

MOTIVATE, EDUCATE AND REWARD



Shakespeare's England

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON, WARWICK & LEAMINGTON SPA

THERE ARE some great opportunities for teamwork, not to mention heart-pumping activities aplenty on this itinerary, which centres on Warwickshire, a county at the very heart of England.

Steeped in reminders of its most famous son, William Shakespeare, and sprinkled with grand stately homes and pretty towns of half-timbered houses, it's a region packed with character and history.

Where better then for your guests to battle out their competitive spirit than in the shadow of one of England's greatest medieval fortresses? And what more memorable way to bond with colleagues than by unravelling the clues together on a historic treasure hunt along England's most iconic canal?

LOCATION & ACCESS

The main gateway to Shakespeare's England is Birmingham.

By road

From London to Birmingham:
Approx. 2 hrs north-west/120 miles.

By air

Nearest international airport:
Birmingham International airport.

Alternative airports:
East Midlands airport.

By train

From London-Euston - Birmingham: 1 hr.



Stratford-upon-Avon



Set on the banks of the River Avon, this timeless pretty town, filled with half-timbered houses and old-fashioned pubs and tea rooms, is best known as the birthplace of England's greatest poet and playwright, William Shakespeare. Pilgrims world-over converge on Shakespeare's birthplace in Henley Street, one of five beautifully preserved houses linked to the bard, all filled with original furniture and fascinating stories which give a real sense of his life and work.

Home to the Royal Shakespeare Company, Stratford is also one of the best places in the world to see Shakespeare performed, while a choice of fine accommodation and shops ensure a relaxing break in beautiful surroundings.

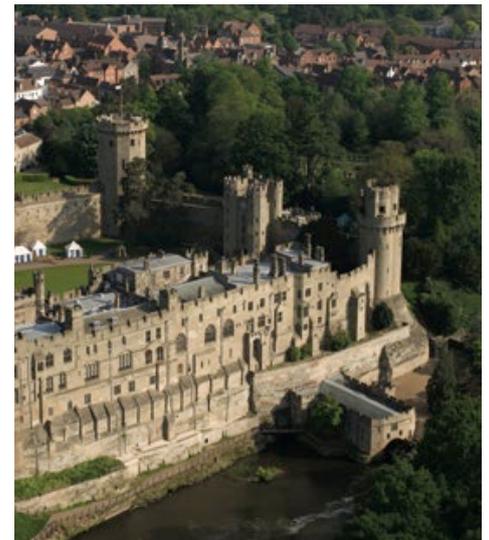
Royal Leamington Spa



Elegant Georgian architecture, wide tree-lined avenues and glorious gardens provide a sophisticated backdrop to this picturesque Regency town. Often described as 'the best bits of London, all in a ten-minute walk', the town owes much of its charm to its famous mineral waters which brought great wealth in the 19th century. It was even visited by Queen Victoria herself, who gave it the stamp of approval, allowing Leamington to become one of only three towns in England with the 'Royal' prefix.

The magnificent Royal Pump Rooms remain today, together with a veritable treasure trove of independent, specialist boutiques and desirable retail names, making Leamington a 21st-century shopper's paradise.

Warwick



The view of Warwick Castle across the willow-fringed River Avon was considered by Romantic novelist, Sir Walter Scott, to be unsurpassed in England. One of the most complete medieval fortresses in the country, the castle was formerly the seat of the powerful Earls of Warwick, key players in the brutal conflicts of Middle Age England.

Huddled beneath the castle, Warwick's compact town centre is also packed with history, with half-timbered Tudor houses scattered across its charming little streets. Mill Street offers some particularly good examples while, elsewhere, the timber-framed Lord Leycester Hospital and arcaded Market Hall nestle between a wealth of quality independent shops and fine restaurants.

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ARRIVAL

Upon touchdown into Birmingham airport, a fleet of executive cars or people-carriers will be waiting to whisk your guests away in immaculate style. Equipped to the highest standards, these superb vehicles will transport them effortlessly to your choice of hotel in luxurious comfort. Quick, smooth and discreet, with comfortable seats, air-conditioning and privacy glass, and driven by highly-trained and courteous chauffeurs, who will attend to their every whim, they guarantee an instant impact as your delegates begin their executive English adventure.



WHERE TO STAY

Mallory Court, Royal Leamington Spa
★★★★ **31 rooms and suites**



Housed in a beautiful old manor house and set in tranquil countryside, surrounded by 10 acres of stunning landscaped gardens, Mallory Court offers an idyllic English rural retreat.

The hotel is the proud winner of three coveted AA red stars and charms its guests with luxurious seclusion, handsome, spacious bedrooms, unobtrusive service and exquisite food – an award-winning combination of traditional British and European cuisine. Elsewhere, old and new also sit comfortably together, from the grand Lutyens-style interiors to the art deco brasserie and sleek, contemporary meeting facilities, the perfect setting for business brainstorm.

Ettington Park Hotel, Royal Leamington Spa
★★★★ **48 rooms and suites**



This spectacular Neo-Gothic mansion is set in 40 acres of parkland in the verdant Warwickshire countryside, just five miles from Stratford-upon-Avon, but a world away from the bustle of modern-day life.

Furnished with exquisite antiques and fine paintings and decorated with friezes tracing its centuries of heritage, the hotel radiates style and luxury. Courteous attention and fine English hospitality mean guests feel relaxed and totally uninhibited. It's a feeling that is enhanced by the fine wines and award-winning cuisine as well as the sumptuous refurbished bedrooms. There's also a new indoor swimming pool, sauna and steam room, providing the perfect solitude to round-off your guests' stay.

The Arden Hotel, Stratford-Upon-Avon
★★★★ **45 rooms and suites**

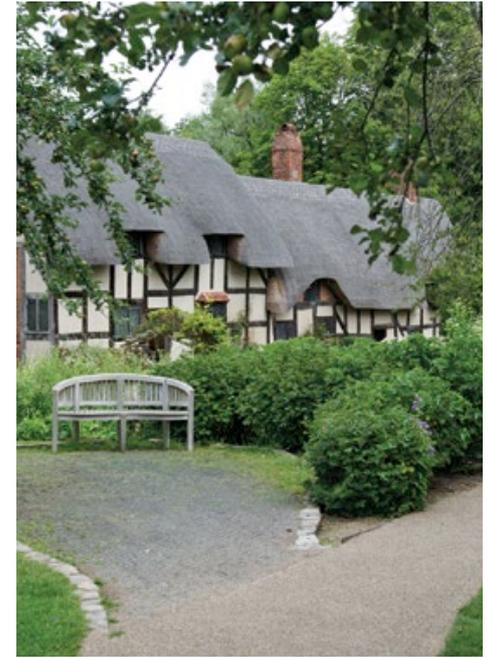


Located in the heart of historic Stratford-upon-Avon, directly opposite the world-renowned Royal Shakespeare Company theatres, the Arden Hotel has undergone a multi-million pound refurbishment to create an elegant and sophisticated 45-bedroom luxury hotel.

The hotel stands on the site of a former house once lived in by Shakespeare's father, John Shakespeare. Elegant and contemporary, today it boasts a stylish brasserie, sophisticated champagne bar and spacious rooms and suites, many with fabulous views over the River Avon,

ACTIVITIES

Shakespeare Walking Tour of Stratford-upon-Avon (Half Day)



Shakespeare's very spirit seems to walk the streets of Stratford-upon-Avon, so intense is the association of the town with his name. On this fascinatingly original No Holds Bard Tour, your guests can not only learn more about England's most famous playwright, they can do so from the man himself. Dressed as William Shakespeare, their guide will regale them with tales of his loves, tragedies and inspirations before a backdrop of Stratford's most famous sights including Shakespeare's birthplace, Hall's Croft, Nash's House, the Royal Shakespeare Company theatres and the bard's final resting place. Moving and funny at the same time, it's an experience guaranteed to entertain.

Crime Scene Investigation Challenge (Full Day)



An aristocrat has been found dead in his country mansion and it's up to you to find the killer!

An insight into the fascinating world of crime and forensics, this unique activity allows your guests to work in teams and attempt to locate and extract evidence, interpret findings and solve the case. Under the guidance of experienced former detectives or Crime Scene Investigators, teams will learn the investigation techniques of forensic dentistry, fingerprint dusting, blood splatter pattern analysis, photofit, ballistics and more to determine which suspect is responsible!



Warwick Castle Tour (Full Day or Half Day)



Heroic jousts, mournful dungeons and fireball-launching trebuchets – your guests will discover a lot more than just stone and mortar on this tour of Warwick Castle, one of the largest and most complete medieval fortresses in the world.

Rising majestically above the River Avon, this is no crumbling ruin but a castle that remains as vibrant and alive today as at any time during its 1,100 year history. With its great halls, high towers and beautiful landscapes combined with a varied programme of interactive attractions, events and shows, from ghost tours to historic re-enactments, it promises a true slice of English history.

Dragon Boat Racing (Half Day)



Dragon boating is a fun filled activity where teams paddle traditional longboats in a series of timed races. Said to have originated in China some 2,000 years ago as a competition between local villages, the sport was first brought to the UK in 1992 and is ideal for experienced crews and complete beginners alike as no previous experience is necessary.

Whether you are looking for a team building activity, an inter-company challenge or just want your guests to let off some steam, this activity promises an exhilarating experience, with fresh air, exercise and teamwork guaranteed.

Quad Biking and Segway Trekking (Full Day or Half Day)



Let your guests experience the thrill of a quad biking adventure. Lead by an experienced instructor, this hour-long trek on these powerful all-terrain vehicles takes your participants on a challenging route around a 100-acre private estate through dense woodland, mud, water and harsh terrain, guaranteed to get their adventurous juices flowing.

Alternatively, get them ready for the fun and unique drive of their lives on a Segway trek. These computer-controlled, battery-powered, gyroscope balancing vehicles are capable of up to 12.5 miles per hour and are easy to control; whatever your guests driving experience - this fun activity is sure to give them a day to remember.

Car Rallying (Full Day)



Picture your guests climbing into the driving seat of a fully prepared rally car, ready for the drive of their lifetime! This adrenaline-fuelled rally adventure will take them through the techniques of handbrake turns, power slides, oversteer and understeer and much more in a top quality rally car, built to competition specification.

A fully trained and experienced instructor will act as their co-driver throughout this full day experience, treating them to a high-speed passenger ride at the end. Then it's into the debriefing to find out their score and declare the winning driver!

Treasure Hunt on the Grand Union Canal (Full Day)



England's 2,000-mile network of navigable canals stretches through many beautiful parts of the country, reaching even into the heart of cities such as Birmingham, which has more miles of canal than Venice!

This activity takes place on the longest and most famous of them all - the Grand Union Canal. On board their own traditional narrowboat, your guests will compete in teams to unravel a challenging treasure hunt, navigating locks, drinking in the industrial heritage and beautiful scenery of this historic waterway en-route. The activity can also be expanded with a range of additional navigational and mental exercises, guaranteed to challenge.

Knight School (Full Day or Half Day)



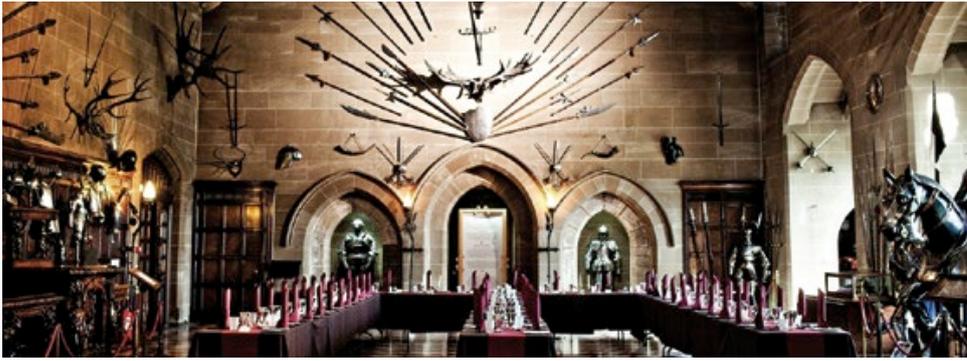
Swap the boardroom for the battlefield on this unique Knight School experience. Taking place in the majestic medieval setting of Warwick Castle, it is sure to ignite the warrior within as your guests battle with colleagues to determine the true champion.

Experienced knights will take your guests back to a time when war raged outside the castle walls and the troops prepared for battle, teaching them the precise art of archery, one-to-one sword battle (with real swords) and pole-arm combat. In a modern world dominated by convenience and comfort, it's a sobering lesson in battle survival skills they're sure to remember.

GALA DINNER OPTIONS

Warwick Castle, Warwick

Up to 140 dinner guests



It is the year 1471 and your guests have been summoned to dine with the King's favourite, the infamous Earl of Warwick, for an unforgettable evening of eating, drinking and medieval revelry!

With an atmosphere found nowhere else, this fully immersive experience allows your guests to travel back to a time when mighty battles raged outside the castle walls. The evening includes a delicious medieval banquet, served in the magnificent surroundings of the Great Hall or in the castle's atmospheric undercroft, accompanied by authentic medieval entertainment. More intimate dinners can also be served in the decadent surroundings of the State Dining Room.

Ragley Hall, Alcester, Warwickshire

Up to 150 dinner guests



Home of the Marquess and Marchioness of Hertford, this spectacular 17th century manor house, surrounded by stunning parkland, is visited by many throughout the year, yet retains the charm of a much-loved family home.

From an unforgettable gala dinner in the Great Hall, with its magnificent decorative ceiling, or the Red Saloon, with its exquisite crystal chandelier and log fire, to a gourmet meal in the opulent State Dining Room, presided over by portraits of some of the most famous figures in English history, your guests can dine like lords and ladies.

Heritage Motor Centre, Gaydon, Warwickshire

Up to 500 dinner guests



A veritable mecca for car enthusiasts, the Heritage Motor Centre is home to the world's largest collection of British cars, from vintage vehicles to the exciting innovations of the present day.

A uniquely historic venue for a celebratory dinner, your guests' evening will begin with reception drinks in the museum, where they can wander among nearly 300 classic and contemporary cars, including names like MG, Triumph, Land Rover and Jaguar. Guests then make their way to dinner in one of the art deco styled function rooms, the largest of these rooms accommodate a display of cars from the collection, ensuring an unforgettable backdrop.

OTHER DINING OPTIONS

Traditional Fare



Set on the doorstep of the Black Country, the powerhouse of 18th century industrial England, Shakespeare's England has long been synonymous with good-tasting, no-frills fare.

With a hungry workforce to feed, many traditional dishes, like Warwickshire Stew and 'faggots' (offal meatballs) capitalised on the cheaper, less popular cuts of meat. Local delicacy 'pork scratchings' (crispy pig skins) remain one of England's favourite pub snacks while perhaps more appealing are delicious Coventry Godcakes and Dumpsie Dearie jams. With its large Indian population, Birmingham is also famous for its Balti cuisine, a popular addition to the region's traditional repertoire.

Pubs and Inns



Visitors frequently comment that there is nothing quite like the English pub to be found anywhere else in the world. The origin of our pubs - public houses - can be traced back to Roman times when inns and 'taberna' (taverns) were common, providing refreshment and lodgings for those travelling in, sometimes, inhospitable areas.

Today, like the rest of the country, those in Warwickshire remain friendly, atmospheric places, often with welcoming fires and beer gardens, and a popular social hub for the local community. Many also serve locally-sourced ales and food, making them the perfect choice to enjoy a genuine taste of England.