



# RAIL Trails



## Shakespeare's Stratford

Image by Barnyz

This medieval market town needs no introduction as the birthplace of Shakespeare (he's buried here too) and this trail will help you discover the key sites linked to England's most famous playwright.

Take time to explore his family homes – **Shakespeare's Birthplace** on Henley Street and **The New Place** on Chapel Street – and see where the young William went to school at **Shakespeare's Schoolroom & Guildhall** on Church Street. Enjoying a performance at the **Royal Shakespeare Theatre** and the more intimate **Swan Theatre** is an absolute must!

Beyond the bard, Stratford boasts no less than three Michelin starred restaurants, a cat cafe, arthouse cinema, great shopping, parks and gardens, open air bus tours, ghost walks, boat trips, cycling routes and so much more. Take your time and enjoy this corner of merry old England.

### Further Information:



Visit [www.visitstratforduponavon.co.uk](http://www.visitstratforduponavon.co.uk) for more information on where to visit and what to see in town.

[www.shakespeares-england.co.uk](http://www.shakespeares-england.co.uk) provides everything you need to know for a visit to the wider area.



**Stratford-upon-Avon** is the southern terminus of the Leamington-Stratford line, served by both West Midlands Trains and Chiltern Railways. Direct trains from London Marylebone run via Leamington Spa, and there are two trains an hour from Birmingham.

The station has a ticket office which is open on weekends, a self-service ticket machine, refreshment facilities and toilets (when the ticket office is open).

### Want More?

This is just one of a range of 36 self-guided walks from railway stations in Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull.



Discover the Heart of England by rail at:  
[www.heartcommunityrail.org.uk/railtrails](http://www.heartcommunityrail.org.uk/railtrails)



Design by: [www.blackspiraldesign.co.uk](http://www.blackspiraldesign.co.uk)



# RAIL Trails



Discover The Heart of England by Rail



## Stratford-upon-Avon

Image by Dr Bob Hall

1.5 Hours 2.5 Miles Easy

Start: Stratford Finish: Stratford

Follow in the footsteps of the bard himself on an easy wander to explore just about everything Shakespeare related in Stratford-upon-Avon.

[www.heartcommunityrail.org.uk/railtrails](http://www.heartcommunityrail.org.uk/railtrails)



## Trail Highlights...



Image by Shakespeare's Birthplace Trust

### A. Shakespeare's Birthplace

Get straight to the heart of the matter where the Shakespeare story begins! Hear tales of his family life and discover how the extraordinary playwright continues to shape our lives today.

[www.shakespeare.org.uk](http://www.shakespeare.org.uk)



Image by Dr Bob Hall

### B. Bancroft Gardens

Slap bang in the middle of everything bard related, the canal basin is the perfect spot to pause, watch the boats on the water, enjoy the floating markets, grab a coffee or ice cream and simply relax.

[www.visitstratforduponavon.co.uk](http://www.visitstratforduponavon.co.uk)



### C. Holy Trinity Church

Stratford's oldest building,, it is often referred to as Shakespeare's Church, due to its fame as the place of baptism, marriage and burial of William Shakespeare. Join the throngs who make their pilgrimage to the bard's final resting place.

[www.stratford-upon-avon.org](http://www.stratford-upon-avon.org)



### D. Shakespeare's School Room

Wonder where the bard got his start in life? Wonder no more! Instead, explore the very room where William Shakespeare sat in the 1570s and where he wrote his first works.

[www.shakespeareesschoolroom.org](http://www.shakespeareesschoolroom.org)

### Did you know?



**Shakespeare** had a poem sketched into his tomb stating anyone who moves his bones will be cursed. Consequently, his grave has gone untouched since 1747!

## Also recommended...



Image by Roland Turner

### E. The Dirty Duck

Formerly known as the Black Swan, this traditional alehouse with riverside views sits just along the road from the Royal Shakespeare Theatre. This is a favourite thespian watering hole, often jam packed with celebrities.

[www.greeneking-pubs.co.uk/pubs/warwickshire/dirty-duck/](http://www.greeneking-pubs.co.uk/pubs/warwickshire/dirty-duck/)



Image by Shakespaw Cat Cafe

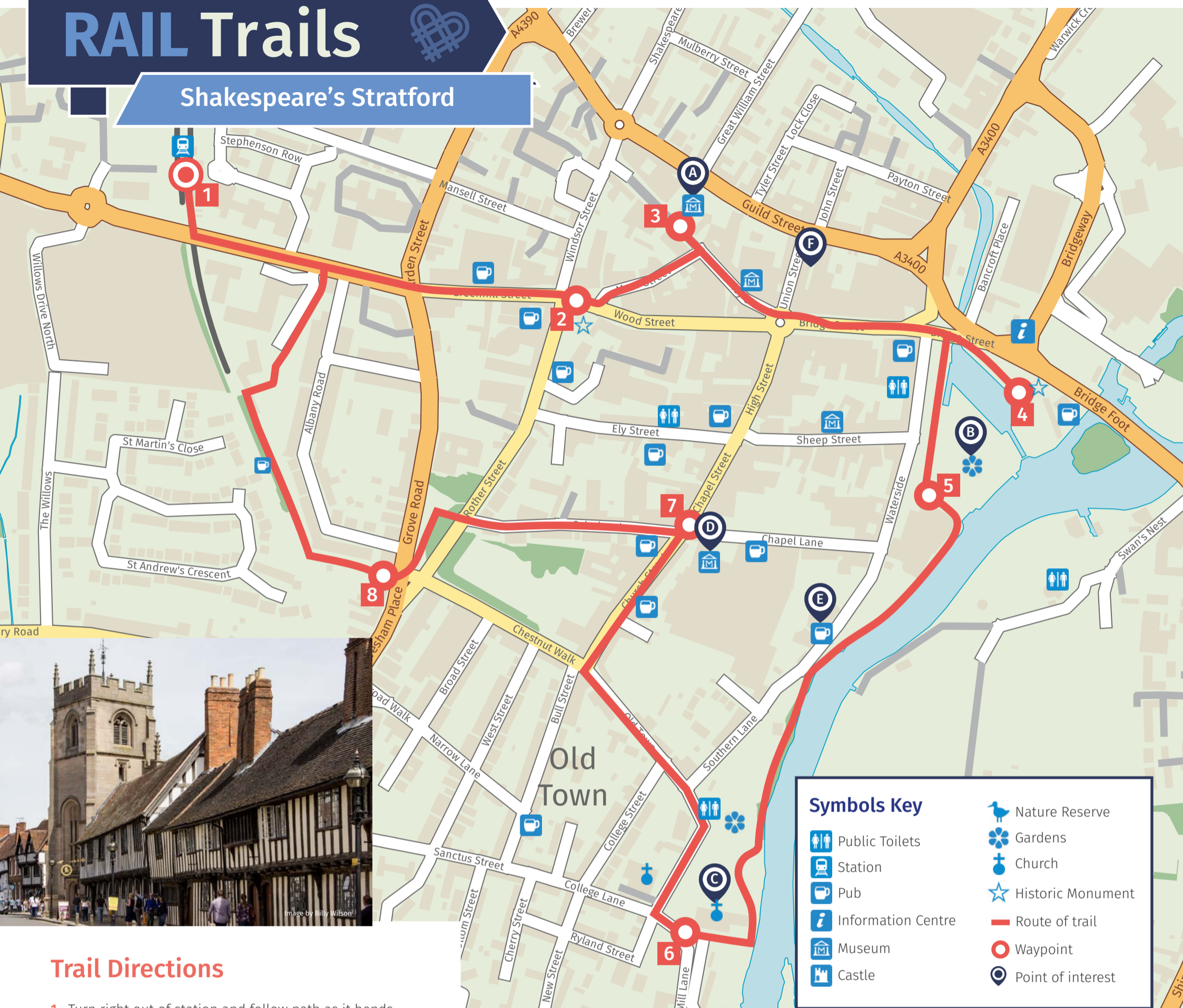
### F. Shakespaw Cat Cafe

Book in advance to spend 90 minutes enjoying scrummy food surrounded by beloved rescue moggies. Vintage china, eclectic decor, cocktails and crazy milkshakes provide a purrfect setting right in the heart of Stratford!

[www.shakespawcatcafe.com](http://www.shakespawcatcafe.com)

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## Shakespeare's Stratford



### Trail Directions

1. Turn right out of station and follow path as it bends left, parallel to road on right. Ahead to pedestrian crossing where cross side street (Brunel Way) and ahead on left-hand pavement of main road, passing Rother House Medical Centre on left. At next junction, bend left with pavement to pedestrian crossing, cross Arden Street, then on opposite side turn right and bend left with pavement onto Greenhill Street. Ahead to five way junction. Cross road at pedestrian crossing to The Old Thatch Tavern opposite, round corner then at next pedestrian crossing, cross road to the **Shakespeare Memorial Fountain**.
2. Follow the railings around the fountain, then where they end, cross Wood Street to NatWest Bank. Ahead past the bank, then turn right onto Meer Street. Follow to the end, where it joins Henley Street. Turn left, then in 50m look to your right to see **Shakespeare's Birthplace**.
3. From the Birthplace, retrace your steps to the junction then continue in the same direction to roundabout ahead. Turn left, cross Union Street to Lloyds Bank, ahead to pedestrian crossing and cross Bridge Street. On opposite side, turn left for 200m. Immediately after road crosses canal, turn right on path between bollards and follow around edge of canal basin to see the **Gower Memorial**.
4. Return to Bridge Street, turn left then immediately after re-crossing canal, turn left again. Ahead first across broad paved area, then on path, to see the **Swan Fountain** on your left, and beyond it **Bancroft Gardens**. Continue ahead on same path to reach **Royal Shakespeare Theatre**, and behind it **The Swan Theatre**.
5. Turn left in front of the theatre and follow the path around it to reach the **River Avon** on your left. Follow the riverside path for 600m into the churchyard, then turn right away from the river to see **Holy Trinity Church**.
6. Exit the churchyard onto Trinity Close, with the Methodist Church opposite. Turn right, then in 100m bend left with road. At junction, cross Southern Lane. In a further 100m see **Hall's Croft** on your right. Ahead 80m to junction and turn right onto Church Street. Ahead 100m to **Shakespeare's Schoolroom and Guildhall** on your right. Ahead to junction with **Guild Chapel** on corner. Cross side road to site of **Shakespeare's New Place** ahead, with **Nash's House** adjacent to it.
7. Cross main road, turn left to junction and turn right down Scholars Lane. In 250m, at junction, cross road to small park opposite. Turn left on path parallel to road. At end of park, path bears right with Chinese pavilion on left, to exit park. Cross road, turn left for 20m, then right on path with wall on left and hedge on right.
8. In 120m, turn right onto Summertown Way (cycle/footpath following route of old railway line). In 200m, turn right on path (just before the main path bends left at the end). Follow for 180m to emerge onto pavement, with hedge on left and three terraced houses on right. Turn left, cross cul-de-sac (Briar Croft), and in 50m, at pedestrian crossing, cross main road. On opposite side turn right, bend left with pavement, then immediately turn left on path back to station.

### Did you know?

In the 18th century a **William Gastrell** bought Shakespeare's old house on New Place but tired of visitors looking through the windows, he demolished it! The building has never been rebuilt, though the foundations are still there. The people of Stratford were so angry that they ran Gastrell out of town!

Want an online map?

Scan the QR code or visit [explore.osmaps.com](http://explore.osmaps.com)



Ready for another Trail?

Discover more at [www.heartcommunityrail.org.uk/railtrails](http://www.heartcommunityrail.org.uk/railtrails)

