# The Shakespeare Experience

An 8-night tour of London and Shakespeare Country. Experience the hustle and bustle of London - a city teeming with historical and modern sites, a theatre play in the town of Stratford upon Avon and visit the birthplace of William Shakespeare. Visit the castles and palaces of Warwick, Windsor and Hampton Court, coupled with an insightful look into the life of a student at one of the world's most famous private schools, Eton College.

## **Historical Sights:**

London, Oxford and the Shakespeare Houses in Stratford-upon-Avon; an entertaining "dinner and the theatre" evening at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre in Stratford; Warwick Castle, Windsor Castle, a visit to the historical college of Eton; and last, but not least, Hampton Court Palace.

# Included in the cost of the tour:

- Accommodation on a bed and breakfast basis
- Heathrow Express Ticket to Paddington Station
- London 3-day Attractions and Travel Ticket
- Land transport outside the Greater London area
- Entries to all historical sites outside London (as detailed on the itinerary)
- 2 x Lunches
- Dinner and Theatre event in Stratford

This is an intimate tour limited to **14** guests. Your deposit and completed booking form will secure your place on the trip, on a first-come, first-serve basis.



### THE SHAKESPEARE EXPERIENCE ITINERARY

Flight departure from the US to London.

### DAY 1

Arrive into Heathrow Airport early in the morning. Take the Heathrow Express train to Paddington Station, London and transfer to your hotel at Lancaster Gate. The rest of the day is at your leisure for sightseeing within London.

### DAY 2 and 3

Two days to explore the sights, sounds and culture of London. Your attractions pass will give you access to most attractions in London without having to wait in any lines. Theatre-goers, this is your opportunity to visit one of the many famous theatres in London, or even the ballet in Covent Garden.

### DAY 4

Your guide and driver will meet you at your hotel for a morning departure from London to Stratford Upon Avon. Enroute you'll have the opportunity of spending some time in the university town of Oxford. The evening in Stratford Upon Avon is at your leisure.

#### DAY 5

Stratford Upon Avon is home to Shakespeare's birthplace and you'll be able to tour this home, as well as the homes of Anne Hathaway and Mary Arden, Halls Croft, Nash's House and New Place. A lovely day of leisure, topped off with dinner and a play – "A Midsummer Night's Dream" - at the Shakespeare Theatre.

### DAY 6

Not far from Stratford Upon Avon is Warwick Castle. A fabulous day visit with many activities and, if you're brave enough, explore the Castle Dungeon and experience the bloodiest and darkest history of British times. The evening in Stratford, once again, is at your leisure.

### DAY 7

We depart Stratford today, to make our way back toward the Greater London area, stopping off at Windsor Castle, which is still residence to the current Royal Family. After lunch, you'll have an opportunity to visit Eton College (school to Princes William and Harry). We'll make our way toward our last hotel of the trip, situated opposite Hampton Court Palace.

### DAY 8

The morning is reserved for one of the most beautiful palaces in the country, Hampton Court Palace. Take your time to explore the privy garden, reopened by HRH Prince Charles in 1995 after a 5 year archeological excavation of the site, (don't miss the 234 year old grape vine!) and do a tour of the palace. The afternoon is at your leisure, with the option of spending more time at the palace or going into Kingston-upon-Thames to do some last minute shopping. A visit to the "King's Stone" (hence the name Kingston) where the ancient kings of the 900's were crowned is certainly an interesting diversion.

### DAY 9

Your guide and driver will say farewell to you after your shuttle to Heathrow airport for your morning flight to the US.

# **Tour the Emerald Isle**

An 8-night guided tour of Ireland, both North and South. Come experience the natural beauty, culture and heritage of this mystical land.

# Cities and Historical Sights:

Begin your trip in Dublin, then move on to Belfast, Carnlough, Doolin and Killarney, ending back in Dublin. Have your camera at the ready for the fantastic sights of Giant's Causeway, The Ring of Kerry, a whale-watching excursion, Blarney Castle and the Blarney stone and, of course, a pint of Guinness! For the golf enthusiast, there'll be an opportunity to play a round or two on some of the world's most famous courses.

# Included in the cost of the tour:

- All accommodation in minimum 3-star hotels on a bed and breakfast basis
- Land Transport and ferry, including pick up and drop off at Dublin airport
- Entries to all historical sites and prescribed excursions as listed in the itinerary (except where supplement applies on Gap of Dunloe excursion)
- Lunch on 6 days
- Dinner on 2 evenings
- Tips at hotels and lunch venues

This is a personalized tour, limited to **14** guests. Your deposit and completed booking form will secure your place on the tour on a first come, first served basis.



### EMERALD ISLE TOUR ITINERARY

International flight departure from the US to Dublin in the evening.

### DAY 1

Arrive into Dublin Airport early in the morning. You will be shuttled to your hotel in the center of the city where the rest of the day will be at your leisure to explore the culture, shopping and sights of Dublin.

### DAY 2

An early departure to begin your journey north across the border into Northern Ireland and a day in Belfast. You'll tour the city sights, including Belfast Castle, the Peace Wall and the Titanic shipyards and museum. Your hotel for the next two nights is located an hour north on the scenic north Antrim Coast.

### DAY 3

An active day is planned touring the coastal sites of the Carrick-a-Reed rope bridge and Giant's Causeway and in the afternoon, a tour and tasting at Bushmills Distillery. For the golf enthusiast, a round of golf is certainly an alternative option.

#### DAY 4

Today is a travel day, heading toward the south west coast through Donegal, Sligo and Galway to your seaside hotel in Doolin, which sports views of the Aran Islands. Lunch in Sligo will offer you an opportunity to "pull your own pint" of Guinness (or beer of choice). Time permitting, a visit to Queen Maeve's burial grounds will be made.

### DAY 5

The morning has options. For the golf enthusiast, a round of golf can be arranged at one of the world's top links courses, Phil Michaelson's favourite, Lahinch. The morning's activities include a visit to the Cliffs of Moher and the Burren (place of stone), a vast limestone landscape almost resembling the moon and host to many ancient historic tombs. One of the wonderful things about the Burren are the rare wildflowers that grow between the karren pavement. A local expert, Carl Wright will take you on a guided walk through part of this area of great horticultural interest despite its barren appearance. Later this afternoon you'll make your way further south to Killarney, and your hotel for the next three nights.

### DAY 6

From Killarney, you will be exploring the local region over the next two days. Weather permitting, today will be spent visiting the Ring of Kerry. Late afternoon and evening at leisure in Killarney.

### DAY 7

A day of adventure today, when via the beautiful coastline of County Cork, you'll get to one of the southern most towns of West Cork Co. – Baltimore. Visit and lunch in this charming seaside village before embarking on an afternoon whale watching trip, led by Marine Biologist Dr. Nic Slocum (weather permitting). If, however, this fabulous trip is really not for you, for a supplement, a tour of the Gap of Dunloe can be arranged for you.

### DAY 8

Making your way north today, you'll get to visit Blarney Castle (yes, you can kiss the stone if you wish!) and if time permits, a visit to The House of Waterford (home of Waterford crystal), bringing you back to Dublin. Your evening is at your leisure in Dublin City.

### DAY 9

An early departure from your Dublin hotel to the airport for your international flight to the USA.