



THE WORSHIPFUL SOCIETY OF APOTHECARIES LIVERY COMMITTEE
The Livery Committee International Travelling Club presents

A visit to Norwich

THURSDAY 01ST TO MONDAY 05TH MAY 2025

Norwich is a superb historic city with more than 1500 listed buildings. The first people to live here, beside the River Wensum, next to Roman roads, were the Angles who arrived during the 5th century from Northern Germany. They were followed by the Danes (Vikings) who arrived in the second half of the 9th century. The Danes established Norwich as a trading centre with Europe and by the time the Normans arrived after 1066, Norwich had a population of between 5,000 and 10,000 along with 20 churches. The Normans had a major impact on the city building a magnificent Benedictine Monastery, now Norwich Cathedral and building Norwich Castle as a Royal Palace. They also established the Market Place opposite the Castle, where it still located today. During the 12th century, the city evolved into a major woollen cloth manufacturing centre. Trade in cloth with Northern Europe and throughout England made Norwich a wealthy city and it grew to be the country's second largest city. Fires in the early 16th century destroyed 40% of the city, so today Norwich has more Tudor than Medieval buildings. The Georgian and Victorian eras are also well represented in the city. Norwich's textile industry declined during the Industrial Revolution, but by the second half of the 19th century shoe manufacturing became the city's most important industry, along with being the home of Norwich Union (now Aviva), Colman's Mustard and Caley's Chocolate and a thriving brewing industry. Today, Norwich has 31 medieval churches, the largest collection in Northern Europe, a well-preserved medieval street layout, with historic buildings round every corner – looking up is essential on a walk through the city. There are many independent shops, cafes and restaurants in the area known as the Norwich Lanes. The Art Nouveau Royal Arcade, close to the Market Place is not to be missed.

We will be staying at the historic Maids Head Hotel in Tombland, just across the road from Norwich Cathedral. Tombland was the city's original Market Place, established by the Danes in the late 9th century. The Maids Head has been looking after guests for more than 800 years. The oldest parts of the hotel above ground date from the 15th century, including the restaurant, which is the former courtyard of the medieval inn. Hotel car parking £8 daily.
<https://www.maidsheadhotel.co.uk/>

OUR PROGRAMME

DAY 1: Thursday 01 May

Arrive at the Maids Head Hotel by your own means, with check in from 3.00pm, followed by dinner and an introductory talk about Norwich from local tour guide Paul Dickson who will be with us on the first two mornings.

DAY 2: Friday 02 May – In the morning, we will go on a walking tour of Norwich with Paul Dickson. The tour will start at our hotel and will finish in the Cathedral Close. The tour will head up to the **Market Place** area and back and will cover many aspects of the history and culture of Norwich. We will get our first view of Norwich Castle, along with St Peter Mancroft Church (15th century civic church), The Guildhall (15th century city hall) and The Forum (Norfolk's main Millennium project). During the afternoon, we will have a private guided tour of **Norwich Cathedral**, one of the most impressive Norman cathedrals in the country. After the tour, there will be the opportunity to attend Evensong.



DAY 3: Saturday 03 May – After breakfast, Paul Dickson will take us on a tour round the Riverside Walk. We will hear about the ancient port established by the Angles and the Danes and the impact of industry over the centuries. The tour goes close to the Great Hospital, a 13th century foundation established to care for aged priests and sick paupers, which offers sheltered housing today. We will also see the late 14th century **Cow Tower**, part of Norwich's medieval defences and **Pull's Ferry**, the 15th century water gate of the Monastery. The tour finishes in the Cathedral Close. After lunch we will visit the **Museum of Norwich**, which has its origins as a late 14th century merchant's house and was also a prison for more than 200 years. The museum looks at the story of Norwich and covers the city's lost industries like woollen cloth, shoemaking and chocolate. Fascinating archive film shows the story of Norwich in the 20th century and a virtual reality experience takes you into the heart of Kett's Rebellion in 1549.



DAY 4: Sunday 04 May – On Sunday a late morning start exploring the **Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts**, architect Lord Foster's first major project, when it was built in the 1970s to house the collection of Robert and Lisa Sainsbury. The seasonal exhibition in May will be *Can the Seas Survive Us?* featuring three exhibitions charting a course through the story of the oceans. The Sainsbury Centre is on the campus of the University of East Anglia and is a short bus or car ride from the city centre. There is a cafe and a restaurant on site. Our afternoon visit is to **Norwich Castle Museum & Art Gallery**. We hope that the Keep will have re-opened following the completion of the Royal Palace Reborn project. Norwich Castle is one of Europe's most important early medieval castles. Royal Palace Reborn is transforming the interior of the Keep by reinstating the floors and room layout of the medieval period. The work has been planned to provide step-free access to all levels of the castle, including the roof for fantastic views of the city. We will also be able to visit the museum's galleries including the excellent collection of work by the early 19th century Norwich School of Painters, notably John Crome and John Sell Cotman.

Day 5: Monday 05 May – Late morning hotel check-out before the start of our last visit to **The Great Hospital**. Founded by Bishop Walter de Suffield in 1249, to care for sick paupers and aged priests. It survived the Dissolution of the Monasteries and is the only former medieval hospital with all its buildings intact. Today it is run by a charity and offers sheltered housing to Norwich residents. The tour takes you into the medieval areas of the Great Hospital including St Helen's Church, Eagle Ward, the old women's ward in the former chancel of the church and the smallest cloisters in Britain.

VISIT INCLUSIONS

- 4 nights' accommodation sharing classic doubles (double beds only – twin rooms on request at a supplement) or singles with queen bed – full English breakfast.
- 1 x evening lecture followed by dinners with drinks.
- All entrance fees in line with the programme.
- Local professional guide and museums own guides.
- All local taxes and UK tour operators VAT.

Not included: any services not stated as included above.

This visit is proposed on behalf of the Livery Committee International Travelling Club, and it will be possible if we have a minimum of 20 participants. If you are interested in joining us, please contact tony@millenniumtours.co.uk and you will be sent an application form to book. Party number will be limited to max 25 participants, and bookings will be accepted strictly on a first come, first served basis.

Practicalities:

- (1) PRICE £560 PER PERSON SHARING STANDARD CLASSIC DOUBLE ROOMS.
- (2) SOLO TRAVELLER SUPPLEMENT £240 IN SINGLE ROOMS.
- (3) DEPOSIT OF £150 PER PERSON PAYABLE UPON BOOKING.
- (4) OPERATED BY MILLENNIUM TOURS LTD – ATOL 10040