

**Package Title/Theme: All the World's a Stage!**

**Location: Stratford, Ontario, Canada**

**Description/Best Time to go: May to October**

**Sample Itinerary:**

**9:30 am ~ Begin with a Backstage Festival Theatre tour. Look behind the scenes to visit Props, Wardrobe, Wigs and Makeup departments. This glimpse at one of the largest classical theatre companies in the world will open your eyes for future stage productions.**

**11:00 am ~ Prologues: Attend a lecture about the plays you will see with Jack Scoffield at the Kiwanis Centre. Learn what to watch for and be in the know.**

**12 Noon ~ Lunch on your own in downtown Stratford.**

**1:30 pm ~ Transfer to the Stratford Shakespeare Festival. Enjoy a matinee on one of four stages in Stratford.**

**5:00 pm ~ Stroll through Art in the Park, a juried outdoor art exhibition and sale. Or wander among the blooms in the Arthur Meighen Gardens on the Festival grounds, showcasing perennial, Elizabethan and carpet style gardens.**

**5:45 pm ~ Dinner at one of Stratford's fine restaurants.**

**7:30 pm ~ Browse the Theatre Store, a treasure of imaginative gifts, books and theatre memorabilia before your evening theatre performance.**

**11:00 pm ~ Join members of the theatre company for an informal question and answer post performance discussion.**

**Return to your hotel for a restful night!**

**Package Title/Theme: Applaud the Arts**

**Location: Stratford, Ontario, Canada**

**Description/Best Time to go: May to October**

**Sample Itinerary:**

**9:00 am Costume Warehouse Tour! One of the three largest costume warehouses in the world has a new home in Stratford! With over 50,000 costume pieces, including 1,000 pairs of boots and shoes, your imagination can take you anywhere. Bring your camera to capture the moment when you are ready for the stage!**

**11:00 am Gallery Stratford - Explore exceptional exhibitions at this regional art gallery nestled between two parks. Grant MacDonald Theatre portraits and archival photographs of Stratford will be the feature exhibitions in 2006. The gift shop features Canadian arts, crafts and books.**

**12 Noon Time for lunch! Order a picnic to enjoy in Upper Queen's Park. Take some time to stroll through Art in the Park, an outdoor art show and sale along the Avon River.**

**1:30 pm Transfer to the Private Studio trail where your group can visit 3 studios or pick 2 stops and divide the group so they can learn more about each artist. The Artist's Studio is where Gerard Brender à Brandis creates intricate woodcuts and hand prints them with an 1882 Albion press. Next stop a mixed media studio featuring oil, acrylic and watercolors. Complete your visits at the Train Station where beautiful clay tiles and accessories are created.**

**4:00 pm Visit The Quilt: A Breast Cancer Support Project at 55 Downie Street across from City Hall. Over 150 quilts are on display and open for bidding. Amazing creations and heartfelt stories accompany each quilt. (Ask about traveling quilt exhibitions across Canada.)**

**5:30 pm Dinner is ready at one of Stratford's great restaurants.**

**7:30 pm Transfer to the Stratford Festival for a theatre performance.**

**10:45 pm Depart for home, or a restful night at your hotel with happy memories.**

**Package Title/Theme: Beauty and Blooms**

**Location: Stratford to Goderich on Lake Huron's Shores, Ontario, Canada**

**Description/Best Time to go: Mid- June to mid-September**

**Sample Itinerary:**

**9:30 am Shakespearean Garden Tour: Your guide will lead you under a double stone arch bridge to the gardens. Learn what makes a garden Shakespearean and take away a list of floral references in Shakespeare's plays. Wander along the paths and take in the splendour.**

**11:00 am Cozyn's Garden Gallery: Stroll through the display gardens before exploring the gift shop and green houses for seasonal décor items, plants and accessories.**

**11:45 am Lunch: Enjoy lunch in Stratford before heading off to Goderich (50 minutes).**

**1:15 pm Depart for Goderich, the 'prettiest town in Canada' overlooking the wind-worn shores of Lake Huron.**

**2:15 pm At the Visitors' Information Centre, meet your guide who will lead you to two private gardens featuring arbours, water gardens and iris gardens. (garden selections may change)**

**3:15 pm Time for a refreshment stop. Enjoy a drive along Ontario's West Coast overlooking Lake Huron. Then head on to the final garden featuring several garden rooms on a two acre property. The most recent addition is the Woodland Garden.**

**5:00 pm Even though you want to linger, it's time to go for dinner.**

**6:30 pm Depart for Stratford to take in a theatre performance - comedy, tragedy, musical or drama. You make the choice and enjoy the show!**

**Package Title/Theme: Black Hats and Red Walls**

**Location: Stratford, Milverton and Millbank, Ontario, Canada**

**Description/Best Time to go: April to October**

**Sample Itinerary:**

**9:30 am Meet your guide for the day in Stratford. Travel north to Millbank where there is a large settlement of Mennonites.**

**10:00 am First stop is the Mennonite Information Centre: Discover why some Amish and Mennonites still drive horse and buggies, use distinctive style of clothes and worship in their homes. A forty minute video presentation, followed by a question and answer period with a Mennonite pastor, will introduce you to the world of the "Simple People" in Perth County.**

**11:30 am It is time for lunch at Anna Mae's Bakery and Restaurant. Traditional country meals await you along with a wide selection of fresh baked pies and breads.**

**1:00 pm Travel to Quilts Galore. Here you will be welcomed into a Mennonite home and see first hand how a Mennonite family lives. View a selection of home made quilts and supplies for sale. Learn about this cherished tradition and how it has been passed through the generations. Watch for the miniature horses as you drive in the laneway.**

**2:30 pm Travel to the Harness Maker's Shop in Milverton where you will see how a Mennonite family makes harnesses and has developed a business with clients around the world.**

**4:00 pm Travel to Stratford to return your guide.**

**4:30 pm Depart Stratford with a better understanding of a people who live and work differently from others around them.**

**(An hour of shopping in Stratford's downtown or a visit to The Quilt: A Breast Cancer Support Project may be added.)**

**Package Title/Theme: Fresh, Preserved and Fermented**

**Location: Stratford, St. Marys, Shakespeare and Woodstock, Ontario, Canada**

**Description/Best Time to go: April through October**

**Sample Itinerary: How do you like your fruit? Farm fresh, preserved or fermented as wine?**

**9:30 am McCully's Hill Farm: Meet your guide for the day in Stratford who will take you to this interesting farm that has been in the family for several generations. Tour the farm on a horse-drawn wagon. Visit the farm market for local maple products, fruits, vegetables and naturally raised meats. Sample some products before you leave.**

**11:30 am Lunch at the St. Marys Golf and County Club will provide a beautiful view of the Thames River.**

**1:00 pm Travel to Shakespeare's Best Little Pork Shoppe where you can shop for animal curios and delicious food products. Ask to meet the fainting goats!**

**2:30 pm Travel south to Birch Farms and Estate Winery. Only a 30 minute drive from Stratford, you will sample various fruit wines, tour the facility and shop the farm market. In the fall there are wagon rides into the orchard.**

**4:00 pm You can end the tour here and call it a day!**

**5:00 pm Or head back to Stratford for dinner and a theatre performance.**

**Package Title/Theme: Step On, Try On Tour**

**Location: Stratford, Ontario, Canada**

**Description/Best Time to go: May to October**

**Sample Itinerary:**

**9:00 am Step-on Guided Tour of Stratford - A knowledgeable guide will introduce you to Stratford on a 90 minute tour. Explore residential areas, historical sites, parkland, theatres and the Victorian city centre. There are two garden stops - Shakespearean Gardens and Confederation Park.**

**10:45 am Costume Warehouse Tour - Tour one of the three largest costume warehouses in the world with over 50,000 costume pieces, including 1,000 pairs of boots and shoes. Over 400 costume-rental requests across North America are handled annually. At the end of the tour, take a moment to feel like an actor when you try on a costume. Don't forget your camera to hold the memory forever.**

**12 Noon After all that acting you are ready for lunch in Stratford's Victorian city centre. Lots of restaurants close by allow you to be on your own or organize lunch for the group.**

**1:30 pm Transfer to one of four theatres that make up the Stratford Festival. Ranked among the three great theatres of the English-speaking world, you are in for a real treat. Enjoy the performance and have a safe drive home.**