



# Great Malvern

This small, pastoral Worcestershire town is famous for its waters, but also boasts scenic walks over its beautiful hills

## WHY GO?

After Dr John Wall said 'The Malvern water is famous for containing just nothing at all...!' back in 1756, the small village began to snowball in to a busy town. An avalanche of visitors came seeking the curative qualities of the local waters, and large Victorian hotels were built to accommodate the influx.

Things have quietened down in this pretty and pastoral little town since then, with many visitors coming for the scenic walks over Malvern's lovely undulating Hills looming over the town. Great Malvern boasts truly beautiful walks from the imperious Malvern Hills, time-honoured country pubs and traditional, old English village high streets – and you're never far from a steep incline offering a striking view.

## GETTING THERE

### By rail

Trains from London take around two hours and 45 minutes, and can either be direct, or involve a change at Worcester. Services from Cheltenham can take between 45 minutes and an hour, again, either direct or changing at Worcester. Trains from Birmingham are direct and take an hour.

## GETTING AROUND

Though Great Malvern is a small town, the lay of the land is steep in parts and even a short walk around the town centre will mean negotiating at least a few inclines.

## THINGS TO SEE AND DO

### Malvern Priory

☎ 01684 5610 20

🌐 [www.greatmalvernpriory.org.uk](http://www.greatmalvernpriory.org.uk)

The impressive Malvern Priory has its beginnings as far back as 1085 when work on the monastery began. The Priory survived the Dissolution a few hundred years later when the locals scrimped together the £20 needed to buy it. A tour allows you to take in a bell cast as far back as 1350, and the largest display of 15th-century stained glass in England. The guidebook costs £2.50.

### Malvern Museum

🌐 [www.malvernmuseum.co.uk](http://www.malvernmuseum.co.uk)

The Malvern Museum neighbours the Priory and includes interesting displays in rooms such as the Victorian and Water Cure Room as well as a Malvern Hills room delving in to the local history and geology of the Hills.

Admission adults £2, children 50p

### The Malvern Hills

🌐 [www.malvern hills.org.uk](http://www.malvern hills.org.uk)

A miniature mountain range, the eight-mile ridge we call the Malvern Hills contains some of the oldest rocks in Britain. Mountain-like enough for George Mallory to come and walk across in preparation for his assault on Everest. You can enjoy over 4500 acres of open countryside climbing to the highest point at Worcestershire Beacon, or ramble along the wooded slopes.

## GOOD PLACES TO STAY

### Bredon House

☎ 01684 566990

🌐 [www.bredonhouse.co.uk](http://www.bredonhouse.co.uk)

Nestled high up on the slopes of the Malvern Hills, Bredon House Hotel affords dazzling views of the Severn Valley far below on one side and the Malvern Hills looming over it on the other side. This family-run Grade II listed Regency building, dating back to 1824, has pleasant rooms. Doubles from £70

### The Cotford Hotel

☎ 01684 572427

🌐 [www.cotfordhotel.co.uk](http://www.cotfordhotel.co.uk)

This gothic, Victorian hotel is set amid landscaped gardens and is minutes from the beautiful Malvern Hills. Built in 1851, it served as a summer residence for the Bishop of Worcester. His private chapel now hosts an award-winning restaurant, L'amuse Bouche. Doubles £99

## GOOD PLACE TO EAT AND DRINK

### The Nag's Head

☎ 01684 574373

This superb little pub on Bank Street has a wide selection of pumps, a mixture of young and old punters and friendly service. It also boasts an excellent dining room serving traditional and European fare. Mains around £10.

## USEFUL WEBSITE

🌐 [www.malvern hills.gov.uk/cms/leisure-and-culture/tourism.aspx](http://www.malvern hills.gov.uk/cms/leisure-and-culture/tourism.aspx)

