

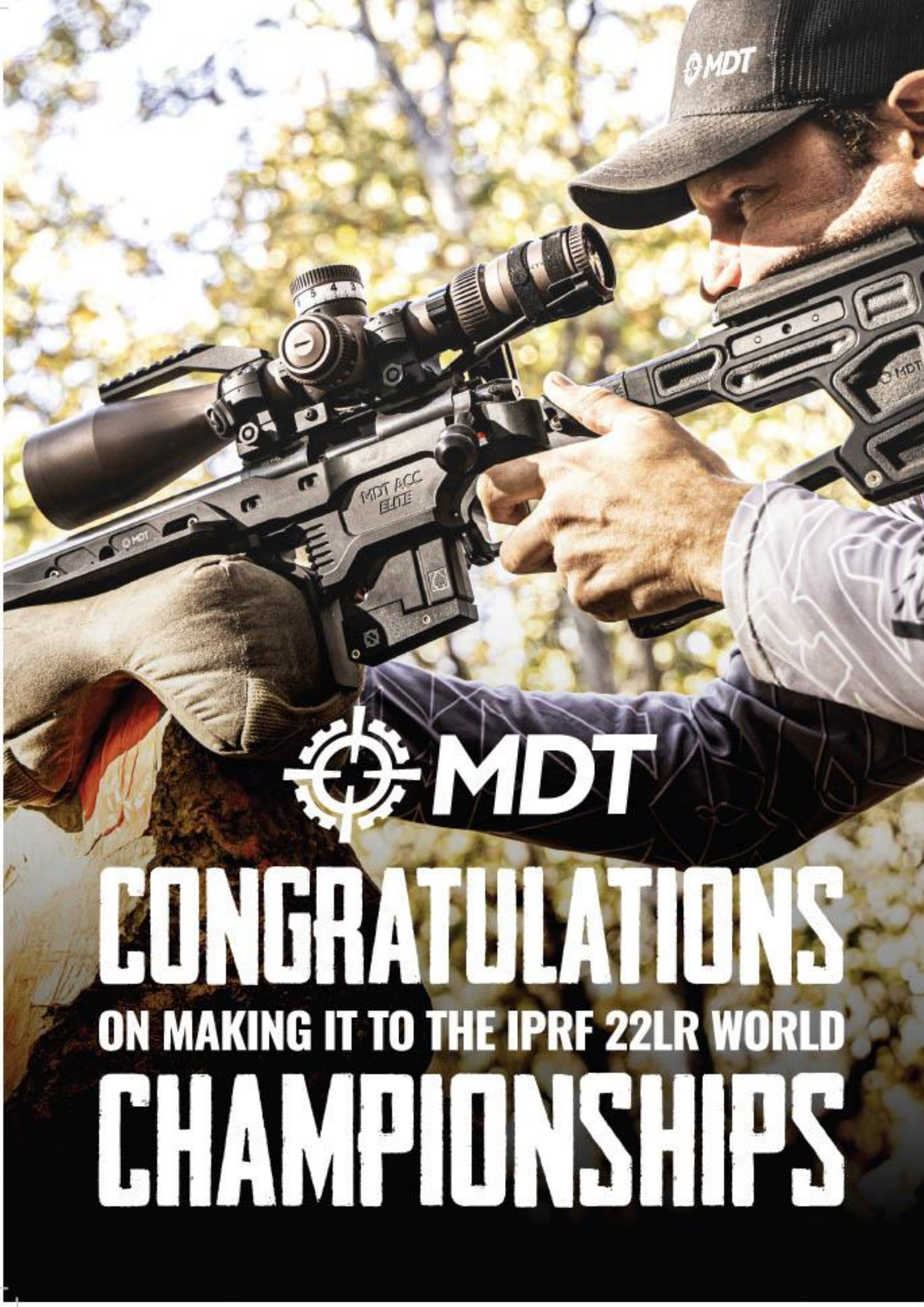
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VISITOR GUIDE

**WEST MIDLANDS
SHOOTING CENTRE
17-24 AUGUST 2025**





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Visitor's Guide to Historical Shropshire

Shropshire is an incredibly beautiful and quintessentially English county. It is surrounded by the Shropshire Hills National Landscape, designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in 1958. Within the beautiful and dramatic landscape are 180 Scheduled Ancient Monuments, telling the story of early Bronze and Iron Age settlements in the region as well as evidence from the Roman occupation. This includes burial grounds, remains of hill forts, Roman roads and villas and evidence of deserted ancient settlements. For full details of this area, visit the comprehensive website which details not only the history of the area but also the natural and geological features that make this area so special: <https://www.shropshirehills-nl.org.uk/>



Shropshire Hills



Oswestry Iron Age Hillfort

Historically, the English county of Shropshire is well-known as the birthplace of Charles Darwin as well as its strong association with the 19th Century Industrial Revolution. However, the history of Shropshire goes back to 10th Century, when it was established during the division of the Saxon kingdom of Mercia. Prior to this, the area was part of the Welsh kingdom of Powys.

King Offa was keen to defend the new kingdom so built huge defences known as “Offa’s Dyke”. Shropshire contains some of the best preserved sections of the Saxon defensive earthworks.

Originally called “Shrewsburyshire”, its name was changed after the Norman Conquest of 1066, as the conquering Normans found this too difficult to pronounce. The Norman nickname for the county, Salop, is still sometimes used today as an alternative name for the area.

Due to its location on the Welsh border, Shropshire has 30 of the 186 castles built in England as the Norman rulers attempted to defend the county against Welsh border raids.

The main town, Shrewbury, has been described as one of the finest Tudor towns in Britain and its famous abbey is the setting for the fictional Cadfael book series.

In the 19th Century, Shropshire became an important area for the Industrial Revolution as it was in the town of Telford that Abraham Darby developed coke smelting and iron founding. The Ironbridge Gorge area along the River Severn is now a UNESCO World Heritage site, with 10 working museums, including an open air Victorian town and the Severn Valley steam railway surrounding the magnificent iron bridge, which gives the area its name.



The area can also claim the modern Olympic Games, as it was Dr William Penny Brooks, from the market town of Much Wenlock who is credited with designing the modern Olympics. This is the reason why the 2012 London Olympic mascot was called Wenlock.

Wroxeter Roman City

The 2000 year old site of Wroxeter was once a large Roman city called Viriconium Cornovorium. Today, visitors can walk the site and see the remains of the city, including a bath house and a reconstructed Roman Town House.

For full details of the site visit English Heritage - <https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/wroxeter-roman-city/>



Shrewsbury

With over 650 listed buildings, many dating from the 15th Century, Shrewsbury is a beautiful Medieval town with many Tudor half-timbered houses around the centre. With many independent shops, pubs and restaurants, the town is a pleasant place to spend a day.

<https://www.visitshropshire.co.uk/things-to-do/attractions/shrewsbury-visitor-information-centre/>

<https://originalshrewsbury.co.uk/>



Shrewsbury Castle

Shrewsbury Castle is a red sandstone castle which has over 1000 years of history. It was originally an Anglo-Saxon timber fortress which was rebuilt in 1074 in the distinctive red sandstone. Over time, the castle has been rebuilt and modified and today it houses the Shropshire Regimental Museum.

For details on visiting the castle and museum:

<https://www.shropshiremuseums.org.uk/shrewsbury-castle/>



Shrewsbury Abbey

Shrewsbury Abbey was founded in 1083 as a Benedictine Monastery, and much of the original 11th Century building survives today. The Abbey is perhaps most well-known as the setting for the fictional books and tv series, Cadfael, based on the life of a monk living at the abbey in the mid-12th Century. Although fictional, the series covers many events from Shrewsbury's Medieval history.

For more information about the abbey, visit their website here <https://www.shrewsburyabbey.com/>



Much Wenlock

Famous for its link to the modern Olympic Games, Much Wenlock is also a charming, quintessentially English market town. Set in the beautiful countryside, the town has many stunning Medieval buildings and a colourful history including

For more information about the attractions at Much Wenlock, visit the town website here:

<https://www.visitmuchwenlock.co.uk/>



Ludlow and Ludlow Castle

Ludlow is a very historic town, built under Norman rule after they built the castle to defend England from the Welsh. It is one of many fortified towns along the Welsh Marches, built according to Norman town planning. The Norman grid system and 11th Century town walls are still evident today.

Ludlow Castle, although built in 1086, is perhaps best known as the castle where Catherine of Aragon lived with her first husband, Prince Arthur before his death and her subsequent marriage to his brother, Henry.

For full details of Ludlow Castle visit their website here <https://www.ludlowcastle.com/> and for information about the town of Ludlow, see the town website here: <https://www.ludlow.org.uk/>



Ironbridge Gorge

Named for the world famous Iron Bridge, built in 1779, the area of Ironbridge was of crucial importance during the Industrial Revolution due to the invention and development of the blast furnace by Abraham Darby, changing how iron was made and used.

The building of the Iron Bridge across the gorge was not just an essential river crossing, but a feat of engineering. It was also designed as a huge advertising and public relations campaign to show the versatility of cast iron. Surrounding the dramatic bridge today are 10 museums, showcasing the technology of the Industrial Revolution and what life was like during this pivotal period in Victorian Britain.

For more information about the Ironbridge Museums, visit www.ironbridge.org.uk



Severn Valley Steam Railway

Severn Valley Steam Railway is a 16 mile / 26 km heritage railway line that runs from Bridgnorth to Kidderminster and offers people the chance to ride on a traditional steam train through the beautiful countryside along the River Severn.

For information about events and a train timetable, visit the Severn Valley Rail website: <https://svr.co.uk/>



Whilst not an exhaustive list, this gives you a flavour of Shropshire's rich history and acts as a guide for some of the historical attractions that the county has to offer.

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