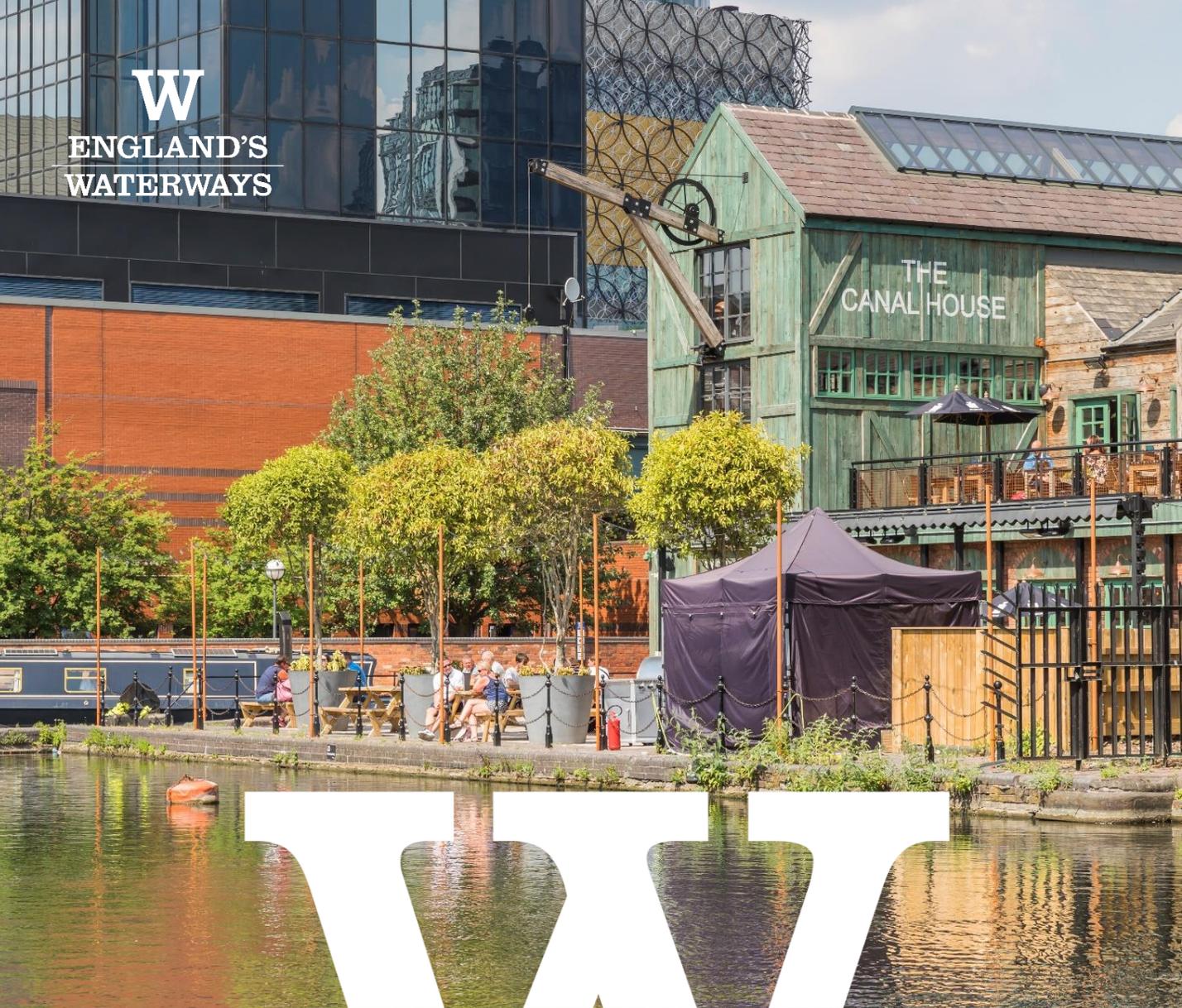


W
ENGLAND'S
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EXPLORE THE HEART OF ENGLAND FROM BIRMINGHAM

Example group itinerary for discovering the heart of England, using Birmingham as a central base.

Journey to the heart of England
englandswaterways.com

SAMPLE GROUP TOUR PROGRAMME FOR EXPLORING THE HEART OF ENGLAND

Itinerary for groups, based at [Jurys Inn](#), [Park Regis](#) or [Clayton Hotel](#) in Birmingham.

Day 1

Arrival day

Meet group at Birmingham Airport for transfer to hotel.

If rooms are not ready, include City Panorama tour to include [Jewellery Quarter](#), [Birmingham University](#) and [Bournville](#). Check-in hotel.

Free time or walking tour can be arranged – [Positively Birmingham](#) or self-guided using the [‘Walk Run Cycle’](#) app.

Day 2

Explore Stratford-upon-Avon

- **09.00** Depart hotel for [Stratford upon Avon](#) (journey up to 90 minutes). Drop off group at [Windsor Street Coach Park](#).
- **10.45** visit [Shakespeare Birthplace](#) for free flow tour, (about 1 hour).
- **11.45** free time and lunch.
- **13.00** Visit [Halls Croft](#) for free flow visit.
- **14.15** Depart Halls Croft
- **14.30** visit to [Anne Hathaways Cottage](#) for “timed ticket” tour.
- **16.00** depart Anne Hathaways Cottage for Hotel (Birmingham). Duration 60 to 90 minutes’ depending on traffic.

If you have some spare time, take a visit to Holy Trinity Church where William Shakespeare was baptised and is buried along with some members of his family.



[The Shakespeare Houses](#) are five Houses in Stratford upon Avon associated with the life of William Shakespeare, the greatest writer the world has ever known and his family. Halls Croft is where Williams eldest daughter Suzanna lived with her husband Doctor John Hall. Anne Hathaway’s Cottage was the home of William Shakespeare’s wife Anne.

SAMPLE GROUP TOUR PROGRAMME FOR EXPLORING THE HEART OF ENGLAND

Day 3

Visit Birmingham

Spend your morning enjoying a walking tour of [Birmingham City Centre](#). Visit new [Library and St Philips Cathedral](#) and [Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery](#) to see the [Staffordshire Hoard](#).

[The Library of Birmingham](#) opened in September 2013 - it is the largest public library in the UK and the largest public cultural space in Europe.

[The Cathedral Church of Saint Philip](#). Built as a parish church and consecrated in 1715, St Philip's became the cathedral of the newly formed Diocese of Birmingham in 1905. The cathedral is home to a remarkable set of stained-glass windows designed by Birmingham born pre-Raphaelite artist Sir Edward Burne-Jones and manufactured by the firm of [William Morris & Co.](#)

[Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery](#) (BMAG) is a museum and art gallery in Birmingham, it has a collection of international importance covering fine art, ceramics, metalwork, jewellery, natural history, archaeology, ethnography, local history and industrial history . Also on display is the [Staffordshire Hoard](#), the largest hoard of Anglo-Saxon gold and silver metalwork yet found. The hoard was most likely deposited in the 7th century.



Be spoilt for choice for [lunch](#) in the city. Then spend your afternoon at the [Museum of the Jewellery Quarter](#). For over 80 years the family run firm of [Smith and Pepper](#) produced gold jewellery from the factory that is now the Museum of the Jewellery Quarter, with very few changes in working practices, equipment or the appearance of the workshop. Tours last one hour (large party sizes will be divided into smaller groups for tours).

A lovely way to finish off your day is to take a canal boat trip with [Sherborne Wharf](#) and see the sights of this fantastic city from a unique perspective. If boats aren't your thing, you won't be short on choice for a spot of shopping, with the [Bullring and Grand Central](#) and the [Mailbox](#) all in walking distance within the city centre.



SAMPLE GROUP TOUR PROGRAMME FOR EXPLORING THE HEART OF ENGLAND

Day 4

Explore the Cotswolds

- **09.00** depart hotel for tour of [Cotswolds](#), visiting a variety of villages on the way.
- **10.15** coffee and free time in [Broadway](#).
- **11.15** depart Broadway. Continue tour.
- **12.30** lunch and free time in [Bourton on the Water](#)
- **14.15** depart Bourton on the Water and continue on tour.
- **15.15** tea and free time in [Chipping Campden](#)
- **16.00** return to hotel
- **17.30** arrive back at hotel. Journey up to 90 minutes.

Broadway is a large village in the [Cotswolds](#). Often referred to as the "Jewel of the Cotswolds", The "broad way" is the wide grass-fringed main street, centered on the Green, which is lined with red chestnut trees and honey-coloured [Cotswold limestone](#) buildings, many dating from the 16th century. It is known for its association with the [Arts and Crafts movement](#), and is situated in an area of outstanding scenery and conservation.

Bourton on the Water often referred to as Venice of the Cotswolds. Regularly voted one of the prettiest villages in England. With plenty to see and do, Bourton on the Water offers a wealth of attractions and shops, restaurants and tea rooms, or simply for you to enjoy some tranquil time by the [River Windrush](#) with its beautiful bridges throughout.

Chipping Camden is a small market town notable for its elegant terraced High Street, dating from the 14th century to the 17th century.

Day 5

Birmingham's suburban villages

Enjoy a visit to [Winterbourne House and Garden](#) or [Birmingham Botanical Gardens](#), both of which also have lovely options if you want to stay for lunch.

Winterbourne is the botanic garden of the [University of Birmingham](#), located in [Edgbaston](#), Birmingham. It is adjacent to [Edgbaston Pool](#), a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

The Botanical Gardens and Glasshouses are set in 15 acres of cultivated greenery. With glorious landscaped gardens, over 7000 plants, shrubs and trees - and a new Butterfly House.



SAMPLE GROUP TOUR PROGRAMME FOR EXPLORING THE HEART OF ENGLAND

Day 5 continued...

Head back into the city centre after lunch and take an hour long tour of the [Coffin Works](#). (Open Wednesday to Sunday and Bank Holidays). This grade II* listed factory and its contents tells the story of Newman Brothers, Birmingham's last coffin-furniture factory who operated for over 100 years until 1998 when workers laid down their equipment, and walked out of the building for the very last time, leaving everything, including personal belongings behind. Come and explore this unique piece of history on one of the guided tours and step back in time to experience this important piece of Birmingham's industrial legacy.

Day 6

Discover Ironbridge

Depart hotel for a visit to [Ironbridge Gorge](#). Ironbridge is a town on the River Severn in Shropshire. The [famous Ironbridge](#), built in 1779 was the first Ironbridge of its kind in the world, and a monument to the industry that began there.



Next, travel to [Bridgnorth](#) for lunch and enjoy some free time before boarding the train at the [Severn Valley Railway](#) to [Kidderminster](#). (1 hour 20 minute journey) where the coach will meet the group and return to hotel.

The Severn Valley Railway is a 16-mile heritage railway line which runs along the Severn Valley from Bridgnorth to Kidderminster, crossing the Shropshire / Worcestershire border, following the course of the River Severn for much of its route.

Or, an alternative to the Railway is to spend an afternoon at the [Black Country Living Museum](#) (BCLM). (45 minutes journey time)

The BCLM is a unique, 26-acre real-life open-air museum. Where visitors can see, smell, hear, touch and taste history. Living interpretation and working demonstrations enable people of all ages and backgrounds to understand how the Black Country played a huge role in the Industrial Revolution.



SAMPLE GROUP TOUR PROGRAMME FOR EXPLORING THE HEART OF ENGLAND

Day 7

Visit Coventry

09.00 - depart hotel for [Coventry](#) and enjoy a walking tour with a guide, followed by free time and lunch.

Coventry is the 9th largest city in England. In the 18th and 19th centuries, it became one of the three main British centres for watch and clock manufacture. As the industry declined, the skilled pool of workers proved crucial to the setting up of bicycle manufacture and eventually the motorbike, car, machine tool and aircraft industries. By the early 20th century, bicycle manufacture had evolved into motor manufacture, and Coventry became a major Centre of the British motor industry.

After lunch, take a tour of [Coventry Cathedral](#). The cathedral is the seat of the Bishop of Coventry and the Diocese of Coventry, largely constructed between the late 14th century and early 15th century. St Michael's Cathedral now stands ruined, bombed almost to destruction during the Coventry Blitz of 14 November 1940 by the German Luftwaffe. The ruins of this older cathedral remain hallowed ground and are listed at Grade I. Following the bombing of the medieval cathedral in 1940, Provost Richard Howard had the words "Father Forgive" inscribed on the wall behind the altar of the ruined building.



Or, why not visit the [Coventry Transport Museum](#). Guided tours are available.

Located in Coventry city Centre, it houses the largest collection of British-made road transport held in public ownership. It is located in Coventry because the city was previously the Centre of the British car industry and the birthplace of the bicycle.



16.00 - depart Coventry for hotel.

For more information visit <https://www.makeitwm.com/>