Shropshire & Welsh Borders 2019 guide



www.shropshiredaysout.co.uk







Welcome ...

Whether visiting from far afield, or exploring close to home, there is something for everyone to discover in Shropshire - England's largest inland county.

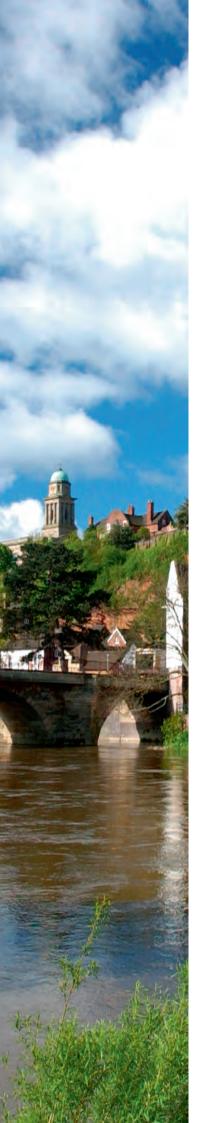
North Shropshire is home to impressive scenery. The Mere in Ellesmere is one of England's largest natural meres and there is a 200-year-old fantasy theme park to discover at Hawkstone Follies.

Looking to the east we have the Ironbridge Gorge, where over 200 years ago the Industrial Revolution was forged on the banks of the River Severn and it is now recognised as a World Heritage site.

In the south you will find rolling hills, sweeping valleys and a patchwork of fields - a haven for explorers on two legs or two wheels. There is also a collection of market towns to explore, notably Ludlow with its national reputation for top quality food.

The county town of Shrewsbury, the birthplace of Charles Darwin, is home to a collection of medieval buildings, Georgian architecture, the country's best market and a long stretch of independent shops along Wyle Cop – all tucked inside a loop of the River Severn.

Throughout Shropshire there are incredible places to eat, drink, shop and stay. This guide will run through all the places to look out for and some of the county's most captivating events.





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Shropshire is where it all began...



This may sound like some grandiose boast but read on. For it was here in sleepy Shropshire that the Industrial Revolution actually started; in Ironbridge to be precise. Here you can marvel at the world's first iron bridge, explore some great museums and get to meet the Victorians at Blists Hill Victorian Town.

Not content with setting the world on an unprecedented path of growth and development, Shropshire's little town of Much Wenlock was the inspiration behind the creation of the modern Olympic Games. When Dr Penny Brookes started his local games to encourage the "promotion of moral, physical and intellectual improvement", he little realised that his Wenlock Games would be the basis for todays modern Olympics and hailed as one of modern sport's greatest achievements. The Wenlock Olympian Games are still held every July - the other Olympic Games seem to be doing quite well too!

Meanwhile over in Shrewsbury, a young Charles Darwin's evolutionary mind was being formed. His exploration of the fields, fauna and flora around the town and his interest in geology raised key questions in his young mind. He went on to answer these in his ground-breaking book 'On the Origin of the Species'. A little earlier (and when Manhattan was just a swamp) Shrewsbury also saw the construction of the world's first iron-framed building which became the forerunner to every skyscraper that adorns city skylines across the globe today.

When Dr Beaching made his infamous cuts to our national railways, the Severn Valley Railway became one of England's very first heritage railways - setting the trend for steam lovers all over the country. Today you can steam through the beautiful Shropshire scenery admiring the river views and even have Sunday lunch on the move.



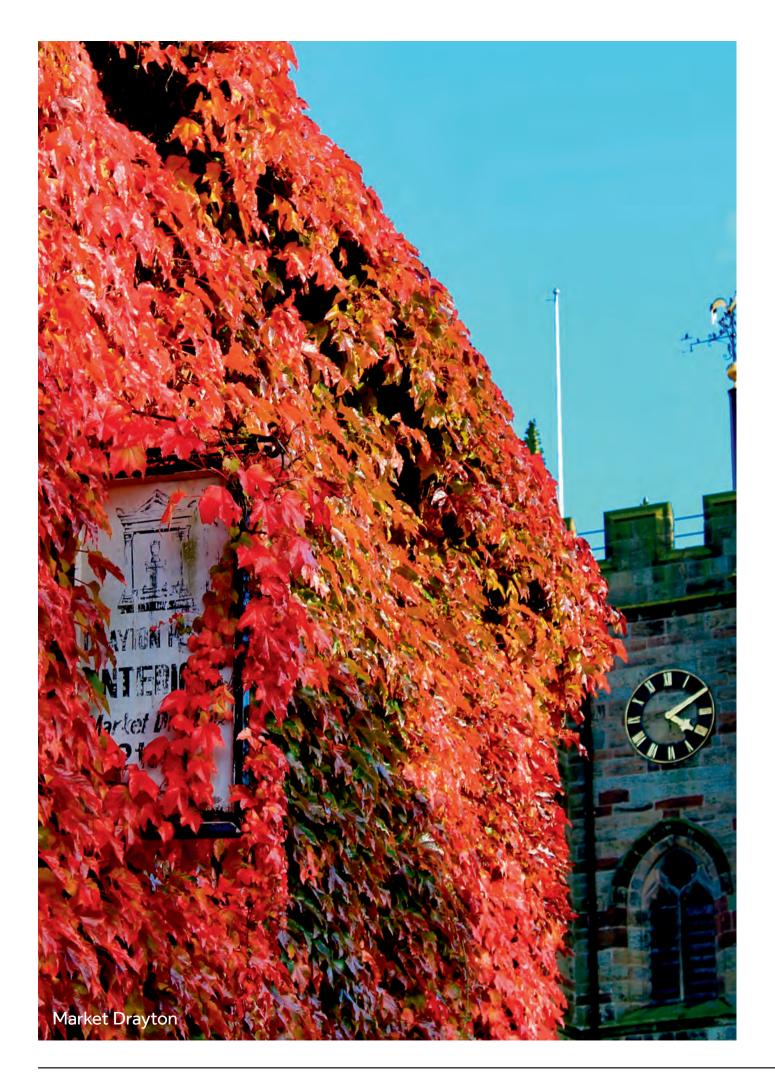
Over in the north of the county is Hawkstone Park the country's first theme park which opened in the mid-18th Century. It's a Grade 1 listed landscape of follies, grottos and caves; the resident hermit may have long gone but the views remain spectacular.

In Bridgnorth you will find the longest inland funicular railway in the country. It conveniently connects High and Low Town saving your legs from the climb up the many flights of steps and leaving you to only become breathless as you take in the views. Nearby is the RAF Museum at Cosford, with its unique Cold War exhibition showing all three V bombers – as well as many other planes, rockets and missiles.

Shropshire is blessed with more than its fair share of museums and attractions – at the Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre you can meet the Shropshire mammoth or take a stroll through the River Onny Meadows. At Boscobel House you can find the Royal Oak made famous by Charles II's tree climbing exploits as he hid from the Parliamentarian troops. This not only gave rise to the bank holiday we have at the end of May (or Oak Apple Day to give its original name) to celebrate the restoration of the monarchy but also many a pub name!

At the Land of Lost Content you will see all those essential must have things from a bygone (and not so bygone) age. Shropshire's importance as a frontier county has left a legacy of 32 castles, and over in Ludlow we even have a royal castle. Shropshire's affluence has ensured that we also have more than a few stately homes and historic piles.

Unsurprisingly we have several farm attractions too – but what may come as a surprise is the more unusual collection of animals and antics on offer. Sheep or Llama racing anyone?





If fabulous, ever-changing English scenery is your thing, North Shropshire is the place for you.

Fancy your own Lake District? Then head to Ellesmere and its neighbouring villages. Here you will find the second largest network of wetlands in the UK.

King of them all is the 43-hectare lake, The Mere, at Ellesmere. The town itself provides a great base to explore each of the nine meres or the mosses which straddle much of the border between England and Wales.

Or maybe you want dramatic sandstone cliffs to explore? The 200 year old Hawkstone Follies have been restored to create a series of extraordinary monuments, caves, crags and cliffs to take your breath away.

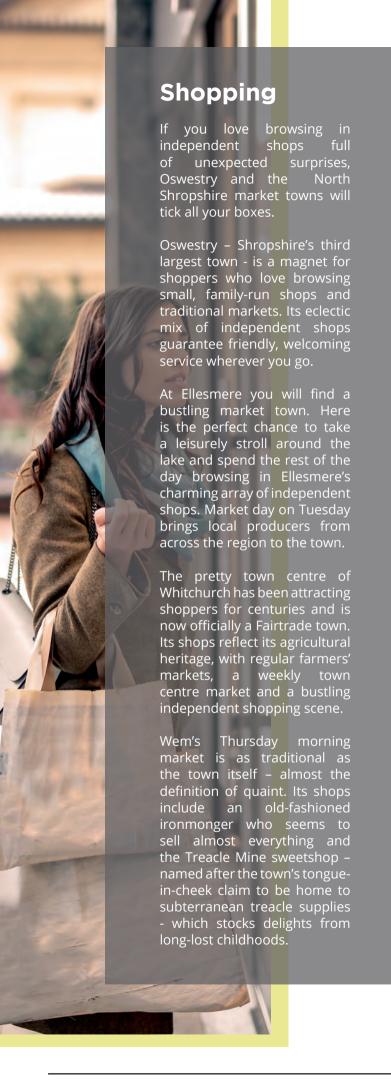
Even further back in time is Oswestry Hillfort - another must-see destination. One of the best-preserved hillforts in Britain, the site was built and occupied during the Iron Age (800 BC to AD 43) and remained in use for almost 1,000 years.

Wem is the home of the sweet pea – and the town celebrates its heritage every year with a special festival dedicated to this most fragrant of flowers.

Great walks and cycle trails are ten-a-penny across North Shropshire, with Grinshill near Wem, Offa's and Wat's dykes along the Shropshire/Wales border, Nesscliffe and the footpaths of the picturesque canal network all offering their own unique charms.

Oswestry is also home to the Cambrian Heritage Railway, helping restore the town's old station and keeping the age of steam alive both in the town and at nearby Llynclys.

If you fancy just pottering around a traditional market town for the day, then Oswestry, Whitchurch, Wem, Ellesmere and Market Drayton will each offer their own individual, quaint welcome.



Food

There's a little bit of everything for foodies to sink their teeth into in North Shropshire. From kitchen-table artisan producers to global brands, the region has all tastes covered.

The area is the home of gingerbread and boasts some of the country's finest cheese manufacturers. With farming at the heart of the region, a huge selection of farm shops and artisan producers means great produce is never far away.

Each of the main towns has its own market, with hand-crafted products on sale throughout the year. All of this fabulous food heritage is celebrated at a series of food festivals and events.

A range of great restaurants are all too happy to turn this great produce into superb meals and will have you licking your lips from your first mouthful to the last.

Drink

North Shropshire will quickly restore your appetite for all things local and independent.

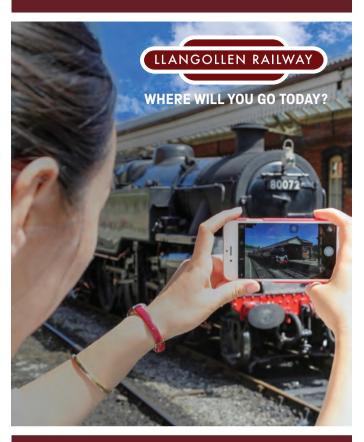
The region is rightly proud of its local heritage, boasting a wealth of small family-run tea rooms and privately-owned coffee shops, where taste, quality and friendliness are top of the agenda. There are also bars and pubs serving hand-crafted local ales produced within a stone's throw away.

It's a million miles removed from the massproduced offerings of the big national chains, which occupy larger towns.

Accommodation

You will never be far from the perfect place to stay in North Shropshire. With small, luxury hotels, fantastically friendly bed and breakfasts, superb self-catering homes, pub accommodation and high-standard camping, glamping and caravanning sites, the region is perfect for all tastes and styles.

TAKE A TRIP THROUGH HISTORY



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The Automobile Palace, Temple Street, Llandrindod Wells, Powys LD1 5DL Tel: 01597 825531

www.cyclemuseum.org.uk email - curator@cyclemuseum.org.uk

Open days are normally: Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday 10am - 4pm plus other days/times by arrangement for groups

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SOULTON COTTAGES







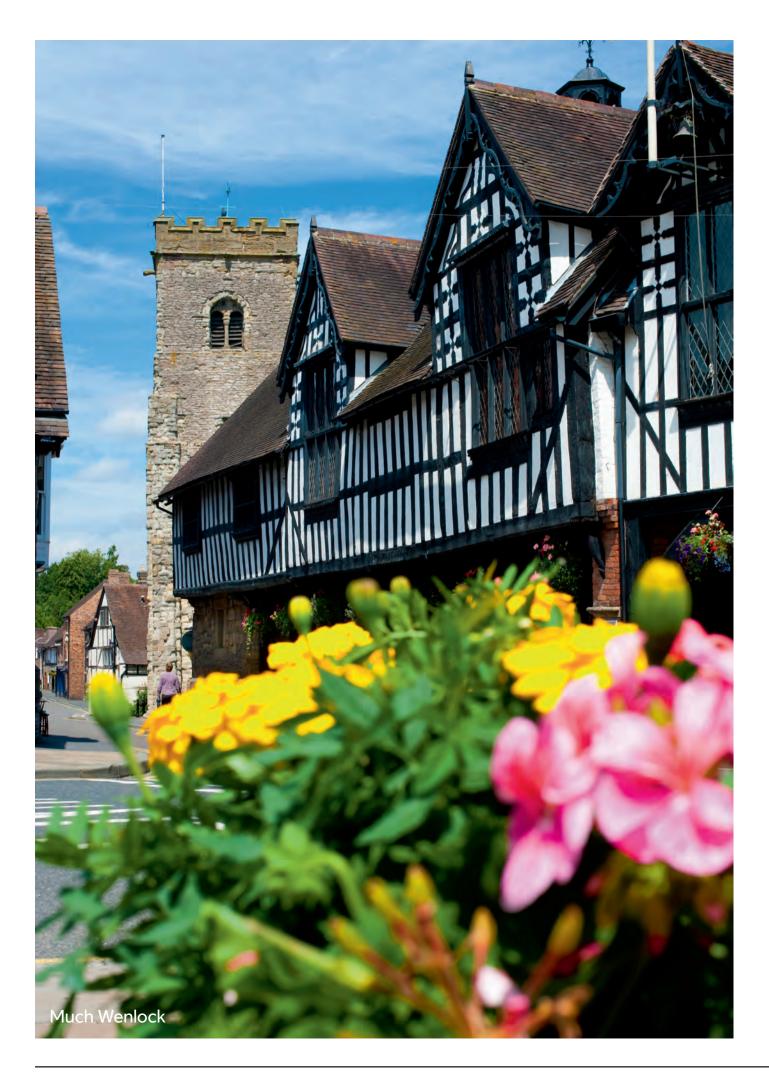




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www.soultonhall.co.uk





East Shropshire



It's no idle boast to say the modern world owes its existence to East Shropshire.

Here, in the Ironbridge Gorge more than 200 years ago, the Industrial Revolution was forged in the foundries created by Abraham Darby on the banks of the River Severn.

Today the history of that remarkable revolution is told in a series of fascinating museums, whilst the Gorge itself is now recognised as a World Heritage site.

The ten museums at Ironbridge are an unmissable treat and just the start of what's on offer in this remarkable part of the world.

Ironbridge now forms part of Telford – a new town which has just celebrated its 50th birthday and offers a wealth of modern attractions.

Just down the road is the little – but impressive - town of Much Wenlock, which gave the world the modern Olympic Games. A century and a half later, both continue to prosper, with the Wenlock version still held every July.

Historic Bridgnorth is another magnet for tourists. The town – essentially two towns split by the River Severn – boasts one of the first heritage railways in the country, a funicular railway to take you up and down the cliff, a castle which leans at a greater angle than the infamous tower in Pisa and historic buildings galore.

Throw in amazing landmarks such as the Wrekin, the nationally-acclaimed RAF Cosford air museum and the Boscobel Oak where Charles II hid after defeat in the Battle of Worcester, and this is a region which holds history and heritage in its hands.







Food

Tradition and modernity rub shoulders each and every day in this glorious part of the world – and the mix of old and new is reflected in the food on offer.

Traditional artisan crafts still abound, with producers creating food to die for in the same way that generations before them have.

Whether it's in Wenlock, Newport, Bridgnorth, any of the old town centres of Telford or the villages in between, the abundance of locally and lovingly-produced food which has not travelled the world to arrive on your plate is overwhelming.

Farm shops abound and there are markets in all the main towns, packed with traders showing off their produce to eager shoppers.

The rich heritage of food production is also celebrated in an annual Field to Fork Festival at Harper Adams University. The festival makes use of the University's reputation for being at the forefront of agriculture education to give an insight into how food is produced and eventually ends up on our plates.

With all of this fabulous produce come some equally amazing restaurants, country house hotels, gastropubs and cafés.

Drink

You are never more than a stone's throw away from a great country pub, inviting local or brilliant bar, in East Shropshire.

Village after village, town after town, can boast its own flourishing local and with the vast majority of them run by local families, you are ensured of the friendliest of welcomes.

The region has its own breweries, whose hand-crafted ales are well worth looking out for on your travels. The Gorgeous Beer Company takes its name from the beautiful Ironbridge Gorge and was formed by a group of local beer lovers.

The Rowton Brewery meanwhile supplies pubs across the county with its range of 12 award-winning beers, brewed with water

drawn from its own borehole.

If wine is more your thing, the Halfpenny Green vineyard is one of the country's largest vineyards, boasting 30 acres of vines, a vineyard trail and wine tasting menu and an award-winning tea room.

Meanwhile the flourishing Rodington vineyard has won a hatful of awards since opening to the public just three years ago, with the aim of putting Shropshire on the international wine map. It is open every day, apart from Wednesday.

Of course, there's more to drink than beer and wine. If you are after a refreshing cup of tea or shot of caffeine, the region's independent coffee shops will be more than happy to oblige.





Since 1892 the oldest and steepest inland funicular in Britain has travelled up sandstone cliffs linking the fascinating High and Low Towns of Bridgnorth, enjoying glorious views of the beautiful Severn Valley

Open 362 days a year. Journeys every few minutes from 8am to 8pm in summer. Opens 12 noon Sunday. Closes 6:30pm in winter. Group rates available.

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Shopping From the sparkling

From the sparkling new to the historic old, the east of Shropshire has shops to satisfy the most demanding of shopaholics.

Telford Shopping Centre is currently undergoing a £55 million redevelopment and expansion programme and houses all the major high street brands and attractions you would expect under one pristine roof.

If a traditional shopping experience is more your sort of thing, the region has a number of fabulous market towns with flourishing high streets lined with both independent and national-established brands.

Ironbridge is unsurprisingly dominated by its industrial heritage, with a series of museum shops sure to satisfy your every historical need, as well as a fabulous mix of craft shops, food stores, boutiques and eateries nestled alongside the beautiful River Severn.

Picturesque Bridgnorth is two towns in one. It's the county's first Fairtrade town and its bustling streets house atmospheric open-air markets, antique shops and emporia, crafts shops and art galleries alongside thriving retailers who are always happy to see you.

Historic Much Wenlock is as pretty a market town as you could wish to find, with its weekly market still held under the Guildhall as it has been for centuries.

Its streets and shops – an eclectic mix of Medieval, Georgian and Victorian – are home to a unique mix of independent shops, artisans and craftspeople that you simply won't find anywhere else.

The market towns of Newport and Shifnal are well worth a visit for their mix of friendly, local shops where shopkeepers are always happy to chat and offer help whilst you browse their shelves.





Accommodation

Wherever you turn in this part of Shropshire, there is somewhere special waiting to welcome you and make you feel right at home.

There are fabulous independent country hotels, picturepostcard bed and breakfasts, a wealth of charming selfcatering options and camping and caravanning sites which you will want to return to year after year.

The range of bed and breakfast accommodation available across the area is simply stunning with a huge number of options available wherever you choose to make your base.

Whether you choose one of the fabulous pubs which are so much a part of the region's character, a historic town house, village bolthole or rural retreat on a working farm, you can be guaranteed a warm and comfortable welcome from people who love showcasing this remarkable area.

For those who prefer to look after themselves, self-catering and holiday homes abound with a world of choice from farmhouse settings to pretty country village homes, many of which are more than happy to cater for your four-legged friends as well.

High-quality campsites and caravan parks are also easy to find, with glamping sites also springing up for those who prefer something a little more out of the ordinary.

The Croft

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The building is ${\bf Grade}~2$ listed and is 150 yards from Bridgnorth's High Street.

The Croft St. Mary's St Bridgnorth WV16 4DW

01746 762416 thecroft@outlook.com www.crofthotelbridgnorth.co.uk





January

Feathers and Flight 26th January www.shropshirehillsdiscoverycentre.co.uk

February

Darwin Festival 8th - 24th February www.originalshrewsbury.co.uk

Budgen Motors World Tennis Tour W60 Event 11th - 16th February www.theshrewsburyclub.co.uk

Bishops Castle Arts Festival 20th - 24th February www.bishopscastleartsfestival.com

March

Wenlock Olympian Live Arts Festival 9-10th, 16-17th March www.wenlock-olympian-society.org.uk

Spring Steam Gala 15th - 17th March www.svr.co.uk

Shrewsbury 10k 17th March www.entryhub.co.uk

Shrewsbury Flea Market 23rd - 24th March www.josevents.co.uk

Pudding Club 28th March www.battlefield1403.com

April

The Big Busk 6th April www.the-bigbusk.co.uk

Shropshire Way 80k Festival 6th April www.sientries.co.uk

Shrewsbury Cartoon Festival 27th April www.shrewsburycartoonfestival.wordpress.com

Shrewsbury Fake Festival 27th April www.fakefestivals.co.uk

Fordhall Spring Fair 28th April www.fordhallfarm.com

May

Field to Fork Festival 4th May www.fieldtoforkfestival.com

Ironbridge Gorge Walking Festival 4th - 12th May www.ironbridgewalking.co.uk

Clun Green Man Festival 5th - 6th May www.clungreenman.org.uk

Balloon Fiesta 11th - 12th May www.telford50.co.uk

Ludlow Spring Festival 11th - 12th May www.ludlowspringfestival.co.uk

Shropshire Kids Festival 11th - 12th May www.shropshirekidsfest.co.uk

The Shropshire County Show 25th May www.shropshirecountyshow.com

Shrewsbury Wacky Races
26th May www.shrewsburywackyraces.co.uk

June

Battlefield Family Funday 1st June www.battlefield1403.com

Comics Salopia - Shrewsbury Two Comics Festival 1st - 2nd June www.comicssalopia.com

River Festival 2nd June www.riverfestival.com

Cosford Air Show

Pub in The Park 7th - 8th June www.shropshirepubinthepark.co.uk

9th June www.cosfordairshow.co.uk

Shrewsbury Carnival & Show 15th June www.shrewsburycarnival.co.uk

Shrewsbury Food Festival 29th - 30th June www.shrewsburyfoodfestival.co.uk

Ludlow Fringe Festival 30th June www.ludlowfringe.co.uk

Oswestry Colour Run 30th June www.oswestrycolourrun.co.uk



July

Annual Family Vintage Show 6th - 7th July www.midshropshirevintageclub.com

Severn Hospice Dragon Boat Festival 6th - 7th July www.severnhospice.org.uk

Lets Rock Shrewsbury

13th July www.letsrockshrewsbury.com

Apley Classic Motor Day 14th July www.apleyfarmshop.co.uk

Cosford Food Festival 21st - 22nd July www.rafmuseum.org.uk/cosford

Battlefield Medieval Fayre 27th - 28th July www.battlefield1403.com

August

Oswestry Show 3rd August www.oswestryshow.co.uk

Farmer Phil's Music Festival 9th - 11th August www.farmerphilsfestival.com

Shrewsbury Flower Show 9th - 10th August www.shrewsburyflowershow.org.uk

Ludlow Magnalonga 11th August www.magnalonga.co.uk

Shrewsbury Folk Festival 23rd - 26th August www.shrewsburyfolkfestival.co.uk

Oswestry Balloon 24th - 25th August www.oswestry-tc.gov.uk

Shrewsbury Steam Festival 25th - 26th August www.shrewsburysteamrally.co.uk

September

Shrewsbury Triathlon
1st September www.sytri.org

World Championship Coracle Race
13th September www.coracleworldchampionship.co.uk

Shrewsbury Flea- Antique & Collectors Fair 21st September www.josevents.co.uk

Oswestry Community Games
22nd September www.communitygames.org.uk

October

Shropshire Oktoberfest
4th - 5th October www.shropshireoktoberfest.co.uk

Shrewsbury Half Marathon 6th October www.shrewsburyhalf.co.uk

November

Battlefield Christmas Taster Day 23rd November www.battlefield1403.com

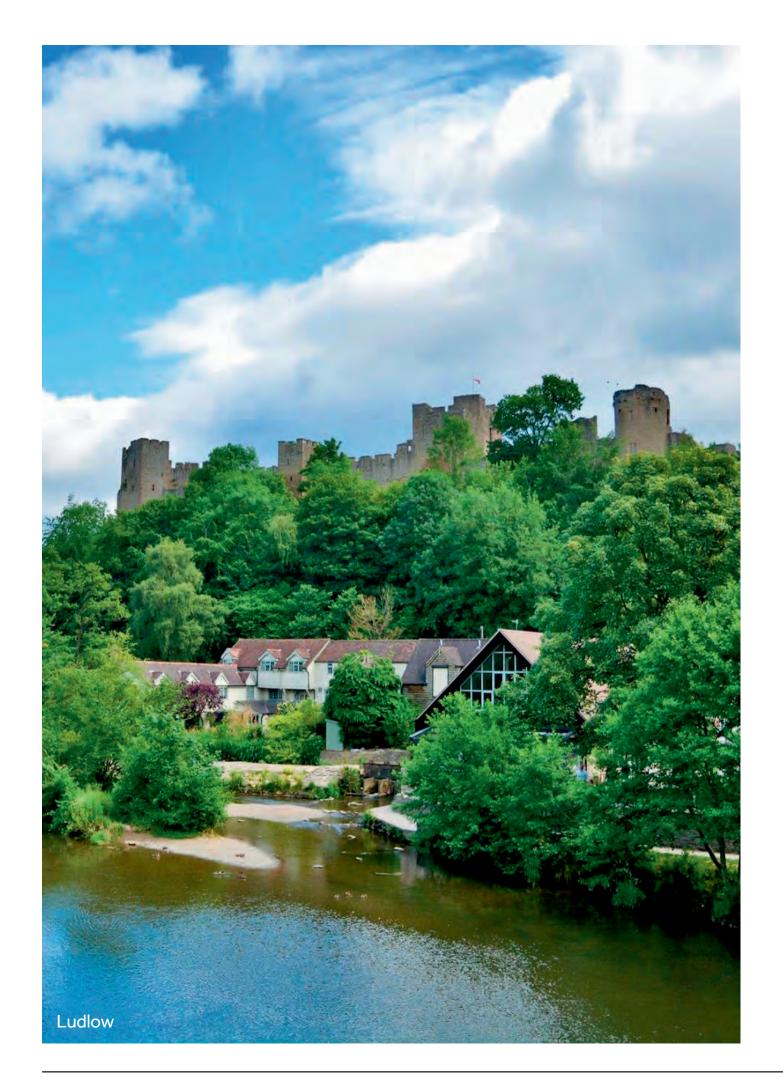
Ludlow Medieval Christmas Faye 23rd November www.ludlowmedievalchristmas.co.uk

December

Santa Safari, Hawkstone Park Follies
1st December www.hawkstoneparkfollies.co.uk

Santa's Gotto, British Iron Works
7th December www.britishironworkcentre.co.uk

For more Shropshire events visit www.visitshropshire.com
Please note that the dates may be subject to change





Think of the most beautiful inland landscape you can imagine. Rolling hills, rugged peaks, sweeping valleys, tumbling streams and a patchwork of green and golden fields in a pastoral lowland. You've just thought of south Shropshire.

AE Housman's land of blue remembered hills and lost content remains as magical today as it was in the 19th century when the great man was putting together the 63 poems which comprise A Shropshire Lad.

Today, the Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty covers around a quarter of the county, including some 50 different hills and is a haven for walkers, hikers, horse riders, cyclists and anyone with an interest in the great outdoors.

The market towns which are dotted across this rich, diverse, landscape are just as memorable. Ludlow, Church Stretton, Clun, Craven Arms, Bishop's Castle and Cleobury Mortimer all offer magnificent sights and attractions in their own right.



Food

Ludlow may well be the loveliest town in England – and it's also one of the best fed.

The town has carved out a national reputation over the last couple of decades for the stunning quality of its restaurants, attracting diners from the length and breadth of the country to sample its wares.

With the wealth of top-quality produce available right on the doorstep, gastronomes will delight in the skills of the town's top chefs as they turn nature's bounty into food of the highest order.

The town is also a haven of high-quality delis, bakeries, butchers, gourmet producers and greengrocers. At Ludlow Food Centre, farming, food production and retailing combine to create a very special environment.

And there is, of course, the nationally-regarded Ludlow Food Festival, which brings the Castle and town to life as more than 180 exhibitors show off their products to an appreciative audience.

The neighbouring towns all offer some pretty stiff competition however. Each market town champions its local produce at flourishing markets and all have their own selection of great eateries serving local produce.

Great country dining can also be found at some of the myriad of pubs and hotels dotted around this fabulous landscape.

Drink

The south of Shropshire has a national reputation for the quality of its food, and its drink is not far behind.

This is an area rich in local breweries, producing award-winning real ales which are famed the length and breadth of the country.

The Wood Brewery has been producing award-winning draught and bottled beers, including Shropshire Lad and Shropshire Lass, from its base in Wistanstow, for almost 40 years and continues to go from strength to strength.

The brewery was one of the early players in the real ale revolution, which helped restore traditionally-brewed beer to its rightful place in the nation's heart in the face of the influx of gas-pumped keg beers.

Hobsons Brewery at Cleobury Mortimer, can boast a CAMRA Champion Beer of Britain amongst its stable of ales, and also collaborates with Oldfields Cider just over the border in Worcestershire. It stages group tours and brewery nights, aimed at couples and small

groups, on scheduled evenings, including beer tasting and food and even has pitches for motor homes for those who want to make a night of it.

The Three Tuns Brewery is a Shropshire landmark. Housed in a four-storey building, it reckons it is the oldest licensed brewery in the country and can trace brewing on the site all the way back to 1642. It was at the forefront of the original real ale revolution and has a special place in the hearts of beer lovers.

The Corvedale Brewery, based at the Sun Inn at Corfton, and the Clun Brewery add to the brewing tradition, making this area a real hotspot for lovers of the traditional British pint.

Not quite so traditional is the Kerry Vale vineyard, right on the Welsh border. The six-acre site was established in 2010 and has already won a number of awards for the quality of its wines. It runs vineyard tours three times a week and the Wine Café and Cellar Door shop are open throughout the season for morning coffee, lunches and afternoon tea.





We believe in the simple pleasure of better tasting, real food. This means we have a philosophy around how we produce our food. It's a philosophy of practical invention, keeping skills and flavours alive and making the most of our region.

We adopt a slower and more responsible approach, ensuring our produce is better considered, produced and above all, tastes better.

Our food is made by real people using traditional methods that we have tried and tested using produce reared or grown on our own farms.

As it is made in small batches by hand, we are able to see, smell and taste it so can bring you great tasting real food.

Don't just take our word for it...
visit us and you will find a range of
products to taste in the shop or from
our production counters.

Real food, real people, real taste





Market Towns

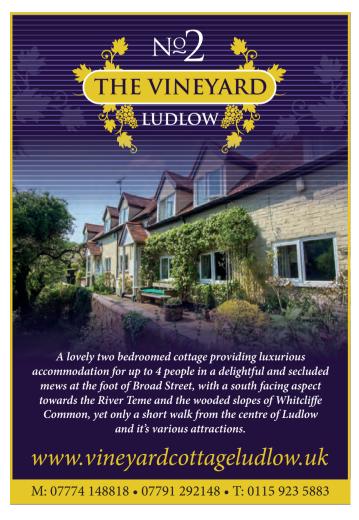
Ludlow was memorably described by former Poet Laureate, John Betjeman, as "probably the loveliest town in England with its hill of Georgian houses ascending from the river Teme to the great tower of the cross-shaped church, rising behind a classic market building."

Church Stretton, sitting underneath the Long Mynd on one side and the magnificently imposing Caer Caradoc and Lawley on the other, is a walker's playground, as well as being as pretty a town as you are likely to find.

Housman described **Clun** as the quietest place under the sun – and this is definitely the place to come if you want to get away from the hustle and bustle of modern life. The Clun river burbles its way through the town, which is overlooked by a castle and sits in the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Craven Arms is home to the Shropshire Hills Discovery Centre, where you can get up close to the county's very own mammoth, as well as planning a voyage of discovery through the hills from which it takes its name. And if you want to step back in time in spectacular fashion, nearby Stokesay Castle is a must.

Add in **Bishop's Castle**, where brewing is part of the fabric of local life and a one-handed clock helps add to the impression of time standing still, and pretty **Cleobury Mortimer**, and you have a landscape which will fire your imagination and capture your heart.





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Accommodation

From fine medieval and Georgian town and country houses, to pretty bed and breakfasts, charming country pubs and stunning camping and caravan parks, the region has a little of everything.

With thousands of people flocking to enjoy the captivating countryside every year, there's plenty of options to consider.

Ludlow's Fishmore Hall is a privatelyowned boutique country house hotel with unrivalled views over stunning Shropshire countryside.

Each of its bedrooms have been individually styled to make it as comfortable and luxurious as possible and the hotel has just opened a new rural spa to make it the perfect place for that special weekend retreat.

The Castle Hotel in Bishop's Castle has been offering great value since 1719. It now offers good food, panoramic views, fabulous gardens and one of the finest selections of real ales in Shropshire.

Its location makes it ideal for anyone planning a walking holiday, with dogs welcome and The Shropshire Hills, Offa's Dyke, Powis Castle, Clun and The Long Mynd all close to hand.

Old Downton Lodge, just outside Ludlow, offers a home-from-home in historic surroundings, and with fine dining.

region has a range of bed and breakfast options to consider – ideal if you are planning a walking holiday and want to rest your head at different locations every night.

THE BARN AT RYECROFT

SELF CATERING



Martin & Jane Ayres, The Barn at Ryecroft, Richards Castle. Ludlow, Shropshire SY8 4EU

Tel: 07876 246528

Email: info@thebarnatryecroft.co.uk www.thebarnatryecroft.co.uk

An idyllic rural hideaway in a stable and hay barn conversion with stunning panoramic views, three miles south of Ludlow. A retreat for all seasons.

£350 - £500 Per unit per week

No. of Units: 1

HIGHGROVE BARNS



CRAVEN ARMS

©©©© SELF CATERING



Mr & Mrs Rob & Chris Tromans, Sibdon Carwood, Craven Arms, SY7

Tel: 01588 673113

Email: enquiries@highgrovebarns.co.uk www.highgrovebarns.co.uk

Surrounded by the Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, two converted 18th C barns which combine character with contemporary luxury. The Byre is for 2/3. The Dairy is for 2. We are 5 Star and Certificate of Excellence on TripAdvisor. Online booking available, book direct for best rates.

£299 - £395 Per unit per week

No. of Units: 2



Relaxation has just reached a new level of sophistication

Fishmore Hall opened their new rural spa, nestled in the gardens of the hotel and overlooking the rolling Shropshire countryside and the Clee Hills. The spa offers guests the highest standard of spa and wellbeing treatments by ELEMIS, along with a place to rebalance and refresh both body and mind. The spa boasts four treatment rooms, which combine to create two couples rooms, a steam room and sauna, as well as an outdoor Cedar wellness pool and oversized hammock on the decking, both overlooking the fields and the Shropshire hills. There is ample relaxation space and the outdoor bucket and monsoon drench shower provides a refreshing and revitalising experience.

Beds are wide, with crisp linen sheets to slip into, and you can even choose your favourite pillow from our pillow menu so you are guaranteed a great night's sleep. We've gone to town on our bathrooms, with huge walkin showers, double ended baths, wetrooms and waterfall shower heads, delicious Elemis toiletries and the thickest, fluffiest bathrobes and slippers to relax in.

And we haven't forgotten the little touches: flat screen TVs with freeview, free wi-fi and wired broadband and proper coffee and teas from Cafe du Monde and Nespresso, and homemade biscuits from our chef on request. Your room features a mini bar full of local goodies for you to enjoy including Radnor Hills Elderflower Pressé, Ludlow Vineyard's cider, Tyrells crisps and a variety of delicious nibbles from the Ludlow Fruit and Nut Company.

Fishmore Hall has a lift to both floors and our ground floor suite is specially designed to suit less able guests with wide doorways and spacious shower

room. All guests can bring your pooch or hound with you when you come to Fishmore Hall. There are miles of idyllic walks from outside our front door, and we can even provide dog bowls to save you the trouble.

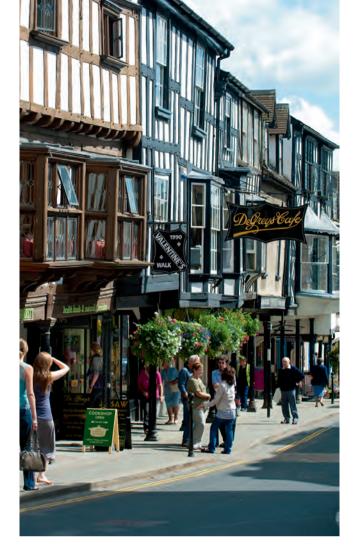
Inside our restaurant, some of the finest dining in Ludlow - from traditional Shropshire breakfasts to a superb Shropshire Tasting Menu with the very best seasonal dishes. This is the domain of our Head Chef Joe Gould, whose enthusiasm and originality shine through in a menu that features the very best local ingredients from producers from all over the Shropshire Marches. As well as the fine dining experience in the main restaurant Forelles, Fishmore Hall also has a bistro style menu available for more informal dining.



fishmore hall







Shopping

Remember shopping as it used to be? Charming shopkeepers, personal service, time to browse, shelves crammed with locally-produced crafts and goods which couldn't be found elsewhere...

It's still like that in South Shropshire.

The region's market towns take a huge pride in bringing their customers the very best of local produce, with the sort of customer service that means shoppers return time after time.

That means each town has food and drink outlets stocked with produce from their own area, crafts stores selling the work of locally-based artisans and family stores which have been in the same hands for years.

Ludlow remains at the heart of the region, with its bustling shops nestled behind Georgian and medieval facades and its award-winning market drawing in shoppers from miles around.

Independent shops abound here, with butchers, bakeries, delicatessens, clothes shops, ironmongers, gift shops, book shops, antique and craft shops side by side on the prettiest streets you will find.



The market has operated on the same site for over 900 years and continues to offer shoppers a fantastic choice of products from small and artisan producers and sellers. These range from fresh fruit and veg to locally produced game pies, wines and spirits produced on the Clee Hills, local fashion designers to handmade wooden furniture and oil paintings.

Any visit to Church Stretton is certain to involve a fair amount of mooching and browsing among its diverse range of independent shops, perhaps most notably the impressive range of antiques shops and an antiques market.

Bishop's Castle is a thriving centre for arts, crafts and antiques, alongside a healthy range of busy independent shops. It's easy to lose yourself in the town's specialist book, jewellery, antiques and crafts stores for hours on end in a part of the world where a one-handed clock tells you all you need to know about its attitude to time.

Cleobury Mortimer might be small in size – but it packs a lot in to its pretty centre. Famously, St Mary's Church has a crooked spire and walls that lean at an alarming angle – probably made all the worse after a few glasses of the local Hobsons beer.

Independent shops are the order of the day – with butchers and bakers, a florist, traditional ironmongers and a well-stocked greengrocer all delivering service with a smile. Tea and coffee shops stock delicious local cakes and look out for Shropshire brown loaves, from the 'highest bakery in Shropshire' at the top of Clee Hill.







Shrewsbury, the county town of Shropshire, remains its beating heart; a treasure trove of delights crammed into a myriad of streets and passageways, all tucked inside a natural loop in the River Severn.

Here you will find half-timbered medieval buildings sitting cheek by jowl with glorious Georgian architecture, the country's best market, Charles Darwin's birthplace, a booming summer season of shows and festivals and more independent shopping than you can shake anything proverbial at.

Names such as Grope Lane, Fish Street, Butcher's Row, Wyle Cop, Dogpole and Bellstone hint a little at the town's remarkable heritage which has seen it play host to the first English Parliament in which the Commons had a legal share, be the scene of one of the bloodiest battles in English history and, more lately, see the construction of the world's first iron-framed building.

For many, the biggest dilemma when exploring Shrewsbury is just where to start.

It could be the historic Castle standing next to the town's railway station, first built by Roger de Montgomery, William the Conqueror's right-hand man. It now houses the Shropshire Regimental Museum.

Or it could be Darwin's birthplace at Mount House, where you can visit the gardens or take one of the Darwin-inspired walks through town, retracing the great man's footsteps as he embarked on a lifetime's journey which would dramatically change our view of the world.

Then there is the magnificent 29-acre Quarry park in the heart of the town with its world-famous Dingle garden, created by master plantsman Percy Thrower during his time as the town's Parks Superintendent. Or the Flaxmill at Ditherington – the world's first iron-framed building and which can claim to be the forerunner of all modern skyscrapers.

One thing's for certain – you won't want to miss out on a cruise down the River Severn, take a look around the town's old Dana prison or a trip to the Shrewsbury Museum and Art Gallery in the town's fabulously-restored old Music Hall.

Food

Foodies are in for a real treat in Shrewsbury - which punches its weight on the national food scene after a huge boom in interest in the last 20 years.

The town is now home to some superb restaurants and eateries - as well as a host of artisan outlets with the highest-quality locallyproduced goodies.

Add in a wealth of sensational smaller kitchens. friendliest food stops in the country in the award-winning Shrewsbury Market, some of the prettiest pubs you can imagine, a gaggle of cool cafes and delightful delis, and the one thing you won't be spoilt for is choice.

It is also the base for the award-winning Shrewsbury Food Festival - two days in Summer when the whole town becomes a haven for foodies from across the country.

The festival uses the stunning Quarry Park as its base as more than 25,000 people flock to see its 200 food, drink and artisan craft stalls, demonstrations by awardwinning chefs, cookery classes and live music.



Drink

From the coolest cocktail bars to the most authentic of ale houses; from sophisticated tea rooms to chic coffee houses, you're never more than a stone's throw from the warmest of welcomes and the most satisfying of drinks.

A step into the Tanners cellars is a leap back in time to the Dickensian era. The historic charm of their shop makes it a must for any wine connoisseur.

The town has two vineyards the stunning Hencote estate and the perennially-popular Wroxeter Vineyard. Both offer tours and tastings.

There is a thriving local brewery scene and a host of pubs serving locally-brewed real ale, alongside shops and bars specialising in spirits and more.

Shrewsbury is also renowned for its huge range of independent tea and coffee houses - from the decadently stylish to the homely charm of more simple surroundings. So, if it is high tea with all the trimmings you are after - or just a quick cuppa on the go - the town will serve you up a treat.



Accommodation

Shrewsbury's been welcoming visitors for centuries and all that practice has paid off with some of the best places to stay anywhere in the country.

Whether it's coaching inns, heritage hotels, or highquality town centre accommodation in historic buildings and with excellent restaurants, there's plenty of choice in the county town.

If you want to really get away from it all the town and surrounding countryside offer a huge range of fabulous campsites - including the luxurious Love2Stay glamping park on the edge of town.

AMBLEWOOD COTTAGE & WOODPECKERS

SELF CATERING



Tom & Vanessa Wycherley, The Vineyard, Grinshill, Shrewsbury SY4 3BW

Tel: 01939 220214 Email: info@amblewoodcottages.co.uk www.amblewoodcottages.co.uk

Two detached cottages set in beautiful countryside, with outstanding views. Private access to woodland walks. Double/twin bedrooms each sleeps 4, kitchen/dining room, sitting room, wet room with WC. Additional bathroom in Woodpeckers. Amblewood all on one level. Sun patios.

£330 - £495 Per unit per week

No. of Units: 2

Shopping

Shrewsbury is, quite simply, a paradise for shoppers. It is one of the few towns left in the country where the number of independent shops outnumber the big national chains – and in Shrewsbury's case it's by a significant margin.

This is a town with something new, unique and exciting around every breath-taking medieval corner. Fabulous little boutiques jostle for attention next to gourmet food and wine shops. jewellers, tailors, interior designers, footwear specialists, gift and craft shops and just about every other retail outlet you can think of.

Wyle Cop is reckoned to be the longest street of independent retailers in the country and can take several hours to walk along such are the delights on offer. You'll find a little bit of everything from townhouse hotels to stunning interiors, inspiring delis and designer clothing.

Throughout Shrewsbury you will enjoy shopping as it used to be. Combine this astonishing choice and variety with the splendour of the medieval shuts and passages which make Shrewsbury so unique and you have an experience which really is second to none.

The town's bustling market hall is an absolute must-visit after scooping the national market of the year title last year. It's easy to spend a whole morning browsing through its eclectic collection of fresh fruit and vegetable stalls, meat and poultry, fresh fish, delicatessen, books, china, antiques, collectables and contemporary arts and crafts to name a few.



All accommodation providers promoted

Accommodation Information

www.visitshropshire.com

Simple, practical, no frills

by Shropshire Tourism are required to have current public liability insurance and be in full compliance with all prevailing legislation. Most of Shropshire Tourism's accommodation providers are also independently inspected and graded by one or more of the assessing bodies (Visit England, Visit Wales and the AA) under the national harmonised inspection scheme or under our own Shropshire Tourism scheme - which is a locally run scheme grading properties to National Standards. Accommodation providers are awarded 1 - 5 stars and have a designator; so you can be confident of the quality of facilities and services being offered. For those properties that are not independently inspected and graded you can be reassured that they are insured and legally fully compliant.

Accommodation Symbols

Children Welcome

Ground Floor Rooms

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Evening Meals Available

Credit Cards accepted

National Rail Link 2 miles

7 Telephone in Bedroom B/

Residents Sitting Room ₽ Tea/Coffee Making Facilities

En-suite Available

1 Pets by Arrangement

(Welcome Host

Baby Sitting

٦ Outdoor Pool

ď Wash Basin in Bedroom

Ħ No Pets

TV in Bedroom

Special Diets

Indoor Pool

Licensed Bar

No Smoking Smoking Rooms Available

WIFI

Extra Symbols for Self-Catering, Caravan & Camping

■ TV in unit

B Washing Machine

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Bed linen included

₩ Shop on site

Laundry Room

Clothes Drying Area

Cot/High Chair

Microwave

Refrigerator

Short Breaks

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Gas Cylinder Exchange

Shower Block

Garden

₩ Dishwasher

Payphone

Gas/Electric Meter

Electric Hook Ups

Toilet Block

Children's Playground

Hairdryer

Freezer

Central Heating

Open Fire/Woodburner

Indoor Washing Up Room

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Children's Play Area

Restaurant

Shop

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Welcome Host

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"A star luxury in the very heart of Shrewsbury"

Following a significant £1 million renovation programme and the addition of a 4th AA star, the first and only of its kind within the town centre, The Prince Rupert is now firmly established as the finest hotel within the heart of Shrewsbury. Located just a stone's throw away from all of Shrewsbury's best attractions, the hotel is within the town's most fashionable and cosmopolitan area on Butcher Row.







70 bedrooms including 12 unique 12th & 15th Century historic suites
2 superb restaurants, Camellias Tea rooms & an award-winning Executive Head Chef Valet parking to our private town centre car park & free unlimited WiFi Internet With a price guarantee, always be sure to come direct to the hotel for all of our best available rates. Please view our website or telephone us for more information