

Celebrate a cracking great Easter in Shakespeare's England!

Celebrate a cracking great Easter with a host of fun activities for all the family in Shakespeare's England from 8 - 23 April. Search for clues to win chocolate prizes with Easter trails and egg hunts, make an Easter bonnet, wander around spring gardens or simply enjoy a traditional Easter lunch with friends and family.

Visitors can enjoy a host of events across the five **Shakespeare Family Homes**. Join the curious creatures at Zoolab's Tudor Workshop at **Mary Arden's Farm**, build and fly a kite at **Anne Hathaway's Cottage** and create a finger puppet show at **Shakespeare's New Place**. Take part in an Easter Rabbit Hunt at **Hall's Croft** and explore the house and gardens to find William Rabbit. The Hunt is on at **Shakespeare's Birthplace!** Track down the treasure with the help of music, comedy and fun with the in house acting troop, Shakespeare Aloud!

Warwick Castle will launch an augmented reality experience - the first of its kind for a family attraction - to bring The Kingmaker to life. Downloadable for free from app stores, the app extension will include animations, puzzles, quizzes and a quest to become one of Richard Neville, Earl of Warwick's loyal knights to fight the Wars of the Roses. Entry from £13 per person when booked online 5 days in advance. Head over to *Knight's Village* for an egg-tremely comfortable night's sleep in a lodge before a hearty breakfast and the chance to see more of the Castle the next day! Easter breaks cost from £79.70 per person per night.

Children can visit the **Lord Leycester Hospital** in Warwick on 15 April for an Easter Egg Hunt from 11:00am -12:00noon. There are five age groups of egg hunters who can search for eggs in different areas of the gardens and grounds. Tickets are £5 per child.

Join in a very sociable quiz trail with **Trivia Trails** answering historical and observational questions whilst walking around Warwick (16 April) or Stratford-upon-Avon (14, 15 & 17 April). After a short introduction from your Trivia Trail host, teams of up six set off with clipboard, pen, quiz sheet with directions looking for the answers. Return later for scoring with prizes for each of the winning team members. A great way to enjoy a couple of hours with a little competitiveness thrown in, whilst learning how these old market towns evolved. Cost is £10 for adults; £3 children, free for children aged 0-8.

As well as lots of new bizarre machines to play with, **The MAD Museum** has a NEW interactive area called the 'MAD Zone'. Visitors will find a giant marble wall to build marble runs, there's also a hands-on cogs wall to experiment with and a table full of building blocks

to build crazy marble run routes on. Work together to solve and unravel puzzles in the free family activity pack and enter the design competition to win prizes!

There is something for visitors of all ages to discover at **Stratford Butterfly Farm**. Twice daily children can get close to some amazing creatures with 'Meet the Minibeast' handling sessions in the *Discovery Zone*. The Farm has recently opened new toilet facilities which are accessible from the *Discovery Zone* and include disabled and baby changing facilities.

Compton Verney Forest Schools take place on 13 & 20 April from 11am – 4pm when all the family can explore the different bugs and mini-beasts that are getting ready for spring. Discover the seasonal changes to the plants and trees with a fun selection of crafts and games. From 14 – 17 April design and create your own hat to wear over the Easter weekend. Choose flowers, ribbons, colours and stickers to decorate a bonnet, hat or crown.

At **Hill Close Gardens** in Warwick see heritage daffodils, primroses, cowslips and other flowers dotted around the 16 individual plots. From 15 - 17 April visitors can see themed displays of Victorian Easter traditions in the cafe and summerhouses. This year on display will be clothing from the Victorian period including gardening clothes and odd facts associated with the Victorian look. Refreshments will be served in the cafe; transformed into a Victorian tearoom. Entry adults £4, children £1 (Under 5s, HCGT and RHS members free).

The Big Batsford Chicken Hunt takes place from 8 – 23 April. Find the chickens that laid the eggs, all hiding at **Batsford Arboretum** - simply mark their locations on the map provided to win a prize! The chicken hunt costs £2.50 per child, plus Arboretum admission fee (children must be accompanied by an adult).

Visit **Stratford Artshouse** on 12 April at 11.30am and 2pm to see "*The Amazing Bubble Man*" with Louis Pearl. Louis combines comedy and artistry with live music, audience participation and spellbinding bubble tricks. From fog-filled, helium-propelled rocket bubbles, to tornado bubbles, the Bubble Man conjures shrieks of laughter from all ages. Tickets cost £12, concessions £10 (children only) & a family ticket is £40.

Be a challenge champion at **Kenilworth Castle** from 14 – 17 April and be greeted by a courtly character from the past that will help you crack clues as you explore the Castle. There's even a reward for successful adventurers!

Join the **British Motor Museum** for some 'cracking' good activities. Enjoy an Easter Egg hunt with Shaun the Sheep over the Bank Holiday weekend or during the week, explore the

'Sublime Science' shows and get interactive with 'hands on' activities plus there are lots of other 'eggstastic' activities each day.

Take part in a series of workshops at **Playbox Theatre**. For 3 - 6 year olds, there are 8 themed half day workshops which run from 10 – 21 April and include movement, music, storytelling, craftwork and role play. The cost is £22 (£19.50 for Playbox Members) including lunch. Also available are whole day workshops from 10 – 19 April which include theatre techniques such as action, movement, voice, storytelling and design. The cost is £45 (£40 for Playbox Members) including lunch. From 13 – 22 April, enjoy a performance of *Lion Boy*, suitable for all the family and based on the novels by Zizou Corder.

Enjoy lunch at El Greco with Laura van der Heijden and Julian Lloyd Webber on 11 April (only for **Friends of Orchestra of The Swan**). This exclusive event, which includes a 3-course lunch, gives friends the opportunity to put their questions to Laura and Julian. In the evening at **Stratford ArtsHouse** see a concert performed by Laura who plays Tchaikovsky, a neo-classical work of fine craftsmanship matched with two of Mozart's most popular and well-known works. Tickets cost from £9.50 to £27.50.

Tuck into a Good Friday fish supper at **Mallory Court** on 14 April with a 3-course meal in The Brasserie for £25 per person. Or on Easter Sunday enjoy a 3-course menu in the Main House for £45 per person or in The Brasserie for £27.50 per person. Head over to **The Arden** in Stratford-upon-Avon for Easter Sunday with live Jazz on 16 April. Enjoy a Sunday lunch in The Waterside Brasserie with Easter treats. Costs from £32.50 per person.

Enjoy lunch at **The Bell in Alderminster** on Easter Sunday with a free egg hunt for children. Diners can enjoy lunch off the a la carte menu so there is plenty of choice!

The Globe in Warwick will be entertaining children while the grown-ups relax by putting on a series of egg hunts with prizes throughout the Easter weekend.

For more information and holiday ideas in Shakespeare's England please visit the <http://shakespeares-england.co.uk> or call 01789 260 677.

Notes to editors

Shakespeare's England is the official destination management organisation for Stratford-on-Avon and Warwick Districts. It is a public-private sector partnership representing the leading tourism businesses and organisations in Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwick, Royal Leamington Spa, Kenilworth and surrounding market towns and villages. For more information visit please visit <http://shakespeares-england.co.uk/about-us>

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More information on Shakespeare's England can be found at www.shakespeares-england.co.uk www.facebook.com/ShakespearesEngland and Twitter [@ShakespearesEng](https://twitter.com/ShakespearesEng)

Please note all offers are subject to availability and T&C's.

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