



Welcome to

GIRO PANORAMICO 2013

This years Giro will lead you from the Vale of Evesham into the Cotswolds. Along the way you'll pass through pretty villages and rolling countryside before winding up at the focal point of Cotswold Alfa Day 2013, Stanway House.

Clear directions of the route are given below and to help you further there is a map on page 6. If driven non-stop the route can be completed in about 1½ hours, but please take your time - it's not a race.

Keep a note of the distance you travel - in miles or kilometres - to one decimal place, and enter it on the slip on page 6. You could win a prize! If you wish to detour from our route to visit something of interest please make a note of your mileage before you detour and start counting again when you rejoin it.

The Alfa Romeo Owners Club expects all those taking part in Giro Panoramico to drive sensibly and legally. Please obey the speed limit at all times. All cars taking part must be road legal. The Alfa Romeo Owners Club accepts no responsibility for damage to persons or property, however caused, that may occur during Cotswold Alfa Day.

Information

The name Twynning derives from the Old English for 'between the rivers' and despite the spelling is pronounced 'Twinning'.

Tewkesbury lies at the confluence of the rivers Severn and Avon.

The Black Bear is the oldest pub in Gloucestershire. It dates back to 1308.

Bredon Hill is an outlying part of the Cotswold escarpment, and is formed of the same Jurassic rocks. Bredon Hill is 299m above sea-level.

There are 41 listed buildings in Kemerton. That's approximately twenty times the national average.

Conderton had a larger population at the time of the Domesday Book than its present 100 or so residents.

There is a legend in Beckford that a secret tunnel passes right through Bredon Hill to Elmley Castle on the other side of the hill.

There was once an HMS Beckford. She was a seaward motor launch launched in 1955. All 20 vessels in her class were named after villages ending with 'ford'. She was converted to a sailing vessel in the 1980's and now sits at anchor in Harwich.

The route (all distances quoted are approximate)

TWYNING GREEN to TODDINGTON. Across the Avon, around the base of Bredon Hill to the foot of the Cotswolds.

- 1 Make your way from your parking space towards the top of the green, when you reach the end of the green reset or make a note of your mileage. It doesn't matter if it is miles or kilometres.
- 2 Drive up the High Street heading out of the village. Stay on this road for ¾ mile until you cross the cattle grid and arrive at a T junction.
- 3 Turn left and at the roundabout take the first exit, it is the A38 sign-posted to Tewkesbury.
- 4 After 2½ miles you will reach Tewkesbury. You will cross the River Avon and come to a mini-roundabout. The Black Bear Pub will be on your right. Turn left at the roundabout onto the B4080, sign-posted to Bredon.
- 5 Now stay on this road without turning off for 7½ miles as it twists and turns around the southern base of Bredon Hill. You'll pass through the pretty villages of Bredon, Kemerton, Overbury, Conderton and Beckford. In Bredon the B4080 turns left to Pershore but we will go straight on towards Kemerton. In Kemerton you'll pass the Crown and in Conderton you'll pass the Yew Tree just before the road turns right.
- 6 In Beckford you will pass the village shop and Post Office and then the road bends to the right and becomes Station Lane. Eventually you will reach a T junction with the A46. Turn left onto the A46, sign-posted to Evesham and then immediately right, sign-posted to Great Washbourne and Alderton. (It's almost straight over)



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Alderton Garage specializes in Austins! They service, repair and restore pre- and post-war models. Apparently they have a white Bertone Coupe stashed away in one of their sheds too.

Glance to your left as you approach Toddington roundabout on the B4077 and you may catch a glimpse of Toddington Manor. It is home to artist Damien Hurst who is restoring the house to use as a gallery.

Toddington is the northern terminus of the Gloucestershire and Warwickshire Railway which runs steam trains to Cheltenham Racecourse, via Winchcombe, every weekend throughout the summer. Today Thomas and his friends are visiting!

Hailes Abbey is the site of a substantial Cistercian monastery founded in 1246 and dissolved in 1539. As well as the Abbey ruins there is a collection of finds from the site on display. Entry for English Heritage and National Trust members is free. For everyone else it is £4.40. By the way there is no tearoom but there is a toilet!

The monks at Hailes Abbey had an important relic; a phial of Christ's blood. However at the dissolution King Henry VIII's commissioners claimed it was merely the blood of a duck!

When the Abbey was demolished the leaden roofs were rolled up and carted off to London where they were reused on the Tower.

Salter's Lane is part of the ancient Salt Way along which mules carried salt from Droitwich to the head of the navigable Thames at Lechlade.

A British Standard specification for cattle grids did not appear until 1966, but it only covered grids on private land. Cattle grids on public roads had no British Standard until 1991. Not a lot of people know that!

Sudeley Hill is 298m above sea level. The highest point in the Cotswolds is Cleeve Hill, near Cheltenham, at 330m.

7 Follow this road for 1¾ miles until you arrive in the village of Alderton. On entering the village you will arrive at a T junction next to a black and white timber framed thatched cottage. Turn right sign-posted to Tewkesbury. Stay on this road until you reach the T junction with the B4077.

8 At the T junction turn left onto the B4077, it is sign-posted to Stow-on-the-Wold, Alderton Garage is opposite you.

9 Now stay on this road for 3¼ miles, this will bring you to a roundabout at Toddington, take the third exit turning right onto the B4632. It is sign-posted to Winchcombe, Sudeley Castle and Hailes Abbey.

TODDINGTON to TEMPLE GUITING. Up into the Cotswolds. Through beautiful countryside and pretty villages, and the inevitable ford!

10 ½ a mile after the roundabout take the first turning left onto a minor road sign-posted to Didbrook. You will soon pass under the Gloucestershire and Warwickshire Railway. Just after the bridge the road bends sharp left.

11 You will soon reach the very small village green of Didbrook with a tree in the middle. Turn right then right again. It is sign-posted to Winchcombe, Cheltenham, and Hailes Abbey. There is a red 'phonebox on your right.

12 You will soon pass under the railway again and reach a T junction with the B4632. Turn left, sign-posted to Cheltenham.

13 After 20 yards turn left onto a minor road, sign-posted to Little Farmcote and Hailes Abbey. This road will take you over the railway.

14 ½ a mile after the railway bridge there is a left turn to Hailes Abbey but our route follows the main road and it is marked as a gated road. (Hailes Abbey is a National Trust property please take time to visit it if you wish)

15 250 yards after the turn the road bends sharp left, this road is known as Salter's Lane.

16 ¼ of a mile later there is a gate across the road. If it is closed please use the cattle grid to the left of the gate. Now the road climbs up Salter's Hill through open countryside. Watch out for livestock.

17 After ½ a mile you will approach another gate and cattle grid. The cattle grid is to the left and the gate is to the right. The approach to the cattle grid is extremely bumpy so we recommend you use the gate. If it is closed please make sure you close it again behind you.

18 Follow the road to the T junction at the top of the hill (it's called Sudeley Hill by the way) and turn left.

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The Hollow Bottom is often known as the 'Gold-Cup pub' due to its popularity during the Cheltenham Festival. The pub has become a racing themed venue which is hardly surprising as it is partly owned by Peter Scudamore and Nigel Twiston-Davies.

The first part of Guiting Power's name comes from the old English 'gyte', meaning an outpouring of water, no doubt from the many springs that surround the village. Power is derived from the 13th century lords of the local manor, the Le Poer family.

Foxhill bed and breakfast occupies an old coaching inn on the Stow-on-the-Wold to Cheltenham road. The inn closed in 1995.

Our route today crosses the River Windrush 4 times.

Colin Jordan was a leading figure of British post-war Neo-Nazism and he openly used the styles and symbols of the Third Reich. In 1962 he founded the National Socialist Movement and hosted an international conference of Nazis at Guiting Power. Yes Guiting Power! At this conference Jordan was elected 'World Führer! Then in 1975 he was arrested for stealing three pairs of women's knickers from Tesco's in Leamington Spa!

Originally the Hollow Bottom was called Ye Olde Inn. The new name came from the local people who used to refer to it as the pub in the Hollow at the Bottom of the village.

The stream the ford crosses is the Castlett Stream. It is a tributary of the Windrush.

Until the 19th century the villages of Temple Guiting and Guiting Power were known as Upper and Lower Guiting, They were renamed in a bid to reflect their long histories. Lower Guiting received it's Power suffix, as detailed above, while Upper Guiting was given the prefix Temple to honour it's connection with the Knights Templar who were given lands here by crusader Gilbert de Lacy in the middle of the 12th century.

- 19** After 75 yards turn right, sign-posted to Guiting Power and Andoversford.
- 20** After just over $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile you will reach another T junction turn left. Again it is sign-posted to Guiting Power and Andoversford.
- 21** After 250 yards keep left on the main road sign-posted to Guiting Power and Naunton.
- 22** After $3\frac{1}{4}$ miles you will reach the village of Guiting Power, as you enter the village you will pass the Hollow Bottom pub on your left. Don't worry if you see Alfas coming from the opposite direction, our route doubles back on itself.
- 23** When you reach the village square look out for the War Memorial on the green. Turn right immediately after the green. There is a car park sign pointing down the road you need to take.
- 24** Within 50 yards, the road bends right in front of the village school. You'll soon leave the village and the road becomes quite narrow.
- 25** After just over $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile take the turning on the left. There is no sign post but there is a small triangle of grass at the junction and a salt bin.
- 26** This will lead you along a bumpy lane and through the hamlet of Tally Ho.
- 27** After $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile you will reach a junction on the B4068. Foxhill B & B is on your left. Don't turn onto the B4068 but turn sharp left onto the minor road sign-posted to Temple Guiting, Guiting Power and Kineton.
- 28** Follow this road and continue into the woods. As you emerge from the trees you will cross the River Windrush. Continue for another $\frac{1}{2}$ mile.
- 29** Turn left opposite the gates to Guiting Grange Stud. The turning is sign-posted to Guiting Power and Winchcome. There is also a brown sign to the Hollow Bottom.
- 30** Follow the road into the village. You'll pass the Farmers Arms on your right, then you'll pass through the village square and the Hollow Bottom again.
- 31** A mile after the village turn right, sign-posted to Kineton, this is a gated road. If the gates are closed please make sure you shut them again after you and watch out for suicidal sheep!
- 32** About 100 yards after the 2nd gate there is a ford, it is very shallow and will cause you no problems.
- 33** Approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ mile after the ford you will reach a T junction. Turn left, sign-posted Temple Guiting and Tewkesbury.

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Robert Llewellyn, star of Red Dwarf and presenter of Car Pool, lives in Temple Guiting. In Car Pool he interviews celebrities while driving them around in a Toyota Prius. In fact he has fallen in love with 'eco' cars and now presents an online show called Fully Charged in which he discusses the virtues of electric and hybrid cars and tests the latest models.

The name Sezincote is derived from Cheisnecote – 'the home of the oaks' – 'la chène' being the French for an oak tree and 'cot' meaning shelter.

Cutsdean is the closest village to the source of the River Windrush.

A Saxon farmer named Cod settled in the valley above the source of the Windrush. The Old English for valley was dene and so the valley became known as Cod's dene. Which is where the name Cutsdean comes from.

Wold is the Old English word for wooded hill. The hills around 'Cod's Dene' became known as 'Cod's Wold'. Is this where the name Cotswolds came from? Or is it from 'cot', meaning 'sheep enclosure', plus 'wold'?

Stanway's elaborate war memorial consists of a bronze figure of Saint George spearing a dragon (by Alexander Fisher), wound around a stone pillar (by Sir Philip Stott carved by Eric Gill)

Stanway House is a beautiful example of a Jacobean manor house. It was owned by Tewkesbury Abbey for 800 years, then by the Tracy family and their descendants the Earls of Wemyss for a further 500 years. It is now the home of Lord and Lady Neidpath.

Stanway's 18th century watergarden was designed by Charles Bridgeman and has been gradually restored to its former glory. The single-jet fountain, at 300 feet is the highest fountain in Britain, and the highest gravity fed fountain in the world.

In the TV series Jeeves and Wooster, starring Stephen Fry and Hugh Laurie Stanway House appeared as Twing Hall, home of Lord Wickhammersley.

Stanway Watermill was originally a Fulling Mill. It was converted to grind corn in the 17th century and then in the 19th century it became a Saw Mill with the water wheel powering the saw. The mill fell out of use in the 1950s and lay abandoned. It was restored between 2002 and 2009, and was reopened by the Prince of Wales.

34 After about a ¾ mile turn right by the school into Temple Guiting. It is sign-posted to Temple Guiting and Stow-on-the-Wold, follow the road through Temple Guiting.

TEMPLE GUITING to STANWAY HOUSE. Through dense woodland and across open country, before a winding descent to Stanway.

35 Eventually you will reach junction on the B4077 where you should turn right. It is actually more like straight on and is sign-posted to Upper Swell and Stow-on-the-Wold.

36 Follow this straight section of road through the trees, after just under ½ a mile you will pass a cross-roads which has a reputation as an accident blackspot so please take care, also watch out for deer along this stretch of road.

37 Another 1½ miles further on turn left. It is signposted to Hinchwick and Bourton-on-the-Hill.

38 Now just stay on this for ¾ miles road as it winds through the woods and hamlet of Sezincote Warren (beware this road has some large pot holes).

39 Eventually you will reach a junction with the A424. Turn left.

40 After about ½ a mile turn left again onto a minor road sign-posted to Snowhill.

41 Follow this road without deviating for 3 ½ miles.

42 Eventually you will reach a T junction, turn left, it is sign-posted to Stow-on-the-Wold and Bourton-on-the-Water.

43 After just over a ¼ mile, turn right, sign-posted to Cutsdean and Ford.

44 A further mile will bring you to the little village of Cutsdean, follow the road through the village.

45 After the village you will come to a cross-roads, go straight on.

46 At the next cross-roads turn right onto the B4077, signposted to Tewkesbury.

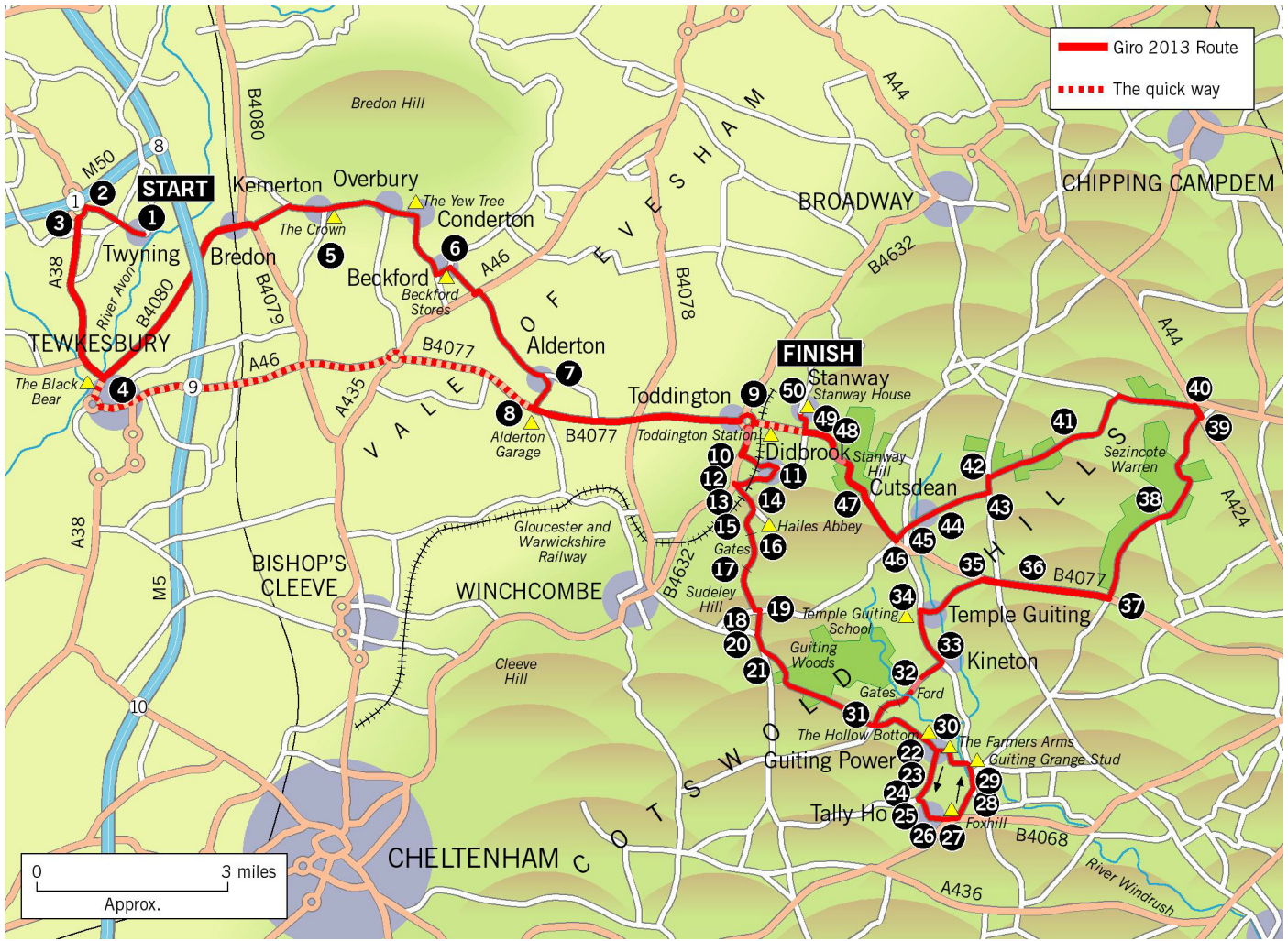
47 After ½ a mile you will start to descend Stanway Hill, follow the winding road down the hill.

48 At the bottom of the hill there is a sharp left bend.

49 ½ a mile after the bend turn right at the cross-roads. It is sign-posted to Stanway and Stanton. Note the war memorial on the right.

50 As the road passes through Stanway it bends left and then right. Our car park is just after the right-hand bend on the left opposite the house.

You made it! Please allow the marshals to guide you to your parking spot. Enjoy the rest of **COTSWOLD ALFA DAY 2013**.



Today's route was prepared with the aid of Microsoft MapPoint. This has given us a precise distance for the route from Twyning to Stanway. Can you match it? Please indicate below how many miles or kms you covered driving the route today, to one decimal place. The person who gets closest to the distance that MapPoint calculated will win a prize!

Name.....

Car: Model Reg no.

Distance covered • miles/km (delete as appropriate)

Please place this slip in the box in the Cotswold Section gazebo before 2.30pm. The winner will be announced at 3pm.