



Discover Churches

Hidden Stories, Open Doors

In the Footsteps of Charles Darwin



- Join our guided 3-day bookable experience as an individual, couple or as part of a group.
- Explore the botanical links with some of Shropshire's finest churches, but also connect direct links with Charles Darwin.
- An ideal short break to celebrate the great work of Charles Darwin on the 140th anniversary year since his death taking place on 19th April 2022.

Stay for 2 nights at a Shrewsbury Hotel based on Bed & Breakfast. Evening meals will be arranged to include specialist talks of Charles Darwin and a celebration of his life and times in Shropshire.

A journey of discovery - His curiosity, natural inquisitiveness, and desire to understand his world made Charles Darwin the ideal candidate for his voyage of discovery on HMS Beagle.

It was from the Lion Hotel on Wyle Cop that Charles Darwin caught the coach south to meet The Beagle and begin his epic voyage.

On this five-year journey he collected specimens from animals, plants and fossils from four continents.

He would use the experience to develop the theory of evolution by natural selection and write The Origin of Species and change how the world would view man's evolution.

(Taken from the Little Book of Darwin Shrewsbury)

HCTG, c/o Leintwardine House, Leintwardine, Craven Arms, Shropshire, SY7 0LB

Resilient Heritage Lottery funded Project. Sustainable Tourism for Sustainable Churches.



Day one Arrive at Shrewsbury in your own time, free to explore and relax ready to for tomorrows guided walking tour.

Day Two Total walking distance 3 miles

9:30 Meet your guide at the and make your way to Shrewsbury Library and Charles Darwin statue.

In the 1800's Shrewsbury Library on Castle Gates was home to Shrewsbury School where Darwin studied before attending university. His headmaster Dr Butler revealed he had little hope of filling his pupil's head with Latin or Greek as Darwin had already started observing and recording the natural world around him.

11:00 Board the Sabrina Boat for a 45 min river tour with your guide

12:00 Free time for lunch along the Victoria Quay

13:00 Continue your walk over the Welsh Bridge, past Theatre Severn and head to St George of Cappadocia, situated close to Darwins Birthplace.

The Frankwell area was familiar to the Darwin family. Charles Darwin's sister, Caroline was married to Josiah Wedgwood III at St George's Church in the first wedding ceremony held in the building completed in 1832.

13:30 Head towards the River and visit Darwin's Childhood Garden.

The Mount built by his father Robert Darwin in 1798, Mount House was Darwin's family home and it was here in the gardens that his curiosity for the natural world flourished.

This fragment of the Darwin family garden was bought by Shropshire Wildlife Trust in 2013. While much of the formerly extensive grounds attached to The Mount, his birthplace and childhood home, have disappeared under housing, other parts survived in private gardens.

14:00 Walk through the Quarry park and the Dingle via the Port Hill Suspension Bridge

Darwin loved all things natural. As a boy he spent afternoons searching for creatures in the 30-acre Quarry Park and catching newts in the River Severn.

14:30 Visit St Chad's Church where Darwin was baptised in November 1809

15:30 Your last visit to the Unitarian Church via 13 Claremont Hill where Darwin went to school at the age of eight. It was run by the Rev William Casey, a Unitarian Minister.

The Unitarian Church on High Street is where Darwin worshipped with his mother until she died when he was aged eight. There is a commemorative plaque to Darwin inside the church and another plaque outside outlining the liberal outlook of the Unitarian movement which is thought to have helped Charles develop his open and enquiring mind.

A short walk back to the hotel to freshen up before our evening meal.

19:30 Evening meal at the hotel with your Guide to talk about the day and celebrate the Life and Times of Charles Darwin

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Day Three

Following Breakfast and Check out, head to Shropshire Wildlife Trust
Head over the English Bridge towards Shrewsbury Abbey and visit the Cut Garden Project – Wildlife Garden, which we are sure Charles Darwin would have approved!

Free time can be spent before heading home.

<http://www.discoverdarwin.co.uk/fun-and-games/darwins-shrewsbury-film/>

http://www.bbc.co.uk/shropshire/content/articles/2009/01/28/darwin_in_shrewsbury_with_stan_feature.shtml

<https://www.shropshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/nature-reserves/darwins-childhood-garden>

“The love of all living creatures is the most noble attribute of man.” Charles Darwin 1871

“A man who dares to waste one hour of time has not discovered the value of life.” Charles Darwin 1836

For further information contact Tony & Liz:

Churches Tourism Officers - Email: tourismofficer@visitherefordshirechurches.co.uk