

# Cheltenham Tourism Information Centre



## Daffodil Driving Trail



**The north-west corner of Gloucestershire, hidden away between the hopyards and orchards of Herefordshire and the Forest of Dean, is home to one of early spring's most colourful sights, the wild daffodils. These spill out across verges, woodland and even into fields and field boundaries as a welcome indicator that, in spite of leafless trees and grey skies, there is hope of better weather and renewed life.** This drive will take you around some of the lanes and woodlands where the daffodils have moved in over the centuries, and made the area their own, at least for a few weeks! **Nearly all the woodland you pass through is Forestry Commission and so there are plenty of opportunities to park and walk, take photographs and generally enjoy the countryside**

The easiest access, in spite of a slightly longer journey, is via the M50, travelling south west. This can be picked up either via the M5 north from Cheltenham, or if you prefer a slightly less hectic drive, travel towards Ledbury and about 5 miles south of the town pick up the M50 at Junction 2. Whichever you choose, between junctions 2 and 3 you will become aware of increasing numbers of daffodils, hiding in woodland or boldly advancing on to the motorway embankments, secure in the knowledge that they are unlikely to be picked.

At Junction 3 turn off and follow the directions to Newent. Coming off the M50 you will pass through the village of Gorsley, and once past the post office watch for a left turn signed to Kempley and Dymock. After a short distance you travel through woodland and after this come to a junction where you turn left towards Kempley. Crossing over the M50 you pass back into woodland, and eventually into the villages of Kempley and Kempley Green, sufficiently close to each other that you will barely notice the transition.

However, Kempsey has the church, on the left, and a short distance after this you need to keep to the right hand fork as the road bears right towards Dymock.

The daffodils tend to be little bit fewer and further between on this stretch, but there is compensation in terms of views, particularly the western side of the Malvern Hills.

As you approach Dymock, the road turns quite sharply to the right. If you have had your fill of daffodils already, or are in need of refreshment, you could then turn almost immediately left again over a narrow bridge and into Dymock. However there is much to be gained ultimately by carrying straight on without crossing the bridge. Daffodils will appear in fits and starts as you follow the road along through field, eventually reaching the edge of woodland and then running parallel to the M50 for a short distance.

At the T junction by the M50 bridge the route requires you to turn left, but it might be worthwhile turning left into the woodland for a stroll before returning to route later. Turning left over the bridge will bring you almost immediately to another T junction; here you should turn right. After a short distance you will come to another junction where you should turn left towards Oxenhall.

After this turn, proceed with caution as there is a small nature reserve on this stretch where, if the timing is right, two small fields will be carpeted in daffodils. As a guide, you travel up a slight incline and near the top you will see a couple of white/cream buildings in the distance. At this point keep your eyes open for a pull-in on the left. Here you can park and enjoy the colourful Gwen and Vera's Fields Nature Reserve, and again there is access to the surrounding woodland.

From here, follow the road into Oxenhall, past the church high up on the left and down a hill cut deeply into the local sandstone. Here there is a fork in the road. The sensible will turn left and drive into Newent and thence back to Cheltenham either again via the M50 or via the A40 north of Gloucester. The less sensible, or as I like to think, the more adventurous, will turn right and drive – very carefully – along a pretty but extremely narrow, winding lane complete with daffodils, a ford, a damp bit and an enormous rabbit warren. Eventually you reach a T junction where you turn left, and almost immediately after you reach the main road from Newent where you turned off at the start of the route. Here you can turn right to return to the M50 and back to Cheltenham that way, or you can turn left and make your way back via Newent, satisfied that you have seen one of the great sights of an English spring.

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**Opening Times:**

Mon-Wed, Fri-Sat: 9:30am - 5:15pm

Thurs: 9:30am - 7:45pm

Sun: 10:30am - 4:00pm

Closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day, New Year's Day, Easter Sunday

*Tourism services are delivered by The Cheltenham Trust on behalf of Cheltenham Borough Council including [www.visitcheltenham.com](http://www.visitcheltenham.com)*