

Shakespeare's ENGLAND

Culture

Home to probably the most famous cultural figure in the world – William Shakespeare, Shakespeare's England is the ideal destination to immerse yourself in the best cultural experiences England has to offer.

Whether you want to secure the best seat in the house to enjoy a Shakespearian play at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre or explore local villages and countryside in the footsteps of the Bard. You can enjoy cultural experiences beyond Shakespeare, and experience world-class art in historic settings and find out about other Warwickshire literary greats.

Shakespeare's England offers a wealth of cultural activity and is the perfect place for culture enthusiasts to indulge themselves and explore the thriving arts scene in the region.

Compton Verney

Award winning Art Gallery in beautiful countryside

Visit Warwickshire's award winning art gallery Compton Verney. This fantastic art gallery offers an exciting international programme of exhibitions and events, alongside a diverse collection of art from around the world. It offers visitors the unique opportunity to view art in the setting of



a Grade I listed Georgian mansion located in 120 acres of spectacular parkland.

After a morning spent browsing the gallery space, make sure you stop for a spot of lunch at the award winning café, serving freshly prepared produce or alternatively enjoy a ready-packed picnic and eat al fresco in the beautiful gardens. Compton Verney's official catering partner, Aubrey Allen, is an award winning local family business. Established in 1933 their commitment to quality produce has established their prestigious reputation. Today they are suppliers to many Michelin Chefs

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throughout the UK including Raymond Blanc and Alain Roux as well as being butcher to the Queen.

www.comptonverney.org.uk

Royal Shakespeare Company

Stratford-upon-Avon

Immerse yourself in all things Shakespeare. Stratford-upon-Avon, home to the greatest playwright of our time, William Shakespeare is also home to the RSC, the internationally renowned theatre company.

Pay a visit to one or both of the two world famous theatres in the heart of the town.



The Swan Theatre is a favourite space for many actors, directors and audiences. An intimate theatre, it seats approximately 450 people on three sides of a deep thrust stage. Situated on Waterside, alongside the River Avon, the Royal Shakespeare Theatre is the main 1,040 seat thrust stage auditorium. It re-opened in November 2010 following a three-year transformation project. It is a Grade II listed building and retains many of the art deco features of the 1932 Shakespeare Memorial Theatre.

Learn more about the history of the theatre by taking a Theatre tour. Discover the public and private areas of the theatre. Learn about the origins of the RSC and its theatres in Stratford-upon-Avon and explore a production in more depth to learn about the theatre making process. Alternatively take in one of the many ever changing exhibitions ranging from costume design to set design to family focused interactive exhibitions.

Performing various shows by Shakespeare, his contemporaries and modern playwrights throughout the year, a trip to see a show by the RSC is a must-do for all visitors to Shakespeare's England.

www.rsc.org.uk

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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 four 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.

A range of events and activities take place throughout the year and costumed actors interpret the spaces around them to bring the historic homes to life, creating a truly memorable must-see experience for visitors. 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

Warwick Arts Centre and Mead Gallery Warwick

Warwick Arts Centre a short drive from the heart of Warwick and is one of the largest and most respected arts centres in the UK. You will find something on offer to suit all tastes from art, music, drama, dance, comedy, literature and films. National and internationally recognised artists, theatre companies, comedians and musicians all visit Warwick Arts Centre and as such the programme on offer is sure to appeal to culture vultures.



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Upstairs at Warwick Arts Centre is Mead Gallery, one of the largest and most beautiful purpose-built contemporary art galleries in the UK, presenting a highly regarded programme of international contemporary art.

www.warwickartscentre.co.uk and www.meadgallery.co.uk

Stratford upon Avon Civic Hall

Stratford-upon-Avon

Situated in the heart of Stratford upon Avon, the Civic Hall is ideally placed as the premier hire venue serving the local community.

With a large, flexible auditorium that is equipped to high professional standards we are home to a number of local organisations producing Drama, Music and Exhibitions.



Offering a range of concerts, plays, exhibitions the Civic Hall, Stratford-upon-Avon hosts a broad spectrum of arts and community events.

Orchestra of the Swan is the resident orchestra at the Civic Hall, it has achieved national recognition for outstanding performances combined with innovative programming and a highly accessible style of presentation with pre-concert talks, introductions from the podium and post concert 'conversation club'.

www.civichall.co.uk

The Stratford-upon-Avon Literary Festival

Stratford-upon-Avon

Celebrating its 7th year in 2014, The Stratford-upon-Avon Literary Festival is an exciting mixture of debate, ideas, celebrity author events, workshops and humour. Alongside this is a programme of education events in Stratford and local schools involving favourite



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authors, poets and illustrators, entertaining and inspiring children from 2 to 18.

The Stratford-upon-Avon Literary Festival is one of the highlights of the regional cultural calendar and one of the most significant literary festivals in the UK, attracting thousands of people who share one passion: a love of books, writing and reading.

www.stratfordliteraryfestival.co.uk

Warwick Folk Festival – July

Warwick

The Warwick Folk festival is a folk festival of the very best featuring traditional and contemporary folk arts. Singers and musicians, street entertainers and Morris dancers - it seems that anybody and everybody who enjoys folk music heads for Warwick in July each year. Since its humble beginnings in 1979, the annual Warwick Folk Festival has developed into one of the most highly regarded folk events on the national and international scene, attracting fans from all over Britain and as far afield as the USA and Australia.



Warwick Folk Festival has become a major highlight on the British music calendar attracting people from all over the country and beyond. One of the attractions of the Festival is the live music and dance which is programmed around the town centre including hotels and public houses.

There are also other events, Family Ceilidhs, free workshops, storytelling, live music and dance events too.

Suggested Accommodation

There are a number of accommodation options available

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

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

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

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

www.ghotels.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

Legacy Falcon Hotel – in the heart of Stratford-upon-Avon -

www.legacy-hotels.co.uk/legacy-thefalcon

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

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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