



Tour Information



Medieval Suffolk





Travel

The tour commences and concludes at the **Best Western Claydon Hotel**.

16-18 Ipswich Road

Claydon

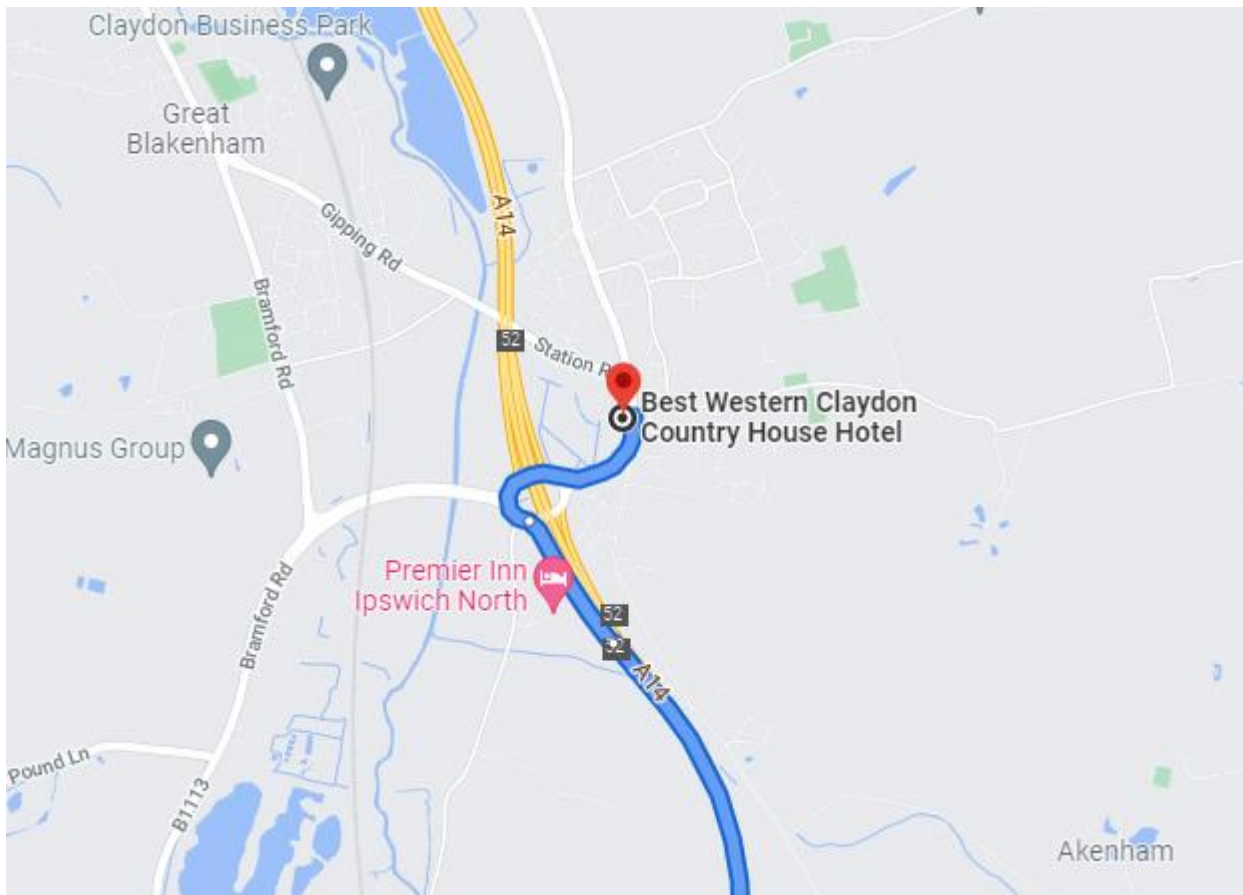
Ipswich

OP6 0AR

United Kingdom

Tel: 0333 003 4094

Please note that transport to the hotel is not included in the price of the tour.



Transport

If you are travelling by car: Exit the M25 at Junction 28, A12/A1023 to Chelmsford/Brentwood. At the roundabout, take the 4th exit onto the A12 Chelmsford/Harwich and continue on the A12 to Harwich. At Copdock Roundabout, take the 1st exit onto the A14 slip road to Bury St Edmunds/Norwich/A140. At junction 52, take the B1113 exit to Bramford/Gt Blakenham/Claydon. At the roundabout take the 4th exit onto Ipswich Road and your destination will be on the left.

If you are travelling by train: Ipswich Train Station is approx. 5 miles from the hotel.



Accommodation

Best Western Claydon Hotel

The three-star Claydon Hotel is located in the small village of Claydon just off the A14 and only 5 miles west of Ipswich town centre. The hotel is a mixture of rural charm and modern convenience with a delightful Victorian dining room, Conservatory bar and main bar. Bedrooms are comfortable with en-suite bathroom, air-conditioning, TV, telephone, wifi and tea and coffee making facilities.

Please note there is no lift at the hotel.

Complimentary car parking is available at the hotel.

More information can be found via the hotel's website:

<https://www.hotelsipswich.com/>

Check-in and departure from the hotel

On the day of arrival you will be able to check-in at the hotel from 15.00, and the tour manager will meet you in the evening at the welcome reception.

On the last day, the tour will not finish until approximately 18.00 so you should check with your tour manager, or the hotel reception, where luggage should be stored until your departure.

Extra nights

If you have booked to stay an extra night at the hotel, this is on bed and breakfast basis and check out from the hotel is at 11.00.

Dining

On the first night, a private dinner with wine is provided at the hotel and included in the price of the tour. For the second evening, dinner is provided in the hotel restaurant. Breakfast on all days of your stay is included in the price, but meals other than these stated are not included.

Special requests

If you haven't already done so, please notify Travel Editions of any special requests as soon as possible to allow sufficient time to make the necessary arrangements.



Places Visited

St Peter and St Paul's Church, Lavenham

St Peter and St Paul's Church is a Grade I listed Church of England parish church in Lavenham, Suffolk. It is a notable wool church and regarded as one of the finest examples of Late Perpendicular Gothic architecture in England. A church has existed on the current site, in a prominent position to the west of the town, since Anglo-Saxon times. The original church, which was probably wooden, was rebuilt in stone in the 14th century. The chancel is the oldest part of the current church, having been constructed in c. 1340 and decorated with money from wealthy citizens.

<http://www.suffolkchurches.co.uk/Lavenham.htm>

Lavenham

Lavenham in Suffolk is widely acknowledged as the best example of a medieval wool town in England. In Tudor times, Lavenham was said to be the fourteenth wealthiest town in England, despite its small size. Its fine timber-framed buildings and beautiful church, built on the success of the wool trade, make it a fascinating place to explore today. Although Lavenham goes back to Saxon times, it is best known as a medieval wool town. It was granted its market charter in 1257 and started exporting its famous blue broadcloth as far afield as Russia. In the 14th century Edward III encouraged the English weaving industry and Lavenham began to prosper. However, in the late 16th century Dutch refugees in Colchester began weaving a lighter, cheaper and more fashionable cloth and the woollen trade in Lavenham began to fail. Most of the buildings in Lavenham today date from the 15th century, many of these were never altered due to the fall of the weaving industry. Consequently, the town is still very much on the same scale as it must have been in the 15th century.

<https://www.historic-uk.com/HistoryMagazine/DestinationsUK/Lavenham/>

Lavenham Guildhall

Set in the lovely village of Lavenham, the Guildhall of Corpus Christi tells the story of one of the best-preserved and wealthiest towns in Tudor England. When you step inside this fine timber-framed building, you'll feel the centuries melt away. You can discover the stories of the people who have used the Guildhall through its almost-500 years at the heart of its community and learn about the men and women who have shaped the fortunes of this unique village.

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/lavenham-guildhall>

Sutton Hoo

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. The site of two 6th- and early 7th-century cemeteries. One cemetery contained an undisturbed ship-burial, including a wealth of Anglo-Saxon artefacts of outstanding art-historical and archaeological significance, most of which are now in the British Museum in London. The ship-burial, probably dating from the early 7th century and excavated in 1939, is one of the most magnificent archaeological finds in England for its size and completeness, far-reaching connections, the quality and beauty of its contents, and the profound interest of the burial ritual itself. The initial excavation was privately sponsored by the landowner. When the significance of the find became apparent, national experts took over. Subsequent archaeological campaigns, particularly in the late 1960s and late 1980s, have explored the wider site and many other individual burials. Following the withdrawal of the Romans from southern Britain after 410, the remaining population slowly adopted the language, customs and beliefs of the Germanic Angles, Saxons and Jutes. Much of the process may have been due to cultural appropriation, as there was a widespread migration into Britain. The Anglo-Saxons developed new cultural

traits. Their language developed into Old English, a Germanic language that was different from the languages previously spoken in Britain, and they were pagans, following a polytheistic religion. Differences in their daily material culture changed, as they stopped living in roundhouses and constructed rectangular timber homes similar to those found in Denmark and northern Germany. Their jewellery began to exhibit the increasing influence of Migration Period Art from continental Europe. During this period, southern Britain became divided up into a number of small independent kingdoms. Many of the graves from this period that have been discovered across Britain were accompanied by grave goods, which included combs, tweezers and brooches, as well as weapons. Sacrificed animals have also been found in the graves.

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/sutton-hoo>

Greyfriars Monastery, Dunwich

The monastery was established by Franciscan monks, who first came to Dunwich in the 1250s and set up a monastic house near the harbour. A massive storm, on New Year's Eve in 1286, destroyed their building, along with much of the harbour facilities and many homes in the lower part of the town. The monks were then given land just outside the old town boundary and started building the monastery whose remains you see today.

<http://www.dunwichgreyfriars.org.uk/greyfriars-monastery/>

Dunwich Museum

Over the centuries Dunwich has been a Roman fort, the capital of a Saxon Kingdom and the base from which St Felix, the first Bishop of Dunwich, converted East Anglia to Christianity. By the 11th century it was one of the greatest ports on the east coast, the tenth largest place in England, a crusader port, a naval base, and a religious centre with many large churches, monasteries, hospitals, grand public buildings and even a mint. Its citizens grew wealthy from trade, shipbuilding and a seventy-vessel fishing fleet. It had one sixth of the population of London and two seats in Parliament. All of it has been lost to the North Sea except for the ruins of the 13th century Franciscan friary on the edge of the cliff and Leper Hospital chapel in the present churchyard.

<http://www.dunwichmuseum.org.uk/>

Holy Trinity Church, Blythburgh

A church building has stood in Blythburgh for a thousand years. It is a magnificent building which can be seen rising out from the Blyth estuary — sometimes affectionately called 'The Cathedral of the Marshes'. Blythburgh has had a long history of Christianity dating back to pre-Conquest times. Indeed the Saxon period may have been the greatest time for Blythburgh, and we believe there has been a church on this very site since 630. In the 'Domesday' survey of 1087, Blythburgh is listed as a royal burgh with one of the richest churches in Suffolk, perhaps a minster with missionary duties. Canons from Essex founded Blythburgh Priory in 1130, and it was to the prior in 1412 that Henry IV granted the right to build this church.

<https://www.holytrinityblythburgh.org.uk/>

St Peter's Church, Wenhaston

The church dates back to medieval times and has a steady stream of visitors who come to see the world-famous Doom, a striking piece of art depicting the medieval vision of Judgement Day. Many of the medieval objects in our churches today would not have survived if it were not for the Victorians. And yet, perhaps the most significant medieval art object in the county exists by a supreme irony, for if it had not been for an act of gross 19th Century carelessness, it might not have survived at all. If they had been efficient, the decaying wooden tympanum taken down from above the chancel arch at Wenhaston in the summer of 1892 would have been stripped, repaired and painted. Instead, it lay out in the churchyard waiting for someone to do something with it, while the restoration continued inside. That night, it rained. The

whitewash, applied centuries before, dissolved. What the rain revealed is essentially a doom painting, although there is a little more to it than that. A doom shows the final judgement of souls after death; each person comes equally before the throne of God, and is selected to go to Heaven or to Hell. Probably, all churches had them.

<http://www.suffolkchurches.co.uk/wenhaston.html>

St Edmund's Church, Southwold

St. Edmund's, Southwold is a Grade 1 listed, 15th century church situated in the middle of the town. The exterior is a beautiful example of East Anglian flint work. Inside, look out for the carved and decorated angels in the roof, the spectacular font cover, and the great medieval rood screen with its fine paintings. The figure of Southwold Jack is well known to anyone who loves Adnams beers. The armour-clad figure, dating from the Wars of the Roses, is still called upon today to announce the start of services by striking his bell with his battle axe.

<http://www.solebayteamministry.co.uk/our-parish-churches/st-edmund-southwold>

Framlingham Castle

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 Margaret Brotherton, 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. It was behind these walls that Mary Tudor was proclaimed Queen of England. Discover more of Framlingham's stories in our exhibition, walk the ramparts of the castle to enjoy its breath-taking views.

<https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/framlingham-castle/>

St Michael's Church, Framlingham

St Michael's is the parish church for Framlingham, and we have close links to All Saints Saxtead, an adjoining parish to the north west of our small historic market town. The two parishes have historical links dating back to medieval times and have been a combined benefice under the patronage of Pembroke College, Cambridge since the college was given the lands and the patronage of the living by Sir Robert Hitcham in the 17th century. Framlingham was a major seat of the Earls and Dukes of Norfolk. Vast estates of the Norman Bigods were forfeited to Edward I and Framlingham came to Thomas of Brotherton, eldest son of Edward and Margaret of France. After many other changes of inheritance, in about 1635 Sir Robert Hitcham bequeathed the Framlingham estate to Pembroke College Cambridge who remain Lords of the Manor to this day. The church contains many fine tombs including that of Thomas Howard, 3rd Duke of Norfolk.

<https://www.stmichaelsframlingham.org.uk/>

Your Guide

Jo Robinson will be your guide during this tour.

Jo Robinson has a long career working in museums, such as the Peterborough Museum, the Cromwell Museum in Huntingdon and elsewhere, as an events manager and in other roles. She has written a number of historical novels set around the Mary Rose, the Anglo-Saxons, the Romans at Hadrian's Wall, Horatio Nelson, Mrs Oliver Cromwell, the Great Fire of London, Guy Fawkes, all accompanied by extensive historical research. Her latest story is inspired by the Orford Merman and set in medieval Suffolk.

Jo will give the following talks during this tour:

'England's Medieval Wool Industry'

'The Dukes of Norfolk and Suffolk'

Practical Information






Tour manager - Your tour manager will be on hand throughout the tour to ensure that everything operates according to plan. If you have any problems or questions please see him or her immediately – it is often possible to resolve complaints or problems very quickly on the spot, and do everything to help you enjoy your holiday.

Tipping –To keep our tours affordable, we do not increase the tour price by adding in tips. However, in the tourism industry, there is a certain level of expectation that when receiving a good service, one does award with a tip. Tour Managers, Representatives, Guides and Drivers appreciate a tip at the end of their involvement with the tour, but this is entirely at your discretion. We believe in allowing you to tip according to your level of satisfaction with their services.

Walking Content – This tour has been graded a 4 out of 5 for walking difficulty.

Walking difficulty: 

Please see the key below for an explanation of the footprint symbols:

Very little walking involved	
Relaxed easy pace, mainly walking from coach to site	
Some walking between sites, good, flat walking surfaces	
Walking between sites, lots of standing for viewings	
On your feet all day, uneven terrain (cobble etc)	

Insurance

Although this is a UK holiday please note that, should you cancel your holiday, the amount paid is non-refundable. For this reason you may wish to take out insurance just in case an unforeseen event caused you to have to cancel the tour. As well as covering cancellations, your travel insurance will also cover your baggage and personal belongings in case they are lost or stolen.

Emergencies

Should an emergency arise, please call our offices on:

020 7251 0045

Outside office hours (Mon-Fri 0900-1700), telephone our emergency staff on:

07841 023807

LEASE USE THESE NUMBERS ONLY IN THE EVENT OF A GENUINE EMERGENCY.

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