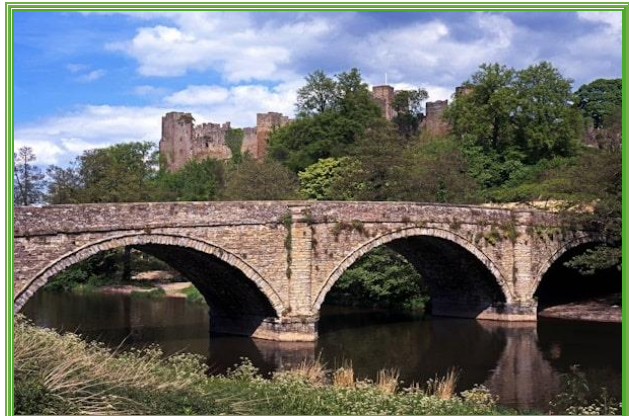




# Tour Information



# Castles, Abbeys and Battles of Shropshire





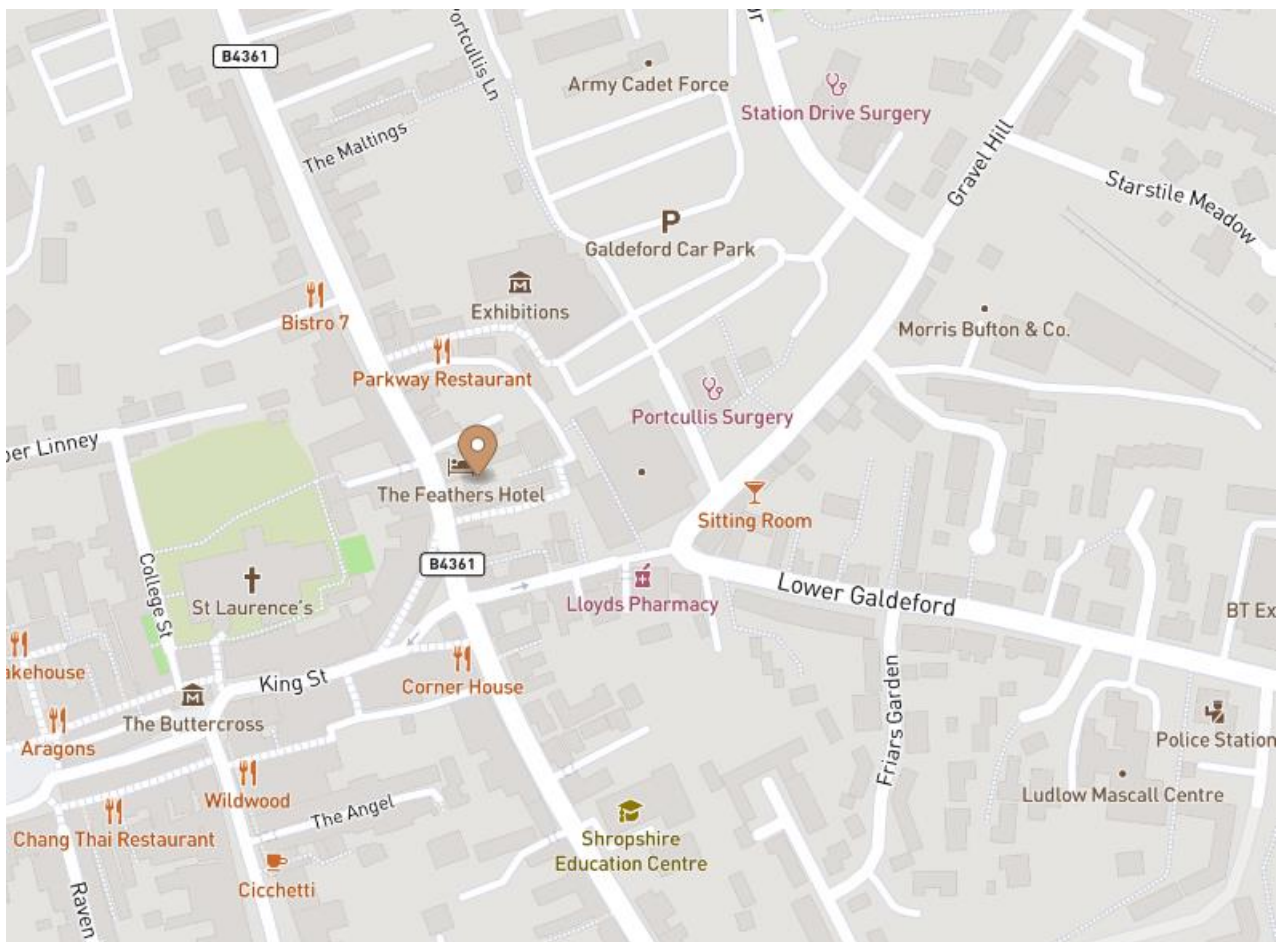
The tour starts and finishes at **The Feathers Hotel, Ludlow**

24-25 Bull Ring  
Ludlow  
SY8 1AA

Telephone: 01584 875261  
enquiries@feathersatludlow.co.uk

[The Feathers Hotel](#)

**Please note that transport to the hotel is not included in the price of the tour.**



## Transport

**Travelling by car:** The hotel is situated one mile from the A49.

**Travelling by rail:** The nearest station is Ludlow train station - a five-minute walk.



# Accommodation

## The Feathers Hotel, Ludlow

The Feathers Hotel is a Grade I listed building with its authentic half-timbered façade and considered landmark building in the heart of beautiful Ludlow. Recently renovated and refurbished facilities here include bar, lounge, restaurant and comfortable bedrooms with all modern amenities including en-suite bathroom, TV, telephone, wifi and tea/coffee making facilities.

Car parking: Parking is available at the Feathers Hotel private car park subject to availability and is chargeable at £7.50 per night, payable directly to the hotel. Alternatively, parking may be found on the surrounding streets and Ludlow's Galdeford Pay and Display car park which is approximately three minutes away.

For more information, additional details can be found on the website:

<https://www.feathersatludlow.co.uk>

## Check-in and departure from the hotel

On the day of arrival, you will be able to check-in at the hotel from 15.00, and the tour manager will meet you in the evening at the welcome reception.

On the last day of the tour, the tour will finish at approximately 17.30 so you should check with your tour manager, or the hotel reception, where luggage should be stored until your departure.

## Extra nights

If you have booked to stay an extra night at the hotel, this is on a bed and breakfast basis and check out from the hotel is at 11.00.

## Special requests

If you haven't already done so, please notify Travel Editions of any special requests as soon as possible to allow sufficient time to make the necessary arrangements.

## Dining

On the first night of your stay, a private dinner is provided with wine. During the second and third evening of the tour, dinner is provided at the hotel restaurant. Breakfast on each day of your stay is included in the price. All other meals other than these stated are not included.



## Places Visited

### Ludlow

Ludlow is a thriving medieval market town and an architectural gem. The historic town centre is situated on a cliff above the River Teme and is surrounded by the beautiful countryside of south Shropshire and the Welsh Marches – the England-Wales borderlands. We enjoy a guided walking tour of this ancient town with Julian and Elizabeth, including St Laurence's Church and Ludlow Castle

*Please note today is spent all on foot in Ludlow so may not be suitable for those with walking difficulties.*

For more information on Ludlow visit:

[Ludlow](#)

### Stokesay Castle

Stokesay Castle is one of the finest fortified manor houses in England. Standing in a peaceful Shropshire valley near the Welsh border, Stokesay has survived remarkably intact since a leading wool merchant, Laurence of Ludlow, built it in the late 13th century. His fortified manor house was both comfortable and impressive, designed as a statement of his wealth and power. Today, barely touched by the passage of years, the castle offers a unique insight into life in medieval England.

For more information on Stokesay Castle visit:

[Stokesay Castle](#)

### Clun Castle

Clun Castle sits high on a natural rocky mound in a loop of the river Clun, on the edge of the small, picturesque town of the same name. In stark contrast to the lavishness of Stokesay, just ruins and earthworks remain of this Welsh border castle. Founded shortly after the Norman Conquest to demonstrate the authority of the English monarchy over this part of the border region, the castle and the nearby settlement prospered in the 13th century thanks to the management of the Fitzalan family, but suffered a number of attacks from across the Welsh border. It was used as a hunting lodge in the 14th century, but was increasingly neglected, and by 1539 the castle was reported as ruinous but its colourful history will be brought to your life by your hosts.

For more information on Clun Castle visit:

[Clun Castle](#)

### Croft Castle

Croft Castle is more about comfort than defence. Situated on the English-Welsh border, Croft is a castellated 17th century manor house and home to the Croft family to this day. The manor house, grounds, gardens and St Michael and All Angels Church make this a fascinating and enjoyable place to visit.

For more information on Croft Castle visit:

[Croft Castle](#)

## Much Wenlock and Priory

Our visit to beautiful Much Wenlock and its 12<sup>th</sup> century priory includes a guided walk. The tranquil ruins of Wenlock Priory stand in a picturesque setting on the fringe of Much Wenlock. An Anglo-Saxon monastery was founded here in about 680 by King Merewalh of Mercia, whose abbess daughter Milburge was hailed as a saint. Her relics were miraculously re-discovered here in 1101, attracting both pilgrims and prosperity to the priory. Much Wenlock was also the home of Dr William Penny Brookes (1809-95), originator of the still-continuing Wenlock Olympian Games, a major inspiration for the modern International Olympics.

For more information on Much Wenlock Priory visit:

[Much Wenlock Priory](#)

## St Mary Magdalene

This large, dignified church stands in open countryside on the site of the ferocious Battle of Shrewsbury, which took place in 1403. Thousands of soldiers are thought to have died in the fray, and the church remains a quiet, some would say melancholic, memorial to the 1,600 people who were said to have been buried there. A statue of Henry IV, who defeated Henry Hotspur Percy in the battle, stands on the outside east wall. On the roof beams inside are representations of the shields of the knights who fought with Henry IV. A service is still held each year in July to commemorate the anniversary of the battle.

For more information on St Mary Magdalene visit:

[St Mary Magdalene](#)

## Battlefield

Today Battlefield 1403 is an exhibition and bustling farm shop but over 600 years ago this was the site of one the bloodiest battles fought on British soil. The visitor centre highlights how the battle, fought between Henry IV and the rebellious Percy family, laid the foundations of the War of the Roses and honed the young Prince Henry's skills, which would later lead him to victory over the French army at the Battle of Agincourt.

For more information on Battlefield visit:

[Battlefield](#)

## Haughmond Abbey

Over the course of the 12th century, a small religious community at Haughmond was transformed into a great Augustinian monastery, where a community of canons lived with their servants. These priest-monks lived apart from ordinary society, but they also gave food and shelter to the sick and poor, and supported a local nunnery. Wealthy benefactors helped Haughmond become one of the finest medieval abbeys in Shropshire. After the abbey's closure in 1539, parts of its buildings were converted into a Tudor mansion, and later the ruined monastery became a feature of the landscape garden of nearby Sundorne House.

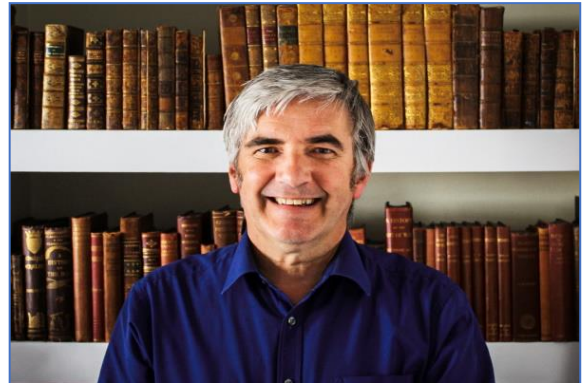
For more information on Haughmond visit:

[Haughmond Abbey](#)

# Your Speakers

## Julian Humphrys

Julian read history at Emmanuel College, Cambridge, has worked at historical sites both in Britain and overseas and is now a trustee of the Battlefields Trust and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts. He has a very infectious enthusiasm for history and has published numerous books on castles and battles. He currently leads more than a dozen tours for Travel Editions and imparts his extraordinary historical knowledge with wit and panache, making a tour led by him both an educational and entertaining experience.



Julian will deliver a talk: ***"The Welsh Marches"***.

## Dr Elizabeth Norton

Elizabeth is a London-based historian specialising in the queens of England and the Tudor period. She has a double first-class degree from the University of Cambridge, a Masters degree from the University of Oxford and a PhD from King's College London. She has taught History at King's College London.

Elizabeth's most recent books are the critically acclaimed 'The Lives of Tudor Women' and 'The Temptation of Elizabeth Tudor'. She is also the author of a biography of Margaret Beaufort and four of Henry VIII's wives, amongst other titles. She regularly writes for magazines, including BBC History magazine, All About History, History Revealed and Who Do You Think You Are? magazine.

Elizabeth frequently appears on television, including Danny Dyer's Right Royal Family, Digging up Britain's Past and Secrets of Great British Castles.



Elizabeth will deliver a talk: ***"Shropshire Life through the Wars of the Roses and the Reformation"***.



## Practical Information

**Tour manager** - Your tour manager will be on hand throughout the tour to ensure that everything operates according to plan. If you have any problems or questions, please see him or her immediately – it is often possible to resolve complaints or problems very quickly on the spot and do everything to help you enjoy your holiday.

**Tipping** – To keep our tours affordable, we do not increase the tour price by adding in tips. However, in the tourism industry, there is a certain level of expectation that when receiving a good service, one does award with a tip. Tour Managers, Representatives, Guides and Drivers appreciate a tip at the end of their involvement with the tour, but this is entirely at your discretion. We believe in allowing you to tip according to your level of satisfaction with their services, but for your guidance about £2-3 per person per day for the tour manager is the norm. We would like to reiterate that tipping is an entirely optional payment, and this information is given purely to answer any questions you may have about it.

**Walking Content** – This tour has been graded as **Moderate**: Walking between sites, lots of standing for viewing.



## Insurance

Although this is a UK holiday, please note that, should you cancel your holiday, the amount paid is non-refundable. For this reason, you may wish to take out insurance just in case an unforeseen event caused you to have to cancel the tour. As well as covering cancellations, your travel insurance will also cover your baggage and personal belongings in case they are lost or stolen.



## Emergencies

**Should an emergency arise, please call our offices on:**

020 7251 0045

Outside office hours (Mon-Fri 09.00-1700), telephone our emergency staff on:

07841 023807 or 07831 133079

**PLEASE USE THESE NUMBERS ONLY IN THE EVENT OF A GENUINE EMERGENCY**

### Travel Editions

3 Young's Buildings, London EC1V 9DB

Tel: 020 7251 0045

Email: [tours@traveleditions.co.uk](mailto:tours@traveleditions.co.uk) [www.traveleditions.co.uk](http://www.traveleditions.co.uk)

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