



LITERARY, FILM & TV ITINERARY

Follow in the footsteps of England’s greatest storytellers on this five-day Literary, Film & TV journey. Travel by car or train through the iconic cities of York, Cambridge, Oxford, Stratford-upon-Avon, and Bath, where historic streets, famed authors, and unforgettable film and TV locations bring beloved stories to life.

Day 1 - York

York’s rich heritage, from medieval churches to stately homes, has made it a favourite for filmmakers and storytellers, with highlights like the 15th-century Holy Trinity Church, featured in the BBC’s Gentleman Jack.

Step aboard **City Cruises York**, which served as a filming location in Netflix’s series Bodies. The boats and the city’s riverside scenery became integral to the drama, and can enjoy the same views on a cruise along the River Ouse.

Or travel out of the city to the magnificent **Castle Howard**, whose opulent halls and sweeping grounds have graced both the big and small screen. From Sophia Loren’s Lady L to Stanley Kubrick’s Barry Lyndon. It famously became Brideshead in Brideshead Revisited, and appeared in the BBC’s Death Comes to Pemberley, ITV’s Victoria, and even the Arctic Monkeys’ Four out of Five music video.

Castle Howard offers elegant holiday cottages and holiday homes. Or overnight in the city centre at **The Grand, Elmbank, Malmaison or Hotel Du Vin York**

- Travel from York → Cambridge (248 km)
- By Train: 2h 8m (LNER / Cross Country Rail)
 - By Car: 2h 47m



Day 2 - Cambridge

With its spires, courtyards, and riverbanks, Cambridge’s historic grandeur has inspired writers and filmmakers alike, from E.M. Forster to The Theory of Everything.

Begin your day with a **Cantab Guided Walking Tour** covering the historic city centre and some of the most recognisable sights from Film and TV - specific Literature themed tours can be booked with them. Longer tours can include entry to some of the University of Cambridge’s most iconic colleges. For example, **King’s College Chapel’s** soaring fan vaults have graced films such as The Theory of Everything, **Trinity College** was where Lord Byron, A.A Milne and Isaac Newton studied and **St John’s College**, has been a favourite filming spot for period dramas. These iconic settings alongside many of the historic streets have appeared in everything from BBC documentaries to adaptations celebrating Britain’s academic traditions.

Wander through the **Cambridge University Botanic Garden**, where E.M. Forster, author of The Longest Journey, once strolled for inspiration.

In the afternoon, experience the city – on the River Cam. The **Cambridge Rowing Experience** allows visitors to relive the Boat Race rivalry made famous in countless books and dramatizations. Or join **Scudamore’s Punting** for the city’s most quintessential experience: drifting under historic bridges and past manicured college lawns. The gentle pace and timeless scenery have made these waterways a natural stand-in for period settings in film and television.

Overnight at a city centre hotel such as **Graduate Cambridge by Hilton, Ibis Cambridge, University Arms, or The Regent Aparthotel.**

- Travel from Cambridge → Oxford (141 km)
- By Train: 2h 20m (Thames Link / TFL / GWR)
 - By Car: 2h 10m

Day 3 - Oxford

Journey to Oxford and discover all the iconic places that have inspired your favourite films, TV series and books. Start your day with an Oxford On Screen Walking Tour by award-winning **Oxford Official Walking Tours** and see the city’s most famous filming locations, or pre-book a private literary tour to hear about inspiring authors including C.S. Lewis, J.R.R. Tolkien, and Philip Pullman. Alternatively, join a **City Sightseeing Oxford** open-top bus tour, with commentary in 14 languages and 20 stops across the city.

Visit the **Bodleian Libraries**, the largest academic library system in the UK and a must-see cultural destination in the heart of Oxford voted the number two UK attraction by TripAdvisor users, with the Divinity School and Duke Humfrey’s Library appearing in screen productions including Harry Potter.

For lunch, book a table nearby at Treadwell in **The Store**, Oxford’s new luxury hotel. In the afternoon, don’t miss the stunning **Christ Church, Oxford**, one of Oxford University’s largest colleges and a filming location for Harry Potter, X Men: First Class and Inspector Morse, Lewis and Endeavour. Time allowing, head to **Blenheim Palace**, just 30-minutes from Oxford, which has played a starring role in The Diplomat, Bridgerton, BFG, Spectre, Gulliver’s Travels and many more.

Overnight in the city centre at **The Store**, or travel further afield to **Leonardo Royal Hotel**, **The Feathers Hotel**, **Heythrop Park** or **The Bear Hotel** near Blenheim Palace.

- Travel from Oxford → Stratford-upon-Avon (92 km)
- By Train: 1h 34m (Cross Country / Chiltern Railways)
 - By Car: 1h 5m

Day 4 - Stratford-upon-Avon

Stratford-upon-Avon is the birthplace of William Shakespeare, and a town known for its history and performance with its streets and stages steeped in centuries of storytelling that have inspired stage, film, and TV for years.

Discover the roots of the world’s greatest playwright and step into the very room where Shakespeare was educated at **Shakespeare’s Schoolroom & Guildhall**, a setting so perfectly preserved it could be a film set. Continue your literary journey with the **Shakespeare Family Homes**: stand inside the humble timbered rooms of **Shakespeare’s Birthplace** and wander the fragrant gardens of **Anne Hathaway’s Cottage**, an idyll often depicted on screen for its timeless English charm.

Head to the **Royal Shakespeare Company** and stop for lunch in their Rooftop Restaurant. Spend the afternoon with the **Royal Shakespeare Company**, whose productions have shaped stage and screen adaptations around the globe. Take your seat for a matinee performance, or step behind the scenes on an exclusive tour or take a trip up the theatre tower, which boasts panoramic views of the city, you’ll be following in the footsteps of actors whose careers have spanned the West End, Hollywood, and acclaimed TV dramas.

Overnight at **Arden Hotel** or for a more romantic rural retreat, escape to **Studley Castle** — a stunning Victorian manor with over 180 years of history and more than 200 rooms.

- Travel from Stratford-upon-Avon → Bath (140 km)
- By Train: 3h 14m (West Midlands / Chiltern / CrossCountry / GWR)
 - By Car: 1h 50m

Day 5 - Bath

Bath’s rich literary heritage and elegant Georgian streets have inspired great authors and lured filmmakers alike. Hollywood productions such as *Les Misérables*, *Wonka*, *The Duchess*, and *Vanity Fair* have captured its beauty, while Netflix hits *Bridgerton*, *Rebecca*, and *Robin* have brought the city’s architectural splendour to global audiences.

Begin your morning at **The Jane Austen Centre**, where Regency fashion, food, and society set the scene for the novels Austen penned during her time in Bath. Don’t miss **The Jane Austen Festival** (Sept), with its famous Regency Costumed Promenade filling the streets. Just a few doors away, **Mary Shelley’s House of Frankenstein** reveals the life of the Frankenstein author and her dark creation through immersive exhibitions and escape rooms.

Pause for a refined afternoon tea at **The Pump Room**, adjoining the historic Roman Baths and once the beating heart of Georgian high society. In the afternoon, step into Bath’s cinematic world with a *Bridgerton* tour from **Fred Mawer**, **City of Bath Guides**, or **Bath Adventures’ Bridgerton Sights & Music Tour**, complete with behind-the-scenes stories. Key stops include No. 1 Royal Crescent (the Featherington home) and **The Holburne Museum** (Lady Danbury’s mansion). Inside the Holburne, explore Sir William Holburne’s fine art collection alongside contemporary exhibitions.

Overnight at one of Bath’s welcoming city-centre hotels – **Abbey Hotel**, **Brooks Guesthouse**, **Dukes Hotel**, **Francis Hotel**, **Hampton by Hilton**, **Macdonald Bath Spa**, **The Bath Priory**, **The Queensbury** or **YMCA Bath**.

For additional cities with literary, film/tv themed links, consider including Canterbury home of Chaucer’s *Canterbury Tales*; Chester the city that inspired Victorian novelist Charles Kingsley; Durham well known for the *Harry Potter* filming and *Downton Abbey* movies; Lancaster for *Peaky Blinders* and Salisbury for Jane’s Austen’s *Sense & Sensibility* filming at Mompesson House and of course Stonehenge, which has featured in many pre-historic tales for film and TV productions.

