

Shakespeare Lives in Britain

Itinerary



To celebrate the release the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death, you're invited to follow Shakespeare's trails and experience Britain through Shakespeare's eyes!

20-25 April 2016

Please note: this itinerary is just a draft and is subject to change

DAY 1: Wednesday 20 April

Arrival at London airport

Check in at the hotel and free time

7:30pm: Enjoy watching **The Winter's Tale at the candlelight Sam Wanamaker Playhouse.**



In central London, on the south side of the River Thames, you can find the Globe Theatre. Rebuilt in the late 1990s you can stand and enjoy a Shakespeare play in the open air. Shakespeare's Globe is a unique international resource dedicated to the exploration of Shakespeare's work and the playhouse for which he wrote, through the connected means of performance and education. A number of Shakespeare's plays are also based in around the capital.

Overnight - The -----Hotel, London

DAY 2: Thursday 21 April

Morning

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel.

Free time

Afternoon

Enjoy **a tour at the Somerset House** which will host **Shakespeare's exhibition**. Why not download the self-guided Shakespeare walking tour app and immerse yourself in the Shakespeare trails in London experience.



Overnight - The -----Hotel, London

DAY 3: Friday 22 April

Morning

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel and early check out. Take the 10:10am train from Marylebone to Stratford upon Avon (arrival 12:03).

Arrival at the hotel and check in

Free time at Stratford upon Avon

Discover the town where Shakespeare was born, grew up and is laid to rest. Join one of the town's walking tours to experience at first hand the history and heritage of this amazing place. Or for those who like to take it a little easier, why not take one of the many boating trips on the River Avon with audio commentary featuring some of the highlights of the history of the town.

Afternoon – **Dedication ceremony at Shakespeare’s New Place (time tbc)**

Shakespeare Birthplace Trust

The Shakespeare Birthplace Trust cares for the world’s greatest Shakespeare heritage sites - the five beautifully preserved homes and gardens directly linked to Shakespeare and his family in Stratford-upon-Avon. Their fascinating stories have been attracting visitors from all over the world for centuries. Today, a tour of these houses takes you on a natural journey through Shakespeare’s life from his birth at the house on Henley Street, to his mature family home and eventual death at New Place.

To mark 400 years of Shakespeare’s legacy, the Trust is breathing new life into New Place, the only home Shakespeare ever bought and where he lived for 19 years. You will be invited to walk in Shakespeare’s footsteps through a new threshold on the site of his gatehouse, trace the footprint of his family home in a contemporary landscape setting and discover the story of the world famous playwright at the height of his success as a writer, family man and prominent citizen of his home town. Shakespeare’s New Place is due to open in July 2016.

7.30pm, Holy Trinity Church, Stratford-upon-Avon: EX CATHEDRA SHAKESPEARE MASQUE CONCERT - A celebration of 400 years of Shakespeare’s legacy

World Premiere - (Also broadcast live on BBC Radio 3)

To mark the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare’s death in 2016, Ex Cathedra, in collaboration with the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust, the Shakespeare Institute and the Royal Shakespeare Company, present a commemorative concert performed in the intimacy of Holy Trinity Church, where Shakespeare was baptised and is buried. This unique and personal tribute, directed by Jeffrey Skidmore, features a reconstruction of Thomas Arne’s musical setting of *An Ode to Shakespeare* by David Garrick, which was composed for a Shakespeare Jubilee that Garrick organised in Stratford-upon-Avon in 1769. The performance will also feature a new ode - ‘*A Shakespeare Masque*’, written by the Poet Laureate, Dame Carol Ann Duffy, and composed by Sally Beamish, supplemented by a children’s choir and a ‘broken consort’ of instruments that Shakespeare would recognise.

Holy Trinity Church: Visit Holy Trinity Church where Shakespeare was both baptised and buried. Inside you can see the graves of William Shakespeare, his wife Anne Hathaway and other family members. Above the graves is the Shakespeare Memorial, which was erected some six years after the dramatist’s death, and is considered to be one of the most accurate likenesses available. Also in the stunning chancel are a set of 26 carved wooden misericords dating from 1480. The original font in which the infant William is likely to have been christened is by his grave. Next to it are copies of the church registers in which the dates of Shakespeare’s christening and funeral are inscribed.



Overnight - The -----Hotel, Stratford upon Avon

DAY 4: Saturday 23 April

Morning

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel

SHAKESPEARE'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS - 23 April 2016, Stratford-upon-Avon

The Shakespeare Birthplace Trust is a lead partner in the town's festivities to honour its most famous son. Stratford's tradition of the birthday celebrations dates back to 1827, bringing together residents and visitors with people from the worlds of diplomacy, theatre, literature and academia in a vibrant mix of pageantry and performance. The town is planning an extra special celebration for this anniversary year, one of the highlights will be a traditional New Orleans jazz procession staged by **the New Orleans Shakespeare festival**. Live street entertainment across the town and a fabulous **Shakespeare Show** broadcast live from the Royal Shakespeare Theatre in the evening followed by spectacular fireworks.

For more information, visit www.shakespearescelebrations.com

Access to the VIP party

Overnight - The -----Hotel, Stratford upon Avon

SHAKESPEARE LIVES **PLAY YOUR PART**



DAY 5: Sunday 24 April

Morning

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel

SONNET RAP MARATHON, Shakespeare's Birthplace, Stratford-upon-Avon (time tbc)

An incredible performance by Devon Glover aka *The Sonnet Man*, who will perform all 154 Shakespeare sonnets in his own contemporary style – audience participation essential!

Royal Shakespeare Company, private tour and lunch

Renowned around the world, the Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC) performs throughout the year in Stratford-upon-Avon. One of the world's best-known theatre ensembles, the RSC performs the works of Shakespeare, his contemporaries and new writing.



Why not enjoy the stunning views of Shakespeare's home town from the Tower, discover backstage secrets on a guided Theatre Tour or spend time exploring the free exhibitions. Relax by the River Avon with a coffee or kick back with a divine cocktail and indulge in freshly prepared, locally sourced food in the Rooftop Restaurant. Work has started on a major project which will see the restoration of the Grade II listed Swan Wing, which forms the entrance of the current Swan Theatre and was built as part of the original Shakespeare Memorial Theatre in 1879.

In 2016 the RSC will open a major new exhibition immersing visitors in its theatre-making history and showcasing how it makes world-famous productions. There will also be guided theatre tours around the newly reopened RSC Studio Theatre, The Other Place, focussing on the rehearsal process and allowing access to the extensive costume store. In 2016 the RSC programme of plays by Shakespeare includes King Lear with Antony Sher in the title role and a major new tour of A Midsummer Night's Dream.

Shakespeare trails tour

Take this new and exciting Shakespeare tour around Stratford upon Avon. You will visit Shakespeare's School Room, Anne Hathaway's cottage and other attractions and you will also be able to have an **exclusive behind the scenes tour of our archives to see the First Folio and other rare museum collections.**

Shakespeare's School Room: King Edward VI School in Stratford-upon-Avon will open Shakespeare's Schoolroom & Guildhall to the public on 23 April 2016. The Guildhall was built in 1418-20 and is famous as the place where William Shakespeare was educated and where he first witnessed professional theatre. It served as the centre of civic life and governance in Stratford for over 400 years and was the building in which Shakespeare's father, John, served as the town's bailiff. Shakespeare's Schoolroom, on the upper floor, is still used to teach students at the school today. An immersive, atmospheric experience will plunge visitors into life in Stratford-upon-Avon in the 16th Century and allow visitors to experience what school was like for the young William Shakespeare.



Overnight - The -----Hotel, Stratford upon Avon

DAY 6: Monday 25 April

Morning

Enjoy breakfast at the hotel and Check out.

Travel back to London/ or Birmingham for the return flight.

End of the trip.

Competition overview

- Audience: Global (above 18)
- Number of winners: 1 winner + travel companion
- Entry mechanics: free text closed end question hosted on Lovewall:
- Run dates: 5 January until 31 January
- Winner selection date: by 5th February
- Winner to accept the prize: until 19th February
- Travel dates: 20-25 April 2016
- Travel locations: London and Stratford upon Avon

Draft schedule:

Day 1: 20/4 Fly to London. Watch an evening play at the Globe. Overnight: London

Day 2: 21/4 Shakespeare400 tour at Somerset House and London Shakespeare trails self-guided tour. Overnight: London

Day 3: 22/4 Transfer to Stratford upon Avon and tour. Ex cathedra masque concert. and potential presentation of the New Place. Overnight: SuA

Day 4: 23/4 New Orleans Jazz festival and access to VIP party. Overnight: SuA

Day 5: 24/4 Royal Shakespeare Company private tour and lunch. SuA tour. Rap Marathon. Overnight: SuA

Day 6: 25/4 Check out and return flight home from London or Birmingham airport.