



SHAKESPEARE'S ROME

Stratford-upon-Avon

INSCAPE RETREAT

WEDNESDAY 5 TO MONDAY 10 APRIL

In the 16c-17c a prosperous and proud market town, Stratford today serves a vibrant contemporary community imbued with dignified pride in its unique cultural heritage. Laid out on a medieval grid street plan in 1196, Stratford's carefully maintained identity represents a brilliantly conceived living tribute to William Shakespeare, Britain's finest wordcraftsman. With its many ancient black-and-white timber-framed buildings and beautifully designed Elizabethan gardens, it is the perfect place for our second in-depth Shakespeare cultural study experience. Dropping anchor once again at the 18c Arden Hotel on Waterside, we will be well placed beside the river basin well known to Shakespeare. Directly opposite are the Royal Shakespeare Theatres where we shall attend superb productions of two of the greatest of Shakespeare's Roman plays- one early play, *Julius Caesar*, and one late, *Antony and Cleopatra*. Both concern the desperate manoeuvres characterising the political dynamic of ancient Rome, Shakespeare's well-chosen paradigm for the political and social machinations of his time- Lord Burghley brooking no interference in his policies, Francis Walsingham hiring assassins to protect the state, Christopher Marlowe's stabbing in a Deptford alley, while Sir Thomas Gresham wheeled and dealt on the Antwerp foreign exchanges and Sir Francis Drake ruthlessly expanded the British Empire. Back-stabbings and flagrant lies, betrayals and deceits, abrupt resignations and sackings were familiar fodder then and now. So it is with uncanny topicality, if not prescience, that the RSC has chosen to present Shakespeare's Roman plays in Stratford this coming spring and summer season. Much needed light relief will be provided by our third and concluding play, 'The Hypocrite' by Richard Bean (of *One Man Two Guvnors* fame) which treats similar events- beheadings and civil war- as riotous comedy! To extend our Shakespearian studies, we have arranged private visits to particular houses that reveal either architecture Shakespeare would have known, as in the remarkable 15c Lord Leycester's Hospital in Warwick, and Kenilworth, where we see a castle that would have been in Shakespeare's mind in the writing of the history plays; or that reveal the influence of Shakespeare's time on later generations. At Charlecote Park, where Shakespeare legendarily poached deer from Sir Thomas Lucy, we see a Victorian idea of Shakespearian England, and at privately-owned Ilmington Manor, how Shakespearian England was interpreted in the 1920s.

WEDNESDAY 5 APRIL

- 10.03 Train departs London Marylebone
- 12.03 Arrive Stratford station and minibus transport to Hotel
- 12.30 Drinks reception followed by group lunch in Arden Hotel
- 2.00 Nicholas Friend Lecture *The Dilemmas of the Republic: Brutus and Marc Antony*
- 3.30 Private reception and readings in Halls Croft TBC, rest
- 5.45 Pre-Theatre dinner in Hotel
- 7.15 Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar*

THURSDAY 6 APRIL

- 10.30 Coffee in Hotel, Nicholas Friend Lecture *Power and Beauty: Cleopatra*
- 12.30 Lunch in hotel
- 2.15 Visit to RSC Paintings collection
- 3.30 Visit Shakespeare's New Place garden, Rest
- 5.45 Pre-Theatre dinner in hotel
- 7.15 Shakespeare's *Antony and Cleopatra*

FRIDAY 7 APRIL

- 10.30 Coffee in Hotel
- 11.00 Nicholas Friend Lecture *Heroes and Heroines in the Civil War*
- 12.30 Lunch in hotel
- 2.00 Visit to RSC Archives
- 3.30 Tea in Shakespeare Theatre Tower, Rest
- 5.45 Pre-Theatre dinner
- 7.30 Richard Bean's *The Hypocrite*

SATURDAY 8 APRIL

- 10.00 Nicholas Friend Lecture *Shakespeare's Influence on Early Victorian and 1920s English Architecture*
- 11.00 Coffee in Hotel, leave hotel for Ilmington
- 12.15 Arrive Ilmington
- 12.30 Group Lunch at The Howard Arms
- 2.00 Private tour of Ilmington Manor with current owner Martin
- 3.30 Tea in the Manor House, leave Ilmington
- 4.30 Arrive hotel
- 7.30 Optional Dinner in hotel

SUNDAY 9 APRIL

- 10.00 Lecture 'Sir Walter Scott's Legends of Kenilworth'
- 11.00 Coffee
- 11.30 Leave for Kenilworth
- 12.30 Arrive Kenilworth for Group Lunch in Harringtons on the Hill
- 2.00 Kenilworth Castle
- 3.00 Leave for Lord Leycester's Hospital
- 3.30 Lord Leycester's Hospital private tour
- 5.00 Leave for hotel
- 5.30 Arrive hotel
- 7.30 Group closing dinner

MONDAY 10 APRIL

- 09.30 Checkout, leave for Charlecote
- 10.00 Arrive Charlecote, private visit
- 12.00 Leave Charlecote
- 12.30 Lunch in Hotel
- 2.00 Minibus to Stratford Station
- 2.37 Train from Stratford to London
- 4.41 Arrive London Marylebone



THE ARDEN HOTEL

WATERSIDE, STRATFORD-UPON-AVON
WARWICKSHIRE, CV37 6BA

TEL: 01789 298682

The renowned Arden Hotel, beside the River Avon, is directly opposite the theatres, and close to the town centre. As the best and most convenient hotel in town many theatre people stay at the Arden and the walls are covered with photographs of past greats and modern actors. An elegant and sophisticated 45-bedroom boutique-style hotel, its recent multi-million pound refurbishment attended to every detail. The rooms are light and spacious and beautifully appointed. The lovely bathrooms are huge with large baths and double showers. All rooms have sitting areas with flat-screen cable TVs and DVDs plus a library of films to borrow. There's complimentary WiFi, coffeemakers, biscuits, minibars and a turn-down service.

COST £1995 Members, £2045 non-Members, £220 single room supplement, £250 deposit, includes five nights accommodation with breakfast, four coffees, six lunches with wine, six dinners with wine, all lectures by Nicholas Friend, three theatre tickets, all private visits and all travel during the tour, VAT, tips and service. Excludes travel to and from Stratford.