



## Top 12...Warwickshire 'Experiences'

- 1). **Theatre tour at the Royal Shakespeare Company Theatre** – Peek behind the curtains of the world's most famous theatre company. Starting in the Royal Shakespeare Theatre Cloakroom, you will learn about the history of the RSC and its theatres in Stratford-upon-Avon, as well as exploring a production in more depth to learn about the theatre making process.
- 2). **Be a Princess or Knight for the day at Warwick Castle** - Experience one thousand years of jaw-dropping history at Warwick Castle; great battles, ancient myths, spellbinding tales, pampered princesses, heroic knights. Explore the Princess Tower or witness some of the darkest, bloodiest times in history in the Castle dungeon – if you dare.
- 3). **Land Rover Experience** - Based in the heart of Warwickshire, the Land Rover engineering headquarters now offers an exciting array of experiences where you can be tackling challenging multiple terrain courses, getting behind the scenes at Land Rover's very own secret test facility, or even entering a virtual reality world of new vehicle development.
- 4). **Michelin Star Dining Experience at Mallory Court** – The Dining Room at Mallory is a beautiful, oak panelled restaurant, boasting a number of accolades and awards for Simon Haigh's refined cuisine, including 3 AA Rosettes. With stunning views from its terrace over the gardens and the Warwickshire countryside beyond, Mallory Court's multi award-winning Dining Room is the region's most celebrated restaurant. Simon exquisite menus are bursting with fresh, contemporary flavours reflecting his rigorous training in traditional French techniques, combined with a modern British flair.
- 5). **Ride the Shakespeare Express Steam Railway** - sit back, relax and enjoy the sights, sounds and senses of mainline steam rail travel as it was in the 'good old days'. Travel on any summer Sunday and you will see an ever changing landscape, from Birmingham's fascinating industrial past to Warwickshire's beautiful countryside with its working farms, stylish villages and stations, plus glimpses of waterways and other features that make up Shakespeare's County.
- 6). **Experience a 1930's millionaire's mansion** - Join the party of Lord and Lady Bearsted, heir of the Shell Oil fortune, at Upton House. Admire their outstanding collection of English and continental Old Master paintings, including works by Hogarth, Stubbs, Canaletto and El Greco. Peruse exquisite porcelain from Derby, Chelsea, Worcester and Sevres factories, be dazzled by the red and silver art deco bathroom, listen to family stories or read the papers. The gardens – being returned to their 1930s heyday – feature terraces, herbaceous borders, a water garden and the National Collection of Asters.
- 7). **Fares Please...drive an old red bus** – Fulfil a childhood ambition of driving a 'big red bus'. A British icon, the double-decker red bus driving experience allows you to get behind the wheel and of a classic, and take the open road - (a nearby race course called Mallory Park in Leicestershire).

8). **Follow in the footsteps of George Eliot** – Take a tour – walking, cycling or driving – in the steps of George Eliot to places the author knew from growing up in Warwickshire. Highlights include inspirations for her Scenes of Clerical Life: Arbury Hall, model for the ‘castellated house of grey-tinted stone’ Cheverel Manor, and Astley Church, still recognisable as Knebley Church ‘with coats of arms in clusters on the lofty roof’.

9). **Balloon Flight** – Catch a birds-eye view of Warwickshire with a fantastic balloon flight. Heart of England Balloons is one of the longest established balloon ride operators in the UK, with over 20 years experience of providing Hot Air Balloon Flights. Catch a glimpse of Warwick Castle, Stratford-upon-Avon and Royal Leamington Spa.

10). **Narrow Boat Escape** - Hire a traditional launch from Avon Boating in Stratford-upon-Avon and spend a day cruising with family and friends. Head downstream along beautiful stretches of peaceful river, towards Luddington, Welford-on-Avon and even to Bidford-on-Avon. Take your time and share a picnic afloat, or moor up and visit a pub, for example at Welford or Bidford-on-Avon.

11). **Your own Edible Garden?** - Eating food that you’ve grown yourself is one of life’s great pleasures. Learn the techniques and tools you need to get the best from your plot including choosing vegetables, rotations, soil management, extending the season and filling the hungry gap at Garden Organic, the UK’s leading organic growing charity. Garden Organic Ryton has been at the forefront of the organic horticulture movement for 50 years and is dedicated to researching and promoting organic gardening, farming and food.

12). **Try your hand at Disc Golf** - at Quarry Park Disc Golf Course. Situated on Old Milverton Lane on the edge of Leamington Spa, this is a unique facility in Britain, in that the land was purchased and landscaped specifically for disc golf. Disc golf is similar in concept to traditional ball golf -the object is to get a frisbee disc into a basket in as few shots as possible. Disc Golf is a great sport or activity for all ages and abilities, and this course has been meticulously designed to be fair to beginners and challenging to pros.