



Your Historical Journey

Begin your historical journey in **St Andrew's Street** outside **Cinema City**, the country's oldest independent art house cinema. Following a £4.5 million refurbishment that was completed in 2007, this wonderful medieval establishment offers unique cinema alongside an atmospheric bar, restaurant and walled courtyard garden making this an ideal venue for drink, lunch or dinner.

Opposite the cinema you will see **St Andrews and Blackfriars Halls**, part of the Norwich 12 group. **St Andrew's Hall** is the centrepiece of several magnificent flint buildings, which form the most complete friary complex surviving in England. During the reformation, the site was saved by the City Corporation which bought it from the king for use as a 'common hall'. Since then the complex has been used for worship, as a mint and as a workhouse. Today the two halls, crypt, chapel and cloisters host conferences, fairs, weddings and concerts.

Walk up Princes Street and find **St Peter Hungate Church** settled on the corner of Elm Hill and Princes Street. The church houses **Hungate Medieval Art** a brand new centre for medieval art. Hungate Medieval Art currently hosts an exhibition on medieval stained glass. Visitors to the centre can explore the development of stained glass over the medieval period and look at the people and processes involved in its production.

From the church walk down **Elm Hill**, Norwich's most famous medieval street, almost the same in appearance now as it was after it was rebuilt in 1507. Browse antiques and crafts see art galleries and other specialist shops and don't forget a visit to the Britons Arms for a coffee or tea with a homemade sausage roll accompanied by a big dollop of **Colman's English mustard!** An absolute must!

At the bottom of Elm Hill, turn right into Wensum Street and make your way over the road to **Erpingham Gate** (built by Sir Thomas Erpingham, Shakespeare's 'white headed knight' - the earliest gate into Norwich Cathedral's precinct). Make your way into the spectacular **Norwich Cathedral** marvel at the size and grandeur of the Cathedral which creates such feelings of awe and wonder. The Cathedral is free to enter, go and soak up its warming spiritual environment.

Travel through the Cathedral making your way out into **Cathedral close**, take a **gentle stroll** passing attractive houses and quaint cobble stone cottages. Walk around the 'village green' taking you to **Ethelbert's Gate** where you will find yourself located in Tombland. This is a good place to stop and eat, try Tatlers for a local produce menu.

Turn left and walk towards the top of Prince of Wales road, cross here and make your way down **King Street**. Keep walking down King Street all the way to almost the end (it's a long street) where you will find on your right **Dragon Hall**, an outstanding example of a medieval merchant's trading hall - a combination of warehouse and showroom - built about 1430 by Robert Toppes, a wealthy merchant and one time

Mayor and MP for Norwich. Dragon Hall is open to the public six days a week it is part of the Norwich 12 group and today is a museum and event venue.

Now, make your way up to **Norwich Castle** situated on the largest mound in the country giving you amazing views across the city. Another of the Norwich 12 buildings, **Norwich Castle** is one of the finest surviving secular Norman buildings in Europe. From the **14th to the 19th century** the keep was used as a county gaol. The Castle was converted to a museum in 1894. Stop here to wander around the museum, take **a tour of the dungeons** and descend deep into the maze of early medieval cellars where you can learn about the stories behind the crime and punishment.

From the Castle walk across Castle Meadow and down Davey Place steps into the Back of the Inns. Turn left, walk for about 30 seconds and then turn right into the **Royal Arcade**. The Royal Arcade was once the yard to the Royal Hotel Coaching Inn, and was built in 1899 with art nouveau styling by local architect **George Skipper**. Today it links **Gentlemans Walk** with Castle Street and provides a very attractive setting for a mixture of independent and well known stores. Home to the famous **Colman's Mustard Shop and Museum** (the only one in the world)!

Having walked through the Royal Arcade, you will find yourself opposite **Norwich Market**, located proudly in front of City Hall., Under a sea of multicoloured roofs sits the country's largest Monday – Saturday market, unique to Britain. There's been a market in Norwich since **Saxon times** and it's been on its current site longer than any of the buildings that surround it – some 900 years! Walk to the back of the market where you will see on your right the **Guildhall**.

The elaborate design and size of the **Guildhall** (a Norwich 12 building) reflects Norwich's status as one of the wealthiest provincial cities in England in medieval times. The building represents the growing economic and political power of the new ruling elite that was emerging - wealthy freemen who were merchants and traders. Norwich was given more self-governing powers in 1404 and the Guildhall was built to house the various **civic assemblies, councils and courts** that regulated its citizens' lives.

Look up and you will be facing **City Hall** (a Norwich 12 building). City Hall has an exceptional **art deco interior** and many fine architectural features, including a top-floor cupola, rich in mahogany panelling and one of the **longest balconies in England**.

Turn left and head towards **Millennium Plain** where you will find **The Forum** (a Norwich 12 building). The Forum is the landmark **millennium project** for the East of England and a striking example of post-war architecture. Funded by a Millennium Commission grant and matching support from Norfolk County Council, Norwich City Council and the business community, it houses the Norfolk and Norwich Millennium and the 2nd Air Division Memorial Libraries, BBC East's regional headquarter, Norwich Tourist Information Centre, a shop, a cafe, restaurant, **Fusion** - a giant digital gallery (the largest in Europe), BBC open studios and **The Curve** auditorium.

As you stand facing the Forum turn left and make your way across Theatre Street. Turn to your right and you will see **The Assembly House** (another Norwich 12 building!). The Assembly House is a **Georgian building** designed by the architect Thomas Ivory. It incorporates the original layout of a previous building, the medieval college of St Mary in the Fields. Today the rooms appear almost exactly as they did at the height of the **Regency period**, and are used for exhibitions, concerts,

conferences and weddings. This is a perfect place to stop for afternoon tea or dinner as the restaurant at The Assembly House is now run by two Norfolk entrepreneurial chefs with a huge local following. Look out for local produce seasonal menus and delicious cakes!

Other Information

- Norwich 12 – www.norwich12.co.uk
- HEART (Heritage Economic and Regeneration Trust) – www.heritagecity.org
- Norwich Cathedral - www.cathedral.org.u
- Norwich Castle - www.museums.norfolk.gov.uk
- Tourist Information Centre – 01603 213999
- **VisitNorwich publications:** Norwich, Norfolk Broads & Countryside (flagship accommodation & destination brochure), Eating Out, Norwich Map – visit & shop, EnjoytheBroads09, Welcome Coaches. Order online or through the Tourist Information Centre www.visitnorwich.co.uk

Facts

- Norwich has the **largest intact medieval street pattern** in Europe
- Norwich Castle has the **largest mound** in the country
- Norwich Castle is one of the **finest surviving secular Norman buildings** in Europe
- **Norwich has the largest collection of medieval churches** in northern Europe
- **The Guildhall** is the **largest and most elaborate provincial medieval guildhall in the country**
- **City Hall** is regarded as the **‘foremost English public building between the wars**



VisitNorwich give grateful thanks to **Michael Loveday**, Chief Executive of Norwich Heritage Economic and Regeneration Trust (HEART), a private, charitable company set up to strategically plan, regenerate, manage and promote Norwich's heritage resources, for allowing us to reproduce some of the facts and figures contained in the document.