

EXPLORE EAST ANGLIA

From Ely to Cambridge to Norwich, East Anglia has a *lot* to offer. While you're visiting us at the Crafter's Retreat, why not do some exploring? You won't regret it!



ELY 16.8 miles 🚗 26 mins
CATHEDRAL

[Ely Cathedral](#) showcases four stages of English medieval architecture. With its three-story elevated naves, Romanesque eastern end, and blind arcade exterior, you'll be hard pushed to find a more exquisite day out.

It takes you on a journey through the ages. Consider it your personal time machine. You'll be gutted if you don't go!

THE STAINED GLASS 16.8 miles 🚗 26 mins
MUSEUM

While you're visiting [Ely Cathedral](#), you should head to the mystical collection of stained glass. The exhibits span creations from medieval right to the modern day — why would you want to miss this 800-year look at the past?

Open all year round, you can explore this museum in the dead of winter or the height of summer. It's completely up to you!



[ELY MARKETS](#) 17.8 miles 🚗 28 mins

The market has been the heart of the city's community for over 800 years. With different markets almost every day of the week, you're guaranteed to have a wide range of small businesses to shop from, regardless of when you visit.

Want to see a specific market? Find the [Ely market schedule here](#)

[OLIVER CROMWELL'S HOUSE](#) 16.7 miles 🚗 25 mins

This aptly named location sits alongside [St Mary's Church](#) and allows you to gain a once-in-a-lifetime look at the way Oliver Cromwell and his family lived. They resided here from 1636 to 1647. Not that long but as this is one of only *two* Cromwell houses to stand the test of time, it's an important piece of history. You'll start in the parlour, move into the kitchen, and then find yourself in the portrait room. History buffs — you *can't* miss this!





PRICKWILLOW 18.4 miles 🚗 27 mins
ENGINE
MUSEUM

The [Prickwillow Engine Museum](#) spills the story of the drainage/pumping stations in the Fens. Situated in the historic pumping station 4 miles east of the city, history buffs will be thrilled to see the collection of massive diesel pumping engines.

OH, and they *all* work! Yup, that's right. You'll have front row seats to the best re-enactment of the pumps and engines of ancient times.

BABYLON ARTS 17.8 miles 🚗 29 mins

An art gallery on the riverside? Yes please! It doesn't get better than [Babylon Arts](#). With picturesque art inside and the scenic waterway outside, you're in for an aesthetic treat.

Run by the Arts Development in East Cambridgeshire (ADEC), the exhibitions are changing constantly. Not to mention the handmade gifts in the adjoining shop which are high quality and oh-so pretty.



[SAFARA THE GIRAFFE](#) 17.8 miles 🚗 29 mins

Oh, Safara! A sky-high yet hidden giraffe in one of the most gorgeous parts of Ely. So secret, that not even all the locals know about it! Wesley West, a local artist, decided to construct this metal-and-measuring-tape giraffe as an ode to George Peacock.

You need to visit Safara to find out the juicy info about how she was born.

[LIBERTY BELLE CRUISES](#) 17.8 miles 🚗 29 mins

Sure. Ely river looks great from the bank. But trust us, it looks even better when you're on the water. So, why not hire a boat from Liberty Belle Cruises and experience it for yourself?

Departing from the Quayside near The Maltings, you'll spend the day cruising across the river. Take in the sights from this perspective. We promise you won't regret it.





TOPPINGS 16.8 miles 🚗 26 mins

Are you a reader? You *must* go to [Toppings & Company Booksellers](#) of Ely! It's the cutest bookshop you'll ever have the pleasure of visiting. Seriously.

With a café on the second of three floors, the staff encourage you to stay a while and read a chapter (or 5!). Regardless of the genre you're into, you'll find something to suit your literary tastebuds.

[THE MIND FACTORY](#) 16.9 miles 🚗 27 mins

So far, we've mentioned all the landmarks and places you'd expect to see. But we're throwing you off here with this wireless free-roam VR gaming experience.

In groups of two or three, you'll be immersed in a virtual world where the aim of the game is to beat the system and/or destroy your opponent. Try to find something more adrenaline-pumping than that!



FITZWILLIAM MUSEUM 33.5 miles 🚗 56 mins

Fancy visiting the lead partner of the Cambridge Museum Collection? Then the [Fitzwilliam Museum](#) is the best place for you!

Inside, you'll find the globally renowned selection of 500,000 masterpieces, artefacts, and unmissable works of art. It's free to visit the museum, so all you need to pay for is the petrol/diesel it takes to get there.

THE CAMBRIDGE GIN LABORATORY 33.4 miles 🚗 56 mins

The [Cambridge Gin Laboratory](#) provides an interactive gin-filled experience. Located at the heart of the famous Cambridge Distillery, the Lab has a classroom, shop, private hire room, and (our favourite) a tasting lounge!

A trip to the Gin Lab is both educational, historical, and tasty. What more could you possibly want?





[CAMBRIDGE BOTANIC GARDEN](#) 33.6 miles 🚗 57 mins

Finding peace is easy within the expanse of the Cambridge Botanic Garden. You can choose to attend a pre-booked Wellness Wander, stroll through the water features, or stop for a bite to eat at the café.

Be aware: the gardens are *huge*! It's absolutely an entire day out. So, make sure you don't have any other plans; you'll definitely want to max out your time here.

CAMBRIDGE TOURS 33.8 miles 🚗 1 hr

Whether you choose a walking tour or a boating one, you're going to see the world-famous Cambridge sights and listen to the lives of countless famous people who have lived, worked, and studied in the city. From [St. John's](#) to [Corpus Christi](#) to [St Bene't's Church](#) to the Cavendish Laboratory, you will leave the tour feeling fulfilled, inspired, and amazed.



[THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE](#) 32.5 miles 🚗 53mins

Striking in stature, the University of Cambridge is even more magnificent than it first appears. As the world's fourth-oldest still-standing university, it is the globe's most prestigious academic institute. The list of alumni is near infinite!

Just standing outside its doors feels powerful. But to visit feels ethereal.

THE CENTRE OF COMPUTING HISTORY 32.9 miles 🚗 55 mins

Thought the [Centre of Computing History](#) was just a museum? Think again. It's *far* more than that!

Not only can you interact with some of the old equipment, you can also attend workshops and participate in a wide range of events. It makes computing history fun, no matter your age.





KETTLE'S YARD 32.8 miles 🚗 54 mins

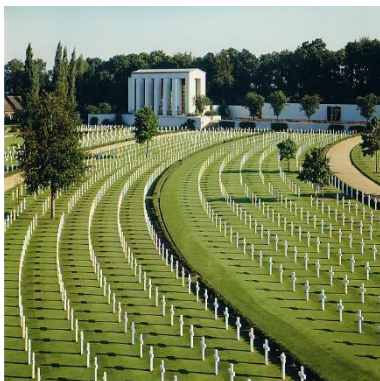
Modern and contemporary art are all the rage. [Kettle's Yard](#) is the perfect place to get your fix.

The house holds a wide variety of art pieces in a beautiful setting. You can visit from Wednesday to Sunday from 11 am to 5 pm. Don't worry about having to leave for a bite to eat — there's a quaint café on site for you to nibble from.

[THE CAMBRIDGE SCIENCE CENTRE](#) 35.5 miles 🚗 58 mins

The Cambridge Science Centre is fun for all the family. From inspirational shows to hands-on workshops and experiences, you get to satisfy your scientific curiosity.

Before heading out, be sure to check the "What's On" section of their website. You'll find everything you need to know about their current exhibits and live demonstrations.



[AMERICAN CEMETERY AND MEMORIAL](#) 35.7 miles 🚗 56 mins

Donated by the University of Cambridge, the 30.5-acre memorial and cemetery lies on a slope lined with woodland. Most of those who lay to rest here died in the Battle of the Atlantic or in the air bombardment of northwest Europe. There are 3,811 remains and 5,127 names engraved on the Walls of the Missing who were never found. It certainly makes for a solemn yet awe-inducing visit. Just remember to leave nothing but footprints.

CORPUS CLOCK 33.7 miles 🚗 59 mins

Admired since 2008, the [Corpus Clock](#) is the most iconic of Cambridge monuments. The face is entirely constructed from pure gold and the ever-growing ripples represent the Big Bang. On top of the clock sits the "Chronophage", a time eating monster. Each minute is "eaten" by the Chronophage and signified by a snapping of its jaws. If you're already going to Cambridge, take a detour pass the clock. You won't regret it.





GRAND ARCADE 33.6 miles 🚗 58 mins

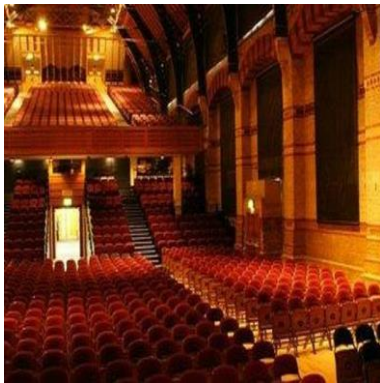
When you want to do a spot of shopping, you can't go wrong with the [Grand Arcade](#). Situated on St. Andrew's Street, it houses many well-known brands including John Lewis & Partners, Apple, and over 60 other outlets! Of course, there are cafes and restaurants dotted throughout the centre too.

[CAMBRIDGE ARTS THEATRE](#)

33.8 miles 🚗 1 hr

With 666 seats, you are *always* in for a real treat at the Cambridge Arts Theatre. Located on St. Edward's Passage in the centre of the city, it houses everything from dance, opera, pantomime and drama.

[Interested in finding out what's on? Check here!](#)



CAMBRIDGE CORN EXCHANGE 33.7 miles 🚗 59 mins

Looking for a nearby theatre? The [Cambridge Corn Exchange](#) doesn't disappoint. Its stage has hosted many famous people and groups, including Oasis, The London Symphony Orchestra, Syd Barrett, David Bowie, Queen, Take That, Jimmy Carr, Eddie Izzard, Arctic Monkeys, Amy Winehouse, Russel Brand, and Elbow. Who knows who you'll get to see?

NORWICH CATHEDRAL


51.2 miles 🚗 1 hr 16 mins

[Norwich Cathedral](#) is one of 12 heritage sites in the city. It's a Grade I listed building sitting proudly atop the hill. Its Romanesque architecture is truly breathtaking.

Being one of the largest cathedrals in *Europe* it's more than worth a visit. Oh, and the spire is the second tallest in the country!






NORWICH 51.6 miles  1 hr 15 mins
GHOST WALKS

Into the paranormal? You can see the spooky side of Elm Hill, Tombland, Norwich Castle, and even the Cathedral on a [pre-booked ghost tour!](#)


Your ghost-hunter guide will lead you on an adventure through the city's most haunted parts. You'll hear tales of the ghostly stories and poltergeists who still wander the streets. Perfectly scary!

WROXHAM MINIATURE WORLDS 60 miles  1 hr 22 mins

Wroxham Miniature Worlds is the [largest indoor modelling attraction](#) in the United Kingdom. With over 10,000 square feet of model worlds to view, it makes for an interesting day out.


The site is split up into zones including an entire Lego city, multiple railways, train simulators, flight simulators, a vintage arcade, drivable mini railways, and so much more!



THE NORFOLK BROADS 56.9 miles  1 hr 15 mins

Built by man, the [Norfolk Broads](#) is a protected national park. It boasts over 125 miles of lock-free water lined by gorgeous villages, attractive towns, and rolling countryside.

If you're lucky, you may even spot some of the rarest animals and plants in the United Kingdom.


[AMAZONA ZOO](#) 61.2 miles  1 hr 26 mins

Amazona Zoo boasts over 200 animals from South America, including monkeys, caimans, rheas, flamingos, pumas, macaws, and even tapirs. The wildlife park is set along the stunning North Norfolk Coast in an out-of-the-way location.

It might be a good idea to head to [plan your visit](#) beforehand as there's so much to see!






THE FORUM 52.1 miles  1 hr 11 mins

At the heart of Norwich City, you find the [Forum](#). Built in place of the traditional Norwich Central Library, it houses all sorts inside, including the Millennium Library, Citizens Advice Bureau, Pizza Express, BBC East, Café Bar Marzano and more.


All year round there are [free events](#) to attend. Just check their page to see what's on when you plan to visit.

[GRESSENHALL FARM AND WORKHOUSE](#) 38.1 miles  53 mins

Gressenhall Farm and Workhouse is the epitome of historical Norfolk life. With live demonstrations, fun playgrounds for the kids, and Suffolk Punch horses, you'll take a hands-on approach to the past.

Behind the wrought iron gates, you'll find cottage gardens, a working farm, galleries, libraries, museums, and so much more.



PENSTHORPE NATURAL PARK 42.2 miles  58 mins

Run by the Pensthorpe Conservation Trust, this [North Norfolk natural park](#) focuses on inspiring others to enjoy the great outdoors. It's a great day out for all the family. You'll discover the best of British wildlife, stunning gardens, and a fun-filled adventure playground.

Regardless of the weather, spy cranes, red squirrels, and learn more about the [Pensthorpe's Actively Saving Species programme](#).

BURE VALLEY RAILWAY 60 miles  1 hr 22 mins

Ever wanted to take a trip on a working, traditional steam train? Now's your chance! Bure Valley is the [longest narrow-gauge railway](#) in the county, running between Aylsham and Wroxham.

On this 18-mile journey, you'll spy the flowing River Bure, mystical meadowland, and historical pasture. Nostalgia galore!





NATIONAL CENTRE FOR WRITING 56.6 miles 🚗 1 hr 15 mins

Literature friends unite! The [National Centre for Writing](#) set in a historic Norfolk location is the perfect place to gather with like-minded individuals. The not-for-profit organisation runs events all year round.

You'll never be stuck for an entertaining day/night out again! Just take a look at their "[What's On](#)" page to find out more.

THE ARTS CENTRE 50.7 miles 🚗 1 hr 13 mins

The [Norwich Arts Centre](#) is a venue dedicated to the production and display of contemporary arts. Whether you're a fan of live music, art, visual art, theatre, comedy, literature, or dance, you'll find something to tickle your fancy here.

As with the National Centre for Writing, you'll need to check their "[What's On](#)" page to find out more.



[SAINSBURY INSTITUTE OF ARTS AND CULTURES](#) 51.2 miles 🚗 1 hr 15 mins



Founded in 1999 by Sir Robert and Lady Sainsbury, the centre was constructed to enhance the understanding and knowledge of Japanese arts and cultures. Through ever-changing exhibits both inside and outside of the building, you'll discover the creations of world-renowned artists. It's certainly one for the art enthusiasts.

THE PLANT DEN 51.9 miles 🚗 1 hr 11 mins

[The Plant Den](#) is a dainty little shop in Norwich run by dedicated house plant specialists. They sell everything from Wildernis Halo Plant Hangers to Alocasia Zebrina to Dieffenbachia "Summer Style".

You'll be hard pushed to find a nicer place to shop for those all-popular house plants.





THE CASTLE QUARTER 56.7 miles 🚗 1 hr 15 mins

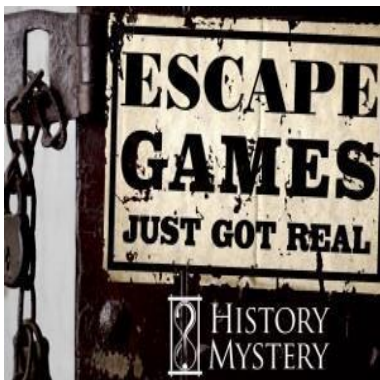
If shopping is more your style, a visit to the [Castle Quarter](#) in Norwich is a *must*. Probably one of the prettiest shopping centres in the area, you can shop at Blue Inc, Claire's, Boots, New Look, Pettitt and Boo, Pure Electric, Starbucks, Shake, and other well-known (and not so well-known) outlets.

Check the [store map](#) to plan your trip!

[BANHAM ZOO](#) 45.3 miles 🚗 1 hr 3 mins

This conservation zoo welcomes non-members and members year-round to visit the amazing wildlife. As you adventure through the park, you'll find everything from macaws to llamas to zebras to tigers. Something for every kind of animal lover here!

Just remember to [book your tickets](#) before you get there to skip the queues.



HISTORY MYSTERY ESCAPE 50.9 miles 🚗 1 hr 13 mins

Searching for a mind-bending evening with friends? [History Mystery Escape](#) is bound to do just that. You're tasked with escaping a locked room by solving puzzles, finding clues, and interactive adventures. Not only that, but you will learn about the stories of those who once traversed the halls.

Oh, and if you don't feel like going out, they now offer virtual escapes!

HOUGHTON HALL 32.3 miles 🚗 46 mins

You can't *not* visit [Houghton Hall](#) while you're in the area. Once you've made it through the entrance, you'll find Tony Cragg sculptures, walled gardens, expansive marbled halls, a soldier museum, and other historic sites.

Open on selected days only, you'll need to plan your trip carefully to ensure you see everything!





[PLANTATION GARDEN](#)

51.5 miles



1 hr 9 mins

There's no doubt about it — the Plantation Garden is the best of Norwich's green spaces. It's set on a 3-acre plot of Grade II listed English Heritage registered garden and features a towering gothic fountain. Throughout the park, you'll find the iconic medieval terraced wall, Victorian-style greenhouses, rustic bridges, and thick, natural woodlands. You can experience all this for a mere £2!

[AFRICA ALIVE](#)

79.6 miles



1 hr 48 mins

If you're looking to travel a bit further afield, the [as-seen-on-TV Africa Alive](#) is a fantastic choice. Their conservation efforts are focused on improving the globe's most endangered species, including rhinos.

You never know, you might be so inspired that you decide to volunteer your assistance!



[EATON CRAZY GOLF](#)

51.2 miles



1 hr 9 mins

[Eaton Crazy Golf](#) holds the title as Norwich's first outdoor crazy golf course dedicated to providing an experience for everyone, regardless of age! With covered seating and plenty of shade from the beating sun, you'll find this to be a thoroughly relaxing day out with friends, family, or both.

[MOUSEHOLD HEATH](#)

53 miles



1 hr 20 mins

Protected by the Mousehold Conservators, the Heath is a stunning 184-acre woodland, heathland, and recreational green sat in the north side of Norwich. It has earned many awards for its prestigious wildlife and conservation efforts. It's the place to unwind from the bustling life in the heart of the city.

