

## **Shrewsbury for Groups - Useful Information**

**Shrewsbury, Shropshire's county town, is a great place for groups;** enjoy its glorious location, within a loop of meandering River Severn. Shrewsbury's most famous son, Charles Darwin would still recognise the black & white timber buildings of his home town, renowned to be one of England's most splendid, with over 600 listed buildings linked by ancient shuts or passageways. It's easy to find your way around (think street signs, finger posts and town maps) and there's even **free coach parking**.

Park up or alight the train and wander around the Darwin town trail and explore Shrewsbury's picturesque cobbled alleys and squares, with an exceptional number of interesting, independent shops. Around every corner is a great cafe, restaurant or pub.

### **Shrewsbury Shopping**

Shrewsbury is a haven for shopaholics. Within the narrow lanes and streets which extend beyond the main shopping street of Pride Hill you will find a range of quirky shops, from fashion boutiques and delicatessens, to gift shops and antique stores.

- The **Parade**, near St Mary's Church, has over 30 individual stores
- **Pride Hill Shopping Centre** and **Darwin Shopping Centre** house a range of high street name stores.

### **Guided Tours**

Guided Tours for Groups can be arranged at any time of year and tailored to suit your interests and itinerary. Your group can be of any size and a typical guided walking tour lasts about 90 minutes and includes the main sites and historic town centre. Shrewsbury has architecture, characters and stories from 11 centuries of history, so we can focus your tour on a particular historic period.

Themed tours are also available, including:

- **Darwin tours** (Darwin boat trips also available)
- **Ghost tours** (Ghost cruises also available April-October)
- **Medieval, Tudor, 18th century & Victorian tours**
- **Brother Cadfael tours**

Ellis Peters best-selling medieval detective novels were set in Shrewsbury and use real historic backdrops and events. A Brother Cadfael tour is a delightful mixture of fact and fiction.

- **General or themed talks can also be arranged at the hotel when your group is staying.**

**Shrewsbury Visitor Information Centre can arrange a guide and itinerary to suit your needs. Contact the friendly team on the details below to arrange your tour.**

## **SHREWSBURY VISITOR INFORMATION CENTRE**

Shrewsbury Museum & Art Gallery at Rowley's House, Barker Street, Shrewsbury, SY1 1QH

Tel: 01743 281200 Fax: 01743 281213

Email: [visitorinfo@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:visitorinfo@shropshire.gov.uk)

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

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## Floral Shrewsbury

Shrewsbury is known as the 'Town of Flowers', having won several floral awards and accolades. **The Quarry** alongside the River Severn, is the town's beautiful 29 acre park; at its heart lies the **Dingle**, a formal floral garden designed by the world famous gardener Percy Thrower. Beyond the town centre **Percy Thrower's Garden Centre** and **Dobbies** are ideal for green-fingered visitors.

40 minute **daily boat cruises**, with full commentary and river maps on board 'Sabrina', leave Victoria Quay near the Welsh Bridge on the hour (11 – 4 pm) and gently sail to the English Bridge and back.



## Historic Shrewsbury

Historic buildings in Shrewsbury include the castle, now the home of the **Shropshire Regimental Museum**, **Shrewsbury Abbey** and **Shrewsbury Museum & Art Gallery at Rowley's House**, which houses both permanent and temporary exhibitions. At **St Mary's Church** there are stunning stained glass windows within the medieval building.

## Cultural Shrewsbury

**Theatre Severn**, Shrewsbury's new state-of-the-art concert hall and performing arts venue, commands a stunning riverside location on Frankwell Quay. Attracting some of the country's biggest names it puts on both matinee and evening performances.

Shrewsbury hosts many **events** throughout the year. Highlights include **Shrewsbury International Cartoon Festival** every April and internationally acclaimed **Shrewsbury Flower Shower**, which takes place in the Quarry each August. Annually in May the **Shropshire County Show** is held on the show ground to the north of the town centre. Sporting events include **Shrewsbury Regatta** in May and the **Shropshire Olympian Festival** each June. The **Shrewsbury Summer Season** is an annual artistic and cultural festival which takes place from May to September.

## Nearby

On the outskirts of Shrewsbury are two of Shropshire's most well known attractions. **Attingham Park** is a Regency masterpiece set within a magnificent deer park, built for the 1<sup>st</sup> Lord Berwick in 1785 and now in the care of the National Trust. It also offers specialist interest tours for groups.

**Wroxeter Roman City** was once the fourth largest city in Roman Britain; today it is managed by English Heritage and you can see the new Roman villa and perhaps take tea at **The Wroxeter Hotel** afterwards, or sample wine tasting at **Wroxeter Roman Vineyard**. The Wroxeter Hotel has different group itineraries for you to choose from.



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## Food & Drink and Accommodation in Shrewsbury

Coach drivers may obtain free coffee/tea or food vouchers at the Indoor market buffet to the value of £3 (on production of ID).

Within the town centre there are over 30 restaurants and cafes plus numerous hotels and pubs and inns. Within a short drive of Shrewsbury there are also several hotels which can also accommodate and cater for groups. For a list of suitable properties please contact Shrewsbury Visitor Information Centre on the contact details below, or visit the website.

## How to get Here

### **By Road**

Shropshire connects to the M6 and motorway network via the M54. The A49, A5, A53, A458 all make Shropshire easily accessible.

### **By Rail**

Shrewsbury's Railway Station is located in the town centre, by the Castle, the shops and the historic buildings. There is an hourly train service from London Euston via Birmingham or Wolverhampton (less on Sundays) and good connections to other towns. Journey time from London is approximately three hours.



## Parking in Shrewsbury

Coach Parking is available at **Abbey Foregate** car park and at **Frankwell car park**. Parking for coaches is **free**; however, charges may apply during some events such as the Shrewsbury Flower Show.

**Abbey Foregate:** 12 coach parking spaces (SatNav Ref: SY2 6AE)

**Frankwell:** 5 coach parking spaces. It is situated next to Theatre Severn (SatNav Ref: SY3 8HQ)

## Passenger Set Down Points

In addition to the car parks, there are coach set down points in the town centre at the Bellstone which is opposite the indoor market (postcode SY1 1HU), just up from Barker Street Car Park and Shrewsbury Visitor Information Centre at Rowley's House Museum and Art Gallery.

There is also a set down point on St. Chad's Terrace opposite St. Chad's Church and outside the main entrance to The Quarry (the 29 acre riverside park). From this set down point visitors will have a 250m (approx.) downhill walk to the town centre shops.

## Toilets

There are several public conveniences throughout the town centre, including at Abbey Foregate and Frankwell car parks, in the Quarry and both Pride Hill and Darwin shopping centres.

See the downloadable map on [www.shrewsburyforgroups](http://www.shrewsburyforgroups) for parking, set down points and toilets.

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