

A Midsummer's Day Dream Grand Tour 2025

or, Much Ado About Nothing, or, To GT or Not To GT?

April 1 through November 15, 2025

Once more unto the breach, dear friends, once more – Henry V

Now let it work. Mischief, thou art afoot. Take thou what course thou wilt. — Julius Caesar

TeamStrange Grand Tours are all about having an excuse to get out and ride. In the past, our Grand Tours have also been a little educational, such as the <u>Love & Merci Grand Tour</u> in 2017. So, to have a reason to ride somewhere with the excuse that you're becoming more cultured while doing it, this year's Grand Tour will take you to places or people named in the works of William Shakespeare.

Your entry includes a Grand Tour flag and sticker. Entry fee is \$50 for one or two up. GT flags and stickers will be mailed around March 15, and thereafter, upon sign up.

Finishing will earn you bragging rights and an Official Grand Tour finisher pin.

There is a minimum required number of locations to visit to be a finisher. You may also visit additional locations to collect points. The top finisher in points will be declared the TeamStrange 2025 Grand Tour Champion and will receive a commemorative plaque to document this amazing feat. We'll also declare Regional Champions in the U.S., Canada, Australia, and the Rest of the World, who will also receive (lesser but still nice) commemorative plaques.

To be a finisher you must visit at least 12 Shakespearean Places between April 1, 2025, and November 15, 2025, whose names match the list of Shakespearean Places at the end of these rules, and properly document each visit.

Though this be madness, yet there is method in't. — Hamlet

Grand Tour Scoring Rules:

You score by collecting a photo of your motorcycle and your rally flag and a sign showing that you are at one of the Shakespearean Places in our list.

Scoring: You will score 5 points for any location whose name is an *exact match* for the name of a Shakespearean Place from our list. You will score 1 point for any location whose name *contains* the name of a Shakespearean Place from our list.

Example 1: "Kenilworth" is on our list, so **Kenilworth** IL scores 5 points.

Example 2: "Kent" is on our list, so **Kent** OH scores 5 points, but **Kent**land IN scores 1 point.

Example 3: "Ely" is on our list, so **Ely** NV scores 5 points, but **Ely**sian MN, Se**ely**ville IN, and Blak**ely** PA all score 1 point. Greeley CO scores 0 points because it sounds like it contains "Ely" but it doesn't.

Finisher status: For *finisher status*, you must ride to and successfully document at least 12 Shakespearean Places. Points don't matter for finisher status, only the number of locations visited. You can go to 12 Shakespearean Places that score 1 point each, 12 Shakespearean Places that score 5 points each, or any combination. Each location that you successfully document counts toward finisher status.

So if you go to **Kenilworth** IL (5 points.), **Kent** OH (5 points) **Kent**land IN (1 point), **Ely** NV (5 points), **Ely**sian MN (1 point), Se**ely**ville IN (1 point), and Blak**ely** PA (1 point), you score 19 points for overall scoring, and you've scored 7 locations toward finisher status (over half way there!)

You can score points by visiting locations that are cities, towns, villages, census-designated places, townships, boroughs, counties, parishes, shires, hundreds, or any similar government designation. But not special districts like park districts, fire protection districts, etc.

You can use any government building or official government sign that shows the name of the location: city or county limits signs, "Welcome To" signs, city halls, post offices, municipal buildings, police stations, fire stations, historical markers, or the like.

You can score any Shakespearean Place in the list any number of times, but you can score each physical government entity only once. If you go to Kent OH, it counts once - you can't get credit for the city limits, the city hall, all the police stations, and all the fire stations, it only counts once.

But you can also score points for Kent MN, Kent IN, Fort Kent ME etc etc. And you can score points for Town of Kent, City of Kent, Kent Township, and Kent County, even if they overlap, so long as you document each of them separately and we can tell that they are separate entities.

When we say the name must be an exact match to score 5 points, we mean exact. "Kent" is an exact match for Kent. "Kentland" is not an exact match for Kent; neither is "South Kent", "N. Kent", "Kent Gardens", "Kenton", or "New Kent". All of those are good for 1 point but not 5.

Confusion now hath made his masterpiece. – Macbeth

General Documentation Rules

- 1. You must physically go on your motorcycle to each location you claim.
- 2. You must document your visit to each location with a photo.
- 3. The photo must include (legibly) your Grand Tour flag, your motorcycle, and proof that you are at a Shakespearean Place in the form of a sign, banner, historical marker, or other monument identifying the location.
- 4. If you cannot get or do not have your flag, motorcycle and the required sign, in a single photo, you will not get credit for the photo. If the required sign is inside a building or museum and you can't get your motorcycle close enough to get a photo including your flag, your motorcycle and the sign, you will not get credit for the photo. Our intention is for you to visit locations that you can actually ride to and photograph with your motorcycle at the location.

Grow great by your example and put on the dauntless spirit of resolution - King John

- 5. You must include your physical Grand Tour flag in each and every photo. No exceptions. It must be your physical Grand Tour flag not a copy, not a duplicate. If you lose your original physical Grand Tour flag, you may not collect locations until you contact us and arrange for and obtain a replacement. We must be able to read the number on your flag in your photo.
- 6. Be safe and smart. If conditions or circumstances make capturing a photograph unsafe, a crime, or will result in a ticket or safety violation, do not take the risk. Find a safe alternative to capture your photo or skip the opportunity.
- 7. Our judges are simple folk. If your photo(s) is/are not clear or you do not document your photo(s) in a way that our scorers can understand, you will not score points. If one of the required items in your photo is too small or fuzzy or distant or dark for us to identify it, you will not score points.

8. You may use **five** *Wild Cards* for the entire Grand Tour. What is a Wild Card? A Wild Card is a location for which there is not all of the acceptable evidence, or which is not on our list, but you make a compelling case for why we should give you points. If you document your visit and make a compelling case, we might give you points. What's a compelling case? It all depends on your creativity; this is your chance to break free from the constraints of the rules and live free. You must tell us you're claiming a Wild Card, and why you should get credit for it, otherwise we'll just assume you made a mistake. Points will be awarded entirely at the discretion of TeamStrange and the bar is set very high. You can submit as many Wild Cards as you want (you miss all the shots you don't take), but we'll only give you credit for five. Given the looseness of the rules for this Grand Tour, it's hard to imagine what could be a Wild Card, but, why not?

We will likely *not* entertain submissions for a Wild Card for names that are close to those on the list but not quite. We know that Romeoville IL is close to Joliet IL and Joliet sounds like Juliet but we won't allow Joliet as a Wild Card without a really really great story. (Funny story, Joliet IL was named after Louis Jolliet, the French explorer, but accidentally named Juliet when the incorporation papers were filled out by a guy who couldn't spell, but they corrected it to Joliet later).

The fool doth think he is wise, but the wise man knows himself to be a fool. - As You Like It

- 9. You may submit your photos electronically/digitally or via the mail. Our first preference is that you send us a link to an online digital photo album such as SmugMug or Google Photos where all the photos are nicely captioned. Our second preference would be that you email us digital photos. Our least preference would be that you send us physical photos via mail. All digital photos (or links to digital photo albums) must be submitted to <code>grandtour@davidebsmith.com</code>. If you would prefer to mail your photos, please contact David E.B. Smith at <code>grandtour@davidebsmith.com</code> for the appropriate mailing address. Photos, disks, pen drive and anything else you mail will not be returned.
- 10. Submissions must be submitted or postmarked on or before November 16, 2025.
- 11. The TeamStrange Uniform Rules do not apply to this Grand Tour.
- 12. We'll accept official government signs, billboards, banners, historical markers, monuments, or other memorials, as long as it's clear from the sign that you are where you are. We won't accept things that are mobile, such as vehicles, fire trucks, buses, or airplanes. We won't accept signs for businesses to show that you are at a location.
- 13. The sign indication the location must be at the location, not a nearby sign pointing the way to the location or saying how far it is to the location.

- 14. If we have to do historical research or if you have to explain anything beyond what the sign says or if the sign is not legible in your photo without computer enhancement, you will not get credit.
- 15. If we can't read the sign in the photo, you will not get credit, so you want to do better than an out-of-focus low-resolution photo of a sign off in the distance.

You see this chase is hotly followed, friends. – Henry V

Q&A

- 1. **Where do I get the list of locations?** At the end of these rules. We'll also provide a downloadable file in Excel format.
- 2. **Can I find all the locations on the list?** We're very sure that some of the listed locations don't exist or can't be documented. Part of the challenge is to efficiently find those that can be found.
- 3. How do I know if I can get both my motorcycle and the sign in a photo? Google Maps Street View is your friend.
- 4. Can I use more than one motorcycle during this Grand Tour? Yes.
- 5. **Can I use someone else's motorcycle during this Grand Tour?** It's OK with us if it's OK with them.
- 6. Can I use a different motorcycle than the one I signed up with? Yes.
- 7. Can I use a sidecar rig, a trike, a Spyder, a Slingshot, or some other 3-wheeled vehicle? Yes.
- 8. **Can I use a bicycle?** A Whizzer or other motorized bicycle, absolutely. An electric bike, OK. A human-powered bike, it's good exercise, but no points.
- 9. Can I use a car? No.

By this sun that shines, I'll thither. — Cymbeline

- 10. **Can I put my motorcycle on a train and transport it to bonus locations?** Yes, but only if you are James West and Artemus Gordon.
- 11. **If I'm riding two up, does one person have to be in every photo?** No, mostly we have two up registration so we know who gets two finisher pins. If you register two-up, you can take along a passenger or not; if you register solo, you can take along a passenger or not. If you registered solo and took a passenger to all the locations and you both want pins, let us know at the end of the tour; if you registered two up and your passenger

refused to ride along to a bunch of obscure places to take pictures of signs and you only need one pin, let us know at the end of the tour.

- 12. **Can I take my motorcycle on a trailer to a location and roll it off and submit the photo?** You would be better off leaving it on the trailer and having a really entertaining story for a Wild Card.
- 13. **Do my flag and motorcycle have to be in each photo?** Yes, absolutely. Again, Yes, absolutely. (And the sign too). We're going to be strict on this rule in this Grand Tour because we want you to have the rally mindset that your flag must be in every photo.
- 14. **Can I submit more than one photo of a sign?** For credit, you will need to submit one photo that shows, in the same photo, the sign, your motorcycle, and your rally flag (with the number legible). Additional photos may not help and may confuse us. We expect that you'll get close enough to the sign so that it and your motorcycle and your flag are all visible and legible without us zooming in to the photo. But there is no penalty for submitting extra photos.
- 15. **Are there any limits on the number of signs I can submit from any one town?** You will only get credit once per government entity, and each sign after the first must indicate that it's from a different entity. We assume that a sign that only has the name of the location on it, such the green signs at city limits, is for the city unless it says otherwise.

Example: the imaginary city of Kent which is within the town of Kent which is within the township of Kent which is within the county of Kent. You find a green and white sign at the Kent city limits that says "Kent", you find a sign at the Kent Town Hall that says "Town of Kent", you find a sign at the township garage that says "Kent Township", and you find a sign at the county line that says "Entering Kent County". You can get credit for all four of those entities, even though they overlap.

But you can't get credit for multiple signs for the city of Kent or multiple signs at the city limits that say "Kent". You can get credit for one sign that says "Kent Police Department" but you can't get credit for additional signs that say "Kent Police Department". You can get credit for a sign that says "Post Office Kent OH" but then you can't also get credit for signs that say "Kent Police Department", "Kent Fire Department", etc. You can get credit for "Kent Park District" as it refers to the city of Kent, but not as a separate entity. You can't get credit for a fire truck that says "Kent Fire Department". You can't get credit for a sign on a business that says "Kent Food & Liquor".

16. **Do I need to imprint the date and time on the photo?** This is not the rally that required that, so no. But if you want to, OK.

We with our travels will endeavor. - Pericles

17. **How do you want me to submit the photos – all at once, as I go along, in the cloud, in an email, etc?** We're pretty agnostic about this. If it works for you to submit photos in individual emails as you go along, OK, if it works for you to submit everything at the end, OK, if you want to send us a link to Google Photos at the beginning of the tour and just keep adding photos, OK. Most online photo albums or cloud services or file transfer apps we can figure out.

We will say that we think it's risky to send photos in individual emails, because they can get lost in transit, they can get misdirected into our Spam folder, and sometimes the photos you thought were attached to the email weren't attached, or are garbled, or are shrunk so as to be almost impossible to view, or are blown up so we can't see the entire photo.

We can tell you what makes our lives easier for scoring your submissions: if you put your rider number in the title of each email you send us. If you tell us if you're sending multiple photos of the same location, either in the accompanying email or in photo captions. If you send us a link to a cloud photo album like Google Photos or Smugmug or the like, that you check that the link works and that it will work for us without us logging in or downloading anything. If you send photos in emails, send one photo per email. For some online photo albums like Google Drive and Dropbox, you have two options — you can share via email or you can create a link and send that. It's better if you create the shared link and email that to us, rather than using the "share via email". We can handle either, but the shared link is easier.

Hell is empty, And all the devils are here. – The Tempest

We strongly recommend that at the end of the Tour, or whenever you give up if it's not at the end, you send an email to us at *grandtour@davidebsmith.com* to tell us that you're done and are submitting your photos and how you're submitting them. We may have 125 riders to keep track of and we are simple folk.

Also strongly recommended is that you tell us how many locations you're claiming, and even better, what they are. That helps *you* because we can double-check your count against our count and determine if we counted right and got all your photos and give you the proper credit.

We don't score entries as the season goes along, because many riders submit everything at the end. If you send us emails or links during the Tour, we sort them by rider number (hence the need for the number in the email) and collect them for the end of the Tour. It is easiest for us (and hence better for you) if we can simply go to the list of emails or the online photo album, click through the list of photos while we count, and compare our count against your count.

And however you submit the photos, be sure we can see what's shown in the photo. Make sure before you leave a location that you have a photo that's in focus, not too dark, at a high enough resolution, and shows your motorcycle, your rally flag, and a sign that is readable.

A helpful hint for sending us a link we can see if you're using Google Drive: Right-click on your folder in Google Drive, click Share, click Share, under General Access set to Anyone with the Link, Copy Link.

Questions? Ask grandtour@davidebsmith.com

'Tis time, I think, to trudge, pack, and be gone. – The Comedy of Errors

A Midsummer's Day Dream Grand Tour Official List of Locations

Location	Details
Actium	A promontory in Greece. "Our overplus of shipping will we burn // And, with the rest full-mann'd // from the head of Actium // Beat the approaching Caesar" - Antony and Cleopatra
Agincourt	The site of the defeat of the French by the heavily outnumbered English army in <i>Henry V</i> and the location of the St Crispin's Day speech. "Then call we this the field of Agincourt,/Fought on the day of Crispin Crispianus"
Albany	Duke of Albany in King Lear
Alexandria	Alexandria and Rome are the two main settings of the tragedy Antony and Cleopatra.
Angiers	King John; King Henry VI, Part 1
Anjou	Margaret of Anjou, Queen of England
Antioch	The opening setting of the play <i>Pericles, Prince of Tyre</i> where the eponymous hero meets King Antiochus and his daughter then evades death after solving the riddle that points to their incestuous relationship.
Antium	Coriolanus
Arden	Forest of Arden in <i>As You Like It</i>
Athens	The Two Noble Kinsmen, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Timon of Athens
Austria	Measure for Measure
Auvergne	Henry VI, Part 1
Bangor	Bangor, Wales was the setting for scene I of Henry IV, Part 1
Barnet	Battle of Barnet in Henry VI, Part 3
Baynard	Bayard's Castle in <i>Richard III</i>
Bedlam	"Pat!—he comes, like the catastrophe of the old comedy // my cue // is villainous melancholy, with a sigh like Tom o' Bedlam" -King Lear
Belmont	The home of Portia in <i>The Merchant of Venice</i> . Its present-day location has been much debated.
Birnam	"Macbeth shall never vanquished be until // Great Birnam wood to high Dunsinane hill // Shall come against him."
Birnamwood	alternate of Birnam Wood
Blackfriars	Theatre owned by Shakespeare
Blackheath	Where Henry V entered London on his return from Agincourt
Bohemia	The Winter's Tale
Bolingbroke	In <i>Richard II</i> Henry Bolingbroke was Duke of Hereford, son of John of Gaunt, later Henry IV
Bolingbrook	Alternate of Bolingbroke
Bordeaux	Wine mentioned in Henry IV, Part 2 and Henry VI, Part 2
Bosworth	The Battle of Bosworth Field is the climax of <i>Richard III</i> . On the eve of the battle, the king is haunted by the ghosts of his many victims.

Location	Details
Britain	King Lear, Cymbeline
Bury St Edmunds	Henry VI, Part 2
Canon	Canon Street, the setting for Act 4, scene VI of Henry VI, Part 2
Canterbury	Henry VIII
Cathay	an older term for China.
Cawdor	Macbeth
Corioli	Coriolanus
Cornwall	Duke of Cornwall in <i>King Lear</i>
Coventry	The plays that William Shakespeare saw in Coventry during his boyhood or 'teens' may have influenced how his plays, such as <i>Hamlet</i> , came about.
Cyprus	Cyprus and Venice are the two main settings for <i>Othello</i> . Cyprus was formally annexed by Venice in 1489, and remained part of the Venetian Empire until 1570. The play was written in 1603.
Denmark	Hamlet
Dover	King Lear
Dunsinane	Macbeth
Eastcheap	Hal and Falstaff frequent The Boar's Head Tavern on Eastcheap in Henry IV Part 1
Egypt	Antony and Cleopatra
Elsinore	Elsinore Castle, Hamlet
Ely	Ely House was the London residence of John of Gaunt, father of Henry IV, and the place where in <i>Richard II</i> he gives the famous "This England" speech before dying: This royal throne of kings, this sceptred isle
	This earth of majesty, this seat of Mars,
	This other Eden, demi-paradise,
	This fortress built by Nature for her self Against infection and the hand of war,
	This happy breed of men, this little world,
	This precious stone set in a silver sea
	Which serves it in the office of a wall
	Or as a moat defensive to a house,
	Against the envy of less happier lands,
	This blessed plot, this earth, this realm, this England
Ephesus	The Comedy of Errors
Fife	Macbeth
Florence	All's Well That Ends Well
Forres	Macbeth
Frogmore	The Merry Wives of Windsor
Gadshill	In <i>Henry IV, Part 1</i> , Gadshill is the location where Prince Hal, Falstaff, and their friends rob travelers
Gascony	Henry VI, Part 1

Location	Details
Gaultree	Gaultree Forest, in <i>Henry IV, Part 2</i> .
Glamis	Macbeth
Globe	Globe Theatre where Shakespeare's plays were produced
Gloucester	King Lear
Gloucestershire	Richard II among many
Hamlet	Hamlet
Harfleur	Henry V
Haven	Cymbeline
Illyria	A region in western Balkan Peninsula where Shakespeare's most famous fictional comedy, <i>Twelfth Night</i> takes place. It is also mentioned in <i>Henry VI Part 2I</i> : "Being captain of a pinnace, threatens more // Than Bargulus the strong Illyrian pirate."
Inverness	Macbeth
Italy	Cymbeline
Jerusalem	Jerusalem Chamber, in scene IV of <i>Henry IV, Part 2</i> . The king is taken there to die to compensate for the fact he never made his promised crusade to Jerusalem itself.
Juliet	Romeo and Juliet
Juliette	Town in Georgia
Kenilworth	Shakespeare used the tale of Henry V receiving the insulting gift of tennis balls from the French Dauphin at Kenilworth for dramatic effect in <i>Henry V</i> .
Kent	King Lear
Kimbolton	Henry VIII
Lancaster	Henry IV, Henry V, Henry VI, and Richard II
Lear	King Lear
Leicester	King Lear
Leicestershire	King Lear
Lincoln	Henry VIII
London	Henry VI, Part 1, 2, 3; Richard III; King John; Richard II, Henry IV Part 1, 2; Henry V; Henry VIII
Mantua	Romeo and Juliet
Marseilles	All's Well That Ends Well
Messina	Antony and Cleopatra; Much Ado About Nothing
Middleham	Middleham Castle, Childhood home of Richard III; Henry VI, Part 3
Milan	The Two Gentlemen of Verona
Milford	Cymbeline
Milford Haven	The Welsh port which Innogen travels to in <i>Cymbeline</i> in the belief that her husband Posthumus will meet her when, in fact, he has sent her to be murdered by Pisanio following lachimo's lies about her fidelity to Posthumus. It is near Milford Haven that she is unknowingly reunited with her lost brothers, Guiderius and Arviragus, while disguised as a boy, Fidele.

Location	Details
Misenum	Antony and Cleopatra
Mortimer	Mortimer's Cross, Henry VI, Part 3
Mytilene	Pericles
Navarre	Love's Labor's Lost
Northampton	Northampton Castle, the location of the death of Prince Arthur in <i>King John</i> .
Orleans	Henry VI, Part 1
Othello	Othello
Padua	The Taming of the Shrew
Paris	All's Well That Ends Well
Parliament	Houses of Parliament. King Henry VI and Macbeth
Pentapolis	Where Pericles meets and marries Thaisa, the daughter of King Simonides.
Philippi	Julius Caesar
Picardy	Henry V and Henry VI, Part 1
Pomfret	Pomfret Castle, Richard II
Rochester	Henry VIII
Roman	Six Roman works of Shakespeare: Titus Andronicus, The Rape of Lucrece, Julius
	Caesar, Antony and Cleopatra, Coriolanus, and Cymbeline
Rome	Antony and Cleopatra; Titus Andronicus; Julius Caesar; Coriolanus
Romeo	Romeo and Juliet
Rouen	Henry VI, Part 1
Roussillon	All's Well That Ends Well
Salisbury	Earl of Salisbury appears as a faithful lord to King Richard in the play Richard II.
Sandal	Sandal Castle, Henry VI, Part 3
Sardis	Julius Caesar
Savoy	Savoy Palace, the former home of John of Gaunt, attacked by Jack Cade's rebels in <i>Henry VI, Part 2</i> : "So, sirs: now go some and pull down the Savoy; / others to the inns of court; down with them all."
Saxton	Battle of Towton in <i>Henry VI, Part 3</i>
Scotland	Macbeth
Shakespeare	Ghost Town, New Mexico
Shrewsbury	Henry IV, Part 1
Sicily	The Winter's Tale
Southampton	Shakespeare dedicated <i>Venus and Adonis</i> and <i>The Rape of Lucrece</i> to his friend Henry Wriothesley, 3rd Earl of Southampton
Southwark	Location of the Globe Theater
St Albans	Henry VI, Part 2
St Asaph	Henry VIII
Stratford	Towns in Ontario, Connecticut
Stratford-upon-Avon	Shakespeare's birthplace and burial place

Location	Details
Swinstead	Swinstead Abbey was an abbey in Lincolnshire. In <i>King John</i> , the orchard is the scene of the death agonies of King John, supported by his Barons. In the actual history, it is Swineshead Abbey that King John visited, and the confusion of Swinstead and Swineshead was common in the late-sixteenth century.
Syria	Antony and Cleopatra
Tamworth	Richard III
Tarsus	Pericles
Temple	Temple Garden. where red and white roses are picked to represent the houses of Lancaster and York in <i>Henry VI Part 1</i>
Tewkesbury	The Battle of Tewkesbury is referenced in "We are advertis'd by our loving friends // That they do hold their course toward Tewkesbury." King Henry VI, Part 3. The battle is also mentioned several times in Richard III.
Thebes	The Two Noble Kinsmen
Tower	Tower of London. Most notably, the Tower is the location of the murder of young Edward V and his brother, Richard, Duke of York, on the orders of their uncle Richard III.
Towton	Battle of Towton in Henry VI, Part 3
Troy	The hometown of the main characters in <i>Troilus and Cressida</i> .
Tyre	Pericles
Venice	The Merchant of Venice; Othello
Verona	Romeo and Juliet, The Two Gentlemen of Verona
Vienna	Measure for Measure
Wakefield	Henry VI, Part 3
Wales	Richard II; Henry V
Warkworth	Warkworth Castle, Henry V Parts 1 and 2
Westminster	Westminster Abbey, <i>Henry IV, Part 2</i> , and <i>Henry VIII</i> . Also Westminster Hall, the last remaining building of the old palace, is the site of the powerful and controversial deposition scene in <i>Richard II</i> where Richard hands his crown to his cousin, Henry Bolingbroke (Henry IV). "My crown I am; but still my griefs are mine: / You may my glories and my state depose, / But not my griefs; still am I king of those".
Windsor	The Merry Wives of Windsor
York	Richard Plantagenet, Duke of York, is a character in the <i>Henry VI</i> plays. Also York Place in <i>Henry VIII</i> .

Exit, pursued by a bear. — The Winter's Tale