

Shakespeare's ENGLAND

Heritage

Shakespeare's England is home to some of the most historically significant places in Britain and is the perfect place for heritage enthusiasts to discover the fascinating and unique history of the region.

Experience the very best of England's rich and varied heritage at the huge variety of attractions in the area. Discover over a 1000 year's of history at Kenilworth Castle and Warwick Castle, explore Ragley Hall and Stratford Armouries or experience life as William Shakespeare himself would have lived it at Shakespeare's Birthplace and historic houses.

Kenilworth Castle

Kenilworth

Kenilworth is one of England's most magnificent castles and is one of the largest historic attractions in the West Midlands. Once standing at the heart of a 1,600-ha (4,000-acre) hunting ground, and surrounded by a vast man-made lake, it represented a rich prize to the generations of royal and almost-royal great men who owned and embellished it: among them Geoffrey de Clinton, John of Gaunt, Henry V, and Robert Dudley, earl of Leicester.



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.

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You can follow in the footsteps of Queen Elizabeth I in the authentically recreated Elizabethan Garden. Lost to the world for over 400 years, it is now open to visitors. Wander through carved arbours and marvel at the bejewelled aviary and marble fountain.

www.english-heritage.org.uk/daysout/properties/kenilworth-castle

Warwick Castle

Warwick

Britain's ultimate castle offers over 1,000 years of history, with jousting, onsite camping and trebuchet launches amongst its special events, Warwick Castle is a must see for all visitors to Shakespeare's England.



Explore the spooky towers and frightening dungeons, experience jousting tournaments, the firing of the mighty Trebuchet or medieval dining, with a programme of daily shows taking place there is something for all ages to enjoy at this fascinating historical site.

Warwick Castle is like no other and simply has to be experienced to be believed!

www.warwick-castle.com

Ragley Hall

Alcester

Ragley Hall is one of Warwickshire's most stunning and welcoming stately homes. Ragley Hall is the Warwickshire home of the Marquess and Marchioness of Hertford, set in 27 acres of beautiful formal gardens. The home contains Baroque plasterwork, the stunning 20th century mural 'The Temptation' and a fascinating collection of paintings, china and furniture.



In addition to the beautiful house, you can explore the formal gardens, parkland, lakeside picnic area and children's adventure playground. Alternatively you can get

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lost in the maze, browse the gift-shop, indulge in traditional afternoon tea or sample a seasonal lunch in the terrace café. Ragley Hall offers a perfect day out for all the family.

www.ragleyhall.com

Shakespeare's Birthplace

Stratford-upon-Avon

A trip to Shakespeare's England would not be complete without a visit to Shakespeare's Birthplace or one of the other 4 historic houses in the area, Anne Hathaway's Cottage and Gardens, Nash's House and New Place, Mary Arden's Farm and Hall's Croft.



Become part of the Shakespeare story at Shakespeare's Birthplace which is the perfect introduction to William Shakespeare's Works, Life and Times. Fall in love with the childhood home of Shakespeare's wife at the most romantic Shakespeare house, Anne Hathaway's Cottage. Discover the sights, sounds and smells of an authentic Tudor farm at Mary Arden's Farm and explore the elegant Jacobean home of Shakespeare's daughter Susanna Shakespeare and her husband Dr John Hall at Hall's Croft. Finally conclude your journey at the site of Shakespeare's final home in Stratford-upon-Avon, Nash's House and New Place.

The five houses offer an incredible memorable experience for visitors as costumed interpreters bring history to life with tales of what life was like in Shakespeare's time. Each of the historic houses has a unique gift shop stocking a wide range of beautiful items and books, allowing you to take home gifts and souvenirs from your trip.

www.shakespeare.org.uk

Heritage Motor Centre

Gaydon

Home to the world's largest collection of historic British cars, the Heritage Motor Centre is great fun for all the family. The museum houses informative and interactive exhibitions charting the



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history of British motoring from the 1890s to present day.

It boasts nearly 300 cars in its collection which span the classic, vintage and veteran eras and is a Mecca for car enthusiasts. The building itself is a spectacular piece of architecture with an art deco design, and stands proudly in a beautifully landscaped setting of 65 acres, which rolls out onto the Warwickshire countryside.

www.heritage-motor-centre.co.uk

Stratford Armouries

Stratford-upon-Avon

Take the opportunity to see the world class collection of arms and armour from across the world at the **Stratford Armouries**, which is also home to the Wellington Aviation Museum. Stratford Armouries is a truly unique museum and visitor centre set in 86 acres of rolling Warwickshire countryside.



The Galleries play host to a world-class collection of arms and armour sourced from cultures across the globe.

www.stratfordarmouries.com

St Mary's Church

Warwick

St Mary's Church is set in the centre of the ancient town of Warwick.

People have worshipped at the site for over 1000 years and left evidence of their faith in the architecture and the decoration of the building.

Take a fascinating, spiritual and informative trip around of the largest and most interesting Churches in England.

www.stmaryswarwick.org.uk



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Warwickshire Museum

Warwick

Pay a visit to Warwickshire Museum and learn all about the rich culturally history of the region.

The collections cover archaeology, social history, geology and natural history. The Museum currently displays and interprets its collections at three sites which provide a gateway to our services. The iconic seventeenth century Market Hall Museum, in Warwick's Market Place, houses displays and exhibitions relating to our collections of archaeology, geology and natural history specimens.



Also in Warwick, St John's House is a Jacobean mansion housing reconstructions of a Victorian kitchen, parlour and classroom. It includes displays of costume and musical instruments, and a discovery room for the under 5s. The town of Alcester's Roman past is displayed and interpreted at Roman Alcester, which opened in 2005.

www.heritage.warwickshire.gov.uk/museum-service

Saxon Sanctuary

Wootton Wawen

St Peter's Wootton Wawen, near Stratford-upon-Avon, is one of the oldest structures in England's Midlands.

Warwickshire's oldest church is a storybook in stone. Its tower saw in the last millennium and the drama of English history has swept through it ever since. Every age has left its own story, so a visit to St Peter's Church is a real adventure.



Group and educational visits can be booked by prior arrangement. This is a real hidden gem and one for visitors to Shakespeare's England to discover for themselves.

www.saxonsanctuary.org.uk

Lord Leycester Hospital

Warwick

A hidden jewel in the crown of Warwick historic buildings, The Lord Leycester Hospital is not now, and has never been a medical establishment. The word hospital is used in its ancient sense meaning "a charitable institution for the housing and maintenance of the needy, infirm or aged".



The Hospital is an historic group of timber-framed buildings dating mainly from the late 14th Century clustered round the Norman gateway into Warwick with its 12th Century Chantry Chapel above it. Hidden behind the ancient buildings is the tiny but delightful Master's Garden.

A completely unique organisation, after a visit to the Lord Leycester Hospital you will have experienced a true piece of British heritage.

www.lordleycester.com

Suggested Accommodation

There are a number of accommodation options for Heritage enthusiasts in Shakespeare's England to suit all budgets and tastes

Holiday Inn – Great riverside location in the heart of Stratford upon Avon -

www.ihg.com/holidayinn/hotels/gb/en/stratford-upon-avon/sfdua/hotel/detail

The Mercure Shakespeare Hotel - This 4-star Stratford-Upon-Avon hotel is in the heart of Shakespeare's England and is perfect for a cultural break.

www.mercure.com/gb/hotel-6630-mercure-stratford-upon-avon-shakespeare-hotel/index.shtml

Stratford Manor - A prestigious 4 star hotel in Stratford-upon-Avon, perfect for spa breaks and families

www.qhotels.co.uk/Stratford_Manor

Premier Inn (destinations across Stratford and Warwick) - www.premierinn.com

Billesley Manor – An elegant 4-star hotel near Stratford upon Avon. AA Rosette Restaurant with a 100 year old listed Garden.

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, conference facilities located outside Leamington Spa – 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

Wroxall Estate – Luxury 4 star hotel nestled in 27 acres of open parkland, occupies a unique setting amidst the peace and tranquillity of the Warwickshire countryside.

www.wroxall.com

Legacy Falcon Hotel – in the heart of Stratford-upon-Avon - www.legacy-hotels.co.uk/legacy-thefalcon

The Stratford - A luxury 4 star hotel in Stratford-upon-Avon, perfect for short breaks, with spa and close proximity to all main attractions

www.qhotels.co.uk/our-locations/the-stratford

The Arden Hotel – a luxury hotel, opposite the Royal Shakespeare Theatre

www.theardenhotelstratford.com

Avon Lea Guest House – just 5 minutes walk from the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, a comfortable 4 star bed and breakfast

www.avonlea-stratford.co.uk

Moss Cottage - A friendly and welcoming bed and breakfast in the wonderful town of Stratford upon Avon

www.mosscottage.org

The Bell, Alderminster – a boutique B&B with historically themed rooms –

www.thebellald.co.uk

For more accommodation ideas visit

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

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