

“Welcome to our Fine City”

Norwich is the principal town of Norfolk, England’s fifth largest county and a region of productive farmlands, sleepy villages, wetlands and waterways brimming with wildlife, a stunning coastline and quiet roads and lanes. There’s never been heavy industry here, so it has unspoiled appeal.

Once Norwich was Britain’s second largest city with a walled area still greater than London or York. Our cathedral has the second-tallest spire in England and there are more medieval churches here than any other city in western Europe. It’s famous for once having had one pub for every day of the year and a different church for every Sunday in the year!

We have documented history going back over one thousand years to the Anglo-Saxons, evidence of Viking invasion and habitation and an indelible impression stamped upon the city by Norman conquerors, exemplified by the dominating presences of Castle and Cathedral. The rich medieval era brought wealth through its woolen trade, while the 18th to 20th centuries saw an upsurge in consumer industries such as boot and shoe and food and drink manufacture; products with household names exported around the world.

It also has a great cultural and social heritage: the first free library, the first book written by a woman, the first provincial newspaper, celebrated artists and writers like John Crome and George Borrow, whose view of Norwich as, “A Fine City”, is his legacy.

“Norwich is a fine city. None finer. If there is another city in the United Kingdom with a school of painters named after it, a matchless modern art gallery, a university with a reputation for literary excellence which can boast Booker Prize-winning alumni, one of the grandest Romanesque cathedrals in the world, and an extraordinary new state-of-the-art library then I have yet to hear of it.”

Stephen Fry

Let me introduce myself!

Hello!

I’m looking forward to showing you around my home patch. I was raised in this great English city that has a heritage reaching back centuries to the Anglo-Saxons and beyond.

After spending many years around the world in the international oil exploration industry, I’ve returned to my roots and now enjoy the fascinating streets, buildings and vistas that make Norwich a city of which I’m so proud.

There are great tales of the people who made this such a cultured and progressive place. As well as letting you know about their times, I also have insight and experience of the post-war years when Norwich recovered from significant damage to become the Fine City it is today.

I’ll bring the story alive in an entertaining way and make your visit memorable!

*Adrian O’dell MA © Norwich 2023
Landscape Historian*

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Adrian O’dell - Man in The Street



Norwich
Man in
The Street
Walking
Tours



Tour 1

Norwich through the Ages

Designed for first-time visitors to the City



Duration: 2 hours

Start point: Norwich Forum

Explore more than one thousand years of history from Saxon settlement to its 21st-century iconic Forum

- ◇ The Civic Centre
- ◇ Norwich City Hall
- ◇ Open air market place
- ◇ Medieval Guildhall
- ◇ Jarrolds department store
- ◇ London Street & Castle Meadow
- ◇ Swan Lane & Bedford Street
- ◇ The Bridewell Museum
- ◇ The Halls
- ◇ Princes Street & Elm Hill
- ◇ Tombland
- ◇ Norwich Anglican Cathedral



Norman Castle, Georgian Town Houses, 20th C memorial



NORWICH

MAN IN THE STREET

WALKING TOURS

Tour 2

Norwich Over the Water



Get your feet wet in less-known territory

Duration: 2 hours

Start point: Norwich Forum

Discover the early origins of the City from its Anglo-Saxon-Scandinavian roots to its 19th-century industrial activity

- ◇ "The Gates of Hell"
- ◇ Anchor Brewery
- ◇ Mayor Gybson's Conduit
- ◇ Dragon Bridge
- ◇ Strangers quarter
- ◇ Whip & Nag Yard
- ◇ Doughty's Hospital
- ◇ The Old Meeting House
- ◇ The Octagon Chapel
- ◇ St George's Colegate
- ◇ Norvic Shoe factory
- ◇ The Playhouse Theatre & Gardens



The River Wensum from Dragon Bridge