



Cambridge & East Anglia

Includes ➔

Cambridge	371
Ely	384
Colchester	385
Dedham Vale	386
Saffron Walden	387
Southend-on-Sea	388
Long Melford	389
Lavenham	391
Bury St Edmunds	392
Aldeburgh	395
Southwold	396
Norwich	397
King's Lynn & Around	405

Best Places to Eat

- ➔ Midsummer House (p381)
- ➔ Roger Hickman's (p402)
- ➔ Company Shed (p386)
- ➔ Great House (p392)

Best Places to Stay

- ➔ Varsity (p380)
- ➔ Sutherland House (p396)
- ➔ Angel (p391)
- ➔ Peacocks (p385)

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

- ➔ If the Cambridge colleges are high on your list, avoid Spring (early April to mid-June), when they close to visitors as students prepare for exams.
- ➔ The (hopefully) better weather between June and August means you'll see the Norfolk and Suffolk beaches and the Norfolk Broads at their best. But school holidays (late-July to August) bring plenty more people, and also push accommodation prices up.
- ➔ World-class classical music comes to Suffolk in the Aldeburgh Festival (p395) in June. In July, cool-culture fans chill at Southwold's eclectic Latitude Festival (p396).
- ➔ Come November, the Ways With Words (p396) literature festival draws big-name authors to Southwold.
- ➔ Exquisite, seasonal music fills Cambridge's King's College Chapel (p371) in December, culminating in the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols on Christmas Eve.

Cambridge & East Anglia Highlights

1 Punting past historic colleges in Cambridge and enjoying the heavenly sounds of evensong at **King's College Chapel** (p371)

2 Soaking up the medieval atmosphere in topsy-turvy **Lavenham** (p391)

3 Marvelling at the exquisite rib vaulting at **Norwich Cathedral** (p397)

4 Walking the prom, dining on sublime food and just chilling out in understated **Aldeburgh** (p395)

5 Nosingy around the drawing room of the Queen's country estate at **Sandringham** (p405)

6 Canoeing your way through the tranquil waterways of the **Norfolk Broads** (p400)

7 Pondering the history of British and American air forces at the **Imperial War Museum** (p384) in Duxford

8 Wandering barefoot along the immense, golden sands of **Holkham beach** (p404)

9 Delighting in one of Britain's grandest stately homes at **Audley End** (p388) in Saffron Walden

