

SHORT BREAKS IN and AROUND BIRMINGHAM

Book a 1 or 2 night break at the Plough and Harrow Hotel with its red brick Victorian architecture, Beaufort Bar – which features over 20 gins and cocktails – terraced restaurant, with garden, lawn and plentiful car parking.

The Plough and Harrow Hotel is ideally located with a leisurely 10 minute walk to the main town centre and attractions. The Hotel also makes a good base location for days out in the Black Country, Warwick, Royal Leamington Spa, Stratford Upon Avon to name but a few.

Shopping

Historically known as the “City of a thousand trades”, Birmingham is a delight for shoppers. With modern and Victorian shopping arcades which are linked by vibrant bustling streets to the shopping centres and award winning “Bullring”, which combined, house around 200 shops including John Lewis, Harvey Nichols, Selfridges and other top brand shops. There really is something for everyone.



Uncover the secrets of Birmingham's hidden gem

Did you know Birmingham's Jewellery Quarter makes an estimated 40% of UK jewellery and it has one of Europe's largest School of Jewellery. Add to this, it hosts over 100 specialist retailers with many having their own workshops.



Have a behind the scenes tour at the Museum of the Jewellery Quarter along with an illustrated and entertaining presentation which unveils the quirkier side to the Quarter.

<http://jewelleryquarter.net/visit/museums/museum-of-the-jewellery-quarter/>

Art and Culture

Royal Birmingham Society of Artists is one of the oldest galleries in the UK with Royal Status. An amazing collection of art on 3 floors from solo shows to a craft gallery. Admission is **FREE**. www.rbsa.org.uk

Birmingham Ghost Walks – Ghosts, Ghouls, A Night on the Town!

An hour and a half tour takes you beneath the surface of modern bustling Birmingham where lies a long history of dark deeds...

It's an alternative walk through the City's past, telling stories that could haunt you long after the sun has gone down!

Visit the heart of the city in Victoria Square to the chilling catacombs. Tales of plague, public executions, hauntings and murders most foul along the way – Are you brave enough?

More Canals than Venice

Birmingham has one of the most intricate canal networks in the world. The canals were the life blood of Victorian Birmingham and the Black Country. Enjoy a relaxing boat journey through the canals to get a unique and different view of Birmingham. You could try walking or cycling



along the canals – Start from Gas Street in the centre and journey onto Dudley and Wolverhampton through Galton Valley? www.canalrivertrust.org.uk/ or www.dudleycanaltrust.org.uk/

JRR Tolkien

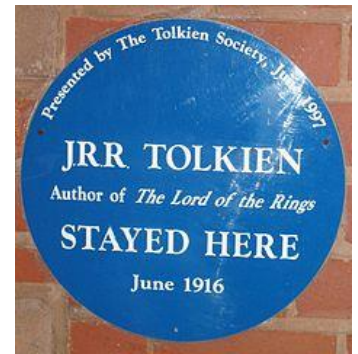
The Plough and Harrow has a genuine connection to JRR Tolkien.

He met and fell in love with Edith Bratt, stayed at the hotel before he left for France as an officer in the Lancashire Fusiliers.

How about taking the Birmingham Tolkien Trail Weekend Tour? The tour takes you to:

- Wakes Green Road - where the family lived in 1864
- Sarehole Mill - where Ronald and his brother spent many hours exploring the grounds
- Moseley Bog
- Joy's Wood
- The Shire Country Park
- Cole Valley

The tour then carries onto The Oratory on the Hagley Road followed by a visit to Perrott's Folly and Edgbaston Waterworks Tower, the distinctive landmarks that are said to be the inspiration for the Two Towers of Gondor, Minas Morgol and Minas Tirith.



Or how about the **JRR Tolkien Hobbit Bus Tour?**

The journey will highlight the area around Sarehole Mill which is said to have been the template for 'The Shire' the home of the Hobbits and Moseley Bog, which is recalled in Tolkien's description of the 'old Forest', last of the primeval wild woods where Tom Bombadil lived.

The route also takes you past his home in Moseley, Perrotts Folly and the Edgbaston Water Works Tower.



Heritage Breaks

Warwick Castle is approx 40 minutes away. You can enjoy the delights it has to offer along with a visit to the racecourse and other museums www.warwick-castle.com

A short distance from there is **Royal Leamington Spa** – a regency shopping paradise with wide boulevards and Georgian and Edwardian architecture. With beautiful parks and the famous Royal Pumps Rooms Art Gallery and museum. www.leamington-spa.co.uk

Stratford Upon Avon is a mere 31 miles away. Well known as the birthplace of Shakespeare, Anne Hathaways House, the Teddy Bear Museum and not forgetting The River Avon, where you can take a canal boat ride. How about treating yourself to some retail therapy in this beautiful market town?

Black Country – Bygone Years

Just 8 miles west of Birmingham is the award winning Black Country Living Museum (open air), showcasing Great Britain's Industrial Past. www.bclm.com

Stourbridge is just 8.5 miles away. Immerse yourself in the full Stourbridge Crystal experience. They pride themselves on being one of the largest stockists of English Crystal in the UK. See first-hand how crystal is made, and leave with your own piece of glass making history from the on-site factory shop.

Once you return to the hotel, relax and enjoy an aperitif in Beaufort Bar before you sit down to a 2 course meal in the Terrace Restaurant.

Whether you choose to mix & match with maybe an event at the Birmingham NEC, NIA, Royal Symphony Hall, Botanical Gardens or join an organised tour, the Plough and Harrow Hotel with its charm and character is the perfect place to stay.