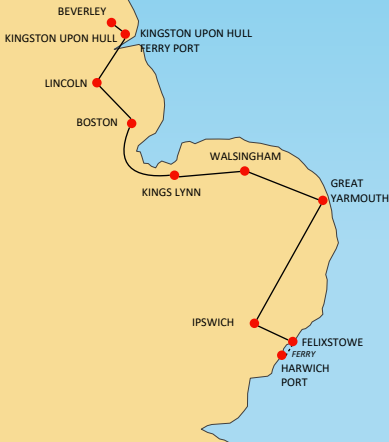


HANSA ENGLAND

A CULTURAL
ROUTE BY
BIKE, TRAIN,
MOTORCYCLE,
COACH OR CAR





Stefanie Bischof
Managing Director
Union of Cities THE HANSA

Travelling in the footsteps of the Hanseatic merchants

The legacy of the Hanseatic era is still visible in many places today: mighty churches and medieval merchants' houses with stepped gables have become the symbols of the Hanseatic League. But it is not only in the townscape of many cities that the traces of the Hanseatic League can be discovered: museums, city tours and tourist routes also bring the Hanseatic era to life. With the English Hansa Route, we invite you to take a journey into the past and enjoy the special flair and hospitality of the Hanseatic cities in England.

What is THE HANSA?

It began as a network of long-distance merchants and developed into a powerful association of cities: the Hanseatic League. For more than 400 years, the Hanseatic League shaped the economy, trade and politics of northern Europe. Today, the Hanseatic cities are reconnecting with their great past: The Union of Cities THE HANSA was founded in Zwolle in 1980 to revive the common cultural heritage and, with almost 200 member cities, is one of the largest voluntary associations of cities in the world.

Today, it is no longer about asserting economic interests, but rather about exchange and cooperation across borders. The Union of Cities aims to promote the cultural heritage and Hanseatic identity in the member cities and to work together for a united and peaceful Europe. Essential topics of cooperation are tourism, culture, sustainability and youth encounters. Since 1991, THE HANSA has been certified as a Cultural Route of the Council of Europe. By bringing people and places together in networks of shared history and heritage, Council of Europe Cultural Routes invite you to travel and discover Europe's rich and diverse heritage.

With the "International Hanseatic Day of Modern Times", THE HANSA picks up the tradition of the medieval Hanseatic Days, which were meetings of Hanseatic cities at which important economic and political decisions were taken. Today, the event is a cultural festival and a meeting place for people from all over Europe. Every year, a different Hanseatic city hosts the Hanseatic Day to celebrate the common heritage and international understanding.

www.hanse.org



The Hanseatic League

16

Northern
European
countries!



Almost **200**
towns and cities!

The **Largest group**
of towns
and cities
in the
World!



About the historical Hanseatic League

The German Hanse emerged in the 13th century as an association of towns, most of which belonged to the Holy Roman Empire. Hanse merchants and their home towns shared trade privileges and economic interest in Northern European long distance trade.

For about 400 years, Hanse towns successfully cooperated to support the commerce of their merchants.

Until 1870 Germany was a series of separate countries controlled by Aristocratic rulers with a common language of German.

Bulk freight was carried by river and sea in medieval times due to the condition of the roads.

The Hansa towns chose Lübeck as their HQ - a major port and one of the largest cities in the Baltic Sea area This still remains the HQ of the Modern Hanseatic League today.

Nowhere was the Hanseatic power so great as in England. English kings protected these rich Hanseatic merchants who helped them out of many pecuniary difficulties over the ages. Indeed they were accorded huge privileges and monopolies.

About their ships and the cargo:

Built to their own design, with a raised bow and stern allowing archers to fire down on pirates or attackers.

There was one square mainsail and oars. They had flat bottoms to load/discharge cargo onto beaches. All crew slept on deck. The rest of the ship was given over to cargo space to maximize the carrying capacity.

The main cargo was wool, linen, wine, pitch, soap, timber, furs, hunting birds, honey, cloth, leather, fabric dye, salt, beer, grain and dried fish.



What is the Modern Hanseatic League?

The Modern Hanseatic League was formed in 1980 to reconnect towns and cities across Northern Europe, which were former trading members of the Hanseatic League. It grew rapidly, partly because many towns from the former Eastern Bloc joined at the fall of the Iron Curtain.

The purpose of the Modern Hanseatic League is to promote the common Hanseatic heritage of cities and towns, revive the Hanseatic spirit, foster cooperation, have cultural exchanges with other member towns and cities, boost tourism, expand business connections, further education amongst the young people and learn foreign languages.

It promotes encounters and exchanges of young people.

Other activities include: sporting fixtures with other members, swapping musical tours and choir visits, connecting through the scouts and the guides and forming lasting friendships.

There is a Youth Hansa which was formed in 1998 in Sweden for 16 to 25 year olds, which is very popular.

There is a Business Hansa founded in 2013. This represents traditional values in modern business life and trade between members.

Every year in the summer there is an international gathering and Beverley will arrange these trips to the host town or city which will include travel and accommodation. This a great opportunity for sponsors and partners to get involved and join in.



CULTURAL CYCLE ROUTE LINKING ALL ENGLISH HANSA TOWNS

Turn to the Cycle maps and the route from one town to the next is explained. Starting from Harwich Ferry Port to Ipswich, Great Yarmouth, King's Lynn, Boston, Hull and Beverley. Each town also has a cycle map and a description of the town. We recommend a minimum of two nights and one day per town.

HANSA ENGLAND CULTURAL ROUTE

BY CAR / COACH / MOTORCYCLE

Harwich to Ipswich : via A120 and A137 = 30 miles - 40 minutes

Ipswich to Great Yarmouth : via A12 = 58 miles - 1 hour 30 minutes

Great Yarmouth to King's Lynn : via A47 = 71 miles - 1 hour 33 minutes

King's Lynn to Boston : via A47 / A17 = 34 miles - 52 minutes

Boston to Hull : via A157 / A18 / A15 = 75 miles - 1 hour 53 minutes

Hull to Beverley : via A1033 / A1079 / A164 = 9 miles - 17 minutes

BY RAIL

Harwich to Ipswich : change at Manningtree - 31 minutes

Ipswich to Great Yarmouth : change at Norwich - 1 hour 34 minutes

Great Yarmouth to King's Lynn : change at Norwich and Ely
- 2 hours 34 minutes

King's Lynn to Boston : change at Ely and Grantham - 3 hours 34 minutes

Boston to Hull : change at Grantham - 2 hours 36 minutes

Hull to Beverley : no changes - 14 minutes

All the cycle Routes are based on 'The Cycle Travel' Routes. See the outline route in the brochure and then go to the cycle travel website for more detailed routes.

Find the eight routes at: <https://cycle.travel/search/Hansa>

Follow us on Facebook – [Hansa Cultural Route UK](#)

- 1) **Hansa Route Stage 1** — Take the Harwich to Felixstowe Ferry and follow Route 51 to Ipswich. *Distance 16 miles*



- 2) **Hansa Route Stage 2** — Follow Route 1 to Great Yarmouth.
Distance 63 miles



- 3) **Hansa Route Stage 3** — Follow the route Caister, Aylsham, Reepham to Walsingham. *Distance 55 miles*



- 4) **Hansa Route Stage 4** — Follow the route North Barsham, Syderstone, Great Bircham, Shernborne, Sandringham, Castle Rising to King's Lynn. *Distance 31 miles*



- 5) **Hansa Route Stage 5** — Follow Cycle Route 1 Long Sutton, Holbeach to Boston *Distance 40 miles*



- 6) **Hansa Route Stage 6** — Follow the route Coningsby and Woodhall Spa to Lincoln. *Distance 37 miles*



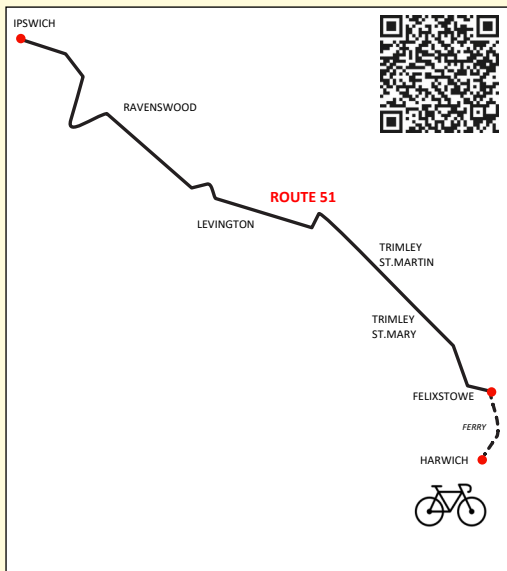
- 7) **Hansa Route Stage 7** — Follow Cycle Route 1 Market Rasen, Barton Upon Humber, The Humber Bridge to Kingston Upon Hull. *Distance 52 miles*



- 8) **Hansa Route Stage 8** — Follow Routes 1 & 66 Cottingham to Beverley.
Distance 14 miles

HANSA ROUTE

STAGE 1 – ROUTE 51



Ipswich

Hanseatic League



Ipswich is the oldest continuously occupied English town. Anglo-Saxons entered the country up the River Orwell to its natural crossing point and Gyppeswyk was established sometime before 700CE. Regular trading followed with mainland Europe and beyond, and after a period of Viking raids, Ipswich soon became one of the wealthiest British towns in the early medieval ages, augmented by its role rivalling London as a Head Port of the Hanseatic League.

Today, Ipswich benefits from its compact historic centre, including 12 medieval churches and over 400 listed buildings, including the magnificent Christchurch Mansion and gallery with its fine collection of paintings by Constable and Gainsborough.

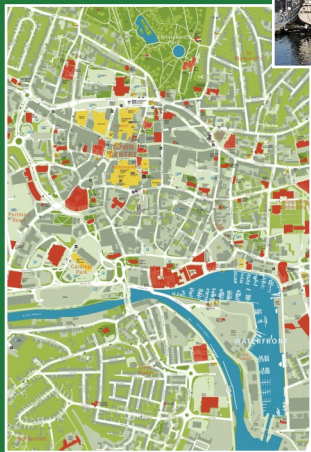
Enjoy discovering indie shops, on the way to the vibrant Waterfront, with its waterside cafés and bistros overlooking the Marina.



It was here that Hanseatic merchants traded and lived and from where Ipswich adventurers embarked on great voyages. Thomas Eldred circumnavigated the globe in the early 1600s, and in 1607 local man Bartholomew Gosnold sailed on his ship 'Godspeed' to found Jamestown in Virginia.

As well as welcoming amateur sailors from across the North Sea, Ipswich can also celebrate its continuing role as the UK's largest agricultural export port.

Photos courtesy of Stuart Grimwade (Ipswich Maritime Trust) and Tim Leggett (The Ipswich Society)



For everything you need to know about accommodation, eating and drinking, shopping, places of interest, visit:

www.allaboutipswich.com

HANSA ROUTE

STAGE 2 - ROUTE 1



IPSWICH

HALESWORTH

ROUTE 1

LOWESTOFT

GREAT
YARMOUTH

Great Yarmouth

Hanseatic League

The Port of Great Yarmouth was the principal port in the North Sea for catching and trading herring from the early Middle Ages. At that time, it held a major European Herring Fair which merchants from the Low Countries and Baltic ports attended annually to trade. Throughout the Middle Ages and also today Port of Great Yarmouth has a long tradition with general cargo and special projects, handling a wide range of cargoes including fertilisers, grain, timber, aggregates. They also traded in dry and liquid cargoes. It also offers the shortest North Sea crossing between Great Britain and continental Europe.

Great Yarmouth has been a major holiday resort attracting tourists since the late eighteenth century, originally for sea bathing and occasional visits, but it has grown into a major tourist resort. It is the largest seaside resort on the East Coast with visitors travelling from all parts of the country and from abroad to stay in its many hotels and boarding houses.

Its current tourist features include a unique circus, recently renewed Venetian style waterways, two pleasure piers and a unique structure called the Pleasure Beach where many attractions including a rollercoaster and a giant observation wheel enable visitors to enjoy the town.



St Nicholas Minster founded in 1101 by Herbert de Losinga, the first Bishop of Norwich. Significant alterations and enlargement were made in the 14th and 15th centuries. It is the largest parish church in England by its width.



Daniel Defoe, the noted historian and traveller, visited Great Yarmouth in 1772. He commented that 'the town faces West and is also open to the river. It has the finest quay in England, if not in Europe, not even inferior to that of Marseilles itself'.



Great Yarmouth is the major seaside resort on the east coast of England. It has numerous facilities for holidaymakers and tourists. It also promotes heritage tourism. The town's Sea life centre and its major pleasure viewing wheel on the Golden tourist mile are seen here.

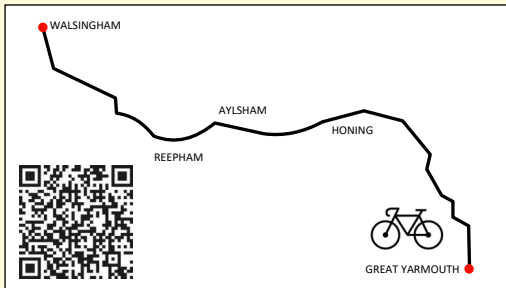


For more information visit Great Yarmouth
Tourist Information at:
<https://www.visitgreatyarmouth.co.uk/visit-or-information/tourist-information-centre>

Great Yarmouth has a unique feature on its seafront in a permanent circus, the Great Yarmouth Hippodrome. Built in 1903. It is one of only two purpose-built permanent circuses in England still in operation, and one of only three in the world with a circus floor that sinks into a pool.

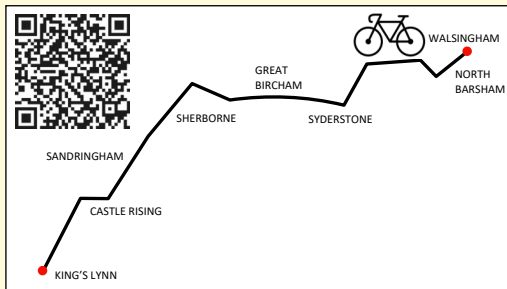


HANSA ROUTE STAGE 3



Shrine of our Lady of Walsingham - Abbey in Walsingham, North Norfolk

HANSA ROUTE STAGE 4



Courtesy Historic England

King's Lynn

Hanseatic League



When King John granted Lynn a borough charter in 1204 it was a boom town, and the third largest port in the kingdom. Via the Great Ouse, boats could reach ten counties.



The ancient buildings of King's Lynn are exceptional and arresting: two large guildhalls, two huge churches, the Franciscan church tower and its merchant houses are heritage assets of national importance.



Opposite King's Lynn Minster is the sole surviving medieval trading post of the Hanseatic League in England renamed Hanse House in 2009. This Norfolk haven was a premier trading partner of the German maritime towns.

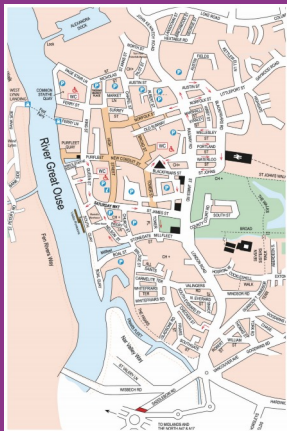


The walk from the Saturday Market Place to the Tuesday Market Place for historical and architectural interest is one of the best in urban England. So said John Betjeman. Sandringham House is just five miles away.

King's Lynn is the shopping centre for West Norfolk and beyond with its riverside restaurants offering a superior dining experience. Nearby are good quality hotels.



A Festival Town with award winning museums and theatres which foster cultural activity. St George's Guildhall is England's oldest working theatre.



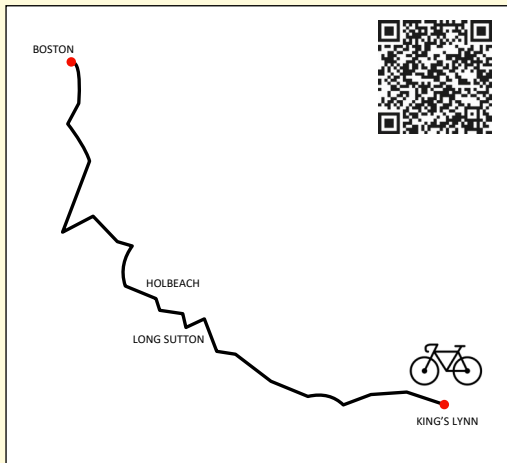
For more information visit the King's Lynn tourist information website:

<https://www.explorewestnorfolk.co.uk/venues/kings-lynn-tourism-information-centre-69/>



HANSA ROUTE

STAGE 5



Boston

Hanseatic League

One of the tallest Parish churches in England with a mediaeval tower approximately 272 feet (83 m) high. It can be seen for miles around; its prominence accentuated by the flat countryside of The Fens. The memorial stone of Hanseatic merchant Wisseslus de Smalenburg 1340 lies here.



Market days are Wednesday and Saturday, a vibrant outdoor shopping experience. Two markets on Wednesdays, one with an auction. The best of local produce, clothing and cafes.



The waterways of Boston are pivotal to the town's history of trade. Here you will find the original quay from which Henry of Bolingbroke (Henry IV) went on his crusade to eastern Europe in 1390.



Discover the Guildhall's rich past and intriguing and complex tales in the museum of connections with Pilgrims and how the town of Boston has had a significant influence on the foundation of the United States of America. Fydeil House next door has an American Room.



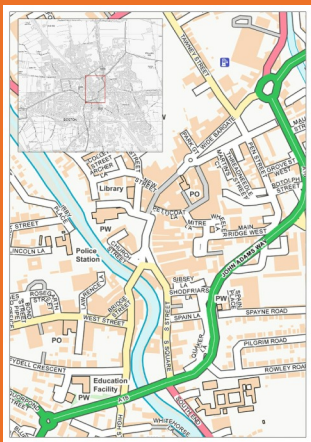
For everything you need to know about accommodation, eating and drinking, shopping, places of interest, visit:

www.cycle-lincolnshire.com

<https://boston-england.co.uk/>

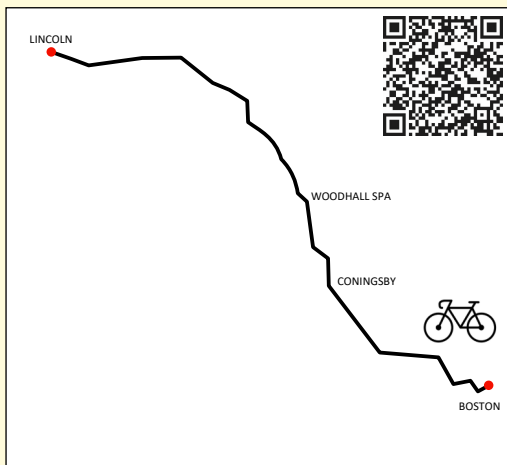


<https://www.visitlincolnshire.com/destinations/boston/>



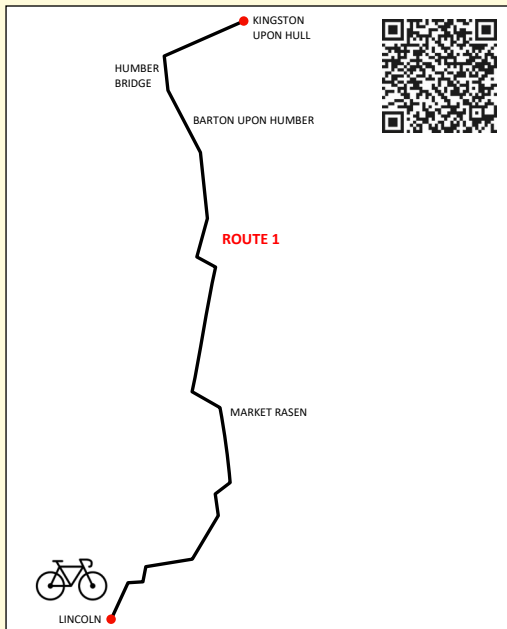
HANSA ROUTE

STAGE 6



HANSA ROUTE

STAGE 7



Kingston upon Hull Hanseatic League

The Port of Hull was a major hub for ships from northern Europe importing timber, canvas, furs, iron, flax, and pitch and exporting wool cloth, lead, and salt.



Trading links are highlighted in the lives of influential merchants such as Dutch-born Joseph Pease and William De La Pole, who made Hull their home and were significant in local and national politics as well as Hanseatic trade.



During the 17th and 18th centuries, Hull maintained close connections with the former Hanseatic towns, with many buildings built at this time having a distinctly Dutch feel. Examples include Wilberforce House, The Empress Public House, and various buildings along High Street.



Hull is fast becoming a film location hotspot. The labyrinth of cobblestone streets and stunning architecture of the Old Town provides the perfect setting for some of Hollywood's finest, including Milly Bobbie Brown, Helena Bonham Carter, and Superman himself, Henry Cavill.



With a rich historical tapestry, beautiful architecture, dynamic culture, a vibrant social scene, and a plethora of significant museums, Hull's Old Town is a must-see destination.



For everything you need to know about accommodation, eating and drinking, shopping, places of interest, visit:

<https://www.visithull.org>



HULL CYCLE MAP

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------|--|
| Cycle route | Ferens Art Gallery 01 | Maritime Museum 01 |
| Cycle Hub
(Down to 60 CPH or
weather permitted) | The Soap 04 | Princes Quay 01 |
| Covered Cycle Racks
(The keep your seat dry) | Binostar 08 | St Stephen's
Shopping Centre 01 |
| Cycle Rack | Hull City Hall 07 | Prospect
Shopping Centre 01 |
| Museums Quarter 01 | Hull New Theatre 03 | Paragon
Transport
Interchange 01 |
| | Hull Truck 07 | |
| | Hull Minster 05 | |



HANSA ROUTE

STAGE 8



BEVERLEY

ROUTE 66

ROUTE 1

COTTINGHAM

ROUTE 66



KINGSTON
UPON HULL

Beverley

Hanseatic League



The town traded in wool, cloth, linen, leather, shoes, saddles, bags, bricks and barrels which were used to carry the cargo as they were watertight.



This historic market town in East Yorkshire was the 10th largest town in England in medieval times and was a wealthy manufacturing town.



Beverley supplied Hull (Hanseatic League staple/distribution depot) with products and also occasionally other Hanseatic trading ports.



The picturesque streets of Beverley offer an upmarket shopping experience, with a pleasant mix of independent and high street names.



Saturday Market gives the centre an exciting vibrant feel, Wander amongst market stalls, have a browse and enjoy the atmosphere.



Gourmet restaurants, pavement cafes, traditional pubs, and cocktail bars. Grab a coffee or ice cream and chill out in Beverley.



BEVERLEY TOWN MAP

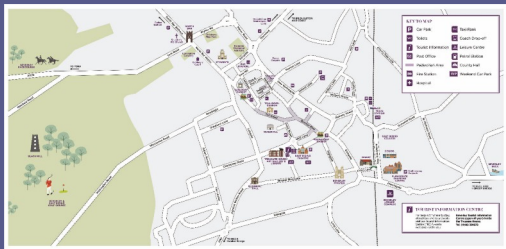
Beverley Tourist Information

<https://www.visiteastyorkshire.co.uk/information/product-catch-all/beverley-tourist-information-centre-p1299491>



Beverley Guildhall

https://www.eastridingmuseums.co.uk/find-a-museum/?entry=beverley_guildhall





Ipswich



Beverley



Great Yarmouth



Kingston Upon Hull



Boston



King's Lynn

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