



Fall in love with Shakespeare in the enchanting hamlet that makes up Staunton. Located in the heart of the Shenandoah Valley this small town is abundant with English charm. Enjoy an elegantly “English” experience, right here in Virginia!

AN ELEGANTLY ENGLISH EXPERIENCE

Start your day at the [Blackfriars Playhouse](#). The world’s only re-creation of Shakespeare’s first indoor theatre is the centerpiece of Staunton’s downtown. Take a tour of the playhouse and get a behind-the-scenes look as you go on-stage, behind the stage and even under the stage! Blending lecture and performance in an educational and entertaining way, tour guides tell the story of England’s first indoor theatre and describe how the staging conditions of 16th and 17th century London shaped the works of Shakespeare and his fellow playwrights.



*Insider’s Tip: Tours of the Blackfriars Playhouse run:
April 1-October 31: Monday-Friday at 11 am and 2 pm and Saturdays at 11 am
November 1-March 31: Monday-Friday at 2 pm and Saturdays at 11 am*

After rehearsing your favorite scenes on stage—performing and photography is highly encouraged—head on over to [Anne Hathaway Cottage Tea Room](#). This delightful tea room is housed in a traditional Tudor complete with thatched roof. Enjoy a beautiful spread of homemade tea sandwiches, shortbread, and scones all served with clotted cream and of course tea—imported from England and served in fine china. The pleasant proprietors offer insights into the history of high tea and be sure to peruse their collection of fine china and tea accessories available for purchase.



Insider’s Tip: Reservations at Anne Hathaway Cottage Tea Room are highly recommended and fill up quickly.

Take to the streets checking out the many antique stores, art galleries and unique shops scattered throughout town. Check into your hotel before heading downtown for dinner. After dessert, make your way over to the playhouse where you can take in an award-winning performance. [The American Shakespeare Center](#) recently announced their 2017-18 season which includes Shakespearean staples like *Much Ado About Nothing* and *Hamlet* as well as the Tony Award-winning *Peter and the Starcatcher*, a world-premiere adaptation of Jane Austen’s *Sense and Sensibility* and other exciting works.

