

VISIT LONDON

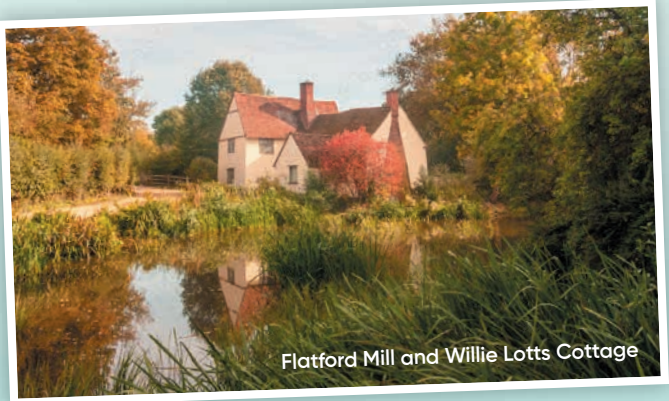
See the London 2FOR1 for one entry at top London attractions when you travel by train.



THE MAYFLOWER LINE

TEN HISTORIC FACTS

1. The Mayflower Line takes its name from the Pilgrim ship Mayflower, which is believed to have been built in Harwich in the 16th century and sailed from Harwich in 1620.
Harwich was also home to the ship's captain and part-owner, Christopher Jones.
2. The Mayflower Line has six stations: Manningtree, Mistley, Wrabness, Harwich International, Dovercourt and Harwich Town.
3. Two companies originally proposed railway links between Colchester and Harwich, Eastern Counties Railway (ECR) and the Eastern Union Railway (EUR). In 1853 an agreement was reached between the companies, with the ECR taking over the working of the EUR from 1 January 1854.
4. The single-line branch opened on 15 August 1854.
5. The Eastern Counties Railway and Eastern Union Railway merged in 1862 to form the Great Eastern Railway (GER).
6. The track was doubled in 1882 by the GER, and the Manningtree North Curve which allows direct running between Ipswich and Harwich was also added at that time.
7. In 1948 following nationalisation the line became part of British Railways Eastern Region.
8. Electrification work was undertaken in the early – mid 1980s.
9. The full electric service was introduced on 12 May 1985.
10. The line was given the marketing name the "Mayflower Line" in September 1997, with a ceremony held at Mistley in the presence of the local MP.



Flatford Mill and Willie Lotts Cottage



Passengers taking the train to the Sea Shanty Festival

Essex and South Suffolk Community Rail Partnership (ESSCRP) was formed in 1998, with the aim of promoting the six branch lines within Essex. It sits under a larger umbrella of the Community Rail Network and is fully supported by the Department for Transport, who see community rail as a vital link between the railway and the local community. Community Rail is a growing, unique grassroots movement, connecting people with their railways and station, delivering social, environmental and economic benefits. ESSCRP works with Greater Anglia (GA) and helps support GA's Station Adoption Initiatives, which has become very successful, with most of the 40 branch line stations having one or more station adopters. Many of these stations are unmanned so the station adopters not only improve the station environment but are also the 'eyes and ears' for their station – a vital link for GA and ESSCRP. Promoting the branch lines entails producing publicity material, promoting the lines on social media, and organising special event trains – with multiple themes, such as trains to the Sea Shanty Festival in Harwich, to Christmas train events and music trains. To find out about the many events throughout the year please visit www.esscrp.org.uk/events

Essex & South Suffolk Community Rail Partnership (ESSCRP)



SUSTAINABILITY

Why take the train? With everyone trying to do their bit to cut their carbon footprint and create a healthier future, using the train rather than getting in the car is a great way to get started.

Did you know that rail is one of the greenest form of transport? Only cycling and walking are better for the environment!

Brand new trains that are greener than ever before were introduced in 2021 and now cover the whole East Anglia network and booking your train ticket in advance often gets you the best deal, plus using e-tickets saves miles and miles of paper every year. A busy commuter train which people travel on from home to work daily can take up to 500 cars off the road.

ACCESSIBILITY

The train operator has several options if you need help travelling. For immediate travel you can request help from a member of staff at any staffed station. At an unstaffed station you can use the help button on the Ticket Vending Machines (TVM) to request assistance. This live helpline connects to a member of staff in the Norwich office. They will be happy to help arrange assistance for you or alternative transport if they can't get a member of staff to meet you.

For all planned journeys you can use Passenger Assist, which is part of the national Passenger Assist arrangement which gives our disabled and older customers the opportunity to plan and pre-book assistance for their journey. If you know when you are travelling you can book assistance by Free phone **0800 028 2878** or Text **18001 0800 028 2878** or on-line at www.bookings.passengerassistance.com

Greater Anglia's new trains are wheelchair friendly

RAIL SAFETY

Keep Safe, Stay Safe when travelling by train, and teach children to follow the three key messages.

1. Stand behind the Yellow Line away from the platform edge.
2. When getting to your platform, always follow the passenger walkways around the station and use the footbridges, underpasses, or foot crossing.
3. If you drop something on the track – leave it and report it to a station staff or if at an unmanned station, use the help point and they will tell you what to do.

WALKS AROUND THE MAYFLOWER LINE

For more walks please visit our website www.esscrp.org.uk or scan the QR Code



Follow us on Instagram [@esscrp_](https://www.instagram.com/esscrp_)
Join us on Facebook [@esscrp](https://www.facebook.com/esscrp)
Follow us on Twitter [@esscrp](https://twitter.com/esscrp)

Useful phone contact numbers
Samaritans call on **116123**
Alcoholics Anonymous call on **0800 9177 650**
Refuge Domestic Violence call **0808 2000 247**
Childline call **0800 1111**
Missing People call or text **116 000**
Streetlink for rough sleepers call **0300 500 0914**
British Transport Police call **0800 40 50 40**
Useful websites
www.alionboard.co.uk
www.hubhope.co.uk
www.railisuidprevention.co.uk
www.btp.police.uk

For train times, tickets and service information see www.greateranglia.co.uk
Latest information on train times and fares for any rail operator in the UK can be obtained from National Rail Enquiries on **08457 484950** or via the website www.nationalrail.co.uk

TRAIN TIMES, TICKETS AND SERVICE INFORMATION

THE MAYFLOWER LINE

Your guide to the Manningtree - Harwich link and surrounding areas for a great day out by train.



EXPLORE • EXPERIENCE • ENJOY
www.esscrp.org.uk



The present-day Mayflower Line operates between Manningtree and Harwich Town.

A journey on the Mayflower Line takes you through varied countryside to the coast. Every town and village has its own unique features with walks and places to visit from the local station. For example, the very popular walks from Wrabness station along the River Stour where the area offers beautiful views across the river to Suffolk. Harwich International Port provides links to Europe and at the end of the line are the towns of Dovercourt and Harwich, surrounded on three sides by the sea.

The maritime influence continues through to the present day.

THE LIFEBOAT MUSEUM, HARWICH

Housed in a Victorian lifeboat house of 1876 this museum contains a comprehensive history of Harwich lifeboats.

The museum now contains a large collection of general and local lifeboat artefacts. Today the lifeboat museum is run by the Harwich society and is open during the summer for a very affordable £1 entrance fee.

Visit www.harwich-society.co.uk or scan the QR code for details and opening times.



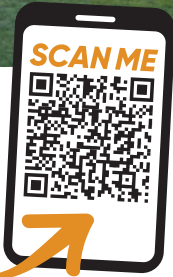
HARWICH SHANTY FESTIVAL

This event is held once a year and over the Festival weekend the whole of the old seaport town of Harwich rings with the sound of lusty shanties, music emanating from pubs, boats, clubs and our many historic buildings. Book one of our Special event Trains that run to and from Manningtree over the weekend of the festival and arrive in Smuggler style! For more information on how to book, take a look at the ESSCRP website www.esscrp.org.uk/events

THE REDOUBT, HARWICH



An extremely impressive 180ft (60m) diameter circular fort built in 1808 to defend the port of Harwich against a Napoleonic invasion. It's the only such example open to the public. Visit www.harwich-society.co.uk or scan the QR code for details and opening times.



WHERE THE STOUR MEETS THE SEA

A walk from Mistley to Wrabness, and by rail back to Manningtree. This is a delightful walk along the Stour estuary, also taking in some mature woodland. It is about 5½ miles long and although easy, it is a bit rough and boggy in places so stout footwear is advisable. It is unsuitable for wheelchair users or for those with buggies.

For more walks please visit www.esscrp.org.uk or scan the QR code for details.



Your ticket to a great day out in East Anglia by train. Take a walk between the line's stations, or visit a local pub or restaurant. Perhaps catch the train to Harwich Town and take the foot ferry over to Felixstowe. For details see www.harwichharbourferry.com

Alternatively, take the train from Manningtree and go sightseeing in London, visiting one of the many free museums – go shopping in Norwich – the capital of East Anglia, or take a walk along the modern riverfront in Ipswich. Wherever you feel like going – go by train!



MANNINGTREE

Manningtree station is in Essex but very close to the county boundary with Suffolk. It stands right on the edge of the Dedham Vale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), often described as Constable Country, and from its platforms there are some beautiful views across typical Suffolk countryside.

A short walk from Manningtree station is Flatford Mill and Willie Lotts Cottage, subject of John Constable's 1821 Painting of 'The Hay Wain'.

Set in such a rural location the station is an ideal starting point for walkers. Please see our walks on our website www.esscrp.org.uk/walks

MANNINGTREE STATION CAFÉ

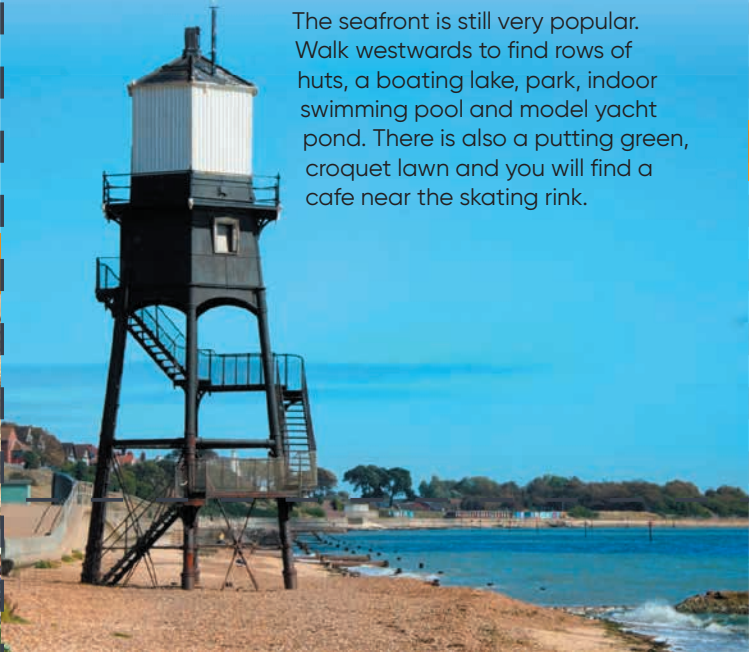
Why not visit the café at Manningtree Station, a warm welcome is always offered, with hot snacks, fully licensed bar & beer garden.



DOVERCOURT

Nestled between the Rivers Stour and Orwell, Dovercourt is mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1087, under the name of Duvrecurt. This is the oldest station on the line.

Holding the European Blue Flag for clean beaches, originally Dovercourt was a Victorian seaside and spa resort. Today it is a busy small town with regular Friday markets and a varied selection of shops, bars and cafes.



The seafront is still very popular. Walk westwards to find rows of huts, a boating lake, park, indoor swimming pool and model yacht pond. There is also a putting green, croquet lawn and you will find a cafe near the skating rink.

MISTLEY

Mistley is a small riverside town, noted for its swans, which gather on the river bank in large numbers. For two centuries, Mistley was an important brewing centre and port. Even today, although on a reduced scale, the brewing industry is still represented.

If you turn left out of the station, you can pick up the Essex Way public footpath by going through the Edme site. Further down the hill is the Mistley Swan Basin, erected by Richard Rigby in the 1700s when he tried to establish Mistley as a spa town. Behind the basin overlooking the River Stour are the Mistley Quay Workshops, which include a gallery and café. Opposite the basin is the Mistley Thorn Hotel and Restaurant, reputed to be where the famous self-styled Witch Finder General had his base and held court. It serves lunch and dinner daily. www.mistleythorn.co.uk



At the other end of the small High Street are the Mistley Towers, erected in 1776 and designed by Robert Adams and which were originally the end towers of a small church that once stood between them. To go and look inside, a key needs to be obtained from the Mistley Thorn Hotel.



WRABNESS

Wrabness is a small village of 300 or so inhabitants situated in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty on the south bank of the River Stour. On either side are nature reserves, Stour Wood RSPB to the east and Essex Wildlife Trust, (the site of an old mine depot) to the west.

Only a short walk from Wrabness station is the Grayson Perry 'House For Essex' (Julie's House) that was opened in 2015. With its copper roof and over 2000 handmade tiles on its exterior, it is a visually stunning monument to the Essex woman which boasts fantastic views across the Stour estuary. As you leave the station carpark past the community shop (see www.wrabness.shop for details), turn left onto Black Boy Lane and follow the track down the hill toward the beach and the interesting stilt houses, you will walk past the 'House for Essex' on your left.

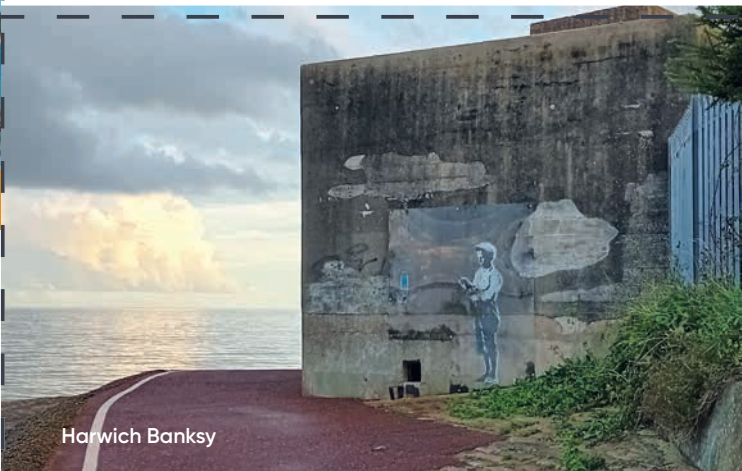
If you keep heading left, you will follow the circular walk that after walking past beaches and meadows will bring you to All Saints Church which dates from approximately 1120 AD with many subsequent alterations and additions. There is a Norman Arch between the Vestry and Nave. The Bell Tower collapsed in the 17th Century and the remaining bell is now housed in a wooden bell cage in the Churchyard.



House for Essex

HARWICH INTERNATIONAL

On leaving Wrabness the line curves left, following a deviation from the original direct route to Dovercourt that can be seen on the right hand side. This is a very pretty section of the route with views over the River Stour across to Suffolk. Passing the oil refinery and over a level crossing, the line then enters Harwich International station. Originally this station was named Parkeston Quay after the Chairman of the Great Eastern Railway Charles H Parkes.



Harwich Banksy

HARWICH TOWN

Harwich Town Station was opened after the original station at the end of George Street was knocked down to make way for the new Continental Pier and still stands today at the end of The Mayflower Line.

In the forecourt of the station stands a drinking fountain that is maintained by the Harwich Society and is surrounded by a flower bed. Harwich Town itself has a beautiful promenade and a small quay where sailors can moor their boats. Opposite the Pier stands the Pier Hotel and Restaurant which serves lunch and dinner daily and there are many other small pubs and restaurants dotted around the Old Town. On the pier itself is a small building used by the Harwich Society to provide tourist information, and from which walking tours are available every Saturday from 2pm between May and September. For more information see www.harwich-society.co.uk There is also the Harwich Lifeboat station and shop, built in 2002 and the Harwich Lightship situated a short walk from the Pier.



Harwich Lightship