

# The Alternative Shakespeare Tour



Get up close and personal with William Shakespeare.

Discover some of the Bard's best-kept secrets on our exclusive tour!

Includes a lavish three-course meal at a historic inn.

## The Tour

Prepare to embark on an unforgettable journey, peel back the layers of time to explore Shakespeare's life outside of Stratford-upon-Avon. Inviting you to step into the very footsteps of the world's greatest playwright!

Our comfortable minibus will pick you up from Rother Market Square, Rother Street, Stratford Upon Avon CV37 6LT (opposite One Stop shop) every Sunday at 11:00 or 14.30

We will visit **Eight villages** described in his rhymes/ poems and quotes, gain a fresh and unique insight into Shakespeare's social life outside of Stratford Upon Avon.

Enjoy the beautiful Warwickshire countryside as we tour Shakespeare's favourite drinking establishments, where he loved to gamble, laugh with his friends and found muses for his timeless works. Uncover the villages that whispered inspiration into Shakespeare ears, inspiring many of his poems and plays, every play laced with references to alcohol!

## The Legend

*Immerse yourself in the tale of William Shakespeare's infamous drinking match in Warwickshire, and a night spent under a crab tree. When roused from his stupor the following day, the 'Bard' neatly rounded up his impression of the villages he loved, so close to his birth place...*

*"Dancing Marston, Piping Pebworth, Haunted Hillboro, Hungry Grafton, Beggarly Broom, Drunken Bidford, Dodging Exhall, Papist Wixford".*

Tour will finish at Three Horseshoes Inn Wixford where you will enjoy a traditional three course English Carvery (1hr 30mins). Depart back to Stratford Upon Avon.

(Total tour time approx 3hrs)

## The Villages

### *Welford on Avon*

10min. stop for photos



Bell Inn Welford on Avon according to local history, William Shakespeare was on his way back to Stratford upon Avon in the rain after meeting Drayton and Ben Jonson for a drink at the 'Bell Inn Welford, when he contracted fatal pneumonia



The famous 'Maypole' which has been in the centre of Welford since Shakespeare days, the original pole was made of wood and was unfortunately struck by lightning, this is the tallest maypole in the UK.

## Long Marston



Known as one of the Shakespeare villages, *'Dancing Marston'*. Long Marston was the starting point for Shakespeare and his friends legendary drinking contest with the Bidford-on-Avon club.

## Debworth



Visit St. Michael's Church, where Shakespeare is said to have visited on several occasions.

## Bidford on Avon

15min. stop for photos



Labelled by Shakespeare as the *'Drinking Town'*

The famous 13<sup>th</sup> century 'Falcon Inn Pub' is one of his favourite taverns where he spent many a night drinking and gambling with his friends. Imagine Shakespeare's laughter echoing in this old tavern, now a preserved residential building.

One night at the 'Falcon' he took part in a drinking contest, ending up drunk and slept under a crab tree for days.

4.



The **tree**, along the main road to Bidford-on-Avon, became a shrine and target of souvenir hunters until what was left of it was rooted up in 1824. After the tree had disappeared it acquired celebrity status.

Drinking alcohol was very popular in 'Elizabethan England', water at the time wasn't safe to drink, while the national fondness for a nice cup of tea lay a long way in the future.

**The following is a quote from Shakespeare...**

*"I have very poor and unhappy brains for drinking: I could well wish courtesy would invent some other custom of entertainment."*

*"A man cannot make him laugh; but that's no marvel; he drinks no wine.... If I had a thousand sons, the first human principle I would teach them should be, to forswear thin potations and to addict themselves to sack."*



Bidford Upon Avon High Street

5.

## Broom



As mentioned in his rhyme *'Beggerley Broom'* a small village near Bidford and Wixford

## Wixford



Mentioned in one of Shakespeare's poems *'Papist Wixford'*.

Here you will enjoy a Traditional 3 Course English Carvery at our charming 16<sup>th</sup> Century Inn.

Plenty of time to take photos 'Restaurant time 1hr 30mins

## On the way back to Stratford Upon Avon

We will visit the next **two** villages

### Exhall



As quoted by Shakespeare in his rhyme *'Dodging Exhall.'*

A very quaint village close to Wixford and Bidford.

### Temple Grafton



As quoted by Shakespeare in his rhyme *'Hungry Grafton'*

# *The Carvery Meal*

Your tour concludes at the historic Three Horseshoes Inn, Wixford, where you will indulge in a sumptuous traditional three-course English carvery, all included in your tour price!  
The perfect way to end your day filled with exquisite history and culture.



## *Tour Schedule*

Pickup from Rother Market Square, Stratford Upon Avon CV37 6LT

Departure times: 11am and 14.30 Every Sunday

Village Tour 1hr 30 mins

There will be scheduled stops throughout the tour, offering an opportunity to explore the surroundings, walk in Shakespeare's footsteps, and capture memorable photos against the stunning countryside backdrop.

Three Horseshoes Inn Carvery Meal 1hr 30min (total 3hrs).

Depart: Return to Stratford Upon Avon via villages



Don't miss this rare opportunity to delve into Shakespeare's world  
and uncover the secrets of his lesser-known haunts.

## BOOK YOUR TOUR

£59.95pp

*Limited spaces available book now*

Please fill in our tour booking form and select your preferred time.

Map from around 1615 of William Shakespeare's favourite villages.

