

Manningtree and Mistley - at the head of the river Stour, these two attractive small towns are joined by a waterfront area, noted for its swans. But there is a more sinister secret, as this was the home of Matthew Hopkins, an unsuccessful lawyer who during the English Civil War found fame as the notorious Witchfinder General. *Market - Wed, Sat.*

Manningtree - home of witch hunts



Throughout his reign of terror from 1645-1646, he was paid by local towns and villages to hunt out and put to trial their witches. Hopkins was probably responsible for the deaths of at least 200 people during his lifetime. Some of the guilty were then hung on the green at Manningtree. Hopkins died in 1647 and is buried at nearby Mistley Heath.

The most popular way to test the guilt of a witch was the ducking stool. This involved the suspect being lowered into a river or pond. If they sank they were innocent (but had to drown to prove this), if they floated they were guilty.



Morning coffee: Manningtree and Mistley

→ *Remain on the A137 to Colchester.*

Colchester - Britain's oldest recorded town, with Europe's largest Norman castle keep. Pay a visit to the dungeons, where suspected witches were held by *Matthew Hopkins*. Ghost walks are available. *Market - Fri, Sat.*
Tourist Information Centre - 1 Queen Street +44 (0)1206 282920.



Lunch: Colchester

AFTERNOON - Borley and Long Melford

→ *Leave Colchester on the A134 to Sudbury. Follow the bypass around the town, then at the roundabout, take the turning towards Long Melford. ¼ mile later, turn left onto the B1064. Cross over the river, then turn left again to the village of Borley.*

Borley - quiet and secluded village, once the site of Britain's most haunted house: Borley Rectory. Built on the site of an old monastery in 1863, there were reports of at least twelve different ghosts. The most famous is the phantom nun, who

used to gaze through the rectory's windows. Over the years, Borley became renowned in Britain - visited on several occasions by Harry Price, a famous writer on psychic matters. But in 1943, the rectory caught fire and was burnt to a shell - this later demolished in 1943. Today, the phantom nun is occasionally glimpsed at the churchyard.

Borley Rectory



→ *Retrace your steps to visit Long Melford.*

Long Melford - this former wool town is now the 'Antiques Capital of Suffolk', with numerous shops and centres. Take a walk along the tree-lined High Street to the Bull Hotel. It is haunted by a poltergeist, whose origins date back to the murder of a wealthy merchant in 1648. *Kentwell Hall* (on the outskirts of the village) is a lovely redbrick Tudor mansion, surrounded by a broad moat. It has a whole host of ghost stories, from a haunted tree to a spectral coach and horses.

Afternoon tea: Long Melford

----- **END OF TOUR** -----



More Spooky Surprises

Blickling Hall, Park and Garden (Aysham, Norfolk) - haunt of Henry VIII's second wife Anne Boleyn, in a coach pulled by headless horses.
Cambridge (Cambridgeshire) - this famous University city is full of ghosts, from great statesman Oliver Cromwell at his old college, to the stone lions that come alive outside the Fitzwilliam Museum at midnight.
The Fens (Cambridgeshire) - watch out for the hypnotic lights of Jack o' Lanterns, a highly dangerous fairy guiding travelers to their doom.
Holywell (nr. St. Ives, Cambridgeshire) - enjoy a pint with Juliet at the Ferry Boat Inn. This 11th C. girl was neglected by her lover and hanged herself. She was buried at the spot, now part of the inn's floor.
Knebworth House (nr. Stevenage, Hertfordshire) - numerous ghosts, including 'Jenny' spinning her wheel at this gothic fantasy.
Mersea Island (Essex) - England's oldest ghost story, where a phantom army of Roman soldiers can be seen marching at dusk.
St. Albans (Hertfordshire) - 15th C. phantom warriors, ghostly monks at the cathedral, and a coach with headless horses. Enjoy a ghost walk.
Woburn Abbey (Bedfordshire) - haunt of several ghosts, including an abbot in a brown habit, and doors that open/shut on their own accord.

Haunted East

Discovery Tour H

For further information on this tour (including opening times of attractions listed), please contact the **East of England Tourist Board** on +44 (0)870 225 4800, or visit www.visiteastofengland.com



Send a shiver down your spine with all things spooky and strange in the East of England. We have more ghosts per square mile than any other part of the country. From the eerie, reed-fringed landscape of the Broads, to the Suffolk Coast, domain of Black Shuck, the devil dog. Discover tales of witchcraft and the site of Britain's most haunted houses.

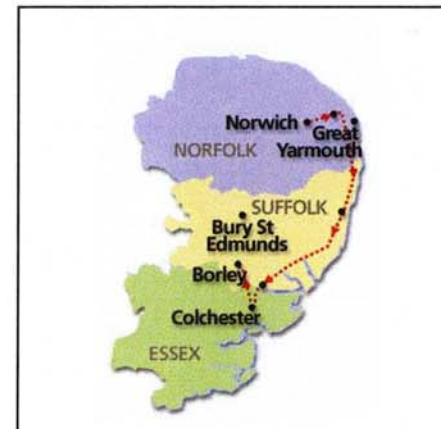


Starting point: Norwich (Norfolk)

Duration: Three days **Mileage:** 138 miles/222 kilometres

Route of tour:

- Day 1:* Norwich - The Broads (Wroxham - Horning - Potter Heigham - Hickling Broad - Acle) - Gt. Yarmouth (overnight)
- Day 2:* Gt. Yarmouth - Oulton Broad - Southwold - Blythburgh - Dunwich - Woodbridge (overnight)
- Day 3:* Woodbridge - Manningtree and Mistley - Colchester - Sudbury - Borley



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Discovery Tour H

Haunted East

DAY 1 - Norwich to Great Yarmouth (41m/66km)

MORNING - Norwich

One of Britain's best preserved medieval centres. Surrounded by its old walls are historic buildings, parks, churches and an intricate pattern of streets and lanes, such as cobbled Elm Hill. Norwich is dominated by its magnificent Norman cathedral and castle. Ghost walks are available. *Market - Mon to Sat.*
Tourist Information Centre - The Forum, Millennium Plain +44 (0)1603 727927.

Enjoy our macabre walking tour-

Start in Tombland, the most ancient part of the city. Opposite the Cathedral gateway is the 16th C. *Augustine Steward House*, haunted by the 'woman in grey', who was reputedly walled up alive. To the left of the house is *Tombland Alley*, where the churchyard was used as a burial pit for plague victims in 1579. Now go across the road to view the skeleton monument in the south aisle of the *Cathedral*. Leave via the south door, and turn left. Go through the gate into Bishopgate, where you turn left. Along here is the 14th C. *Adam and Eve*, the oldest pub in the city. It is haunted by Lord Sheffield, whose head was chopped off during a battle in St. Martin Palace at Plain in 1549.

Enjoy a macabre tour of Norwich



Bishopgate leads into St. Martin Palace at Plain. From here follow Bedding Lane into Quayside to reach *Fye Bridge*, where a plaque marks the site of the 16th C. witches ducking stool. Cross over the bridge into *Magdalen Street* where no.19 was once haunted by 'Spooky Sara', a murdered woman who caused considerable trouble in the 1970's. Go back over the bridge, and turn right along Elm Hill. At the other end, beside the junction with Princes Street and Redwell Street, is *St. Peter Hungate Church*, where you can view the 600 year old skeleton of a woman in an open coffin. Now walk along Redwell Street, past the *Coach and Horses*, the former haunt of body-snatchers.

Turn right into the pedestrianised London Street, and continue into Castle Street. From here steps lead up onto Castle Meadow. End your tour at *Norwich Castle*, which dates from 1067. Now a museum, this was the county gaol from 1220-1887, and inside are the death masks of prisoners executed here. Look out for a floating skull which has been seen here.

Morning coffee and lunch: Norwich



AFTERNOON - The Broads

Britain's largest protected wetland, with a similar status to a national park. There are 43 broads, connected by the area's six rivers - making up to 125 miles of lock-free navigable waterways. This unique landscape is actually man made, the shallow lakes or 'broads' created when ancient peat diggings became flooded in the 14th C. The best way to see them is by boat - enjoy a regular excursion, or hire craft for day trips or longer holidays. The surrounding fens, woodland, marsh and estuary habitats are a haven for some of Britain's rarest flora and fauna.

➔ *From Norwich, take the A1151 to Wroxham.*

Wroxham/Hoveton - these adjoining towns are known as the capital of The Broads'. Here you can take a boat trip to Wroxham Broad, whose entrance is haunted by a ghostly Roman, who will order you away. He is clearing the way for a procession of horses, chariots and gladiators. Tourist Information Centre - Station Road +44 (0)1603 782281.



➔ *Follow the A1062 to the village of Horning.*

Horning - this pretty riverside village is noted for the 15th C. Ferry Boat Inn. Originally a mead storehouse for nearby St. Benet's Abbey, it is haunted by a beautiful girl in a green cloak, who glides through the bar, then disappears into the water outside. Legend says she was murdered by drunken monks from the abbey.

Don't be fooled by the peaceful charm and beauty of The Broads - they hide some chilling tales!



➔ *Remain on the A1062 to Potter Heigham.*

Potter Heigham - a popular boating centre. The famous hump-backed bridge is haunted by a ghostly coach and horses driven by skeletons. It is said to race down the road, crash through the bridge, and disappear into the waters below. Inside is Lady Evelyn Carew, who signed away her

soul to the Devil, in return for him arranging her marriage to Godfrey Haslitt on May 31 1742. Reputedly at midnight on this date, the tragic journey is still repeated.

➔ *Turn left onto the A149. After 2¼ miles, turn right (via Hickling Heath to visit Hickling Broad.*

Hickling Broad - important nature reserve (marshes, fens and woodland) set beside the largest area of open water in The Broads. It is connected to a famous ghost story, which has its origins in the early years of the 19th C. (during the Napoleonic Wars). In 1841, a young girl from Potter Heigham fell in love with a drummer boy, who was home on leave. But her father did not approve of the match, so they began to meet in secret at Hickling Broad. Each evening the drummer boy would skate across the frozen broad, banging his drum to announce his arrival. But one night, as she heard the drum beat coming towards her, it suddenly stopped. There was then a terrific crack, a large splash, then silence - the ice had given way and the drummer boy had plunged to his death in the frozen waters. Today on certain nights you can reputedly still hear the banging of his drum.



➔ *Retrace your steps to the A149, and turn left. After 4¾ miles, bear right onto the B1152/A1064 to Acle.*

Acle - this little town sits on the edge of the Halvergate Marshes. The river bridge is haunted by a man who revenged the death of his sister by killing her murderer. But a year later, a ghostly skeleton appeared and slit his throat. On April 7 his ghost, together with fresh blood is said to appear on the bridge. *Market - Thurs.*

Afternoon tea: The Broads

➔ *Take the A47 to Gt. Yarmouth.*

Overnight - Gt. Yarmouth



DAY 2 - Gt. Yarmouth to Woodbridge (53m/85km)

MORNING - Oulton Broad and Southwold

➔ *Leave Great Yarmouth on the A12 south towards Lowestoft. On the outskirts of the town, bear right to join the A1117 to Oulton Broad.*

Oulton Broad - this is one of the finest stretches of inland water in England. The broad is haunted by a ship called 'The Mayfly'. It had set sail for Great Yarmouth, with a chest of money and a pretty young passenger. Both these proved

too much temptation for the skipper who decided to make for foreign parts. But later the voyage ended in death for himself and all the crew.

Morning coffee: Oulton Broad

➔ *Remain on the A1117 to rejoin the A12 south towards Ipswich. After about 7 miles (in the village of Wrentham), turn left onto the B1127 to Southwold.*



Southwold - this charming town is overlooked by its 19th C. lighthouse, with period houses and old fishermen's cottages set around attractive open greens. *Market - Mon, Thurs.* Tourist Information Centre - 69 High Street +44 (0)1502 724729.

On Gun Hill are six Elizabethan cannons which stand facing out to sea. Legend has it that they were presented to the town by the Duke of Cumberland. Watch out for the ghostly gunner, who literally lost his head when one of the cannons he was firing exploded.

The gunner who literally lost his head!

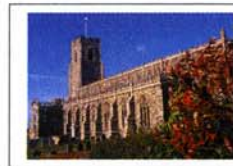


Lunch: Southwold

AFTERNOON - Blythburgh, Dunwich and Woodbridge

➔ *Leave Southwold on the A1095. After 4 miles you reach the A12. Turn left to Blythburgh.*

Blythburgh - this little village overlooks the Blyth estuary, and is noted for its magnificent Holy Trinity Church. During a church service in August 1577, it was visited by the black demon dog 'Black Shuck'. He appeared during a thunderstorm, and rampaged through the building. He then escaped through the main door, leaving his claw and scorch marks - which can be seen today.



Blythburgh Church

Black Shuck

Demon dogs have haunted the East of England for over a thousand years. Known as Black Shuck or Old Shuck, he is described as the size of a calf, with a shaggy coat and flaming eyes. There is a popular belief, that if you set eyes on him, you will be dead within the year. One of his most famous haunts is along the North Norfolk Coast between *Sheringham* and *Overstrand*.

➔ *Remain on the A12 south. About ½ mile later (on your left) is 'Toby's Walks'.*

Toby's Walks - a large area of heathland, now a picnic site. It is named after a sad crime of passion, when a drummer named Toby Gill murdered a local girl here in 1754. He was executed, and left to hang in a roadside gibbet - his ghost haunting the area today.

➔ *About ½ mile after passing 'Toby's Walks', turn left onto an unclassified road to Dunwich.*

Dunwich - an attractive coastal village, which in the 12th C. was East Anglia's capital, and one of England's greatest ports. But its downfall was the constant erosion (by the sea) of the sandy cliffs on which it had been built. Over the centuries, the city has literally toppled over the edge into the sea. In 1326 a storm washed away over 400 houses. Whilst the last of the original six churches disappeared in 1919. It is reputed, that on a stormy night you can still hear the bells of the drowned churches ringing from beneath the waves.

Listen for the drowned churches at Dunwich



➔ *Take the unclassified road to Westleton, where you turn left onto the B1125. 2 miles later, turn left again onto the B1122 to Leiston. From here, follow the B1069 south to the junction with the A1094. Turn right, then 1¾ miles later, turn left back onto the B1069 to Woodbridge.*

Woodbridge - this attractive market town and former port, was once noted for its ship-building, rope and sail-making industries. The 15th C. King's Head is the oldest secular building in the town, haunted by an 18th C. man and children's voices. *Market - Thurs, Sat.* Tourist Information Centre - Station Building +44 (0)1394 382240.



Afternoon tea: Woodbridge

Overnight - Woodbridge

DAY 3 - Woodbridge to Borley (44m/71km)

MORNING - Manningtree, Mistley and Colchester

➔ *Head south along the A12. After 5 miles, turn right onto the A14. After crossing over the Orwell Bridge, leave the A14 to join the A137 to Manningtree and Mistley.*