

A short history of Hadleigh

Hadleigh is an ancient Suffolk market town set in the fertile valley of the River Brett.

We are one of the significant Wool Towns that prospered from the Woollen Cloth Trade during the late 15th to the 17th Century.

We are fortunate that the town has preserved its past and its character with 250 listed buildings. Amongst these are the fine Guildhall, St Mary's church and Deanery Tower that create a unique setting. Six buildings of architectural merit, covering six different centuries can be seen from this place.

The busy High St has retained many independent traders and family businesses, that always delight our visitors.

Twentieth century artist and plantsman Sir Cedric Morris, established his school of painting and drawing here. The Gayfords, Oswald, a pioneering aviator and sister Eily, also known as Kitty; one of the few dedicated "Idle Women" were all born in Hadleigh and part of our story.

All enquiries and bookings contact:
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Regular "Past and Present" tours are Saturdays at 11.00am from May to October. Any of the town tours can be arranged at other times and gift vouchers for tours are available. All tours start from the Magdalen Road Bus Station and are £4.00 per person. Children under 16 do need to be accompanied by an adult. The tours are not suitable for dogs except Guide Dogs.

For Group Bookings we ask if payment can be collected beforehand or made by cheque payable to VISIT HADLEIGH and handed to the Town Guide.

Hadleigh Town Guides are part of the VISIT HADLEIGH Voluntary Enterprise. Town Guides do not benefit financially themselves we contribute to the support of our historic buildings and heritage.

More information about Hadleigh can be found at our website:

visithadleighsuffolk.co.uk

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Hadleigh Town Tours



Join one of our guided
walks and discover
so much more

Tour 1 Hadleigh Past and Present



A Viking King, a fearless long distance aviator and an artist and plantsman are all part of our story.

Hadleigh is one of the 51 English towns listed as having special historical and architectural importance. There is a riverside walk through woods and meadows leading to the Toppesfield bridge one of the oldest still in use.

“We were both pleasantly surprised as to how much history there was and the famous names from the past that are linked to this lovely Market Town.” **T&S LINEY**

Tour 2 Walking with Trees



Discover the origins and mythology of nature's elder statesmen.

Some of the town's trees are as ancient and majestic as the historic buildings you will see.

Trees are universal symbols that can be found in many traditions Celtic, Greek and Roman. Artists and writers have been inspired by trees and woodland.

“The walk concentrated on important and easily accessible trees. Interesting information that was well presented by the Guide.”
Suffolk Walking Festival 2018

Tour 3 Miss Lawrence goes Shopping - 1918



What was life like for the spinster seamstress?

The tour joins Miss Lawrence as she visits the High St shops but as they were in 1918.

So wartime rationing, day to day life and a little gossip are included. While Miss Lawrence is a fictitious character what she will tell you has been discovered from original sources.

“It was literally like being in the moment with Miss Lawrence. The tour was very informative and fun.”
Suffolk Walking Festival 2018