

Looking for a day out in the capital? London has many attractions to keep all the family entertained. Purchase a Travelcard and enjoy unlimited use of the Underground, buses, DLR, London Overground, Elizabeth Line and National Rail services in London.

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

VISIT LONDON



- ### TEN HISTORIC FACTS
- Colchester is Britain's oldest recorded Town and was destroyed in AD 60–61 by Boadicea, queen of the Iceni, killing every Roman in sight after the Romans took her land, flogged her and raped her daughters when her husband died.
 - Clacton was originally founded as a seaside resort in 1871, the only way to get there was by steamer ship (Hence the pier) until the railway arrived on 1st Jan 1923.
 - Artist Francis Bacon owned a house in Wivenhoe from 1975, where he would come to visit his friends Dennis Wirth-Millar, artist and Richard 'Dickie Chopping', writer. His house was given a blue plaque in 2023.
 - Walton-on-the-Naze was well known for smuggling and in the 1860s people were even hanged on Newgate Lane for smuggling.
 - Frinton-on-Sea was originally designed as a holiday and health resort in the late 1800s. It remained a 'dry' town with no Public Houses or Bars until the year 2000, when the 'Lock and Barrel' opened its doors to much local outrage.
 - The Dutch Quarter in Colchester was originally built by Jewish settlers, but then taken over in the 16th Century by Protestant Flemish Weavers fleeing persecution by Catholics in their home country.
 - The 43 acre village Green at Great Bentley was purchased by the parish council, on behalf of the residents, from the lord of the Manor in 1965. It is the largest village green in the country.
 - The Maltings at Thorpe (the ruin in the carpark) was built between 1874 & 1878 and is the only maltings left that shows the double use of Crystal and Pale Malt.
 - The ancient port of the Hythe used to have a railway line that fed the docks, during WWII many of the workers at the gasworks were terrified that they would be bombed at their work, sadly the laundry 400 yards away was, killing almost the entire female workforce.
 - Weeley Festival was a British rock festival that took place in August 1971 near the small village of Weeley.



The cockney singalong train

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.

- Stand behind the Yellow Line away from the platform edge.
- When getting to your platform, always follow the passenger walkways around the station and use the footbridges, underpasses, or foot crossing.
- 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.

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Join us on Facebook [@esscrp](https://www.facebook.com/esscrp)

Follow us on Twitter [@esscrp](https://twitter.com/esscrp)

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

WALKS AROUND THE SUNSHINE COAST LINE

Useful phone contact numbers

Samartians 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.allonboard.co.uk

www.hubhope.co.uk

www.railsuicideprevention.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 SUNSHINE COAST LINE

Your guide to the Colchester – Clacton and surrounding areas for a great day out by train.

Essex & South Suffolk Community Rail Partnership

EXPLORE • EXPERIENCE • ENJOY

www.esscrp.org.uk

History of The Sunshine Coast Line

The Great Eastern Main Line opened between Colchester and Ipswich in 1843 and the section to London was due to open in 1849.

The line was then extended to Weeley on 8 January 1866, to Kirby Cross on 28 July 1866, and on to its terminus at Walton-on-the-Naze on 17 May 1867. In the meantime, a short branch to a new, more central station at Colchester St Botolphs (Colchester Town railway station) opened on 1 March 1866.

In 1877, the Clacton-on-Sea Railway was incorporated. The connection from Thorpe-le-Soken to Clacton opened on 4 July 1882, also operated by the GER.

The GER soon negotiated the purchase of the Tendring Hundred Railway and the Clacton-on-Sea Railway, and both became part of the GER on 1 July 1883. Electrification of the line was on-going in 1959 and by January the line was electrified as far as Great Bentley. The first trial train to run on the newly electrified section departed Colchester on 18 January 1959 and terminated at Great Bentley.

VISIT LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

The Naze Tower, Walton-on-the-Naze, approximately 40 minutes walk from the station, was built in 1720 by Trinity House as a shipping guide but now contains an art gallery and access to remarkable views from the viewing platform over the ‘Backwaters’ to Dovercourt and Felixstowe – www.nazetower.co.uk. The steps in the Naze Tower are very steep, due to the nature of the building, it is not suitable for those with mobility issues.

Behind the Naze Tower is the Essex Wildlife Trust Naze Nature Discovery Centre that shows exhibits and information about the natural history of the area and has a café for visitors www.essexwt.org.uk

The Naze is an unspoilt headland, part of the Naze Nature reserve, with walks from the Tower along the cliffs and beach comprising 50 acres of coastal heath land, 50 acres of scrub woodland and about 200 acres of salt marsh to the north of the sea wall. This area has been a golf course and a gun emplacement in its time. It is a great area for fossil hunting and beachcombing with the family or birdwatching in relative solitude www.visitessex.com

The Naze Tower



HYTHE

Hythe station was opened on 2 July 1849, it underwent major rebuilding in 2008 and 2009 which included extension of the platforms to accommodate 12-car train sets, and demolition of the original station building. Hythe Station now hosts a bright entrance with a mural commissioned by Colchester Council.

Hythe Station serves the world class, award-winning University of Essex and the Knowledge gateway research park, as well as the old port which is undergoing major regeneration.

ALRESFORD

Alresford lies to the east of Wivenhoe and has a population of just over two thousand. In 2012 it won the Royal Community Council of Essex Village of the Year Award. Alresford has some of the finest country walks in Essex. See our website for details. www.esscrp.org.uk

GREAT BENTLEY

The village has, at its heart, a 43 acre green reputed to be the largest in the country. It has won Best Kept Village Awards on several occasions and in 2000 won the prestigious award of National Village of the Year. There are plenty of places to eat and drink. Many events take place throughout the summer on the village green, including cricket matches, fun fairs and the village fete and dog show.



COLCHESTER

Less than an hour from London by train, Colchester is Britain's oldest recorded town and since 2022 is now classed as a City. With over 2,000 years of fascinating history and heritage for you to discover, involving the Romans, Saxons, Normans and of course Boadicea, queen of the ancient Iceni Tribe who in AD60 destroyed the ancient city of Camulodunum (Colchester), the Capital of Roman Britain and killed every Roman in it.

A 10 minute walk from both Colchester North and Colchester Town stations sits the Norman Colchester Castle, rebuilt on the site and from many of the bricks of the old Roman Castle. It is surrounded by the well-tended Castle Park with a play area, café, mini golf and views down the hill over the old Roman walls. Many events take place in the Castle Park, from concerts to re-enactments and festival days, it's worth the visit.



Opposite the front entrance to Castle Park is The Natural History Museum, housed in a former church and featuring exhibits on regional animals and geology.

A short walk from here, down East Hill is Hollytrees Museum, a Georgian townhouse with hands-on exhibits and displays showing what life was like in Colchester over the last 300 years.

To find out more about any of the museums and galleries listed above, head to www.colchester.cimuseums.org.uk

Next to Colchester Town Station is St. Botolphs Priory, the ruin of a 12th Century Augustinian monastery known for its Norman style architecture.

Colchester zoo is a short bus ride from either of Colchester's stations, and the small boutique shops of the cobbled Short Wyre Street and Eld Lane are an interesting place to shop, making Colchester a great destination to reach in comfort by train

CLACTON-ON-SEA



The largest town on the Essex Sunshine Coast, the bustling but affordable resort of Clacton-on-Sea has lovely sandy beaches and safe sea bathing. The railway station is located to the north of Clacton town centre and is approximately eight minutes' walk from the sea and pier.

Clacton Pier, named pier of the year in 2020 by the National Piers Society, hosts rides, ten pin bowling, golf and a soft play centre as well as numerous food and drink outlets. The walk along the promenade, is easily accessible for those with mobility issues, past the old Butlins site, now a golf course, all the way to Jaywick in a leisurely 40 minutes.

As well as the beach, there are numerous entertainment facilities to enjoy including the Princes and West Cliff Theatre, community run Century Cinema and Martello Tower Café.

There are also many pubs, cafes and restaurants in Clacton-on-Sea as well as an eclectic mix of summer events from fetes, fairs, carnivals, a scooter rally and airshow which takes place in August. It is a great place to visit by train. Average journey time by train to London is 1 hour 20 minutes.

KIRBY CROSS

Kirby Cross lies between Thorpe-Le-Soken and Frinton-on-Sea and Great Holland and Kirby-Le-Soken. Many walks are available from the station heading North to the Hamford Water National Nature reserve with views over the marshes to Horsey Island, perfect for birdwatching.



WIVENHOE

Wivenhoe has plenty of delights to charm residents and visitors alike including a vibrant music, literary, performing arts and visual art scene. Its history involves fishing, sailing and smuggling. A long line of artists and writers have lived here and there is a strong sense of community. There is an attractive park, many wonderful gardens and several pubs. A pretty church stands on the site of the first church built in Saxon times.

The small winding streets of the old village come to an end at the picturesque quayside where fishing and sailing boats bob at their moorings.

There are walks along the Wivenhoe Trail both towards Colchester, past the university grounds, looking across the river to the colourful village of Rowhedge or out past the river barrier along the Estuary towards Alresford Creek.

Wivenhoe Art Trail occurs twice a year, with local artists opening studios to the public.

WEELEY

Weeley is a small village with an eclectic mix of nineteenth century and modern housing. The village pond was a site where suspected witches were drowned during the infamous witch hunts in the sixteenth century.

The village is probably better known for Weeley Hall Wood which is one of the largest ancient woodlands in the county. The Woods belong to the Essex Wildlife Trust who, during the first weekend of May each year, open up to the public, so that they may enjoy the carpet of bluebells which covers almost half the area of wood.

Weeley is also home to two caravan parks which are within easy reach of the railway station and only 10 minutes by train to Clacton-on-Sea.

THORPE-LE-SOKEN

Thorpe-le-Soken is a crossroads village with an impressive number of high quality shops, restaurants and pubs set amongst an attractive mix of historic buildings including a fine parish church. The railway came to Thorpe late in the 19th century. Thorpe-le-Soken is where the Colchester railway line forks to either Clacton-on-Sea or to Frinton-on-Sea and Walton-on-the-Naze.

A short walk away is Landermere Quay, which offers stunning views of the Essex Coastline and desolate marshes visited by a huge number, nearly all the world's population, of Black Bellied Geese during the winter months.

FRINTON-ON-SEA



Frinton-on-Sea is probably best known for its magnificent seafront greensward and sandy beach. Here you can escape the stresses of life. Holidaymakers and day-trippers return year after year to this oasis of peace and relaxation. Inside the Frinton Crossing Gates there are numerous boutique shops and cafes to tempt you on your walk towards the beach. There are great walks along the beach towards Walton.

WALTON-ON-THE-NAZE

Walton-on-the-Naze is the final destination on the line. The original station still stands and has been converted into flats. Walton has the second longest pier in Britain, after Southend-on-Sea at the other end of Essex, and has been recently refurbished. It is home to Ten Pin bowling, amusements and rides. www.waltonpier.uk Walton is a popular holiday resort with miles of clean sandy beaches, an open market every Thursday in the summer and a nostalgic feel with local shops and cafes dotted among the little lanes that make up the centre of the town.