



# Cambridge & East Anglia

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## Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Midsummer House (p363)
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## Best Places to Sleep

- ➔ Varsity (p362)
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- ➔ Cley Windmill (p383)

## Why Go?

Unfurling gently eastwards to the sea, the vast flatlands of East Anglia are a rich web of lush farmland, melancholy Fens and sparkling rivers. The area is justly famous for its sweeping sandy beaches, big skies and the bucolic landscape that once inspired Constable and Gainsborough.

It's not all rural idyll though: rising out of the Fens is the world-famous university town of Cambridge, with its stunning classical architecture and earnest attitude, and to the east is the cosmopolitan city of Norwich. Around them, magnificent cathedral cities, pretty market towns and implausibly picturesque villages are testament to the enormous wealth amassed here during medieval times, when the wool and weaving industries flourished.

Meanwhile, the meandering coastline is peppered with pretty fishing villages and traditional bucket-and-spade resorts, while inland is the languid, hypnotic charm of the Norfolk Broads, an ideal location for serious relaxation.

## When to Go

- ➔ To best explore the Cambridge colleges, avoid Spring (early April to mid-June), when they close to visitors as students prepare for exams.
- ➔ June and August show the Norfolk and Suffolk beaches and the Norfolk Broads at their best. But in school holidays (late July to August) it gets busy and accommodation prices rise.
- ➔ World-class classical music comes to Suffolk in the Aldeburgh Festival in June. In July, Southwold's eclectic Latitude Festival offers alternative rock, comedy and theatre.
- ➔ November's Ways With Words literature festival draws big-name authors to Southwold.
- ➔ Exquisite music fills Cambridge's King's College Chapel in December, culminating in the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols on Christmas Eve.

# Cambridge & East Anglia Highlights

- 1 Cambridge**  
(p353) Punting past historic colleges then enjoying the heavenly evensong at King's College Chapel.
- 2 Lavenham**  
(p372) Soaking up the medieval architecture in this atmospheric market town.
- 3 Norwich** (p378)  
Marvelling at the exquisite rib vaulting in the city's fine cathedral.
- 4 Aldeburgh**  
(p376) Dining on sublime seafood and walking the prom in a laid-back resort.
- 5 Sandringham**  
(p387) Nosying around the drawing room of the Queen's country estate.
- 6 Norfolk Broads**  
(p385) Canoeing your way through unique tranquil waterways.
- 7 Imperial War Museum** (p364)  
Discovering the history of the British and American air forces.
- 8 Holkham Beach**  
(p386) Wandering barefoot along immense, pine-backed golden sands.
- 9 Audley End**  
(p369) Delighting in one of Britain's grandest stately homes.

