



HOUSES AND GARDENS

Enjoy some of the most beautiful, attractive, stunning grounds and Stately Homes around the region with this perfect itinerary guaranteed to leave you suitably impressed.

Day One

Begin the day in Coventry city centre to see the stunning Priory Gardens and Visitor Centre, built on the site of Coventry's first Cathedral. It is a haven of peace and tranquility and is surrounded by the restored Blue Coat School and mediaeval Holy Trinity Church. While in the Medieval quarter you could also visit St Mary's Guildhall not only taking in the long and fascinating history but refreshments in the Godiva undercroft.

Whilst in the city centre, take the opportunity to visit the Almshouses of Ford's and Bond's hospitals, established over 500 years ago to provide shelter for Coventry's elderly. Take a walk to the edge of the city where you will find Lady Herbert's Garden and the Garden of International Friendship. The gardens lie adjacent to each other and the stark contrasts in style compliment each other and provide a tranquil setting to watch the world go by.

After lunch, leave the city centre behind and head to Garden Organic Ryton, there is something for everyone at Ryton Gardens, the home of Garden Organic, in its delightful setting in the Heart of England. Gardeners, lovers of good food, shoppers, children and those simply looking for a relaxing day out will want to visit Ryton Gardens time and time again!

Glorious Gardens

Glorious arrays of flowers and shrubs are on show throughout the year. They recapture the beauty of a wildflower meadow and a cornfield. Blue seas of lavender and a host of different roses invigorate the senses. Organic gardens also provide a safe haven for wildlife and are fascinating to visit over the changing seasons. You're sure to be inspired by the ideas on display and the simplicity of this gentle approach.

Day Two

Begin the day in Royal Leamington Spa and visit Jephson Gardens, named after an eminent Victorian doctor who helped create Leamington's reputation as a spa town. Combine this with a visit to the Royal Pump Rooms or visit the Royal Priors shopping centre in this attractive Regency town.

From Royal Leamington Spa, drive a few miles west to the historic town of Warwick. Easily accessible with easy parking around 'The Market Square' area which hosts many local events.

Lord Leycester's Hospital was established in 1571 and built as a hospice for old soldiers. This fine timber framed buildings houses the military museums and the Collegiate Church of St Mary famous for its Beauchamp Chapel. There are many coffee shops and small friendly restaurants for that morning coffee or light lunch.

Why not spend the day at Warwick Castle possibly the greatest mediaeval experience in the country!

Next stop is Stoneleigh Abbey near Kenilworth. Set in 690 acres of parkland, the abbey has nine magnificent state rooms, as well as gardens created by Repton and Nessfield. Established in 1154 the Abbey has seen many changes over the years holding secrets about the people who have passed through this magnificent house and grounds.

There is also a coffee shop open during the summer months.

Day Three

No visit to Warwickshire would be complete without spending time in Stratford-upon-Avon, historic market town and birthplace of the world's greatest poet and playwright, William Shakespeare. Visit Shakespeare's Birthplace, the recently re-furbished Royal Shakespeare Company Theatre, Holy Trinity Church and the beautifully preserved timber framed Shakespeare houses in the neighboring villages of Shottery (Anne Hathaway's cottage) and Wilmcote (Mary Arden's). Take a stroll along the river bank or spend some time lazily boating on the Avon. Other highlights to search out The Falstaff experience where history is brought to life or the open top bus experience where you can hop on and off to see the sights.

Lunch at one of the many fine cafes and restaurants in the town centre and in the afternoon finish your day with a visit to Stratford Butterfly Farm and watch hundreds of spectacular butterflies flying in a wonderful exotic rainforest.