anywhere in particular you'd recommend staying in that village?

[00:33:44.550] - Victoria

No, actually, I haven't done a recce of the accommodation.

[00:33:49.190] - Tracy

Yeah, maybe that'll be something recommended, I think maybe having a chat about some of the places that are maybe a little bit off the beaten track, but also really nice to stay in and looking at some accommodation because I've got lots of kind of options on the website. But it'd be good to have

a chat, maybe about some of the places that maybe a little bit less touristy, because obviously someone that Bourton on the water is very popular. I know you like Stow in the Wold. That's an area that you highly recommend people to stay in.

[00:34:15.890] - Victoria

With a water outlook, because I've got quite an interesting question, but just off the top of my head, I'm thinking about the village of Minster Lovell, which is just on the edge of the Cotswolds. Again, it's not an overly busy place, but there's a beautiful hotel there which I have stayed in, very nice. And it's called the Old Swan. And that's a lovely place to stay. And the river runs through minster love. Some great walks through it.

[00:34:48.800] - Tracy

Yeah. Great. There you go. Tanya, there's a great suggestion for your trip because I know you're in the UK next year, so that's brilliant. So I'm hoping that everybody's enjoyed that. We've been on for, well, I think we're on about 35 minutes now. And then if we include the 15 minutes, we'll just talk to ourselves when we thought we were alive. But we've done about 50 minutes now, Victoria. So I want to say thank you to everybody who's joined us for the live. And obviously this will go on. This will be a recording, so some of you will be seeing this afterwards. And I'm hopefully going to use this episode as a podcast as well. So Victoria has already been on the podcast, episode 20, but we're going to use this one, hopefully to get out as a podcast, so you'll be able to listen to on that as well. And then I'll share the photos, the images that we used earlier as well that Victoria shared and some of mine from thanks, Robbie, from our last trip in the winter at the Cotswolds. And I think maybe what we'll do, we'll do this again.

[00:35:43.070] - Tracy

If you guys want this again, we'll do it in a few more months, maybe before Victoria starts getting really busy, maybe kind of, I don't know, end of March, early April, something. Talking about the summer and everything else, getting assorted for the cottage. That's really cool to do. So anybody wants to book with Victoria, I will put a link in their Facebook group so you can chat to Victoria. She'll tailor make your trip for you. You can always stay in the Cotswolds a night and go out with Victoria for a couple of days. You have got that available as well, haven't you? That'd be amazing. As I say, I'm also going to be in the Cotswolds next year, so I might be popping up near you soon.

[00:36:21.690] - Victoria

That would be fun.

[00:36:23.690] - Tracy

I'm going to really enjoy it. Thanks again, Victoria.

[00:36:28.420] - Victoria

Brilliant. Thanks so much. Tracy. That was brilliant.

[00:36:32.270] - Tracy

Thanks again to Victoria for coming into the Facebook Live with me. It was really interesting. We had a really fun chat and I hope you've enjoyed that podcast episode. As I say, we are going to be doing more Facebook lives, so do pop over and join the group. The link is in the show notes, which again are UkTTTavelplanning.com episode 27. Again, if you want to book with Victoria, the links will be in the show notes as well as the photographs and anything else that we talked about in today's episode. And that just really leaves me to say, until next week, happy UK Travel planning.