

Welcome to Stratford-upon-Avon. This guide brings together some key information for you to look at before your visit to the Association of Woodturners of Great Britain (AWGB) Festival.

[Ken Morgan, aka The Stratford Artist](#) has kindly allowed us to use his colourful images to brighten up this guide. More about Ken later! His prints, calendars and other merchandise can be bought from his [Etsy Shop](#).

The Heart of England Woodturning Club, which is based in Stratford-upon-Avon has collated the information below to give you a brief overview of what awaits you at the AWGB Festival of Woodturning. The club meets on the second Friday of every month in Bearley Village Hall and is also supporting the AWGB Seminar.

Further information on Stratford-upon-Avon can be found at [Visit Stratford-upon-Avon](#) and [Shakespeares England](#) and click here for a map, [the Essential Guide to Stratford](#) or another [map of Stratford](#). Just keep in mind that some attractions may be seasonal, so please check opening times to avoid disappointment.

If you want to investigate accessibility in Stratford then please visit [Accessible Stratford-upon-Avon](#).



The three bridges of Stratford. ©Ken Morgan

Why is the town called Stratford-upon-Avon? Ken Morgan's fascinating artwork illustrates the timeline of the town from prehistoric days to the c21st. The Roman chariot following the road crossing the river over the hard stones gives us our name: "STRAET" (STREET) + "FORD" + (RIVER CROSSING) = STRATFORD.

HOTELS

Stratford is not short of hotels and new ones are on their way. Alternatives close to [The Crowne Plaza](#) are the [Macdonald Alveston Manor](#), [The Swans Nest](#), [The Arden Hotel](#) , [The Premier Inn Central](#) and [The Pen and Parchment](#) by Greene King Inns.

A short walk away and still in Stratford are [Hotel du Vin](#), [Hotel Indigo](#), [The White Swan](#), [The Stratford Town House](#) and a [Travelodge](#) .

There are also many B&Bs in Stratford on Shipston Road, Evesham Place, Grove Road and the Alcester Road.

Hotels with Spas include The Alveston, The Welcombe Hotel on the Warwick Road and The Wildmore Health Club, Alcester Road on the outskirts of Stratford.



The Shakespeare Hotel in Stratford which is presently being restored. ©Ken Morgan

RESTAURANTS

Sheep Street in town is known for its concentration of restaurants. [The Vintner](#), [The Opposition](#) and [Lambs](#) are all in close proximity to each other. There is [Wildwood](#) for pizza, pasta and grill and at the top of the street is [Loxley's](#). Turn left by The Town Hall along Chapel Street and you will see [The Giggling Squid](#) and further along you come to Hotel Indigo which houses [The Woodsman](#) which is known for meat and game.



The Town Hall at the end of Sheep Street. ©Ken Morgan

Turn up Ely Street or Scholars Lane and you will get to Rother Street where there is a [Bistro in Hotel du Vin](#) which has a pleasant outside dining area. Enjoy a pint of Hooky in the enclosed garden of [Hotel Indigo](#) which gives you shelter from the wind or sun. Carry on and you will get to the [Town House](#) on Church Street, where the bar often hosts live piano for drinkers and diners. A little further and you arrive at [Pick Thai](#) which is very friendly and relaxed.

In Bell Court you will find a variety of restaurants as well as the [Everyman Cinema](#). There is [Ask Italian](#), [Nandos](#), [All Bar One](#), [Miller and Carter](#) for steak, burgers at [Libertine](#), [Corte Campana](#) for pizza, [Beleza Rodizio](#) which is Brazilian meat on skewers and [YouMi](#) for Japanese and Korean cuisine.

Another Japanese venue can be found on Greenhill Street in the shape of [Yukikazu](#) with [Bodega 19](#) over the other side of the street for tapas. Turn left out of Bodega 19 and you get to [Greek at El Greco](#) and from here turn into Cooks Alley for [Sushi Land](#) and [The Planetarium vegan Café](#).

For fish and chips there is [The Chip Shed](#) on Bridge Street, eat in or take away with similar at [The Kingfisher](#) on Ely Street.

On the river there is [The Countess Bar and Restaurant](#) for a water-based experience.



The Opposition Restaurant on Sheep Street. ©Ken Morgan

COFFEE SHOPS

For independent coffee shops you have [The Tempest](#) or [Mor Bakery](#) (great pastries) in Bell Court, [Yorkes](#) on the High Street nearby or [Box Brownie](#) on Henley Street for locally roasted Monsoon Estates Coffee as well as [Mr Odie's](#) on Henley Street.

There is a [Gail's](#) on the High Street and [Pret a Manger](#) on Henley Street for informal breakfast and lunch food as well as [The Boston Tea Party](#) at the end of Henley Street.



The Boston Tea Party. ©Ken Morgan

PUBS

Enjoy the local [Hook Norton Brewery](#) beer at pubs in town or book a tour of the brewery out at Hook Norton where you end with a tasting session before you move into the onsite restaurant to eat. The Bear in the [Swans Nest Hotel](#) sells Hooky beer. The [Pen and Parchment](#) across the road from the Plaza sells Greene King beer and [The Old Thatched Tavern](#) on Town Square by The American Fountain, sells London Pride.



The Old Thatched Tavern on Town Square. ©Ken Morgan

Craft beers can be found at the two micro pubs at [Ya Bard](#) on the Town Square (123 Rother Street) and [The Stratford Alehouse](#) on Greenhill Street. [The Queens Head](#) and [The Keys](#) sit on Ely Street, [The Unicorn](#) on Union Street (their pizza is well known) and [The Encore](#) on the corner of Bridge Street and Waterside.

Walking along Waterside past the [RSC Theatre](#) you will come to [The Dirty Duck](#) on Southern Lane which is frequented by locals and actors from the RSC with a great selection of theatre related photos on the walls.

If you fancy a cocktail the restaurant bar in the RSC theatre has a great selection with afternoon tea and meals available with a fabulous view of the river which can be made more exciting with a trip up the RSC tower to survey Stratford and the surrounding area.



The RSC Swan Theatre. ©Ken Morgan

The story of the "5 tree pubs" in Stratford-upon-Avon refers to the names of several pubs that were once located near boundary trees marking the edge of the town. While not all pubs directly referenced a tree in their name, they were often associated with boundary markers that included trees, particularly elms. The most prominent example is [The One Elm](#) (good for a Sunday Roast), which was located near a boundary tree, cut down in 1847, at the junction of Arden Street and Birmingham Road. Other pubs, like [The Garrick Inn](#), may have had names or associations with trees or boundary markers, but the "5 tree pubs" story specifically highlights the significance of these boundary markers in the town's history and their connection to the pub names.



The Garrick Inn, reputedly the oldest pub in Stratford-upon-Avon. ©Ken Morgan

SHOPS

The list is long and varied with the shops congregated together in the centre of town. There are clothes shops (Gemini, Domino, Seasalt, Fatface, Whitestuff, The White company and Brook Taverner), jewellery (Pragnell, Howards and Knights on Wood Street), pharmacies (Boots and Superdrug), hardware (Robert Dyas), shoes, art galleries (Amber, Montpellier, Lambert, Castle, Clarendon, Air,

and Opal), perfume (Jo Malone), groceries (small Tesco, Marks and Spencer and Sainsbury on Bridge Street) and Shakespeare Distillery and Vin Neuf for wines and spirits. And don't forget the Antique Market on Ely Street and The Antiques Centre on Henley Street which includes a vinyl record store.

CRAFT ACTIVITIES IN STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

A number of renowned town based artists and crafts people have been alerted to the AWGB Festival and have agreed to be listed here so that festival attendees and their partners can make arrangements with them to attend workshops around the festival dates. If groups or individuals are interested in booking a workshop, please contact the artists direct and make sure that you mention your connection to the festival, as we would like to monitor how many visitors attend specific workshops. These artists have regular workshops and they are also open to discussing bespoke workshops, if you have a group of friends who want to arrange a joint activity:

- [Alix Almond](#) Art Linocut Printing Workshops
- [Selby Dickinson](#) Ceramics
- [Claire Henley](#) Artist
- [Sara Preisler](#) at The Stratford School of Jewellery
- [Ros Ingram](#) Ceramics
- [Clare Shilvock](#) Warwickshire Willow
- [Rebecca Small](#) Kete (basket) weaving with New Zealand flax
- [Jacqui Smithson](#) Mixed Media Artist

ACTIVITIES IN STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

Stratford sits on the River Avon so check out [Avon Boating](#) for boat trips on the river.

Visit the Royal Shakespeare Theatre and travel up the RSC tower for a great view of the River Avon, Stratford Town and the surrounding area. The RSC programme comes out in waves, so check [What's On](#) for the latest shows.

Close by the RSC is [The Stratford Butterfly Farm](#) and [Stratford Adventure Golf](#). The nearest golf courses are in town [The Stratford Golf Club](#), [The Welcombe Golf Resort and Spa](#), [The Stratford Park Golf Club](#) and [The Stratford Oaks Golf Club](#).



Anne Hathaway's Cottage. ©Ken Morgan

A good way to see Stratford and the Shakespeare related sites in Stratford is by taking the open-top, [double-decker hop-on hop-off bus](#), where you can take the full-route journey or hop off at any of the stops along the way to see key attractions. These include the [Royal Shakespeare Theatre](#), [Shakespeare's Birthplace and visitor centre](#), [New Place](#) (the site of his home), [Anne Hathaway's Cottage](#), [Mary Arden's farm](#) and [Holy Trinity Church](#) where Shakespeare is buried. Other churches in town include [St Gregory the Great Roman Catholic Church](#), [Stratford-upon-Avon Baptist Church](#), The [United Reform Church](#) and [The Stratford Methodist Church](#).



Holy Trinity Church. ©Ken Morgan

If you want to stroll around Stratford, there are many other activities including [Stratford Town and Ghost Walks](#), [Tudor World](#), [The Mad Museum](#) and [markets](#) throughout the week at different locations in town.

GETTING ABOUT

As mentioned there is the [Circular Bus](#) for getting about on a specific route and to visit the main Shakespeare sites.

There is car hire at [Enterprise](#) in the town and if you prefer a personalised pick up and tour try [Go Cotswolds Tours](#).

Uber operates in town along with [Prestige Chaffeurs](#) and [Othello](#), [Avon](#) and [007](#) Taxis.

PLACES TO VISIT IN THE SURROUNDING AREA

In the local area you can visit the infamous [Avro Vulcan Bomber B Mk.2 XM655](#) at Wellesbourne Airfield.

If you want a more spirited experience you can visit [The Shakespeare Distillery](#) at the shop in town or go for a tour of the distillery itself, which is just outside town. If you want to go further out to Burford, then visit the [Cotswold Distillery](#) and galleries in the town, which is very picturesque.



1 The High Street, home of the Shakespeare Distillery shop in town. ©Ken Morgan

If you are passionate about cars you should visit the [Heritage Motor Centre](#), near Gaydon, which has a large collection of motorcars and tells the history of UK car manufacture from the 1880s to the present day, as well as offering you a bumpy experience on the Land Rover Test track.

For the shopping enthusiast, a visit to [Bicester Village](#) is a must followed by browsing Oxford City centre, Birmingham or jumping on the train to London.

If you are a history buff you have a choice between [Warwick](#), [Kenilworth](#) and [Broughton Castle](#) or [Blenheim Palace](#) in Woodstock, the ancestral home of the Churchill family.

Stratford is part of the Cotswolds and all the villages in the area are worth a visit, to soak up the beautiful Cotswold stone buildings, heritage and history. If you love trees, then a trip to the nearby [Batsford Arboretum](#) is a must, but be aware, you will be stopped at the exit if you have any wood on you!

A short drive out of Stratford will take you to [Compton Verney](#) Art Gallery and park, which again, has a very desirable collection of trees.

And finally, if National Trust properties are your passion, then you have the local choices of [Charlecote Park](#), [Coughton Court](#), [Hidcote](#), [Upton House and Gardens](#), [Ragley Hall](#) or [Middleton Hall and Gardens](#).



Shakespeare's Birthplace by Ken Morgan whose 2027 calendar is available from his [Etsy Shop](#). ©Ken Morgan

Ken Morgan aka The Stratford Artist is a professional artist and illustrator working from his studio close to the River Avon in Stratford-upon-Avon. His favourite subjects are the historic buildings in his hometown of Stratford-upon-Avon. He works in ink and watercolour. Architectural accuracy is important but his style brings life to the pictures, often helped by the addition of humorous characters telling quirky stories.

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See more on Instagram [@thestratfordartist](https://www.instagram.com/thestratfordartist)

Commissions welcome. Use the QR code below to Visit Ken's Etsy Shop.

