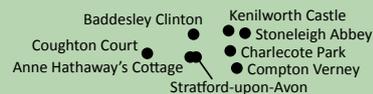


In the Footsteps of Shakespeare

September 15 to 25, 2019 from \$5,490 per person

A poet, playwright and actor, William Shakespeare is widely regarded as the greatest writer in the English language and the world's pre-eminent dramatist. This tour will provide a very real insight into Shakespeare's life and times, visiting Stratford-upon-Avon, where he was born and grew up, and exploring other historic houses in the area associated with his story, as we discover pretty market towns and picturesque country villages. On our return south, we recreate the fabled journeys Shakespeare is believed to have taken to Oxford, the iconic city and world-famous seat of learning. A highlight of the tour will be the chance to attend performances at the iconic Royal Shakespeare Company Theatre in Stratford and at the Globe Theatre in London.



● Oxford



Kenilworth Castle



Anne Hathaway's Cottage



Charlecote Park

Special extras included in your itinerary

- ◆ Guided tour at Compton Verney
- ◆ Guided walking tour of Stratford-upon-Avon
- ◆ Performance at the Royal Shakespeare Company Theatre
- ◆ Guided walking tour of Oxford
- ◆ Guided tour, exhibition, live demonstration and performance at Shakespeare's Globe Theatre
- ◆ Guided walking tour of London
- ◆ Audio guided tour at the British Museum
- ◆ Themed evening talk by a guest speaker

Eleven Day Itinerary

September 15: Arrival (depart U.S. on 9/14)

On arrival at Heathrow airport, a private transfer will take you to our overnight hotel, the **Macdonald Windsor Hotel**. In the evening you are invited to join the group for a welcome drink, followed by dinner.

September 16: Baddesley Clinton and Compton Verney

Leaving Windsor we travel to **Baddesley Clinton**, an atmospheric, medieval manor house dating back to the 13th century, set timelessly in its own secluded parkland. This moated house and its extensive formal gardens are steeped in history, including its use as a place of hiding and refuge for Catholic priests in Shakespeare's time.

We then head to **Compton Verney** for a guided tour of this independent art gallery. Housed in a restored Georgian mansion and surrounded by 120 acres of stunning 'Capability' Brown parkland, the world-class art exhibitions include several portraits relevant to Shakespeare's age.

Afterwards we check in to the **Mercure Stratford-upon-Avon Shakespeare Hotel**, our base for the next five nights. Tonight we enjoy dinner together at the hotel.

September 17: Shakespeare's Family Homes

Today we delve into the world of **William Shakespeare** as we discover some of his family homes, each place with its own fascinating story to tell. At **Shakespeare's Birthplace** we explore the extraordinary story of Shakespeare in the house where he was born and grew up in. Next is **Holy Trinity Church** on the banks of the River Avon, where Shakespeare was baptised, worshipped, and where he is buried. We end our tour at **Anne Hathaway's Cottage and Gardens**, the setting of the young Shakespeare's courtship with his future bride. Here we can see original furniture and uncover the stories of 13 generations of the Hathaway family who lived here. There are also nine acres of beautiful cottage gardens to enjoy.

The evening is free for you to make your own dinner arrangements.

September 18: Kenilworth Castle and Stoneleigh Abbey

This morning we visit **Kenilworth Castle**, one of England's largest medieval fortresses and most impressive castle ruins. Robert Dudley, Elizabeth I's 'favourite', created an ornate palace in readiness for her visit in 1575,

resulting in a show of pageantry that was believed to be the inspiration behind *Twelfth Night*. The beautifully recreated Elizabethan Garden, lost to the world for over 400 years, is now open to visitors once more.

Next is **Stoneleigh Abbey** that grew from humble beginnings as a Cistercian monastery in 1154 into a comfortable family home following the Dissolution of the Monasteries in the 16th century. This magnificent stately home is comprised of two halves; the first is a fine example of a Jacobean house in red sandstone built from the ruins of the monastery, while the second (the West Wing) was designed by famous architect Francis Smith of Warwick in Baroque style. The house has played host to many famous guests over the centuries including King Charles I, Queen Victoria and novelist Jane Austen.

After dinner back at the hotel, we are treated to a fascinating Shakespeare-themed talk by a guest speaker.

September 19: Charlecote Park and Coughton Court

While Stratford is synonymous with Shakespeare's theatrical success, there lurks in nearby **Charlecote Park's** history a far less respectable connection; the famous



playwright is rumoured to have been caught poaching deer here. Home to the Lucy family for 900 years, this lovely Tudor manor is a real treasure.

We continue on to stunning **Coughton Court**. Home to the Throckmorton family for 600 years, Coughton is still very much a family home with an intimate feel. While the interior gives us a unique insight into the history of the Catholic faith in this country, the spectacular gardens feature a pleasant riverside walk as well as colorful rose displays.

We dine together back at the hotel this evening.

September 20: Lord Leycester Hospital and the Royal Shakespeare Company Theatre

Today we head to the historic town of Warwick to visit the **Lord Leycester Hospital**, a collection of superb medieval timber-framed buildings that was, for nearly 200 years, home to Warwick's medieval Guilds. It became a place of retirement for aged soldiers known as the Brethren in the reign of Queen Elizabeth I; a legacy that continues to this day.

We then head back to Stratford to attend a performance at the iconic **Royal Shakespeare Company Theatre****.

The evening is free for you to make your own dinner arrangements.

September 21: Scenic Cotswolds and Oxford

We check out of our hotel and make our way towards Oxford. It is believed that Shakespeare travelled to London via Oxford, and walkers have attempted to reconstruct 'the Shakespeare Way', tracking the route that he would have taken. Our route takes us via the picturesque **Cotswold** stone villages of Stow-on-the-Wold and Bourton-on-the-Water.

Historic **Oxford** is known as the city of dreaming spires and is famed for its world-renowned university colleges. We enjoy a guided walking tour to learn more about this unique city, its history, university and famous people.

We continue into London and check in to the **Grange Tower Bridge Hotel**, where we stay for the last four nights. The evening is left free to make your own dinner arrangements.

September 22: The Golden Hinde and Shakespeare's Globe Theatre

Our first visit is to the **Golden Hinde**, a full-scale reconstruction of Sir Francis Drake's world-

famous sailing galleon which departed from Plymouth in 1577 in pursuit of treasures and riches in the south Atlantic and Pacific.

We then walk the short distance to **Shakespeare's Globe** where we enjoy a fascinating backstage tour to learn more about this iconic theatre and its most famous playwright; from colorful stories of the original 1599 Globe to the faithful reconstruction process of the 1990s. We also visit the Globe Exhibition under the Theatre which further explores the life of Shakespeare, followed by a live demonstration and theatre performance**.

The rest of the day is left free for you to explore at your leisure and make your own dinner arrangements.

September 23: Tower of London Ceremony of the Keys, London and Southwark Cathedral

We begin our day at the **Tower of London** to witness one of the oldest and most colorful surviving enactments of its kind; the **Ceremony of the Keys**. Set amidst the mighty battlements of this ancient fortress, this hugely popular ceremony forms part of the traditional 'unlocking' of the Tower of London and dates back some 700 years.

We then enjoy a guided walking tour of the oldest area of **London** exploring the city's beautiful architectural heritage along the way. We walk past the 'Roman' baths, past Middle and Inner Temple Gardens, Middle Temple Hall, then on to the Strand to see Samuel Johnson's statue, St Clement Danes, before finishing on Fleet Street and ye Old Cock Tavern.

We then head to **Southwark Cathedral**, a place of Christian worship for more than 1,000 years and the oldest Gothic church in London. The cathedral has been witness to the changing events of London's history from its site by London Bridge, which was for many centuries the only entrance to the City of London. The cathedral also has connections with Shakespeare's theatrical contemporaries.

The evening is left free for you to make your own dinner arrangements.

September 24: British Library and the British Museum

We start the day with a visit to the **British Library**, the national library of the United Kingdom. The library's collections include more than 150 million items, in over 400 languages.

What's Included

- ◆ Airport transfers from London Heathrow*
- ◆ 1 night at the Macdonald Windsor Hotel
- ◆ 5 nights at the Mercure Shakespeare Hotel
- ◆ 4 nights at the Grange Tower Bridge Hotel
- ◆ Welcome drink and canapés
- ◆ Full English breakfast each day
- ◆ 3-course *table d'hôte* dinner on 5 nights at the hotels (with after dinner tea and coffee)
- ◆ Services of a tour director throughout your stay
- ◆ Travel to and from all excursions
- ◆ All entrance costs
- ◆ Portage

*supplement applies for transfers from all other airports

Your Hotels

Night One

Macdonald Windsor Hotel, Windsor

Nights Two to Six

Mercure Shakespeare Hotel

The Mercure Shakespeare Hotel is a picturesque 17th-century inn situated in Stratford-upon-Avon. The hotel retains many of its original features including oak beams, antique furnishings and open fires and offers individually named, contemporary guest rooms, a restaurant, bar and terrace.

Night Seven to Ten

Grange Tower Bridge Hotel

The Grange Tower Bridge Hotel is situated close to the Tower of London and Tower Bridge in London's historic centre. The luxurious guest bedrooms offer all modern conveniences while other hotel facilities include a contemporary grill restaurant, a lounge and bar plus a health and fitness club with swimming pool, Jacuzzi, sauna and spa.

Single supplement \$1,300*

*Some supplement-free rooms are still available

We then pay a visit to the **British Museum**, the first national public museum in the world, founded in 1753. The museum's collection comprises over 8 million objects spanning the history of the world's cultures; from the stone tools of early man to 20th-century prints and we discover just a small selection of these with our audio guided tour.

Tonight, we enjoy a farewell dinner together at the hotel.

September 25: Departure

A private transfer will take you back to Heathrow airport for your return flight home.

** Please note that the itinerary is subject to change to accommodate performance schedules.

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I make a booking?

Call National Trust Tours at **888-484-8785** to register by phone (preferred method) **Monday - Friday from 9am to 5pm (EST)** or register online at www.nationaltrusttours.com.

When are payments due?

When you confirm your booking with us, a non-refundable deposit of \$750 per person is required to secure your place. The final balance payment must be paid to us no later than 90 days prior to the tour departure date. Of course, full payment can be made at the time of booking if you prefer and for bookings made less than 8 weeks before the tour departs this will be a requirement.

How can I pay?

We accept debit and credit cards (except American Express), for deposits and full payment.

What paperwork will I receive?

When your booking is confirmed, we will email you a booking confirmation document along with a copy of our full Terms and Conditions. 90 days prior to the tour, we will prepare and send you our Travel Pack with your finalised information, reading list and tour itinerary details.

Do I need travel insurance?

Yes, this is essential; we can only accept a booking on the basis that you have taken out a full and comprehensive travel insurance policy to cover the full duration of your trip. We will ask you to confirm this to us. If you choose not to take out travel insurance, this is done so against our advice and at your own risk; we will ask you to sign a declination form indemnifying us from any responsibility or cost in the event of medical emergency or repatriation. Information on travel insurance will be sent to you upon tour confirmation.

Do I need a passport and Visa?

It is your responsibility to ensure you have a passport which must be valid for 6 months after the return date of your trip. Tourist visas are not required for US citizens visiting the UK for under 90 days solely for the purpose of tourism. If you are not a US citizen or you are combining your visit with business, it is your responsibility to check the requirements for visiting the UK, you can do this by visiting the UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) website to determine whether you need a visa to enter the United Kingdom.

Are there single traveler room supplements?

We have a small number of rooms on each tour that are sold with no single supplement; once these are sold out we charge a supplement for any additional single rooms which varies for each tour. You can contact us to enquire about single supplement prices. Please book early as single rooms sell fast.

Are room upgrades available?

All of the hotels on these tours have been hand-picked for their high quality of accommodation and service. However, in some instances room upgrades are available and we would be happy to assist you to arrange these should you be interested.

Can you arrange extra hotel nights?

Yes, if you decide to arrive a few days before the start of the tour or leave a few days after the end of the tour, we are happy to arrange extra nights' accommodation. However, this service is only available at hotels that feature in the tour on which you are travelling and a \$35 administration fee is charged for this service.

Are meals included?

All breakfasts are included on all tours. Certain lunches and dinners are also included and you should study the tour itinerary in this brochure to determine what meals are included on your chosen tour. Meals not mentioned are not included and all beverages are at your own expense throughout the tour.

What do I do about any dietary requirements?

Please inform us at the time of booking, we will pass your information on to the hotel who will do their best to accommodate your requirements.

How many passengers will be in the Albion Journeys tour group?

Typically, between 10 and 30.

What is the role of the Tour Director?

Our friendly Tour Director will meet you for a welcome dinner at the beginning of each tour. Their role is to facilitate the smooth organisation of all operational aspects of the tour. If you have any queries or experience any issues during the tour, they are there to assist you.

Will the excursions change?

Please note that we plan our tours far in advance and the order and availability of excursions may be subject to change. In the event of a property not being available to visit, we will substitute with a similar visit, and you will be informed of the full details.

How much walking will there be on these tours?

As much or as little as you like. Any included guided tours will operate at a fairly relaxed pace, as with many historic houses and gardens, you may experience some uneven flooring and steps along the way. Of course, you will always have the option to explore any venue by yourself at your own pace. Any specific tour in this brochure with more than an average amount of walking will be clearly noted in the itinerary. If you have any specific concerns, please contact us.

What are the arrangements for luggage?

The standard luggage allowance is one item of hand luggage and one suitcase per person restricted to a maximum weight of 20kgs (44 pounds). We do provide portage at each of the hotels used on our tours, however, as with all things of a personal nature, it is your responsibility to ensure your suitcase is loaded onto the vehicles we use throughout the tour.

What clothing should I bring?

Comfortable leisurewear is recommended for the daytime. In the evening many participants prefer to wear smarter dress for dining. Whilst gentlemen may choose to wear a jacket in the restaurant in the evening, at most hotels this is not obligatory, we will of course inform you if any hotel does have a dress code. It is advisable to bring layered clothing and a light waterproof jacket. We recommend sturdy footwear when visiting gardens as the ground may be soft underfoot. Many historic properties request ladies do not wear high heels which may damage flooring.

Can you arrange my flights to the UK?

Albion Journeys do not arrange your air travel for our tours; this is your responsibility and gives you the flexibility to decide on your own routing.

What should I budget for tipping?

Gratuities are not included in the tour cost; therefore this is entirely at your own discretion.

For more information, please telephone the Tours Program at the National Trust at **(888) 484-8785** or **(202) 588-6300**

- web: www.nationaltrusttours.com
- email: info@nationaltrusttours.com

All tours offered subject to availability. Terms and conditions apply. Errors and omissions excepted.

Terms & Conditions

It is important that you read the following booking conditions. These Booking Conditions form the basis of your contract with us. Please read these sections carefully as they apply to all bookings you make with us unless otherwise specified. All holidays are operated by Albion.

1. HOLIDAY PAYMENT: When you make a booking you must pay a deposit for every person named on the booking. Deposits per person and the balance due date (the period before the departure date on which your full balance normally becomes due) are:

Deposit	Balance due date
\$750	90 days before departure

If you cannot make a payment by card at the time of booking, please speak to one of our Reservations staff to discuss other options. You can make payments against your balance anytime between making the booking and the balance due date. If the balance is not paid on time we reserve the right to treat your booking as cancelled by you and apply cancellation charges as set out in clause 3 below. For bookings made after the balance due date, the full amount is due at the time of booking.

2. OUR AGREEMENT: A contract is formed when we issue to you the booking confirmation document and terms and conditions. It is important you read through these and any other documents you receive and advise us of any inaccuracy within 14 days of the document date. By accepting the booking is correct you agree to our terms and conditions.

We regret we cannot accept any liability if we are not notified of any inaccuracy in any document within 14 days of our sending it out. This contract and all matters arising out of it will be governed by English law and will be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the courts of England and Wales.

3. HOLIDAY CANCELLATION BY YOU: If you want to cancel your booking after we have confirmed it with you either verbally, over the telephone or by email, you can do so over the phone or in writing. The following cancellation charges will apply:

365 to 182 days prior to departure	\$500
181 to 91 days prior to departure	\$750
90 days or less before departure	100% of the program cost is non-refundable

If any member of your party is prevented from travelling, that person may transfer their place to someone else (introduced by you) providing we are notified no less than two weeks before departure.

Full terms and conditions will be provided with your booking confirmation. They are also available on request or via our website: www.albionjourneys.com/terms-and-conditions.

National Trust for Historic Preservation / Reservation Application

To reserve a place, please complete and return this form with your deposit of \$750 per person (which is non-refundable for administrative fees) payable to *National Trust Tours*. Mail to: 1155 15th Street, NW Suite 300, Washington D.C. 20005 or call National Trust Tours at 888-484-8785.

Tour Choice

Please write full title and dates of your chosen tour

Name in full as on passport Date of Birth

Name in full as on passport Date of Birth

Address

City State Zip

Telephone (Home) (Business)

Email

National Trust Membership

- I am/We are National Trust Members
 My/Our membership number is
 I am not/We are not National Trust Members. Please enroll us as members.
 Individual (\$20) Family (\$30)

Accommodations

Hotel Room Preference Double Twin Single

I wish to share a room with

Form of Payment

- Enclosed is my check (payable to *National Trust Tours*).
 Credit card deposit of \$750 per person for a total of \$
Please note: We do not accept American Express.

Name as on credit card 3- or 4-digit security code

Credit card number Expiration date

Each participant must sign below. I/We confirm that I/We have carefully read and agree to the *Terms & Conditions* of this program. I/We agree to full payment by check 8 weeks before departure.

Signature required Date

Signature required Date