

Nestling in the majestic folds of the Long Mynd and Stretton Hills.

Church Stretton is a picturesque market town where you can stroll through history, enjoying authentic independent shops and wholesome locally produced food and drink, amidst some of the finest scenery in England. Many walks start from Church Stretton, including the 'Walkers are Welcome' series of waymarked walks which guide you onto the Long Mynd and into the Stretton Hills. Available from the Visitor Information Centre and local shops.



Explore the town at your leisure

A time line along the outer wall of the Stretton Antique Centre charts the town from pre-history to the present day, and many of the buildings have plaques detailing their history. The town was granted its first market charter by King John in 1214 and the Edwardian frontages in Sandford Avenue date from the town's expansion in the early 20th Century.

GETTING THERE

You can find public transport options throughout Shropshire through the Travel Shropshire website - www.travelshropshire.co.uk. Or contact Traveline on 08712 002233.

BY TRAIN: Church Stretton is a stop on the Cardiff to Manchester train service. It is also a stop on the Heart of Wales, one of the most scenic lines in Britain, www.heart-of-wales.co.uk.

BY BUS: 435 Shrewsbury to Ludlow service, Mon – Sat. The Shropshire Link is a book ahead bus service and may be able to help from the surrounding rural areas. Call 0300 678 9068 for further details and ask for the 'Beaumont Road' stop.

BY CAR: Pay & display car parking is on Easthope Road, SY6 6BX and Lutwyche Road, SY6 6AT (public toilets at both).

BY COACH: The Coach drop off point is on Beaumont Road. There is a pay and display coach park on the A49 side of the railway station.

Design: www.thinkgraphic.co.uk Illustrations by Alan Duncan www.asduncanillustration.co.uk



Walking with Offa Promoting the Welsh English border as a great place to get your boots on, enjoy the beautiful countryside and indulge in some fabulous food and drink.

For more details contact the Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Partnership on **01588 674080** or see www.shropshirehillsaonb.co.uk



A series of twelve Walking with Offa waymarked pub walks guides and the four Days Out in the Shropshire Hills are downloadable from www.shropshirewalking.co.uk/walking-with-offa



This project has been supported by Advantage West Midlands' Natural Assets Programme in partnership with Natural England.



Walking with Offa DAYS OUT



in and around CHURCH STRETTON

Enjoy a tour around this Edwardian market town, through Rectory Wood to Carding Mill Valley. Allow two hours for the walk and plenty of time to explore.



The Welsh English Border – where King Offa met his match!

in the Shropshire Hills



CIRCULAR WALK through Rectory Woods to Carding Mill Valley. Start at St Laurence's Church

From the Market Square head up the narrow Churchway, with the church on your left. Cross the road and go through the gates into Rectory Field. Follow the clearly trodden path across the field, up steps and through the kissing gate on the right into Rectory Wood. Take the marked lower track and follow it round slightly left to the bridge by a yew-ringed pool. Cross the bridge (the information board gives historical details) and take the path left, round the pool, past a gothic folly (later converted to a pump house). Follow this lower path, then bear right up through a gate. Follow the stony track and soon it bends sharply and steeply to the right. Follow this path to the tarmac Burway Road, go straight across down the stony track into Carding Mill Valley and head to the National Trust Information Point, gift shop and tearooms.

From the tearooms you may wish to continue up the valley road to the top car park. Here you will find an information board showing various walks including the short stroll to New Pool Hollow and the reservoir.

Retrace your steps from the tearooms, bearing right off the valley road, up the track and re-crossing the Burway Road, turn left at the top pool to reach the gate into Rectory Wood. Here you may return to Church Stretton via the easy path on which you came, through Rectory Wood and Field. Or, bear right and take the footbridge and steps. At the end of the handrail follow the waymarked path to the right and up through the woods and through a kissing gate. Follow the grassy track down and straight on to a gate, leading to Rectory Wood car park. Head through the gate to visit the Longmynd Hotel and Allen Coppice Woodland Walks and Sculpture Trail.

To return to town (from the gate at Rectory Wood car park) take the wide grassy track down the field to exit (as you entered) on to Church Street.

St Laurence's Church

A church has stood on this site since Saxon times (look out for the rare carved fertility symbol, a 'sheela na gig', on the outer wall). The church and The Bucks Head (in the High Street) were the only buildings to survive the Great Fire of 1593.



Rectory Wood

Landscaped in the 18th Century by the local Rector, supposedly influenced by his friend Lancelot 'Capability' Brown, the famous British landscape architect.



Carding Mill Valley

Owned by the National Trust, this is one of the Long Mynd's most spectacular (and popular) valleys. The history of the valley is explained in the Chalet Pavilion tearoom (moved from Switzerland in the early 1920s). www.nationaltrust.org.uk, 01694 723068

The Shropshire Hills

The Long Mynd and Church Stretton are part of the Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), designated in 1958 as one of Britain's finest landscapes, the AONB covers nearly a quarter of Shropshire and offers a wide variety of well-kept walks and bridleways through the fabulous countryside. www.shropshirehillsaonb.co.uk

The Longmynd Hotel

The hotel was built around 1900 as a "Hydropathic Establishment" where water was used for pain-relief and treating illness. You are welcome to follow their memorable woodland sculpture trail. www.longmynd.co.uk, 01694 722244.



ANNUAL EVENTS

Church Stretton May Fair

May Bank Holiday. A traditional country fair.



Church Stretton Community and Walking Festivals, first half of June.

The community festival fills the town for a day with stalls and entertainments, plus an evening open-air concert. www.churchstretton.co.uk. The 3-day Walking Festival features walks of varying lengths, suitable for all ages and levels of ability. www.churchstrettonwalkingfestival.org.uk

Church Stretton Arts Festival, end July-August – two weeks of musical events, dramas and talks for all tastes, plus a youth performance project and the largest Arts & Crafts Exhibition in the county. www.churchstrettonfestival.org.uk

Long Mynd Hike

First weekend in October. A 50 mile race across the Shropshire Hills, starting and finishing in Church Stretton. More details on www.longmyndhike.org.uk.

USEFUL INFORMATION

www.churchstretton.co.uk
www.walkersarewelcome.org.uk
Visitor Information Centre,
Church Street, 01694 723133

SHROPSHIRE HILLS SHUTTLES

Church Stretton is the starting point for two Shuttle bus routes taking you to the hills. They run every weekend and Bank Holiday Monday, Easter to September. www.shropshirehillsshuttles.co.uk

