



# THINKERS & Writers

5 Days / 4 Nights  
Rail Itinerary



## ENGLAND ORIGINALS



FROM ENGLAND'S HISTORIC CITIES

## LOSE YOURSELF

This 5 days / 4 nights itinerary encourages you to lose yourself in academia, ancient and modern. Spend time at the university of 27 British Prime Ministers and a 'New College' built in the 14th century. With a fascinating trip to the home of Worcestershire Sauce, you will visit the tomb of one of England's most hated kings and enjoy a historic pub crawl. Then at Shakespeare's Stratford-upon-Avon, you will stand where the greatest English writer was born, lived and is buried

## SURPRISE YOURSELF

Feel England in close-up as you hop on and off the train straight into the heart of our beautiful historic cities; each one a vibrant, richly cultural, beautiful and surprising place with a story to tell and your own to write

## CHOOSE FOR YOURSELF

Choose a path less travelled to get to the heart and soul of England, creating your own journey through our history and our countryside.



VisitEngland™



## Iconic Experiences

(not to be missed)

You're coming to England (finally!) and you need to make sure you tick those all-important things off your list.

We'll show you the highlights of England's Historic cities - with an ASA twist - and ensure you are always in the best place, at the right time, for that Instagram-perfect moment



Explore Oxford - City of the Dreaming Spires



Visit Worcester - home of the piquant Worcestershire Sauce



Discover Stratford-upon-Avon - the birthplace of Shakespeare



**TOP TIP:**

Download 'The Trainline App' to your phone to ensure you get the most up to date travel information

**HIGHLIGHTS****CHRIST CHURCH COLLEGE**

Discover Alice in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll during a tour of Christ Church College at Oxford University. Founded in 1546 by King Henry VIII, Christ Church College is one of Oxford's largest colleges and with a number of architecturally significant buildings including Tom Quad, the largest quadrangle in Oxford, and the Great Dining Hall

**THE ASHMOLEAN MUSEUM OF ART AND ARCHAEOLOGY**

Explore the world's oldest public museum, founded by Elias Ashmole in 1677, with a rooftop restaurant.

**LONDON - OXFORD**

1 HR 15 MINS

Hop on an early train out of London towards Oxford, and spend the morning exploring this stunning University town. Be sure to leave time to explore Christ Church Cathedral.

Grab a bite of lunch at one of the many traditional English pubs in Oxford.

This afternoon, visit The Ashmolean Museum of Art and Archaeology, or take time to enjoy a punt on the river



**Christ Church Cathedral** - used in the background of many scenes in the Harry Potter movie



**Corpus Christi College** - look for two charming tortoises, named after the college founders - Fox and Oldham



**New College** - built in 1379 as a miniature version of Windsor Castle



**Overnight Oxford:**  
The Randolph Hotel, by Graduate Hotels

**TOP TIP:**

Download the 'England Originals' App to your phone for some awesome virtual reality experiences in England's Historic Cities!

**HIGHLIGHTS****BLENHEIM PALACE**

Blenheim Palace is Britain's greatest palace and the birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill. A masterpiece of Baroque architecture, Blenheim Palace provides an awe-inspiring experience for visitors

**BODLEIAN LIBRARY**

A tour of the Old Bodleian Library allows visitors to see inside its historic rooms including the 15th-century Divinity School, medieval Duke Humfrey's Library, and the impressive Radcliffe Camera.

**OXFORD - BLENHEIM PALACE**

30 MINS

This morning, catch a bus to Blenheim Palace (buses leave every 30 minutes from Oxford train station) and spend the first part of your day exploring Britain's greatest Palace, also the birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill.

Make your way back to Oxford for the afternoon, stopping off to enjoy lunch, then visit Bodleian Library - the main research library of the University of Oxford, and one of the oldest libraries in Europe. Time permitting, why not stop off at Oxford Castle & Prison for an interactive, guided tour?



The Palace State Rooms - explore the gilded State Rooms at Blenheim Palace with their priceless collections of portraits, tapestries and furniture.



Bodleian Library - Duke Humfrey's Library was used as the Hogwarts library and the Divinity School as the infirmary in the Harry Potter movies



Overnight Oxford:

The Randolph Hotel, by Graduate Hotels





## TOP TIP:

Get a true taste of Worcester and try a cocktail with Worcester Sauce at the Tonic Bar

## HIGHLIGHTS

### CASTLE WALLS

Wander down Friar Street with its black and white buildings and quaint cobbled streets. Discover museums and National Trust gardens and at the bottom, you'll see Edgar Tower, the last remaining part of the Castle Walls.

### WORCESTER CATHEDRAL

The dramatic Worcester Cathedral rises above the city landscape along the banks of the River Severn, with magnificent views over Worcestershire from the top of the tower



## OXFORD - WORCESTER



1 HR 15 MINS

Board a train at Oxford to travel to Worcester - one of the oldest cities in England with evidence of settlements here dating back to 700BC.

Upon arrival in Worcester, your day of discovery begins at The Commandery Encounter - a beautiful Grade 1 listed building with an 800-year history. Check out the beautifully dramatic Worcester Cathedral, the remains of the Castle Walls and not forgetting to sample some piquant Worcestershire Sauce!



Royal Tombs at Worcester Cathedral; the most notorious is 'bad' King John, famed for signing Magna Carta over 800 years ago.



Be sure to plan time to experience the stunning choral evening song at Worcester Cathedral



Overnight Stratford-upon-Avon:  
The Arden Hotel



**TOP TIP:**

Take advantage of your "Shakespeare's Family Homes Pass" to see a collection of Shakespeare's heritage in Stratford-upon-Avon

**HIGHLIGHTS****ANNE HATHAWAY'S HOUSE**

Visit Anne Hathaway's Cottage, the beautiful 500 year old cottage where Shakespeare courted his bride-to-be. See original furniture including the Hathaway bed and uncover five centuries of stories in this picturesque cottage and 13 generations of the family who lived there

**SHAKESPEARE'S SCHOOLROOM & GUILDHALL**

See where William Shakespeare spent his schooldays, discovered theatre for the first time and was educated and inspired to become the world's greatest playwright.

**STRATFORD-UPON-AVON**

2 HRS

Begin your day with a visit to Shakespeare's Birthplace - a restored 16th-century half-timbered house William Shakespeare was born in 1564 and spent his childhood years. Spend the afternoon exploring this town further, with a visit to Anne Hathaway's House

Spend the afternoon your own way, using your Hop On / Hop Off Stratford Bus pass - a great way to get around and explore on your own!

Finish the day with a pre-theatre dinner at the RSC Rooftop Restaurant followed by a play at the world-famous Royal Shakespeare Theatre



Anne Hathaway's House - look out for witches' marks carved into the beam at the top of the staircase leading to the cellar



Overnight Stratford-upon-Avon:  
The Arden Hotel



**TOP TIP:**

Visiting from April - October? Don't miss 'Falcon's Quest; the UK's biggest Bird of Prey show taking place in the grounds of Warwick Castle

**HIGHLIGHTS****WARWICK CASTLE**

Warwick Castle is a medieval castle developed from a wooden fort, originally built by William the Conqueror in 1068. Warwick is the county town of Warwickshire, England, situated on a bend of the River Avon. The original wooden motte-and-bailey castle was rebuilt in stone in the 12th century.

Experience more than 1,100 years of jaw-dropping history at Warwick Castle! Full to the turrets with dazzling shows and attractions, spellbinding storytelling and fun experiences all year-round, Warwick Castle is an action-packed and unforgettable day out for everyone

**WARWICK - LONDON**

2 HRS

Experience a full day out with more than 1,100 years of jaw-dropping history, magic, myth and adventure at **Warwick Castle!** Warwick Castle is packed with things to do, inside and out, such as battlements, towers, turrets, awesome interiors and the Great Hall.

After your day at Warwick Castle, make your way back to London for your overnight stay or flight back home

**The Falconer's Quest, Warwick Castle:**

Search the skies overhead as free flying Birds of Prey take flight in an all action, dynamic display of aerial acrobatics. Join the Falconer on a quest for the finest birds in the land, all set in a stunning riverside location within the grounds of the castle



Additional Option:  
Overnight London