# Americans flock to the Cotswolds seeking refuge and opportunity amid US political unrest



Thanksgiving in the Cotswolds has taken on a peculiar yet charming dimension in recent years, as an increasing number of Americans make their way to the picturesque English town of Stow-on-the-Wold. Here, they gather not just for traditional festive fare like glazed turkey breasts and sweet potato casserole topped with marshmallows, but also to embrace a lifestyle that offers respite from the turbulent political climate in the United States. Jesse D’Ambrosi, the owner of D’Ambrosi Fine Foods, acknowledges this shift, describing it as “bizarre.” She notes the influx, particularly following Donald Trump’s re-election, remarking, “Many Americans are scoping and checking out the area… It is very scary times, especially for women.”

This phenomenon, often referred to as “Trump migration,” has seen a marked rise in interest from Americans seeking to establish a foothold abroad. Following the political developments in the US, applications for UK citizenship surged, reaching a historic high of over 6,100 in 2024, a staggering 26% increase from the previous year. Within the final quarter of that year alone, applications jumped by 40%, aligning closely with Trump's return to power. Analysts suggest that while political factors play a pivotal role, personal motivations also significantly drive these decisions. Many feel a pressing need to secure their citizenship options amid the uncertainties generated by the current American administration.

The Cotswolds, with its rolling hills and idyllic villages, has emerged as a preferred retreat for affluent Americans, many of whom are disenchanted with life back home. Harry Gladwin, from Buying Solution estate agency, highlights a notable trend: “Since the re-election of Trump, there has been a big rise in Americans looking at the UK as a place to anchor themselves.” For many, it isn’t solely about escaping the political fray; it’s also about investing in a serene lifestyle where they can enjoy a safe haven, enhance their property portfolios, or even find a holiday home with an eye toward long-term residency.

The allure of the Cotswolds extends beyond the tranquil countryside. The region boasts a rich tapestry of cultural history and luxury experiences, drawing not just Hollywood figures like Ellen DeGeneres and Portia de Rossi but also wealthy tech workers and finance professionals from the East Coast. Estate agents now observe that many young Americans, having made their fortunes in technology, are eyeing properties in the region. They envision it as a strategic pivot point from which to explore broader opportunities across Europe.

Luxury brands and lifestyle businesses are aggressively capitalising on this trend. High-end venues and outlets, from the Gallery at Aynhoe Park to the organically-focused Daylesford, have catered to this crowd, reinforcing the area’s status as a wealthy enclave akin to the Hamptons. The infrastructure supporting this influx is not just about luxury; it also includes cultural touchstones, such as scenes from popular films like “The Holiday” and “Downton Abbey,” which imbue the area with a sense of glamour.

Simultaneously, there has been an uptick in interest from American wealth managers overwhelmed by inquiries from clients looking to reposition their assets. With the recent abolition of the UK's non-dom tax status, many wealthy individuals find themselves reconsidering their financial strategies. Sean Cockburn, a tax specialist, noted, “While some are concerned about potential tax exposure resulting from the abolition of the non-dom regime, others will welcome the new exemptions introduced for those residing in the UK temporarily.” Nevertheless, Americans will still grapple with the reality of US tax obligations, which could mitigate some of the advantages of relocating.

The political reality in the US is prompting many families to contemplate alternative lives; this growing sentiment has been echoed by Armand Arton, an international citizenship advisor, who remarks that many affluent Democrats are now contemplating a "plan B." As fears surrounding the political climate escalate, the number of American clicks on British job listings surged by 2.4 percentage points year on year, suggesting a desire not just to relocate but also to re-establish professional lives in the UK. As Sir John Bell, a prominent immunologist, articulates, the current landscape in American academia, particularly in health and science, paints a grim picture, prompting many to seek opportunities across the Atlantic.

With the increasing number of Americans pursuing studies in the UK—evidenced by a 12% rise in applications for UK courses—these shifts are becoming more pronounced. Yet, adapting to a new cultural and professional environment may come with challenges, particularly concerning salary discrepancies. The average salary for tech professionals in the UK pales in comparison to their American counterparts, adding a layer of complexity to the migration decision.

As Americans seek refuge from a polarising political landscape, the Cotswolds stands as a beacon of tranquillity and opportunity, promising an escape wrapped in pastoral beauty. This blend of lifestyle allure and strategic relocation underscores a larger narrative of migration fueled by both personal and political imperatives, reshaping the demographic landscape of this charming English region.

Reference Map: - Paragraph 1: (1) - Paragraph 2: (2), (3) - Paragraph 3: (4), (1) - Paragraph 4: (5), (1) - Paragraph 5: (6), (1), (5) - Paragraph 6: (7), (3) - Paragraph 7: (4), (6) - Paragraph 8: (6), (1) - Paragraph 9: (2), (3)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.theguardian.com/business/2025/may/10/were-in-the-hamptons-of-england-trump-sends-wealthy-americans-fleeing-for-the-cotswolds> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.ft.com/content/430d6add-b4ff-426f-8f5f-c1489fa3ea40> - In 2024, the UK saw a 40% increase in American applications for citizenship, totaling over 6,100, the highest since records began. This surge is attributed to political changes in the US under President Donald Trump. Experts note that while politics is a significant factor, individuals often have multiple personal reasons for seeking citizenship in other countries. The public is invited to share their opinions on this trend.
3. <https://www.ft.com/content/e20a2ea0-0fa0-4b6c-a487-05030f4a4c93> - In 2024, a record number of Americans applied for UK citizenship, influenced by Donald Trump's re-election and UK tax policy changes. There were over 6,100 applications, a 26% increase from 2023, coinciding with a 6% rise in overall UK citizenship applications, totaling 251,000. The last quarter of 2024 saw a particularly sharp rise in American applications by 40% year-on-year. Lawyers attribute this surge to uncertainties generated by Trump's political comeback and the abolition of the UK's non-dom tax status, prompting wealthy Americans to secure citizenship pre-emptively. Additional drivers include individuals seeking broader personal and financial flexibility. With the elimination of non-dom tax status, many affluent Americans hastened to apply for citizenship, seeking to preserve future options. Despite broader motivations for migration, the political and fiscal landscape has notably spurred interest from Americans in both UK and Irish citizenship.
4. <https://www.axios.com/2025/03/14/trump-migration-britain-canada> - The 'Trump migration' is prompting wealthy Americans to move out of red states and even out of America. This outmigration can significantly impact state and local taxes as the wealthy have the greatest ability to move. The COVID-19 pandemic had already prompted many high-income professionals to relocate. From 2020 to 2021, large U.S. urban areas lost $68 billion in taxable income, with Manhattan alone losing $16 billion. David Lesperance, a lawyer for ultra-high-net-worth families, reported a sharp increase in American families moving to the U.K. and Canada. Vance Langford noted a rise in calls from Americans wanting to move their businesses to Canada. Many seek alternative passports as a precautionary measure since the U.S. government can easily cancel passports even though it is challenging to strip citizenship. This trend underscores a growing desire among the wealthy to take protective measures by securing foreign residence or citizenship.
5. <https://www.cnn.com/2025/03/05/europe/record-americans-uk-citizenship-trump-intl-hnk/index.html> - Americans applied for British citizenship in record numbers last year, with a historically high volume of applications submitted in the last quarter of 2024 – a period coinciding with US President Donald Trump’s re-election. More than 6,100 US citizens applied for UK citizenship last year, the most since records began in 2004, when fewer than 3,000 Americans submitted an application, according to data from the UK’s Home Office. Last year’s numbers also saw a marked uptick from 2023, a year with fewer than 5,000 applications by US citizens. Applications by Americans soared in the last three months of 2024, when more than 1,700 people applied – the most in any quarter in the past two decades. The surge is reminiscent of an upswing recorded in the first six months of 2020, when more than 5,800 Americans gave up their citizenship, nearly tripling the number from all of 2019. That uptick came in the wake of Trump’s first presidency and changes in tax policy, analysts argued then, and were mostly Americans who had already been living in Britain for some time. While many people who renounced their citizenship complained of being unhappy with the political climate in the US, another reason for their decision is often taxes, Alistair Bambridge, a partner at Bambridge Accountants, told CNN in August 2020. Trump himself could apply for British citizenship, through his late mother, Mary Anne MacLeod, who was born and raised in Scotland before leaving as a 17-year-old for the United States to work as a domestic servant in 1930.
6. <https://www.ft.com/content/3e0d4948-c9fd-4013-b7b0-8a9689b25d7a> - Following Donald Trump's recent election victory, UK immigration lawyers have reported a notable increase in inquiries from liberal Americans considering emigration. John Kiely from Howard Kennedy and Kathryn Bradbury from Payne Hicks Beach have seen a particular rise in concerns from Democrats, referencing conservative policies from 'Project 2025'. These policies include contentious proposals around abortion, pornography, and contraception, which have distressed many, especially in same-sex couples. Wealthy and mobile individuals in tech, law, and the arts are prominent among those exploring their options. Though a financial move might not be beneficial due to tax implications, there is significant interest, particularly in securing alternative citizenships or visas like the global talent visa or spousal visas. Some American lawyers have observed similar trends, though not as pronounced.
7. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/international/global-trends/us-news-record-number-of-americans-applying-for-uk-citizenship-since-donald-trump-win-election-november-tax-reforms/articleshow/118740356.cms> - According to immigration lawyers, Trump's presidential campaign and early November victory contributed to this surge, with some stating that the US political climate was 'a very serious driver.' Elena Hinchin, a partner at law firm Farrer & Co, told Financial Times: 'We've definitely seen more interest in citizenship from the US since the lead-up to the election campaign. There's much more interest than under the previous Trump administration.' Hinchin also noted that the UK’s decision to abolish non-dom tax status has influenced some wealthy Americans living in Britain to apply for citizenship before leaving.