

DISCOVER ALDEBURGH



beached by the tar-black huts where fishermen sell their fresh salty catch. And 'Never-Neverland' with its House-in-the-Clouds on the horizon... Ah, Aldeburgh! Every inch has a story to tell and a special something to inspire. No wonder it's been fascinating folk and fuelling creative minds for centuries!

A seafront full of colourful cottages and hilltop dotted with flamboyant villas. Haunting saltmarsh by misty River Alde creeks and a mightily impressive Martello tower. A half-timbered moot hall, all herringbone-brick nogging,



Also Known As...

Writers, poets and children's authors have featured Aldeburgh in disguise for centuries!

- 'The Village'/'The Borough' in George Crabbe's poems (1783/1810)
- 'Aldbrough' in *No Name* (William Wilkie Collins, 1862)
- 'Seaburgh' in *A Warning to the Curious* (M.R. James, 1925)
- 'Owlbarrow' in *Orlando the Marmalade Cat: A Seaside Holiday* (Kathleen Hale, 1952)

Did you know?

'Hastings Firestorm Amber' forged by forest fires up to 145.5 million years ago can be found on the beach, particularly after storms.



Aldeburgh's UK Firsts (& Lasts)

- Elizabeth Garrett-Anderson** (1836-1917)
- First female Town Mayor (1908)
 - First qualified lady surgeon (1865)
- Benjamin Britten** (1913-1976)
- First composer to become a life peer
- Dr Nora Acheson** (1901-1981)
- First woman to support a lifeboat in action

- Cinema** One of oldest in continuous use
- Moot Hall** One of best-preserved Tudor public buildings
- Telephone Repeater Station No. 1** 1923 terminal for longest coil-loaded submarine cable (England-Holland)
- Martello Tower** UK's largest/last constructed

What's on your Bucket List?

The first two here come recommended by Orlando the Marmalade Cat!

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Spot a mermaid | <input type="checkbox"/> Discover Britten at The Red House |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fly a kite on the beach | <input type="checkbox"/> Eat Fish and Chips with your fingers on the beach |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Float a boat on the model yacht pond | <input type="checkbox"/> Sit on Scallop & watch the sunrise |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Find the whalebone in Moot Hall Museum | |

Aldeburgh Hall of Fame

Here's just a handful of the creative characters who have lived, loved, produced famous works and welcomed renowned visitors in/around inspiring Aldeburgh. (B=Born/R=Resting Place: St Peter & St Paul/L=Lived/W=Worked/ V=Visitor)

- **George Crabbe** (Poet, *The Borough*) B Nr Market Place (now lost to sea); L **The Uplands**
 - **Edward Clodd** (Writer, *The Childhood of the World*) L/W 1840-1930 Ancestral home **Strafford House**/V **Thomas Hardy**, **HG Wells** (Writers)
 - **M.R. James** (Scholar, *A Warning to the Curious*) L/V/W Grandparents' home (1862-1936) **Wyndham House**
 - **Margery Sharp** (Novelist, *The Rescuers*) L/W 1953-1990 **32 Crag Path**
 - **Laurens van der Post** (Novelist, *The Seed & The Sower*) 1949-1992 **W South Lookout**; L **Half Crown Cottage** (King Street)/ **Turnstones** (Brudenell Street)
 - **Benjamin Britten** (Composer) and **Peter Pears** (Singer) L/W 1947-1957 **Crag House**; **The Red House**/R/V **John Nash**, **John Piper** (Artists); **E.M. Forster** (Writer)
 - **Patricia Highsmith** (Crime-writer, *The Talented Mr Ripley*) L/W 1960s **27 King Street**/V **Ronald Blythe** (Writer)
 - **Imogen Holst** (Composer) L/W 1956-77 (Festival Director)/High St; **9 Church Walk**/R
 - **Ruth Rendell** (Crime-writer, *No Night Is Too Long*) aka **Barbara Vine** L/W 1990s **Edinburgh House**, **Crag Path**
 - **Susan Hill** (Crime-writer, *The Albatross*; *Woman in Black*) L/W 1970s seafront cottage
 - **Peter Sinfield** (Lyricist for King Crimson/ Emerson, Lake & Palmer) L
 - **Isabella Summer** (Musician with Florence & The Machine) L
- Just Visiting...** **William Wilkie Collins** (Crime-writer, *No Name/Woman in White*) **White Lion Hotel**; **J.M. Barrie** (Novelist, *Peter Pan*) friend of The Ogilvies, **Thorpeness**; **Kathleen Hale** (Children's author, *Orlando The Marmalade Cat*).



Markets & Milestones

- Royal Market Charter:** 1529
- Seabathing:** 1764
- Lifeboat:** 1851
- Carnival:** 1910
- Aldeburgh Festival:** 1948
- Emerging as Port:** c.1490
- Turnpike (Toll) Road:** 1792
- Railway:** 1860-1966

- Saxmundham:** 7 miles/11 kms
- Snape:** 5.5 miles/9 kms
- Ipswich:** 28 miles/45 kms
- Norwich:** 43 miles/69 kms

Did you know?

Aldeburgh's cinema was saved from closure in 1960 by a group of people which included Benjamin Britten.

Stay This Way ...

With family, friends, or just the two of you... Brighten things up with a colourful Crag Path cottage by the beach or stylish B&B break. Take time-out in super-chic hotels with sea views and delicious fine dining. Wake up in your very own Martello tower, hide away in a cosy smugglers' inn or simply book a caravan touring park pitch, unhook and unwind. In Aldeburgh, culture is always on your doorstep – whichever one you choose.

THEATRE? CONCERTS? FILMS? INDOOR & OUTDOOR EVENTS?

- Jubilee Hall
 - The Pumphouse
 - Aldeburgh Music Room
 - The Red House
 - St Peter & St Paul's Church
 - Aldeburgh Cinema
- There's Simply Something for Everyone!**
- Aldeburgh Carnival
 - Summer Theatre
 - Beach Bandstand
 - Studio Trail
 - Literary & Poetry Festivals
 - Triathlon
 - Slaughden Sailing Regatta
 - Christmas Lights & Festive Shopping
- In Town/at Snape Maltings**
- Aldeburgh Festival of Music & the Arts
 - Aldeburgh Food & Drink Festival
- thesuffolkcoast.co.uk

Taste the Place

- Fresh Fish & Chips
- Flounder from the Fish Shack
- Today's Pot-ready Lobster
- Fishers Dry Smoked Gin

Did you know?

Medieval St Peter & St Paul's Church played host to ship auctions and early touring theatre. It's even possible that Shakespeare himself played there!



Top dog Snooks loves putting a smile on folks' faces with his natty collection of headgear! Can you find his 9 bobble hats hidden around this Pocket Guide?



An Invitation to Graze...

Galleries, bookshops, boutiques, antiques and lifestyle stores; on-trend High Street favourites and independent shops. Artisan bakers, beachside smokehouses, delicious delis and slow food dining; street food cafés, cosy afternoon tearooms, pizza, pints and pub lunches...

Love Animals?

The heritage walk is full of animal magic (see overleaf/♥). Or why not enjoy meeting the animal sculptures in the gardens of The Red House? brittenpearsarts.org

Introducing...

Snooks aka Mr Snooks (Chip Winkler) spends his days remembering his owners, eyeing up ice-creams and watching boats go by on the converted military tank - his master's yachting pond legacy. In 2003, doggone dirty tricks saw him go walkies, but spotted at a Lincoln antiques fair in 2012, he returned to tell the tale – and find an imposter's tail on his podium. Snooks had been so sorely missed, that the townspeople had replaced him!

Animal Antics

Are these awesome Aldeburgh tales fact or fiction?

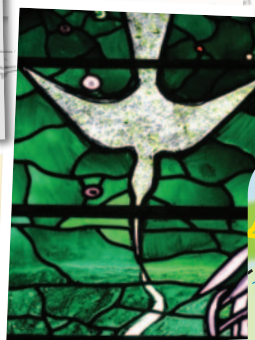
1. Seafront Snooks has a twin in Aldeburgh Cottage Hospital garden.
2. Sea-bathing elephants were once an annual sight near Fort Green.
3. You'll always find Sampson, the town cat, in church (St Peter & St Paul's).
4. One-time resident thriller-writer, Patricia Highsmith, often had live snails in her handbag.
5. Dog-lover, Benjamin Britten had Dachshunds called Clytie and Jove.
6. His 'house boat' in 'Owlbarrow' now gone, Orlando, the Marmalade Cat, resides on King Street.
7. Margery Sharp rented South Lookout space to fellow-writer Laurens van der

8. Post for one penny and one flamingo feather a year.
9. During WWI, kangaroos were often sighted near Hazlewood Marshes.
10. Brave mice, Bernard and Bianca (aka The Rescuers) were born along Crag Path.
11. Aldeburgh-built galleon, 'Marygold' set off with Sir Francis Drake's 'Pelican' to circumnavigate the globe in c.1589.

All (probably!) true, although Highsmith's snail-breeding occurred mainly at her Earl Soham home near Framlingham! Anti-submarine planes, Blackburn kangaroos, were based at Hazlewood Aerodrome.

Walk & Explore Britten's Aldeburgh

Turn the spotlight on the legacies of Benjamin Britten and his professional and personal partner, singer Peter Pears, around Aldeburgh and Snape. suffolkmuseums.org/projects/suffolk-steps/



The Pocket Guide to ALDEBURGH

Market Town History & Seaside Heritage
River Creeks & Beaches * Nature Reserves * Walks
Inspiration of Artists & Composers * Shops & Galleries
Concerts, Festivals & Events * Food & Drink



GETTING AROUND

- By Road:** A12 (Ipswich/London/ Lowestoft), then A1094
- By Bus:** thewaytogosuffolk.org.uk
- By Rail:** East Suffolk Line (Saxmundham) eastsuffolklines.co.uk/nationalrail.co.uk
- By Bike:** Near Regional Cycle Network route 41 & 42 sustrans.org.uk
- On Foot:** Suffolk Coast Path (60 miles/ 97 kms) discoversuffolk.org.uk
- Walking/Cycling/Horse-riding/Sailing:** suffolkcoastandheaths.org; discoversuffolk.org.uk; aldeburghyc.org.uk; slaughdensailingclub.co.uk
- Car Parks/Cashless & Ticketless**
- Parking:** myringgo.co.uk
- OS Maps:** OS Explorer 212

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EXPLORE MORE ALDEBURGH

TOWN & COUNTRY HERITAGE WALK



3.5 miles
5.5 kms
CIRCULAR WALK

Look out for:

- ♥ Animal Antics
- ★ Hall of Fame Connections
- ⚓ Ship Shapes (Nautical Plaques)

FROM/TO: Moot Hall IP15 5DS

Guarded by the White Lion★♥, Moot Hall 1 M is a first-floor council chamber, built c.1540 in the (then town-centre) market place. Underneath was a lock-up/shops. Victorians added 1855 'Tudor' brick- nogging/finials/chimneys. Detour to beach-sited sculpture 'Scallop' 2 ★ if wished, (+ 0.8 miles/1.3 kms return). By model yacht pond 3 meet top dog Snooks♥. Cross Crabbe Street (right) to Cuthbert Harrison Memorial Garden (opposite, entrance on Dial Lane). Turn left to Crag House 4 ★♥ (left). Continue past Arts & Crafts gem, The Rest (1908), to Jubilee Hall 6 (1887), first Aldeburgh Festival venue. Take alley (immediately left) passing Ocean Strand (1840) to Crag Path

Lifeboat Station 6 (1994) where you can visit 'Freddie Cooper'. Turn right, passing back of Cross Keys smugglers' inn to North Lookout 7 (1840 fishing pilotage group watchtower, now RNLI store) by Edinburgh House ★ and original annual fairs site, Oakley Square. Keep ahead. By No.29 (aka 'Fantasia'- tiny, late 1800s stand-alone cottage with stepped gable/green-glazed tiles), note ornate No. 23/25 ♥ and 27 ★♥ set back on King Street. Keep on Crag Path. Pass rival pilotage group's South Lookout 8★♥ (c.1830, now art hub/gallery), No. 32 (oriel veranda) ★♥ and Stafford House 9 ★. Take alley between Nos 38/39

Follow over King Street to High Street. Haunted Crespigny House (1775, 'fashionable' Aldeburgh's first property) is visible down Crespigny (sic) Place (opposite). Turn left, passing White Hart ♥ (aka 'potty' bar, recalling a chamber-pot collection!), then some of Aldeburgh's oldest (1600s) buildings (right): Old Custom House 10 external steps/lower floor (contraband store) originally had no windows; Lavender/Rosemary Cottages. Turn left (Hertford Place) for Telephone Repeater Station No.1 (right, 1923 submarine cable terminal/1942-1965 telephone exchange). Retrace steps. Continue along High Street/Slaughden Road to Fort Green, site of annual fairs, circuses ♥/WWII Coastal Artillery battery/Fort Green Mill 11 (private dwelling), formerly Brudenell Brick Tower (corn) mill (1824). An observation post in WWII, it was already a

home in 1902, converted by Rev W. Black/his Danish wife. Detour to view anti-tank defences/site of lost Slaughden 12/River Alde/walk to Martello Tower 13 (+1.4 miles/ 2.3 kms return), take left fork.

Retrace steps along Slaughden Road. Turn left (Park Road), up the hill ♥, past school/Britten's Music Room venue (south gates of Newson Garrett's Aldeburgh Park visible ahead). At Peggs & Sons (left - makers of 'Scallop'), take footpath (left - Jubilee Walk). Pass The Pumphouse 22 (1860, now venue), marshes, water tower, Dutch-gabled, 1925 Dolphin House ♥. Cross King's Field to A1094 roundabout/ Aldeburgh's historic transport hub 14 - railway station site opposite (behind pub)/turnpike road toll house site (right)/ship (on roundabout) completes the picture! Turn right (A1094/Victoria Road), then right before town sign (marked Private Road), through Aldeburgh Park north gates, passing lion-guarded Garrett House ♥ and leisure complex. By 1870 Water Tower 15/hospital garden home of original Snooks ♥, turn left (Park Lane). After footpath section, pass Alde House 16★ (former Garrett family home with Turkish bath/ice house (!), now 3 dwellings). Continue ahead to Catholic Church 19 (1925)/Town Steps/'secret' terrace garden (right). Turn left (Church Walk) past former convalescent home, Adair Lodge. At Victoria Road, turn left. At Uplands House 18, (left, Crabbe's ★/Garrett's★ first residence), cross to church 17 (★inside/out incl. 1899 Lifeboat Disaster Memorial). Return via Church Walk to Town Steps. Descend past town pump to High Street ♥. Detour right for 1822 Union Baptist Chapel 20 if wished. Cross to former East Suffolk Hotel (grand arched doorway). Turn left. Keep left along High Street, passing Aldeburgh Cinema 21★ (left). At crossroads, Wyndham House ★(diagonally opposite) allegedly has tunnels to Moot Hall. Turn right to Moot Hall M 1.

- A Play Area/Outdoor Gym
- B Sport Fields/ Recreation Ground
- C Tennis (Club)
- D Bowling Green (Bowls Club)
- E Boules/Pétanque Pitch
- F Aldeburgh/Slaughden Yacht Club
- G Golf Course

- Bus Stop
- P Parking
- WC Public Toilets
- L Library
- C Chemist
- PO Post Office
- M Museum

Key

- Moot Hall
- Scallop
- Snooks & Model Yacht Pond
- Crag House
- Jubilee Hall
- Lifeboat Station
- North Lookout
- South Lookout
- Strafford House
- Old Custom House
- Fort Green Mill
- Site of Slaughden
- Martello Tower
- Station End
- Water Tower
- Alde House
- St Peter & St Paul's Church
- Uplands House
- Our Lady & St Peter's RC Church
- Union Baptist Chapel
- Cinema
- The Pumphouse
- The Red House

Ship Shape

Look out for insights into Aldeburgh's nautical past including a beach yawl, revenue cutter, barge 'Alde' and galleon 'Marygold'. Spot the brass pavement plaques ⚓ by pedestrian routes around Crag Path and High Street.

Did you know?

'Nana', the dog in Peter Pan is based on J.M. Barrie's own canine companion, Luath, a Landseer Newfoundland. Perhaps he even accompanied him on his regular visits to Thorpeness?

Nature Watch

What will you spot by the coast or marshes today?

- Sea Peas
- Dragonfly
- Nightingale
- Konik Pony
- Marsh Harrier
- Yellow Horned Poppy
- Grey Seal
- Lapwing

Discover Digital Trails

Let your phone do the directing on an interactive trail around Aldeburgh Download the app and discover. thesuffolkcoast.co.uk

Found all Snooks' hats yet?

Talking of top-knots...

Can you spot these lofty gems along the Heritage Trail?

- A big fish and small fry (Fort Green Mill)
- A large scale, busty bowsprit (High Street)
- Chimney stacks modelled on Hampton Court (Moot Hall)
- Cherub sitting aloft a sundial (Dial Lane)
- St Peter and his 24 carat keys (by Louise Tiplady on Church of Our Lady & St Peter)

OS MAP: 212

Walk the Sailors' Path...

Take a wonderful walk from coast, through all sorts of country Alde-side habitats to Snape Maltings cultural complex, shops, cafés and river-trip quay. Leave town along A1094 footpaths to Hazlewood Marshes, or head from Scallop 2 via The Red House 23/Golf Lane to make even more of the Curlew River and Britten connections! Follow in the historic homeward footsteps of local 'Greenhands' (farm-labourers-turned-sailors), Fort Green laundry girls, or even smugglers, sneaking off inland with their booty. Make the connection between early Hazlewood settlements and Snape ship burials and between Aldeburgh, the lost port of Snape Bridge and the man behind its massive maltings. Pack the binoculars for Hazlewood Marshes/Snape Warren wildlife reserves too! Route and Info: suffolkcoastandheaths.org

6 miles
9.5 kms
LINEAR WALK

Aldeburgh » North Warren » Slaughden PORT TO PORT HERITAGE WALK

4.7 miles
6.5 kms
CIRCULAR WALK



OS MAP: 212

FROM/TO: Scallop (Thorpe Road Car Park), IP15 5BH
TERRAIN: Mainly flat. Footpaths (some tarmac), pavements.

DIRECTIONS & INFO: Aldeburgh & Thorpeness Walk Guide suffolkcoastandheaths.org

Set out on a walk of discovery around the sites of Aldeburgh's long-lost ports and shipyards. But these days it's lapwing, dunlin, even rare Tundra Bean geese which land where great Tudor galleons the size of Sir Francis Drake's 'Pelican' were reputedly built. Stand on The Haven viewing platform at RSPB North Warren nature reserve to gaze across the marshland site of Aldeburgh's Tudor port. Imagine, enjoy – and have your binoculars at the ready! Track down the old railway line. Circumnavigate the fine villas of Aldeburgh Park Estate. Edge the forgotten harbourlands of Slaughden where wildflowers and waders colour the saltings beautiful and sails still catch the wind on the River Alde.

Highlights include: Maggi Hambling's 2003 sculpture, 'Scallop: A Conversation with the Sea'. RSPB North Warren (3 viewing platform opportunities). Old railway line trackbed. Views: to Thorpeness; Aldeburgh Park; River Alde/Saltings; quatrefoil Martello Tower (1808-1812); historic seafront/ beach.

Route notes: Head north from Scallop on beach path. After 350 yds/300 m, cross Thorpe Road to gate. Take footpath (right) to Suffolk Coast & Heaths Path via RSPB viewing platforms, overlooking low-lying marshland reserve (site of port/meare/farmland, drained c.1826-46 by wind pump, Black Mill, which stood near derelict Sluice Cottage). Turn left to disused railway line to pick up walk guide directions to Fort Green. Return along beach/Crag Path.

Extend your walk to Thorpeness Meare/ North Warren Reedbeds (+ 2.5 miles/4 kms)

Fancy a Spot of Neverland?

Fascinated by that House-in-the-Clouds on the horizon? Add the Thorpeness Meare extension as directed in the walk guide. Find out about Thorpeness mover and shaper, Glencairn Ogilvie. Experience 'Merrie Olde England' re-imagined and discover the Peter Pan connections.

Check out the Heritage Hut or follow the storyboards around the village on the 1.25 miles/2 kms heritage trail.

Mooching with your Pooch?

Aldeburgh welcomes responsible dog owners.

- Please always clean up after your dog.
- Keep dogs under close control, especially during bird nesting season/amongst livestock. Release your dog if chased by cattle.
- Please respect seasonal restrictions. (Applicable at some beach areas see aldeburghtowncouncil.co.uk)

The information in this guide is provided in good faith and is correct to the best of the publishers' knowledge at the time of going to press, but is subject to alteration.

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