

Spring half term adventures in Shakespeare's England!

Experience a host of exciting adventures during the spring half term from 18 – 26 February in Shakespeare's England. Take part in a stage fighting workshop at the Royal Shakespeare Company, discover awesome archaeology at Kenilworth Castle, listen to tales of a Tudor street urchin at Shakespeare's Birthplace or help build a car at the British Motor Museum!

The **Royal Shakespeare Company** is offering families the chance to decorate cupcakes at a workshop on 20/21 February and learn how to create a masked performance as part of a workshop led by theatre company *Vamos* on 23 February. Celebrate the RSC's forthcoming Rome season with a special Caesar's battles-inspired stage fighting workshop on 24 February. Participants can then show off their skills to family and friends with a demonstration at the end of the day (aimed at 14 – 17 years of age).

Warwick Castle offers a host of new themed short breaks for all the family: book before 31 January to save up to 30%. Little warriors love learning the skills required to fight the fierce dragons and mediaeval battles of their imagination, so come and experience an unforgettable weekend of inspiring history and adventure, when a real life story-telling knight will roam Knight's Village sharing his tales and experience. A short break includes breakfast and car parking plus two days' Castle admission. Costs from £49.50 per person per night.

Discover more about the birds which feature in Shakespeare's plays at **Anne Hathaway's Cottage**. Little bird spotters can make a nest material holder to help birds make a nest. On 23 February join Georgie Jeffries for Zoolab's spectacular show at **Shakespeare's Birthplace**. Discover tales of a Tudor street urchin and the animals that kept her company. Enjoy live Tudor music performed by musicians in the gardens of the Birthplace on 25 February. Bring your Shakespearian learning to life with the help of curious creatures at ZooLab UK's Tudor Workshop at **Shakespeare's New Place** on 24 February. See, meet and touch the animals that would have crossed Shakespeare's path.

The **British Motor Museum** are throwing down a challenge to visitors to build a life size Mini out of LEGO ® bricks and join in with a week of automotive themed brick building challenges. 'Brick week' will enable visitors to complete their own brick section which they will then hand over to professional model builders to assemble into the LEGO ® brick Mini model. Other activities will include the 25 Brick Challenge, LEGO Minifigure ® Museum trail and fun with foam bricks for those aged under 5 years.

Discover 'Awesome Archaeology' at **Kenilworth Castle** from 20 – 24 February. Meet the intrepid adventurers and see artefacts gathered from their digs around the world. Take part in coin rubbing and facial reconstruction as well as digging for finds in the sand pit.

Stratford Butterfly Farm will host a number of activities for younger visitors including 'Meet the Mini-Beast' handling sessions each day at 11:30am and 1:30pm so children can get up close and handle insects such as a Giant African Millipede, African Land Snail and Stick insects. Children of all ages can also follow the Jungle Explorers Trail to discover interesting facts about the amazing creatures that inhabit the Butterfly Farm.

Take part in a Taiko Drumming workshop on 18 February at **Leamington Spa Art Gallery & Museum**. Discover the amazing sounds of the big drums of Japan in this family friendly workshop. Explore a hidden talent or discover a new passion for percussion with Taiko West's James Barrow. Suitable for children aged 6+. Create a Japanese style dish based on the beautiful bronze example in the collections on 23 February. Suitable for children up to 12 years. Both workshops are free but places are limited.

See '*Mozart, meet Joanna Lee*' on 14 February at **Stratford ArtsHouse**. A world premiere by a British composer described by The Telegraph as '*pitched at an astonishing high level of technical finesse*' matched with Mozart's celebrated work showcasing **Orchestra of the Swan** players. Preceded by an overture written when Mozart was 12 years old using the same opening theme as Beethoven's 'Eroica'! Tickets cost from £9.50 to £27.50.

See *The Circus of Horrors* on 16 February at 7.30pm at the **Royal Spa Centre & Town Hall** in Leamington Spa. Freak Show performer Anthony Walls will perform a human pin cushion act which sees him pushing giant hat pins through his neck & face. See *Ruby Wax: Frazzled! A Guide to Mindfulness* at 17 February at 7.30pm. Ruby Wax is a much loved US born comedian, actor and writer. The event is a follow up to her sell out touring show, and best-selling book, 'Sane New World'. Tickets cost £20. Suitable for ages 14+

Visit **Market Hall Museum** in Warwick which re-opens on 18 February after a major refurbishment. The Museum celebrates the stories of Warwickshire and its people and has been refurbished thanks to a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund and with the support of heritage, natural history and community groups from across the county. Explore the new galleries, discover treasures from Warwickshire's collections and archives, and enjoy a tour of this historic, landmark building reimagined for the next generation of visitors.

**For more suggestions and family friendly accommodation in Shakespeare's England
visit <http://shakespeares-england.co.uk>**

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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>

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)

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