

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

VISIT LONDON

To London

Marks Tey

Chappel & Wakes Colne

Bures

SUDBURY (SUFFOLK)

The Gainsborough Line

1. The railway first arrived at Marks Tey in 1843 leading to Colchester and beyond.
2. The Stour Valley Railway opened on 9 August 1865, linking Marks Tey to Shelford near Cambridge, with 13 intermediate stations along the line.
3. The section between Shelford and Sudbury was closed on 6 March 1967 following the Beeching cuts, leaving Bures and Chappel & Wakes Colne as the only stops between the termini.
4. In 1963 there were only 7 season ticket holders travelling to London and the station master would park their cars and personally deliver their season tickets to their homes!
5. The present day railway line operates between Marks Tey and Sudbury.
6. The line was fully opened for traffic on 2nd July 1849, and its primary use was to bring farm and loom produce from Sudbury to Colchester and the riverside port at Hythe.
7. The original train service comprised four trains in each direction, only on weekdays.
8. The greatest obstacle in completing the line was crossing the Colne Valley at Chappel. Construction of the viaduct began in 1847; the original plan was to span the valley with a timber arch on brick piers, but this was changed when brickearth was found on site to enable the viaduct's 7 million bricks to be made.
9. The structure was completed in 1849.
10. The viaduct is 1,066ft long, comprising 32 arches each of a 30ft span at a height of 75ft.



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.

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](http://www.bookings.passengerassistance.com)**

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.



For train times, tickets and service information see [www.greateranglia.co.uk](http://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](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk)

# THE GAINSBOROUGH LINE

A vibrant, stylized illustration of a family walking through a green park. In the foreground, a man in a green tank top and blue pants walks towards the left, holding the hand of a young girl in a yellow shirt and white pants who is holding a bouquet of white flowers. To her right, a woman in a yellow tank top and blue pants walks towards the right. In the background, a man in a yellow shirt and blue pants is riding a white bicycle on the left, and a woman in a green shirt is riding a blue bicycle on the right. A small orange dog is running in the middle ground. At the bottom of the image, a white train with red doors and windows is visible, with the text 'greateranglia' on its side. The background features a large, arched stone bridge under a blue sky with white clouds.





The present day railway line operates between Marks Tey and Sudbury.

The line was fully opened for traffic on 2nd July 1849, and its primary use was to bring farm and loom produce from Sudbury to Colchester and the riverside port at Hythe. The original train service comprised four trains in each direction, only on weekdays.

The greatest obstacle in completing the line was crossing the Colne Valley at Chappel. Construction of the viaduct began in 1847; the original plan was to span the valley with a timber arch on brick piers, but this was changed when brickearth was found on site to enable the viaduct's 7 million bricks to be made. The structure was completed in 1849. The viaduct is 1,066ft long, comprising 32 arches each of a 30ft span at a height of 75ft.

Thomas Gainsborough was arguably the most famous son of Sudbury and it is appropriate that he is commemorated by having the line named after him. He surely would have appreciated the splendid vistas to be viewed from the train as it crosses the Colne Valley, and then the Stour Valley as the train enters Suffolk, as well as the beauty of the engineering feat that is the Chappel Viaduct.

MARKS TEY

The village of Marks Tey is one of the villages known locally as "The Tey's" being Marks Tey, Great Tey and Little Tey. It is situated just five miles west of Colchester on the A120 and the station is the junction with the main London - Colchester Line. The village, with a blend of old and new houses, has buildings dating back to the 16th and 17th centuries. There are a number of local businesses in the area and a bus/coach may be taken for Coggeshall and Stansted airport from across the road from the station.

CHAPPEL & WAKES COLNE



The two villages of Chappel and Wakes Colne lie in the valley on opposite sides of the River Colne. Chappel and Wakes Colne Station house was built in 1849, with the white part of the building forming the original station. The red brick two storey building was added in 1900 to form the Station Master's house. Today the station is home to the East Anglian Railway Museum.

Places of interest in the villages include the church of St Barnabas, Chappel, which is possibly of Norman origin and was consecrated in 1352, the Chappel Viaduct and the Swan Public House. The Swan dates back to 1390 and has a 16th century chimney and a medieval kitchen which is one of the best preserved in Essex. The Millennium Field is worthy of a visit, annual events are held here to raise funds for local charities.

The Railway Museum at the station has a wide range of rolling stock and exhibits for you to view, as well as many special events, including the popular Beer and Cider Festivals.

Search online for Chappel & Wakes Colne and EARM.

Explore the Gainsborough Line Ale Trail

As you travel along the Gainsborough Line, why not stop off for a pint or two, or maybe a spot of lunch? There are some delightful pubs to drop in to, all of which are a short walk or bus ride from the stations including many welcoming establishments in the town of Sudbury.

Onward Connections by Bus

There are a number of local bus operators offering onward connections to Long Melford, Lavenham, Clare and Cavendish as well as many other destinations, contact Traveline for details. [www.traveline.info](http://www.traveline.info)

Chappell Viaduct



BURES

Leaving the Colne Valley towards Sudbury, the train crosses higher ground for Bures and the River Stour. From the station the village is a short walk down the hill. The tanning yard immediately on your left as you cross the Stour, was closed in 1909, but you can still see parts of the frame of the old buildings which are incorporated into the present Bridge House. Bures is an excellent place to start a walk through the Stour Valley to Sudbury or along the Stour Valley path to Wormingford Mill and church. There is also the choice of three pubs in the centre of Bures for a drink or some lunch. [Bures-online.co.uk](http://Bures-online.co.uk) contains a wealth of information about Bures, past and present.



A must see destination for a walk is a visit to the Bures dragon. The hillside outline was created in 2012 as part of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations. It is based on a local legend of a dragon being encountered there in the Middle Ages.

SUDBURY

From Bures, the train follows the valley of the River Stour. Sudbury sits in a loop in the river and is surrounded by the attractive countryside and quintessentially English villages, so often painted by Constable and Gainsborough. The meadows around Sudbury are the oldest continuously grazed land in England. For centuries the weaving and silk industries have prospered here and many great houses and churches have been built giving the town a major historical legacy. Indeed the birthplace of Gainsborough, a red brick building, can be seen in Gainsborough Street. This is now an art gallery displaying more of his paintings, drawings and prints than anywhere else. Sudbury still has many independent shops, as well as the usual high street stores found across the UK.

In addition there is a sports and leisure centre, plus many pubs and cafes to enjoy. The town hall houses the Tourist Information Office, which can provide details of local attractions, including the Sudbury Heritage Centre where you can explore Sudbury's history and view many photographs and exhibits from Sudbury's past. Sudbury is also the interchange point for local buses to the delightful villages of Long Melford, Clare, Lavenham and Cavendish. Search online for [Sudbury-tc.gov.uk](http://Sudbury-tc.gov.uk) to show what Sudbury and its surroundings has to offer.



Statue of Thomas Gainsborough, Market Hill, Sudbury



GAINSBOROUGH HOUSE

The Museum and Gallery marks the birthplace of Thomas Gainsborough and shows an outstanding collection of his work. A varied programme of temporary exhibitions is also on show throughout the year. Gift, coffee shop and garden.

The house is approximately half a mile from Sudbury Station and further information is available on the website [www.gainsborough.org](http://www.gainsborough.org)

SUDBURY HERITAGE CENTRE & MUSEUM

A permanent display of the town's history from ancient times to present day is located behind Sudbury Town Hall in Gaol Lane. [www.sudburyheritagecentre.co.uk](http://www.sudburyheritagecentre.co.uk) An interesting display taking you from earliest times when man was attracted to settle on the high ground overlooking the flood plain of the River Stour right through to current times.

THE GAINSBOROUGH LINE WALKS

There are a number of walks from the stations along the Gainsborough Line. All of the walks start at one station and end at another to save you retracing your steps. Eight walk leaflets may be downloaded from the ESSCRP website ([esscrp.org.uk](http://esscrp.org.uk)) but some are highlighted below.

Marks Tey to Chappel & Wakes Colne (5 miles)  
OS Explorer map 184 and 196 (1:25,000)

This walk explores the small rural communities scattered across the high plateau of North East Essex. It offers sweeping views across the valleys of the River Colne before passing underneath the imposing Chappel viaduct. The walk ends at the beautifully restored Chappel & Wakes Colne Station.

Chappel & Wakes Colne to Bures (5 miles)  
OS Explorer map 195 and 196 (1:25,000)

This walk explores the rolling countryside bordering the western flank of the River Stour Valley and offers sweeping views of the landscape favoured by both Gainsborough and Constable.

Bures to Sudbury (8 miles)  
OS Explorer map 196 (1:25,000)

This walk follows the heights bordering the eastern side of the Stour Valley through a countryside unspoilt by factory farming. Crossing to the western ridge for a few miles, explore the picturesque hamlet of Middleton and its surroundings before reaching Sudbury via the beautiful water meadows bordering the River Stour and Valley Trail, a part of the old route of the railway between Sudbury and Long Melford.

There are many more walks between stations, please search online for Gainsborough Line Walks.

CYCLING IN THE STOUR VALLEY

The Stour Valley area offers superb opportunities for cycling and getting out into the country. Cycles may be taken on the Gainsborough Line train free of charge (subject to availability). So take an opportunity to enjoy the beautiful Essex and Suffolk countryside. Information on cycle routes can be obtained from: [www.nationalcyclenetwork.org.uk](http://www.nationalcyclenetwork.org.uk) or [www.sustrans.org.uk](http://www.sustrans.org.uk)



Sudbury Water Meadows