

Stratford has ten major hotels with a total of 1400 rooms within a few blocks of one another. These include the Stratford-upon-Avon Hilton, the Welcombe Hotel, the Alveston Manor, and the Shakespeare Hotel, all of which are grade-one properties. Grade-two hotels include the Arden Hotel and the Red Horse Hotel. These charge about £17 (\$34) per person.

The Stratford-upon-Avon Hilton is located in the center of town and is within walking distance to all shopping. It is a 253-room hotel built on the banks of the River Avon and can accommodate up to 440 people for a conference and up to 350 for a banquet. The Grand Ballroom can be divided into three soundproof sections, each with its own anteroom and independent wiring for audio-visual equipment. There are also three smaller rooms available that can accommodate up to 170 people. Conference rates are available, and room rates are about £18.30-£20.80 per person in a twin room, including breakfast (\$35-\$40).

The Welcombe Hotel, a British Transport Hotel, sits on 40 acres of greenery and includes a nine-hole golf course. The hotel retains much of its old charm but has also added a new wing. The hotel has a relaxed atmosphere, has 99 bedrooms, and can accommodate 120 guests for meetings and dinner. There are several rooms that can hold smaller groups.

After arrival at the hotel, the group can relax over a lunch at a Whitbread pub around Stratford, such as the Bell Inn.

The afternoon is free for relaxing or shopping.

Seats at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre (£7.50 [\$15] per ticket) have been reserved. This can be combined with pre-theater or interval drinks in the Theatre Bankside Restaurant. An after-theater dinner can be held in the Theatre Restaurant or at one of the hotels. The cast can be invited to join the group, and some hungry performers will usually attend.

Day Two

Guide Friday Ltd. will arrange a variety of half-day and day tours for groups of any size. Most of these cost £2-£6 per person per half or whole day. This might include a morning tour of Stratford-on-Avon (and a visit to the Shakespeare properties) and lunch at Warwick Castle, the home of the Earls of Warwick, followed by a tour of the castle, one of the finest medieval fortresses in England. Medieval banquets can be held in the evening at Warwick. This can be followed by a visit to Kenilworth Castle and a visit to the controversial Cathedral at Coventry.

The evening is reserved for the Cotswold Country Pub Tour, which is also arranged by Guide Friday Ltd. You tour pubs in various hamlets of the Cotswolds in a double-decker bus. You stop for a game of darts and a pint of English bitter as well as a late-evening supper. The cost is about £2 per person (\$4 plus food).

Day Three

Visit Blenheim Palace, the birthplace of

Sir Winston Churchill and home of the Duke of Marlborough, and then tour Bladon, the burial place of Sir Winston. In the afternoon you can explore Oxford, the seat of the university.

Dinner can be held at Ragley Hall, home of the Marquess of Hertford. Ragley Hall is a perfect setting for a variety of elegant functions, including Georgian banquets for up to 175 people and buffets and receptions for up to 450. Lord and