



**2019 BRITISH MYSTERY TOUR:**  
**Harrogate, Stratford-Upon-Avon, the Cotswolds, Wales, & Chester**  
**July 17-August 1, 2019**  
*Tentative Itinerary Highlights*

## **HARROGATE**

- **The Old Swan Hotel in Harrogate**, conference site and hotel where the young Agatha Christie famously went into hiding in 1926 under an assumed name.
- **Welcome reception and dinner**
- **Attendance at the Theakstons Old Peculier Crime Writing Festival**, a world class, award-winning conference celebrating some of the best contemporary and historical crime writing. Includes the **Murder Mystery Dinner**.
- **Walking tour of Harrogate**, a charming Victorian spa town in North Yorkshire.
- **Tour of the Yorkshire Dales National Park**, a large area covering much of the Northern Yorkshire, comprised of stunning natural beauty with magnificent peaks of the Pennines and deep, gorgeous valleys (dales).
- **TBC: Skipton Castle**, over 900 years old and one of the oldest and best preserved medieval castles in England; birthplace in 1590 of Lady Anne Clifford.

## **STRATFORD-UPON-AVON**

- **The White Swan Hotel, Stratford-upon-Avon**, a historic hotel dating to 1450 and first used as an inn in 1560.
- **TBC: Evening reception** at Shakespeare's birthplace, where William Shakespeare was born, grew up, and spent the first 5 years of his married life with Anne Hathaway.
- **Walking tour of Stratford-upon-Avon**, giving an overview of Shakespeare's birthplace and other sites associated with his life.

- **Stratford-upon-Avon Full Story pass** for individual sightseeing of all five family homes.
- **Performance of the Royal Shakespeare Company**, play title to be announced.
- **Warwick Castle**, magnificent medieval castle developed from an original built by William the Conqueror in 1068.
- **Coventry Cathedral**, constructed next to the remains of the “old Cathedral,” a medieval parish church that had been consecrated to be a Cathedral of the Diocese of Coventry in 1918 but that was heavily bombed in WWII.

## THE COTSWOLDS

- **Woodstock and Blenheim Palace**, residence of the Duke of Marlborough and birthplace of Winston Churchill. It is the only non-royal, non-episcopal country house in England to be designated a palace.
- **A stop at St. Martin’s Church, Bladon**, where Winston Churchill is buried.
- **A day in Oxford**, home to Oxford University. Morning tour, either a general crime writing tour or a literary tour, your choice, and an afternoon free to explore this amazing place.

## NORTH WALES

- **On the way to North Wales: Shrewsbury**, market town on the River Severn in Shropshire, with a town center that has a virtually undisturbed medieval street plan with over 660 listed buildings.
- **Shrewsbury Abbey**, home of the fictional Brother Cadfael created by Ellis Peters.
- **Portmeirion Village**, a private village resort and gardens on the coast of Snowdonia in North Wales.

- **Caernarfon Castle**, a World Heritage Site built for King Edward I by Master James of St George
- **Conwy Castle**, also built for King Edward I by Master James of St George, the castle is amongst the finest surviving medieval fortifications in Britain
- **Snowdonia**, with mountains and an 870-mile coast path that passes seascapes of breathtaking variety, quality beaches, harbours, inlets and islands
- **Betws-y-Coed**, in a beautiful valley in Snowdonia National Park
- **Llangollen**, home of the annual International Musical Eisteddfod

## **CHESTER**

- **Walking tour of Chester**, a walled city with the largest Roman amphitheater in Britain and a 1,000-year-old Cathedral
- **Farewell dinner**