

EXPLORING the LAND of CONSTABLE

A car itinerary through Cambridgeshire, Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex

Taking a fly and drive holiday is a great way to explore a country. Our specialists have driven the routes and visited all the hotels, so you can rely on firsthand knowledge. We provide detailed notes, directions, distances and any other relevant information. All you need to do is turn up at the airport and... drive!

East Anglia is a land of heaths, fens, marshes and inland lagoons known as 'broads'. Besides its great natural beauty, the area boasts historic landmarks such as Ely Cathedral, the university town of Cambridge and a host of little market towns and villages. It is also the land of the great painters Constable and Gainsborough, whose paintings mirror the beauty of the landscape.

- Duration: 9 days (8 nights)
- Accommodation type: hotel (4 stars)
- Prices: from £2000. Prices are per adult and include return flights, car rental, hotel accommodation and insurance. We have a vast range of cars to choose from.
- Prices do not include: meals, fuel, any extras
- Departure airports: Milan Linate, Rome Fiumicino
- Destination airport: London Heathrow

★ DAY 1 | LONDON - CAMBRIDGE (Cambridgeshire)

Upon arrival at Heathrow, collect your car and head north on the M1. The drive from London to Cambridge will take you about two hours. Arrive in time to check in at your hotel. Cambridge's small historic centre is for pedestrians, so leave your car at the hotel car park and start your visit on foot. The town is home to the University of Cambridge, whose past students include Sir Isaac Newton, Stephen Hawking and Sylvia Plath, to name just a few. Spend the day strolling around the stunningly beautiful colleges: King's College, with its magnificent late medieval chapel, St. John's College and its Bridge of Sighs and the lovely Queens' College, founded in 1448. Overnight in Cambridge, at the Granville Hotel in Pantons Street.



★ Day 2 | CAMBRIDGE

Spend the morning visiting Trinity College (in Trinity Street), the largest in Cambridge. It was founded by Henry VIII in 1546. Next, visit The Backs, the name given to the strip of grass lying between the backs of the colleges and the banks of the River Cam. While you are there, why not try punting? Punting on the Cam in a flat-bottomed boat is a traditional pursuit popular with students and visitors alike. In the afternoon, visit the Fitzwilliam Museum in Trumpington Street, featuring a



notable collection of landscape paintings by John Constable. Dine at Brown's, opposite the museum. It is a favourite with most university students. Overnight in Cambridge.

★ Day 3 | CAMBRIDGE - ELY (Cambridgeshire) - KING'S LYNN (Norfolk)

Check out early in the morning and take the A10 north. On your way to King's Lynn, make a stop at Ely. Ely is a small, prosperous market town whose main attraction is Ely Cathedral, one of the most beautiful in England. Begun in 1083, it took 268 years to complete. Resume your drive. King's Lynn is about 45 km (about half an hour's drive) from Ely. Arrive at King's Lynn in the early afternoon and check in at your hotel. King's Lynn used to be one of England's most important ports and this maritime past is still in evidence today in the fine old merchants' houses and refurbished warehouses. Don't miss the 15th-century Guildhall of St. George, one of England's oldest surviving guildhalls.



King's Lynn is known for its excellent seafood. Try one of the many simple seafood bars close to the port. Overnight in King's Lynn, at the King's Head Hotel.

★ Day 4 | KING'S LYNN - NORTH NORFOLK COASTAL TOUR WROXHAM (Norfolk)

Today, you'll spend most of the time driving along the beautiful scenic roads of North Norfolk. From King's Lynn drive north and follow the signs to Hunstanton. Make a stop at Hunstanton to admire the magnificent cliffs towering 18 m above the beach. Continue along the A149 to Wroxham and on the way admire one of the most beautiful areas of East Anglia, designated as Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. When in Wroxham, check in at the Manor Hotel in High Street and dine at The Old Mill, which is just around the corner. Overnight in Wroxham.



★ Day 5 | THE NORFOLK BROADS (Norfolk)

Leave your car behind for one day and enjoy a river trip on the Norfolk Broads. The Broads, now a national park, are a network of navigable rivers and lakes (known as broads) and are Britain's largest protected



wetland, home to a wealth of birdlife. All river trips depart from and return to Wroxham. A two-hour trip for adults costs £10.00 (children £6). A timetable is attached. Overnight in Wroxham.

★ Day 6 | WROXHAM - GREAT YARMOUTH (Norfolk)
ALDEBURGH (Suffolk)



Resume on the A149 and travel to Great Yarmouth. This port has been the most popular seaside resort on the Norfolk coast since Charles Dickens set part of his novel *David Copperfield* here.

Visit the old part of the town with its charming houses including the Old Merchant's House. Have a quick lunch at a local pub and continue your

journey to Aldeburgh on the A12. Distance: 60 km (about three quarters of an hour).

Check in at Bradenell Hotel in Coastguard Court. For dinner try Aldeburgh specialities at The Lighthouse. Overnight in Aldeburgh.

★ Day 7 | ALDEBURGH - SUTTON HOO



Dedicate the day to exploring Aldeburgh and its surroundings. This coastal town has been a port since Roman times. In the 16th century, Aldeburgh was a fishing village and had a flourishing shipbuilding industry: Sir Francis Drake's *Greyhound* was built here. Visit the 16th-century Aldeburgh Museum at Moot Hall (Market Cross Place).

In the afternoon visit the Royal Burial Grounds at Sutton Hoo. These Anglo-Saxon burial mounds date from the 7th

century AD. Sutton Hoo is only a 30-minutes' drive inland from Aldeburgh. Return to Aldeburgh for the night. Aldeburgh's fish and chips shops are cited as the best in the UK.

★ Day 8 | ALDEBURGH - CONSTABLE WALK - COLCHESTER (Essex)



Take the A137 Harwich to Ipswich road and exit at Manningtree Station. Park your car and begin your walk. Allow around 3 hours 45 minutes (for a gentle stroll) to explore the Stour Valley and Dedham Vale, the areas made famous by John Constable, England's

foremost landscape artist of the Romantic period. Follow the signs to Flatford and see Flatford Mill and the site of the *Hay Wain* painting. Continue on to Dedham (where you can have a light lunch) and see Dedham Church, whose tower appears in many of Constable's paintings. Then retrace your steps to Manningtree car park.

Resume your drive south and reach Colchester. Check in at the Colchester Hotel in High Street. Overnight in Colchester.

★ Day 9 | COLCHESTER - LONDON HEATHROW

Leave early in the morning. Driving distance from Colchester to London Heathrow is 151 km. Take the A12, then the M25 and follow the signs for London Heathrow Airport – the journey will take you around 1 1/2 hours. When you arrive, return the car. Your flight is at 4.45 pm.