

**2021  
TOUR**

**Suffolk**

**GUIDE**



## Welcome to the 2021 NOPS KitKat Tour

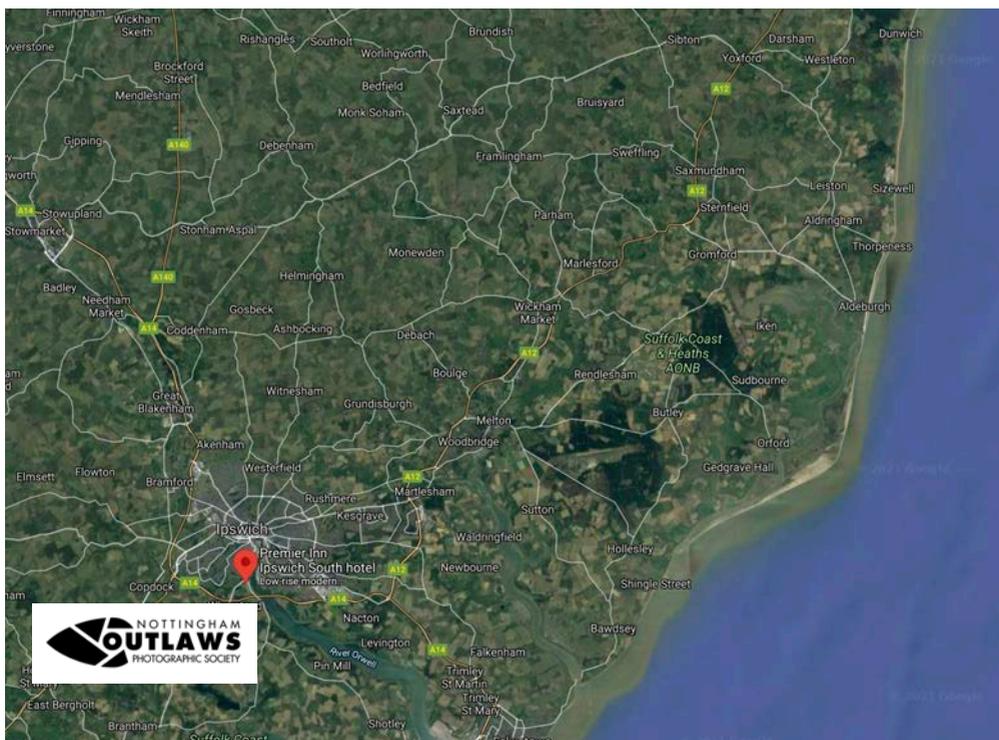
Situated on the east coast of England, Suffolk is a county filled with natural beauty, full of charming villages and medieval towns. Take time to visit the home of horseracing, explore Constable Country or experience maritime life. The Suffolk coast is renowned for its beaches. It has been named an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and within a 50-mile stretch, there are a surprising variety of beaches to suit every taste.

The locations listed in the guide have been selected as popular areas to photograph. I have tried to be accurate with the postcodes but as many locations are rural, they are an approximation. They are not intended as an itinerary but as a starting point for a trigger-happy weekend. All the locations are within an hour or so drive from the hotel.

Some locations are run by the National Trust or English Heritage. It would be worth holding a membership or going with a member so that the weekend can be enjoyed to the full. Prices listed are correct at time of publication.

Please take care and be respectful of the landscape around you. If you intend climbing or doing any other dangerous activities, please go in pairs (at least).

For further information it is worth looking at Gill Moon's book <https://www.landscapephotographytuition.co.uk/product/photographing-the-suffolk-coast-walks-with-your-camera/>



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# Aldeburgh

**Map Ref 1** IP15 5BY

Sunrise, Daytime

During the 16th century Aldeburgh was an important port on the east coast, with a flourishing ship-building industry at nearby Slaughden. The area's important maritime industry fell into decline once the River Alde silted-up and its lower reaches are now a haven for pleasure craft. The long straight shingle beach is still used for launching colourful little fishing boats. If you're up early enough you can shoot the catch being landed on the beach. If not, you can still view freshly caught fish from the old black tarred fishermen's huts along the beach front.

Aldeburgh has a mixture of architectural styles. Fine Georgian houses line the main high street, which boasts the best family run fish and chip shops in Suffolk. Pastel-coloured 19th Century holiday villas line the promenade. Along the seafront is an odd looking square built tower, with a spiral iron staircase running around the outside, that was once used as a look-out. The half-timbered Moot Hall, is also a striking building. It dates from the early 1500s when the town was at its most prosperous. An outside staircase leads to an upper floor containing a small local history museum.

The church of St Peter and Paul stands on a hill overlooking the town. Its main treasure is a spectacular stained glass window by John Piper, depicting three Britten oratorios. Benjamin Britten moved to Aldeburgh in 1947. He founded the internationally renowned Aldeburgh Festival. As the festival grew in popularity it was moved up-river to Snape Maltings.

The Scallop: facing the ocean on a lonely stretch of beach a few hundred yards north of town is Maggi Hambling's dazzling tribute in steel to Benjamin Britten – the words pierced through its upper shell quote Britten's opera, 'Peter Grimes' – is Suffolk's most familiar artwork.

Parking for The Scallop: Thorpe Rd, Leiston IP16 4NR.

Central Aldeburgh parking: Oakley Square IP15 5BX, King St IP15 5BY or Slaughden Rd IP15 5DE.



# All Saints, Crowfield

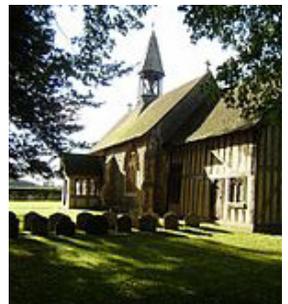
Map Ref 2 IP6 9TH

Daytime, Sunset

This is one of the last remaining timber-framed Churches in Suffolk and is well worth a look. It's set back from the road and isn't in Crowfield village, it's on the Stonham Aspal road, surrounded by open fields.

The church is approached from the east, through a little gate. The external east wall is like a fairy-tale cottage. The early 16th century porch is contemporary with it, but the nave is largely Victorian. The exterior might lead you to expect a humble, rustic interior, but in fact this pretty little building contains something quite different. The low sun through small windows picks out rich woodwork and jewel-like glass. The carved bench and stall ends are of the highest quality.

Crowfield Church, Stonham Road, Crowfield IP6 9TH.



# Bawdsey

**Map Ref 3** IP12 3AX

Sunrise, Daytime

Set in an area of natural beauty on the Deben Peninsula, Bawdsey was originally an estate village and the majority of the old cottages were built by the Quilter family of Bawdsey Manor in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century as model cottages for their workers. The main street meanders down to the sea half a mile away at Bawdsey Quay, where you can visit the Boathouse Café, catch one of the coast's famous foot ferries across to the hamlet of Felixstowe Ferry or follow the coastal path.

Bawdsey's sleepy charm belies the incredible history and heritage associated with the village; along this stretch of coastline stands Bawdsey Manor, the world's first operational radar station, four Martello Towers, machine gun emplacements and other WWII defences, a testament to the vulnerability of this area in the past to invasion.

Join one of the fascinating workshops at Bawdsey Hall Wildlife; the private nature reserve is home to meadowland, large ponds and mature woods, offering a variety of different habitats for wildlife. Workshops on offer include wildlife photography days and evenings, owl and badger night photography workshops, wildlife tours, hide hire, mothing and bird ringing demonstrations. Visit **[www.bawdseyhall.com](http://www.bawdseyhall.com)** for details and booking.

At the Boathouse cafe near Bawdsey, tuck into homemade cake and a pot of tea and spot Suffolk's rare birdlife. The picturesque wooden building has a veranda with wide river views.

East lane car park Woodbridge IP12 3AP for north of the village otherwise there are a small number of parking spaces opposite the church in the village by the recreation ground and parking along The Street IP12 3AX.



## Cobbolds Point

**Map Ref 4** IP11 7LZ

Sunrise, Daytime, Sunset

Originally a fisherman's hut, Felixstowe Cottage was purchased by Philip Thickness when he was Lt. Governor of Languard Fort. It later became the property of Lady Bateman and in 1844 it was rented by John Chevallier Cobbold who subsequently purchased it. By 1882, when he died it was known as The Lodge and about this time the point became known as Cobbold's Point. The property became severely threatened by the sea until substantial defences were built by Felix Thornley Cobbold. The groynes lasted over 100 years and have only recently been upgraded. There are two main sea defences going in opposite directions, about 150m apart from each other. A great place to take long exposures in any weather condition, be it bright sunlight or a moody black sky. The best time of day to go is when there is approx 20-30cm of the tops of the defences showing either side of the tide.

Don't forget it can be very dangerous and slippery on the rocks especially if they are wet. At high tide you cannot walk from one to another.

Park on Undercliff Rd E, IP11 7LZ.



# Constable Country

Includes National Trust properties

**Map Ref 5** CO7 6UL or CO7 6DH

Daytime, Sunset

Lying in the Dedham Vale AONB, and straddling the border between Essex and Suffolk, Constable Country encompasses some of England's most instantly recognisable views and includes the villages of Dedham, East Bergholt and Flatford.

John Constable was born in East Bergholt in 1776 and spent much of his time in the countryside near his home. It was here that he developed a love of painting from an early age and he drew inspiration from his beloved Suffolk. The Church of St. Mary the Virgin where the building of the bell tower was never completed, and the 'temporary' bell cage, which was built in 1531 to house the bells, has been in use ever since with the heaviest set of five bells currently being rung in England. Follow in Constable's footsteps and walk down Fenbridge Lane in East Bergholt, alongside the River Stour to Dedham in Essex, where John attended school. Dedham is perhaps the most well known village in Constable Country, with its vibrant high street and magnificent church.

National Trust for Flatford Mill and Willie Lott's Cottage, East Bergholt, Colchester CO7 6UL or park in Dedham CO7 6DH. Location advice: [www.amateurphotographer.co.uk/technique/landscape\\_photography-technique/photo-location-guide-the-stour-valley-45491](http://www.amateurphotographer.co.uk/technique/landscape_photography-technique/photo-location-guide-the-stour-valley-45491)

## Where Constable Painted

- A The Leaping Horse
- B The Hay Wain
- C Boat Building at Flatford
- D Stratford Mill
- E Dedham Mill
- F The Cornfield

## Constable Country Attractions

- 1 St Mary the Virgin Church & Bellcage: [eastbergholt-bells.org.uk](http://eastbergholt-bells.org.uk)
- 2 National Trust Bridge Cottage Constable exhibition/tea room/shop [nationaltrust.org.uk/flatford-bridge-cottage](http://nationaltrust.org.uk/flatford-bridge-cottage)
- 3 RSPB Flatford Wildlife Garden: [rspb.org.uk/flatford](http://rspb.org.uk/flatford)
- 4 Flatford Mill Field Studies Centre: [field-studies-council.org/flatfordmill](http://field-studies-council.org/flatfordmill)
- 5 Rowing boat hire
- 6 Stour Truety II (river trips): [rivestourtrust.org](http://rivestourtrust.org)
- 7 Sir Alfred Munnings's Art Museum: [siralfredmunnings.co.uk](http://siralfredmunnings.co.uk)
- 8 St Mary the Virgin Church: [dedham-parishchurch.org.uk](http://dedham-parishchurch.org.uk)



# Covehithe

**Map Ref 6** NR34 7JJ

Sunrise, Daytime

The beach at Covehithe is a peaceful stretch of sand backed by the crumbling golden cliffs. To the south is Benacre Broad, a brackish lagoon and conservation area. Covehithe Beach in Suffolk is so secluded that it has been dubbed 'the beach at the end of the world.' There is an abundance of wildlife with nesting birds and crashing waves soundtracking the shore, but few visitors. Along the beach, north towards Benacre Ness are the smooth, blanched sculpture-like tree trunks of trees that once lined the cliff top. A reminder of the constant march of the North Sea.

The beach has one constant visitor: the tide. This has led to erosion, causing the beach to recede by around 500 metres since 1830. This means it's best to plan your trip around low tide, when most of the beach is visible.

Recent winter storms have re-uncovered a shipwreck. A large wooden section of a boat has been found at Covehithe. The shipwreck has been spotted on the beach before, almost three years ago. The ship's remains have regularly been covered up by sand and shingle moving on the beach.

The beach is beside a beautiful ruined church. The St Andrew's Church in Covehithe is a Grade I listed building and its ruins are under the care of the Churches Conservation Trust. There is a smaller, newer church built within the ruins of the old church.

There is on-street parking near the church and a clearly marked footpath opposite which takes you through fields to the dunes; a short scramble down and you are on the beach.

St Andrew's Church, Mill Ln, Covehithe NR34 7JJ.



## **Dunwich Heath and Beach**

National Trust

**Map Ref 7** IP17 3DJ

Sunrise, Daytime

Tucked away on the Suffolk coast, Dunwich Heath offers you peace and quiet and a true sense of being at one with nature.

A rare and precious habitat, the heath is home to special species such as the Dartford warbler, nightjar, woodlark, ant-lion, adders and much more. In September, the heath is alive with colour; a patchwork of pink and purple heather and coconut-scented yellow gorse.

Coastguard Cottages, Minsmere Road, Dunwich, Suffolk, IP17 3DJ.

09:00 to 18:00. £6 per car for non-members. Use the app or cash (machine only accepts coins so use the correct change). No pre-booking required but please check website before visting.



## Framlingham Castle

English Heritage

**Map Ref 8** IP13 9BP

Daytime, Sunset

Surrounded by parkland and a picturesque lake, Framlingham Castle was once at the centre of a vast network of power and influence. Framlingham Castle has been passed through many hands and seen numerous architectural modifications during its long history. Built in the 12th century by Roger Bigod, Earl of Norfolk, it was home to the Dukes of Norfolk for over 400 years. It was later owned by the first woman to be named a duchess in her own right and in the 16th century it became the scene of a national drama starring Mary Tudor. Muster your courage, walk the spectacular wall walk and explore the towering walls. From the remarkable 10.5 metres high curtain wall, take in breath-taking views of the Suffolk landscape.

Advance booking is now essential. Free to members, £11.30 without donation.

Church St, Framlingham, Woodbridge IP13 9BP.

Also try Framlingham, Woodbridge IP13 9GB for Ed Sheeran's 'Castle on the Hill' video shoot location across Framlingham Mere.



## Freston Tower

**Map Ref 9** IP9 1AD

Sunrise, Daytime, Sunset

Freston Tower is a six-storey Tudor folly that looks out over the River Orwell, perhaps built to coincide with Elizabeth I's visit to Ipswich in August 1579. There is a single room on each floor to take advantage of the views. It is now a holiday let from The Landmark Trust.

It is not known exactly why Freston Tower was built by Thomas Gooding. It may have been a lookout tower against pirates or returning cargo ships, or an extravagant folly as part of a pleasure garden. There are polygonal buttresses at the four corners and 26 windows. The Tower fell into disuse in the 17th century. In 1795, Charles Berners bought the estate and lived at Woolverstone Hall until 1937, when the estate was bought by Oxford University. Finally, the Tower was bought in 1962 by Claire Hunt, who used it as a holiday home. In 1999 Mrs Hunt gave Freston Tower to the Landmark Trust.

Directions: Follow signs for Shotley and B1456. As you pass under the Orwell bridge, you'll climb up Freston Hill. At the top of the hill on the right is The Boot. Either park at the pub (provided that you visit afterwards) or a little further on in a lay-by on the right hand side. Directly opposite the pub is a sign for a public footpath. Take this path, which cuts between houses, and go down then up a slight slope. In no time at all you should see the wooden sign to Freston Park. Head for Freston Park, and cross a cattle grid, which looks like the entrance to some privately-owned land, but the public footpath will lead you to the left of the buildings and take you immediately to the left of the Tower. Be aware that the Tower stands on private land and isn't open to the general public. However, take the footpath and carry on down through Freston Park to take in the views of the river and the Orwell bridge.

TM 177 397, IP9 1AD. The Freston Boot pub, Ipswich IP9 1AB.



# Helmingham Hall

**Map Ref 10** IP14 6EF

Daytime

Set within 400 acres of beautiful Suffolk countryside with large herds of both red and fallow deer, Helmingham Hall is a moated courtyard manor house in Helmingham, Suffolk, England. The house, park and formal gardens are Grade I Listed.

The two drawbridges are pulled up every night as they have been since 1510, and the Hall becomes an island, protected by its wide moat just as it has been for so many centuries.

The exceptional Grade 1 Listed gardens has a walled kitchen garden, extensive borders, a rose and knot garden, Parterre, wildflower garden and an array of bridges, seats and tunnels.

In addition to the house and gardens, several other structures on the estate may be great to photograph such as gate lodges, the Monument and various other estate properties.

Only the garden is open to the public.

Tickets are available from the shop on your day of visit. No need to book in advance. £7.00. Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Sundays from 11:00 to 16:30.

Helmingham Estate Office, Stowmarket IP14 6EF.



## Holy Trinity Church, Blythburgh

Map Ref 11 IP19 9LP

Daytime, Sunset

The Holy Trinity Church is one of the earliest Christian sites in East Anglia and is a listed Grade I listed building. Known as the 'Cathedral of the Marshes', this magnificent church is renowned for the angels on the ceiling and the marks on the door when the legendary Black Shuck tried to enter the church. It is also the home of the first ever Blessing of the Animals service which is held annually in August.

At the east end, a series of initials (A-N-JS-B-S-T-M-S-A-H-K-R) in Lombardic script stretch across the outer chancel wall: Ad Nomina JesuS, Beati Sanctae Trinitas, Maria Sanctorem Anne Honorem Katherine Reconstructus. A theory is that they are the initials of the wives of the donors.

The bench-ends are worth noting. The benches themselves were reconstructed in the late 19th century, supposedly from the main post of Westleton windmill, but the ends are medieval. There are partial sets of the Seven Deadly Sins, the Seven Works of Mercy, and the Labours of the Seasons.

Outside, figures stand on pedestals atop the south side and east end. The most easterly is unusual, a crowned old man sitting on a throne directly on the gable end. This is a medieval image of God the Father, a rare survival. Moving westwards from here we find the Blessed Virgin in prayerful pose, Christ as the Saviour of the World holding an orb in one hand and blessing with the other, and then a collared bear with a ragged staff, a seated woodwose, another bear, this time with a collar and bell, and last of all a fox with a goose in its mouth, his jaws grasping the neck.

Check the church website to see if the inside of the church is open, or whether there are tours to view the inside. [www.holytrinityblythburgh.org.uk](http://www.holytrinityblythburgh.org.uk) Church Ln, Blythburgh, Halesworth IP19 9LP. Looks like there is a church car park on Church lane.



# Ipswich

**Map Ref 12** Waterfront IP3 0BF

Daytime, Sunset, Night

Ipswich is the oldest Anglo-Saxon town in England and has a rich heritage.

Lined with cultural venues, bars and restaurants, the University of Suffolk and filled with boats and yachts, the Waterfront area of Ipswich (**Neptune Marina**) is attractive to photographers, especially in the evening. Look out for the imposing **Old Custom House**.

A wonderful retreat in the heart of Ipswich, filled with small woodlands, green open spaces and the round pond, **Christchurch Park** is also home to **Christchurch Mansion** and the Wolsey Art Gallery, which houses one of the country's most important collections of Constable and Gainsborough paintings.

The Ipswich School, **Wolsey's Gate** and the **Wolsey Statue** are all important landmarks in the history of Cardinal Thomas Wolsey – Henry VIII's Lord Chancellor – who was born in Ipswich. Wolsey's Gate, albeit worn away by pollution, weather and time, still stands in College Street, close to the docks. 4 College St, Ipswich IP4 1BF.

Ipswich **Town Hall** is worth a viewing. Cornhill Ipswich IP1 1DH.

Across the town centre are many beautiful Tudor buildings including the Ancient House, White Horse Hotel and Unitarian Meeting House. **The Ancient House**, also known as Sparrowe's House, is a Grade I listed building dating from the 15th century located in the Buttermarket area. The building has detailed pargeting, and also elaborate wood carvings around the front of the house. Four panels of pargeting show a Tudor impression of the world. The continents Africa, America, Asia and Europe are shown – Australia was not discovered at the time. Africa is represented by a naked man holding a spear, Asia by a horse and a mosque-like building, Europe by a woman with a horse and a church-like building, and America by a man with a dog at his feet. Buttermarket, Ipswich IP1 1BT.

**Pykenham's Gatehouse** on Northgate Street is a striking timber and brick gateway which is all that remains of a grand residence built for the Archdeacon of Suffolk in the 1470s. You can see the exterior of the gatehouse from the street, and you can walk into the parking area of the Ipswich and Suffolk Club to see the back of the gatehouse. The gatehouse is normally closed, however, it is open to the public for the annual Heritage Open Days event in September. Northgate St, Ipswich IP1 3BX.

## Parking

Nearest to Wolsey Gate St Peter's Dock Car Park Ipswich IP4 1BF.

For waterfront Duke Orwell Quay car park Duke St, Ipswich IP3 0BF.

City centre St Nicholas St, Ipswich IP1 1TR.

# Ipswich

Map Ref 12



# Lavenham

**Map Ref 13** CO10 9QZ

Daytime, Sunset, Night

Widely regarded as the finest surviving example of a medieval town, Lavenham has an extraordinarily well-preserved collection of timber-framed buildings and crooked houses; over 300 of its buildings are listed as being of architectural and historical interest. The massive church and fine houses date back to the time when Lavenham was the 14th richest town in England. The medieval wool town grew so fast, that they used green wood to build with, and as the wood dried, the twisting began. The town went bust almost as fast as it was built, so no one had the money to tear down and rebuild... they just left it like it was. And so it sits today.

The spectacular large St Peter & St Paul Church was built at the height of Lavenham's prosperity by Thomas Spring III in the late 15th century. The Old Grammar School is a Grade I listed building whose many pupils include the painter John Constable. The De Vere Hunting Lodge was one of three properties within the centre of Lavenham, attached to Lavenham Hall. Little Hall, built in the 1390s, was once home to the Causton family. Since then the house has changed a lot from being divided up to house six different families in the 1700s to being restored and used as a museum today.

Lavenham is host to an array of galleries; take a look at the Crooked House Gallery, a building full of 'wonky' charm.

Easy to follow walk around the town [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/lavenham-guildhall/trails/lavenham-crooked-houses-walk](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/lavenham-guildhall/trails/lavenham-crooked-houses-walk)

Parking in the Market Place CO10 9QZ or on street. Lavenham is a small town and it looks to me that you can park down residential streets and walk through to the town centre.



Minsmere trails take you through a variety of different habitats, bringing you closer to some of Minsmere's most interesting wildlife, from impressive red deer to tiny insects, familiar blue tits to elusive bitterns. Most of the paths are easy access.

### **Coast trail**

The 2 mile circular walk takes you through the North Bushes, where tired migrant birds refuel, and along the North Wall, which affords great views over the reedbeds. There are five hides overlooking the lagoons – known as the Scrape – where gulls, terns and avocets nest, migrant wading birds feed and hundreds of ducks spend the winter.

### **Island Mere trail**

A 1.5 mile circular walk through oak woodland to raised hides overlooking the reedbeds. Bittern hide offers superb views from five metres above the reeds, while Island Mere hide is spacious with great views of the mere.

### **Woodland trail**

The 1 mile circular walk on unsurfaced paths takes you deep into Minsmere's woodlands. The path links up with the public bridleway from Eastbridge to Dunwich to allow further exploration.

In Autumn, migration is in full swing with a continuous stream of birds passing through. Wading birds on the Scrape may include curlew sandpipers, little stints or ruffs and perhaps a rare visitor from North America.

The reserve is signposted with brown tourist signs from Westleton.

Minsmere, Sheepwash Ln, Saxmundham IP17 3BY. Car park: open, dawn-dusk. Toilets: 9:00–17:00.



One of England's most complete keeps, the unique polygonal tower keep of Orford Castle stands beside the pretty town and former port of Orford. The castle is remarkably intact allowing visitors to explore from the basement, through the lower and upper halls to the roof where there are magnificent views seaward to Orford Ness. Around the rooms is a maze of passages leading to the chapel, kitchen and other chambers in the turrets.

Orford, Woodbridge, Suffolk, IP12 2ND. Book in advance. Free to English Heritage members, non-members £7.90 (£7.10) without donation. Parking charges for non-members.

You could also visit Orford Ness Nature reserve and AWRE Orfordness run by the National Trust. The 1950s saw the construction of specialised facilities to exploit new post-war technologies such as nuclear power. AWRE Orfordness was one of only a few sites in the world where purpose-built facilities were created for testing the components of nuclear weapons. The most impressive buildings from this period are two of the test labs – the 'Pagodas' – well-known landmarks on this part of the coast.

Parking at Quay Street, Orford, Woodbridge, Suffolk, IP12 2NU. Access to Orford Ness is only via the National Trust ferry (Octavia) from Orford Quay, there is no access to pedestrians via Slaughden. As a former military site anyone straying from the visitor routes is in danger from unexploded material. Please stick to the paths. Admission to Orford Ness is free to NT Members (Non-members £10) but you will need to still pay the ferry fare. First ferry at 10:00 and runs every 15 minutes outbound until 12:45. Tickets are for a timed ferry: all visits last 3.5 hours with a fixed return ferry time. Orford Ness is only open on 4 and 5 September during our trip.



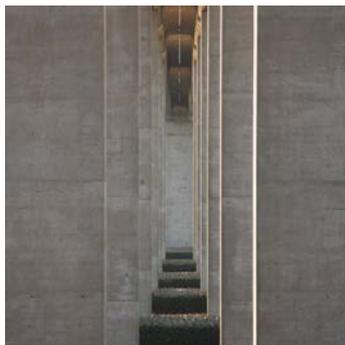
## Orwell bridge

**Map Ref 16** Orwell Bridge viewpoint 2AB, B1456

Daytime, Sunset

The Orwell Bridge is a concrete box girder bridge just south of Ipswich in Suffolk, England. Opened to road traffic in 1982, the bridge carries the A14 road (formerly the A45 road) over the River Orwell. The Orwell Bridge has an elegance and simplicity and despite being made from dull grey concrete it is majestic and from a distance it hides it's incredible size until it is put into perspective.

Orwell Bridge viewpoint 2AB, B1456, Ipswich only 2 minutes from the hotel.



# Pin Mill

**Map Ref 17** IP9 1JJ

Sunrise, Daytime, Sunset

Pin Mill is a hamlet on the south bank of the tidal River Orwell, on the outskirts of the village of Chelmondiston, on the Shotley peninsula in southern Suffolk. It lies within the Suffolk Coast and Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and is a designated Conservation Area, owned by the National Trust. Explore the footpaths around the heathland, wooded cliffs and river valley. Head to the village for a pint or meal; Butt and Oyster, Pinmill Rd, Ipswich IP9 1JW.

However it is the boat graveyard that harbours most interest for the photographer. There has been pressure from local groups to remove the wrecks so I don't know how many we will find. Could be good for a group sunrise/sunset shoot.

The picturesque village of Pin Mill is well known all over the world for its sailing activities, and the many traditional yachts and barges that can be seen on the River Orwell. The mudflats along the shoreline are a haven for wildlife and vast numbers of wading birds visit during the winter months.

Parking: Public, council car parking in Pin Mill village only, no National Trust car park for site or at Chelmondiston. Use IP9 1JJ for Sat Nav.

There are public toilets on the waterfront.



## Port of Felixstowe

**Map Ref 18** IP11 3TW

Sunrise for Landguard Point, Daytime for Fort, Sunset/Night for Docks

For an interesting industrial landscape try the Port of Felixstowe, Britain's biggest and busiest container port, and one of the largest in Europe. Watch the little tugs as they help the giant ships to arrive and depart. See some of the world's biggest cranes unloading and loading up the ships.

**Viewpoint** at the docks; turn off right at the Dock roundabout on A14 and head towards the docks (signs for 20mph approaching this roundabout). At the next roundabout continue straight on keeping McDonalds and the caravan site on your left then on over the railway line, turning right at the traffic lights. Continue a few hundred yards along that road until it forks slightly to the right and you see a brown sign for the viewpoint (which is on the left beyond the Schlemberger factory). View Point Rd, Felixstowe IP11 3TW. 20 minutes from hotel.

**Landguard Fort.** Vast military structure dating from the 18th century, site of the Royal Marines' first land battle. View Point Rd, Felixstowe IP11 3TW.

**Landguard Point Nature reserve,** just beyond the fort and container port. Long rolling beaches and dunes with good paths. Lots of sand for everyone to enjoy, scattered with interesting military history. Parking by the Fort. Landguard point. Stroll along the shingle beach to the wooden jetty which offers even more spectacular views.

Harwich Harbour Foot and Bicycle Ferry runs from the John Bradfield Viewing Area at Felixstowe to Harwich and Shotley. It is the only public ferry service connecting Suffolk and Essex. Take a trip for a view of Landguard from the water. It is advisable to buy tickets online in advance [www.harwichharbourferry.com/](http://www.harwichharbourferry.com/), or first come first served on board. The ferry only operates in safe weather.

**Shotley Gate** gives a different angle from across the estuary. Park Shotley Gate, Ipswich IP9 1QJ. 17 minutes from hotel.



# Shingle Street

**Map Ref 19** IP12 3BG

Sunrise, Daytime, Sunset

Shingle Street is a small coastal hamlet in Suffolk, England, at the mouth of Orford Ness, situated between Orford and Bawdsey. Part of the coast is also known as Hollesley Bay. Shingle Street was originally a home for fishermen and river pilots for the River Ore. Early in the 19th century a Martello tower was built (Buckanay Lane IP12 3FB), which became a home for coastguards.

The beach of moulded shingle banks stretches for almost a mile. Along the water's edge the waves have deposited a ridge of pebbles that can be tricky to scramble over. There are also areas of quicksand around the lagoons so be careful as they are deceptive and unstable.

Visitors have also spotted seals basking on the shingle.

Appears to be off-road parking at the beginning of the hamlet. Shingle Street, Woodbridge IP12 3BG.



# Sizewell

Map Ref 20 IP16 4UH

Sunrise, Daytime

These days Sizewell is best known for the huge nuclear power stations built here in the 1960's. These dominate the shore, but centuries ago it was a sleepy village renowned for smuggling and the notorious Hadleigh Gang of the 17th century. Legend tells us that a record 8,000 gallons of gin was landed in just one night, and there are tales of bloody battles between the smugglers and the Dragons, which often resulted in death.

In the village of Sizewell there is the Sizewell A, a nuclear power station which no longer produces electricity, and Sizewell B with its famous white dome that still does produce electricity. You can photograph both these from the beach but not from the private road that leads to them.

Today the village acts purely as a destination for the wealth of wildlife and Sizewell is often visited by birdwatchers. It is a yachting centre, and is particularly good for angling off-shore. One of the delightful sights of the area, under the shadow of Sizewell's nuclear power station, is of the colourful up-turned small fishing craft beached-up on the shingle and sand beach.

Sizewell beach is a superb location for beachcombing, full of Suffolk shingle plants. And it's a great spot to find coralline crag, full of fossils.

Lots of parking at Sizewell Gap, Sizewell, Leiston IP16 4UH.



# Snape

**Map Ref 21** IP17 1SP

Sunrise, Daytime, Sunset

**Snape Maltings** is a world leading centre of music, hosting concerts and festivals throughout the year. The original purpose of the Maltings was the malting of barley for the brewing of beer; local barley, once malted, was sent from here to London and exported to mainland Europe. Today a collection of shops, galleries, restaurants and the Concert Hall fill the old buildings. The site is a delight to visit for its architecture, galleries and exhibitions, and its important collection of sculptures, which include Barbara Hepworth's Family of Man, Henry Moore's Reclining Figure (Bunched) and Germano di Chello & David Rickard's Myriad. Snape, Saxmundham, Suffolk IP17 1SP. Free parking available on site.

**Snape Warren** is a 48-hectare heathland nature reserve located to the east of Snape in Suffolk. It's a new reserve, with wetland and heathland areas, home to rare wildlife such as Dartford warblers, woodlarks and adders. RSPB Snape, Priory Rd, Saxmundham IP17 1SA.

**Snape Marshes;** draw inspiration from this landscape of vast skies, golden reeds and sparkling water. There is a huge range of habitat – ranging from veteran oaks to dry heathland and reed-filled marshes. All four species of reptile found in Suffolk – adder, common lizard, grass snake and slow worm – are abundant at Snape, while barn owl, hobby and marsh harrier are also routinely seen. The marshes are criss-crossed with freshwater dykes that create a network of open water and reedy edges perfect for otters, while at low tide, large numbers of waders gather to feed from the rich gloopy mud of the estuary. Also possible to see the blue green blur of a kingfisher hunting. Park at Priory Road, just past the Golden Key pub, IP17 1SE or at Snape Maltings. Level stone-surfaced path around perimeter of reserve, dry year round. No gates or stiles to negotiate, the reserve can be reached by turning right past allotments and following the public footpath into the reserve.



## Southwold

**Map Ref 22** IP18 6LT

Sunrise, Daytime

Southwold is a charming north Suffolk seaside town on the Suffolk Heritage Coast. Almost an island, being bounded by the North Sea to the East, by the River Blyth and Southwold harbour to the South-West and by Buss Creek to the North, there is just the one road in to and out of Southwold.

The town offers much of interest; the working lighthouse, beach huts, award-winning pier, busy harbour, cliff top cannon and of course the beach, combine to make Southwold a quintessentially English resort town. Also up the River Blyth to 'Blackshore'.

There are four Regency 'marine villas' on Gun Hill, around the six Elizabethan canons pointing out to sea; these include elegant Stone House, stylish South Green Lodge, and striking Grade II listed Southwold House. The Royal Ordnance presented the six, eighteen pound, guns to the Corporation in 1745 for defence. The last time they were fired was in 1842.

At the centre of the Market Place is the town pump dating from 1873. North side of the Market Place is The Town Hall and the C18th, Grade II listed, Swan Hotel. The Town Hall is a Gault brick house with a pantile roof, characteristic of the town. No 17, Bank House, Grade II listed and dates from 1716. Sole Bay Inn is a stones' throw from Adnams Brewery, a Grade II listed building which dates from c1835. In the C19th the Sole Bay Brewery grew up in the yard of The Swan. Ernest Adnams bought and rebuilt it forming Adnams Ltd in 1890. The brewery grew producing its much-loved ales but it diversified in the 1970s and 80s. It is now a national brand and its products include wine and spirits.

Southwold Pier Car Park, 27 N Parade, Southwold IP18 6LT or Harbour Quay East Car Park, 6ND, Southwold Harbour, Southwold for Blackshore



# Staverton Thicks

**Map Ref 23** IP12 3PF

Daytime

Staverton Thicks is a site of Special Scientific Interest, a Nature Conservation Review site and a Special Area of Conservation. It is in the Suffolk Coast and Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The Thicks is a dense ancient oak woodland, many stag headed and hollow oaks and some of the tallest holly trees in the country.

The Thicks has been unmanaged for a number of years making it a wonderful place to wander. There is a variety of lichen and flora and various invertebrates including some rare species.

Limited parking at the entrance to Thicks Cottage IP12 3PF, larger car park at Butley Corner IP12 3PJ, 1/2 mile walk to reach the trees.



## Suffolk Wool Towns

**Map Ref 24** Various

Daytime, Sunset, Night

The Suffolk Wool Towns are some of the best-preserved historic towns and prettiest villages in Suffolk. Exploring them feels like stepping back in time to the 15th century, when the wool trade was at its peak, and the Suffolk Wool Towns were among the richest places in the country.

During the medieval period, towns like **Lavenham 13** in Suffolk (see separate page) grew extraordinarily wealthy from the production and trade of woollen cloth. Across Suffolk this wealth was used to build timber-framed houses, and ever-grander churches: buildings that today are the hallmarks of a classic Suffolk Wool Town.

**Kersey 24a** has been named among the top 10 villages in Britain. Set amid rolling Suffolk countryside, Kersey is best explored on foot, followed by a pint at the village pub (The Bell, IP7 6DY). The same can be said of **Cavendish 24b**, a picture-perfect Suffolk Wool Town with iconic 'Suffolk Pink' cottages (on-street parking CO10 8AT). **Clare 24c** boasts a wool church, priory, castle and country park (park CO10 8NW). **Sudbury 24d** is another Suffolk Wool Town with charming views; here you can walk along the River Stour in the footsteps of Thomas Gainsborough, whose former Sudbury home is now a museum (park North Street Car Park CO10 1JG, Market st CO10 2EA). The historic Suffolk Wool Town of **Hadleigh 24e** is also set beside a river, perfect for country walks after you've admired the town's guildhall and deanery tower (park Magdalen Rd, IP7 5EF).

**Long Melford 24f** is instantly recognizable by its spectacular wool church, widely regarded as one of the best in England. There's also a lot to do in Long Melford, including many antique shops and exploring two Tudor mansions. On street parking on the main B1064 through the village.



Awe-inspiring Anglo-Saxon royal burial site. This hauntingly beautiful 255 acre estate, with far-reaching views over the River Deben, is home to one of the greatest archaeological discoveries of all time.

Walk around the Royal Burial Ground and discover the incredible story of the ship burial of an Anglo-Saxon king and his treasured possessions.

Sutton Hoo's special landscape is also home to an array of rich natural habitats that have supported both man and beast throughout history. The Deben Estuary salt marshes and mudflats are now nationally recognised as vitally important habitats for breeding birds, including waders and wildfowl. The muddy areas where salt water meets land are packed full of little creatures, offering a rich feeding area for wild ducks, geese and wading birds. The saltmarsh on the sides of the estuary also supports special salt-tolerant wildflowers including sea lavender, sea aster, orache and sea purslane.

Woodbridge, Suffolk, IP12 3DJ.

10:00 to 17:00. £6 per car for non-members. To avoid disappointment, pre-booking is advised.



# Thorpeness

**Map Ref 26** IP16 4NW

Daytime, Sunset

In 1910 Stuart Ogilvie bought a hamlet and set to transform it into a private fantasy holiday village. Today the village of Thorpeness is just how Ogilvie envisaged it with pretty mock Tudor houses and the fairy-tale 'House in the Clouds'; one of the most striking features of Thorpeness. When Ogilvie set about making his quaint, ornate village, the huge and unsightly water tower to the North of the Meare proved a problematic blemish in his idealistic vision. Originally intended to provide an adequate storage capacity for the village's basic water supply, the tank at the top of the water tower was designed to look like a fairytale cottage, with accommodation in the stalk below.

The Meare is an artificially created boating lake with landings marked with names on a Peter Pan theme. Tiny islands contain locations found in J M Barrie's novel including 'The Pirate's Lair' and 'Wendy's Island'. The lake is open for row boat hire from Spring through to the end of Summer.

Thorpeness Windmill, 12A Uplands Rd, Thorpeness, Leiston IP16 4NQ.

Park, Remembrance Road IP16 4NW. It is right beside the beach and the lake.



# Walberswick

**Map Ref 27** IP18 6TY

Sunrise, Daytime

Set on the unspoilt Suffolk coast, the georgian village of Walberswick is a nostalgic seaside scene. Quieter than the neighbouring town of Southwold, this pretty village has a long sand and shingle beach backed by grassy dunes and surrounded by marsh and heathland. The nature reserve, which follows the River Blyth estuary, covers over 1,000 acres, combining mudflats, meadows and marsh. It is home to otters, deer and a wide range of bird species. Walk south down the beach to the salt marsh for a view of the derelict windmill tower.

Walberswick is the self-appointed capital of crabbing: the World Open Championships are held here every August, when the village is packed full of hopefuls bearing crab lines dangling bacon.

A traditional rowing boat, based on the Suffolk punt design, can ferry visitors across the river Blyth between the Walberswick and Southwold banks. This way of crossing the river is an alternative to walking inland to the Bailey Bridge footbridge. Fare £2 with a daily service; 10:00 to 17:00. Alternatively the ferry company operate a river trip along the scenic River Blyth.

Cliff Field Car Park, 110 Ferry Rd, IP18 6TY.

Walberswick common parking, IP18 6TJ.



**Salt marsh**



**Old pier**

© Justin Minns



**Dunes**

© Justin Minns



**Old pier**

## Waldringfield & River Deben

Map Ref 28 IP12 4QL

Daytime

Sitting on a stretch of the tidal river estuary, Waldringfield has a very rich wildlife, with areas of salt marsh, mudflats and riverside grassland providing habitats for many species of plants, birds and mammals. The river has been designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

The riverside habitats feeding grounds for waders and wildfowl, such as Widgeon, Shelduck and Brent Geese. The river also has a good population of fish.

Today, the river is given over to leisure. Waldringfield Sailing Club, formed in 1921, now has a membership of around 700 of whom around 80 live in the village. In addition to providing club dinghy racing, the WSC hosts open meetings, runs training courses and hosts an annual Regatta. Waldringfield Sailing Club. There is scheduled Saturday afternoon racing on the weekend of our trip. Cliff Rd, Waldringfield, Woodbridge IP12 4QL.

Parking at The Maybush Pub, Cliff Rd, Waldringfield, IP12 4QL.



© Justin Minns



## Westleton Heath

Map Ref 29 IP17 3DB

Sunrise, Daytime

Westleton Heath National Nature Reserve is part of the best remaining tract of heathland in Suffolk. In mediaeval times a large area of heath known as the Sandlings (on account of its dry sandy soils) stretched along the Suffolk coast. Today only about 20% of the heathland remains, the rest has been lost to modern farming and forestry.

Birds of open heath and light scrub are well represented here and include tree pipit, dartford warbler, stonechat and nightjar; while the woodlands support nightingale and woodcock.

The local flora is typical of acid soil, with species such as harebell, tormentil, heath bedstraw and mossy tiliea on the grassheath. Cross-leaved heath may also be found in the damper areas. Of the heather species, common heather and ling predominate, and these, together with deep purple bell heather, provide an important nectar source for invertebrates such as the white admiral butterfly.

Other invertebrates found here include rare solitary bees and wasps, the striped-winged grasshopper and glow-worms.

Westleton Heath Nature Reserve, Dunwich Road, Westleton IP17 3DB.



© Gill Moon



## Windmills

**Map Ref 30** IP31 2NF and IP13 9QQ

Daytime, Sunset

The village of Pakenham, Suffolk, is known as the Village of Two Mills, having both a working water mill and a working windmill. The 18th century **Pakenham Water Mill 30a** was built to replace a Tudor mill, itself built on the site of a mill recorded in the Domesday Book. The Pakenham Windmill stands on the edge of a working farm north of the village, closer to Ixworth than to Pakenham. Pakenham Mill is a Grade II listed tower mill which has been restored and is maintained in working order. The mill is open to the public daily 'during working hours'. Mill Farm, Thurston Rd (Thieves Lane), Pakenham, Bury Saint Edmunds IP31 2NF.

**Saxtead Green Post Mill 30b** is a corn mill, whose whole body revolves on its base, a post mill. In a post mill, the buck of the mill contains the machinery. Sails are also mounted onto the buck. These sails turn to face the wind and the mill body moves around the single central post (hence the name 'post' mill). The buck turns automatically to face the sails square into the 'eye of the wind' by the fantail at the rear. The post mills of east Suffolk are known to be the finest of their type – not only in England but worldwide. Though milling ceased in 1947, the mill is still in working order. Climb the stairs to various floors, which are full of mill machinery. Open Friday and Saturday 12:00 to 17:00. English Heritage. £5 non-member. Saxtead Green Post Mill, The Mill House, Several Rd, The Green, Woodbridge IP13 9QQ.



**Pakenham Windmill 30a**



**Pakenham Windmill 30a**



**Saxtead Green Windmill 30b**



**Saxtead Green Windmill 30b**

## Woodbridge

Map Ref 31 IP12 1BG

Sunrise, Daytime, Sunset

Woodbridge is well known for its boating harbour and tide mill, at the edge of the Suffolk Coast and Heath Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Woodbridge's own **Tide Mill** one of the first to ever be built in the country and was the last to be used as a working mill. It is well over 800 years old and dominates the quayside in the town. It's an iconic landmark as well as being a fascinating place to visit and an example of our industrial and cultural heritage. Not only has it interactive models and information in the mill itself, the mill also still produces flour when the tides are right, which they supply to local artisan bakers. If you want to visit, you will need to book: [woodbridgetidemill.org.uk](http://woodbridgetidemill.org.uk)

**Woodbridge farmers' market** is definitely something to investigate on 4 September. Local producers come together to produce a spread of sumptuous local food and drink.

Walks around the harbour and into the countryside are popular due to the outstanding beauty of the town's surroundings. As many as 150 different species of birds visit the largely unspoilt **River Deben** during the year. Here they can find food, shelter and suitable habitats for breeding. At most times of the year there are a range of birds to be seen from the Tide Mill. On either side of low tide the abundant river mud which is exposed in front of the Tide Mill provides a rich source of food for wading birds such as Godwits, Curlews and Dunlins.

**Buttrum's Windmill**. A 6-storey tower mill, built in 1836. Last worked in 1928, and restored in the 1980s. The sails and cap now turn again, and there is some fine internal machinery, including four pairs of millstones. Ground floor display of history and workings. Burkitt Rd, Woodbridge IP12 4JJ.

Park:7 Hamblin Rd IP12 1BG.



## **Our accommodation**

### **Premier Inn Ipswich South Bourne Hill Ipswich IP2 8ND**

**0333 003 1741**

Exit A14(J56). Follow A137 to Ipswich Central.  
Take 2nd exit off roundabout. Hotel is situated  
behind the Oyster Reach Beefeater.

### **Tide times** Felixstowe

	Low	High	Low	High
Friday 3	03:24	09:54	15:56	22:20
Saturday 4	04:24	10:53	16:49	23:13
Sunday 5	05:09	11:40	17:31	23:57
Monday 6	05:45	12:20	18:09	
Tuesday 7		00:37	06:19	13:00

### **Sun** Felixstowe

	Rise	Set
Friday 3	06:10	19:36
Saturday 4	06:12	19:33
Sunday 5	06:14	19:31
Monday 6	06:15	19:29
Tuesday 7	06:17	19:27



