TELL YOUR OWN STORY IN ENGLAND'S ENGLAND

MY ITINERARY

SHAKESPEARE COUNTRY
Explore England's England

# The Bard and the Bulldog

**Day group visit to Blenheim Palace and Shakespeare's Birthplace. The Bard and the Bulldog itinerary enables your group to visit two of Britain's finest attractions in one day. Visit Shakespeare's Birthplace in Stratford-upon-Avon in the morning and travel through the beautiful, scenic Cotswolds to Blenheim Palace in the afternoon. Please contact Shakespeare Country's Travel Trade and Groups Desk for a discounted, combined ticket for these two attractions.**

## Morning

The day starts in Stratford-upon-Avon with a visit to the birthplace of the world's greatest dramatist and poet William Shakespeare. At Shakespeare's Birthplace you will see the family rooms decorated and furnished as Shakespeare would have known them as a boy. Costumed guides demonstrate the ancient craft of glove-making as practised by Shakespeare's father. Watch a brief performance of Shakespeare Aloud!, which are about bringing Shakespeare off the page and onto the stage, whether that stage be an outdoor play, a room in one of the Shakespeare Houses, or in the beautiful Shakespeare gardens. To give your experience a special focus or the exclusive touch, book the 45 minute 'All About Shakespeare' talk or a 'Hidden Treasures' display which enables you to enjoy a privileged viewing of some of the glorious treasures held in the Trust's Library and Archive collections.

The Shakespeare Houses at Shakespeare Birthplace Trust

## Lunch

Enjoy a lunch in a café, bar or one of Stratford-upon-Avon's many centrally located restaurants. The RSC Courtyard Theatre Café Bar caters for groups and serves a range of light meals including sandwiches and meat or vegetarian dishes. Tantalise your taste buds at Othello's Bar and Brasserie in Stratford-upon-Avon, which is part of the Mercure Shakespeare Hotel. Othello's Bar and Brasserie offers an exciting mix of modern European and traditional English dishes.

## Afternoon

After lunch the group boards the coach to make the 50 minute journey to Blenheim Palace, which is situated 8 miles from Oxford. This journey takes you through the picturesque Cotswolds, awarded the status of an 'Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty', with its rolling grasslands, beech woods and captivating villages, an area of warmth and clarity with stone walls and buildings. Blenheim Palace is the home of the 11th Duke of Marlborough and the birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill. The palace is a masterpiece of English Baroque architecture, surrounded by over 2,000 acres of 'Capability' Brown landscaped parkland. It was inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1987. A new permanent experience, Blenheim Palace: the Untold Story has opened upstairs in the palace. This takes a closer look at the dramatic history of the family who have lived at Blenheim Palace over the last 300 years. After visiting the palace the group can enjoy the formal gardens and the spectacular parkland before boarding the coach for the return journey.

## Morning: The Shakespeare Houses at Shakespeare Birthplace Trust

**Address**

Shakespeare Centre
Henley Street
Stratford-upon-Avon
Warwickshire
CV37 6QW

**Contact Details**

Tel: 01789 204 016

The Shakespeare Birthplace Trust opens and cares for five beautiful historic houses and gardens all linked with William Shakespeare and his family and each with its own fascinating story to tell. Whether visiting one or multiple houses, the group visits team are available to assist you in planning your itinerary - SHAKESPEARE'S BIRTHPLACE The house where the world's most famous playwright was born and grew up. See and hear Shakespeare's characters come alive. MARY ARDEN'S FARM Step back into the 1570s and spend a day on this real working farm that was the childhood home of Shakespeare's mother. With activities and events for all the family. ANNE HATHAWAY'S COTTAGE Discover the most romantic of the Shakespeare Houses, where William courted his future wife, at her family home. Discover the new Woodland walk, follow the Sculpture Trail and enjoy the tranquility of the award winning Cottage Garden. HALL'S CROFT The elegant home of William's daughter, Susanna, and her husband, Dr John Hall, an eminent physician. Be sure not to miss the beautiful walled garden and its historic herb bed and fragrant rose garden. NASH'S HOUSE and NEW PLACE Nash's House was owned by Shakespeare's granddaughter Elizabeth and adjoins the site of New Place where Shakespeare's story ended in 1616. Group rates are available to parties of 15 or more paying visitors. Super Saver discounts available to groups paying at least 8 weeks in advance. Free on-site coach parking available at Mary Arden's Farm and Anne Hathaway's Cottage. Free coach dropping point at Shakespeare's Birthplace. For further information visit: http://www.shakespeare.org.uk

### Prices and opening

We offer substantial savings to Groups (15 or more paying visitors) on admission prices to the Shakespeare Houses, as well as a unique range of Special Interest Talks and Tours together with after hours options designed to make your Group's visit truly special.

To save more on your Groups admission prices, consider paying eight weeks prior to arrival to qualify for the Super Saver Rate, or one week in advance of arrival to qualify for the Saver Rate. Further details on these exclusive savings opportunities are available from our Groups Department with every booking confirmation.

For members of the Travel Trade, we have a Voucher Scheme programme which interested companies can apply to become a member of. For further information on this option, please have a look at our Travel Trade Bookings page or contact our Groups Department directly by email at Groups@shakespeare.org.uk

### Opening details

| Season Dates | Opening Hours |
|---|---|
| Notes | Shakespeare's Birthplace, Anne Hathaway's Cottage, Hall's Croft and Nash's House & New Place are open daily throughout the year except for Christmas Day and Boxing Day. Mary Arden's Farm is open from March - October. Detailed information on the opening hours for each House are available on the website. Last entry into the Houses is at 5.00pm from April to October and 4.00pm from November to March. |