

So much to see, so much to do...

Bishop's Castle is in the heart of Offa's country, just four miles east of the old Welsh border defined by Offa's Dyke. One of the notorious 'rotten boroughs' of England in the mid-18th Century, it is now a quirky and colourful town, surrounded by the beautiful countryside of the Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). With the beer from two breweries to sample, independent shops and galleries to tempt, two museums to explore and great walks in every direction make sure you have enough time to enjoy all that's on offer.



Many walks start from Bishop's Castle, including the 'Walkers are Welcome' series of walks which guide you onto the surrounding hills.

Available from Visitor Information and the town website: www.bishopscastle.co.uk.



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

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 BUS: 552/3 services from Shrewsbury, Mon - Sat. Shropshire Link is a book ahead bus service and may be able to help from the surrounding rural areas.. Call 0345 6789068 and ask for 'Boars Head' stop.

BY CAR (or coach): Free long stay car parks in Harley Jenkins Street SY9 5AH and at the Livestock Market SY9 5AQ (except market days Wednesday and some Thursdays). Public Toilets at Livestock Market car park.

Useful Information

www.bishopscastle.co.uk
Bishop's Castle Heritage Resource Centre and Museums - www.bchrc.co.uk - 01588 630556
Bishop's Castle Railway Society - www.bcrailway.co.uk
Walkers are Welcome - www.walkersarewelcome.org.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



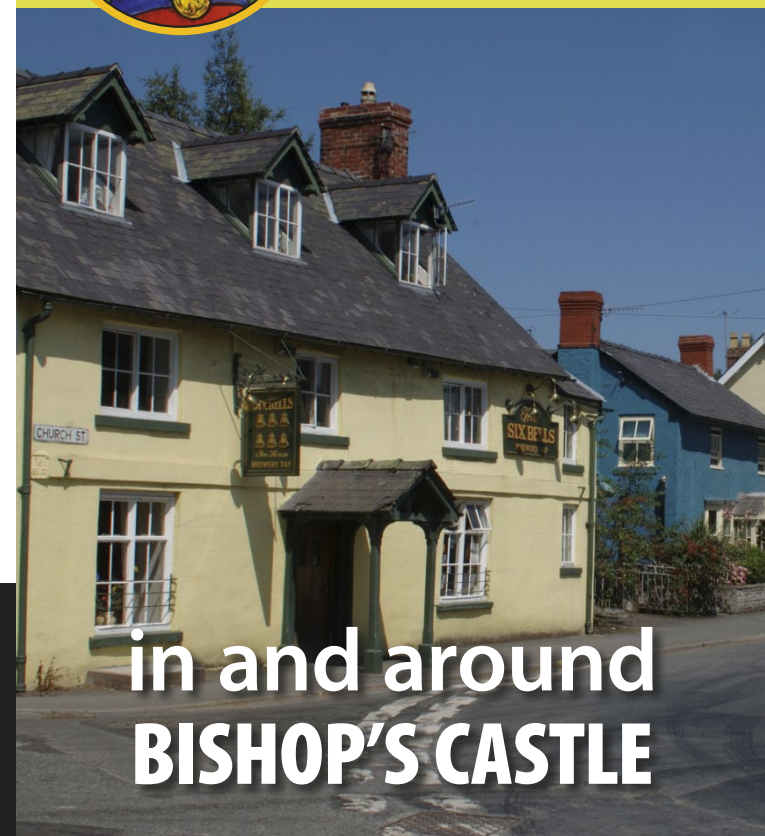
A series of twelve Walking with Offa waymarked pub walks guides, podcasts and the four Days Out in the Shropshire Hills are downloadable from www.shropshirewalking.co.uk/walking-with-offa Apps for GPS enabled smart phones can be downloaded from www.viewranger.com



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
BISHOP'S CASTLE

Once a 'rotten borough' now a thriving historic market town; enjoy a day out soaking up the atmosphere and exploring the historic buildings and beautiful countryside.



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

in the Shropshire Hills



CIRCULAR WALK:

Follow the waymarked trail through three miles of gently rolling countryside (allow two hours).

Start opposite the Boars Head pub. With the Boars Head on your left head towards the church and Six Bells Brewery. At road junction, turn right, then left into Church Lane. Pass the fire station and turn right into Field Lane then left up a stone track. Go straight on through gates onto an enclosed track. Follow track to stile and gates into a field. Keep straight and to the left boundary over fields, crossing a stile and over another stile to descend towards a gate and stile. Turn right and keeping stream to your left, follow the valley floor. After 5 minutes or so pass a stile/gate and maintain direction to another stile.

Continue on to cross a gated footbridge and straight on across a stile below large oak tree.

Continue along the valley to finally reach a stile/gate where you exit onto a tarmac lane. Turn right and follow the lane as it bends sharp right and then steadily climbs left to the brow of the hill. Follow the lane as it descends right (ignore first path on the left). Proceed along the lane for a short distance and climb the small bank on the left to cross a stile into trees. Soon cross a second stile into a field.

Enjoy the views of Bishop's Castle with the Long Mynd and Oakeley Mynd as the backdrop. Follow the left boundary to another stile and continue to the end of the hedge bearing left to a stile by a gate in the corner. Cross the stile and straight over the open field to meet the hedge coming in from the right.

Continue on towards farm buildings and you will soon exit the field onto a tarmac lane via a stile/gate. Turn right and follow the lane and as it bends right cross the stile/fence on the left into a field.

Bear right towards Bishop's Castle and drop steadily down the bank into the valley below, cross a stile in the hedge and straight on to a second stile, and on again to a third that exits by houses into a cul-de-sac. Follow the road a short distance and then turn left at the junction.

Continue up the road and take the pedestrian path through to Welsh Street Gardens, and onto Welsh Street. Turn right and follow Welsh Street back towards town. On reaching Castle Street turn left and a short way up on the right you will find an open space and the remains of the Castle.

Exit the castle ruins and return towards Welsh Street but take the wide track on the left, which will take you into the car park of the Castle Hotel. Make your way through the town to reach the walk starting point.

St John the Baptist Church

The one handed clock on gives a sense of a more relaxed pace of life.

The Castle

The castle no longer remains but it would have been a motte and bailey castle, built on the top of the hill overlooking the town and protecting the town's folk and the church below.

Bishop's Castle Town Hall

At the top of the hill stands the 18th century Town Hall; soon to become an information centre, a hub for walking and a showcase for local crafts.

The Wintles

The Wintles Eco Village is a low energy, sustainable housing development, which fosters a close community through, amongst other things the community orchard and allotments.

Pubs and brewing

There are two breweries in the town - The Six Bells Inn and Brewery and The Three Tuns (the UK's oldest licensed brewery - 1642). As many as 35 buildings in town were used as pubs/ale houses, at one time or another. It has been stated that in 1837 the town had 'twenty beer shops and no Sunday School'!

MARKETS

A royal charter was granted in 1249 by King John allowing a **weekly market**, which is still held every Friday. There is also a **Farmers Market** on the 3rd Saturday of the month. On the way down the hill you will pass the **House on Crutches Museum** and the **Railway Society Museum** (tucked away off the High St in School Lane - telephone 01588 640171). Open 2 - 5pm, weekends and Bank Holidays, Easter to October. Donations appreciated. www.bchrc.co.uk You are also welcome to visit the **Heritage Resource Centre**, open Thurs, Fri and Sat 10.30am to 1pm. **The Visitor Information Point** is in the High Street, half way down the hill.



There are many good places to eat from **pubs**, the **hotel**, **restaurants**, **cafes** and **takeaways**. Look out for the **Shropshire Hills 'buy local'** stamp, many of the businesses in town support the scheme. Follow the excellent Town Trail to explore this historic town, available from the Visitor Information point or download a copy at www.bishopscastle.co.uk. **Guided town tours** every Tuesday and Saturday at 6.30pm, May to September, meet outside St John's Church.

EVENTS

• Bishop's Castle Walking Festival.

A three day guided walking festival in June. A choice of daily walks to suit most abilities and evening fringe events www.walkingfestival.co.uk

• **Real Ale weekend**, in July- Based in and around the town's six pubs. Most of the breweries in Shropshire and the borders are represented as well as a great selection from the rest of the UK. There are usually more than 60 ales and ciders on offer at any one time. 01588 630144 nev@sixbellsbrewery.co.uk

• **Michaelmas Fair**, mid-September. Steam and vintage vehicles along with street theatre, entertainers and music throughout the town. www.bishopscastle.co.uk

• **Bishop's Castle Carnival**, beginning of July. Traditional country town carnival with a parade of floats around the town followed by fun and games on the playing fields. www.bishopscastle.co.uk