

Suffolk & Essex Heritage Tour



Medieval Villages, Anglo-Saxon Treasures, Historic Houses & Beautiful Gardens



THE ARTS
SOCIETY
TRAVEL AFFILIATE

Arranged with Travel Editions Group Travel exclusively for The Arts Society SW London

Willy Lott's Cottage, Flatford Mill

Tuesday 18th – Saturday 22nd May 2027 – 5 days from *£985pp

Join us in May 2027 as we explore the rich heritage, fascinating history and beautiful landscapes of Suffolk and neighbouring Essex. This carefully planned five-day tour combines some of England's finest historic houses, picturesque medieval villages, world-famous archaeological sites and delightful coastal scenery. Discover the county that inspired artists including John Constable and Thomas Gainsborough, explore one of Britain's greatest archaeological discoveries at Sutton Hoo, wander through perfectly preserved medieval streets in Lavenham and Long Melford, and enjoy time in the charming seaside town of Aldeburgh. Our journey concludes with a visit to one of the finest gardens in the East of England, RHS Hyde Hall. Throughout the tour there will be a fascinating programme of visits, excellent dining and plenty of opportunities to enjoy Suffolk's unique blend of history, culture and countryside.



Lavenham



Moot Hall, Aldeburgh

This holiday is operated by Travel Editions Group Travel

To book please phone Travel Editions on 020 7251 0045

*Based on a minimum of 30 people sharing a twin or double room.

Price based on 25 passengers: £1,035 per person. Double room for sole use supplement: £315.

An initial deposit of £250 per person is required by 31st December 2026.



Kentwell Hall

Itinerary

Day 1 Tuesday 18 May 2027

Journey to Suffolk.

We depart the local area this morning and travel towards Suffolk, making suitable comfort stops along the way. Our first visit is to Gainsborough's House in Sudbury, the birthplace of one of Britain's greatest landscape painters, Thomas Gainsborough. Beautifully restored, the museum celebrates both the artist's life and his enduring influence while also housing an impressive collection of British art. An included lunch will be enjoyed at The Watering Place before we continue to Ipswich. On arrival at the comfortable Novotel Ipswich Centre, there will be time to settle into your rooms before meeting fellow travellers for a welcome drink. Welcome dinner will be served at the hotel this evening.

Day 2 Wednesday 19 May 2027

Historic Ipswich, Kentwell Hall & Long Melford.

This morning we discover one of England's oldest towns with an informative guided walking tour through the historic streets of Ipswich. Learn about the town's maritime past, medieval prosperity and impressive architectural heritage before enjoying free time to explore at your own pace and choose lunch in one of the many cafés or restaurants. In the afternoon we travel to magnificent Kentwell Hall, one of Suffolk's finest Tudor manor houses. Set within beautiful gardens and parkland, the house has remained in private ownership for centuries and is renowned for its richly furnished interiors, collections and fascinating history.

Before returning to Ipswich we pause in the attractive village of Long Melford, famous for its broad Georgian high street, timber-framed buildings, independent shops and impressive parish church. There will be time for a leisurely stroll before returning to the hotel. The evening is at leisure, allowing you to dine independently or relax at the hotel.

Day 3 Thursday 20 May 2027

Sutton Hoo & Aldeburgh.

Today's excursion begins at the remarkable Sutton Hoo, one of the most important

archaeological discoveries ever made in Britain. The Anglo-Saxon royal burial site transformed our understanding of early medieval England and is beautifully interpreted through its exhibition galleries, reconstructed burial chamber and the elegant Tranmer House. Following our visit we travel to the delightful seaside town of Aldeburgh, where an included lunch awaits at The Lighthouse Restaurant. The afternoon is free to enjoy this quintessential Suffolk coastal town. Browse the independent shops and galleries, walk along the shingle beach, admire the famous Scallop Sculpture, created by Maggi Hambling in honour of composer Benjamin Britten, or simply soak up the atmosphere before we return to Ipswich. The evening is at leisure.

Day 4 Friday 21 May 2027

Lavenham & Flatford Mill.

This morning we visit one of England's best-preserved medieval villages. Lavenham is renowned for its colourful timber-framed buildings, wealth created through the medieval wool trade and wonderfully preserved streetscape. Our visit includes the National Trust's Lavenham Guildhall, whose fascinating displays tell the story of the village's remarkable past.

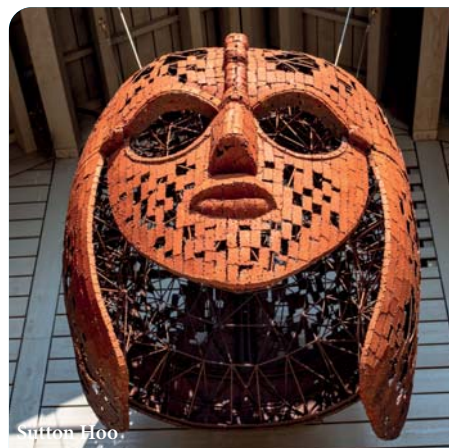
There will be free time to explore the village further and enjoy lunch at your leisure. Later we continue to Flatford Mill, forever associated with the painter John Constable. Set amidst the idyllic Dedham Vale landscape that inspired many of Constable's greatest masterpieces, the mill, surrounding countryside and riverside walks offer a wonderful opportunity to appreciate the scenery that shaped English landscape painting. This evening we celebrate the end of our tour with a farewell dinner at a carefully selected local restaurant.

Day 5 Saturday 22 May 2027

RHS Hyde Hall & Homeward Journey.

After breakfast we check out of the hotel and begin our journey home, calling first at the beautiful RHS Hyde Hall in Essex.

Enjoy a guided introduction to one of Britain's finest public gardens, where innovative planting, sweeping panoramic views and



Sutton Hoo



RHS Hyde Hall Garden

beautifully designed themed gardens combine to create a memorable visit throughout the seasons.

An included picnic lunch will be enjoyed before we continue our homeward journey, arriving back in the local area during the early evening following an enjoyable exploration of Suffolk and Essex's remarkable heritage

Where you stay

Novotel Ipswich Centre

Ideally located in the heart of the county town, the contemporary four-star Novotel Ipswich Centre provides an excellent base for exploring Suffolk and the surrounding countryside. Within easy walking distance of Ipswich's historic waterfront, shops and restaurants, the hotel offers spacious, comfortable bedrooms with en-suite facilities, TV, complimentary Wi-Fi, tea and coffee-making facilities and air conditioning. Guests can also enjoy the hotel's stylish restaurant and bar, making it the perfect place to relax after a day of sightseeing.

Included in the price

- Four nights' accommodation on a bed and breakfast basis at the Novotel Ipswich Centre
- Welcome drink on arrival
- Welcome dinner at hotel on day 1 and farewell dinner at a local restaurant on day 4
- Executive coach travel throughout
- All visits and entrance fees detailed in the itinerary
- Guided walking tour of Ipswich
- Included lunches on Days 1, 3 and 5

Not included

- Double room for sole use supplement – £315
- Holiday insurance
- Items of a personal nature
- Meals and refreshments not specified in the itinerary

