

Stratford-upon-Avon boasts several beautiful and historic properties connected with the most famous playwright in the world, William Shakespeare. Stratford is the birthplace of Shakespeare and an attractive market town. Spreading back from the River Avon, the town centre is flat and compact, making it easy to take in all its attractions. The Royal Shakespeare Company offers superb theatre, and there are many fine restaurants as well as a wealth of shops. Warwick Castle is without doubt the finest medieval castle in the country and features dungeons, towers, exhibitions and a host of other attractions.



Shakespeare's Birthplace

Step into the house where William Shakespeare was born in 1564 and re-enter the Tudor world. Newly refurbished, the house now offers visitors a fascinating insight into life as it was when Shakespeare was a child. See the Shakespeare Exhibition which provides an introduction to his life and background and the traditional English garden.



Warwick Castle

Lying alongside the River Avon, Warwick Castle is said to be the 'greatest medieval castle in Britain', and is certainly its largest. Take a walk along the ramparts and climb the towers, or head inside for special waxwork exhibitions. The Great Hall houses many suits of armour, while the grounds are hugely enjoyable, with woodland and lawns inhabited by peacocks. A footbridge crosses the Avon to River Island, the site of medieval jousting tournaments.



Royal Shakespeare Company

The Royal Shakespeare Company is one of the world's foremost classical theatre companies. Its two theatres offer the visitor the chance to enjoy Shakespeare's plays, the works of his great contemporaries and more modern plays. Enhance your visit with a meal in one of the two cafés or Quarto's, the theatre restaurant. Backstage theatre tours are a great way to see what happens behind the scenes.



Anne Hathaway's Cottage

Anne Hathaway was William Shakespeare's wife, and this world-famous thatched cottage continued to be owned by her descendants until the late 19th century. It still contains the Hathaway bed and many other items of furniture owned by the family. Outside lies a beautiful cottage garden and there are many pleasant walks leading from the cottage. Anne Hathaway's Cottage is in Shottery, just one mile from Stratford-upon-Avon.

What else can I see and do?

Stratford is home to **Nash's House**, owned by Thomas Nash, first husband of Shakespeare's grand-daughter, Elizabeth. It houses a great collection of Elizabethan furniture and tapestries. Next door are the foundations of **New Place**, where the Bard spent his retirement.

Another property, **Hall's Croft**, was named after Dr John Hall, who married Shakespeare's daughter, Susanna. This impressive 16th-century house features outstanding furniture, paintings and an

exhibition about medicine in Shakespeare's time with references to the remedies and potions mentioned in his plays.

Visit **Shakespeare's Grave** and those of some of his relatives in the chancel of **Holy Trinity Church**, which includes 26 fine 15th-century carved misericords. The church is one of England's most beautiful. You can also take a **boat trip** on the River Avon or an **open-top bus tour**. Stratford is great for **shopping**, with a wide range of outlets to suit all.

Your Travelsights leader today is _____

The coach will leave Stratford today at _____

Mobile no _____

Please ensure you are on the coach 10 minutes before the departure time.