## visitcambridgeshire.org

Cambridge | Peterborough | The Fens | Ely | Wisbech Huntingdon | Ramsey | St Ives | St Neots



### Welcome to Cambridgeshire and Peterborough

With beautiful countryside and lovely towns and cities to visit, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough has something for everyone whether you are looking for a relaxing short break or an activity-packed longer stay.

Come and discover charming views of the countryside, ripe for exploring, with peat-black Fens reclaimed from their natural marsh state, criss-crossed by rivers and drainage channels and blessed by glorious sunsets. See the lovely honey-coloured stone villages nestling in the undulating hills along the riversides of the Nene and Ouse Valleys, or experience wildlife up-close in some of our fantastic nature reserves.

Breathe in a land of lazy waterways, rolling countryside, majestic cathedrals, magnificent stately homes, bustling market towns and the unforgettable city of Cambridge. Take a leisurely punt along the River Cam passing age-old colleges and immaculate lawns. Shop in quirky stores and exquisite boutiques tucked away along cobbled streets.

Climb grand sweeping staircases in the homes of the aristocracy. Relax as you chug along in a leisure boat watching the wildlife. Admire the architecture of our soaring cathedrals. Or hop on two wheels and cycle through fertile Fenland farmland and tiny villages and call into our picturesque pubs for a refreshing drink and some fine home cooked food.

# Cambridgeshire and Peterborough will be a holiday to remember,

Please come back and see us again soon!



### Cambridge

It is no exaggeration to say that Cambridge has helped to shape the world we live in, from Newton's law of universal gravitation to the discovery of the structure of DNA by Crick and Watson. Visitors can immerse themselves in the incredible wealth of tradition and achievements that have made this a centre for learning, famed right across the world.

So, spend a few days in Cambridge and soak up the delights of this diverse city that can be traced back to the Roman times. There's not many places that have such a great mix of things to see and do, where you are in the centre of a city but surrounded by green open spaces with rolling countryside right on the doorstep.

Whether you want to just relax and take it easy or spend time sightseeing, a short break spent in this historic city will make you realise why its special charm attracts visitors from far and wide. It is a city that mixes the old with the new but still retains the atmosphere of a market town.

An excellent way to learn more about this famous city is to take a Guided Walking Tour which leave from the Tourist Information Centre three times a day, or a punt trip along the Backs giving you the option of either punting yourself (and possibly falling in the River Cam) or to sit back and let a chauffeur do the hard work for you.

The museums in Cambridge are second to none. Lose yourself in the Fitzwilliam Museum which contains one of the greatest art collections of the nation. Discover times gone by in the Cambridgeshire County Folk Museum, experience some fabulous exhibitions at the Kettles Yard or learn more about our past from some of the university museums which include the Anthroplogy, Zoology, or Geology Museums and for those who need a little retail therapy, Cambridge has a superb selection of shopping outlets and four shopping centres plus cobbled streets littered with independent shops for that something a little different.



### South Cambridgeshire

A natural gem, South Cambridgeshire offers 350 square miles of fantastic walking and cycling countryside dotted with historic monuments, houses and other attractions.

From small hamlets to larger villages, South Cambridgeshire combines the modern and the historical, sitting pretty in a tranquil landscape ranging from rolling chalk hills to flat fertile fenland.

Food lovers will have a tough time choosing from an array of friendly local pubs and restaurants, while wine connoisseurs will delight in discovering the county's only vineyard.

Art enthusiasts are spoilt for choice with open studio events, dance, theatre and music played in some of the beautiful medieval churches. Storytellers weave enchanting tales in country parks and villages.

With attractions that include nature reserves, a zoo and wildlife park, golf courses, walks and windmills, South Cambridgeshire is a fantastic place to make some memories.



### Ely

Located only 15 miles from Cambridge, Ely is a perfect one-day or short break destination. The first port of call for any visitor to Ely today will almost certainly be the cathedral. This imposing structure towers across the fens for miles around. Dominating the skyline, it is one England's most beautiful and largest Cathedrals. Known locally as the 'Ship of the Fens' it is famous for its unique Octagon tower, which when lit can be seen for tens of miles. The cathedral is also home to the only national museum dedicated to stained glass. If it's history you are interested in then Ely's Museum, housed in the old Gaol, is an excellent place to start.

Ely's most famous historical resident was of course Oliver Cromwell. In 1636 he inherited a large estate from Sir Thomas Steward, his maternal uncle, who farmed about two miles outside Ely at Stuntney. The Cromwell family left sometime in 1647, but you can still visit their house, which now doubles as the local Tourist Information Centre.

As you would perhaps expect from a place so attractive to tourists, there are many gift shops, craft shops, antique shops, art galleries and ubiquitous teashops. Follow the city's heritage public art trail, a walk that takes you past five pieces of stunning art portraying the life cycle of an eel, an excellent way of seeing the historic city at its best. But for the stout of heart a ghost tour might be the more exciting option!



Ely boasts an extensive summer events programme as well as its year round tour options. Ely's annual Eel Day kicks off the tourist season in April with a celebration of the city's eel traditions. Ely is very proud of its connection with eels as the name Ely is derived from the Isle of Eels when Ely was surrounded by water and marshland. Historically eels were part of the local staple diet as well as a valuable source of income. Clients came from London to purchase jellied eels, although today this is a dwindling market. Smoked eels, now considered a delicacy, can be purchased on Ely's award winning Farmers Market. The City's beautiful waterside is a hot spot for tourists and hosts a variety of musical entertainment to suit all tastes.

Ely is the perfect base to explore the surrounding areas. The district is home to the July Racecourse at Newmarket, the home of horse racing. Located adjacent to the course is the National Stud where you can take tours to see former race horses and newly born foals. Wicken Fen, owned and maintained by the National Trust, is the most ancient fenland reserve in the country. The Trust also manages Anglesey Abbey famous for its snowdrop walks in the winter and collection of dahlias in the summer.

Ely is easily accessed by road via the A10 or A142 off the A14. There is also a centrally located railway station, with good links to the rest of the region which makes Ely ideally situated to use as a base whilst visiting the area.

### Huntingdonshire



Huntingdonshire is centred around the beautiful River Great Ouse and its historic market towns, Huntingdon and Godmanchester, Ramsey, St Ives and St Neots.

Huntingdon, St Ives and St Neots nestle on the banks of the River Great Ouse, providing peaceful settings, combined with historical attractions, quality restaurants and cafés and individual shops. Huntingdonshire also boasts a wealth of stunning villages in peaceful countryside, one of the largest being Kimbolton with its historic High Street and castle.

#### Huntingdon

Huntingdon offers a wide range of shopping experiences and provides the perfect place to browse before relaxing over lunch.

Take time to explore the town's history: Oliver Cromwell was born here and the Cromwell Museum, on the High Street, former grammar school of both Samuel Pepys and Oliver Cromwell, is the only public collection entirely devoted to Cromwell. Meanwhile All Saints' Church, which presides over the market square, houses the Cromwell family burial vault.

Huntingdon's Riverside Park, with its many beautiful trees, is the perfect place to picnic on a summer's day. It has impressive views of the old bridge which links Huntingdon to Godmanchester. The bridge, built in 1332, is considered to be one of the finest medieval bridges in England.

#### **Ramsey**

Ramsey, once known as 'Ramsey the Golden', is a fine example of a Fenland market town with a lovely rural air, unique character and a mix of independent shops and businesses: a pleasant place to stop for coffee or lunch.

It sits within the fenland waterway networks and welcomes waterborne visitors who will find that Ramsey's charm lies not only in its hidden past, but also its present day warmth and vibrancy.

The centre of Ramsey is designated a conservation area. Stroll around the town and you will see evidence of its long and historical past. There are some 70 properties listed as being of special architectural or historic interest. Ramsey Rural Museum, housed in 17th century farm buildings, makes an interesting afternoon out.

Ramsey Abbey was the earliest and most important of the Huntingdonshire monasteries and a principal centre of early scholarship in England.

#### St Ives

St Ives is one of the most delightful riverside towns and has welcomed visitors for over 1000 years. St Ives caters for all your shopping needs with an eclectic mix of shops and places to eat.

St Ives is famous for its markets, with an especially large market taking place each Bank Holiday Monday. The weekly Monday market has been held here since the end of the 14th century.

The quayside offers a peaceful spot to sit and admire the view of the Bridge and Chapel of St Leger. Built in 1426, it is one of only four bridge chapels remaining.

Take some time to visit the Norris Museum at the Waits. It tells the story of the historic county of Huntingdonshire, from the age of dinosaurs to the present day.



#### St Neots

St Neots is the largest town in Cambridgeshire and boasts an impressive past, with tales of Benedictine monks, Oliver Cromwell and the Eynesbury Giant. The fast expanding town of today provides excellent shopping and places to eat, in a stunning location on the banks of the river.

This pretty market town has a large number of listed buildings and is mostly designated a conservation area. The Market Square is one of the largest and most ancient of its kind, dating back to the 12th century and a market continues to be held here every Thursday and farmers' markets twice a month.

The play area in Riverside Park provides great entertainment for the children, and is set next to a restaurant where you can enjoy a coffee or lunch, before a trip to the award winning St Neots museum.

### The Fens

Fenland with its unique landscape, formed by nature and shaped by people over more than 6000 years, and Market towns is an ideal place for a short break, to relax and unwind.



#### Wisbech

Wisbech is renowned for its elegant Georgian architecture, a legacy from an era when the town was an important trading centre built on the Port. Stroll along the Brinks or around the Crescent to see some fine Georgian houses.

Visit Peckover House on North Brink, once the home of the Peckovers, a Quaker banking family, now in the care of the National Trust. A little further down the brink is a completely different example of Georgian architecture; Elgoods Brewery was one of the first Georgian breweries to be built outside London and has stood almost unchanged for more than 200 years.

#### **Chatteris**

Chatteris grew around the abbey of St Mary from around 1010. A market place formed in front of the abbey and streets evolved to connect to other settlements in the Fens. Although there is little sign of the abbey today, Chatteris is still well connected and is an ideal base for touring the Fens and Cambridgeshire.

#### March

March town centre has an unusual Broad Street lined with shops and headed by 'The Fountain' which was erected in 1911 to commemorate the coronation of King George V and restored in 2002 to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of H M Queen Elizabeth II.

Perhaps the town's finest asset, the meandering river, part of the 200 mile Fenland waterway system, winds its way through the town centre, past the park and attractive riverside gardens. The river is well used by cruisers and narrow boats. Mooring and facilities for boat users are conveniently located in the town centre. A marina is situated on the outskirts of the town.

#### Whittlesey

Whittlesey town centre is an interesting maze of streets with a variety of well preserved architecture spanning several centuries. There are examples of timber framed houses with thatched roofs, occasional stone buildings and local brick. The market place in the town centre is dominated by the late 17th century Buttercross, a square open market house which is an enduring reminder of the towns rich trading and agricultural history. This is the focal point of the Annual Straw Bear festival held each year in January.



### Peterborough

Peterborough offers fun, shopping, culture and countryside. Wander around stately homes and historic buildings, sample the menus at our wonderful eateries, lose yourself in acres of rolling countryside and miles of waterways or experience the city's buzzing events and nightlife.

Visit Flag Fen Bronze Age Centre where archaeologists found the oldest wheel in Britain. Then fast forward a few centuries to discover the "new" 12th century cathedral with the largest surviving example of a painted wooden ceiling from the Middle Ages. Peterborough Museum is the city's most haunted building - join a ghost tour, or take a trip on one of the steam engines at Nene Valley Railway.

Don't forget the natural pleasures too - green, open spaces, lakes and riverside. Or take to two wheels and make the most of the Green Wheel cycle network to cover miles of countryside.

There are plenty of other events to be experienced too. The CAMRA Beer Festival, East of England Show and the Peterborough Festival. Or relax, with a night out at the theatre or greyhound stadium.



### History and Heritage

There is so much history and heritage in Cambridgeshire, you'll be spoiled for choice. Step inside a turf-roofed round house at Flag Fen to see how life would have been back in the Bronze Age, or fancy yourself as a courageous serviceman in the country's finest aviation museum.

Climb sweeping staircases in our grand stately homes; then tumble back down to earth in a farm worker's cottage from the 20th century. Hop aboard a steam train for a bygone journey through unspoilt countryside or watch flour being made in one of our mills. From ancient abbeys, to modern museums, lofty cathedrals to old-fashioned breweries, and medieval churches to the only American Military Cemetery for World War II in Britain, you can experience them all.

With museum exhibits to excite and inspire visitors of all ages and interests and galleries with masterpieces by Rubens and Canaletto you're bound to find something to entertain and enlighten you and your loved ones.

| Cambridge                      | <ul><li>Cambridge Colleges</li><li>Round Church</li><li>Citysightseeing bus tour</li></ul>  | Live the City Punting Fitzwilliam Museum Folk Museum Kettles Yard |
|--------------------------------|---|---|
| South<br>Cambridgeshire        | Wimpole Hall and Farm     Imperial War Museum Duxford     Denny Abbey & Farmland Museum Duxford   | d   |
| Ely and East<br>Cambridgeshire | Ely Cathedral     The Stained Glass Museum     Oliver Cromwell's House     Burwell Museum     Prickwillow Drainage Engine N     Anglesey Abbey Gardens & Lo | л<br>/useum   |
| Huntingdonshire                | Ramsey Rural Museum     Kimbolton Castle  | St Neots Museum Norris Museum The Manor Island Hall               |
| The Fens                       | Octavia Hill's Birthplace House     Peckover House and Gardens     Elgoods Brewery and Gardens  |   |
| Peterborough                   | Nene Valley Railway   | Burghley House John Clare Cottage Crowland Abbey  Gallery         |

### Nature and Waterways

Stop. Close your eyes and breathe. You are surrounded by rolling countryside, gently flowing waterways and masses of wildlife. This is a place to relax. Hire a cruiser and chug along the Cambridgeshire waterways as captain of your own command or sit back and watch the scenery float merrily by on a river trip.

If you really want to make a break of it, try a holiday in a narrow boat. Feel the gentle bobbing of the waves and hear the melodic lapping of water against the stern as you drift off to sleep. The Cambridgeshire waterways make an easy way to get around. Pass peaceful villages with pretty thatched cottages and tiny churches. Moor up to enjoy a pleasant pub lunch or walk along the riverside.

Try fishing, walking or cycling and simply enjoy the great outdoors, the expansive skies and impressive sunsets. Alternatively, visit one of the Cambridgeshire nature reserves, perhaps Britain's oldest nature reserve - Wicken Fen. Explore the home it offers wild ponies, otters and rare plants and insects.

The Great Fen Project is one of the most exciting habitat restoration projects ever undertaken in Britain and will create a 3,700 hectare wetland between Huntingdon and Peterborough. www.greatfen.org.uk.



| Cambridge                      | University Botanic Garden  | River Cam Punting   |
|--------------------------------|--|---|
| South<br>Cambridgeshire        | Chilford Hall Vineyard   | Milton Country Park   |
| Ely and East<br>Cambridgeshire | Wicken Fen National Nature F     Ely's Country Park  | Reserve<br>• Ely's Riverside  |
| Huntingdonshire                | St. Ives Electric Riverboat Co. Hinchingbrooke Country Park Paxton Pits Nature Reserve Holme Fen Nature Reserve Purvis Marine Boatyard | Daylock Marina     The Captain's Folly     The Captain's Table     Woodwalten Fen |
| The Fens                       | Welney Wetland Centre     Nene Washes  | Ouse Washes   |
| Peterborough                   | Ferry Meadows     Eye Green Nature Reserve   | Nene Park     Crown Lakes   |

### Sports and Leisure

There is a wealth of fun things to do for all the family, from country walks to outward bounding. If you are after excitement, you could head for Grafham Water and try windsurfing or sailing, or hire a bike for off-road cycling.

The Mepal Outdoor Activity Centre offers a wide range of watersports and activities, from sailing and windsurfing, to paintball and archery. You could get on your bike at Wisbech and follow the Apples and Ale trail to discover ancient sea banks, historic fen villages and miles of flourishing orchards. Alternatively, you may want something a little more sedate, like a round of golf at one of the many local golf courses in the area or enjoy the many parks and open spaces within the county, with so many choices to make, there really is no excuse to stay indoors.



| Cambridge                      | Cambridge Leisure     Jesus Green open air swimming po     Wandlebury Country Park                                | Coe Fen  ool   |
|--------------------------------|---|--|
| Ely and East<br>Cambridgeshire | Fenland River Cruises     Mepal Outdoor Activity Centre   |  |
| Huntingdonshire                | Eat, Bowl 'n' Play     Huntingdon Racecourse     Lakeside Lodge Golf and Bowling     Old Nene Golf & Country Club | <ul><li>Pidley Paintball</li><li>Rally Karting</li><li>Grafham Water</li></ul> |
| The Fens                       | Fox Narrowboats Ltd   |  |
| Peterborough                   | Lakeside watersports centre     Peterborough Raceway Karting T  | • Lido<br>rack   |

### Walking and Cycling

The diversity of the Cambridgeshire countryside will delight the visitor. Its scenery ranges from small villages nestling in gently undulating hills in the south to the man made landscape of the Fens in the north-east.

The sky plays a vital role in this landscape rewarding the visitor with glorious sunsets. So whether it is walking or cycling by the county's rivers or through ancient woodland; visiting the wide range of nature reserves, the larger cities of Cambridge and Peterborough or the smaller market towns throughout the county, Cambridgeshire has something for all ages and interests. For more details on routes, please visit www.visitcambridgeshire.org or www.ousevalleyway.org.uk

### Animal Magic

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough have many opportunities to visit the wonderful world of animals and birds, whether in a Park, Zoo or in their natural habitat. There is so much for the animal lover to see.



| South<br>Cambridgeshire        | Linton Zoo     Wimpole Hall Farm     Shepreth Wildlife Park               |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Ely and East<br>Cambridgeshire | The National Stud   |
| Huntingdonshire                | Huntingdon Racecourse     Raptor Foundation     Wood Green Animal Shelter |
| The Fens                       | Woodhouse Farm Park   |
| Peterborough                   | Sacrewell Farm and Country Centre     Pigeons Farm                        |

### Shopping and Markets

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough offer a variety of shopping experiences form the Grand Arcade and Grafton shopping centres in Cambridge, the Queensgate shopping centre in Peterborough to the bustling market town high streets.

| Cambridge                      | Saturday - All Saints Garden Art & Craft Market     Sunday - Arts, Craft and Local Produce Market     Monday to Saturday - General Market  |  |
|--------------------------------|--|--|
| South<br>Cambridgeshire        | Burwash Manor Barns - Barton   |  |
| Ely and East<br>Cambridgeshire | Ely Thursday - General Market Saturday - Craft and Collectables Market 2nd & 4th Saturday - Farmers Market Bank Holiday Markets  |  |
| Huntingdonshire                | Huntingdon  • Wednesday and Saturday - Main Market  • Friday (fortnightly) - Farmer's Market  • October - Continental Market  Ramsey  • Saturday - Main Market  • Every 4th Saturday - Farmer's Market  St Ives  • Monday - Main Market  • Friday - Small Market  • Friday - Small Market  • Bank Holiday Mondays - Large Main Market  • October - Michaelmas Fair  • December - Dickensian Market  • April - Normandy Market  • 1st and 3rd Saturday of every month - Farmers' Market  St Neots  • Thursday - Main Market  • 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month - Farmers' Market |  |
| The Fens                       | Chatteris Friday - Market Day  March Wednesday and Saturdays - Market Last Wednesday of the month - Farmers Market  Whittlesey Friday - Market  Wisbech Thursday and Saturday - Markets Wednesday and Fridays - Auctions   |  |
| Peterborough                   | 2nd & 4th Thursday - Farmers Market     Tuesday to Saturday - General Market     Arts & Craft Market   |  |

# Entertainment and Nightlife

Cambridgeshire can cater for all your entertainment needs whether it's cinema, theatre, dining or dancing you're after. By nightfall there are city bars, restaurants and nightclubs or visit one of our many traditional and old-style pubs and inns in the outlying villages.

Some of our magnificent stately homes offer outdoor concerts with top class acts, a perfect way to spend a summer evening. See a play, or laugh until you bring tears to your eyes at a live comedy evening, at one of our many theatres. One thing we are sure of, no matter where you decide to go in Cambridgeshire you're destined to have a good time.



| Cambridge                      | <ul> <li>The Junction</li> <li>Cambridge Leisure</li> <li>ADC Theatre</li> <li>Arts Picturehouse</li> <li>Mumford Theatre</li> </ul> |  |
|--------------------------------|--|--|
| Ely and East<br>Cambridgeshire | The Maltings, Ely  |  |
| Huntingdonshire                | Cineworld Huntingdon Huntingdon Commemoration Hall The Priory Centre, St Neots   |  |
| The Fens                       | The Angles Theatre Wisbech Luxe Cinema   |  |
| Peterborough                   | Showcase Cinema     The Key Theatre      The Cresset Theatre   |  |

### Contact

For further information on Cambridgeshire and Peterborough please visit our website

#### www.visitcambridgeshire.org

For more detailed information on where to stay, events, activities and attractions in any area, please contact the local tourist information office on the numbers below or visit their websites.

#### **CAMBRIDGE**

Tel: 0871 226 8006

**Email:** tourism@cambridge.gov.uk **Website:** www.visitcambridge.org

#### **PETERBOROUGH**

Tel: 01733 452336 & 452404
Email: tic@peterborough.gov.uk
Website: www.visitpeterborough.com

#### **ELY**

**Tel:** 01353 662062

**Email:** tic@eastcambs.gov.uk **Website:** www.visitely.org.uk

#### **WISBECH**

Tel: 01945 583263

Email: tourism@fenland.co.uk

Website: www.fenland.gov.uk | www.visitthefens.co.uk

#### **HUNTINGDONSHIRE**

Website: www.visithuntingdonshire.org

Huntingdonshire Association for Tourism's accommodation hotline:

07505 567614 between 8am and 9pm.

### Getting Here

For impartial journey planning information about all public transport services - buses, coaches, trains and ferries go to **www.traveline.org.uk** 

#### Rail

For National Rail Enquiries use the journey planner website www.nationalrail.co.uk

Go to our website

www.visitcambridgeshire.org/offers

for details of any special offers on accommodation and attractions.