

SHROPSHIRE

This idyllic English county on the Welsh borders has some of the country's most beautiful landscapes, towns and villages.



Shropshire is a rural gem, but it was also the birthplace of the industrial revolution and history lovers must make a trip to Coalbrookdale in the Ironbridge Gorge with its elegant eponymous bridge, the first ever built in the world. Sports lovers should visit the nearby town of Much Wenlock, pretty as it undoubtedly is, it was also the site of the first attempt in 1850 to revive the Olympic games.

The county has a number of delightful towns including Ludlow, which is regarded

as a foodie paradise with great restaurants, which together with its very attractive high street containing many historic buildings, has one of the country's most impressive castles. Bridgnorth, the first stop on the Severn Valley Railway which kids of all ages will love, has a high and low town connected by a funicular railway which makes for a great day out.

The Shropshire Hills have been designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and Bishops Castle is a lively market town

which provides a great base to explore the stunning countryside with the added bonus of claiming the oldest working brewery in the country. Church Stretton, at the heart of this beautiful landscape, has a Norman church and buildings dating back to Tudor times with shops, bars and restaurants featuring the high-quality local produce.

Photos: *Top left* – Shropshire Hills *Middle left* – Clun Castle *Bottom left* – Ironbridge Gorge
Right – Bridgnorth and the River Sever