SHAKESPEARE’S WAY - SELF GUIDED WALKING HOLIDAY

The Shakespeare’s Way is a charming 58 mile trail which follows the route that William Shakespeare himself would have taken back and forth between his birthplace in Stratford-upon-Avon to the City of London. Follow in the footsteps of the Bard as he travelled to London to perform his works and make his fortune. Explore the quaint towns of Chipping Norton and Woodstock along the way and marvel at the gardens of Blenheim Palace, a UNESCO World Heritage site, as you meander through the beautiful Oxfordshire Cotswolds.

Your journey starts in Shakespeare’s birthplace, Stratford-upon-Avon, a medieval town sitting proudly on the banks of the river Avon. Immerse yourself in Shakespeare’s life and legacy before you leave by visiting the many sites linked to the famous poet and playwright. Leaving Stratford-upon-Avon the path follows the valley of the River Stour before passing through the quintessentially English countryside of the Cotswolds. The beauty and tranquility of Blenheim Park will make a welcome sight as you approach the historic market town of Woodstock. The University City of Oxford is the end point of the walk also known as ‘The City of Dreaming Spires’ due to the beautiful architecture of its college buildings.

Our walking holiday on the Shakespeare’s Way features hand-picked overnight accommodation in high quality B&B’s, country inns, and guesthouses. Each is unique and offers the highest levels of welcome, atmosphere and outstanding local cuisine. We also include daily door to door baggage transfers, guide book and a pre-departure information pack as well as emergency support, should you need it.

- Immerse yourself in the historic towns of Stratford-upon-Avon and Oxford.
- Walk in the famous footsteps of William Shakespeare.
- Visit the spectacular Blenheim Palace, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- Explore the Bronze Age Rollright Stones.
- Experience the beauty of the Cotswold Countryside.

WHY CHOOSE A SELF GUIDED WALKING HOLIDAY WITH US?

Macs Adventure is a small, energetic company dedicated to delivering adventure excellence. We are passionate about delivering outstanding walking holidays where every last detail is taken care of. Each holiday we offer is unique, tailor made to meet your requirements. From your first contact with Macs Adventure you will deal with a local specialist who knows the region intimately.

Self guided walking holidays are a wonderful relaxed way to discover the magic of the Shakespeare’s Way. Free to travel at your own pace and wander off the beaten track, you will discover the beauty of the landscape, the warmth of the people and the long history of this spectacular land. In the unlikely event you should require emergency support our office is always more than happy to help with your queries. So, from the moment you decide to visit England and the Cotswolds you can relax and look forward to an unforgettable self-guided walking holiday.

SUMMARY

Tour: Shakespeare’s Way  
Code: WESSPW  
Type: Self-Guided Walking Holiday  
Price: see website  
Single Supplement: see website  
Dates: March—October  
Walking Days: 4–6  
Nights: 5–7  
Start: Stratford-Upon-Avon  
Finish: Oxford  
Distance: 58 Miles

IS IT FOR ME?
If you are a fan of combining history with beautiful countryside, then the Shakespeare’s Way could be just for you. With an abundance of wildlife in an area soaked in history this makes for a wonderful long distance walk.

WHAT’S INCLUDED?

- Accommodation: Hand-picked B&B’s, small hotels, country inns and guesthouses.
- Meals: A hearty breakfast included. Lunch and dinner not included but always available at accommodation or nearby.
- Baggage Transfer: Door-to-door baggage transfer.
We have chosen the North part of this walk from Stratford-upon-Avon to Oxford as it is the quieter and more scenic part of the route. We offer the self guided walk in three itineraries but we can also tailor make any itinerary to suit.

**Description:**
5 nights and 4 days walking will have you feeling energised and give you a real sense of achievement. This itinerary is for the more active walker.

**Walking Days:** 4  
**Nights:** 5  
**Average Daily Distance:** 14.5 miles  
**Grade:** Moderate to Strenuous

**Description:**
Walking the Shakespeare Way over 6 days will give you plenty of time to relax and explore the surrounding area.  

**Walking Days:** 6  
**Nights:** 7  
**Average Daily Distance:** 10 miles  
**Grade:** Easy to Moderate

**Arrive in Stratford-upon-Avon**  
The walk starts in Stratford-upon-Avon, a town steeped in history and culture where Shakespeare was born in 1564. You may want to add an extra night at the beginning of the walk to explore the many places associated with Shakespeare such as the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, The Shakespeare Centre and take the time to visit the five houses in and around Stratford-upon-Avon connected to the famous playwright and his family. Stratford-upon-Avon is easily accessible from London in around 2 hours.

**Stratford-upon-Avon to Shipston-on-Stour – 17 miles (27.2km)**
Leaving Stratford-upon-Avon you cross the beautiful River Avon and the River Stour whose green and lush valley you follow for the first part of the trail. Walk through patchwork farmland with high hedgerows and pass thatched cottages, watermills and scenic churches. There are plenty of places to stop and admire the views. The path then brings you to the market town of Shipston-on-Stour. In times gone by it was known as Sheepstown and held regular livestock markets for local farmers.

**Shipston-on-Stour to Chipping Norton – 14 miles (22.4km)**
From Shipston-on-Stour the walking is relatively easy underfoot. Leaving the River Stour behind you, the climb up from the valley is worth it for the stunning views from the top.

Make time along the way for a short detour to visit the Rollright Stones an impressive and ancient Bronze Age collection of standing stones, the Kings Men stone circle, the King Stone, and the Whispering Knights stone.

The welcome sight of Chipping Norton soon comes into view in the distance as you walk down towards Little Rollright Church. Chipping Norton is known as the ‘gateway to the Cotswolds’ and is another bustling yet charming market town. Explore the medieval architecture or browse the many small gift shops.

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<td>Onward Travel</td>
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**ITINERARIES**

**SHAKESPEARE’S WAY**
We have chosen the North part of this walk from Stratford-upon-Avon to Oxford as it is the quieter and more scenic part of the route. We offer the self guided walk in three itineraries but we can also tailor make any itinerary to suit.

**ITINERARY: WESMPW1**
**Description:** 5 nights and 4 days walking will have you feeling energised and give you a real sense of achievement. This itinerary is for the more active walker.

**Walking Days:** 4  
**Nights:** 5  
**Average Daily Distance:** 14.5 miles  
**Grade:** Moderate to Strenuous

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**ITINERARY: WESMPW2**
**Description:** An easier itinerary splitting the walk into 5 walking days and 6 nights. This itinerary fits perfectly into a weeks holiday.

**Walking Days:** 5  
**Nights:** 6  
**Average Daily Distance:** 12 miles  
**Grade:** Moderate

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**ITINERARY: WESMPW3**
**Description:** Walking the Shakespeare Way over 6 days will give you plenty of time to relax and explore the surrounding area.

**Walking Days:** 6  
**Nights:** 7  
**Average Daily Distance:** 10 miles  
**Grade:** Easy to Moderate

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Chipping Norton to Woodstock – 16 miles (25.6km)
Fantastic walking today! Leave Chipping Norton and follow closely what was the route of the old London Road. The trail joins the River Glyme for a short while and passes through the Glyme Valley Nature Reserve.

The walk takes you through ancient woodland carpeted with flowers and through the pretty villages of Glympton and Wooton.

As you come into the beautifully manicured Blenheim Park you will catch your first sight of Blenheim Palace and the immaculate gardens landscaped by Capability Brown. Why not add an extra night in Woodstock for a leisurely visit to Blenheim Palace and Gardens.

Woodstock to Oxford – 11 miles (17.6km)
Almost straight away you come across the village of Bladon where a wander through the churchyard will reveal the final resting place of Britain’s greatest statesman Sir Winston Churchill.

Grassy tracks through broadleaf woodlands and gentle meadows bring you to the Oxford Canal with its colourful narrowboats and bustling river life.

Following the river brings you to the historic City of Oxford with its many attractions and world renowned university, a great place to end your journey and spend some time sightseeing and reflecting on your journey.

Departing Oxford
Onward travel from Oxford is easy with regular trains to London Paddington, Birmingham and other UK destinations. There are also regular buses to London and surrounding airports.

HOLIDAY INFORMATION

Navigation
This route is graded as moderate, it is mainly walking on existing pathways, bridleways and some minor roads. The route is waymarked by post with small plastic roundels or stickers with the Shakespeare Way logo and a yellow or blue arrow. It is always useful to be able to navigate with a compass in case of adverse weather.

Walking Direction
We can offer this itinerary in either direction but the book is published from North to South, Stratford-upon-Avon to Oxford.

Additional Nights
Many of our clients choose to add extra nights along the walk to sample more of the wonderful walking and attractions available on the Shakespeare Way. Extra nights can be added anywhere along the walk although we would recommend Stratford-upon-Avon, Woodstock (for Blenheim Palace) or Oxford as there is plenty to keep you busy on a rest day.

Fewer Nights
If you wish to reduce the number of nights we can tailor your trip to your requirements.

Accommodation
One of the highlights of this walking holiday is the high standard of the accommodation. We specifically choose the hotels, inns, guesthouses and B&B’s to ensure that you enjoy every minute of your stay. They all offer a warm welcome to walkers, traditional hospitality and delicious local food.

Single Rooms and Solo Walkers
If you require single rooms within your party we would be happy to accommodate you although there is a single room supplement payable.

We welcome solo walkers on Shakespeare’s Way although you should of course take extra care in the outdoors when walking solo. A supplement will apply to baggage transfers.

Meals
A hearty breakfast is included each morning. Lunch and dinner are not included so you are free to choose from the available options. Most of your accommodations will more than happy to provide a packed lunch on request and this can be booked on arrival. Dinner is available either at your accommodation or nearby pubs or restaurants.

Equipment
Your information pack has a detailed equipment list which includes standard walking gear such as good walking boots or shoes, warm and waterproof clothes and a day pack.

Baggage Transfer
Your bags will be transferred from your accommodation as per your itinerary and moved onto your next overnight accommodation. We ask you to limit your luggage to one bag of up to 20kg per person.

Dogs
Unfortunately we are unable to accommodate walkers with dogs as many of the accommodation providers do not accept pets.

Recommended Reading
The Shakespeare’s Way Association has a website http://www.shakespearesway.org/index.htm where you can read about the walk and the reason it was set up.

TRAVEL INFORMATION

Getting to Stratford-upon-Avon

By Car: We don’t recommend that you drive to Stratford-upon-Avon as long term parking is
expensive. There is limited unsecure on street parking in the outlying residential areas. By Train: There are regular direct trains from London Marylebone to Stratford-upon-Avon (2 hrs 20mins) and Birmingham (1hour). Manchester is also accessible by train (3hrs). By Coach: You can get to Stratford-upon-Avon by coach from London Victoria (3.5hrs) and Birmingham (1hr)

Onward Travel from Oxford

By Train: There are regular direct trains to London Paddington (1hr 15mins), Birmingham (1hr 40mins) and Manchester (3hrs)

By Coach: The Oxford Tube coach service runs 24hrs a day 7 days a week from Oxford into central London (2hrs). There are also regular coach services to other destinations such as Birmingham (2hrs), London Heathrow Airport (1hr 40 mins) and London Gatwick Airport (2.5hrs)

M.A.C.S. RESPONSIBLE TRAVEL

We operate holidays in some of the most beautiful areas of the world and try to operate in an environmentally aware and sustainable manner. We do this by following our M.A.C.S. Responsible travel policy. The full policy is available online and the cornerstones of this policy are:

- Minimise Impact & Maximise Benefit
- Action & Advocacy
- Carbon & Communities
- Sensitive & Sustainable

PRICE & AVAILABILITY

Price & Availability

This walking holiday is best enjoyed between March and October. You can start on any date that suits your travel plans and you will find up to date availability on our website. The Shakespeare Way is very popular so it is best to book as far in advance as you are able to.

Detailed up to date prices for all our Shakespeare’s Way Holidays are available on our website.

Included

- Hand picked bed and breakfast accommodation in ensuite rooms wherever possible.
- Door to door baggage transfer.
- A detailed info pack and guide book for the group leader.
- Emergency telephone support from our office in the event of a problem.

Excluded

- Travel to the start or from the finish of the itinerary.
- Lunches, dinners, snacks and drinks.
- Travel Insurance.
- Personal Equipment.
- Taxi transfers or public transport should you need to skip a stage.
- Maps. There are six OS maps covering the trail.

Once you have read all the information in this factsheet or our website and would like to go ahead with your booking you can book securely online at www.macsadventure.com or by telephone on +44 (0) 141 530 8886

Financial Security

In accordance with "The Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations 1992" all passengers booking with Macs Adventure Ltd are fully protected for the initial deposit and subsequently the balance of all monies paid to us, including repatriation if required (this insurance will not cover repatriation to the country of origin for the passengers outside of the EU), arising from cancellation or curtailment of your travel arrangements due to the insolvency of Macs Adventure Ltd. There is no requirement for Financial Protection of day trips, and none is provided. This insurance is only valid for packages booked that DO NOT include flights.

Book with Confidence. We are a member of ABTA which means you have the benefit of ABTA’s assistance and Code of Conduct. We provide full financial protection for your money.

ABTA Member Statement

Macs Adventure Holidays is a Member of ABTA. ABTA and ABTA. Members help holidaymakers to get the most from their travel and assist when things don’t go according to plan. We are obliged to maintain a high standard of service to you by ABTA’s Code of Conduct. For more information on ABTA, the Code of Conduct and the arbitration scheme available to you if you have a complaint, contact ABTA, 30 Park Street, London SE1 9EQ, tel 020 3117 0581 www.abta.com