



## Shakespeare's England & the Cotswolds

Explore the landscapes, history and villages that inspired Shakespeare's tales. But this tour isn't just about the famous playwright. You may find yourself a little tipsy as you sample a local beer in a small brewery. You will feel princely as you walk through the ancient hallways of Blenheim Palace. And may you become snap-happy as you wander over the trickling rivers and peaceful hills of the Cotswolds. Learn about Shakespeare's inspirations and discover England's most famous landmarks on this three-day tour.



3 days/2 nights

### ITINERARY

#### Day 1: London - Blenheim Palace - Rollright Standing Stones - Hook Norton Brewery - Stratford-Upon-Avon

This morning you will depart London and travel to the World Heritage Site of Blenheim Palace. This is one of England's largest houses and the birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill. Here, you will learn about the history, explore the gardens, or have a chance to take a ride on the estate's very own miniature railway line.

After the palace and a lunch break, you continue on to the Rollright Standing Stones. These are an ancient complex of Neolithic and bronze age monuments that sit on the crest of the Cotswold Hills. This magnificent site marks the borderlands between the great counties of Oxfordshire and Warwickshire.

You round off the afternoon with a visit to the Hook Norton Brewery where you will learn about the production of beer in one of the Cotswolds' most beautiful areas. Savour a lovingly produced, local drink while you're there.

A short drive later and you will arrive at Stratford-Upon-Avon, your base for the next two nights.

#### Day 2: Warwick Castle - Stratford-Upon-Avon

After breakfast, you will travel to Warwick Castle, one of England's best preserved medieval castles. Dating back to the time of William the Conqueror, Warwick Castle is often named as one of the best historic monuments in Britain.

In the early afternoon, you return to Stratford-Upon-Avon, the birthplace and home of the playwright, William Shakespeare.

You now have a chance to explore the places that shaped the life of Shakespeare. Visit his birthplace, the Tudor thatched cottage and gardens of his wife, or Mary Arden's farm where his mother once lived.

You can also explore the narrow streets of this medieval market town, visit the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, or take a stroll along the banks of the River Avon where you can rent a boat or take the ferry across the river. Overnight in Stratford and soak up the ambience of this historic and inspiring settlement.

#### Day 3: Cotswolds - Stow on the Wold, Bourton on the Water, Bampton - Oxford

Today, you leave Stratford-Upon-Avon on a journey to the Cotswolds, a huge area that covers five counties and offers a variety of unique landscapes and charming villages.

The rolling hills, villages, and farms of this area give you a glimpse back in time to an England with a gentler pace of life. Our first stop of the day is in Stow on the Wold, the highest of the Cotswolds Towns. The large market square in



testament to the huge markets and fairs that were once held in this hill top market town.

You continue onto Bourton on the Water, nestling in the rolling Cotswolds hills. Known as 'The Venice of the Cotswolds', you have time to explore this ancient village that has stood on this spot since Anglo Saxon times.

Later you visit Bampton, where you can find the sights that have been featured prominently in the TV series Downton Abbey.

Your final stop of the tour is in the City of Oxford, here you have time to explore the beautiful listed buildings, explore the precincts of the colleges, climb one of the vantage points to take in the skyline, or see the art and antique collections in the Ashmolean Museum.

You then embark on the comfortable return journey to London

## Details

### Trip Code:

002334 - W20

### INCLUDED

- Transportation by Mercedes mini-coach for 3 days of touring
- The services of an experienced and knowledgeable driver/guide
- Two nights of accommodation
- Breakfast daily at accommodation

### NOT INCLUDED

- Entry fees to visitor attractions
- Optional tours
- Meals not specified
- Gratuities to driver and guide
- Travel Insurance
- Items of a personal nature

### TOUR NOTES

These small group tours are basic and more casual than many of the other escorted tours. They offer you the choice of paying admission locally to the sites you wish to visit or skipping an attraction that isn't of interest to you. There is the opportunity to have some free time in the evenings to go out for dinner to a cafe or restaurant of your choosing on your own, buy some food at a supermarket or take-out and eat at your accommodation or hang out with other people from your tour. The choice is yours!

*Disclaimer: We do our utmost to ensure that information posted on our website is correct at the time of publication, however trip details are subject to change without notice by the suppliers and operators involved. We update the information as soon as possible when changes are advised to us, however, we cannot assume responsibility for such changes made by the suppliers and operators.*

### ROUTE MAP





**Contact**

**Winnipeg**

164 Marion Street  
Winnipeg, MB, Canada  
R2H 0T4  
Phone: 204.949.0199  
Fax: 204.949.0188  
Toll Free: 800.661.3830

**Edmonton**

(formerly Butte Travel Service)  
11733 95th St. NW  
Edmonton, AB, Canada  
T5G 1M1  
Phone: 780.477.3561  
Fax: 780.477.9871  
Toll Free: 800.661.8906



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