

England's Most Easterly Resort
Gateway to the Broads National Park
Maritime History & Seaside Heritage
Family Fun • Town & Country Walks & Activities

The Pocket Guide to

LOWESTOFT

Stay This Way ...

Traditional hospitality at seafront hotels and guesthouses; beachside camping and caravan parks full of family fun and games; self-catering cottages; boats on the broads; chalet parks and historic pubs; B&Bs in town, on the farm and even a boutique hotel or two. There are so many ways to stay and enjoy Lowestoft. Which will you choose?

GETTING AROUND

By Road: A12 (Ipswich), A47 (Great Yarmouth/Norwich), A146 (Beccles/Norwich)
By Bus: suffolkonboard.com
By Rail: East Suffolk Line (Lowestoft) eastsuffolklines.co.uk; Wherry Line (Oulton Broad South & North, Somerleyton) wherrylines.com; nationalrail.co.uk
By Air: Norwich Airport/London Stansted Airport
By Water: The Broads/River Waveney/Lake Lothing; North Sea. lowestofthavenmarina.co.uk; Oulton Broad: yachtstation.co.uk
By Bike: On National Cycle Network Route 517. Lowestoft Cycle Map: suffolkonboard.com/cycle
Long Distance Walks: On Suffolk Coast Path; Oulton Broad on Angles Way discoversuffolk.org.uk
OS Maps: Outdoor Leisure OL40, OS Explorer 231

Festivals? Concerts? Events?
thesuffolkcoast.co.uk

Great Entertainment – All Year Round!

Check out the vibrant programme at Lowestoft's historic **Marina Theatre**. Enjoy West End productions, touring theatre, cinema films and concerts by its prestigious orchestra-in-residence, The Royal Philharmonic! Together with smaller-scale productions hosted by The Seagull and Lowestoft Players, there's something for everyone.

The Pocket Guide to Lowestoft is produced by East Suffolk Council.



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DISCOVER LOWESTOFT

Golden sands, glorious green spaces & history all around

Edged by brilliant award-winning beaches, the Broads National Park and an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, the north Suffolk home of Britain's most easterly resort really is an all-round breath of fresh air.

Enjoy bucket-loads of traditional seaside fun. Ride rollercoasters. Meet meerkats. Go time-travelling on vintage vehicles. Explore architectural gems and ancient alleyways. Taste fresh fish and chips. Savour quiet moments by Morton Peto's historic Lowestoft quayside. Watch boats by Oulton Broad, or the birds by the marshes maybe? Discover the elegant tranquillity of Lowestoft's heritage parks and enjoy the buzz of its newer ones too - like The Ness, the UK's most easterly park, a celebration of Lowestoft's maritime past. Find a thatched church beyond the Pakefield prom and skylarks singing above the beach at Kessingland. Well, I never did. So why not now?

A Superlative Spot

Home, sweet home to

- Ness Point - England's most easterly tip
- Gulliver (126m), amongst UK's tallest on-shore wind turbines
- Oulton Broad, the largest shallow lake in The Broads
- One of the UK's oldest lifeboat stations (1801)
- World's oldest motorboat racing venue (Oulton Broad 1903)
- Britain's oldest established coastal lighthouse still in use



Key

- 1 Sparrow's Nest Park (1897)
- 2 Belle Vue Park (1874)
- 3 Lighthouse (1874)
- 4 The Ness - the UK's most easterly park (2020)
- 5 England's Most Easterly Point
- 6 Christ Church (1869)
- 7 Station Square
- 8 Bascule Bridge (1972)
- 9 Royal Plain/South Pier (1846)
- 10 Heritage Quay
- 11 Claremont Pier (1903)
- 12 Benjamin Britten's birthplace
- 13 South (Victoria) Beach
- 14 Kensington Gardens (1922)
- 15 Pakefield Church & Beach

Railway Station
 Car Parks Bus Station

LOWESTOFT



PARKS, PIERS & PROMS HERITAGE WALK

START: Sparrow's Nest Park
FINISH: Kensington Gardens or Pakefield

A seaside garden to garden tour via England's most easterly point to Peto's Kirkley beach resort.

Start in **Sparrow's Nest Park 1** created for Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, named after Lifeboat Society founder, Robert Sparrow. Take north exit to Cart Score and spiral steps to **Belle Vue Park 2**, originally Arboretum Hill, home to the Royal Naval Patrol Service Memorial. View iron bridge over The Ravine, but exit by thatched lodge and mysterious 'Witches' Stones' (top of Cart Score). Turn left past **lighthouse 3**. A plaque recalls earlier lighthouse (1676), built here by Trinity House when Samuel Pepys was Master. Left down Lighthouse Score steps, over Whapload Road to sea-wall, passing old Beach Village net racks at **The Ness 4**. Turn right to find the Euroscope at Ness Point **5**. Continue past 'Gulliver' (wind-turbine) to climb steel steps at end of sea-wall. Follow road alongside fishing dock to roundabout. Go right (Whapload Road) to view 1953 flood level marked on door of **Christ Church 6**. Retrace steps to roundabout. Cross diagonally to

Gordon Road. At London Road North, go left past shops to Charles Normandale's 'Spirits of Lowestoft' sculpture on **Station Square 7**. Note historic façade of former Tuttles department store on corner (left). Straight ahead, spot ATM's Kingfisher mural (right), celebrating Carlton Marshes new wildlife habitats at Oulton Broad (see overleaf). Cross **Bascule Bridge 8**. Left onto **Royal Plain 9** with its fountains, originally flanked by The Royal Hotel, now home to the **East Point Pavilion**. Keep left past Royal Norfolk & Suffolk Yacht Club building (1902) (left), for **South Pier Heritage Quay 10** to view marina, harbours, lifeboat station and floating museum, **Mincarlo**, Lowestoft's last surviving sidewinder fishing trawler. Retrace steps to **South Pier** entrance and Triton statue (1850), commissioned by Peto from Prince Albert's favourite sculptor, John Thomas. Follow South Beach prom, passing Triton II (left). Right are fine Victorian

From Beaches ...

Whether you want to be king of the sand-castle, ace of seaside spades or just enjoy some traditional downtime in the deckchair, Lowestoft's brilliant collection of award-winning beaches has something for everyone. Feel the super-soft, golden sand between your toes on **South Beach** by the piers, alongside the colourful cabins at its **Victoria Beach**, or stroll south to discover the rural calm and curvaceous charm of the boat-dotted beach at **Pakefield**. Similar to **Corton/Guntun Sands** north of town, its vegetated sand and shingle-scapes seem worlds away from the gentle 1920s elegance of Kensington Gardens back around the Kirkley Cliff corner. Further south sand-dune and shingle stretches at **Kessingland** seem wilder still, home to yellow sea poppies, sea peas and nesting Little terns.

To The Broads

Inland by the River Waveney, there's another watery world waiting to be explored. Just a train stop, short drive, bus or bike ride - or even a walk away (see overleaf) - from Lowestoft's award-winning beaches, **Oulton Broad** is the area's largest shallow lake created by medieval folk digging out peat for fuel. Gateway to the **Broads National Park**, it's a paradise for boat-lovers and wildlife too.

From Kippers...

There's been something fishy about the Lowestoft coast for centuries. Kessingland was once one of the richest sea-ports in Suffolk and clifftop old Lowestoft had an entire beach village full of fisherfolk below its High Street, reached by steep alleys called 'scores'. The thriving Victorian port saw steam-drifters land great catches of herring which were smoked, pickled or packed in barrels and soon shipped out again by the new-fangled railway. Today you'll still find fishing boats as well as pleasure cruisers, bobbing about Lowestoft's harbours and some local artisans, proud to preserve traditions, amidst the last remaining net-racks, -stores and smoke houses on The Ness.

To Big-dippers

Fancy whizzing down into the watersplash or enjoying the family fun of the fair? Pleasurewood Hills landscaped theme park will surely be right up your North Lowestoft street. The seafront boasts mini-rides, jolly seaside arcades and attractions too, but in its infancy, the resort's most thrilling ride was probably the journey to get there. Trips by passenger train - or paddle-steamer from London or Yarmouth to Lowestoft's piers - delivered pleasure-seekers right to the heart of fashionable new seaside culture to sample 'the most invigorating air in the British Isles'. From delightful gardens to goat-cart rides, South Pier concert parties, Punch & Judy shows and phrenologist's booths, top Victorian and Edwardian resort Lowestoft had loads to offer. Look out for seaside legacies today.

A Town of 2 Halves

With its old town to the north along with the lighthouse and much of its maritime history, and the soft sands and Victorian villas of its resort (Kirkley) to the south, Lowestoft looks split down the middle by Lake Lothing - once a freshwater creek and England's leading shipbuilding port for timber vessels. At its west end, Mutford Lock saves Oulton Broad from saltwaters. Until 1830 - when seaside Kirkley was still mainly farmland - Mutford Bridge was the only route into Lowestoft for wheeled vehicles.

Joined-up Thinking

But it was to be one man's vision which made all the difference. Victorian entrepreneur **Sir Samuel Morton Peto** (1809 -1889) started developing Lowestoft's harbourlands and laying down a railway. He created a harbour village, a steamboat service to Denmark, restyled his local Jacobean mansion, Somerleyton Hall, into an Italianate palace - and planned a resort to rival Brighton. Employer of the world's largest labour-force, contractor for the Houses of Parliament, Nelson's Column and over 3,000 miles of railway throughout the world, Peto soon moulded a town of two potential halves into one amazing whole.

Engineers & More Entrepreneurs

Ships and sailboats, trams and trolleybuses, TV sets, off-shore energy, food processing and aquaculture science - Lowestoft has turned its excellently industrious hands to move with the times. Within living memory, Somerleyton boatyard owner Christopher Cockerill, invented the hovercraft, then there's the International Boatbuilding College (Lake Lothing) and world-leading Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science laboratory (Pakefield). Lowestoft has also welcomed its famous counter-weighted road-bridge and work is underway on building a third crossing and flood protection.

Visit & Discover More

Lowestoft Museum lowestoftmuseum.org
 Lowestoft Maritime Museum lowestoftmaritimemuseum.org.uk
 East Anglia Transport Museum eatransportmuseum.co.uk

terraces. Originally pairs of Italianate villas stood between them and the sea. Pass historic **Wellington Gardens** (right). At **Claremont Pier 11** (once over 200m long, welcoming steamships until 1939) turn right, then left along Kirkley Cliff Road. On right, 'Ashurst' villa (1864) recalls Victorian styling of South Pier's original reading room. Past 1930s thatched tearoom (left), see no. 21 Kirkley Cliff **12 birthplace of composer, Sir Benjamin Britten** (1913-1976). Cross back to prom by **South (Victoria) Beach 13** with its 1930s beach chalets. The monument by the boating pond at **Kensington Gardens 14** once topped the Royal Plain drinking fountain. Don't miss the Japanese Garden en route to pavilion café.

Top Tip

Follow the beach path south from Kensington Gardens **14** to Pakefield's contrastingly rural cove, thatched church and Lowestoft's oldest inn **15**.

Resort & Port in the Making

Hamilton Dock	1906
Waveney Basin	1883
Resort establishes (Kirkley)	c.1860
Railway Station	1855
Trawler Basin/ Railway arrives	1847
Lake Lothing linked to sea	1831
Beach village (originally homes in upturned boats)	c.1791(-1960s)
Bathing machines at Lowestoft	c.1768
Lowestoft Porcelain produced	1757 (-1802)

LOWESTOFT'S AMAZING HERITAGE COAST & COUNTRYSIDE

Carlton Marshes

Lowestoft's Wildlife Oasis

Dragonflies, marsh marigolds; widgeon, Chinese water deer and grasshopper warblers or Britain's biggest spider - what will you discover at Carlton Marshes by the River Waveney? The recently extended Suffolk Wildlife Trust Reserve by the Broads National Park is now creating even more amazing marshland habitats to give nature a home. Take your binoculars and tour the reedbeds, pools, scrapes and dykes of Carlton, Share and Peto's Marshes, all just a short footpath stroll from Oulton Broad station.



What's that on the Horizon?

Take the foot-ferry by Peto's Marsh and go and see! Cross to the Waveney River Centre to Burgh St Peter and St Mary's 'zigurat' church tower is only a short walk away.

Go on the Nature Trail

Cliffs, dunes, marshes, butterfly meadows, heathland, woods, lakes and even hills, there really is something for everyone amongst Lowestoft's north Suffolk nature reserves. Download trail maps and check out what flora and fauna you'll find with the seasons at suffolkwildlifetrust.org

- * Carlton Marshes NR33 8HU
- * Oulton Marshes NR32 3JP
- * Lound Lakes NR31 9AU
- * Gunton Warren NR32 4PQ
- * Gunton Meadow NR32 4TZ

Nature Watch

What will you spot today?

- ☐ Water vole
- ☐ Kingfisher
- ☐ Orchid
- ☐ Barn owl
- ☐ Common lizard
- ☐ Dragonfly
- ☐ Butterfly
- ☐ Marsh harrier

What a Cracker!

Lowestoft's Georgian soft-paste porcelain factory made souvenirs for the resort's earliest visitors as well as devising 'Mandarin' patterns to decorate their wares in popular Chinese style! Head for Lowestoft Museum to see its superb collection.

lowestoftmuseum.org

Somerleyton » Ashby » Lound TREASURES OF LOTHINGLAND



START/ FINISH: NR32 5QN
Terrain: Flat/ gentle inclines. Field/ woodland footpaths. Some tarmac roads/pavements. Stiles, gates.

Directions: eastsuffolklines.co.uk/walks

An Italianate stately home near the River Waveney, moving wartime memorials and a golden church - the area around the idyllic thatched estate village of Somerleyton on the ancient former island of Lothingland has many precious stories to share.

Highlights include: Somerleyton railway swing bridge (1905); Somerleyton parklands, village and hovercraft monument; thatched Ashby St Mary's Church (Anglo-Saxon ship burial discovered nearby); Sir Ninian Comper's golden restorations in St John the Baptist Church, Lound; USSAF wayside memorials.

Info panels: Somerleyton; inside Ashby and Lound churches.

Out of Africa

Indiana Jones, the film-hero, was allegedly modelled on Rider Haggard's adventurer, Allan Quartermain. Much of the fossil-hunting author's inspiration came from his time in Africa, so he'd surely be delighted to hear that rhinoceros, hippo, mammoth, sabre-toothed cats and even early man lived in prehistoric Kessingland some 700,000 years before he did! What's more, you'll still find animal ancestors here today at Kessingland's awesome zoo park, Africa Alive!

africa-alive.co.uk

Did you know?

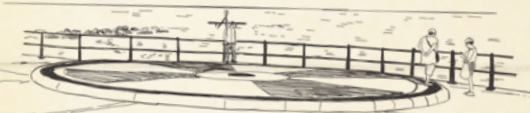
It was Rider Haggard who introduced marram grass to Kessingland to stabilise the shifting soil in his garden - it soon spread!

Enjoy Walking, Cycling or Horse-riding? Find more great local ideas at discoversuffolk.org.uk

DECKCHAIR DREAMS...

So, what's on your seaside bucket list?

- ☒ Be king - or queen - of the (sand) castle
- ☐ Get tickets for showtime at the Marina Theatre
- ☐ Spot sea lupins on Kessingland beach
- ☐ Get stuck in to some candy floss by South Pier
- ☐ Book a horse-ride along Pakefield beach
- ☐ A boat trip on Oulton Broad
- ☐ Watch the coast at Pakefield's Coastal Watch tower
- ☐ Be amongst the first to watch the sun rise over England
- ☐ Run rings around the world at the Euroscope (Ness Point)



Truly Amazing

Visit Somerleyton Hall's super-stately rooms and historic yew maze. Its great gardens have greenhouses attributed to Joseph Paxton of Crystal Palace fame. somerleyton.co.uk

Kessingland's wild dune coast COUNTRYSIDE & CLIFFS ADVENTURE



START/ FINISH: NR33 7SG
Terrain: Footpaths, tracks, tarmac/ pavements. Steps.

Directions: suffolkcoastandheaths.org

Author of King Solomon's Mines, Sir Henry Rider Haggard (1856-1925) found Kessingland just 4 miles south of Lowestoft to be a real treasure. Discover this former sea-faring town now within the Suffolk Coast & Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, whose long-lost port once made it one of the richest coastal towns in Suffolk and whose beach is designated a Special Site of Scientific Interest.

Highlights include: Dunes, vegetated shingle, fossil-cliff coastline; farmland and marshes of the Hundred River Valley; St Edmund's Church - 15th century beacon tower and ship's wheel pulpit.

Info panels: Kessingland Beach.

Oulton Broad » Lowestoft via Lake Lothing BROADS & BRIDGES EXPLORER



START: Oulton Broad South Station/ Nicholas Everitt Park NR33 9JR
FINISH: Lowestoft Station
Terrain: Urban/water side footpaths. Mainly tarmac/pavements. Steps.

Directions: eastsuffolklines.co.uk/walks

2 'lakes', 4 parks, 7 bridges, 1 wonderful walk with fascinating insights into Lowestoft's shipbuilding, transport and wartime heritage. Great for waterfowl watchers too. Don't forget the binoculars!

Highlights include: Lowestoft Museum in Oulton Broad's waterside Nicholas Everitt Park; Mutford Bridge/ Lock and Edwardian railway swing bridge; Lake Lothing; Normanston Park; Great Eastern Linear Park (trackbed walk between old Eastern Counties Coachworks and North Lowestoft station sites); Gunton Cliff; Belle Vue Park, Royal Naval Patrol Service Memorial; Sparrow's Nest; The Ness/Ness Point; Bascule Bridge; Royal Plain war memorial.

Info panels: Inside Lowestoft Museum (free entry). Oulton Broad; Lake Lothing; Sparrow's Nest Park; The Ness.

STEP BACK IN TIME OLD LOWESTOFT HERITAGE WALK



START: Christ Church Whapload Road/ Herring Fishery Score NR32 1XD
FINISH: Sparrow's Nest Park NR32 1XG

Spot the red herrings on this energetic little adventure (includes 320 steps!) up and down Lowestoft's ancient 'scores', in the footsteps of famous folk like King George II, Oliver Cromwell, Charles Wesley and cheeky local fisherman, Happy Welham.

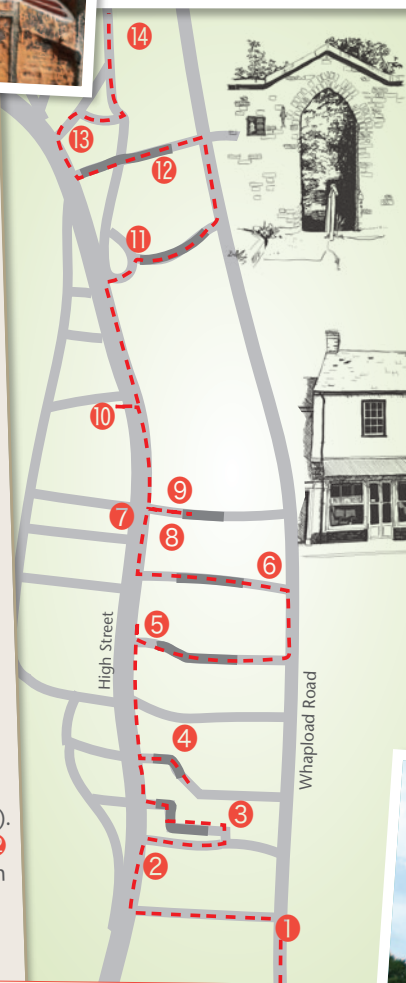
The door of **Christ Church 1** reveals 1953 flood levels which sealed the fate of Lowestoft's Beach Village. Climb **Herring Fishery Score** to **High Street**. Turn right - royal faces on No. 104; fanciful pinnacle on No. 90/91's gabled shop-front (1880) by **Spurgeons Score 2**. Turn right, down score (cottages here a rare survival), then halfway down, follow herring waymarker left, to regain High Street along serpentine wall of **Maltsters Score 3** to the **Triangle Market**.

Turn right. Descend **Wilde Score** to Wilde School 4 now Heritage Workshop Centre, home to Beach Village model and viewpoint (lowestoftheritage.org). Regain High Street. Turn right passing Flint House (Wilde family 1588-1740s) and **Rant Score** which George II, forced into moorings by rough seas, once

journeyed up to stay at No.45. Before heading down **Martins Score 5** where fishing boat floor-plaques trace Lowestoft's nautical history, view No. 59, **rare 1851 purpose-built chemist shop frontage** and No. 55 (fine Adam doorway). Wesleyan Chapel Lane recalls the influence and 1764 visit of John Wesley who preached here and declared: "A wilder congregation have I never seen".

At bottom of Martins Score, turn left. Go left again up **Crown Score 6** to the Crown Hotel, one of Lowestoft's oldest inns. Not far behind The Crown is where Lowestoft Porcelain production flourished (1757-1802). Turn right. View the 1860 **Town Hall 7** (left), Town Hall Stores wall-painting (right) and peer down **Mariners Score 8** arched gateway with sea-view. Cromwell, here in Lowestoft to quash Royalist sentiment in 1643, had his HQ at The Swan Inn (formerly at No. 41). No. 36 High Street (c. 1500s) is **Lowestoft's oldest house 9**. View North Flint House (now a pub), then at No. 176, ATM's **Barn Owl mural 10** celebrating Carlton Marshes Nature Reserve.

Past Arnold House, go right, down **Arnold's Walk 11** (footpath, signed for Maritime Museum). Keep right down steps with old fish curing works/net stores (right). Turn left at bottom, then right up **Lighthouse Score 12** home in 1916 to 'Happy' Welham who drank like a fish and charged passers-by tuppence to see an unexploded naval shell! Climb to top to view **light house 13**. Turn right to descend into **Sparrow's Nest** park 14.



Did you know?

St Mary's round tower church at Blundeston was immortalised by Charles Dickens in 'David Copperfield'.

