



## CASTLES AND CATHEDRALS

Take a trip back through time with the phenomenal castles and cathedrals tour. You'll be spellbound with the amount to see and do in the region, with sights and sounds guaranteed to educate, illuminate and excite even the youngest of adventurers.

### Day One

Begin the day in Coventry city centre. Start at the world famous Cathedral of St Michael, the site of Coventry's 'new' cathedral. See examples of world-class works of art, including: Graham Sutherland's tapestry, John Piper's baptistry window and Epstein's bronze statue of St Michael defeating the devil. In sharp contrast, the mediaeval ruins of its predecessor stand next door. Destroyed in the Blitz of 14th November 1940, they are now seen as a worldwide symbol of peace and reconciliation.

Visit the Visitor Information Centre for those sought-after souvenirs and Benedict's coffee shop for light refreshments. Group tours of the cathedral are available although pre-booking is required.

Walk further into the Cathedral Quarter to find Priory Gardens, part of Coventry's Phoenix initiative. Over several years of archaeology on this site many medieval buildings have been discovered. The remains of the Benedictine Priory of St Mary, Coventry's first cathedral, including superb decorative stone and glass have been preserved. The Priory Visitor Centre and its Undercroft, winner of a string of design awards, houses some of the incredible finds from the excavations and recreates life as it was 500 years ago.

This is well worth the time while visiting Coventry.

### Day Two

Travel to the market town of Warwick to explore 1000 years of history at Warwick Castle. See the mediaeval household come to life in 'Kingmaker' as it prepares for battle in 1471. The Great Hall and staterooms are home to outstanding collections of paintings, tapestries and furnishings. Explore and experience the Castle dungeons

There are also 60 acres of gardens and grounds to explore with refreshments and hot/cold meals available. Visitors should allow at least 3-4 hours if not all day to see and experience the castle in full.

The final stop on your tour is in Kenilworth to visit Kenilworth Castle. Owned and maintained by English Heritage, the castle is the largest and finest castle ruin in England and has many royal associations including Elizabeth I.

The Castle holds a programme of events throughout the year for all the family. From Winter tours through November to March which covers the 900 year history, Easter and Summer children's activities and family fun on Bonfire night.

Audio tours are included in your entry fee and refreshments are available in the tea room to conclude your visit.