



Medieval Norwich - The Year of the Normans 2027

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MILLENNIUM
2027, EUROPEAN YEAR OF
THE NORMANS 1027-2027



Contents

- Where is Norwich?
- Travelling from France
- Medieval Norwich
- Gallery 1
- Where to Visit
- Suggested Itinerary.
- Gallery 2
- Address Book

Where is Norwich?

Norwich is located in Norfolk in the East of England, the 'bump' of the UK.

It's just a 1hr 50min train journey from London and Stansted Airport and 1hr 18mins from Cambridge with Greater Anglia, while East Midlands Railway connects Norwich with Liverpool, Manchester and Sheffield.

If you're driving, you'll find us via the A11, 2hrs from London and 1hr 30mins from Cambridge. From the west, we're directly along the A47 from Leicester and Peterborough.

Norwich Airport welcomes international flights from Europe and beyond, with connections to Schiphol in Amsterdam. The port of Harwich is less than 2 hours by car and 1hr 30mins by train.

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Travelling from France

If you're heading to Norwich from France via train, you can take the Eurostar from Paris (2hr 16mins) or Lille (1hr 22mins) to London St Pancras. From Normandy's capital Rouen, it's 1hr 15mins to Paris or 3hrs to Lille via train.

From London, it's 2hrs 5mins to Norwich. Take the Circle line (15 mins, includes walking) to London Liverpool Street, then a direct train with Greater Anglia (1hr 50mins) to Norwich.

Driving, it's 5hr 30mins from Rouen to Norwich. Starting at Rouen, it's a 2hr drive to Calais, where you can take LeShuttle (Eurotunnel) to Folkestone in 35mins. From here, it's a 3hr drive to Norwich.

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Medieval Norwich

Norwich is a city with 1000 years of history. Known as *Norvic* to the Anglo-Saxons, it was in the Norman times when the city really came into its own. It's easy to see Norman Norwich's legacy when you visit.

900 years ago, we saw the construction of Norwich Castle- founded by William the Conqueror himself and defended against his army, Norwich Cathedral- built from Caen stone, its Norman ground plan remains, and a myriad of churches (spot their Norman towers), as well as the founding of Norwich Market in the location we know it today.

At this time, Norwich was England's second city, behind London but with bigger walls and plenty of historic pubs! In the following centuries, the city was home to mystic Julian of Norwich and welcomed Strangers, resulting in a booming textile trade, whilst 1549 saw Robert Kett's Rebellion.

Today, look out for striking architectural signs, including our flint-knapped Guildhall, charming medieval street- Elm Hill, and beamed merchants houses, full of character.



Clockwise from top left:
Norwich Market; Dragon
Hall; Elm Hill; Norwich
Cathedral

Exploring Medieval Norwich

- Norwich Castle
- Norwich Cathedral
- Elm Hill
- The Julian Shrine
- Norwich Market
- Norwich Guildhall
- The Halls
- Norwich City Walls
- Norwich's Churches
- Strangers' Hall
- Dragon Hall
- The Shoebox Experiences
- Mousehold Heath & Kett's Heights
- Riverside Walk
- Adam & Eve

Where to Visit

Norwich Castle Keep

- Founded by William the Conqueror over 900 years ago.
- Transporting you to its completion in 1121 with reinstated floors and rooms and authentic furniture.
- Immersive audio visuals telling the story of the Keep's origins and the feat of 16-year-old Emma de Guader against William I- also depicted in a 'sequel' to the Bayeux Tapestry.
- Gallery of Medieval Life- in partnership with the British Museum- housing almost 1000 objects.
- Panoramic skyline views from the battlements.
- The UK's most accessible castle.

How Long to Spend Here: 2 hours

Look Out For: Immersive projections

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Where to Visit

Norwich Cathedral

- One of the most complete major Romanesque buildings in Europe. Crafted from Caen stone, its 900-year-old Norman ground plan remains intact.
- Second tallest spire and largest monastic cloisters in the country.
- Try the FREE 1-hour tour, highlighting medieval graffiti and hundreds of detailed, colourful medieval roof bosses- the biggest collection of its kind in the world.
- Eat in the Refectory Cafe on the same site as the original Benedictine monks' dining room.

How Long to Spend Here: 1.5 hours

Look Out For: Roof bosses and medieval graffiti

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Where to Visit

Elm Hill

- The most complete medieval street in Norwich.
- Rebuilt after fire in 1507, this fairytale-like street is known for its cobbles, Tudor beams and higgledy piggeldy buildings.
- Home to historic houses, including Paston House, merchants' houses and independent businesses.
- The Britons Arms is one of the only thatched rooves left in Norwich.
- Used as a film location for Jingle Jangle and Stardust.

How Long to Spend Here: 30 minutes

Look Out For: One of Norwich's only thatched rooves

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Where to Visit

The Julian Shrine

- One of the oldest churches in Norwich, dedicated to St Julian, with a Norman round tower.
- The site of Julian of Norwich's anchoress cell, where she wrote down her 16 visions in *Revelations of Divine Love* and became the first woman published in the English language.
- Pilgrims visit the Shrine from across the world.
- Visit the walled garden and The Julian Centre for more on her life, life in medieval Norwich and her contemporaries.

How Long to Spend Here: 45 minutes

Look Out For: Julian of Norwich's anchoress cell

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Where to Visit

Norwich Market

- Located on the original Norman site for over 900 years, replacing the Anglo-Saxon marketplace in Tombland.
- One of the largest and oldest open-air markets in England.
- A major trading hub that once sold livestock, grain and textiles when Norwich was a major city in both England and Europe; today a destination for global food stalls, souvenirs and local businesses.
- Sit overlooking Norwich Market towards Norwich Castle.

How Long to Spend Here: 1 hour

Look Out For: Sir Toby's Beers

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Where to Visit

Norwich Guildhall

- England's largest and most elaborate provincial medieval city hall, built in the early 15th century.
- Norwich was governed here until the late 1930s.
- Part of the Norwich 12 heritage buildings thanks to its excellent example of local flint work: its east end is chequered with faced flint and ashlar stone.
- Open for tours on select dates throughout the year where you can see courtrooms, an undercroft, prison and chapel.

How Long to Spend Here: 15 minutes

Look Out For: Chequered flint knapping

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Where to Visit

The Halls

Please note that The Halls are not open to the public and you can only enter during an event.

- The most complete medieval friary in England, built in the 11th century and protected during The Reformation.
- Grade-I listed cultural venue, consisting of St Andrew's (nave) and Blackfriars' (chancel) Halls.
- The crypt's brick-vaulted ceiling is one of the earliest in England, opening onto the ruins of a 13th-century chapel.
- Home to the last known portrait of Horatio Nelson.
- Part of the Norwich 12 and built with local flint.

How Long to Spend Here: 15 minutes

Look Out For: Medieval flintwork

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Where to Visit

Norwich City Walls

- Completed in the 1400s, Norwich's city walls were the longest in the country, even more so than London's.
- Crafted from flint, brick and stone.
- Protected Norwich with 12 gates, 40 towers and 2 boom towers and stood at 7 feet high, ringed by a deep ditch.
- You can get up close to the walls' ruins along Chapelfield, St Augustine's, Carrow Road and Ber Street.
- Demolished due to rebellion, expansion and technological advances, such as traffic.

How Long to Spend Here: 30 minutes - 3 hours

Look Out For: Boom towers at Carrow Road

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Where to Visit

Norwich Churches

- Norwich boasts more churches than any other city north of the Alps.
- Majority built during the city's prosperous wool and textile trade, with many dating back to Norman times.
- Features include medieval stained glass, thatched rooves, Norman round towers and pre-Reformation murals.
- Many remain parish churches, while others act as cafes, arts venues and even a skatepark.

How Long to Spend Here: 30 minutes - 2 hours

Look Out For: St Peter Hungate and St Peter Mancroft

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Where to Visit

Strangers' Hall

Please note Strangers' Hall will be closed to the public from 1 September 2026 until late 2027 due to ongoing works.

- Preserved 14th-century merchants' house and former home of three Mayors of Norwich.
- Named for the Protestant Strangers who made the city their home following persecution in the Catholic Low Countries.
- Inside, rooms include the undercroft, Tudor Great Hall, 15th-century Parlour and 17th-century Walnut Room.
- Sit outside in the quiet walled garden (free during opening hours).

How Long to Spend Here: 1.5 hours

Look Out For: Elizabethan Knot Garden

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Where to Visit

Dragon Hall

- Only surviving medieval trading hall built by an individual merchant, not a guild, in western Europe.
- Rare example of a trading complex- the 27-metre Great Hall boasts a beautiful crown-post roof.
- Named for its last remaining dragon carving.
- Home to the National Centre for Writing- drop-in for free in spring and summer and take a self-guided tour. Look out for witches' marks!

How Long to Spend Here: 1 hour

Look Out For: Dragon Hall's last carved oak dragon

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Where to Visit

The Shoebox Experiences

- The Shoebox Experiences' Hidden Street Tour will take you underground into one of Norwich's former medieval streets, forgotten beneath a shoe shop for decades.
- Underneath Castle Meadow, explore centuries-old architecture and atmospheric spaces- see original features, 15th-century dwellings, old shopfronts and undercrofts.
- Your guide will regale you with tales of Norwich's merchants, prisoners, rebels and ghosts!

How Long to Spend Here: 1 hour

Look Out For: Medieval beams and foundations

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Where to Visit

Mousehold Heath and Kett's Heights

- Visit for skyline views across Norwich, taking in two cathedrals, Norwich Castle, medieval streets and more.
- Best known as (and named after) the location of Robert Kett's 16,000-strong camp during his rebellion against land enclosures in 1549.
- Learn more about their rebellion and defeat with tour guide Paul Dickson.
- Kett's Heights is home to the ruins of a Norman chapel.

How Long to Spend Here: 30 minutes - 1 hour

Look Out For: Skyline views at sunset

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Where to Visit

Riverside Walk

- The River Wensum is a former medieval trading route.
- Caen stone was transported along here to build Norwich Castle and Norwich Cathedral in Norman times.
- Norwich's riverside walk is home to local sights and landmarks, including medieval artillery tower Cow Tower, watergate Pull's Ferry, Fye Bridge, where women were subjected to the ducking stool, and Bishop Bridge, one of the oldest still in use in Britain.

How Long to Spend Here: 1 hour

Look Out For: Cow Tower and Pull's Ferry

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Where to Visit

Adam & Eve

- The oldest pub in Norwich, dating back to the mid-1200s.
- Characterful interior with dark oak beams and wooden bar.
- Full of history, there is a Saxon well beneath the lower level, a monk's remains were unearthed in the cellar, and it has had a part in Robert Kett's Rebellion, Elizabeth I's visit to Norwich and the Stanfield Hall murders.
- Architecturally, it boasts a round Dutch gable end- a legacy of the Strangers in the city.

How Long to Spend Here: 1 hour

Look Out For: The ghost of Lord Sheffield!

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Suggested Itinerary - 1 Night

Day One - Morning

Walk down Elm Hill

Visit Tombland and Norwich Cathedral

Afternoon

Lunch at the Cathedral's Refectory Cafe

Follow our riverside walk to ancient Fye Bridge

Evening

Pint at the Adam & Eve pub

Dinner at WinePress at the Maids Head Hotel

Day Two - Morning

Visit Norwich Castle Keep

Lunch at 900-year-old Norwich Market



Clockwise from top left:
Adam & Eve; The Gallery of
Medieval Life at Norwich
Castle; River Wensum;
Pull's Ferry

Address Book

All places listed have links to medieval Norwich.

Visit

[Norwich Castle](#)

[Norwich Cathedral](#)

[Elm Hill](#)

[The Julian Shrine](#)

[Norwich Guildhall](#)

[The Halls](#)

[Strangers' Hall](#)

[Paul Dickson Tours](#)

[The Shoebox Experiences](#)

[Dragon Hall](#)

[Mousehold Heath & Kett's Heights](#)

Eat & Drink

[Norwich Market](#)

[Adam & Eve](#)

[The Ribs of Beef](#)

[WinePress at the Maids Head](#)

Stay

[Maids Head Hotel](#)

[All Hallows Guesthouse](#)



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