

## Ugly Mugs: Gargoyles & Grotesques of Gloucestershire!

### The Good Gloucestershire Gargoyle Guide!

Wherever you are in Gloucestershire you won't be not too far away from a gargoyle or grotesque! To help you find the best, this is a list to the 'Top 10' places in the county!

**Cirencester Church** - This church has a good mix of the main types of gargoyles and grotesques, including human and demonic forms. Some have been badly affected by atmospheric corrosion, but others are almost pristine, which is a good demonstration of how different types of stone weather in the atmosphere.

**Chedworth Church** - This church has some nice (if small) gargoyles and grotesques on the tower and the nave. The best are the devil (a goat's head) and a rather stern looking medieval lady.

**Compton Abdale Church** - The gargoyles and grotesques on this church have a theme: dogs (or wolves). These include a dog mouth-puller and some of the most savage stone dogs you will ever encounter! The village also has it's own crocodile!

**Gloucester Cathedral** - If you can only visit only one gargoyle site in Gloucestershire, this has to be the best. There are gargoyles and grotesques of all types, forms and ages (including the newest ones in the county) present, as well as some great grotesques inside the building and on the cloisters. When you are there, take a crypt and tower tour to complete the experience!

**Elkstone Church** - This is the highest church in the county and has some great gargoyles and grotesques, including subjects such as an imp-man, a pair of cheeky musicians and two good mouth-pullers.

**Flaxley Church** - This Forest of Dean church has a good range of well-carved gargoyles and grotesques (including some well detailed demonic types) that are at a quite low level and therefore very easy to look at. They are probably neo-gothic in date as the church was rebuilt in 1856.

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**St Luke's Church, Cheltenham** - A pleasant town church that has a large number of thoughtful Victorian grotesques.

**The Leigh** - A small country church but it has some really great gargoyles and grotesques that are full of character - especially the winged devil!

**Thornbury Church** - Located next to Thornbury Castle (now a hotel), this church is festooned with gargoyles and grotesques including some of the scariest in the county, though binoculars are needed to examine the higher ones on the tower. They are among the more modern gargoyles as the tower was not added until 1540.

**Winchcombe Church** - This church has the most realistically carved figures in the county. A happy knight, a man (or angel) with a dagger, a man in a tall hat and an angel are just some of the forms present. Many of the human forms are so lifelike that they were probably modelled on local people.

**Happy gargoyle hunting!**