

# *Shakespeare's* ENGLAND

## Countryside

Shakespeare's England is the perfect place to enjoy England's beautiful countryside at its rural best. The countryside of Shakespeare's England is green and pleasant, threaded by rivers and canals, villages and hamlets burst with character alongside historic houses and glorious gardens and woodlands all captivating our heritage.

Here you will discover a wonderful escape for the whole family. With great hospitality, relaxing country house hotels, picturesque market towns and fabulous local food all set admit miles of rolling hills and countryside for you to explore.

## Stratford-upon-Avon

Explore the area with a country ramble through wooded glades and across gently rolling hills. Follow tranquil nature trails and scenic cycle routes.

Shakespeare's England has many country parks and nature reserves to way-marked trails and footpaths. Take a relaxing daytime or early evening stroll alongside the River Avon or walk or cycle the Greenway to Long Marston.

## Warwick

Warwick, the county town, is set in the beautiful Warwickshire countryside and provides an excellent base to start your exploration of the historic area.

Home to fascinating museums, picturesque gardens, specialist antique shops and the mighty Warwick Castle – Warwick provides an excellent gateway for you to experience some of the best countryside England has to offer.

Within Warwick itself the farmers markets give you a taste of the countryside beyond.

If you fancy something out of town then head for one of Warwickshire's Country Parks or walk up the famous flight of 21 locks between Warwick and Hatton on the Grand Union Canal.

## Leamington Spa

With so much beautiful countryside walking available in Leamington Spa and beyond, you have a huge variety of undiscovered British countryside to explore.

From hiring a boat on the River to following a heritage trail that encompasses the quirky tale of the Elephant Walk and the elegant Lansdowne Crescent, Royal Leamington Spa offers a medley of experiences.

Promenade amongst the immaculate, historic Jephson Gardens with its subtropical glasshouse, they are listed as Grade II on the English Heritage register of historic parks and gardens or enjoy outdoor sporting activities at Newbold Comyn or have fun with the family at the tree-lined riverside Victoria Park.

## Mary Arden's Farm

Step back in time and experience the sights, smells and sounds of a real Tudor farm.

Explore the house where Shakespeare's mother, Mary Arden, grew up and discover for yourself the daily routines skills and crafts the young William would have known from visits to his grandparents in the 1570s.



Help with tasks like skep-making and basket-weaving and 'earn your keep' at Palmer's Farm with traditional chores such as threshing, bread-making, gardening and animal-tending.

Try your hand at have-a-go archery and watch the daily falconry displays. See rare breed animals and explore the nature trails, discovering abundant wildlife including woodpeckers, rabbits and deer along the way.

Mary Arden's Farm is a working farm with lots of seasonal activities and Tudor events.

[www.shakespeare.org.uk/visit-the-houses/mary-ardens-farm.html](http://www.shakespeare.org.uk/visit-the-houses/mary-ardens-farm.html)

[www.shakespeares-england.co.uk](http://www.shakespeares-england.co.uk)

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## Kenilworth

The Kenilworth Greenway provides opportunities for enthusiasts from all sections of society, including walkers, athletes, cyclists, horse riders, educationalists, life scientists, geologists and industrial archaeologists.

The Kenilworth to Berkswell Greenway is a linear Country Park set in the beautiful South Warwickshire countryside. The site forms a 6.5 kilometres section of former railway, with the entire park extending to some 16 hectares.

## Kenilworth Castle

Enjoy a great day out in Shakespeare's England at Kenilworth Castle and Elizabethan Garden. One of the largest historic attractions in the West Midlands, the whole family will enjoy exploring the spectacular castle ruins and surrounding countryside.

The ruins are best known as the home of Robert Dudley, the great love of Queen Elizabeth I. Dudley created an ornate palace here to impress his Queen in 1575. Follow in the footsteps of Queen Elizabeth I in the authentically recreated Elizabethan Garden or wander through carved arbours and marvel at the bejewelled aviary and marble fountain.

## Suggested Accommodation

There's a place to stay in the countryside of Shakespeare's England to suit every taste and pocket, from luxury country house hotels to B&B in a quaint old inn.

**The Bell, Alderminster** – boutique B&B overlooking the rolling hills of Warwickshire countryside –  
[www.thebellald.co.uk](http://www.thebellald.co.uk)

**Ardencote Manor** – Wonderful manor hotel with sporting and other excellent facilities ideal for families -  
[www.ardencote.com](http://www.ardencote.com)

**Billesley Manor** – An elegant 4-star hotel near AA Rosette Restaurant with a 100 year old listed Garden.  
[www.pumahotels.co.uk/hotels/billesley-manor-hotel-stratford-upon-avon/](http://www.pumahotels.co.uk/hotels/billesley-manor-hotel-stratford-upon-avon/)

**Mallory Court Hotel** – One of England's finest country house hotels, part of the Eden Hotel Collection offering romantic breaks, weddings, and conference facilities located outside Leamington Spa – [www.mallory.com](http://www.mallory.com)

**Menzies Welcombe** – just outside Stratford-upon-Avon – with on site Golf course and excellent Spa and swimming facilities -  
[www.menzieshotels.co.uk/hotels/midlands/stratford-upon-avon-welcombe-hotel-spa-and-golf-club](http://www.menzieshotels.co.uk/hotels/midlands/stratford-upon-avon-welcombe-hotel-spa-and-golf-club)

For more accommodation ideas visit  
[www.shakespeares-england.co.uk](http://www.shakespeares-england.co.uk)

For more information on the details on this itinerary please email  
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\*Shakespeare's England has endeavoured to provide the correct information about the places contained within this itinerary. All information was correct at the time of print but may be subject to change