

FARM STAY EAST ANGLIA

A DAY OUT IN IPSWICH AND FELIXSTOWE

IPSWICH

The historic Anglo Saxon town of IPSWICH is best explored by using the Park and Ride system at the A12/A14 junction at Copdock, or at the western exit from the A14 at the A1156. You can then take the circular bus tour (May to Sept) from Tower Ramparts bus station, which allows you to hop on and off the route all day, taking in the town centre and surrounding area with dramatic views from the Orwell Bridge.

Watch beer being brewed at the TOLLY COBBOLD BREWERY, and the BREWERY TAP pub would be a good place for lunch, right by the Docks. To explore the town on foot, take a guided walking tour with a Blue Badge Guide from the Tourist Information Centre in St. Stephen's Church. Don't miss the MUSEUM in High Street, and CHRISTCHURCH MANSION in its magnificent park. This fine Tudor house has 16th and 19th century rooms with outstanding collections of furniture, china, clocks and glass, and a notable gallery of paintings by Constable and Gainsborough.

The pedestrianised town centre, served by a shop mobility scheme for the disabled, has excellent shops, both old and new. Browse around LAKELAND LTD. for creative kitchenware in the historic ANCIENT HOUSE, and for a break from shopping try BERRIDGES in Dial Lane, CROYDON'S in Tavern Street, or CHURCHES in Tower Street for coffee or lunch. For a good choice for evening meals, take a stroll down St. Peter's and St. Nicholas Streets where you will find a vast array of different restaurants.

Worth a visit – THE GALLEY and KEO'S BAR BISTRO in St. Nicholas Street, SCOTT'S BRASSERIE in Orwell Place, and BAIPO THAI RESTAURANT just round the corner in Upper Orwell Street. For fish dishes try MORTIMER'S on the Quay, and for Italian try VENEZIA in Coachman's Court near to the Bus Station. You can also have light meals at the NEW WOLSEY THEATRE, and then take in a performance afterwards.

FELIXSTOWE

You can have a traditional day at the seaside, or watch the ships at England's largest container port. Follow the signs for “THE FRONT” if you wish to enjoy the promenade, the pier, colourful gardens, the Spa Pavilion and Manning's Amusement Park with rides. Or go to OLD FELIXSTOWE with its beach huts for a bucket and spade day.

If there's time for a walk along the beach past the golf course, you can enjoy fish and chips at Felixstowe Ferry. LANDGUARD FORT dates from 1744 and has a Museum outlining its history with displays of cannons and other military hardware. Nearby there is a viewing point from where you can see the container port and across to Harwich where the Continental ferries come in.